



Estonian Agency for  
Erasmus+ and European  
Solidarity Corps

# Vocational Education in Estonia & Estonian National VET Team

Erasmus+ NAs' VET Teams' & Coordinators' Peer-Learning / Capacity Building Meeting

16-17 May 2024

Riga, Latvia

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Erasmus+



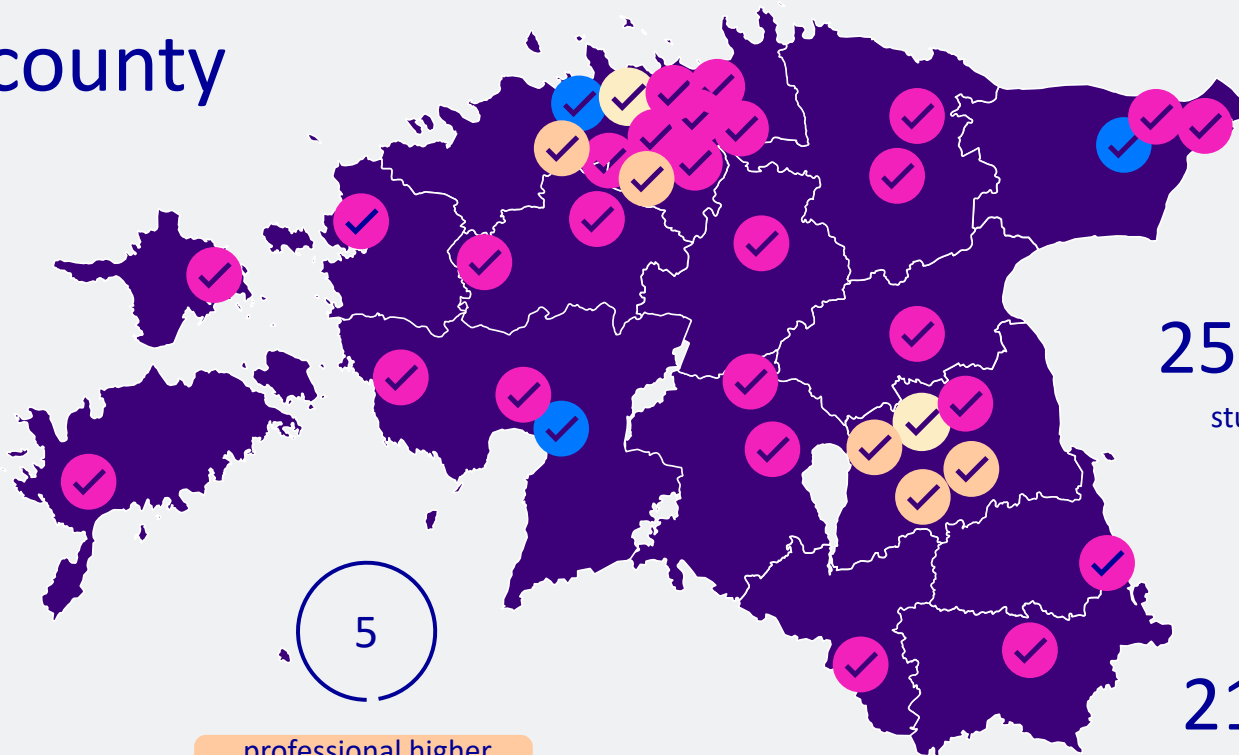
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH BOARD

# VET. Accessible in every county

30  
vocational education  
institutions

- + 25 state
- + 3 private
- + 2 municipal  
institutions

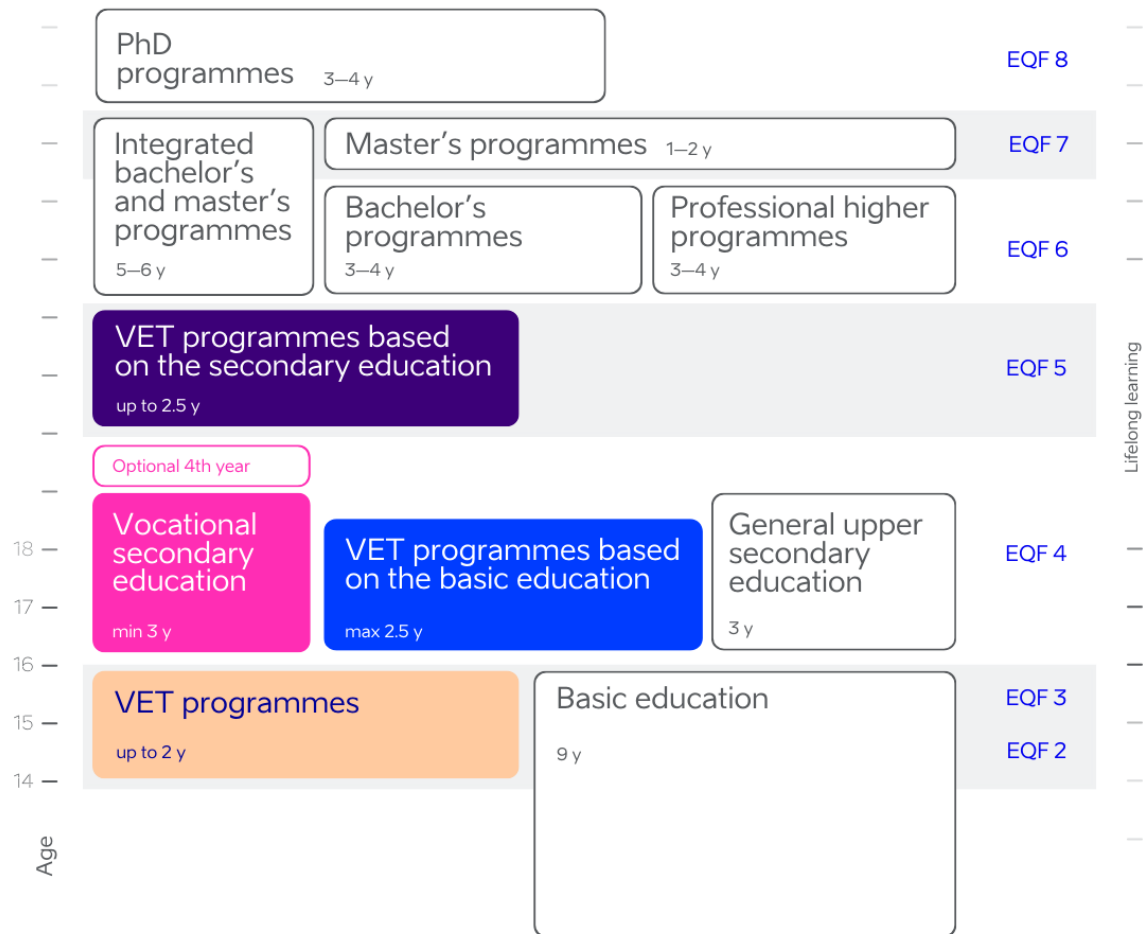
5  
professional higher  
education institutions



25 500  
students

2121  
teachers & teaching  
professionals

# Flexible learning possibilities



# Navigating the challenges

- + NEET rate among 18-24y is 9.8%
- + High drop-out rate in VET
- + The share of boys is much higher among low achievers and secondary education dropouts.
- + Differing paths in secondary education are not equally valued.  
Do we need common upper secondary education standard?
- + Lack of qualified vocational educators and specialists



# Vocational education reform

to enhance VET's appeal to better align with future trends, expand choices after graduation, and ensure a longer-lasting skill set.

## CURRICULUM REFORM

- + Extended study duration
- + New concept for secondary education
- + Emphasis on cross-disciplinary skills
- + Comprehensive, individualised curricula
- + Practical skill assessments

## SCHOOL NETWORK REFORM

- + Regional education centers to provide wide range of learning pathways
- + Competency-based division of schools
- + New funding mechanisms

## NEW VET LAW in 2024

- + Makes changes to start reforms
- + New VET Law for 2027 to perpetuate the new concept



# Estonian national VET Team

In **January 2021**, the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research initiated the formation of a national VET Team at the the Education and Youth Board in Estonia, the **Erasmus+ and Solidarity Corps Agency** to support

- ✓ the Erasmus+ programme
- ✓ the Estonian Education Strategy 2021–2035
- ✓ the European Skills Agenda
- ✓ the Council Recommendations on VET



# EE VET team experts

- Kadi Kreis , Tartu Art School
- Tiina Plukk, Tallinn School of Service
- Marge Kroonmäe, Estonian Quality Agency for Education
- Tiia Randma, The Estonian Qualifications Authority
- Sirje Rekkor, Tallinn University
- Ülle Nõmmiste, Tallinn School of Music and Ballet



# Priority topics of the VET Team

In 2022-2024, VET team focuses on the following priority topics:

- Individual and flexible learning pathways
- Skills-based approach in VET
- Green transition and the development of green skills in VET
- Enhancing the quality of KA1 and KA2 projects in VET
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and networking among VET institutions in the establishment of Centers of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)
- Democratic culture in VET (new topic in 2024)





# Main achievements in 2023 (1)

## Green transition and green skills in VET sector:

- a) Regular **vision webinars** (once a month) “**Green Mornings**” on green transition in VET
- b) **Support materials** for VET institutions on green transition
- c) **Field meeting in south-east Estonia**
- d) **Thematic seminar on sustainability/green transition in VET** in October 2023, Tallinn
- e) **Policy recommendations** on green transition in VET



# Main achievements in 2023 (2)

**Enhancing the quality of KA1 & KA2 applications** (and consequently the quality of projects) through training and advice on the use of learning outcomes and recognition in VET:

- a) **Survey on development of key competences of VET students through international mobility**
- b) Thematic seminar on learning outcomes for KA1 project coordinators in VET
- c) Summer/winter school for KA1 project coordinators in VET



# Main achievements in 2023 (3)

## **Regional/EU cooperation:**

- Baltic NAs meeting in August 2023 in Haapsalu, Estonia
- Baltic VET Team coordinators meeting in December 2023 in Riga
- Study trip to Finland in October 2023
- Online webinar with the Irish VET Team and virtual meetings with the Irish VET Team coordinator

# Field trip to south-east Estonia in 2023



# Study trip to Finland in 2023



# Green Awakening seminar in 2023





# Activities in 2024

- Monthly Green Morning webinars
- Green Day study tours
- Thematic seminar on sustainability in October 2024
- Survey on the impact of Erasmus+ international mobility on the development of key competences and general working life skills among VET teachers
- KA1/KA2 project coordinators meetings and trainings
  
- VET Teams meeting in Latvia in May 2024
- Study trip to Ireland in June 2024
- Baltic NAs meeting in August 2024 in Lithuania
- Irish VET Team study visit to Estonia in October 2024
- VET Team coordinators meeting in December 2024 in Budapest
- Etc.

Thank you!

Aitäh!

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