

Quality Assurance in VET: Malta

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

The VET system in Malta is inextricably connected with other branches of education, which is over seen by the Ministry for Education.

IVET in Malta is provided through the two state VET providers: the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) and the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), through private VET providers, and as part of compulsory schooling. Both MCAST and ITS are regulated by the Education Act in Malta which ensures that the composition of their boards includes different key stakeholders in VET: employers, social partners, and other professionals with a background in VET; and, in the case of ITS, in Tourism and Hospitality.

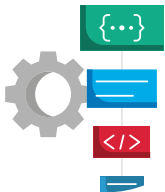


The provision of CVET in Malta continues mainly through MCAST and ITS, offering English courses in various sectors and leading to different qualifications. However, there has been a surge in private provision of short and focused VET courses accredited by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) which was previously known as NCFHE. In addition to courses targeting adults and teaching basic skills, several vocational subjects are provided as evening classes by the Directorate for Lifelong Learning (DLLL) within the Ministry for Education. JobsPlus (the public employment service in Malta) also provides VET training for unemployed people.¹

The Malta Qualifications Framework² is an instrument for the development and classification of qualifications and is applicable to specified levels of learning outcomes. It gives parity of esteem to vocational and tertiary provision. The National Quality Assurance Framework for Further and Higher Education was launched in 2015 and it built upon the European Standards and Guidelines and enriched by the EQAVET principles. The law includes requirements on EQAVET quality cycle and indicative descriptors and covers both IVET and CVET.

More information about the VET system in Malta can be found on Cedefop's VET in Europe database: <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/malta>

¹ <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/malta-u2>

² <https://mfhea.mt/research-and-policy/malta-qualifications-framework/>

 <p>System-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>The Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education, within the Ministry for Education, leads, coordinates, and monitors the provision of IVET and CVET. This performance monitoring includes analysis of EQAVET indicators, although not all 10 indicators are used. Indicators differ for IVET and CVET. Both have common principles when it comes to evaluation and review.</p> <p>Malta's national QA system includes an external review of both IVET and CVET providers. In accordance with Subsidiary Legislation 607.03, MFHEA is the national quality assurance agency in charge of carrying out periodic external quality assurance audits of VET institutions as well as other further and higher education institutions.</p>
 <p>Provider-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>The MFHEA encourages IVET and CVET providers to evaluate the outcomes of the training they provide. This can be carried out during or after the training.</p> <p>Processes for continual improvement, including actions to remedy issues identified in the process of evaluation, are also strongly advised for all VET internal quality assurance systems.</p> <p>Legislation is in place which requires all IVET institutions to consult with external and internal stakeholders on provision, including teachers, management, employers, students, trade unions, and sectoral representatives.</p> <p>Institutions must ensure cooperation at the local level with labour market actors.³</p>
 <p>Which organisation(s) are responsible for VET policy?</p>	<p>Malta has one ministry, the Ministry for Education, that is responsible for all levels of education, including IVET and CVET (the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS), however, falls under the remit of the Ministry of Tourism).</p>

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

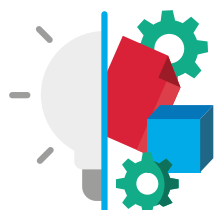


**Priority areas for
QA in your
country**

The main priority is to continue establishing robust national quality assurance systems in further and higher education in Malta by revising and updating the National Quality Assurance Framework Standards and further developing the External Quality Assurance Provider Audit Manual of Procedures, including online provision, as the NQAF Standards and Manual of Procedures were developed in 2015 and should be revised to reflect recent developments in further and higher education area. Procedures for conducting programme audits shall be developed to improve the quality of education and students' learning experience. In order, to support internal quality management and quality culture of VET providers a manual for VET providers was published in December 2022⁴.

To support the innovative shift to student-centred learning the MFHEA aims to involve students in the accreditation process of Higher Education programmes.

Specific projects in the country (optional)



**Please provide a
short description
of recent projects
or initiatives in
the field of QA in
VET that you
would like to
highlight for your
country**

The MFHEA is taking part in the project 'Support to the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) National Reference Points (NRPs). By strengthening QA mechanisms through relevant guidelines and procedures based on reliable and updated data, this project will enable FHE VET providers in Malta to enhance quality in their teaching and learning methods. The project aims to encourage and support VET providers in introducing innovative elements for prospective and current students. Through this project the MFHEA will develop the External Quality Assurance Audit Manual of Procedures for HE VET Providers in Malta, Definitions, Principles and Guidelines for QA in Work Based Learning. To support self-evaluation as a complementary and effective means of quality assurance to allow the measurement of success and the identification of areas for improvement, the MFHEA has developed the National Handbook for VET providers including guidelines on self-assessment and internal auditing, and contribute to data collection and analyses, based on the EQAVET indicators. The project aims to support and foster VET providers by organizing a webinar, to promote innovation in teaching and learning by incorporating experiential elements. Through meetings, the MFHEA will collaborate with other countries to exchange and benefit from peer learning on quality assurance. These activities shall be finalised by 31/08/2023.

Other EU projects include the Institute of Tourism's project, QA Lead,⁵ which aims to develop training and resources specifically tailored to supporting institutional leaders in their strategic role towards Quality Assurance; and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology

⁴ <https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VET-Report-Manual.pdf>

⁵ <https://qalead.eu/about/>

(MCAST) was part of a consortium involved in the VET21001 project to develop of a standardised practical toolkit to help implement EQAVET.⁶



Which organisation(s) are responsible for the project / initiative

Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA).

Use of EQAVET labels

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

No

Yes

⁶ <https://vet21001.eu/VET21001-IO5-Report.pdf>