

SFIVET: FOUR CORE ACTIVITIES

Basic training

Continuing
training

VET reform

R&D



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SFIVET: FOUR CORE ACTIVITIES

SFIVET develops and imparts knowledge relating to upper-secondary level vocational education and training (VET) and tertiary-level B professional education and training (PET):

- We provide basic training to VET/PET professionals¹ or VET/PET specialists²;
- We offer a wide range of continuing training options to VET/PET professionals;
- We lend guidance and support to the VET/PET reform process, which entails the design and implementation of curricular aspects of VET/PET regulations (e.g. VET qualification profiles and training plans, PET core curricula). We also provide customised services;
- We conduct R&D projects and draft expert reports relating to VET/PET.

These four core activities are mutually supportive. We use the latest scientific findings to design our basic training and continuing training courses. In addition, our familiarity with the realities faced by VET professionals and students ensures that our services relating to VET reform are closely linked to actual needs. Likewise, experience with the working world enables researchers to ask the right questions.

SFIVET = BASIC TRAINING – CONTINUING TRAINING – VET REFORM – R&D

Our services

- match the needs of both employees and employers;
- are based on 40 years of experience and are aligned with current economic, social, technological and scientific trends;
- are harmonised across Switzerland's linguistic regions and adapted to suit regional needs;
- are provided in cooperation with professional organisations, VET schools, professional colleges, the Confederation, the Cantons and research institutes;
- raise the international profile of Switzerland's VET/PET sector.

SFIVET: four core activities to ensure that Switzerland's VET/PET sector develops successfully.

¹VET professionals are teachers, trainers, instructors and examiners who work within Switzerland's upper-secondary level VET sector; PET professionals are teachers and examiners who work within Switzerland's tertiary-level B PET sector. Instructors of job-related continuing education and training (CET) can be found in both the VET and PET sectors.

²SFIVET's MSc in VET provides individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out challenging tasks within the Federal Administration, professional organisations, education institutions, research institutes and companies.

DIALOGUE GROUPS

One of SFIVET's main strengths lies in its extensive network. SFIVET acts as a facilitator of exchanges between various institutional levels, education institutions, branches and linguistic regions.

| | PEOPLE | INSTITUTIONS | CANTONAL | NATIONAL | INTERNATIONAL |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS | VET/PET professionals Rectors Students | VET schools Professional colleges Preparatory schools for Federal Vocational Baccalaureate Examination Universities of applied sciences Teachers colleges Traditional universities | Cantonal rectors' conferences | Teachers associations National rectors' conferences | International cooperation partners |
| PRIVATE SECTOR | Students in trade schools Industry course instructors | Companies Industry training centres Centralised training institutions Trade schools Host company networks | Cantonal professional organisations Examiner boards Chief examiners | National professional organisations | Corresponding VET organisations in other countries |
| PUBLIC SECTOR | FDEA General Secretariat OPET VET/PET Division Heads of VET/PET offices | Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA) | Cantonal VET/PET offices Cantonal Departments of Education Examination organisers | Swiss Conference of VET/PET Offices (SBBK) Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education (EDK) | Bilateral VET projects |
| POLITICAL CIRCLES | Interested third parties Regional advisory boards | | Cantonal parliaments Cantonal governments | Federal Parliament Federal Council and Federal Departments | |
| SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY | PhD students Researchers from other institutes | Leading Houses Universities of applied sciences (UAS) Teachers colleges Private institutes | | Leading Houses Steering Committee (OPET) Professional organisations Research associations | Research partnerships with universities and research institutes |

BASIC TRAINING: INITIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR VET/PET PROFESSIONALS

SFIVET's certification and degree programmes are intended to provide an initial qualification to VET/PET professionals working full-time or part-time at VET schools, FVB preparatory schools and professional colleges as well as at training centres run by professional organisations.

Certification and degree programmes

- provide participants with knowledge and methods related to the VET/PET sector and their specific education and training challenges;
- familiarise participants with the interplay between the three main learning environments within the VET sector: VET schools, host companies and industry training centres;
- provide participants with the latest scientific findings as well as experiences from the field;
- are harmonised in three linguistic regions of Switzerland;
- are provided in Bern-Zollikofen, Zurich, Lausanne, Lugano as well as in several other locations;
- lead to a tertiary-level A qualification under certain conditions.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (MSc)

SFIVET's Master of Science (MSc) in Vocational Education and Training was introduced in 2007. The content of the MSc programme is based on education science, economics, psychology and sociology. Students become familiar with VET and education systems and learn how to apply research and assessment methods. Graduates of the MSc in VET programme work as experts in research institutes, professional organisations, companies, schools and the public sector.

CONTINUING TRAINING: UPGRADING SKILLS

SFIVET's continuing training courses are also intended for VET/PET professionals: in order to face new challenges or upgrade one's skills, it is important to obtain additional qualifications. SFIVET offers a wide range of refresher courses and advanced study programmes that are specifically designed to meet the needs of VET/PET professionals.

The advanced study programmes are modular in design and are based on Bologna guidelines. There are three types of programmes: those leading to issuance of a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS), a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) and a Master of Advanced Studies (MAS). The various programmes focus on various aspects such as guidance and counselling of VET students, individual support services and training institution management.



In accordance with the Swiss Association for Continuing Education and Training (SVEB), SFIVET also offers training courses leading to issuance of an SVEB certificate in adult education and training. These courses are available in all three linguistic regions.

Organised over a period of one or two days, continuing training courses provide VET/PET professionals with current knowledge and skills that are directly actionable in their day-to-day work. Themes include such things as the provision of guidance to VET students, economic growth and recent developments in legislation.

Much of the content of SFIVET's continuing training programmes and courses is based on findings from SFIVET's own VET/PET research. Classes are taught by both SFIVET instructors and other VET/PET professionals, who contribute their practical experiences.

Upon request, SFIVET can also provide continuing training courses that are tailored to suit the needs of schools, Cantons, professional organisations, host companies and other VET/PET institutions. SFIVET also manages platforms enabling groups of experts to interact with one another. Finally, it offers advisory services to both individuals and institutions.

VET REFORM: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Occupations are not written in stone. Typesetters evolved into typographers and later into DTP operators. Each change requires new education and training content, new training methods and new examination procedures. This constitutes a major challenge for professional organisations, the Confederation and the Cantons. SFIVET provides assistance and support in this area.

We provide academic support to professional organisations in the process of designing new VET ordinances and training plans. Our services include providing support and guidance together with an analysis of the occupational field, drafting competency profiles, establishing education and training objectives and creating qualification procedures. In this manner, we help to ensure that the



quality of VET ordinances and training plans is consistently high in all VET occupations.

Each year, SFIVET facilitates the introduction of dozens of new VET ordinances and training plans in VET programmes. We provide advisory services to working groups established by professional organisations and Cantons and help them to draft implementation plans. We also train VET/PET professionals and prepare handbooks for VET schools and host companies. The existence of three regional campuses ensures that SFIVET is able to support implementation of VET ordinances and training plans in a uniform manner throughout Switzerland. The assistance we provide with implementation of VET reforms is funded by the Confederation.

R&D: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE

Switzerland's VET/PET sector requires scientific research. In dozens of projects, SFIVET conducts research on current issues relating to education science, economics, psychology and sociology.

There are three main research themes:

Teaching and learning in VET/PET programmes

What is the best way to impart education and training content? How can the three main learning environments (i.e. VET school, host company, industry training centre) efficiently coordinate their respective activities? Research findings are fed into SFIVET's basic training and continuing training programmes.



Current VET/PET context

How should VET and PET programmes be adapted in the face of changing VET students, host companies, society and technology? We deliver scientific answers – and in doing so, we pave the way for VET reform.

Strategic planning of VET/PET sector

What factors influence the willingness of companies to offer apprenticeship positions? What factors motivate young people to choose specific occupations? Our research findings facilitate strategic planning of the VET/PET sector by federal policymakers.

In the various research projects, SFIVET works closely with higher education institutions and research institutes both in Switzerland and abroad.

An increasing number of SFIVET researchers are submitting doctoral theses. Through its R&D activities, SFIVET fosters the development of junior researchers in the VET/PET field, which is one of our main objectives. SFIVET disseminates its research findings in publications and events intended for both the academic community and VET/PET professionals.

TERTIARY EDUCATION STATUS: ADDED VALUE FOR THE VET/PET SECTOR

VET/PET specialists need to have scientifically grounded technical, pedagogical and didactic knowledge and know-how. By providing training at tertiary-level A, SFIVET seeks to maintain this high standard. As a Swiss higher education institution (HEI), SFIVET is able to work closely with cantonal universities, teachers colleges, universities of applied sciences and research institutes. This cooperation is essential for ensuring the quality and future of Switzerland's VET/PET sector.

Another positive effect: the provision of tertiary-level A training to VET/PET professionals has enhanced the profile of Switzerland's VET/PET sector both in Switzerland and abroad.

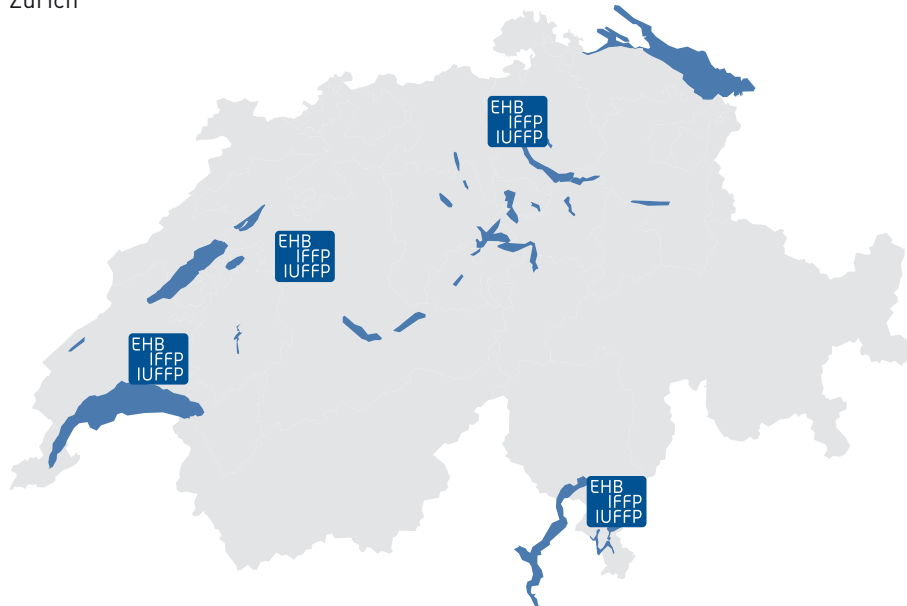


Despite our HEI status: SFIVET's basic training and continuing training courses are designed to meet the specific needs of VET/PET professionals. It is precisely this approach of combining the latest research findings with practical VET/PET realities that brings the greatest added value to VET/PET professionals, VET schools, host companies, professional organisations and public authorities.

SFIVET: FACTS AND FIGURES

- Founded in 2007 to replace the former Swiss Pedagogical Institute for Vocational Education (SPIVE), which was created back in 1972.
- A federal higher education institution. The SFIVET Board is comprised of experts from the private sector, the VET/PET sector, the higher education sector as well as representatives from federal and cantonal agencies.

Regional campuses in Zollikofen/Bern, Lausanne and Lugano, classroom space in Zurich



Facts and figures (rounded)

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Employees | 200 |
| External teachers | 1000 |
| Doctoral students | 10 |
| Participants enrolled in basic training | 1400 |
| Participants enrolled in advanced study programmes | 700 per year |
| Participants enrolled in refresher courses | 7000 per year |
| Participants enrolled in examiner training courses | 7000 per year |
| VET reform projects | around 60 per year |
| Ongoing research projects | around 40 |

SWISS VET/PET SECTOR: A SUCCESSFUL MODEL

Over two-thirds of all young people coming out of lower-secondary school (i.e. completing compulsory education) enrol in upper-secondary level vocational education and training (VET). Most of these new VET students enrol in a VET programme that combines part-time school-based instruction at a VET school with a part-time paid apprenticeship at a host company. These programmes are referred to as dual VET programmes. The remaining VET students enrol in an entirely school-based VET programme. With these full-time VET programmes, all education and training takes place at the VET school. As a complement to their studies, VET students will also do short-term traineeships. The three main learning environments within the VET sector are VET schools, host companies and industry training centres.

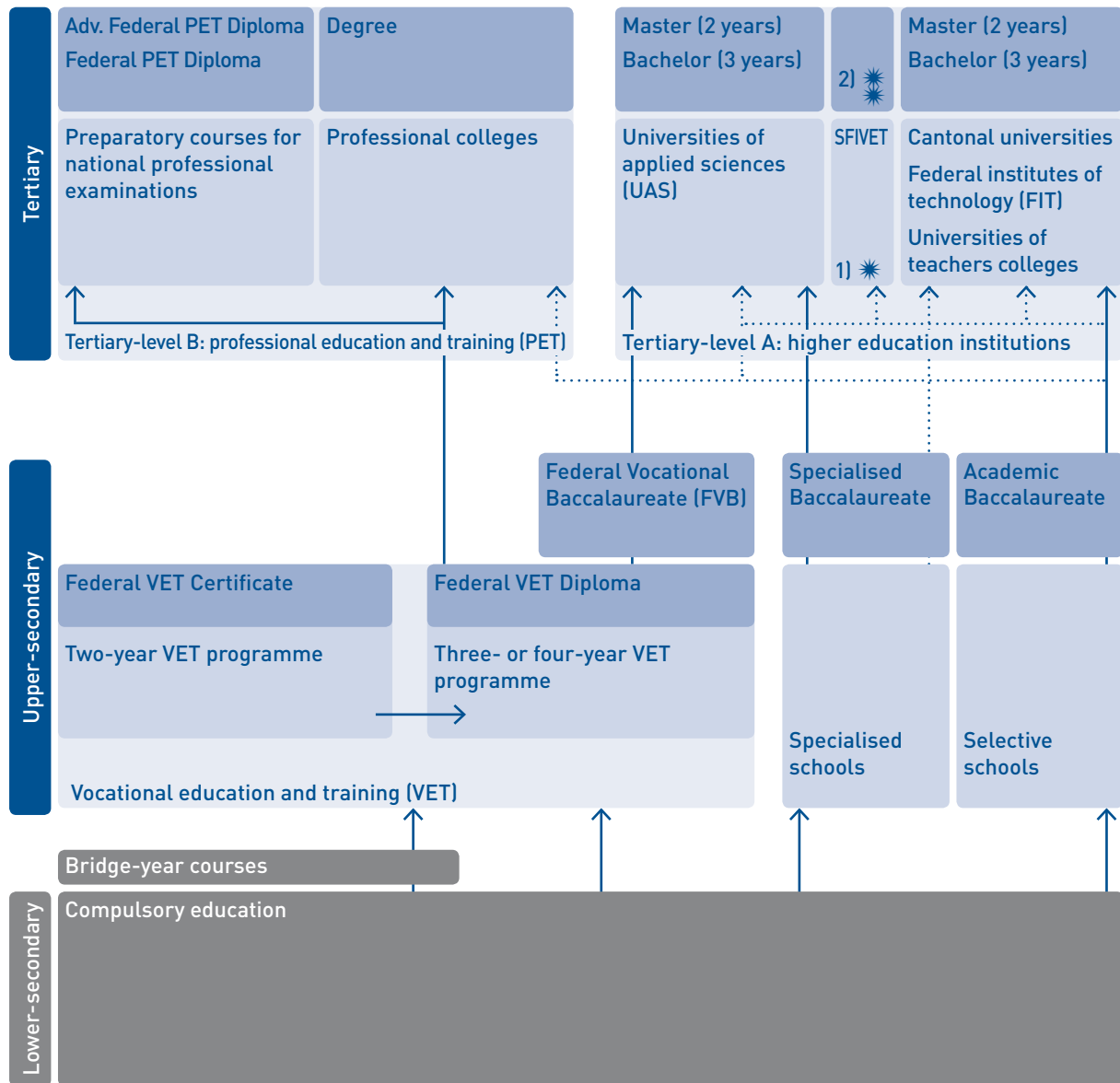
Each year, over 60 000 male and female VET students obtain their Federal VET Diploma, which is the job-related qualification issued upon completion of a three-year or four-year VET programme. Over 10% of these VET graduates also obtain the Federal Vocational Baccalaureate (FVB), which is the academic qualification issued to VET graduates who complete an optional preparatory course for the FVB examination. FVB holders are entitled to enrol in a tertiary-level A university of applied sciences (UAS).

Nearly half of all VET graduates take a tertiary-level B path, which is referred to in Switzerland as professional education and training (PET). The first option open to VET graduates entering the PET sector is to enrol in a professional college. The second option, which is normally chosen after VET graduates have gained a few years of professional experience, is to prepare for one of Switzerland's two national professional examinations leading to issuance of either the Federal PET Diploma or the Advanced Federal PET Diploma. Switzerland's PET sector is intended to prepare individuals for challenging managerial responsibilities.

Switzerland's VET/PET sector is a successful model that offers tremendous benefits.

- Confederation, Cantons, professional organisations, trade associations and schools all work together to establish the content of VET and PET programmes. These programmes are intended to serve the interests of both employers and employees. They also match the specific needs of linguistic regions and individual Cantons.
 - The number of apprenticeship positions is closely correlated to actual labour market conditions. VET graduates normally find employment shortly after graduation. Switzerland has lower youth unemployment rates than other European countries.
 - Those who complete SFIVET's basic training programmes to obtain their initial qualification as a VET or PET professional may also take advantage of a wide range of job-specific and modular continuing training programmes and courses.
 - SFIVET is able to quickly and pragmatically adapt its basic training and continuing training courses in response to economic, social, technological and pedagogical trends.
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A SUCCESSFUL MODEL



—> Direct access

.....> Additional qualifications required

1) * Admission requirements for SFIVET programmes and courses vary

2) * Basic training: SFIVET offers certification programmes, degree programmes and the MSc in VET programme. Continuing training: SFIVET offers refresher courses, advanced study programmes (CAS, DAS, MAS) as well as made-to-measure courses and training packages.

Switzerland's VET/PET sector: practical, permeable and flexible. Through its services, SFIVET makes a major contribution towards maintaining and improving the quality of Swiss VET and PET programmes.

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