

## Quality Assurance in VET: Lithuania

This document provides an overview of quality assurance in VET in the respective country. It covers information on VET systems and how quality assurance takes place, which organisations are responsible for VET policy and any recent developments in VET policy.

### VET system and quality assurance



#### Overview of the VET system and how quality assurance takes place

VET in Lithuania is offered at lower secondary, upper secondary and post-secondary education levels, leading to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) levels 1 to 5. Learners can acquire a vocational qualification and complete general lower or upper secondary education. Upper secondary-level VET graduates, who have obtained a 'Matura' certificate, may apply to be admitted to higher education.<sup>1</sup> Initial and continuing VET (IVET and CVET) is implemented on the basis of single modular programmes. Although VET is school-based, practical training in school and training in enterprises are a major part comprising around 70% of the total time allocated to vocational subjects. The duration of programmes ranges from 30 to 110 ECVET credits. The final module of 5 or 10 ECVET credits is dedicated to training in enterprises. Formal IVET and CVET programmes are aimed at developing competences and acquisition of qualifications described in sectoral qualification standards. Upon their completion a VET diploma is awarded. Non-formal VET programmes are aimed at developing competences which can be later recognised as a part of qualifications described in sectoral qualification standards.

The implementation and progression of apprenticeships is a national priority, and policy initiatives on this topic are underway.

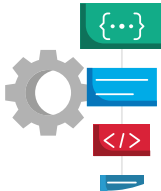

The national approach to improving VET quality assurance is set out in the VET quality assurance system concept (2008) that is considered by stakeholders to be generally in line with EQAVET.<sup>2</sup> The concept defined the following VET quality assurance pillars:

- Internal quality assessment.
- National regulation.
- Support to providers.
- External quality assessment.
- Encouraging development of quality.
- VET monitoring.
- Licensing and supervision.
- National coordination.

More information about the VET system in Lithuania can be found on Cedefop's VET in Europe database:

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/8047\\_en.pdf](https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/8047_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/lithuania-u2>

	<p><a href="https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/lithuania">https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/lithuania</a></p>
 <p><b>System-level QA arrangements</b></p>	<p>The implementation of VET programmes is supervised by the relevant divisions of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (by the National Education Agency from autumn 2023). The national quality assurance system makes provision for external review of both IVET and CVET providers.</p> <p>The law on VET (in 2018) redefined VET quality assurance arrangements in-line with EQAVET (self-assessment, internal quality management systems, regular external evaluation and (or) accreditation, monitoring of VET according to indicators). These arrangements were introduced from 2019.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Monitoring of VET institutions is based on 5 indicators including the share of filled state-funded VET places; the proportion of students in apprenticeships; the share of persons who have not completed the formal vocational training programme; competence assessment results; employment of graduates. These indicators are published at Education Management System: <a href="https://www.svis.smm.lt/">https://www.svis.smm.lt/</a></p> <p>External assessment of VET quality is based on monitoring results and internal quality assessment. Areas of assessment are leadership and management, learning and training, and learning and training results and outcomes. External assessment is organised by the National Education Agency in close cooperation with the Qualifications and VET Developing Centre. The State Audit Office performs random checks of the management of education institutions.</p>
 <p><b>Provider-level QA arrangements</b></p>	<p>VET providers are required to carry out self-assessments under the law on education and law on VET. According to the legal acts they must have internal quality assurance systems and to foresee measures and means for assuring training quality.</p> <p>Under the 2018 law, all VET institutions have become public institutions with their boards involving representatives from social partners, regional or municipal authorities.</p>

<sup>3</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/205aa0ac-460d-11e9-a8ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>



**Which organisation(s) are responsible for VET policy?**

VET policy in Lithuania is developed and implemented at national level by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The Ministry and its authorised institutions monitor the quality of education and oversee the development of formal education programmes and ensure complementarities across programmes at different levels.

A special role in developing human resources has been given to the Ministry of Economy and Innovation. Other ministries contribute to developing standards and VET programmes within their area.

The quality of all new VET programmes is evaluated by the Qualifications and VET Development Centre (QVETDC) and experts from whom advice was sought for this purpose. After evaluation they are entered into the Register of Study and Training Programmes and Qualifications. QVETDC also coordinates development of sectoral qualification standards which are the basis for curriculum development.

Social partners participate in shaping the content of new qualifications and sectoral qualification standards defining them and VET programmes. They are also involved in organising workplace training and carrying out students' competence assessments.



**Recent policy developments (in the last 12 months)**

- VET curriculum development: Modular VET programmes are being developed in accordance with sectoral qualification standards to respond to digital and green transition. Individual modules are also offered to students in general education schools.
- Competence assessment and recognition system reform: The changes include systemic revision of competence assessment tasks and assignments, creating a bank of theoretical competence assessment tasks, organisation of competence assessment at nominated competence assessment centres, and improvement of quality and trustworthiness of examination procedures.
- Development of external quality assessment system on the basis of five quality external assessment indicators.
- Development and consolidation of the network of VET institutions. In 2022 reformation of the VET institutions network was carried out to merge the smallest VET institutions with stronger ones and optimise the local VET institutions network. The entire network of VET institutions has been analysed using forecasts of demographic changes, forecasts of demand for certain professions and qualifications, accessibility of VET services, and labour market needs of the state or municipalities.



### Priority areas for QA in your country

The key priority in quality assurance area is synergising quality assurance system and making it more sustainable by connecting internal and external quality assurance mechanisms at a provider and national level.

On 25 March 2020, the Minister of Education, Science and Sport approved the Description of the Procedure for External Assessment of the Activities of VET Institutions and Other Providers Implementing Formal VET. The Description establishes the conception of the external assessment of the activities of VET providers and the organisation of external assessment. The external quality assurance assessment is based on the established external assessment indicators, the self-analysis and monitoring performed by VET providers, and implementation of the recommendations of the external assessment.

Since 2018, the Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre, together with the Government Strategic Analysis Centre and the National Agency for Education, has been implementing a project financed by the European Structural Funds 'Strengthening Vocational Education and Training Quality Assurance Systems and Processes', aimed at piloting and introducing external quality assurance assessment system.<sup>4</sup>

### Use of EQAVET labels

Do you use an EQAVET label or seal to certify VET providers in your country?

No

Yes

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/lithuania-u2>