

REFERENCE YEAR 2026

UNDERSTANDING OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Content updates and contributors

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Drafted by Sigrid Ester Tani, Chief Expert, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia - Member of [Cedefop Community of apprenticeship experts](#) for Estonia

Q5. Relevant information that is essential to understanding the specificity of apprenticeships in the country.

According to the new legislation, both IVET and CVET are used in formal VET. IVET is provided at EQF/NQF levels 2-5, while CVET is offered at levels 4-5.

Reasons for the current low share of apprenticeship training in Estonia:

- VET in Estonia is traditionally school-based;
- enterprises often don't acknowledge themselves as education providers;
- lack of cooperation between different stakeholders;
- the society, including enterprises and potential students, does not have enough information about the study opportunities and consequently the potential to provide work-based learning is reduced;
- the majority of Estonian enterprises are small or micro-sized.

However, it is essential to note that the situation is rapidly changing especially due to the actions taken under ESF programmes PRÕM (during the period 2014-2020) and PRÕM + (during the period 2021-2029) and the Erasmus+ project "National Authorities for Apprenticeships: Implementing Work Based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (WBL-Balt)". The number of companies that are ready to provide training has been growing.