

The structure of secondary school system in Hungary

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The structure of the vocational training in Hungary is part of the secondary school system.

Generally, the secondary school system is based on both the public education law (Public Education Law, Number: CXC, Year 2011, last changed: January 1st, 2014) that regulates the operational framework and the Vocational Training Act (Training Act Number: CLXXXVII, Year 2011, last changed: 31. December 2013) that regulates context-related framework.

The legal framework of the dual system of vocational training is created by Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Agriculture, and by the official rules of the economy in the part of the practical training.

The secondary school system is usually responsible for the education of young people aged 14 or older, who have completed primary school; compulsory education lasts until the age of 16 years.

The state finances up to the age of 21 years (normative) the majority of the training costs (full time education) of students in public institutions, as well as of students in private institutions who have received an admission of the state.

Moreover, the state guarantees for young people with special needs up to 23 years complete financing of education; it supports everyone without age limit in the context of evening classes (financing of 50%) and distance education (financing of 20%) who make their first qualification; young people with special education needs receive this support without conditions like age-limit or qualifications.

The institutions of secondary education are high schools/gymnasium, high schools/middle schools (Mittelschule), vocational schools and special vocational schools. In secondary education, two different grades can be acquired by passing a state exam. High schools and middle schools issue school leaving certificate (Abschlusszeugnis) graduating the school. Vocational schools and special vocational schools prepare students for the professional examination in professional qualifications (sub-qualifications), which are to be acquired after successful completion of primary school, and issue vocational education certificate.

The main objective of high schools/gymnasiums (4 years) is to prepare young people for the higher education.

High schools/middle schools (4 years) prepare young people in the grades 9-12; in these 3 school years young people receive general education and at the same time vocational training; finishing the 12th grade all students have to make final exams, also on basic knowledge in a profession in order to afterwards either leave the school with a certificate or to continue the school for 3 further years. Graduating the school then they receive vocational education certificate.

In Hungary the possibility exists to organize vocational training as dual vocational education with a practical training part in a company.

Vocational schools and special vocational schools (the special form for the vocational training of young people with disabilities) provide young people with primary school certificate school-leaving qualification in 2-3 school years (1/9, 2/10, 3/11). In 1/3 general knowledge and accordingly in 2/3 the professional knowledge is to be imparted, thus the school will be left passing professional exams.

The occupational and labor market regulation of vocational training

The regulation of the Hungarian system of vocational qualifications and training is issued by a government decree, the **National Education Register** which contains

- all job titles that can be taught in the school system and in adult education,
- the minimum time frame of the training periods,
- the basic qualifications and other qualifications based on these. The register also includes information on responsibilities of ministers for the different qualifications. The so-called **Professional and Examination Requirements** contain regulations for the individual qualifications; this decree is issued by the responsible minister.

The school programs in the vocational education - **Professional Framework Curricula** – are issued in a decree by the minister responsible for the entire vocational education - except the educational areas of agriculture and rural development. The content of general education, which takes 1/3 of the training period, is defined and issued in the so-called **General Education Curriculum Framework** by minister responsible for the entire public education.

Annually the decree on **Occupational Structure Decision** - Government Decree No. 562/2013 from 31.12.2013 that contains decisions on the occupational structure in the school year 2014/2015; on the starting vocational trainings with scholarships and on the changes of some government decrees relating to vocational training and adult education and on the distribution of professions on the different administrative districts (Hungary consists of 19 districts). This government decree also regulates all professional qualifications which may be taught in the school system; number of students for an unlimited admission in respective courses (in terms of secondary schools which sectors and basics); limitations of students' admissions regarding courses and districts, and the allowed number of students in each institution. It also stipulates the professions for which the respective institutions do not receive state subsidies.

Management of the work of individual institutions

The content-related and personnel management for the entire state primary school and secondary school system is set up by the national center called Klebersberg Center since September 1st, 2012.

In addition to public institutions, professional schools can be managed by non-governmental organizations (such as Kontiki), non-profit organizations and churches on the basis of official approvals from the county government offices. These approvals define the management and the training areas of the individual institutions. By concluding agreement with the ministry

concerning vocational trainings allowed in individual vocational schools, the state bears a part of costs (normative) incurred.

The companies that participate in the practical training within the **dual system** can reclaim a part of their education costs as tax payment credit (education contribution), and may require incidental expenses if the trainee is parallel involved in a theoretical training in a vocational school. In this case the school has to have a contract with the state for the specific professional qualification.

The non-governmental organizations such as Kontiki can decide for themselves on the educational and vocational programs at schools or operational arrangements as long as they remain in the legal framework prescribed by the state. This fact is crucial for the project because we do not need permission from the state in order to pilot and establish new trainings like one year qualification within the project "Hamburg Model".