



European alliance for apprenticeships

Member States – Planned reforms/initiatives

Malta

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS
MEMBER STATES – PLANNED REFORMS/INITIATIVES

COUNTRY	Malta
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Ministry/Ministries	Ministry for Education and Employment
Contact person(s), title(s)	Dr. Nadia Maria Vassallo
Email(s)	Nadia.Maria.Vassallo@mcast.edu.mt
Website	https://education.gov.mt

Implementation of the national commitment

Progress and main achievements

The **apprenticeship and work-based learning act** has been approved in the Maltese parliament in March of 2018. With the act, the rights and obligations of employers, students and VET providers have been outlined. Other key features within the act include the provision of a training programme plan, suitability criteria of sponsors and trainers, suitability of premises, supervision of learners, training agreements, assessment and certification and register of training agreements.

In terms of legislation, Malta continued implementing the 2018 work-based learning and apprenticeship Act.

Update of the national commitment

Planned reforms and initiatives

In 2019, MCAST launched a new suite of MQF Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships in Biomedical Engineering, Construction Engineering, Software Development, Multimedia Software Development, Computer Systems and Networks and Fashion. Students following such degree apprenticeships will be able to achieve a recognized qualification while simultaneously getting paid for gaining valuable work experience.

The **MCAST Strategic Plan 2019-2021** mission is to provide universally accessible vocational and professional education and training with an international dimension, responsive to the needs of the individual and the economy.

The planned initiatives include forming **Social Partner Agreements** with key stakeholders.

- The National Skills Council will be supporting MCAST in the following ways:
 - The development of a mentoring and training programme for apprenticeship mentors
 - Training/information sessions for industrial stakeholders
 - Procurement of Analysis Tool (Software)
 - The creation of a Comprehensive Competency Framework
- Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry will be supporting MCAST:
 - Training/information sessions for industrial stakeholders
 - The creation of a Comprehensive Competency Framework
- Directorate (Curriculum, Lifelong Learning and Employability will help MCAST in the following activities:
 - Setting up of Emulative Centres
 - The creation of a Comprehensive Competency Framework
- A public commitment with NGOs to offer the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme

To enhance the apprenticeship study programmes, MCAST learners will have the opportunity to enhance their studies with life-enriching experiences that add value to their holistic knowledge base. The programme will bring MCAST together with non-governmental stakeholders to form key partnerships in an effort to develop and cultivate skills, attitudes and values that enhance society and the environment.

Targets and/or indicators

1. Integrate aspects of work-based learning into all IVET programmes, including work placements, internships and job shadowing experiences.
2. Increase opportunities for industry placements abroad through memoranda of understanding with foreign employers.
3. Provide CPD Pedagogy for all teaching professionals in order to integrate more real-world experiences in classroom teaching and to explore innovative ways of taking learning beyond the classroom walls.
4. Setting up an emulative training centre as a means of providing students with added practical work options within an environment similar to the place of work.
5. Develop working relationships with industry representatives and social partners to create a channel of communication on work-based learning.
6. Widen the network and increase collaboration with industry partners to strengthen work-based learning.
7. Build capacity of industry-based mentors as a means of providing more valuable work experiences.
8. Develop a competency framework for work-based learning.
9. Establish and strengthen closer ties with industrial and business partners in Gozo to increase work-based learning opportunities.

Budget of the reform/initiative

The initiative has received €6,758,994 in EU funds, under the ESF 03.0081- Achieving Vocational Excellence Through Enhanced Work Based Learning.

Key stakeholders involved

All MCAST activities for the proposed reforms are being developed in close cooperation with the local industry, the Chamber of Commerce, The National Skills Council and the Ministry for Education and Employment.

Further measures planned as a follow up to the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships

Further planned measures include the **implementation of the ESF. 03.0081- Achieving Vocational Excellence Through Enhanced Work Based Learning and the introduction of the Apprenticeship degrees.**