

VET in Hungary

The education system has undergone substantial transformation in recent decades; governance of schools has been centralised (2013) and VET schools have been integrated into a network of 44 vocational centres (2015). The centres coordinate education and training activities of the schools and help them offer training better aligned with labour market needs.

IVET and adult training are led by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, which is responsible for qualifications standards in the national qualifications register (NQR) and, together with the Ministry of Human Capacities, for framework curricula. The National Office of VET and Adult Learning, supervised by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, ensures coordination and implementation of national VET and adult learning policies.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has an important role in VET in policy advice, qualifications development, accreditation and supervision of practice providers, and apprenticeship contracts. Social partners shape VET policy through participation in advisory bodies. A total of 18 sectoral skills councils came into operation in July 2018.

VET for young people

Learners may enter VET at age 14. VET is offered at upper secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels and includes work-based learning in different forms:

- four-year programmes (five in bilingual courses) (*szakgimnázium*) combining vocational and general education. Learners acquire an upper secondary school leaving certificate (ISCED 344) giving access to higher education and a basic vocational (ISCED 353) NQR qualification (such as waiter). This is a possibility for learners as an option which aims to strengthen individual training paths. Learners can continue with one additional VET year at post-secondary level to acquire a higher level VET qualification (ISCED level 454) (such as chemist technician);
- three-year practice-oriented VET programmes (*szakközépiskola*) leading to ISCED 353 qualification (such as electrician). These include an increased share of practical training. Learners can enrol in two-year follow-up programmes to obtain the upper secondary school leaving certificate, allowing progression to higher education;
- one- or two-year post-secondary VET programmes leading to a technician qualification (ISCED 454) (such as chemist technician);
- two- or four- year VET programmes (*szakiskola*) for SEN learners, leading to a full or partial NQR qualification (ISCED 243, 253, 353) (such as pastry maker, carpenter);
- VET bridging programmes for learners who have completed at least two, but not all four years of lower secondary education, leading to a partial vocational qualification listed in the NQR at ISCED 352, 353 (such as pipeline fitter) and giving access to upper secondary VET programmes.

Higher education VET is provided by higher education institutions. Programmes require an upper secondary school leaving certificate and award ISCED 554 vocational qualifications (such as network information technology engineer assistant). Graduates can transfer credits to a bachelor (BA/ BSc) programme in the same field.

Practical training can also be delivered as dual VET (apprenticeship training contract) and/or through a cooperation agreement between the company and the VET institution. In higher education, dual VET is possible in five study fields (technical, informatics, economic sciences, natural sciences and agriculture). In 2017, almost one in four VET students concluded an apprenticeship contract, most of which (69%) were enrolled in three-year upper-secondary VET programmes.

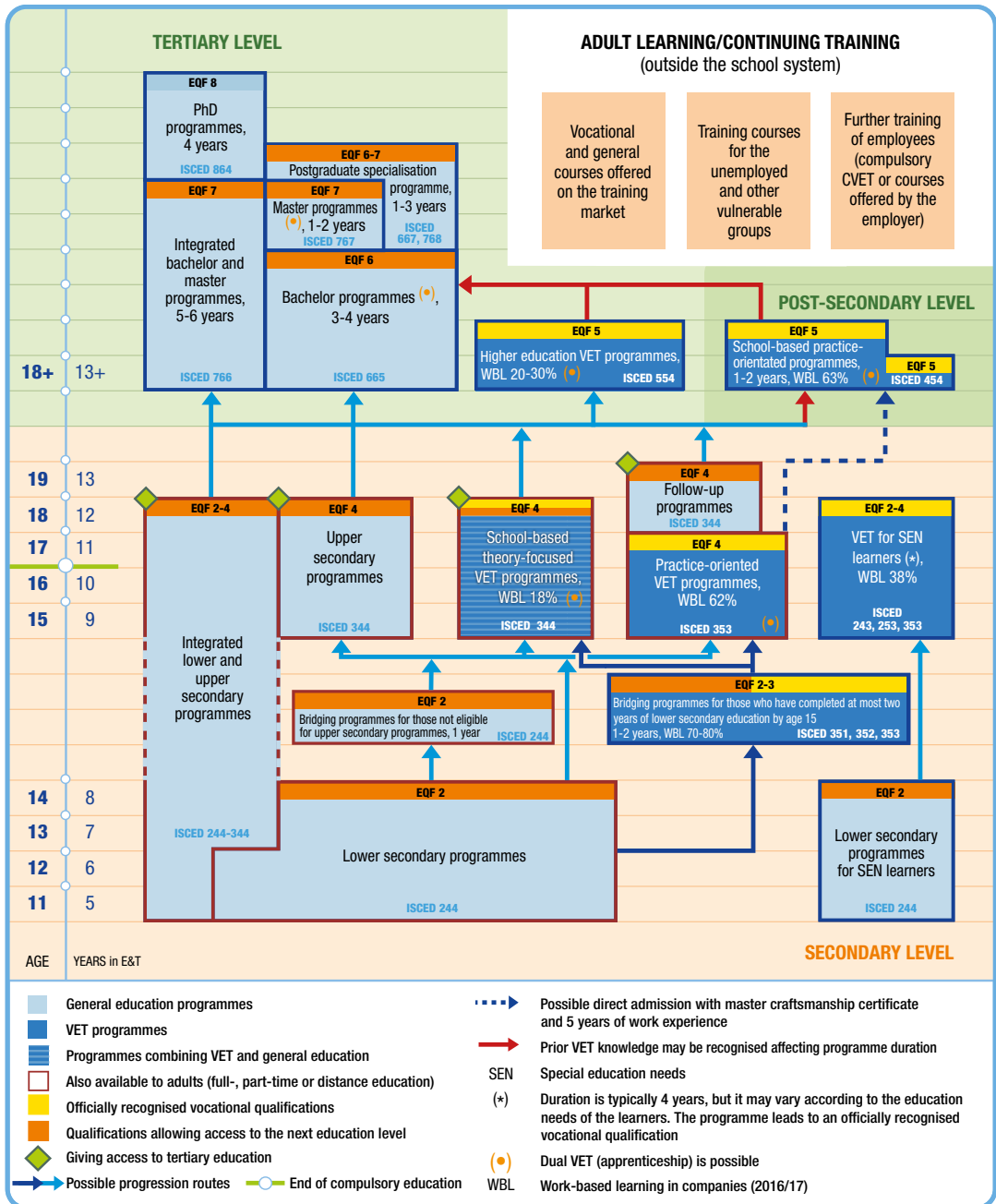
There are scholarship schemes in programmes for deficit occupations.

VET for adults

VET programmes are open to adults in full-, part-time or distance learning. Adult training by providers outside the school system includes: courses preparing for master craftsperson exams (run by economic chambers); mandatory further training programmes for a given occupation; courses for the unemployed and other vulnerable groups; training programmes leading to NQR qualifications or registered (SZPK) by the chamber.

The State provides financial support for training vulnerable groups and SMEs. Financial incentives (tax deductions) for companies offering in-company training are in place.

The prerequisite for enrolling in adult training is that a contract be signed between the VET provider and the learner; for NQR qualification programmes the content of the programme must be formally approved by the State.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

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