

# Bringing VET and general education closer

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 LITHUANIA

## Timeline

2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation

**ID number 47668**

## Background

The initiative to bring VET and general education closer together has been launched to address long standing challenges related to the prestige and attractiveness of VET. Despite ongoing efforts, VET remains a less preferred option among students in general education schools, as well as their parents and teachers. It is still considered a 'second choice' compared to higher education.

A key challenge has been the limited opportunities for general education students to familiarise themselves with VET curricula. Previously, access to VET was restricted to students enrolled in VET programmes alongside lower or upper secondary education curricula. Choosing a VET programme or individual modules within general education was not possible, as it did not align with the general education curriculum.

Another issue has been the lack of career guidance and information on VET programmes. As a result, general education students had limited knowledge of VET, labour market needs and career opportunities. They also had few chances to explore different occupations in practice.

This initiative aims to broaden access to VET for a wider group of general education students. Since 2020 (at the beginning as an experiment) all VET programmes are modular and students in grades 9-10 and 11-12 of general education schools (referred to as first to fourth classes in gymnasiums) can now take individual VET programme modules.

To implement this initiative, amendments to relevant legal acts were introduced, allowing for the integration of VET modules into the general education curriculum. The following legal acts support the initiative:

- (a) Order No V-482 (15 March 2012) - The Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania approved the description of the formal VET organisation procedure.
- (b) General Educational Plans for 2023/24 and 2024/25 - Approved by the Minister of Education, Science, and Sport of Lithuania for primary, basic, and secondary education programmes.
- (c) Order No V-373 (17 May 2017) - The Minister of Education, Science, and Sport approved the procedure for general admission to initial and continuing VET in state, municipal, and non-state VET institutions.
- (d) Resolution No 934 (11 September 2019) - The Government of Lithuania approved the methodology for calculating vocational training funds per student in formal VET programmes (excluding correctional officer training and internal affairs VET

programmes).  
(e) Order No V-913 (29 June 2023) - The Minister of Education, Science, and Sport approved the general VET plans for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

## Objectives

The initiative aims to enable students from general education schools to take individual modules from selected VET programmes while enrolled in a lower or upper secondary general education curriculum. This approach seeks to enhance the attractiveness of VET and expand opportunities for young learners to acquire professional competences.

## Description

Since 2023, the modular VET system has supported the development of a more open and flexible VET. This initiative allows students to dedicate three to six weekly lessons to one or more vocational modules, depending on their duration and credit value, while also gaining first-hand experience with VET school facilities and training programmes.

An individual learning plan is developed in cooperation between the student, their general education school, and a VET institution. Upon completing a VET module, students receive a certificate confirming the acquired competence. These competences can be recognised when pursuing further VET studies, potentially reducing the formal training period.

By enhancing the attractiveness of VET and improving its flexibility and openness, this initiative is expected to enable 4 900 general education students to complete individual VET programme modules.

### 2023 Implementation

In 2023, the general admission of students to initial VET programme modules took place, allowing students in general education schools, including those in grades 9-12 in general education schools (lower secondary level) and in grades I-IV in Gymnasiums (upper secondary level), to enrol in selected vocational modules.

A total of 1 642 VET contracts were signed for 62 modules across 34 VET institutions out of 44, an increase from 1 390 contracts for 60 modules in 2022. The majority of contracts were concluded for personal services, with 780 contracts, and architecture and construction, with 476 contracts.

Among the most popular modules in 2023, pizza making attracted 227 students, followed by tile surface finishing with 178 contracts, simple technology sushi making with 125 contracts, and woodworking with manual, electric, motorised, and pneumatic tools with 105 contracts.

### 2024 Implementation

In 2024, students were admitted to modules of initial VET programmes through the general admission process. According to the general admission information system, in 2024 a total of 2 889 students signed learning contracts, choosing to study according to individual modules of VET programmes.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- Qualifications and VET Development Centre (KPMPC)

# Target group

## Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)  
Learners with migrant background, including refugees  
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers  
Learners with disabilities  
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

# Thematic categories

## Modernising VET offer and delivery

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

## Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

# 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

# Subsystem

IVET CVET

# Further reading

[Description of the formal VET organisation procedure \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

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[General educational plans for primary, basic and secondary education programmes for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 school years \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

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[General vocational education and training plans for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

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[Description of the content, form and issuing procedure of vocational training diplomas and certificates \(only in Lithuanian\)](#)

# Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

## Modularisation of VET curricula

In spring 2015, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport decided that formal IVET and CVET programmes would consist of mandatory (85%) and elective (15%) modules grouped into introductory, professional and final categories.

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### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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