



Next week Malta will be joining EU countries in organizing activities highlighting the importance of Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Every day, each single person benefits, unintentionally, from a myriad of vocational skills and services in his or her daily life. The food that we consume, the hairdressing services that we make use of, the houses that we live in, the mechanics that fix our cars, the carers who take care of our loved ones, the scientists who test our water are all made possible through the skills and trades which students following Vocational Education and Training develop over the years. VET provision in Malta has undergone drastic changes in Malta over the past few decades. The number of vocationally trained students has gone up by more than 65% since 2008 and the quality of education provision has improved and has been strengthened through more robust structures, teacher training and quality assurance frameworks.

The Framework for the Education Strategy for the Education Strategy for Malta (2014-2024) foresees an updating of the existing learning programmes and modes of assessment in vocational and training education together with the modernisation of the vocational system, particularly within mainstream education, as well as support apprenticeship, traineeship, work-based and work-placed learning initiatives, in the context of lifelong learning. The Ministry for Education and Employment is rolling out the introduction of additional vocational subjects within compulsory schooling, vocational teaching training has been reformed and assessment practices have been reflected accordingly.

Vocational education is also an integral part of a national policy to address skill gaps in the Maltese labour market which is essential for Malta to compete in a globalized market where education systems have to react to change. In this way our students are being equipped for the challenges posed by technological change even while attending mainstream education where they acquire other skills related to their academic, personal and social development as citizens.

The promotion of vocational education and training has also been the scope of the European Commission's drive in the organisation of a European Vocational Skills Week as a means of widening the understanding, the appreciation and enhancing the attractiveness of vocational education and training in the European Union. **Between the 5th and the 9th November** the European member states are driving a number of initiatives to celebrate and raise the awareness of vocational skills and vocational study options to the general public. In Malta, the Ministry for Education and Employment is coordinating a national programme of events and activities with the intention of reaching out to young people, the education professionals, the industry representatives as well as the public.

The programme of events includes:

- A treasure hunt for Year 10 students around Valletta focusing on vocational skills.
- Hands-on exposure to VET for career and guidance professionals.
- Industry-education encounters.



Together with the Ministry for Education and Employment, the Malta College for Art, Science and technology, the University of Malta, the National Commission for Further and Higher Education, the Institute of Tourism Studies, the National Skills Council, Heritage Malta and ReferNet Malta are important stakeholders in this programme of events.

Elaine Pavia, one of our VET Ambassadors is a firm believer that through hands-on experience it will be easier for students to bridge the gap between theoretical and practical understanding especially when their skills are applied in work placements. Rachel Mifsud, another VET Ambassador for Malta stated that vocational careers are a way of putting your talents and abilities out there just like theoretical-based careers are a method of demonstrating your extent of knowledge.

European Vocational Skills Week 2018

5-9 November 2018

#DiscoverYourTalent #EUVocationalSkills