

Vocational Maturity in Transition to VET

IO2 – Vocational maturity

SLOVENIA

Level: local/national

Background:

In Slovenia, after finishing basic education youth can start any upper-secondary education programme (general or VET).¹ But in most times the career orientation during this transition steers the young to make choices correlated predominantly by the academic achievement² of students and much according to their vocational aspirations. In order to prevent later dropout and one becoming a NEET, career orientation - guidance and counselling processes - before the transition should be strengthened with the aspects of vocational maturity especially for those whose transition is not smooth due to lower grades, negative school experiences etc.

Vocational maturity, in YIT defined as a combination of competences that are necessary for starting and staying in a job, is highly relevant when considering career choices including enrolment in upper-secondary education which in most cases sets the course of future vocation of a young person. It is especially relevant in transition to VET, predominantly in apprenticeship that is also a form of entering the labour market.

Vocational maturity includes development of competencies that will enable youth to continue and ultimately thrive in their chosen profession. Knowing what your next career choice is and how to reach it is a great motivational factor, NEETs often lack because. The potential of vocational maturity lies in supporting lifelong career orientation in the context of one entering the field of work or starting the training in a chosen profession.

Recommendation:

An optional one-year preparatory program for the young who struggle during transition into upper-secondary (especially VET and apprenticeship) could be placed within the educational system. Program should be fully supported with comprehended career orientation (including vocational maturity) with the aim to smooth the transitions of the youth, taking into account the didactic principle of individualization, to consolidate and upgrade basic knowledge and key competences in order to support students to pursue the vocation of their choice.

¹ If there are more applications than placements the selection is based on the students' grade points achieved in the last three years of basic education.

² Students with lower grades tend to enrol into VET and students with higher grades in general programmes, postponing the selection of vocation for 4 years.