

# Breakout session 1

## Excellence and inclusion at the macro level over the past 25 years

### The French Case

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*Future of VET - Excellence and inclusion at a cross road*



# A persistent focus on inclusion

## An emerging emphasis on excellence

### **Persistent focus on inclusion**

- Major effort to combat youth unemployment  
ie: targeting NEETs, national priority since 2014
- In CVET (continuing vocational education and training), all reforms prioritize inclusion to address existing inequalities  
The less qualified benefit the least from training



# A persistent focus on inclusion

## An emerging emphasis on excellence

### **Recent focus on excellence in VET**

- One pillar of the last major reforms:  
apprenticeship system (2018) / IVET (2019)
- Term "pathways of excellence" used to emphasize:
  - Attractiveness, relevance and quality of VET programs
  - Better integration outcomes for VET students



# Examples of national policies

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## Second-chance schools (E2C)

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- National network established in 2004 for school dropouts.
- Legislative framework introduced in 2007.

## Trades and qualifications campuses label

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- Introduced in 2019 with a mention of 'Excellence' for campuses meeting higher standards.

## Investment in Skills Plan (2018-2022)

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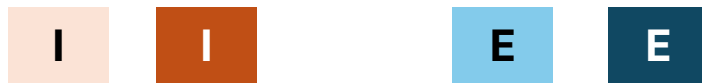
- Plan to train 1M low-skilled jobseekers and 1M young people far from the labour market

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- Focus on modernising training and digitising training provision.



# Examples of national policies



## 2019 IVET reform

- I** Focus on increasing successful integration in tertiary studies or in entering the job market, in addition to preventing dropping out
  - Enhance the connections between VET high schools and the business world
  - Review of the regional vocational training map in line with economic and ecological needs
  - Creation of 40 new qualifications (EQF levels 3, 4 and 5) to meet employment needs linked to ecological, digital and demographic transitions
- E** "Trade Upper Secondary School" label to award excellence in VET public institutions



# Examples of national policies



## 2018 CVET and Apprenticeship reform

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Aimed at improving access to training for the least qualified and small enterprise employees.

Personal Training Account (CPF) with enhanced entitlements for disadvantaged groups

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Apprenticeship as “pathway of excellence”



# Focus on Apprenticeship Reform Bridging Inclusion and Excellence

## Objectives

Enhance apprenticeship as an excellence pathway for educational success and professional integration, benefiting youth, businesses, and national development

## Key Provisions

- Liberalisation: no more need for regional approval to open new Apprentice Training Centres (CFA)
- Extended age limit: Apprenticeship entry age raised to 29 (previously 25)
- Flexible contracts: Minimum contract duration reduced to six months; entry possible year-round
- Special grant for all companies hiring an apprentice of 6000 € since 2022

## Funding Changes

- Unified apprenticeship tax
- Public funding to CFAs based on the number of apprenticeship contracts



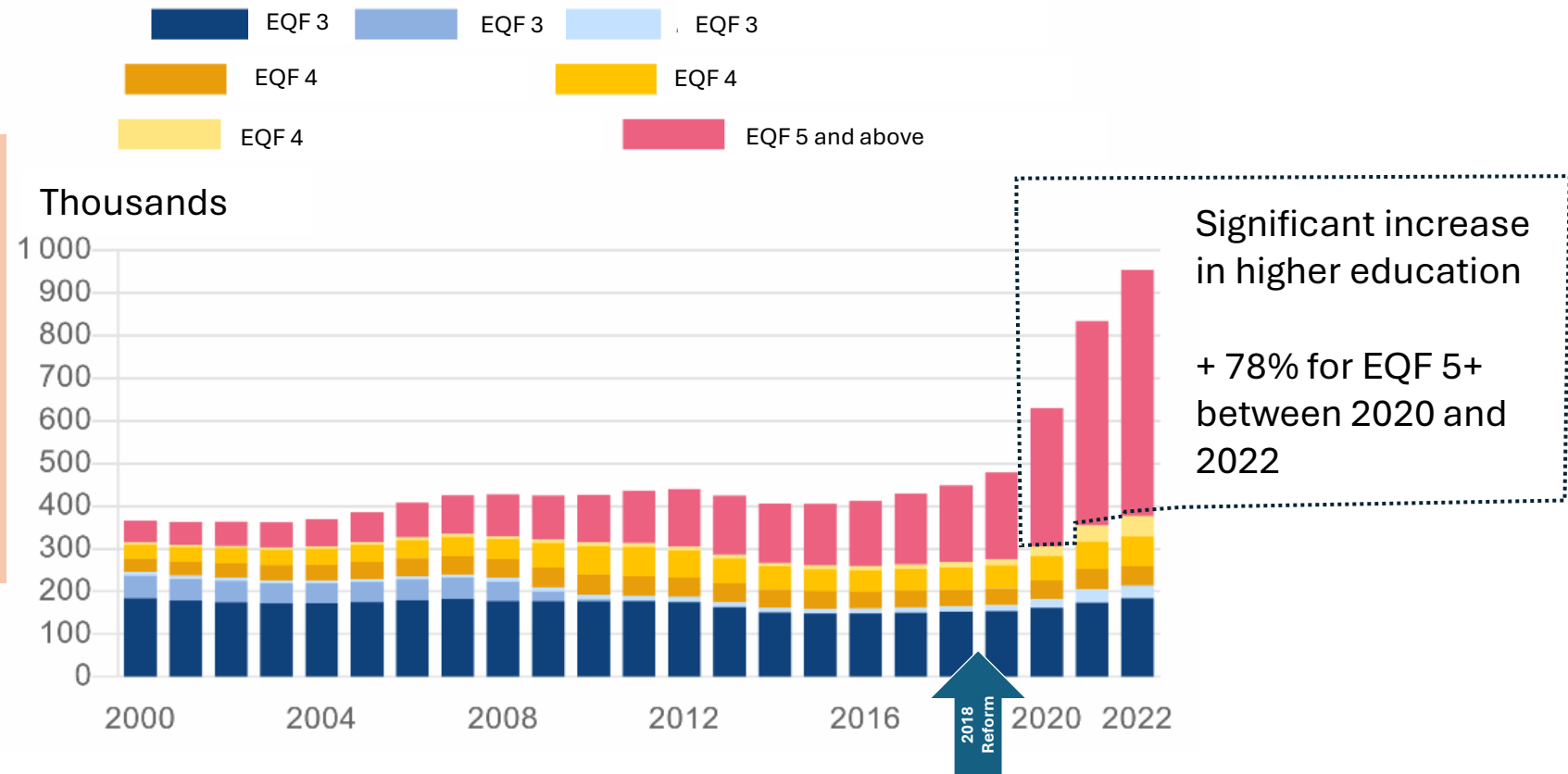
# Focus on Apprenticeship Reform Bridging Inclusion and Excellence

## New apprenticeship contracts/year

- 2023: +1 Million
- 2019: 360 000

## Number of apprentices in July 2024

915 000



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# Focus on Apprenticeship Reform Bridging Inclusion and Excellence

## **Financial accessibility**

- Apprentice wages enable apprentices to earn their own living
- Opens doors to private institutions (business schools) and universities

## **Democratization of higher education**

- 30% of higher education apprentices wouldn't have continued studies otherwise
- Apprenticeships absorbed over half of higher education enrollment increase (2018-2019)



# As a conclusion ...

## Changing Perception of VET

Changes reflect a balance between inclusion and excellence

Shift towards a new vision of VET that:

- Addresses social inequalities
- Provides high-quality, business-relevant training



# Thank you for your attention!

## Centre Inffo

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