

# Establishment of a National System of Vocational Education, Training and Lifelong Learning (Law. 4763/2020)

Greece

<https://www.gsvetlly.minedu.gov.gr/>

## DESCRIPTION

The **comprehensive reform** represented by Law 4763/2020 establishes the National System of Vocational Education, Training, and Lifelong Learning, **based on two key pillars**:

a) **Joint strategic planning of VET and lifelong learning**, aimed at **eliminating substantial overlaps at the national, regional, and local levels of governance**, and ensuring optimal alignment with the needs of the Greek economy.

b) **Substantive participation of social partners**, a crucial factor for effectively linking VET to the **labour market**. Even before Law 4763/2020 was adopted, the Ministry had developed strong collaborations with social partners, a key missing element in previous VET reform efforts. **Consultation with social partners is a continuous process, recognised as essential for connecting education and training with labour market demands**.

Since its adoption on 21 December 2020, the law has addressed long-standing deficiencies through a structural and comprehensive reform of the structures, operation, and governance of Vocational Education, Training, and Lifelong Learning.

Nowadays, at the central level, the newly established **General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, and Lifelong Learning**, supported by new governing bodies, is responsible for **coordinating policy-making processes**.

At the national level, several actions have also been taken: **the Central Council of Vocational Education and Training (KSEEK)** has been established within the General Secretariat. This council includes **representatives from other relevant Ministries, local government authorities, social partners (employers and employees), and Chambers of Commerce**. This is the first time social partners and co-responsible policymakers have been involved in such a role.

At the regional level, the establishment of **Councils for the Connection of Education with Production and the Labour Market (SSPAE) in each region** is a key priority.

The vocational education and training system is now designed to **cultivate multi-level vocational qualifications and to facilitate successful labour market integration**. The effectiveness of the professional qualifications system depends on its alignment with the labour market, which operates dynamically and is challenging to monitor.

**To ensure a successful connection between training provision and labour market needs, a feedback-based model is applied, rationally utilising three key institutions: the state, employees,**

**and employers** (referred to as "trimerisation"). This is accompanied by a mechanism for monitoring and certifying professional qualifications.

**This reform has dismantled the walls of the long-standing disconnection of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports from the reality of the living economy.** There is no longer any isolated "expertise" in the Ministry of Education, but the true "expertise" is now sought through **collaboration, synergy, and joint planning with social partners**, the main actors of the country's economic life. As a result, a robust framework for continuous cooperation has been established at both central and regional levels.