

Czech Republic – a final examination

Since 2005 the Czech Republic has been reforming upper secondary education. One aspect of the reform is a focus on final examinations in vocational programmes. The objective was to ensure that graduates in the same field of VET in different schools had similar knowledge and skills; to improve the VET graduates' preparedness for practice and employment and raise the status and prestige of three-year VET programmes. Organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the reform was implemented by National Institute for Technical and Vocational Education using European Social Funds.

The design and organisation of VET programmes is the responsibility of individual schools. This led to differences in the quality of students assessed through final examinations. This has changed and 'uniform assignments' for individual VET programmes were prepared each year by the National Institute for Technical and Vocational Education (later by the National Institute for Education) who work in close cooperation with teachers in VET schools and with experts from the world of work. In 2019 the Centre for Evaluation of Education took this role from the National Institute for Education.

Each year all of the VET schools were provided with a standardised assignment. Each headteacher could decide whether to use these assignments for the final examinations. The number of schools using the standardised examination continued to grow and, in 2014, already 90% of VET schools were organising their VET final examinations according to the unified assignment. VET schools can compare the results of their students with others in the Czech Republic. VET schools also find it easier to prepare students for the final examination.

The uniform assignments cover the national curricula and align with the qualification and assessment standards of the National Qualifications Framework.

The obligation to use unified assignments was introduced by the amendment of the Education Act in 2015 for all schools providing three-year VET programmes leading to a vocational certificate.

More information is available from the National Reference Point.

The information was gathered in 2022, for more up to date information about the National Reference Point activities, please check the national website.