

REFERENCE YEAR 2026

UNDERSTANDING OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Content updates and contributors

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

Drafting the 2016 regulation on WBL has proven to be challenging as there were different opinions among ministries and stakeholders, especially on the remuneration of apprenticeships (it took time for employer organisations and companies to accept the new responsibilities in VET programme implementation, and to paying remuneration). Currently the situation is changing. Many companies are willing to accept students and pay remuneration, however the reason might be related to an acute shortage of labour force, but also the sense of social responsibility of employers in preparing a quality labour force seems to be increasing gradually. However, credible evidence on this, based on particular studies, are not identified.

In relation to the traditional craftsmanship:

- The Law on Craftsmanship (1993) stipulates the organisational basis for craftsmanship, its basic regulations and the procedure for stating craftsman qualifications. The content of craftsmanship is determined by the corresponding craft professional association and approved by the Council of the Chamber of Crafts. The normative regulation on craftsmanship and its detachment from the formal national education system has arisen from a long-term tradition in the crafts sector.
- Craft enterprises certified by the Latvian Chamber of Crafts or a territorial or branch craft association authorized by it have the right to accept crafts apprentices for training. The right to train crafts apprentices belongs to craftsmen or persons equivalent to them, who have a permit from the Latvian Chamber of Crafts. The Latvian Chamber of Crafts supervises training in craft enterprises.