

## VET in Greece

Vocational education and training (VET) is State-regulated and, until recently, was mostly offered through a school-based approach. Overall responsibility is with the education ministry in cooperation with the labour ministry where appropriate.

Compulsory schooling lasts until age 15 and completion of lower secondary education programmes (*Gymnasio*). VET is offered at upper secondary and post-secondary level. A 2018 law foresees that universities can create VET centres (KEE).

There are two main routes at upper secondary level: general education (70% of learners) and VET (30%). Both lead to an equivalent upper secondary school leaving certificate at EQF level 4. On completion of the first year, learners are allowed to change direction from general to vocational education and vice versa.

The main VET route uses three-year vocational programmes at *Epaggelmatiko Lykeio* school (EPAL) that also lead to a specialisation degree. They have over 25% of work-based learning (WBL). According to the 2016 reform, these programmes consist of:

- year one: common for all learners (general education);
- year two: learners choose among nine sectors;
- year three: specialisation year.

EPAL graduates can take part in a designated national examination for admission to tertiary education programmes. They have at least a 20% quota for technological bachelor and higher professional programmes. A 2018 law provides for an increase to 5% admission quota to bachelor programmes, reinforcing VET permeability.

EPAL programmes are also offered at evening classes to adults and employed students below 18 with lower secondary education. General upper secondary education graduates are entitled to enrol in the second year of EPAL.

Two-year apprenticeship programmes (EPAS) are also available at upper secondary level. They are open to young people, 16 to 23 years old, who have completed at least the first year of upper secondary education. These programmes (WBL > 80%) lead to specialisation degrees at EQF level 4. EPAS graduates can continue their education in post-secondary VET programmes.

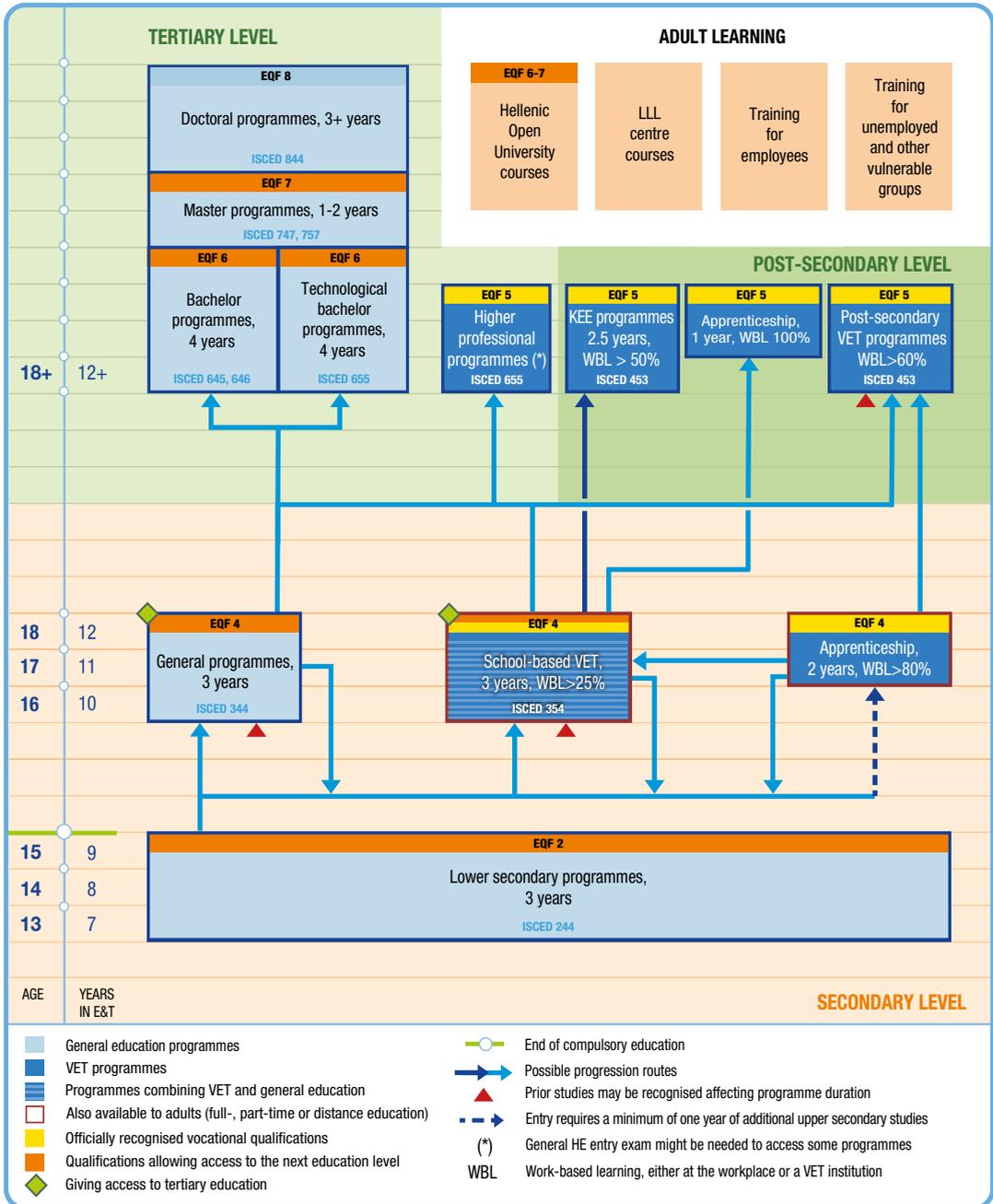
At post-secondary level, VET is offered in three formats:

- one-year apprenticeship programmes (EQF level 5, WBL 100%), introduced in 2016, offered by EPAL schools in cooperation with the Manpower Employment Organisation. This programme is offered only to those who hold an upper secondary school leaving certificate and an EPAL specialisation degree.
- two-and-a-half-year VET programmes (WBL > 60%) offered by public and private training providers (IEK) to upper secondary graduates. These programmes only allow learners to obtain an attestation of programme completion; alternatively, they can take VET certification examinations (practical and theoretical) conducted by the National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) leading to an EQF level 5 certificate. EPAL graduates who continue their studies in the related field can enrol in the second year directly.
- two-and-a-half-year KEE programmes leading to a certificate at EQF level 5 (WBL > 50%, including traineeships) introduced in 2018/19. They are approved by the National Education and Human Resource Development Council to match labour market needs. Access to KEE is foreseen only for EPAL graduates.

Two- to four-year higher professional programmes are offered by higher professional schools, under the supervision of the competent ministry. Admission is granted via general national or a programme-specific examination. The diplomas awarded can be either equivalent to technological bachelor (EQF level 6) in the case of merchant navy academies <sup>(3)</sup>, or are considered non-university tertiary level diplomas (EQF level 5), as with dance and theatre schools.

Continuing vocational training is offered to adults in centres for lifelong learning run by regional authorities, municipalities, social partners, chambers of commerce, professional associations, higher education institutions and private entities. EOPPEP is responsible for quality assuring non-formal education, accrediting providers, and certifying qualifications.

<sup>(3)</sup> Not yet referenced to EQF.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Greece.



**Publication:**

Spotlight on VET – 2018 compilation:  
vocational education and training systems in Europe.

**Access the full publication at:**

[www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/4168](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/4168)

**Please cite this chapter as:**

Cedefop (2019). VET in Greece. In: Cedefop (2019). Spotlight on VET – 2018 compilation:  
vocational education and training systems in Europe. Luxembourg: Publications Office, pp. 30-31.  
<http://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2801/009>

© Cedefop, 2019



**CEDEFOP**

European Centre for the Development  
of Vocational Training