



Izglītības un zinātnes
ministrija

Latvian VET twenty years in the EU - from struggle to breakthrough

**Refernet Annual meeting
Thessaloniki, 21 November, 2024**



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What changed fundamentally in the Latvian VET from 2004?



Year	Number of ET institutions
2000/2001	120
2005/2006	96
2024	53

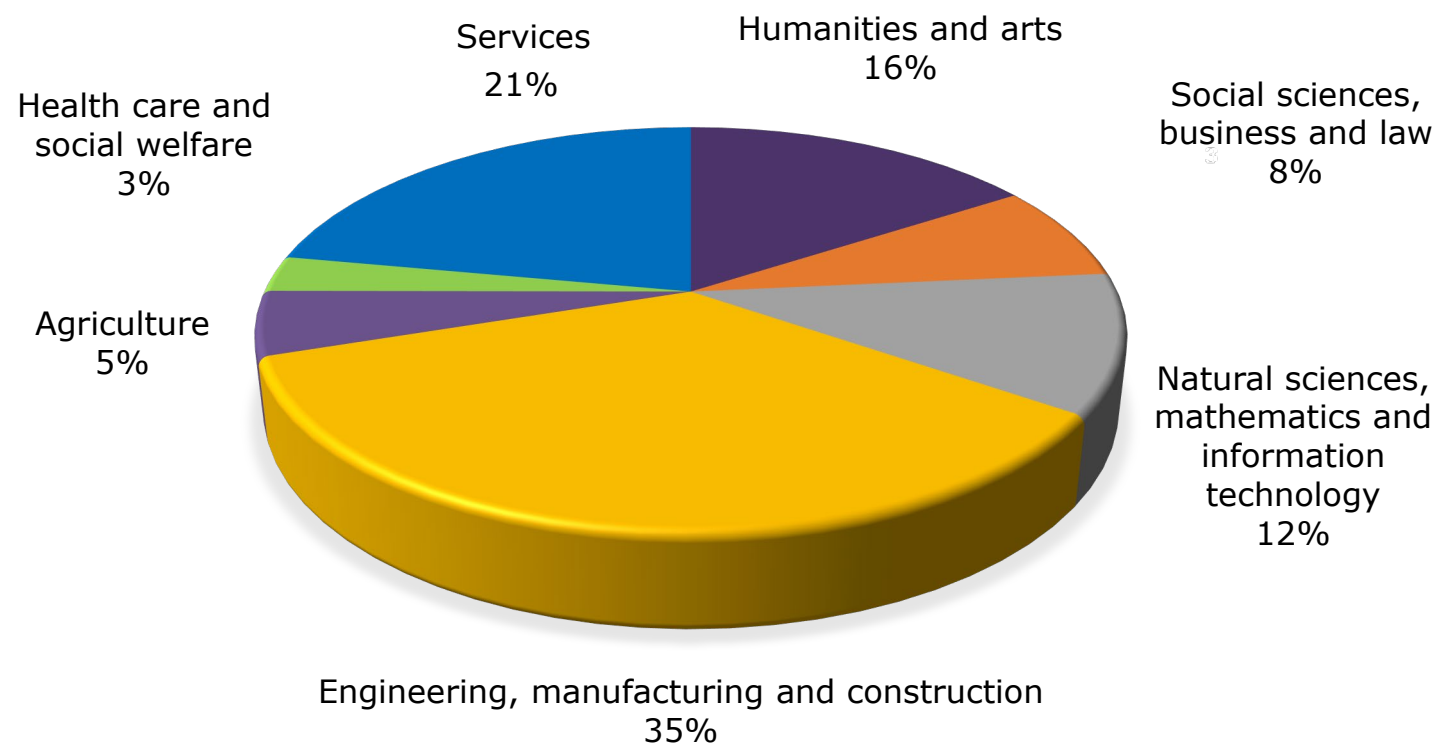


- ✓ In 2004 EU funds become available. The planning of the **large ERDF VET infrastructure improvement projects** and the planning of a **fundamental VET content reform** supported by the ESF **was started**
- ✓ In 2009, the **foundations were laid for more systematic educational cooperation with industries and employers** (conceptual document). In 2011, piloting of sectoral expert councils was started (ESF support). **Sectoral qualification frameworks** in all sectors of the economy were developed
- ✓ In 2010, the **optimization of the VET school network was launched**, which allows for the **concentration of funds**, especially ERDF and ESF. Around 2020, most VET schools have **modern buildings and equipment**
- ✓ **2010/2011** is starting to pilot approaches to VET content reform - **transition to an approach based on learning outcomes, program modularization**. Around 2021-2023, the **content reform is practically completed**

VET SNAPSHOT 2023/24*



VET students by education thematic groups



EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS **53**

Incl.: MoES – 22, other ministries, municipalities, private,

STUDENTS **27 605**

Incl. in the institutions subordinated to the MoES – **83%** (22 847)

Source: National Education Information System (VIIS), 05.10.2023.

* Initial vocational education programmes, incl. ESF funded and tuition fees



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... more initiatives implemented

Importantly –
in the planning period of
2014-2020, with the
support of ESF:



- ✓ not only the **professional development of teachers** is being implemented, but also with **school administrations** (before that, it did not take place in such a focused way)
- ✓ an important **national inclusive project PUMPURS** was **implemented** - it practically has no analogues in other EU countries
- ✓ a **large-scale WBL training project was implemented** - as a continuation of the WBL training pilot started in the country in 2013

What are the top soft skills
employers look for?



TestGorilla



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Well-organised and flexible VET system in place

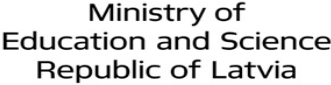


From the legal perspective – **major amendments to the VET Law in 2022**, <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/20244>– finalizing the VET reforms over two decades

Horizontally, an important aspect is the adoption and implementation of the **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** during this period, which also has a significant impact on the whole process.

Sectorial Qualification Frameworks created and operational for all sectors of the national economy

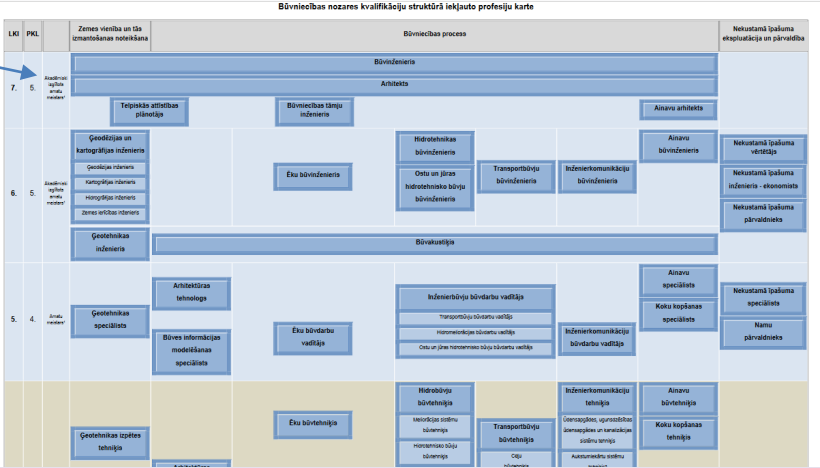




Our achievement - Sector Qualifications Frameworks as a common language for education and employment

Source - https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/nks_saraksts.shtml
(translated via <http://free-website-translation.com/>)

Example of sectorial mapping. Such mapping has been performed for all sectors



Expanding the scope and borders



In 2015 the **Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeships (BAfA)** was established. For the next 5-7 years, with the support of Erasmus+ program projects, it strengthens the Baltic cooperation in the field of VET and apprenticeship.



Within the **EU Erasmus+ project TTT4WBL 800 WBL tutors** in schools and companies were prepared according to a common methodology in the three Baltic countries. It facilitates exchanges, mobility, because of the same approach (agreement on a common competence framework).



BAfA

Baltic Alliance
for Apprenticeships

Visual identity Guidelines



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

... a qualitative leap



Council of the
European Union

After 2015 Latvian Presidency in the EU Council, VET international cooperation, active participation in collaboration networks is intensifying. It is geared towards innovation and excellence.



There has been a **qualitative 'leap'** in the potential of Latvian VET. Latvia now actively **participates in EU VET processes and exchange of experience** on an equal basis. It regularly **hosts delegations from other countries**, including from non-EU countries' and demonstrates what has been achieved in the last two decades. Latvian professionals regularly share their experience in international seminars and high-level working groups and committees.





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CEDEFOP, Refernet and the member states

In 2015 – during the LV presidency in the EU Council – **the Riga Conclusions** – 5-year EU VET policy document was adopted. **A major 'breakthrough' happened from 2015 and onwards, cooperation networks have expanded significantly**

Major input by CEDEFOP in preparing the **pre-amble to the Riga Conclusions** – including reference to innovation, excellence and internationalisation as future policy perspectives

The Refernet work for the period till 2020 was greatly **based on the Riga Conclusions**

The VET community supported by CEDEFOP and Refernet **has evolved over years** and is producing beneficial results. **The communication culture of CEDEFOP and Refernet** has had a role in **creating a stable and open-minded network** of VET professionals in Europe.



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Thank you!

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