

# National career guidance network (NCGN)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 MALTA

## Timeline

2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 48130

## Background

Setting up a National Career Guidance Network (NCGN) was deemed necessary in order to support the proliferation of a lifelong learning culture. The network shall bring together career guidance professionals in Malta to ensure a cohesive and inclusive career guidance service for individuals of all ages, ensuring equity in access and quality of services.

Through consolidating national efforts on career guidance, individuals of all ages may benefit from this service throughout their lives in order to engage in VET programmes or micro-credentials, and acquire key competences to actively manage their education, training and employment phases.

## Objectives

The NCGN aims to:

- (a) bring to the forefront the discussion and strategic direction of career guidance services on a national scale;
- (b) coordinate and enhance collaboration amongst career guidance stakeholders, including educational institutions, employment agencies, and industry partners, to ensure a unified national approach to career guidance;
- (c) equip career guidance practitioners with the knowledge and skills required to support career transitions in alignment with emerging labour market needs, including digital and green skills;
- (d) promote vocational education and training (VET) and work-based learning (WBL) through career guidance activities that align with national VET strategies;
- (e) coordinate engagement efforts and cross-functional collaborations targeting under-represented and disadvantaged groups to ensure inclusive access to career guidance services.

## Description

The National Career Guidance Network (NCGN) seeks to comprise the guidance offices of all institutions as to create synergies in the provision of guidance and information, securing a seamless experience to clients. The NCGN plans to:

- (a) work closely with the National Skills Council (NSC) to develop a national career guidance strategy
- (b) work closely with the National Skills Council (NSC) and existing service providers to promote VET pathways and to align career guidance services with national strategies, including those developed by the NSC;
- (c) create an interactive online platform where individuals can access guidance services, ensuring user-friendly access to information on initial vocational education and training (IVET) and continuing vocational education and training (CVET) offers, explore career pathways, and connect with affiliates of the NCGN;
- (d) develop and manage the National Career Guidance Services Registry, ensuring it is accessible and up to date with information on registered guidance professionals;
- (e) facilitate continuous professional development (CPD) for registered career guidance professionals to ensure they remain up to date with the latest trends in the labour market.

### 2024 Implementation

On 24 April 2024, the National Career Guidance Network (NCGN) was officially launched during a business breakfast titled, 'Looking beyond the European Year of Skills', co-organised by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research & Innovation (MEYR) and the National Skills Council (NSC). A series of consultations started thereafter, led by the NSC, with a total of 19 meetings taking place between July and October 2024. The aim of the consultations is to understand the needs of the various stakeholders, and therefore shape the activities and remit of the NCGN to be fit for purpose.

The NCGN was formally established on 17 December 2024, following consultation meetings that identified primary and secondary committee representatives and the drafting of the Terms of Reference. The launch featured the OECD's *Teenage Career Development in Malta* report, commissioned by the NSC and based on PISA 2022 data, marking one of the network's first major initiatives.

### 2025 Implementation

In 2025, three committee meetings were held (March, June, and September), during which stakeholders shared updates on initiatives supporting evidence-based policy development for Malta's forthcoming National career guidance policy. Ongoing work includes research on adult career choices and progression, with committee members helping to map existing studies, identify gaps, and avoid duplication. These insights will inform the state of play report, for which tender specifications are currently being drafted. Initial discussions also started on the development of a digital platform to centralise and improve access to career guidance services, with the tender planned for 2026.

## Bodies responsible

- National Skills Council (NSC)

## Target group

### Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)  
Adult learners

### Education professionals

Guidance practitioners

# Thematic categories

## Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

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

VET promoting equality of opportunities

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Launch of the National Career Guidance Network](#)

[National Career Guidance Network webpage](#)

## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

### The National Skills Council (NSC)

In November 2016, a National Skills Council (NSC) was set up to establish the institutional framework for the anticipation of skills needs in Malta. The NSC is made up of representatives from:

 MALTA

#### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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Malta. 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/48130>