

# VET in the Czech Republic

Vocational education and training (VET) has always represented a fundamental part of the Czech education system. Benefiting from a long tradition of quality, it has developed intensively over recent decades.

The main body responsible for IVET is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Most VET schools are public and founded by regions. IVET is school-based, with a large proportion of practical training (at schools, in workshops, practical training centres and companies) and/or work placements.

Representatives of employers are involved in sector skill councils and field groups that set occupational and qualification standards.

## Upper secondary VET

VET predominantly begins following completion of compulsory education, usually at age 15. Practical IVET programmes (EQF 2-3) are a small part of secondary VET, as they are designed primarily for students with special needs. Upper secondary level vocational and technical programmes (EQF 3-4) last three to four years. The following options exist:

- three-year vocational programmes at EQF 3 (completed by a VET examination leading to a 'VET certificate') enable graduates to enter the labour market directly and perform manual occupations (such as bricklayer, hairdresser). Graduates of these programmes can follow a two-year follow-up programme (EQF 4) and pass a matura examination, which enables access to higher education;
- four-year technical programmes (completed with a matura examination, EQF 4) enable graduates to continue learning in higher education or perform mid-level technical, business, service, health and other similar jobs (such as civil engineering technician, travel agent);
- lyceum programmes with a high proportion of general education (up to 70% of the curricula) prepare their graduates for studies at higher education institutions;
- programmes offered by conservatories have a different setup, preparing for performance in demanding music, dance, singing and drama activities. Studies are either completed with a matura (secondary education, EQF 4) or an absolutorium (tertiary professional education, EQF 6).

- learners who have already completed upper secondary education have an option to acquire a (second) qualification in another field in so-called shortened programmes. Those with a matura (EQF 4) can acquire a VET certificate or another matura certificate in a different field; those with a VET certificate (EQF 3) can only acquire another VET certificate in a different field. Shortened courses are especially suitable for adults and last one to two years.

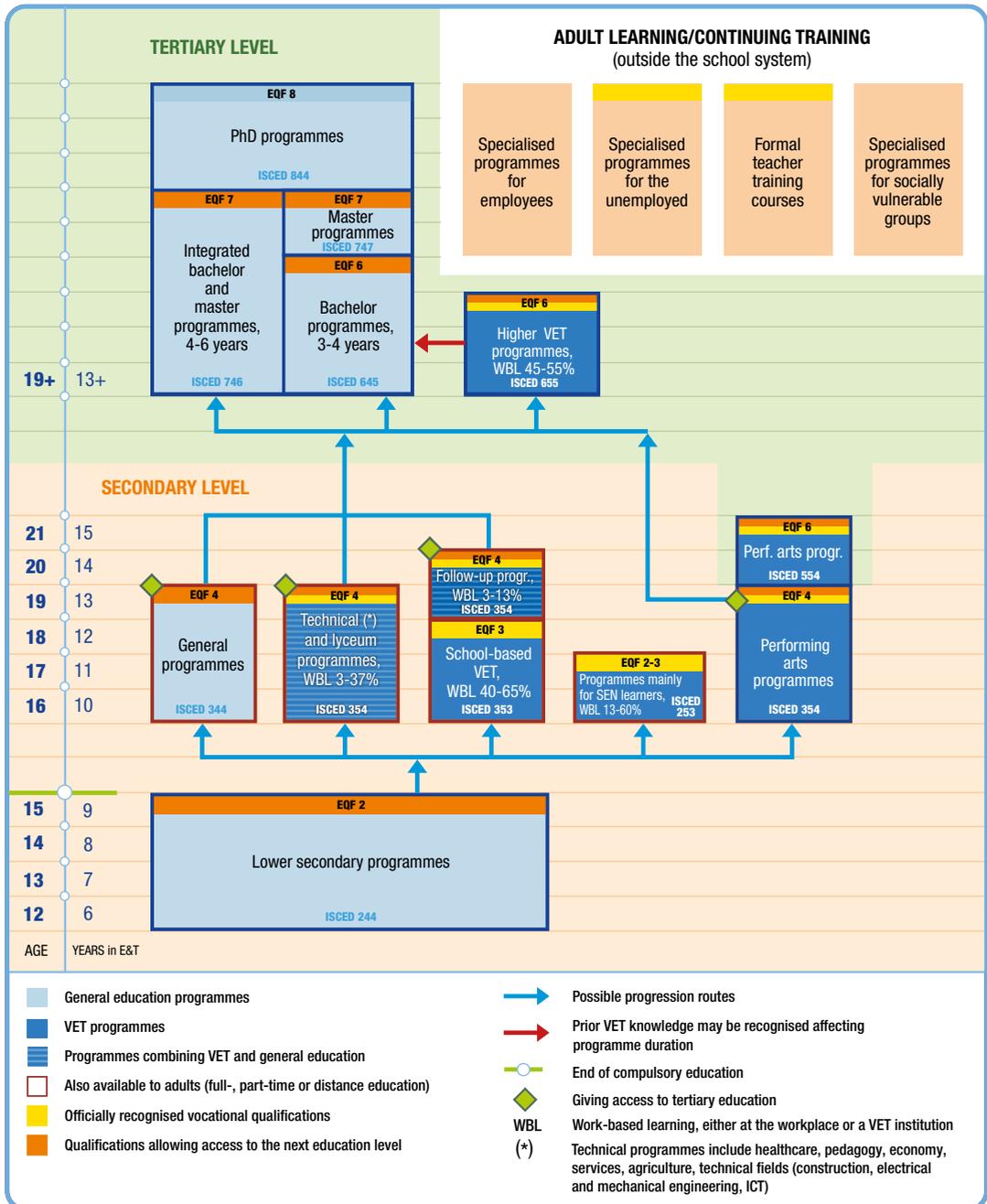
## VET at tertiary level

Tertiary professional programmes prepare secondary school graduates (with a matura certificate) for demanding professional tasks (such as nutritionist, dental assistant). Studies last three to three-and-a-half years and are completed with an absolutorium (EQF 6). These programmes provide practically oriented tertiary education and are closely aligned to employers' skill needs.

Although many graduates enter the labour market, vertical permeability to higher education institutions is also possible. Graduates who, on completion of their studies, continue in bachelor programmes at universities, may have some of their subjects and exams from tertiary professional school recognised.

## Adult learning

Any adult can study any VET programme in the formal school system. Many programmes are designed to be combined with working life. Validation of non-formal and informal learning outcomes is possible.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

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