



CEMETS Capacity Accelerator Slovakia





Building Capacity in VPET for the Next Generation of Slovak Reform Leaders

Rapid technological change, the growing impact of automation and AI and skills shortage are increasingly becoming operational challenges for companies. **Many firms struggle to recruit employees with the right skills**, adapt training to changing technologies, and secure a sustainable pipeline of qualified workers.

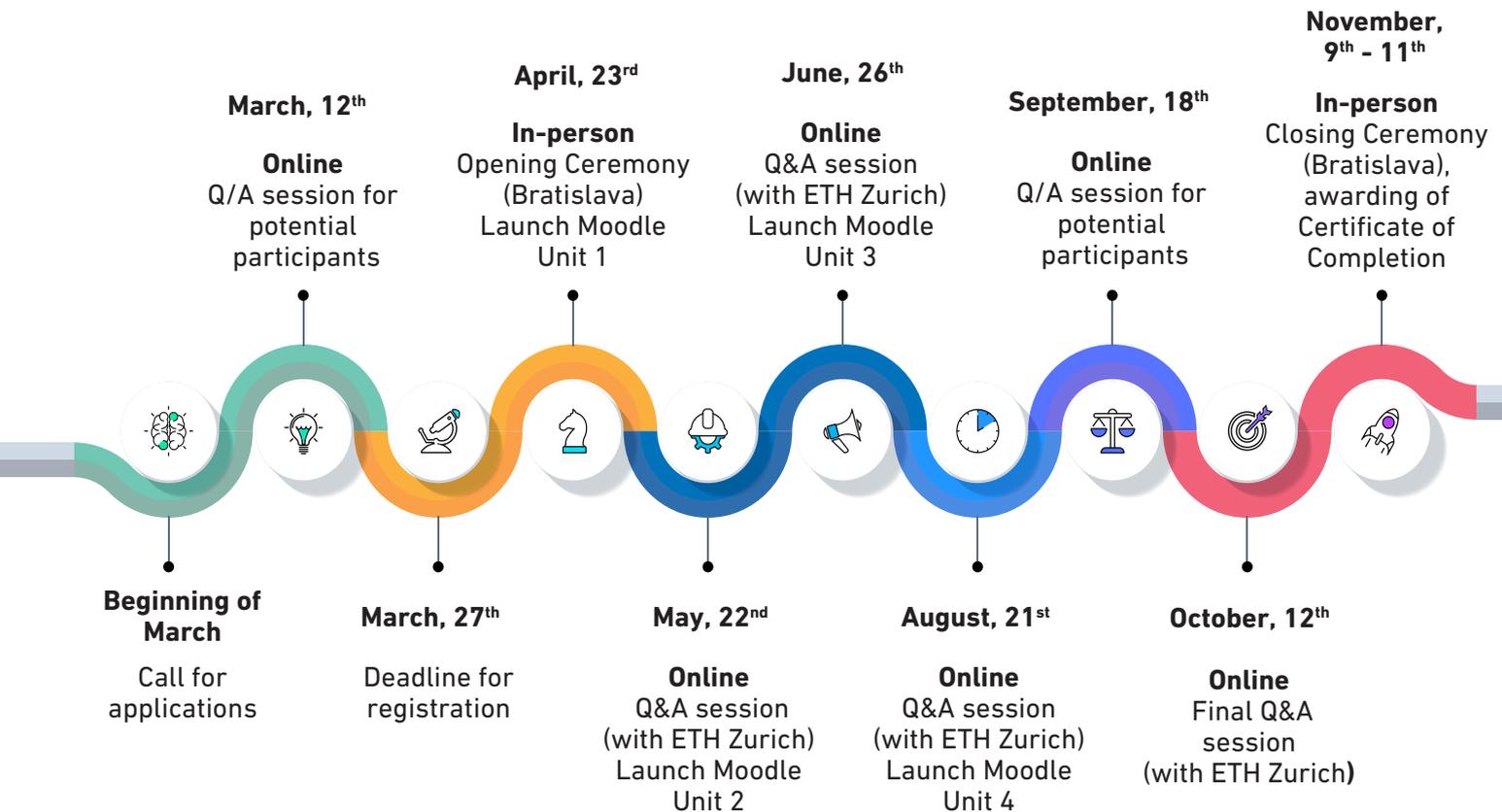
The **CEMETS Capacity Accelerator Slovakia** is an online, implementation-focused capacity-building programme for individuals who are involved in, or expected to take a stronger role in, vocational and professional education and training (VPET) in Slovakia.

Developed by the **Centre on the Economics and Management of Education and Training Systems (CEMETS)** at ETH Zurich and implemented in collaboration with the **State Institute of Vocational Education (SIVE)**, the online programme eventually aims to bring together companies, professional associations, chambers, and public actors to strengthen employer engagement, improve work-based learning, and translate VPET reforms into practice.

The cooperation between SIVE and CEMETS at ETH Zurich is part of the project Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of VET in Response to Labour Market Needs, which is implemented under the Swiss Slovak Cooperation Programme.



The programme runs from April to November 2026



Who can apply?

The programme is designed for professionals from diverse fields (e.g. ministries, professional associations, chambers of commerce, Centres of Excellence and other institutions involved in the coordination of VET) who:

- are involved in the design, coordination, or implementation of vocational education and training policies;
- work at the system, sectoral, or institutional level;
- have the mandate or ambition to influence reforms beyond their own organisation;
- have at least two years of relevant professional experience;
- possess active english language skills at a minimum level of b2.





Method

Online program hosted on ETH Zurich's interactive Moodle platform.

The program will be structured into 5 units:

UNIT 1	Understanding VET Systems and System Design: Building a shared understanding of how VET systems function and interact with the labour market.
UNIT 2	Employer Engagement and Work-Based Learning (WBL): Exploring the role of companies in VET, why should companies train and the growing importance of work experience
UNIT 3	Pathways and Permeability: Understanding how employer organizations promote lifelong learning and support formal qualifications that increase productivity and support formal qualifications that increase productivity
UNIT 4	Reform Leadership and Career Guidance: Strengthening leadership capacity and guidance functions within the VET ecosystem
UNIT 5	VPET in Slovakia: National policies and strategies in the field of education. Practical examples of good practice in Slovakia.

- **Live Q&A session:** direct interaction and feedback from the ETH Zurich team.
- **CES Chatbot: AI-based tool developed by CEMETS** that enables in-depth exploration of education and VET systems, drawing on CEMETS research, studies, and materials to support applied problem-solving.
- The **expected workload is approximately 4–6 hours per month**, including self-paced learning, participation in live Q&A sessions, and applied reflection tasks.
- **After completing the programme, participants will be able to:**
 - analyse strengths and bottlenecks of VPET systems;
 - design and assess employer engagement and WBL mechanism;
 - translate reform concepts into implementable measures;
 - act as a bridge between policymakers, employers, and education and training providers.



Why should you join?



General benefits

- Contribution to strengthening system-level capacity in vocational education and training;
- Engagement with current VPET reform challenges and implementation processes in an international context;
- Courses delivered by international experts, with structured opportunities for exchange and peerlearning.

Benefits for the participants

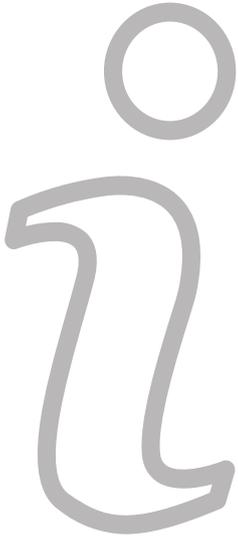


- Targeted professional development in VPET policy, governance, and reform implementation;
- Enhanced professional visibility and recognition as a system reform actor;
- Strengthened positioning for future leadership roles in ministries, public agencies, employer organisations, chambers, and international institutions;
- Priority access to the follow-up programme;
- Certificate of Completion awarded upon successful completion of all Moodle units and active participation in programme activities.

Benefits for institutions

- Strengthened internal capacity to design, coordinate, and implement VPET reforms;
- Improved employer engagement and work-based learning strategies;
- Access to the CEMETS Alumni Network, enabling institutional-level networking, international benchmarking, and knowledge exchange with reform actors from over 30 countries across six continents.





How to apply?

Contact person: Ivana Kurucová, Legal and Regulatory Project Specialist,
State Institute of Vocational Education (SIVE)

Email address: ivana.kurucova@siov.sk

Application process: Applicants are requested to apply via the online form:
[Capacity Accelerator - prihláška – vyplniť formulár](#)

Application deadline: March, 27th 2026

Cost and commitment



The CEMETS Capacity Accelerator is financed and supported by the SIVE, as a part of the project Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of VET in Response to Labour Market Needs, which is implemented under the **Swiss Slovak Cooperation Programme** and it is free of charge.

Participants are expected to contribute time, engagement, and active collaboration.

