



# German vocational education and training and international cooperation

**Services and products by GOVET**

April 2025

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## Services and products by GOVET

[GOVET](#) (German Office for international Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training) is a joint facility of various federal government departments established in 2013 as a core element of the Federal [Government's strategy on international cooperation in VET \(revised in 2019\)](#). GOVET is an integral part of the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education ([BIBB](#)) and, thus, funded by and acting under the legal and technical auspices of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) strengthens GOVET by seconding personnel.

In line with its mandatory framework, GOVET is the contact point for national and international VET cooperation stakeholders and the Secretariat of the national [Round Table](#) on international VET cooperation. It transfers BIBB know-how into government services in VET cooperation, stakeholder dialogues with state and non-state players, and international consultancy and cooperation services.

GOVET advises the numerous German actors of international vocational training cooperation, supports them with information materials about German VET in many languages, and connects them according to their competences and tasks with international actors interested in cooperation. Furthermore, GOVET advises foreign partners within the framework of education policy cooperation agreements and based on demand, mutual interest and feasibility.

GOVET's advice is based on the [five core elements of dual vocational education and training in Germany](#), as well as on bilateral cooperation interests and topics. Please find links and further information on GOVET's portfolio of services and products below.

## Information, advice and contact details

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## Online resources

On the website [www.govet.international](http://www.govet.international), GOVET provides free documents and materials for the use of German stakeholders operating abroad.

A reduced internet service including information products is offered for the following languages:

- ▶ Arabic [www.govet.international/ar](http://www.govet.international/ar)
- ▶ Chinese [www.govet.international/cn/zh](http://www.govet.international/cn/zh)
- ▶ English [www.govet.international/en](http://www.govet.international/en)
- ▶ French [www.govet.international/fr](http://www.govet.international/fr)
- ▶ Greek [www.govet.international/gr](http://www.govet.international/gr)
- ▶ Hebrew [www.govet.international/he](http://www.govet.international/he)
- ▶ Italian [www.govet.international/it](http://www.govet.international/it)
- ▶ Russian [www.govet.international/ru](http://www.govet.international/ru)
- ▶ Spanish [www.govet.international/es](http://www.govet.international/es)

Information on vocational education and training in numerous countries and their cooperation with Germany in this area is provided by GOVET (in German only) in the **country portal**: [www.govet.international/land](http://www.govet.international/land)

Projects in international vocational training cooperation with Germany are recorded in the **project database** (in German only): [www.govet.international/projekte](http://www.govet.international/projekte)

**Films** on specialized topics in vocational training in up to 15 languages are offered via **YouTube** channels

- ▶ German: [www.govet.international/filme](http://www.govet.international/filme) (or YouTube-Chanel: <https://www.youtube.com/@GOVETde>)
- ▶ English: [www.govet.international/films](http://www.govet.international/films) (or YouTube-Chanel: <https://www.youtube.com/@goveten9025>)

[Playlists](#) are available in the channels that also offer films in numerous other languages.

**GOVET-LinkedIn-Chanel**: [www.linkedin.com/company/govet-international/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/govet-international/). GOVET also provides information about new products and offers there.

## **Presentations** [www.govet.international/presentation](http://www.govet.international/presentation)

GOVET develops freely available presentations on special topics in vocational education and training which are particularly intended to be used by German stakeholders in international VET cooperation in advising and exchanging information with foreign partners.

In developing the presentations, GOVET draws on the expertise of BIBB. The content of the presentations is discussed and endorsed by the organizations/institutions represented at the Round Table.

The presentations are available in PowerPoint and PDF file formats in several languages.

- ▶ Dual VET in Germany: <https://www.govet.international/en/54880.php>
- ▶ Professions, occupations and training pathways in Germany: <https://www.govet.international/en/190222.php>
- ▶ Continuing professional education in Germany: <https://www.govet.international/en/187255.php>
- ▶ Stakeholders of the German VET system: <https://www.govet.international/en/54881.php>
- ▶ VET staff in Germany: <https://www.govet.international/en/54883.php>
- ▶ Career orientation in the German VET System: <https://www.govet.international/en/207036.php>
- ▶ Costs and benefits in Dual VET: <https://www.govet.international/en/71186.php>
- ▶ Legal framework of VET in Germany: <https://www.govet.international/en/54882.php>
- ▶ Certification, accreditation and recognition in the German VET system: <https://www.govet.international/en/203304.php>
- ▶ The role of the chambers in dual VET: <https://www.govet.international/de/190085.php>

In the second quarter of 2025, the following presentations will be released on [www.govet.international/presentation](http://www.govet.international/presentation):

- ▶ Data management in VET
- ▶ Institutionalised VET research in Germany

## **Films** [www.govet.international/films](http://www.govet.international/films) (or YouTube-Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@goveten9025>)

The films produced by GOVET are aimed at different target groups and are available in several language versions. The films can be accessed via the GOVET website and the YouTube channels. [Playlists](#) bring together all the films available in the respective language.

- ▶ **Explanatory video:** Introduction to Dual VET in Germany (in 15 languages) [www.bibb.de/govet/en/97901.php](http://www.bibb.de/govet/en/97901.php) (or [online](#) in the YouTube-channel)
- ▶ **Explanatory videos on specific VET topics:** Action orientation in VET (in twelve languages) <https://www.govet.international/en/98089.php> (or [online](#) in the GOVET YouTube channel)
- ▶ **Testimonials of partners abroad:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7UFIEV2eMY&list=PLKk3TOS83jk-WMcGdEzSCRGxmjTRXiXBx>

### Booklet *Initial and Continuing Vocational Education and Training in Germany*

Overview of the different qualification paths and the associated qualification levels in German, English, French and Spanish: <https://www.govet.international/en/156721.php>

### Publications

- ▶ Publication with international best practices on sustainability in vocational education and training: *Sustainability in Vocational Education and Training – National and International Experiences*: <https://www.govet.international/en/202160.php>
- ▶ Publication with international perspectives on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vocational education and training: *Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Vocational Education and Training: International Perspectives of Policy Makers and Practitioners*: <https://www.govet.international/en/152676.php>

### Glossaries and translations

- ▶ Specialized glossaries and terminology collections for vocational training [www.bibb.de/govet/de/54898.php](http://www.bibb.de/govet/de/54898.php)
- ▶ English and Spanish translations of selected training regulations and framework curricula: [www.bibb.de/govet/de/54899.php](http://www.bibb.de/govet/de/54899.php)

### Annual Reports

- ▶ 2024: [www.govet.international/ar24](http://www.govet.international/ar24)
- ▶ 2023: [www.govet.international/ar23](http://www.govet.international/ar23)

## Selected Projects

For more than a decade, GOVET provided consultancy to international partners, i.e. ministries, TVET authorities and other parties that contribute to the national VET development. With reference to the core elements of dual VET, GOVET advocates strengthening collaborative governance structures, including state, businesses and social partners. Accordingly, GOVET cooperates with a broad-based network of agencies in partner countries. GOVET pursues a dialogic approach to international cooperation. Therefore, subjects and instruments of collaboration follow the criteria of

- ▶ demand, as indicated by the cooperation partner and validated in technical exchanges,
- ▶ continuous monitoring with regard to national VET systems in the referring country,
- ▶ mutual interest, agreement on common or complementary topics, incl. Germany's cooperation rationales,
- ▶ openness to reciprocally provide insight into innovative approaches to challenges in VET,
- ▶ feasibility and resources,
- ▶ incorporation of activities in dialogues and agreements on political level.

Listed below, a selection of areas and topics of demand in international cooperation gives insights into GOVET's advisory experiences over recent years.

### **VET legislation and governance**

Derived from a core competence of BIBB and corresponding international demand, and embedded in bilateral agreements of BMBF, GOVET accompanied international partners in the introduction of vocational training laws or regulations and the establishment of national multi-stakeholder fora for VET governance. The objective is the development of models of collaborative governance adequate to the national contexts, and ideally involving government, business and social partners. GOVET acts in a consultative role according to the national needs of the partner country, e.g. recently in Costa Rica and Italy.

### **Accompanying the reforms of the VET system**

In some cooperating countries, national steering bodies have been established which aim for a wide participation of stakeholders in strengthening VET over long periods. GOVET have been invited to participate in a consultative role in these bodies, for example as permanent members of national committees and fora on vocational training in Costa Rica, Mexico, Slovakia or Italy.

### **Evidence based governance of the VET systems and TVET reporting**

Data and statistics on vocational education help policy makers and stakeholders make informed decisions on policy making. Regular reporting enables early identification of trends and the need for adjustments. GOVET and BIBB have advised and supported governments of Ghana und Vietnam on preparing and publishing TVET reports. BIBB's extensive experience in compiling the German data report for the Federal Government's Report on Vocational Education and Training forms an important basis.

### **VET personnel**

Qualification of training staff is a focus of national vocational education and training development in Germany, especially with regard to digitalization, AI, technological innovation and the change in work and professional competences. The topic is also of primary interest in international cooperation, for example in

strengthening work-based pedagogy among vocational trainers in South Africa. Know-how in this field has also been developed in the bilateral cooperation with Slovakia, Italy, Portugal, Latvia and, in a previous co-operation with the Russian Federation.

### **Quality in VET - Assessment of learning/training outcomes in selected professions**

Comparing regional standards in training occupations such as hairdressing, car mechatronics or agricultural machinery, the bilateral exchange of expert groups in these areas, the discussion of learning outcomes and, finally, organizing simulation examinations, formed a cooperation line with Russia from 2012 to 24 Feb 2022. The cooperation sequences mutually enhanced the technical understanding of the VET system and its mechanisms, especially with regard to learning results and assessments.

### **Development of standards**

The development of standards in vocational education plays a key role in ensuring the quality, comparability, and transparency of training. They define clear requirements for competencies, content, and learning objectives, providing reliable guidance for both trainees and employers. In addition, they promote the recognition of qualifications both nationally and internationally and contribute to the continuous improvement of the education system. GOVET has advised cooperation partners in Italy, South Africa und Russia on developing and modernizing standards.

### **Career guidance and transition from school to work**

The selection of a training or study programme is a crucial decision for young people which requires orientation and accompaniment. In Germany, government, businesses and social partners jointly address this need. Thus, innovative mechanisms were developed how schools, job centers and regional stakeholders encourage young people and their parents to consider VET as an attractive option, and make the right training decision. Moreover, measures of vocational orientation should support the lifelong further training and development along career pathways. As per request, GOVET gave advice on these matters to technical partners in Italy, Slovakia, the USA and Russia.

### **Costs and benefits in VET**

Balancing costs and benefits is fundamental to companies' participation in VET, as well as to evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of training programmes. In the German dual system, costs are proven to be recouped by the productive contribution of trainees to the value-added process, and in addition by the prevalent retention of trainees with the training company. At the same time, the training is beneficial to the individuals due to improved employability and the outlook of higher salaries. A balanced cost-benefit analysis ensures that vocational training provides valuable returns for individuals, businesses, and society as a whole, fostering long-term economic growth and social inclusion. GOVET advises international stakeholders on the cost benefit relations and on recent research outcomes on the issue.

### **Inclusion in VET – creating chances for all**

Inclusion in vocational education ensures that all individuals, regardless of their background or abilities, have equal access to training opportunities. It promotes diversity, reduces barriers to participation, and supports the integration of marginalized groups into the labor market. Inclusive vocational education strengthens social cohesion and helps create a more equitable and skilled workforce. GOVET facilitated expert level dialogues on this topic with Russia, Israel and Kazakhstan, among others.

## Cross cutting topics

### **Sustainability and supply chains**

The socio-ecological transformation depends on appropriately qualified specialists, in command of competencies relating to sustainable work processes. One starting point for the development of these competencies is considering entire value chains. BIBB, with GOVET in the project lead, developed an interactive workshop offer conveying sustainability competencies along value chains. It can be adjusted to various target groups, applied to different value chains, and used in a national setting as well as in international cooperation. Examples of implementation so far: “From grain to bread” (in Germany), Cardiac catheter (Costa Rica), Metal work (West Balkans), Hospitality services (Egypt).

### **Transnational skills partnerships**

In the light of increasing global skilled labour mobility and improved regulatory frameworks for Germany’s skilled labour recruitment, the subtopic of migration into training is increasingly in demand. The concept of “transnational skills partnerships” (part of the UN Global Migration Pact) aims at multiple win for individuals, country of origin, and country of destination, e.g. by developing training offers that relate to the labour markets in both countries. Within its mandate for international VET cooperation, GOVET responded to enquiries from within Germany and from abroad trying to convert experiences in VET cooperation into models of fair and sustainable skilled labour development. GOVET also supports the work of competent units within BIBB, e.g. for the recognition of foreign vocational degrees and certificates.

## International GOVET Network

GOVET collaborates with a wide network of direct partners in international cooperation and is, beyond this, well connected with the even wider networks of the BIBB as a whole. A variety of exchange formats (e.g. peer learning events, webinars on specific VET topics) and a series of publications was built on these networks, the latter so far on international responses in VET to the COVID-19 pandemic and on sustainability in VET; a volume on “Data Management and Data Science in VET” is in progress. All forms of exchange follow the principle of mutual benefit; GOVET increasingly emphasises the aspect of learning from cooperation partners, as impulses to the national VET development.





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