

Engineering Act (IngG 2017)



Timeline



ID number 27989

Background

Since the establishment, the NQF has been used as the basis for reform and development of VET qualifications. The new engineer (*Ingenieur*) qualification was developed as a consequence of the NQF, as the methods for identifying the competences in the previous engineer qualification did not match NQF requirements.

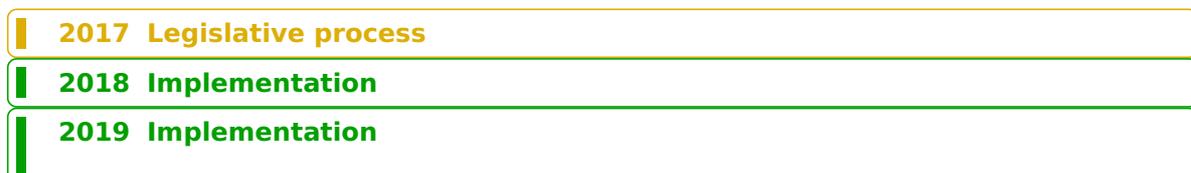
Objectives

Increase of transparency in the acquisition of engineering (*Ingenieur*) qualifications.

Description

A new Engineering Act (IngG 2017) came into force on 1 May 2017. Graduates of VET colleges of engineering (HTL) or of VET colleges in the agricultural and forestry/environmental sector (HBLA) who have a minimum of three years relevant professional experience, can now apply for certification to obtain the formal engineer qualification (*Ingenieur*, NQF/EQF level 6).

Beside the engineer qualification discussed above, application for certification is also allowed for other qualifications comparable in content and level. For example, graduates of an apprenticeship, industrial master college or master craftsman examination can apply for the engineer qualification if they fulfil the legal requirements (in particular, six years of relevant professional experience). Informal data of the first years of implementation shows that in some provinces up to 80% of applications for certification do not come from the VET colleges of engineering or agricultural sector but from alternative accesses.



In 2019, the implementation of the regulation continued.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the award of the engineering qualification is based on a validation process. It focusses on the work experience acquired after completion of a higher technical qualification, which must be designed in such a way that advanced knowledge, skills and competences can be acquired.

In 2020, Danube University Krems was commissioned to carry out the external evaluation of this validation process. The aim was to review the functionality of the procedure as well as the work of the certification bodies and to derive conclusions for possible improvement measures from the results. The evaluation report was submitted to the Ministry of Economy in autumn 2020.

2021 Implementation

The evaluation report was published and discussed in detail with representatives of the certification bodies in the first quarter of 2021. As a result, measures were taken that could be easily or quickly implemented, such as a common exchange platform for all certification bodies, the intensification of communication, and the streamlining of processes. Discussions were initiated on measures that require changes in the legal bases.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, adjustments were made to the implementation regulation by updating the fields in which the engineering qualification can be obtained. A second evaluation was carried out in 2022 based on the first evaluation, focusing on the question of results and effects of the certification.

2023 Implementation

The results of the second evaluation were published in 2023, focusing on the question of the results and effects of the certification procedure. The aim was to enable an assessment of the effectiveness and acceptance of the certification procedure in the context of the Austrian and European education landscape, as well as an assessment of the labour market relevance of the qualification, by means of quantitative analyses and surveys of participants and stakeholders. Further development potential was derived from this.

The most striking result of the study, when comparing the old procedure for awarding the professional title 'engineer' and the new certification procedure for the qualification 'engineer', is a significant decline in the number of applications by 42.3%, with almost identical success rates for the two procedures.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, no changes were made. The engineering certification was continued as previously, maintaining its existing structure and guidelines.

2025 Implementation

In line with the engineering qualification, since the end of 2024, qualifications have also been developed for non-technical subjects (i.e. for commercial and business schools, tourism schools, schools with design/creative subjects, etc.) at five-year secondary VET programmes. The legal framework for this is provided by the Federal Act on Higher Vocational Education and Training. The professional certificates (*Fachdiplome*), as these qualifications are called, will be awarded – as is the case for engineers – on the basis of relevant vocational training and several years of professional experience. The practical experience must have been designed in such a

way that the qualification candidates have expanded and deepened their knowledge and skills as well as their scope for action and creativity (i.e. from NQF level 5 to NQF level 6). The regulations for acquiring the professional certificates are currently being laid down in an ordinance. It is expected that it enters into force in the second half of 2026.

Bodies responsible

- Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) (until 2022)
- Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy (BMAW) (until 2025)
- Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET)

Target group

Learners

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[The legal act regulating the Ingenieur qualification \(in German\)](#)

[The Austrian qualifications register](#)

[Qualifikationsbezeichnungen 'Ingenieurin' und 'Ingenieur' \(engineer qualification\):](#)

[Evaluation report \(2021\): Engineering Act 2017 - Functionality and suitability of the certification process \[Ingenieurgesetz 2017: Funktionalität und Eignung desZertifizierungsverfahrens\] \(only in German\)](#)

[Evaluation report 2023: Engineering Act 2017: Results and effects of the certification process \[Ingenieurgesetz 2017: Ergebnisse und Wirkungen des Zertifizierungsverfahrens\] \(only in German\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Establishing a higher VET field

To realise parity of esteem and increase the visibility and public perception of higher VET qualifications, a discussion on the establishment of a defined educational field for higher

VET qualifications was started in 2019 within educational policy.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

National strategy on validation of non-formal and informal learning

Following a national consultation process, the national strategy for validating non-formal and informal learning was finalised and adopted in November 2017.

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Implementation of the national qualifications framework

The NQF development and implementation process is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF).

 AUSTRIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Engineering Act (IngG 2017): Austria. 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/27989>

