



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

A future-proof approach

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#EUSkillsAgenda

What is vocational education and training?

Vocational education and training (VET) is a key element of **lifelong learning**, which equips people with the knowledge, skills and competences required for particular occupations in the labour market and to thrive in life. It accounts for about half of upper secondary learners in the EU and enables two thirds of EU employees upskill or reskill. It helps **young people** get ready for their first job, and allows **adults** to learn new skills and develop their careers.



This is an opportunity to take a fresh approach to vocational education and training, make it more modern, attractive, flexible and fit for the digital age and green transition.

Vocational education and training will be an essential tool to help young people and adults find jobs after the Coronavirus crisis.

How has it been affected by the coronavirus pandemic?

The coronavirus pandemic seriously disrupted all forms of education and training, including VET, with work-based learning and apprenticeships most affected.



What is the Commission proposing to make VET future-proof?



A more **learner-centred system**, giving students flexibility in when and how they study, linking up different learning systems



Increase the **resilience and digital readiness** of VET institutions and trainers



A more **inclusive approach**, removing any barriers to accessibility



Increase **mobility of students** to make VET programmes across the EU more attractive



More **on-the-job learning** opportunities, particularly through apprenticeships



Make sure that VET curricula correspond to the needs of the **green and digital** economy

Over the next five years, Europe should see:



VET graduates should be employed after their studies



VET learners should benefit from practical work-based learning, in particular apprenticeships



in the number of learners who benefit from a learning opportunity abroad



What can EU funding help to support?

- Training of teachers and trainers in VET, in particular in the digital field
- Support mobility of VET learners, teachers and trainers across Europe
- Setting up quality assurance and graduate tracking systems
- Setting up 50 Centres of Vocational Excellence to boost high-end training



Ruta from Lithuania undertook vocational education and training. Her school cooperates with local businesses and helps them identify their skills needs. As part of her education, Ruta did an apprenticeship in a solar panels factory. This provided her not only with professional qualifications, but also with a set of transversal skills such as teamwork. After graduation, she started working in the company where she did her apprenticeship.



José from Spain has been working in customer management in the tourism sector for more than 15 years. The domain he works in is quickly becoming digitised and he wants to adapt his skillset. His company allows him to work flexibly and take modular VET courses twice a week. After 6 months, José has acquired new digital skills that are of benefit for both himself and his company.