

Czechia: The story of VET (2004 – 2024)

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VET in Czechia: changes and/or challenges



The School Act (2004)

- **Two - tier curricula** (national and school level)
- **2024 Amendment to the School Act**– voluntary dual track – in legislative process

Standardisation

- **Since 2014/2015 standardised final exams** (EQF 3 programmes with VET certificate)
- **Since 2011 state Maturita exam** (following the OECD recommendation) and profile part
- **Since 2017 – unified entrance exam for EQF 4 programmes with Maturita exam** (same for general and VET programmes)

Since 2020, learners attending 4-year VET programmes in specific fields have the possibility to **gain two vocational qualifications at different EQF levels (3 and 4)**, important step to prevent early leaving school without qualification



VET in Czechia: changes and/or challenges



In 2020 - **changes in the system of regional education funding** (the schools' funding is no longer based on per capita approach, but on the financing of the real volume of teaching/the number of lessons taught).

Strategy of Education policy 2030+ (2020)

- **Innovation of system of fields of education and revision of curricula** (adapting the content to be more responsive to labour market and society of 21st century); linking IVET and CVET

Planned changes in Maturita exam via pilots to reflect the competence-based model of education:

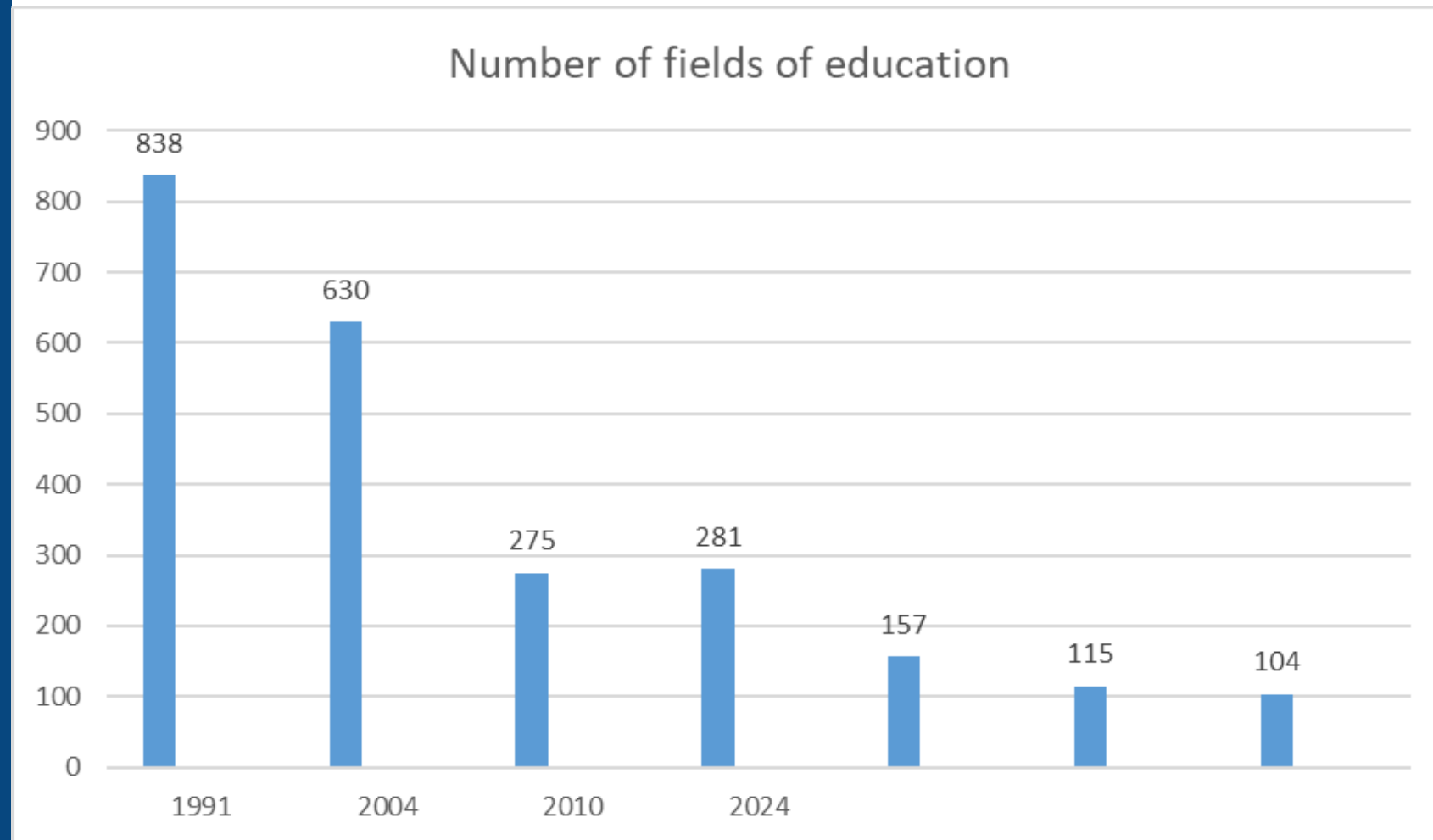
- **Since 2020** replacement of the profile (school) part in the field of ICT with an **internationally recognised certificate**
- **Since 2021 comprehensive graduate thesis** to demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge acquired in all profile subjects

Since 2023 digitalisation reflected more in curricula (sources of the National Recovery Plan to reduce the digital gap and strengthen competences of students and teachers)





System of fields of education - reduction



VET in Czechia: changes and/or challenges



2023 - guaranteed funding for **teacher** salaries at **130%** of the average **salary** in the country for that calendar year (fixed by legislation)

New positions in schools embedded in the Act on Pedagogical Staff (2023)

- **support for inexperienced teachers beginners and trainees** (introductory and induction teachers)
- Since 2022 new programme Headmaster as a pedagogical leader

In 2023 new qualification path for teachers of vocational training using the standard of vocational qualification

- **In 2016: Quality school model** by the Czech School Inspectorate (guide for external and self evaluation)
- **Register** of students and teachers in development (IPS Data)



VET in Czechia: changes and/or challenges



- **National Register of Qualifications (since 2005)** – public register of vocational and complete vocational qualifications (over 1460 standards of vocational qualifications)
- 2006: the **Act on verification and recognition of further education results approved** (launch of the system of recognition and validation of learning outcomes)

However, formal education still preferred

Since 2023 piloting the database of retraining and upskilling courses -

- Possible basis for the individual learning accounts.



European transparency tools

EQF



National Referencing report approved in 2011

No national qualification framework so far

- Since 2012 EQF levels on certificates of vocational and complete vocational qualifications
- Since 2017 EQF levels obligatory on year reports, upper secondary VET certificates and Maturita certificate

"EQF referencing process in the Czech Republic - Time for a review,, (2023)

- The report offers a comparison of how five European countries have coped with the referencing process (AT, SK and DE) and two examples from different cultural and historical backgrounds (IE and FI).

Intention to create a national qualifications framework is back in play, discussions with the education ministry are underway

Current reform of the educational system is an opportunity to revisit the mapping proces of Czech qualifications levels to the EQF





European transparency tools

EQAVET

Since 2016 NPI ČR is the NRP EQAVET CZ

- Reflecting the Strategy 2030+ and also the Council Recommendation on VET
- Promoting a quality cooperation between schools and employers through various tools:
 - Checklists for school and company workplace
 - Evaluation tool for assessing the conditions of practical training
- Promoting flexible pathways through modularisation in VET (harmonisation of vocational theory and practice and reflecting the labour market needs)
 - Workshops for schools and other stakeholders
 - Case studies (support for revision of curricula)
- Implementing EQAVET principles in mobility projects (joint workshops with the NA Erasmus+ on quality assurance, cooperation with the National VET team)



Thank you!

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