

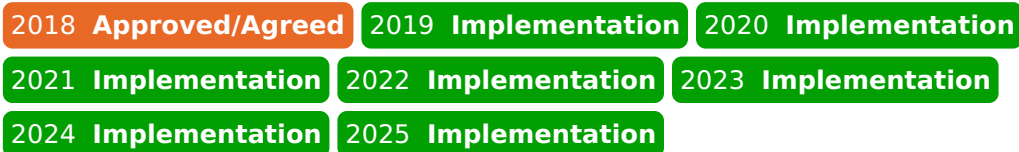
The consultative council for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BULGARIA

Timeline



ID number 28048

Description

In 2018, a consultative council for vocational education and training (VET) was established by the education ministry with the participation of other ministries, the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET), organisations of employers and trade unions and other bodies and civil society representatives. The council aims to support the education minister in implementing the reform of secondary VET, including the development of dual VET. It is intended to work as:

- (a) a space for structured dialogue between stakeholders;
- (b) a body which coordinates actions;
- (c) to prepare recommendations and proposals for necessary changes in legislation;
- (d) to assist the education minister in the implementation of State policy in secondary vocational education and training. The council is supported by a resource task force, which provides expert and technical assistance.

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Implementation

In 2019, in accordance with a decision from the Consultative Council for VET, the education minister (ministerial decision of 25 June 2019) assigned to NAVET to draft an analysis and proposals for optimising the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET).

The analysis contained findings, conclusions and possible solutions related to:

- (a) providing an opportunity for upgrading the qualification acquired;
 - (b) aligning VET with the international classifications in education;
 - (c) using the MyCompetence project for optimising the LPVET;
 - (d) relating VET to higher education degrees with a view to ensuring that qualifications can be upgraded and providing a better transition from secondary to higher education;
 - (e) ensuring the relevance of the LPVET with the ESCO classification;
 - (f) implementing the recommendations formulated within the context of the project
- Technical assistance for the implementation of the National qualifications

framework in VET, funded by the European Commission and implemented by the education ministry;
(g) formulating a vision for the LPVET based on the analysis.

The analysis also included a review of the qualification registers in Poland, Portugal and Finland, and an assessment on their applicability in the Bulgarian context.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the consultative council for VET held five meetings where the following topics were discussed: strategic goals and priorities for VET developments till 2030 in the framework of the new strategy Education and skills 2030; prototype for VET graduate tracking; models of sectors skills councils; review of enrolment in VET for 2020/21; and targets for the 2021/22 academic year.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the consultative council for VET held one meeting. Themes and priorities for 2022 were identified. These were the following:

- (a) legislative changes to the Pre-school and School Education Act ;
- (b) monitoring of the implementation of measures outlined in the strategic framework for the development of education, training and learning (2021-30);
- (c) dual training;
- (d) enrolment plans for the academic year 2022/23.

2022 Implementation

The Consultative Council for VET convened in July 2022. The result of its session was the approval of conceptual proposals for amendments in the VET regulatory framework. These consensus-based proposals shaped the further process of stakeholder involvement in the amendment of the VET act. Two sessions of the Resource Working group supporting the council ensured the involvement of experts in developing the proposals.

Members of Resource Working group and Consultative Council for VET were invited to respond to survey prepared by the education ministry concerning the ex- post impact assessment of the VET Act (VETA). Key areas in need of legislative improvements were outlined. These areas were: the LPVET, validation of prior learning, State Educational Standards for VET qualifications, partial qualifications, quality of VET, VET graduates tracking.

2023 Implementation

The Consultative Council for VET convened twice in 2023:

- (a) In the session on 12 September 2023 the agenda topics were:
- (b) reforms in vocational education and training through the draft Law on amendment and supplement to the vocational education and training Act;
- (c) the endorsement of the Strategic vision for the development of dual training
- (d) the launch of the *Modernisation of VET* project.

At the session, the main highlights of the draft Law on amendment and supplement to the vocational education and training Act were presented, amongst which: changes in the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET) by removing specialties and adhering to the principle of broad professions, inclusion of mandatory training for environmental protection and IT skills, training activities to obtain a unit of learning outcomes, the new structure of the State educational standards (SES), the optimisation of framework programmes, the introduction of distance learning in an electronic environment for persons over 16 years old, the improvement of inter-register connectivity and the reduction of the administrative burden.

These reforms will be supported financially under the *Modernisation of VET* project under the operational programme *Education 2021-27*. In issue No 27 of the Bulgarian State Gazette 29 (March 2024) the Law on amendment and supplement to the vocational education and training (VET) Act (VETA) was promulgated.

A Strategic vision for the development of dual VET (DVET) in Bulgaria – 2030 (hereinafter Strategic vision for the development of DVET) was endorsed by the council members. It envisages a focus on the leading role of companies in education, the development and modernisation of the DVET system in the country, and more communication and promotion activities. This vision outlines a commitment to enhance the DVET system by 2030, focusing on flexible admissions, providing incentives for employers, and transforming them into pivotal players in the training process. These strategic objectives aim to strengthen the role of DVET in Bulgaria's educational landscape.

- (a) the 16 November 2023 session focused on enrolments in VET. The discussion covered the following topics: adoption of an updated List of state protected specialties for professions for the academic year 2024/25 and the adoption of an updated List of specialties of professions with an expected shortage of specialists in the labour market for the academic year 2024/25.

In relation to the admission plans for the upcoming school year, the discussion focused on the procedure in which the employers state their needs for future personnel, by submitting also information for which professions they can provide DVET.

The main highlights for changing the regulatory framework for DVET in Bulgaria were presented, as well as a draft plan for implementing the *Strategic vision for the development of DVET*.

2024 Implementation

On 8 February 2024 the Consultative council for VET convened and took the following decisions:

- (a) the secretariat of the consultative council of VET should prepare an invitation letter to the nationally representative employer and trade union organisations to nominate representatives of these organisations to participate without salaries in the sectoral skills councils (SSCs);
- (b) a representative of the National association of municipalities should be invited to the resource working group (RWG);
- (c) The RWG should urgently (before submitting the proposals for approval to the Ministry of Education and Science) review the submitted applications for the admission plans for the academic year 2024/25 and conduct analysis on the implementation of the admission plans for the academic year 2023/24. Based on the review, corrective measures should be developed to be sent to the municipalities and regional employment council and to regional governors.
- (d) The RWG should review and analyse all developed material concerning the new List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET).

2025 Implementation

In 2025, the Consultative Council for Vocational Education and Training (CCVET) held three sessions focusing on the implementation of the amended VET Act, the link between education and labour market outcomes, and the modernisation of the VET system.

18 February 2025 – 17th session

Focus: VET reform and implementation of the amended VET Act.

- (a) Adoption of the Council's internal rules of procedure;
- (b) Presentation of secondary legislation under the amended VET Act, including the draft Ordinance on quality assurance in vocational colleges and training centres;

- (c) Progress reported under the Modernisation of VET project in developing new standards, curricula, and the updated List of professions for VET (LPVET), and in engaging business representatives in training delivery;
- (d) Discussion on the 2025/26 admission plan aiming to expand VET enrolments and introduce more STEM-oriented profiles;
- (e) Presentation of the annual CCVET work programme and national VET skills competitions calendar.

14 April 2025 – 18th session

Focus: Labour market realisation of VET graduates and adult learning.

- (a) review of reports on the labour market integration of secondary education graduates in Bulgaria (2017/18–2022/23), based on administrative data and survey findings;
- (b) information from the National Agency for VET (NAVET) on adult training provided in 2024;
- (c) presentation of the new public online section on validation of prior learning on the education ministry website, following the amended validation regulation (State Gazette No. 10/2025);
- (d) Discussion of the analysis 'The link between education and the labour market' prepared by the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association (BICA), with policy recommendations for improving the relevance of VET.

3 July 2025 – 19th session

Focus: Modernisation and dual VET development.

- (a) presentation of the DOMINO 2 Programme (2025–29), under the Swiss–Bulgarian cooperation programme, aiming to strengthen the dual VET system through business engagement, quality assurance mechanisms, research and data-based policy support, and communication activities;
- (b) progress update on the Modernisation of VET project, including adjustments to project activities in line with the amended VET Act and signing of an additional agreement under the *Education programme 2021–27*;
- (c) discussion on the ongoing development of new State educational standards (SES) and examination programmes under the updated LPVET;
- (d) review of the implementation progress of measures under the skills strategy for Bulgaria, particularly those related to VET.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Science

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

National, regional and local authorities

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Cedefop: ReferNet news](#)

[Discussions and decisions from the sessions of the Consultative council for VET 2025](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Strategic vision for the development of dual VET (DVET)-2030

The *Strategic vision for the development of dual VET (DVET) in Bulgaria-2030* (hereinafter *Strategic vision for the development of DVET*) was drafted by an expert team, with the financial support of the Fund for the preparation of support measures under the Swiss

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Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

The modernisation of vocational education and training project, European Social Fund (ESF)

The Modernisation of vocational education and training (VET) (hereinafter Modernisation of

VET) project is co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the operational programme *Education 2021 –27* with direct beneficiary the education ministry.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Analysis and proposals for optimising the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET)

In June 2019, the Consultative Council for VET, an advisory body to the education minister, assigned the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET) to prepare an analysis for the optimisation of the List of professions for vocational education and training (LPVET).

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Forecast model to align admission plans with labour market needs

The VET Directorate of the education ministry developed at the end of 2017 a (pilot) forecast model, in cooperation with the nationally representative employers' organisations, to inform admission plans in line with labour market needs.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

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

2025 Implementation

Developing dual VET

Piloting started in the 2015/16 school year for seven professions in five secondary VET schools in different regions of the country. In 2016/17, 12 professions and 17 schools in total were involved in the experiment. Dual VET(DVET) is supported by the municipalities and the social partners.

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Legal framework for the implementation of dual VET

An Ordinance that regulates dual vocational education and training (DVET) came into force at the beginning of September 2015.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28048>