

Quality Assurance in VET: France

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

Vocational courses combine general education with a high level of specialised technical knowledge, aiming to prepare students for a job and/or to pursue further studies. They also lead to the award of national diplomas and include compulsory periods of workplace training, between 3 and 10 weeks every year, depending on the diploma. Students can also switch between learning routes and systems, from general and technical education or from vocational training into technical studies.

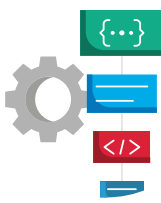

Initial VET at lower secondary school (college) lasts four years, covering school years 6 to 9. Education is organised into three educational phases. At upper secondary level, once students leave the college at the age of 15, they either attend a *lycée d'enseignement général et technologique* – LEGT (general and technological high school), or a *lycée professionnel* - LP (vocational high school).

Vocational high school provides a combination of general education and technical knowledge, including a guaranteed in-company placement. It prepares students over a two-year period for the first level of vocational qualification, corresponding to the '*certificat d'aptitude professionnelle*' (CAP, certificate of professional capability). At the end of their initial VET, students may follow a two-year programme in order to obtain a 'BAC PRO' diploma (professional baccalaureate), leading to direct employment or to further studies.¹


The French continuing VET (CVET) system has a long history with close collaboration between the state, regions, companies and social partners. It has its own structure, in which collective negotiations play an important role.

CVET is intended for people who are already part of the workforce or are starting out in their working life. It aims to help them find, or return to, work, to remain in employment, to develop their skills and acquire different levels of vocational qualification. Social partners and the state have developed and implemented schemes on training for jobseekers and training for people in work (employees in the private and public sectors and self-employed people).

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


	<p>The recent law of 5 September 2018 'For the freedom to choose one's professional future' radically reformed the vocational training and apprenticeship system and structures the opportunities available to workers to formalise their career development projects, by linking retraining and professional transition with training. The main goal was to give each person the opportunity to manage their own professional career through the Individual Learning Account (called 'CPF' in French).</p> <p>More information about the VET system in France can be found on Cedefop's VET in Europe database: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/france</p>
 <p>System-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>France has a long-established system for QA in VET, which applies to IVET and CVET.</p> <p>The Ministry of National Education and Higher Education collects information about IVET and CVET to inform future policy decisions.</p> <p>France competences, the national agency responsible for the whole VET system in France, collects and evaluates the results of each diploma, which is registered in the National Framework for Professional Certifications (RNCP). This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation rate in VET programmes. • Completion rate. • Placement rate. • Unemployment rate. • Prevalence of vulnerable groups. • Identifying needs in the labour market etc. <p>Social dialogue (with social partners) and regular evaluations at national and regional level are also crucially important for ensuring the overall quality of the VET system.²</p>
 <p>Provider-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>The new legislation on QA for VET providers, created by the law of 5 September 2018 is fully implemented in 2022 and it is in line with the EQAVET principles.</p> <p>The law of 5 September 2018 'For the freedom to choose one's professional future' creates the conditions for more direct, faster and fairer access to lifelong learning, apprenticeships and continuing education for employees, self-employed and jobseekers. This law provides a new obligation of certification, of VET providers on the basis of a unique national reference framework so that they can use public or mutual funds. The certification is completed by a third-party.</p>

² <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/205aa0ac-460d-11e9-a8ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

	<p>Under the coordination of the ministry in charge of employment, the national quality framework was built in collaboration with a number of actors representing vocational training. This has taken place with the establishment of a permanent working group; the organisation of specific hearings (apprenticeships, skills assessments, self-employed workers, ministries); and the creation of a working group composed of certifying bodies. This national quality framework is organised around seven criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRITERION 1: Informing the public about the provided services. • CRITERION 2: Identifying the goals of the provided services and how they are adapted to the learners. • CRITERION 3: Adapting to the needs of a learning public. • CRITERION 4: Ensuring the adequate educational, technical and human resources. • CRITERION 5: Developing the knowledge and skills of the teaching staff. • CRITERION 6: The VET provider's involvement and commitment to its professional environment. • CRITERION 7: Collecting and considering evaluations and complaints expressed by the learners.³ <p>As of 1 January 2022, quality certification is mandatory for all VET providers that wish to access public funds.⁴ The new certification, called '<i>Qualiopi</i>', is required for VET providers if their programmes are supported by public funding. Qualiopi therefore applies to all VET providers, including independent trainers, providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training. • Skills assessment. • Validation of the acquired experience. • Apprenticeship.
 <p>Which organisation(s) are responsible for VET policy?</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education is responsible for education policy, as pursued through vocational training in schools and through apprenticeships. The Ministry of Agriculture has a parallel responsibility for vocational training in agriculture. The Labour Ministry oversees CVET for young people, adult jobseekers and VET for private sector employees.</p> <p>Other ministries, such as the Ministry of Youth and Sport, are in charge of training and vocational diplomas in the areas for which they are responsible.</p>

³ <https://www.francecompetences.fr/international-en/international/qualite-de-la-formation/evolution-de-lexigence-qualite-de-loffre-de-formation/?lang=en>

⁴ <https://www.francecompetences.fr/fiche/qualiopi-lobligacion-qualite-en-vigueur-depuis-le-1er-janvier-2022/>

	<p>France competences, a public national institution created on 1 January 2019, works to improve the efficiency of the professional training and apprenticeship system and to promote equal access to increase skills development. It has three main tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing the whole system. • Regulating the market. • Improving the performance and cooperation between the various actors.
 <p>Priority areas for QA in your country</p>	<p>This year (2022) is the first of the full implementation of the new quality system and of the Qualiopi certification. The main goal is to survey the first results, the readiness of all system actors, VET providers, institutions, and then, to lead to the first evaluations.</p>
<h3>Use of EQAVET labels</h3>	
<p>Do you use an EQAVET label or seal to certify VET providers in your country?</p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>