

Programmes and measures to support innovation, attractiveness and modernisation of VET, and strengthen cooperation with Higher Education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 HUNGARY

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 48443

Background

As part of the VET Strategy 4.0, Hungary has launched a major modernisation programme, leading to significant developments in VET in recent years. The programme is built on three key pillars: attractive career opportunities; attractive educational environment; and up-to-date teaching skills.

To achieve these objectives and ensure high-quality vocational skills development, investments have been made in infrastructure, curriculum and training programme improvements, and digital modernisation. A key focus has also been the establishment of training and knowledge centres to enhance cooperation between VET institutions, businesses, and higher education institutions.

Objectives

Since the introduction of the new VET Act in 2019, numerous legislations, projects, and programmes have been launched to enhance the attractiveness, modernisation, and innovation of VET. VET must adapt to a rapidly changing world and the needs of the labour market, as well as new technologies. Consequently, it is crucial to increase the attractiveness of VET through innovative and modern solutions to facilitate a successful generational change. Through these measures, the VET Act in force seeks to create a modern VET system that attracts more students, meets the demands of the labour market, and supports a smooth transition from IVET to higher education and employment.

Description

This policy development focuses on enhancing the innovation, attractiveness, and modernisation of VET in Hungary. It aims to achieve this through specific initiatives such as:

- (a) Integration of modern technologies: implementing digital tools and resources in VET programmes to ensure that students gain relevant professional knowledge and soft

- skills needed by the industry 4.0;
- (b) Cooperation with industry: establishing partnerships with key economic actors to create apprenticeship opportunities that provide students with practical experience;
- (c) New training models: developing innovative training models that are flexible and responsive to labour market needs, including dual training formats that integrate classroom learning with on-the-job training;
- (d) Awareness campaigns: launching campaigns to promote the value and benefits of VET to students and their families, addressing misconceptions and highlighting career prospects;
- (e) New institution types and IVET programmes: one of the cornerstones of the transformation of the VET system was to turn five-year technicums into an entranceway of university education in engineering and information technology.

The law enables technicums to create a so-called certified technician programme, jointly elaborated by technicums and higher education institutions through a cooperation agreement. The aim is to create a direct path to HE VET studies by making the HE admission process easier for graduates of the certified technician qualification, and by harmonising the dual training arrangements in place in technicums and higher education institutions. Graduates with a certified technician qualification receive 30 credits that they can use in their higher education studies if they choose the same sectoral specialisation in the given higher education institution. One of the first pilots took place at the Boronkay György Technicum School (*Boronkay György Műszaki Technikum és Gimnázium*), which is affiliated to the VET Centre in Vác, has been set up to test the harmonisation of programme curricula of the electrotechnical technical training programme with the respective HE programme.

Technicians (graduates of the technicum five-year programme with a HuQF/EQF level 5 technician certificate) can continue their higher education studies (BProf/Bachelor of Profession), with the possibility to recognise their pre-acquired (prior) knowledge, based on the regulations set by the institutions of higher education. It will be a challenge for higher education institutions and technicum schools to harmonise the respective qualifications standards and programme requirements. In dual VET, there is also a need for synchronisation: the learner who started dual training at secondary level at a given company should have the possibility to continue at higher education level at the same company. To reach this goal, further cooperation is needed with the respective companies and VET and HE institutions.

Linked to existing policy developments, the dissemination of modern technologies, applied research, impact assessment and forecasting, as well as cooperation among national and international VET and policy stakeholders, are expected to support modern, innovative and attractive VET in Hungary.

2021 Implementation

The new certified technician programme was introduced in Technicums. The local programme is prepared jointly by a Technicum secondary school and a higher education institution based on a cooperation agreement and is delivered in the last three years (specialised vocational subjects) of the five-year Technicum programme to those learners who have successfully completed the first two-year cycle and passed the basic sectoral exam. Holders of the certified technician qualification may have their learning recognised when enrolling in higher education (in the given higher education institution, thus getting 30 credits considered as fulfilled, or even shortening the duration of the HE programme. Learners following the specialisation years of the Technicum programme in the framework of dual training (with a vocational employment contract with a company) may continue their practical training with the same company when following up vocational studies in a higher education institution.

In the school year 2021/22, in 27 Technicums affiliated to 16 VET centres and cooperating with 13 universities in 10 economic sectors (especially in the fields of engineering, information and technology and economics), 917 enrolled students have chosen this type of programme.

2022 Implementation

In the school year 2022/23, the certified technician programme was expanded: it is organised in 42 Technicums affiliated to 23 VET centres and cooperating with 17 universities in 13 economic sectors.

In the framework of GINOP-6-1-10-VEKOP-19 project, production simulation tools have been acquired and training courses has been implemented on these tools to provide a foundation for Industry 4.0 related knowledge.

In the framework of the development of project GINOP-6.2.6, the 1st round of the 'Model Company 2022/23' competition was completed in 2022, with 38 teams having fulfilled the criteria. Round 2 was completed on 20 December 2022. The 'web design' video teaching material for this round has been published and the completion date is ongoing, but no later than 30 April 2023.

2023 Implementation

Under the RRF-2.2.2-23 '21st Century Vocational Training Institutions Development Programme', construction and infrastructure investments are carried out at 34 sites within 31 VET institutions, across 18 VET Centres.

Key developments include:

- (a) energy efficiency improvements and the installation of renewable energy systems in buildings;
- (b) modernisation of school workshops;
- (c) transformation of educational spaces for the digital and green transition;
- (d) upgrading equipment and purchasing digital assets, including 13 825 ICT tools to enhance digital skills development.

The programme aims to create an attractive learning environment, improve vocational education quality, and modernise VET infrastructure and equipment.

- (a) Project submission deadline: 7 September 2023
- (b) Physical completion deadline: 31 March 2026
- (c) Maximum total funding: EUR 236.60 million (HUF 95.81 billion)

The project is part of a multi-phase initiative launched in 2019, beginning with national funding for the development of four VET centres as a pilot under the '21st Century Vocational Schools' development programme.

Due to the emergency rules introduced by Government Decree 174/2023 (12 May 2023), the existing supporting documents for centrally funded construction projects lost their validity on 23 May 2023. As a result, only two of the four originally planned developments were implemented, and even these had to be implemented with a reduced scope compared to the initial plans:

- (a) Miskolc VET Centre: Complex development of Szemere Bertalan Technicum, Vocational School and College and Szentpáli István Trade and Hospitality Technicum and Vocational School, along with equipment acquisition for Kandó Kálmán Information Technology Technicum;
- (b) Győr VET Centre: Complex development of Pattantyús-Ábrahám Géza Technicum.

Between 13 October 2021 and 31 August 2022, the RRF-2.0.0-2021-00001 project, titled '21st Century VET Institutional Development Programme', was implemented to establish the framework and professional conditions for the RRF-2.2.2-23 project.

In the school year 2023/24, the certified technician programme was expanded: it is organised in 97 Technicums and cooperating with 23 universities in 20 economic sectors.

Courses were organised in the framework of GINOP 6.1.10 project that aimed to equip

secondary school students with the technological knowledge needed to understand the operation, application, and benefits of Industry 4.0 manufacturing simulation solutions acquired through the project. A total of 15 671 participants took part in the training, of whom 14 805 (12 314 men and 2 491 women) received a certificate or diploma.

Under GINOP 6.1.9. project, businesses in transport and related sectors could apply for support to train their employees. IVET students (grades 9–12) also participated in skill development courses. The Institute of Transport Sciences and Logistics Nonprofit Ltd (*K77*), with support from the National Office for VET and AL (NOVETAL) as the consortium partner, provided opportunities for groups of students to train using various simulation tools. These sessions were conducted at *K77*'s headquarters, in virtual classrooms, and across 18 cities nationwide. The courses were designed to align with, complement, and enhance the students' IVET studies. For instance, students in the mechanical engineering sector participated in welding simulator training, those in the transport and logistics sectors learnt forklift operation, and students specialising in vehicle manufacturing practised using painting simulators.

On February 3, 2023, the TOP 100 Technicums ranking was published for the first time, based on data provided by the National Office for VET and Adult Learning (NOVETAL). Compiled by IKK, this ranking helps those who are about to select a pathway in IVET. It evaluates schools based on both input and output performance, aiming to highlight the added value of each institution in terms of educational effectiveness. The ranking considers factors such as the VET teacher-to-student ratio, the digital coverage of the institutions, and students' academic performance upon entering technicums. It also examines the ratio of repeaters to the total student population and the results of general and vocational baccalaureate examinations, using six key indicators in its analysis.

2024 Implementation

The popularity of certified technician training continues to grow. In the 2024/25 school year:

- (a) 139 IVET institutions launched 297 certified technician training courses across 20 sectors;
- (b) 28 higher education institutions partnered in the training of certified technicians.

From the 2023/2024 academic year onwards, certified technician programmes may also be offered within post-secondary VET programmes preparing learners for professional examinations (typically two-year programmes building on the secondary school-leaving certificate).

The TOP 100 Technicums ranking is published annually. The 2024 TOP 100 Technicums ranking by county was released on 6 February, 2024, along with the TOP 10 Technicums in Budapest.

With the amendment of the Higher Education Act in December 2023, Parliament decided that universities may establish a pre-student status for 13th-grade students of technicums. In the second semester of the 2023/24 academic year, Széchenyi István University became the first in the country to offer this status to graduating students from nine technicums located in Győr, Szombathely, Budapest, Zalaegerszeg, and Kaposvár, under certain conditions. Each higher education institution has the discretion to determine the conditions under which it will grant pre-student status to graduates of technicums. The programme aims to support students who wish to continue their studies at the tertiary level and are therefore willing to undertake additional courses during the final year of their IVET studies.

For example, if a student knows they want to study mechanical engineering, the agreement between the technicum and the university allows the student to pursue partial studies and earn micro-credentials in certain subject contents during their technicum studies, which will count as credits toward higher education studies. If the student meets the criteria set by the agreement between the university and the VET institution during their technicum studies, the higher education institution may admit

the student on its own initiative, bypassing the central university admission procedure. This measure aims to enhance the excellence of VET and make it more attractive by facilitating progression to higher education and enriching the secondary VET programme with advanced content developed in cooperation with universities.

In 2023, 66 719 students were admitted to higher education under the general admission procedure for undergraduate studies, of whom 20 615 (30.9%) came from IVET programmes. There were 5 489 students admitted to higher VET (which falls under the Higher Education Act in Hungary), of whom 2 157 (39.3%) had an IVET background. The table below shows comparable data on student enrolment in higher education for the years 2021-23.

The excellence of agricultural VET is also promoted by the Széchenyi 2020 programme's call for proposals, VP1-1.2.1-23 Support for demonstration farms. This initiative is co-financed by the European Union's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the budget of Hungary with a financial support of EUR 2 366 960.83 (HUF 968 109 854) and a co-financing of EUR 258 359.19 (HUF 105 671 404). The project is being implemented from 1 March 2024 to 1 August 2025. The aim of this project is to encourage participation in lifelong learning through the development of demonstration farms, school workshops in agricultural IVET institutions affiliated with agricultural VET centres, and experimental farms in research institutes and higher education institutions.

Under the call for proposals GINOP-6.2.7-20 (EDIOP), entitled 'Infrastructure and Professional Preparation of Sectoral Training Centres (ÁKKs) for the New VET Structure', the 24 established Sectoral Training Centres (ÁKKs) were provided with the opportunity to implement large-scale, complex workshop development projects, including infrastructure upgrades and equipment procurement.

In the framework of the VET Strategy 4.0 and its Action Plan, five sectoral Knowledge Centres are to be established by 2030 to promote excellence in VET, linking VET with higher education and key economic actors in the region. So far, there is one Knowledge Centre in Hungary, the Forestry Sector Knowledge Centre. Its main activities include organising dual vocational training and supporting IVET institutions in delivering modern theoretical and practical education based on state-of-the-art equipment, as well as promoting effective cooperation between secondary and higher education to foster innovation. In 2024, the Ginop Plusz 5.1.1 project, entitled Establishment of Vocational Sectoral Knowledge Centres, was launched. Under this project, VET centres managed by the Minister responsible for VET can apply for non-refundable support to establish Vocational Knowledge Centres.

Students admitted under the general admission procedure, courses starting in September	2021	2022	2023
Number of applicants for undergraduate studies (BS or BSc)	72 060	70 714	96 376
Number of admitted students for undergraduate studies (BS or BSc)	47 691	47 450	66 719
Number of applicants from IVET for undergraduate studies (BS or BSc)	19 027	18 507	32 041
Number of admitted students from IVET for undergraduate studies (BS or BSc)	11 183	11 092	20 615
Number of applicants for higher VET studies	11 004	11 351	12 009
Number of admitted students for higher VET studies	6 763	6 791	5 489
Number of applicants from IVET for higher VET studies	3 953	4 153	4 874
Number of admitted students from IVET to higher VET studies	2 490	2 538	2 157

2025 Implementation

Progression to Higher Education:

The number of applicants and admitted students to higher education in the framework of the general admission procedure has evolved as follows:

General admission procedure for programmes 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 commencing in September of the given year

Number of applicants to Bachelor's programmes	72 06070	71496	37689	62797	631
Number of admitted students to Bachelor's programmes	47 69147	45066	71962	97367	982
Number of applicants from VET to Bachelor's programmes	19 02718	50732	04126	23932	112
Number of admitted students from VET to Bachelor's programmes	11 18311	09220	61517	12521	464
Number of applicants to higher education vocational programmes	11 00411	35112	0099	282	6 975
Number of admitted students to higher education vocational programmes	6 763	6 791	5 489	3 201	1 705
Number of applicants from VET to higher education vocational programmes	3 953	4 153	4 874	3 181	2 649
Number of admitted students from VET to higher education vocational programmes	2 490	2 538	2 157	1 171	654

Table: 2nd Monitoring Report of VET Policy Strategy 4.0 (Source of basic data: https://www.felvi.hu/felveteli/ponthatarok_statisztikak)

Certified technician programme:

The range of institutions authorised to launch certified technician programmes continues to expand. In the 2025/2026 academic year, 162 technicians have permission to offer certified technician programmes in cooperation with 28 universities, across 20 sectors. According to a survey carried out by IKK in December 2025, a total of 6815 students participate in the programme.

Knowledge Centres:

Under the standard project titled 'Establishment of Vocational Sectoral Knowledge Centres' (GINOP Plusz-5.1.1-24), five vocational training centres were awarded financial support: the Budapest Technology VET Centre, the Dunaújváros VET Centre, the Győr VET Centre, the Siófok VET Centre, and the Szerencs VET Centre. The focus areas of the knowledge centres are as follows: information technology and telecommunications in Budapest, mechanical engineering in Dunaújváros, specialised machinery and vehicle manufacturing in Győr, electronics and electrical engineering in Balatonfüred, and food industry in Szerencs. A Vocational Sectoral Knowledge Centre is an organisation established by a VET centre, a university and one or more companies for the purpose of implementing dual training in the training centre.

Infrastructure developments:

The programme announced in 2018 under the name '21st Century VET Schools' is linked to the 'Creating an Attractive Environment' pillar of the VET 4.0 Strategy. The aim of the programme is to renew VET institutions operating under state maintenance in various cities. This complex development programme includes building renovation, energy efficiency improvements, the installation of systems ensuring the use of renewable energy sources, the development of training workshops, community spaces,

and classrooms, the transformation of educational environments, the modernisation of educational technology and professional training equipment, the renewal of digital and material assets, and the expansion of green areas.

Between 2020 and 2025, based on data provided by the 41 VET centres maintained by the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, more than 200 major workshop development projects were carried out (in addition to the developments implemented under EU co-financed projects). These developments can be considered significant in the sense that they provided clearly perceivable, high-quality added value for learners.

Technicum ranking and promotion of VET:

To raise the attractiveness and visibility of VET and technikums, building on the Technicum Ranking, the first-ever vocational education and training gala ('Have a Profession in Your Hands!' – Carpathian Basin Excellence Gala of Technikums') was organised in 2025, attracting wide public attention. One of the key objectives of the gala was, among others, to have a positive impact on career orientation.

Microcredentials in VET:

Starting from the 2025/2026 academic year, legislation enables VET institutions to issue microcredentials to VET learners for the acquisition of learning outcomes integrated into the institutions' professional programmes beyond those included in the programme and outcome requirements, representing skills and competences applicable to the local labour market or other innovative learning components. The microcredential issued by the VET institution can be taken into account in the course of the student's higher education studies if the credit transfer committee of the higher education institution approves it.

The Hungarian legislation is based on the Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability.

As one of the first best practices, the Szeged VET Centre, within the framework of its partnership with Chinese VET institutions, announced microcredential-based subjects for its learners, including in the specialised machinery and vehicle manufacturing sector.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- Ministry of Agriculture
- IKK Innovative Training Support Centre (IKK Nonprofit Plc.)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Education professionals

Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Other

Higher education institutions and VET
Centres

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Ranking of Technicums 2024](#)

[Ranking of Technicums in the counties 2024](#)

[Certified technician programme](#)

[Best practices for micro-credentials:](#)

[Knowledge Centre](#)

[News regarding 'Model company competition'](#)

[Regulation of micro-credentials in VET: The government Decree No 12/2020 on the implementation of the VET Act - amendments regarding micro-credentials in force as of 25 July 2025](#)

[2nd Monitoring Report of VET Policy Strategy 4.0](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Supporting Lifelong Learning (LLL) in the adult education and training framework

The VET Act of 2019 differentiates vocational education and vocational training. Vocational education can be provided within the IVET framework on the basis of programme and outcome requirements (KKKs) and in formal school-based adult education.

 HUNGARY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Completed

Mid-term VET policy strategy 4.0

The government has accepted, by government Decision No 1168/2019. (III.28.), the new 'Mid-term VET policy strategy for the renewal of VET and adult education (AE), the VET system's answer to the challenges of the fourth Industrial Revolution'.

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Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/48443>