



Republic of Cyprus



TVET Reform and Modernisation in Cyprus over the past 20 years

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TVET Reform and Modernisation in Cyprus



Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, spurring reform and modernisation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Goals

- Align TVET with European standards;
- Increase attractiveness and employability.



Strategic Reform (2015-2020)

The Strategic Plan for the System of Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the period 2015-2020 aimed to:

- Expand TVET at Secondary and Tertiary Levels;
- Increase TVET attractiveness;
- Enhance the engagement of labour market stakeholders;
- Increase work-based learning;
- Introduce new specialisations relevant to labour market needs;
- Develop new curricula;
- Promote lifelong learning;
- Complete the process for the establishment of the Cyprus National Qualifications Framework.



Public VET Pathways

VET Pathways Supported:

- Secondary Technical & Vocational Education (STVE)
- Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education (Second Chance Schools)
- The Apprenticeship System
- Lifelong Learning Programmes of VET
- The Public School of Higher VET (known as MIEEK)





Reform and Upgrading of STVE

- **Industry Partnerships**

Collaboration with employers for practical training of learners and development of specialisations and curricula relevant to labour market needs.

- **New Specializations**

Introduced specialisations like digital technology, renewable energy, industrial design, cosmetology and ship mechanics.

- **Enhanced Competencies**

Curricula focus on key skills—foreign languages, digital skills and “learning to learn.”



Expansion of Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education

- **Goal**

Offer formal TVET to adult learners, with Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education now operating in five major districts of the island.

- **Purpose**

Support integration of school dropouts and adult learners into the workforce and in society in general.



Upgrading of Apprenticeship System

Reform Efforts

- Enhanced collaboration with employers and stakeholders participating in the Apprenticeship Council;
- Development and flexible provision of new specialisations;
- Provision of suitable training to all trainers and counselors.

Flexible Pathways

Connection with Evening Schools of Technical and Vocational Education, allowing apprentices to pursue further studies in secondary education and obtain a formal school leaving certificate in two years instead of three.



Establishment of Post-Secondary Institutes (MIEEK)

- **Foundation Year**

Established in 2012, addressing secondary education graduates of all ages.

- **Accreditation**

Recognised as a Public School of Higher VET, awarding EQF/ISCED level 5 diplomas (120 ECTS).

- **High Employment Rates**

Nearly 100% of graduates secure jobs in their fields.



Lifelong Learning Programmes in TVET

- **Courses Offered**

Non formal one-year and three-year programmes of TVET.

- **Purpose**

Continuous professional development for employed and unemployed adults, through upskilling and reskilling opportunities, aiming to assist individuals to adapt to changes in the labour market.



European Integration and Standards

European Frameworks, Tools and Programmes Adopted

- **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** for qualification transparency and EU-wide recognition. The Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth is the National Coordination Point (NCP).
- **EQAVET** for improving the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the VET provision in Cyprus.
- **Europass** for effective communication of skills and facilitation of mobility. The Cyprus Productivity Centre is the Europass Coordinator.
- **Erasmus + Programme** for cross-border learning and sharing of best practices.



European Funding

Investment Project: Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Cyprus

EU funding enhanced TVET facilities, upgraded labs and equipment, and promoted the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences that are relevant to labour market needs.



Impact of TVET Reforms

- **Higher Enrollment Rates**

Public TVET programmes in Cyprus have grown significantly in appeal and accessibility.

Example:

Participation in Secondary Technical and Vocational Education doubled from 11% (2010) to 22% (2024)



Impact of TVET Reforms

- **Recognition of Qualifications**

Alignment with European frameworks and tools ensures Cypriot qualifications are recognized and valued across Europe.

- **Future-Proofing Workforce**

Continuous updates in skills prepare learners for emerging local, European and global challenges.

Overall Impact

With the help and financial support of the EU, Cyprus has built a competitive, attractive and socially integrative TVET system.



Future Goals

Updated Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

- Enhance even further the quality and flexibility of TVET;
- Promote lifelong learning;
- Align with EU targets for employability and work-based learning;
- Increase youth enrollment in TVET to meet EU average;
- Foster partnerships at national and international levels.



The Value of ReferNet for Cyprus and Its VET System

Cyprus & ReferNet

- Cyprus joined ReferNet in 2004, with coordination by the **Human Resource Development Authority**.
- In 2024, coordination was transferred to the **Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth**.



The Value of ReferNet for Cyprus and Its VET System

Key Benefits for Cyprus

- **Access to Best Practices:**
 - Adopting successful methods tailored for small-scale systems.
- **Policy Framework Support:**
 - Benchmarking and alignment with EU strategies and guidelines.
- **Addressing Challenges:**
 - Solutions for limited labour markets, skills mismatches, and sector-specific training needs.



The Value of ReferNet for Cyprus and Its VET System

Strategic Advantages for Cyprus

Smaller VET systems benefit most from:

- Insights into **trends, challenges, and best practices.**
- Encouragement of **mutual learning and policy adoption.**

ReferNet as a Strategic Ally:

- Facilitates VET reforms in Cyprus.
- Contributes to the development of a strong and competitive national VET system, aligned with EU goals.



THANK
YOU