

Skills for a Competitive Bulgaria: A story of VET Evolution and Successful Partnership 2007–2024



VET IN BULGARIA BEFORE 2007 - *historical context*

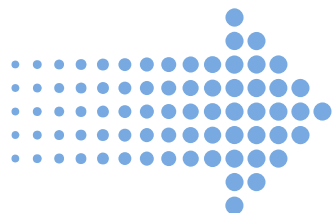
Challenging transition – economy declined and VET schools lost their attractiveness.

Decentralization – shift to local authorities.

Early modernization – EU funded programs like **PHARE** started influencing VET policies

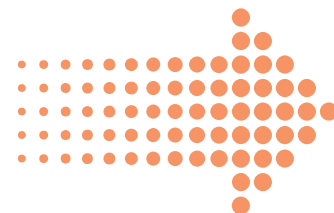
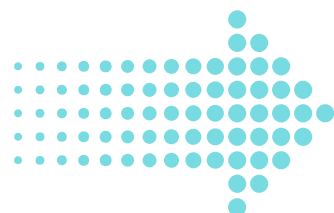
1990-1998

2000-2007



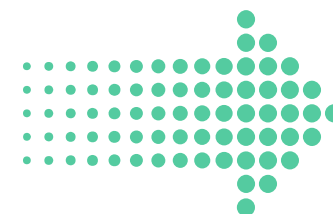
Before
1989

Centralized system - a network of specialized VET schools established near state enterprises



1999

Vocational Education and Training Act (VETA) adopted with which the **National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET)** was established.



2007-2010

EU Accession Impact

Bulgaria's 2007 EU accession required aligning its VET system with European principles, **making VET a strategic priority for national development.**

In 2007 NAVET developed for the first time **State Educational Requirements** for acquiring qualifications in professions based on **Learning outcomes**

EQAVET Adoption

Bulgaria became an early adopter of the **European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET.**

In 2008 **the Law on Recognition of Professional qualifications** has been adopted, transposing the EU Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications

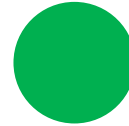
In 2010 the first **pilot projects on dual education** in a small number of schools were launched following the models of Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



2011-2016



Erasmus mobility programs – opportunities for VET students



Expansion of public-private partnerships:

Stronger **collaboration** with sectors like IT and engineering led to **tailored VET programs**



In 2012 Bulgaria adopted its **National Qualifications Framework (NQF)** corresponding to EQF



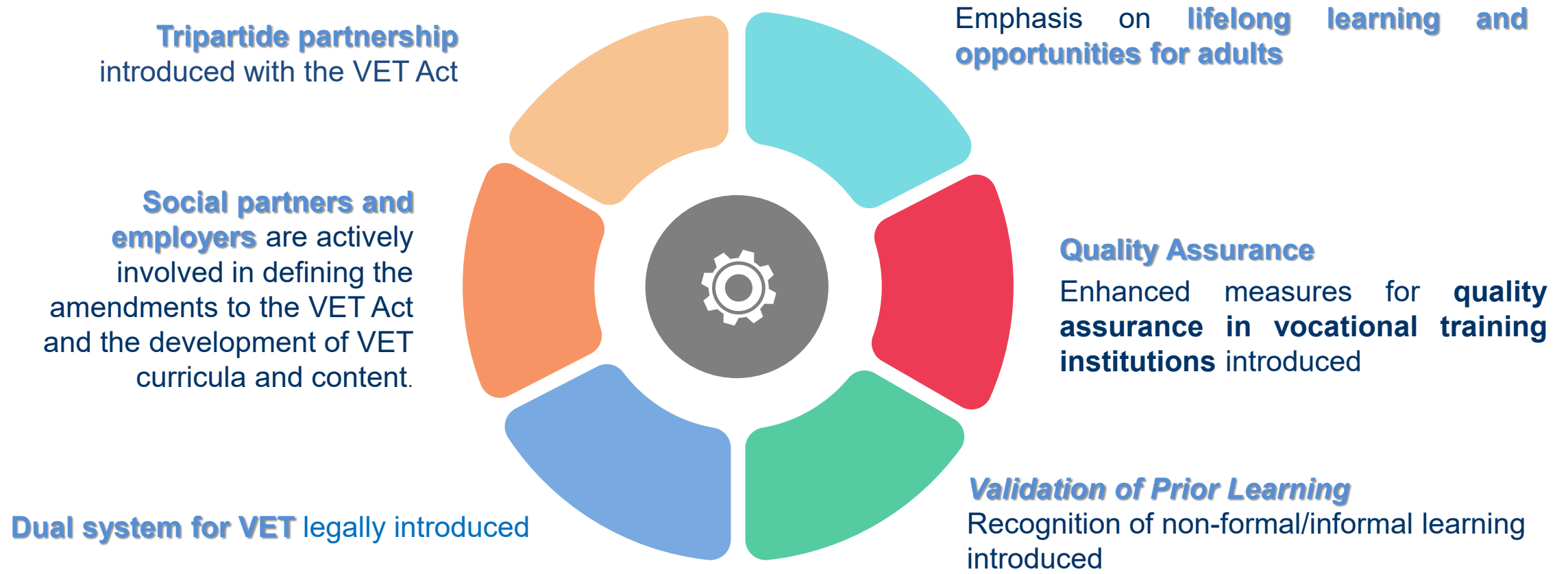
In 2014 NAVET started using the **Units of Learning Outcomes** approach and to apply experience and expertise gathered through workshops and seminars organized by CEDEFOP



In 2016 a major VET reform provided **more flexible pathways for learners**

VET SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

2017-2020



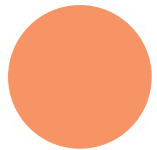
present situation



Number of VET schools in BG



Number of VET training centres



% of VET students



% of girls in VET



Recent developments 2021-2024

Digital and Green Skills are now being included in the State Standards for acquiring professional qualification

The pandemic accelerated the adoption of **online and hybrid vocational training models**, especially for theoretical components of VET courses.

Training for acquiring qualification for part of a profession has been introduced

Transfer of units of learning outcomes has been introduced in VET legislation

Dual VET system continues to develop at upper-secondary and post-secondary level

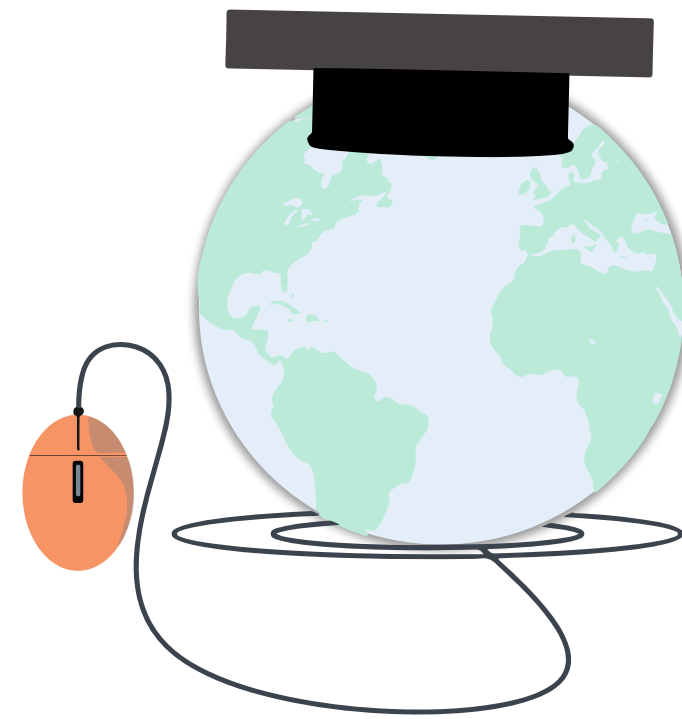
Distance learning in an electronic environment for persons over 16 years of age has been introduced

A New **List of Professions for VET (LPVET)** has been adopted in 2024

Guidelines for AI for teachers issued in 2024

Electronic vouchers for CVET for adults introduced

WBL in HE is to be piloted



COLLABORATION WITH CEDEFOP



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



Excellent collaboration through the years.

CEDEFOP – a reliable partner not only for information but for counselling and guidance on VET developments and reforms so that they are in line with EU priorities.

The **joint collaborative efforts** aim to enhance Bulgaria's capacity to **adapt to changing economic needs**, address **skill shortages**, and **promote inclusive education systems** that prepare its citizens for the challenges of the modern labor market.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Petya Evtimova
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for Bulgaria