

Reference year 2019

UNDERSTANDING OF APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Q1. Is there a stable legal basis for apprenticeships in your country?

		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> IN DEVELOPMENT

In Latvia there are two schemes that are considered as apprenticeships in the national context: - work-based learning as an apprenticeship type scheme (part of the vocational education and training (VET) system and traditional craftsmanship (regulated by a specific Law on Crafts, implemented separately from the formal VET system that is supervised by the Ministry of Education and Science).

a. the recently introduced 'Work-based learning' scheme (WBL, part of formal VET):

- In the "Education development guidelines for 2014-2020" (adopted in 2014), the development of modular approach in vocational education programmes and work-based learning is interpreted as an important development to increase the attractiveness of vocational education.
- The Vocational Education Act, amended in 2015, introduced work-based learning as one of the forms of implementing formal VET. In Latvia the term 'work-based learning' is being used to describe the new apprenticeship-type scheme complying to the main principles of apprenticeships. The new scheme is an alternative way to obtain qualifications already offered through school-based VET at NQF/EQF levels 2-4. VET institutions are free to choose whether they will implement a VET programme in apprenticeship mode or not.
- The legal basis for WBL as an apprenticeship scheme is in place since 2016 when the regulation on the "Procedures for Organisation and Implementation of Work-based Learning was adopted - Cabinet of Ministers' Regulation of No. 484 of 15 July 2016), <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/283680-kartiba-kada-organize-un-isteno-darba-vid...> (Regulation No 484)
- On the same date the 8.5.1 specific objective "To increase the number of qualified VET students through their participation in work-based learning or training practices at an enterprise" was adopted under the "Regulation on the implementation of the Operational Programme "Growth and Employment", Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 483. of 15 July 2016, <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/283736-darbibas-programmas-izaugsme-un-nodarbina.....> (Regulation No 483)The Regulation No. 484 serves as an 'umbrella' regulation, whereas Regulation No 483 has been adopted to support the activities under

8.5.1 specific objective during its lifetime (determining certain incentives for the involved parties).

- In June 2017, the “Guidelines on the Organisation and Implementation of WBL” were adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science to provide common principles and methodological support for the involved partners in the WBL implementation.

b. the traditional ‘Craftsmanship’ scheme (not part of formal VET):

Craft apprenticeships (craftsmanship) are implemented separately from formal VET and are not included in the educational programme classification (no relevant ISCED level). 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.

As the scheme directly does not lead to formally recognised vocational qualifications (but a journeyman or Masters certificate instead), it does not meet Cedefop’s definition of apprenticeship and is not studied further through a dedicated scheme fiche on this database.

Q2. Is there an official definition of ‘apprenticeship’ or ‘apprentice’ in your country?



a. ‘Work-based learning’ scheme

The term ‘work-based learning’ (WBL), used in the national context to refer to the new apprenticeship scheme, means that the student acquires practical skills and knowledge primarily in a real working environment of the company – at least for 25% of the duration of an initial VET programme.

In short cycle (continuing) VET programmes (after secondary education) the share of training implemented at the workplace represents around 70% of the total volume of the programme.

b. Craftsmanship scheme

As defined in the Law on Crafts, ‘craft apprentice’ is a person who, in order to acquire the craft, has joined a crafts company or an educational institution and has signed a training contract[1].

[1] <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=63052>

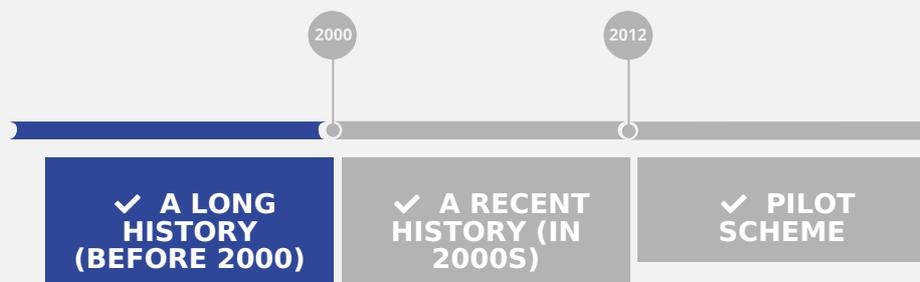
Q3. At which level do apprenticeship schemes exist in your country?



a. The work-based learning scheme is an alternative way to get qualifications already offered at NQF/EQF levels 2-4. This means it is offered at both upper-secondary and post-secondary level. It can be offered as an initial (IVET) or continuing (CVET) option.

b. Craftsmanship programmes lead to journeyman and master craftsman diplomas after the relevant exams. They are included in the sectoral qualifications frameworks that are referenced to LQF (SQFs being subsystems of LQF, using the same descriptors)

Q4. How well-established are apprenticeship schemes in your country?



The work-based learning scheme was introduced formally in 2015 (Vocational Education Act amendment). It was piloted in a limited number of VET institutions in 2013/14 onwards, and then was mainstreamed and developed with a stable legal basis.

Craftsmen have a long-standing tradition in Latvia. The current craftsmen system acquired its legal basis with the adoption of the Law on Craftsmanship in 1993 (<http://likumi.lv/ta/id/63052-par-amatniecibu>).

Q5. Relevant information that is essential to understanding the specificity of apprenticeships in the country and which does not fit under the scheme specific sections below.

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 employers' organisations and companies to accept the new responsibilities in VET programme implementation, and to paying remuneration).