

Framework VET programmes

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BULGARIA

Timeline

2017 Approved/Agreed

2025 Implementation

ID number 28056

Objectives

- (a) to support access to VET;
- (b) to enable the acquisition and upgrading of vocational qualifications in the context of lifelong learning.

Description

VET programmes are designed based on framework programmes approved by the education minister. New framework programmes were adopted in March 2017, including:

- (a) general provisions in relation to the regulatory basis and aims;
- (b) requirements: entry (age, medical condition, previous education and qualification level), career and education pathways, form(s) of training (day, full-time, evening, part-time, individual, distance, dual, self-learning);
- (c) curriculum;
- (d) training module content (theoretical and practical);
- (e) graduation requirements (State examinations for full qualifications and final examinations for partial qualifications).

They cover all types of VET and do not include sectoral specifics, but give the framework requirements applicable for the specified level of VET qualification and the respective learning pathways. All programmes related to curricula and syllabuses after 2017 have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the framework programmes and are published on the education ministry website. Every national programme/initiative/project that has to do with VET curricula (developing new, updating old ones) needs to take into account framework VET programmes.

2017 Approved/Agreed

2025 Implementation

In 2025, substantial work was carried out to align the secondary legislation under the VET Act (VETA) with the amendments introduced by the Law on Amendment and Supplement to the VET Act (State Gazette No. 27/2024).

In accordance with Article 10 of the VET Act, as of August 2025, the framework

programmes for VET were developed and approved as follows:

- (a) framework programmes A – for initial vocational training leading to qualifications in professions with only first degree of vocational qualification, in accordance with the respective annex;
- (b) framework programmes B – for initial vocational training leading to qualifications in professions with first, second or third degree of vocational qualification;
- (c) framework programmes C – for vocational education leading to qualifications in professions with a maximum of second degree of vocational qualification or to professions leading to a third degree of vocational qualification;
- (d) framework programmes D – for initial or continuing vocational training leading to a fourth degree of vocational qualification;
- (e) framework programmes E – for initial vocational training aimed at the achievement of separate units of learning outcomes included in the State educational standard for acquiring a qualification in a given profession, or for acquiring a qualification in a part of a profession;
- (f) framework programmes F – for continuing vocational training aimed at updating or upgrading to a higher level an already acquired vocational qualification, either for a profession or a part of a profession.

These framework programmes provide the structural foundation for the implementation of VET in Bulgaria, ensuring coherence with the new regulatory framework and flexibility for both learners and training providers.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses
Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Framework programmes' requirements: Education ministry's website 2025](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

National programmes supporting VET priorities

There are three national programmes with VET as their focus, not all starting in the same period. All these programmes are managed by the VET Directorate of the education ministry:

National VET programme

 BULGARIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Curriculum update

In 2018, updated curricula were adopted for upper secondary education (grades 11 and 12). The learning objectives are set for both general education and VET learners, including a learning module on 'civil education' aimed at the acquisition of social and civic competences.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Amendments to the VET Act

The VET Act of 1999 was amended in August 2016 (entered into force in August 2017), confirming that apprenticeships should offer the possibility to acquire professional qualifications through practical training, organised in cooperation with enterprises.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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