

France introduction

Vocational training has been a focus point for the French government for several years now. The state continues to develop the field of VET with the aim to widen employment opportunities for the public.

Recent developments in France

In the beginning of 2019, a new governmental unit, France Compétences, responsible for the regulation and financing of vocational training and apprenticeship was established. The unit is in charge of the distribution of funds to different actors in the field of vocational training and apprenticeship; regulation of the quality of educational activities in the field; establishing guidelines for VET providers; ensuring the validation of vocational education certifications, including updating the National Register of Professional Certifications (RNCP); and ensuring the proper implementation of the reform on vocational training. The establishment of France Compétences is expected to bring changes to the field of vocational training in the country, both strengthening quality control, ensuring more efficient strategies, and putting pressure on VET providers to comply with new regulations.

In addition to the changes in governmental structures, a more ideological shift took place in the last quarter of 2018. The definition of training action was broadened and modified. A bigger stress is now put on the importance of non-formal and informal learning (self-directed training, seminars, social learning, learning in the workplace etc.)

and distance learning. The shift means an important step in the process of validation of different forms of education and professional development.

Links to EU and international policy France

France has been part of broader European policies for decades now. The French government joined several European initiatives, such as Europe 2020 and Education and Training 2020. Being part of the European regulations led France to improving its educational system and putting more emphasis on developing vocational training in the adult education sector.

French policies aim to address several of Sustainable Development Goals. In recent years there have been a number of initiatives that target environmental challenges, including the national strategy on ecological transition towards a sustainable development 2015-2020 and a newly passed law, the energy transition law. As part of the initiatives, the importance of education and training on environmental awareness has been emphasized. To ensure the functionality and effectiveness of the national strategies and initiatives, each ministry developed and adopted an action plan for the years 2015-2020.

Challenges and

recommendations in France

Due to the changes in the government, adult education providers and training centres will have to adapt to the new regulations. The new VET standards pose a bigger threat to smaller organisations whose audience and funding are already limited.

The agenda of non-formal adult education in France is to address various forms of inequalities in society, including gender inequalities, digital divide, issues of inclusion, etc. At the same time, training of adult education professionals is important to provide quality education. Our members in France will be working on addressing the challenges identified above.
