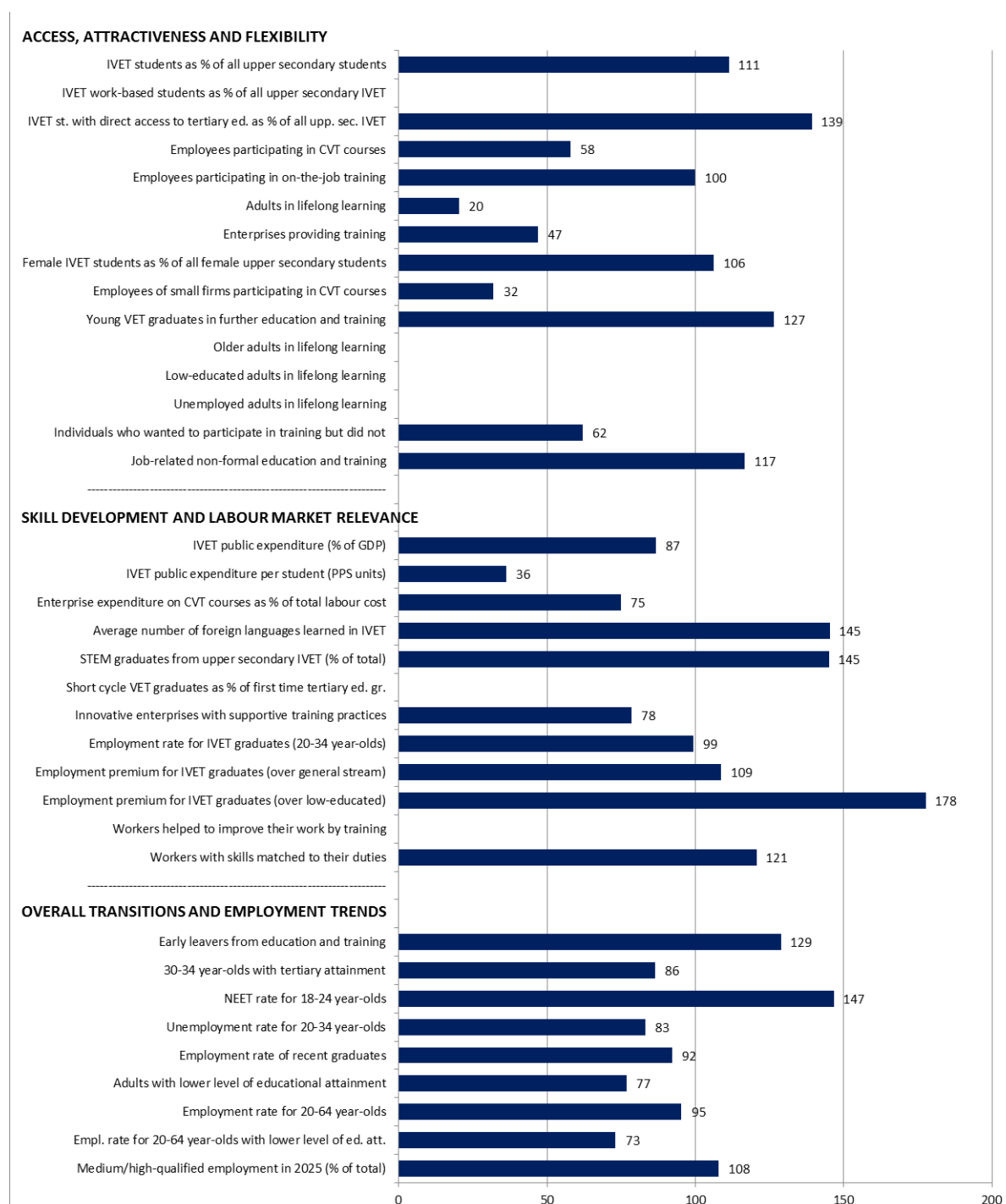


2. Bulgaria

VET indicators for Bulgaria for the last available year Index numbers (EU=100)



NB: The index numbers are derived from data summarised in the table. Data in the table have been rounded to one or two decimal places. The calculation of index numbers is instead based on not rounded data.

Bulgaria's performance on a range of indicators selected to monitor progress in VET and lifelong learning across the European Union (EU) is summarised below. The chart compares the situation in Bulgaria with that of the EU, based on the most recent data available (this differs by indicator). Data in the chart are presented as an index where the EU average equals 100. If the index for a selected indicator for Bulgaria is 100, then its performance equals the EU average. If the index is 90, its performance is 90% of (or 10% below) the EU average. If the index is 200, Bulgaria's performance is twice (or 200%) the EU average. For some indicators, such as early leavers from education and training, a country is performing better if its score is below that of the EU average.

Data on which the index is calculated are presented in the table, which also shows developments over time. A technical definition of each indicator is provided in the annex.

Key points

Access, attractiveness and flexibility

The percentage of all upper secondary students participating in IVET in Bulgaria is 52.6%, higher than the EU average of 47.3% (in 2015). The situation differs for adult participation in lifelong learning; at 2.2% this is much lower than the estimated EU average 10.8% (in 2015). Since 2010, the percentage of adults participating in lifelong learning has increased little in Bulgaria and remains much below the target of 15% set by the strategic framework *Education and training 2020*.

Data from the 2010 CVTS give an indication of the limited extent to which employers provide training to their staff: 31% of enterprises compared with the EU average of 66%. Consistent with this finding, the survey reports that relatively few employees undertake CVT courses (22% in Bulgaria compared with 38% across the EU). In contrast, participation by young IVET graduates in further education and training at 41.5% is higher than the EU average of 32.8% (in 2016).

Skill development and labour market relevance

Public expenditure on IVET (ISCED 3-4) per student at 3 000 PPS units is significantly lower than the EU average of 8 400 PPS units. Expenditure as a percentage of GDP at 0.47% is lower than the EU average of 0.54% (data for 2014).

The percentage graduating from upper secondary VET with STEM qualifications is higher at 44.7% than the EU average of 30.8%. The percentage of enterprises providing training to support innovation at 35.1% in 2014 is below the EU average of 44.8%. The percentage of workers with skills matched to their duties is relatively high at 70% compared with 58% across the EU (data for 2015).

The employment rate for IVET graduates (aged 20 to 34) at ISCED 3-4 (77.6%) is close to the EU average of 78.1%. Their employment rate is 6.2 percentage points higher than for graduates from general education (this is above the EU average premium of 5.7). The rate is also 41.6 percentage points higher than for graduates with lower-level qualifications (well above the EU average premium of 23.4). All these employment figures relate to 2016 and exclude young people in formal or non-formal further education and training.

Overall transitions and labour market trends

In this section all data refer to 2016 unless otherwise stated.

The rate of early leaving from education and training at 13.8% is higher than the EU average of 10.7%. Opposite to the EU average, the overall change from 2010 to 2016 in the rate of early leaving in Bulgaria has been upward (by 1.2 percentage points), keeping it above the Europe 2020 average target of 10% and the national target of 11%.

The percentage of 30 to 34 year-olds who have completed tertiary-level education is lower than the EU average of 39.1%. At 33.8% this indicator remains below the national target (36%) and below the Europe 2020 average target (40%). The percentage of adults with low educational attainment (17.7%) is below the average found across the EU (23.0%). The NEET rate for 18 to 24 year-olds is much higher at 22.3% than the EU average of 15.2%.

However, after a recent decrease (by 5.5 percentage points between 2011 and 2016) the unemployment rate for 20 to 34 year-olds at 9.8% is lower than the EU average of 11.8%. The change between 2010 and 2016 in the employment rate of recent graduates has been positive (at 2.3 percentage points), but it leaves the employment rate at 72.0% below the EU average of 78.2%.

References

Annex 1 – [Short descriptions of indicators and additional notes](#)

Annex 2 – [Reading the Country statistical overviews](#)

Annex 3 – [2017 Masterfile Country statistical overviews](#)

Score on VET indicators in Bulgaria and in the EU, 2010, last available year and recent change

Indicator label	2010		Last available year		Recent change			
	BG	EU	Yr	BG	EU	Range	BG	EU
Access, attractiveness and flexibility								
IVET students as % of all upper secondary students	A	A	'15	52.6 ^b	47.3 ^{b E1}	'13-'15	↗ 0.2	↘ -1.7
IVET work-based students as % of all upper secondary IVET	A	A	'15	0.0 ^{b z}	28.4 ^{b E2}	'13-'15	→ 0.0	↘ -1.0
IVET students with direct access to tertiary education as % of all upper secondary IVET			'15	93.0	66.7 ^{E3}	'13-'15	↗ 0.8	↘ -2.8
Employees participating in CVT courses (%)	22.0	38.0 ^e	'10	22.0	38.0 ^e			
Employees participating in on-the-job training (%)	20.0	20.0 ^e	'10	20.0	20.0 ^e			
Adults in lifelong learning (%)	1.6		'16	2.2	10.8 ^b	'13-'16	↗ 0.2	↗ 0.1
Enterprises providing training (%)	31.0	66.0 ^e	'10	31.0	66.0 ^e			
Female IVET students as % of all female upper secondary students	A	A	'15	44.6 ^b	42.0 ^{b E1}	'13-'15	↗ 0.8	↘ -1.9
Employees of small firms participating in CVT courses (%)	8.0	25.0 ^e	'10	8.0	25.0 ^e			
Young VET graduates in further education and training (%)			'16	41.5 ^b	32.8 ^b	'14-'16	↘ -1.0	↘ -0.6
Older adults in lifelong learning (%)			'16	0.3 ^{b u}	7.0			
Low-educated adults in lifelong learning (%)			'16		4.2 ^{b u}			
Unemployed adults in lifelong learning (%)			'16		9.6 ^b			
Individuals who wanted to participate in training but did not (%)	5.9 ^b	9.5 ^{e B}	'11	5.9	9.5 ^e			
Job-related non-formal education and training (%)	93.6 ^b	80.2 ^{e B}	'11	93.6	80.2 ^e			
Skill development and labour market relevance								
IVET public expenditure (% of GDP)			'14	0.47 ^b	0.54 ^{b E4}	'12-'14	↗ 0.03	↘ -0.04
IVET public expenditure per student (1000 PPS units)			'14	3.0 ^b	8.4 ^{b E5}	'12-'14	↗ 0.4	↗ 2.7
Enterprise expenditure on CVT courses as % of total labour cost	0.6	0.8 ^e	'10	0.6	0.8 ^e			
Average number of foreign languages learned in IVET			'15	1.4 ^b	1.0 ^{b E6}	'13-'15	↘ -0.1	→ 0.0
STEM graduates from upper secondary IVET (% of total)	A	A	'15	44.7 ^b	30.8 ^{b E7}	'13-'15	↗ 0.3	↘ -0.3
Short cycle VET graduates as % of first time tertiary education graduates			'15	0.0 ^z	9.0 ^{E8}	'13-'15	→ 0.0	↗ 0.2
Innovative enterprises with supportive training practices (%)			'14	35.1	44.8 ^{E9}			
Employment rate for IVET graduates (20-34 year-olds)			'16	77.6 ^b	78.1 ^b	'14-'16	→ 0.0	↗ 1.3
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over general stream)			'16	6.2 ^b	5.7 ^b	'14-'16	↘ -7.1	↘ -0.5
Employment premium for IVET graduates (over low-educated)			'16	41.6 ^b	23.4 ^b	'14-'16	↘ -2.2	↘ -0.3
Workers helped to improve their work by training (%)			'15	94 ^u	83			
Workers with skills matched to their duties (%)	64	55	'15	70	58	'10-'15	↗ 6	↗ 3
Overall transitions and labour market trends								
Early leavers from education and training (%)	12.6	13.9	'16	13.8 ^c	10.7 ^c	'10-'16	↗ 1.2	↘ -3.2
30-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (%)	28.0	33.8	'16	33.8 ^c	39.1 ^c	'10-'16	↗ 5.8	↗ 5.3
NEET rate for 18-24 year-olds (%)	26.0	16.6	'16	22.3	15.2	'10-'16	↘ -3.7	↘ -1.4
Unemployment rate for 20-34 year-olds (%)		13.1	'16	9.8 ^b	11.8	'11-'16	↘ -5.5	↘ -1.6
Employment rate of recent graduates (%)	69.7	77.4	'16	72.0 ^c	78.2 ^c	'10-'16	↗ 2.3	↗ 0.8
Adults with lower level of educational attainment (%)	20.9	27.3	'16	17.7 ^c	23.0 ^c	'10-'16	↘ -3.2	↘ -4.3
Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds (%)		68.6	'16	67.7 ^b	71.0	'11-'16	↗ 4.8	↗ 2.4
Employment rate for 20-64 year-olds with lower level of educational attainment (%)		53.4	'16	39.2 ^{b c}	53.6 ^c	'11-'16	↗ 2.5	↗ 0.7
Medium/high-qualified employment in 2025 (% of total)			'16	91.3 ^d	84.6 ^{E10}			

EU refers to EU-28, unless otherwise specified. Arrows ↗ or ↘ signal a positive or negative change. Arrow → indicates: no change.

(A) UOE back reconstruction of 2010 values based on ISCED 2011 not yet available. (B) AES 2011, used as proxy for 2010 baseline. (C) 2014 b flags in Eurostat online tables ignored on the basis of other relevant Eurostat metadata. (D) Forecast made in 2016. (E1) Based on 28 countries, with partial information for NL. (E2) Based on 28 countries, with partial information for EL, ES, NL, PL, RO. (E3) Based on 28 countries, with partial information for IT, NL. (E4) Based on 23 countries (missing: DK, EL, HR, IT, PT), with partial information for IE and FR. (E5) Based on 23 countries (missing: DK, EL, HR, IT, PT), with partial information for IE and FR. (E6) Based on 28 countries, with partial information for DK, EL, NL. (E7) Based on 25 countries (missing: HR, IT, UK), with partial information for BE, CZ, DK, DE, EE, EL, LU, NL, PL, SE. (E8) Based on 25 countries (missing: IE, FR, UK), with partial information for BE, EL, LU. (E9) Based on 26 countries (missing: IE, UK), with partial information for DK, DE. (E10) Based on 28 countries. (b) Break after 2010, therefore baseline data not included. (u) Eurostat: 'low reliability'. (z) Eurostat: 'not applicable'. (e) Eurostat: 'estimated'.