

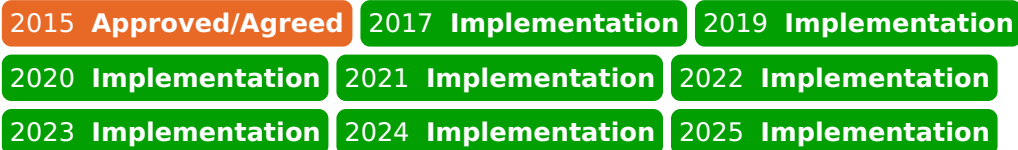
The framework for VET programmes (permeability and flexibility)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 CYPRUS

Timeline



ID number 28078

Description

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training provides for all initial vocational education and training (IVET) and continuing vocational education and training (CVET) curricula under the remit of the education ministry to be modularised and to use ECVET points to improve permeability. Modularisation and ECVET, along with recognition of prior learning, are expected to ease the access of people who completed the apprenticeship system and VET lifelong learning programmes (afternoon and evening classes) to upper secondary formal qualifications (offered by the evening schools of technical and vocational education, which operate as second chance schools). VET lifelong learning programmes provide initial and advanced technical skills and competences to people of all ages to satisfy the need for updated knowledge and retraining. The framework applies to VET specialisations and VET curricula developed after the approval of the 2015 strategic plan for VET.

2015 Approved/Agreed

In 2015 the 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and its provisions on modularisation of all (IVET and CVET) curricula and for VET for adults were approved by the Council of Ministers.

2017 Implementation

In April 2017, the programmes offered by post-secondary institutes of vocational education and training acquired a higher VET status (i.e. were accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education). This contributed greatly to further strengthening vocational education and training in Cyprus. The institutes, as Public schools of higher vocational education and training-MIEEKs, offered accredited programmes (NQF level 5B, EQF level 5, leading to the acquisition of a 2-year Diploma of higher VET) of 2-year of duration, which can also be recognised by universities. Upgrading these institutes therefore provided opportunities for enhancing academic cooperation with other higher education institutions both in Cyprus and abroad.

2019 Implementation

In December 2019, the Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education and training submitted applications to the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education for the evaluation and accreditation of 10 new higher VET study programmes to be offered by the public schools of higher VET as of the academic year 2020-21. The 10 new programmes cover four different fields of study: vehicle technology, culinary arts, bar and restaurant arts and computer and communication networks.

2020 Implementation

Due to the SARS-CoV-2 restrictions, the programmes vehicle technology and bar and restaurant arts have not been evaluated yet by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education. The programme culinary arts has been evaluated and accredited.

2021 Implementation

The bar and restaurant arts programme has been renamed restaurant services. It has been evaluated and accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and it is offered by higher VET public schools as of September 2021.

The vehicle technology programme has been evaluated and accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and will be offered as of September 2022.

Two new programmes of higher VET have been also developed and submitted to the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education for evaluation: building and technical works foreman and industrial technician (with two distinct specialisations: industrial production technician/electrical installation and automation technician). These two new programmes will be offered as of September 2022, provided they are accredited.

2022 Implementation

The programme “restaurant services” has been renamed “catering services”, while the programme “vehicle technology” has been renamed “automotive technician”.

The programme “industrial technician” has been accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education and is offered as of the academic year 2022-2023, while the programme “building and technical works foreman” has not been evaluated yet.

2023 Implementation

After consultation with the stakeholders participating in the Council of the Public School of Higher VET (MIEEK) and taking into account the needs of the labour market, the new programme 'Foreman for Building and Technical Works' has been developed and accredited by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) during 2023.

Furthermore, during 2023, the study programme 'Industrial and Home Automation' was upgraded and renamed to 'Electrical Installations and Automation Systems' by the CYQAA. Moreover, the study programmes 'Pastry - Bakery', 'Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Installations' and 'Computer and Communication Networks' have undergone successful re-evaluation.

In 2023, applications for the institutional re-evaluation of four branches of the School were submitted to the CYQAA.

2024 Implementation

Within 2024, the programmes 'Dairy and Cheese Making,' 'Bakery and Pastry,' and 'Culinary Arts' were evaluated and accredited at three branches (Larnaca, AITE, and Nicosia).

In the Famagusta District, a new Public school of Higher Vocational Education and Training (MIEEK) opened, offering the 'Culinary Arts' programme, which was certified in 2024 by the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA). The programme is available in both Greek and English, providing opportunities for Cypriot citizens and legal residents, regardless of nationality, to acquire skills and integrate into the labour market.

2025 Implementation

The two Famagusta Branches began their operation in September 2025, offering the programmes 'Automotive Engineering', 'Culinary Arts' (available in both Greek and English), 'Bakery and Pastry' and 'Catering Services'.

The study programme 'Vehicle Technology' was renamed 'Automotive Engineering'. After relevant certification by the CYQAA, its provision was expanded to the Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos and Famagusta Branches of the Public School of Higher VET.

In addition, the new study programme 'Mechanical Installations for Buildings' was accredited by the CYQAA and is offered at the AITE Limassol Branch as of the academic year 2025/26.

Furthermore, the new study programme 'Tour Guide' was accredited by the CYQAA and will be offered in the spring semester of the academic year 2025/26 at the Nicosia Branch.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (MESY)
- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY) (until 2022)
- Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) (until 2019)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Decision of the Council of Ministers no 78.657, dated 15 April 2015, with which the 2015-20 Strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved.](#)

[Announcement for the Call for Applications for Admission to the Public School of Higher Vocational Education and Training \(MIEEK\) for the Academic Year 2025-2026 June 16 - August 21, 2025](#)

Related policy developments

2020 Completed

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training

A strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved in April 2015 (2015-20). It aims to reform the public VET system.

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The framework for VET programmes (permeability and flexibility): Cyprus. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28078>

