

**Peer Learning Event
Support to Education Reforms and Skills
in Eastern Partnership**

**Quality Education for All:
Adapting School Networks
for Equitable Access**

12 May 2025, Latvia
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VET reform in LATVIA 2010 - 2020

Challenges 2000:

- ✓ Weak cooperation with the labor market
- ✓ Many small, inefficient VET schools
- ✓ Extremely outdated («Soviet-era») infrastructure
- ✓ Fragmentation of resources (including ERDF)
- ✓ VET content that does not meet labor market needs

VET reform in LATVIA

2010 - 2020

Main directions of VET reform:

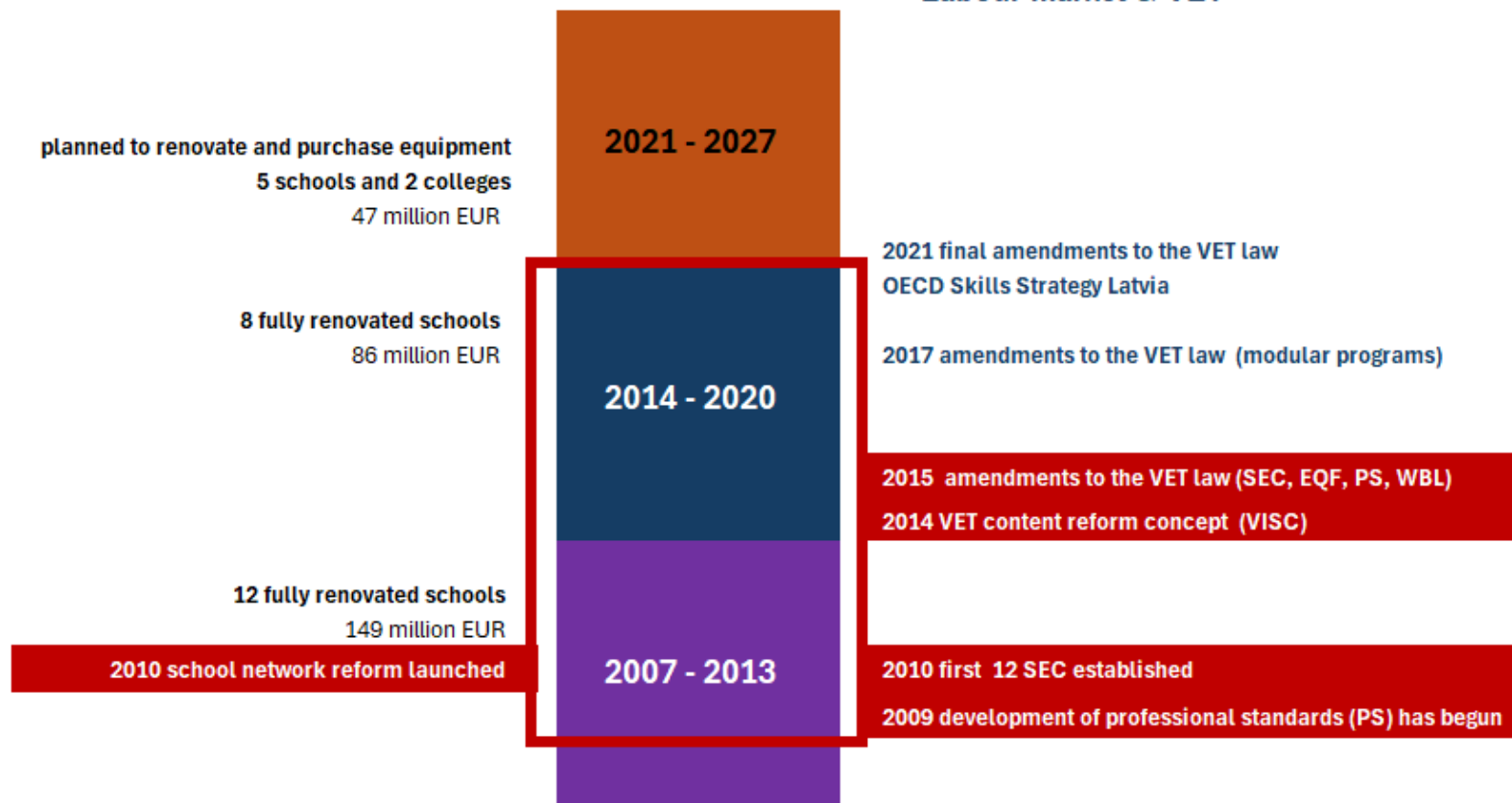
- Labor market cooperation mechanisms
- Content reform (sectoral qualification structures, occupational standards, modular programs)
- VET school network reform
- Improvement of legislation

VET reform 2010 - 2020

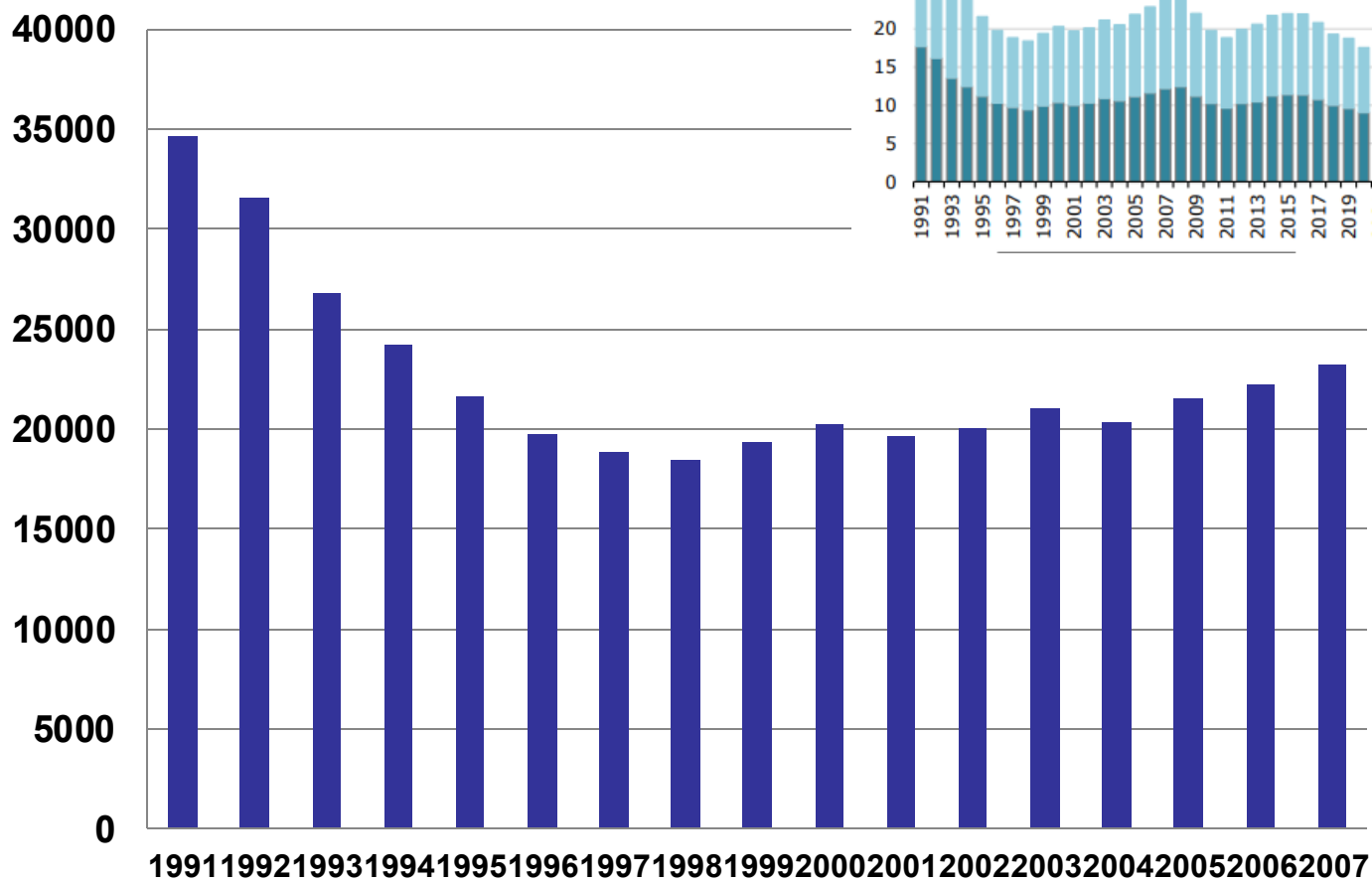
School network reform

EU Structural Funds programming periods

Legal framework for VET VET Curriculum reform Labour market & VET



Births rate



School Network Optimization

Forecasting the Required Infrastructure

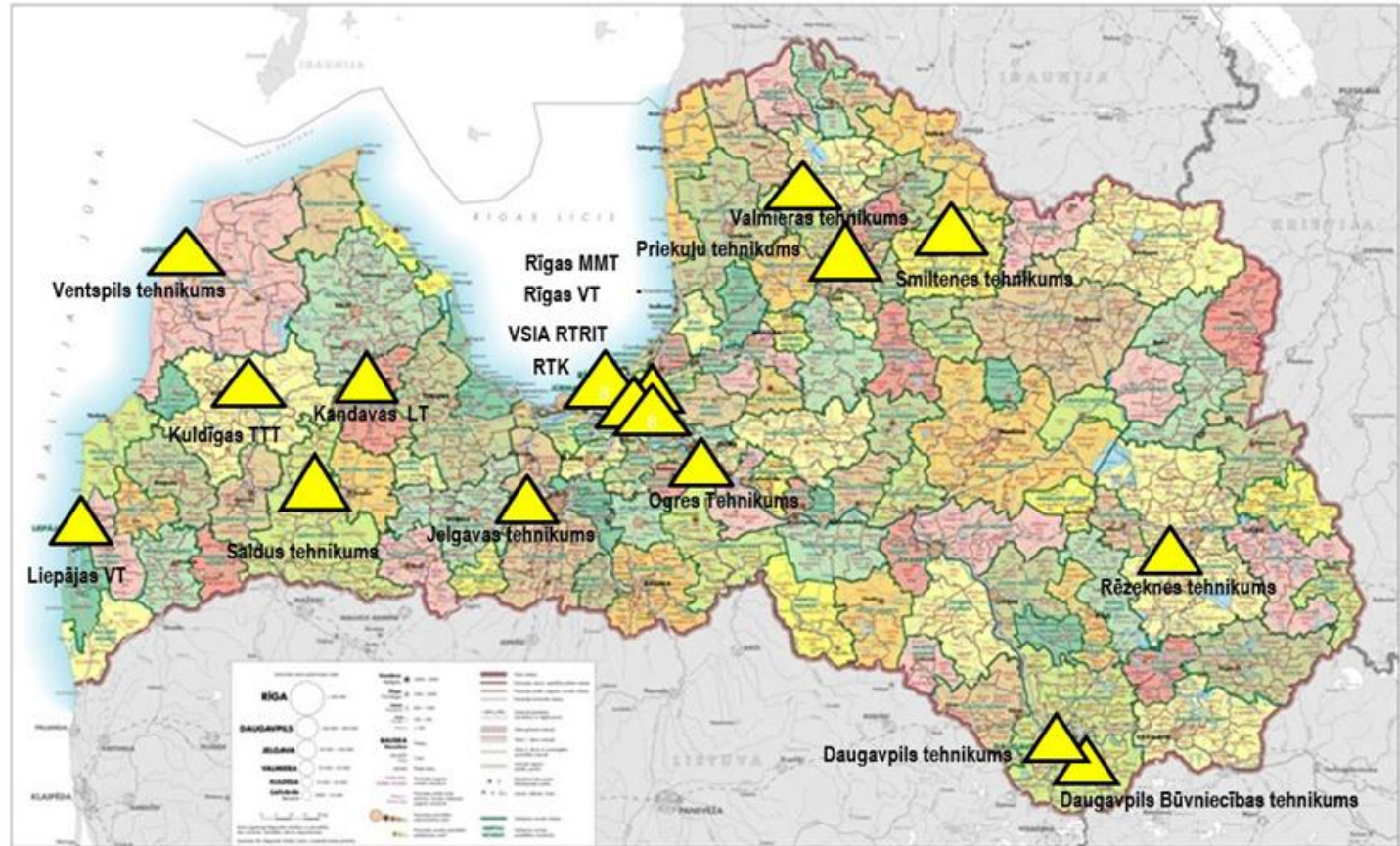
(key criteria)

- Demographics – planned number of students
- VET / GENERAL ratio – total capacity of schools
- The minimum number of students in a school is determined (800 in cities).
- Ensuring regional accessibility of education (including the establishment of integrated VET / GENERAL schools in regions with a small number of young people)
- Correspondence to regional labor market demand
- Assessment of existing infrastructure and optimization plan; provision of dormitories.



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VET school network - 2016





IZGLĪTĪBAS un ZINĀTNES
MINISTRIJA

mašīnzinības (t.sk. automehāniķi)

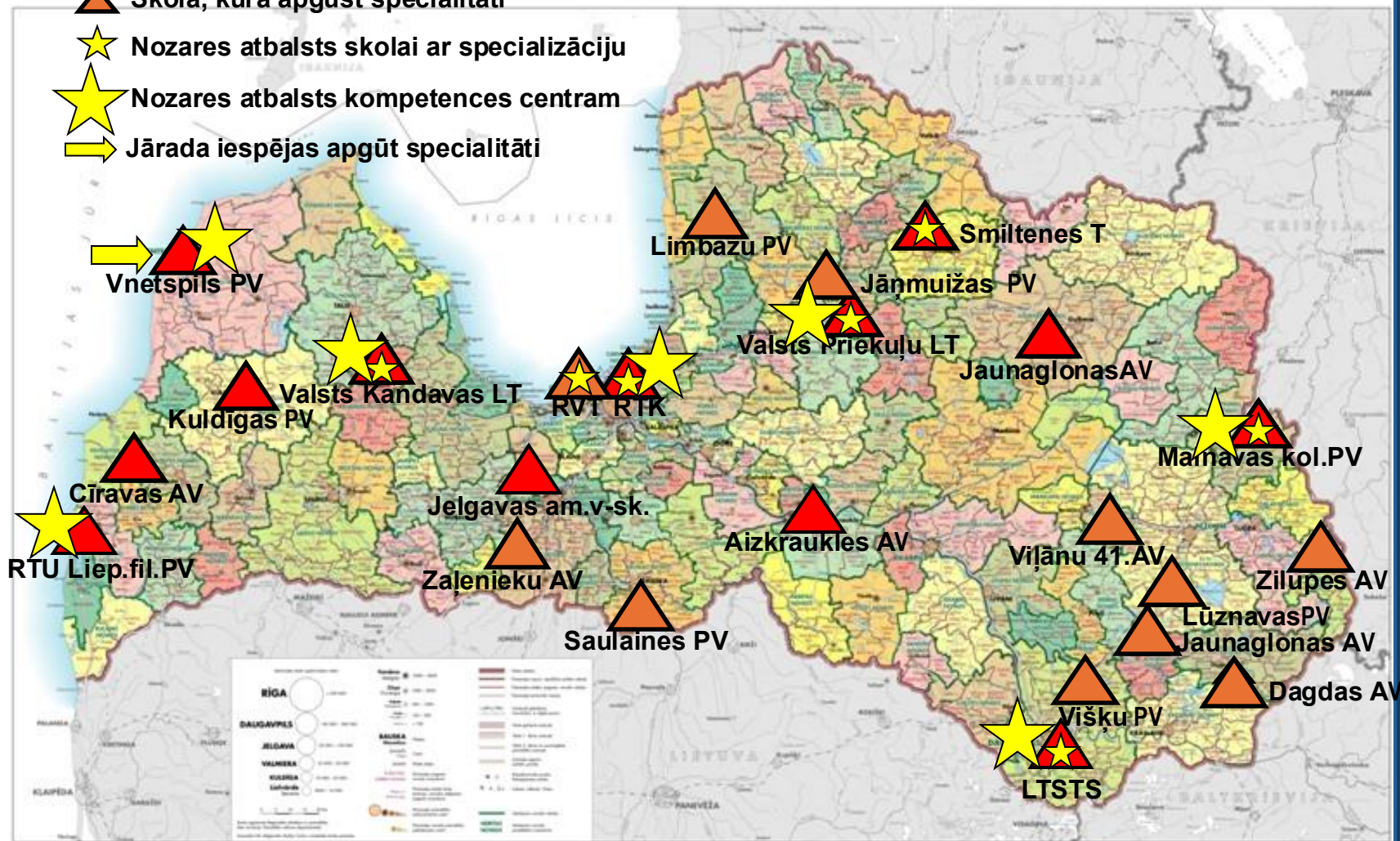
 ERAF uzaicinātā skola

 Skola, kurā apgūst specialitāti

 Nozares atbalsts skolai ar specializāciju

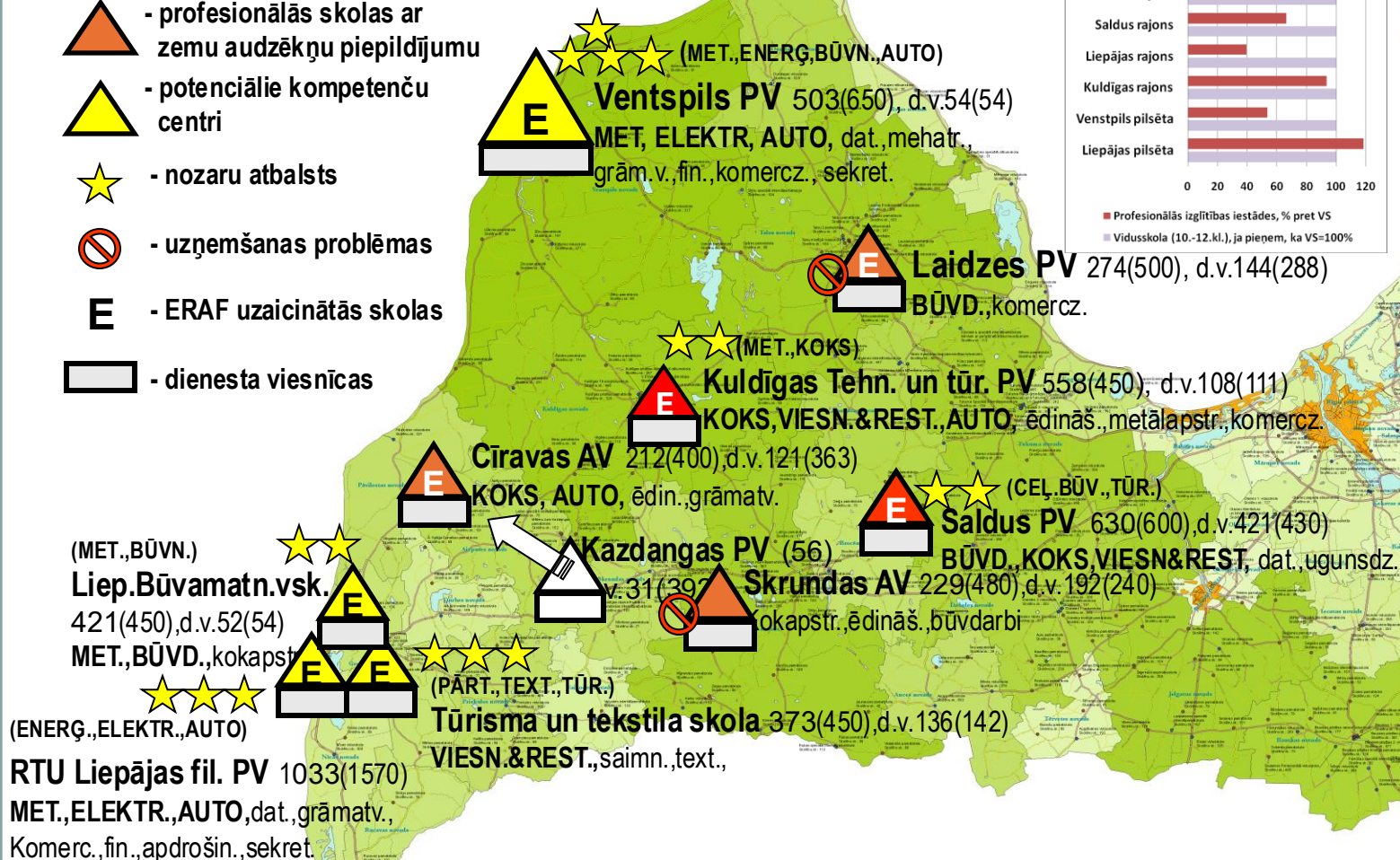
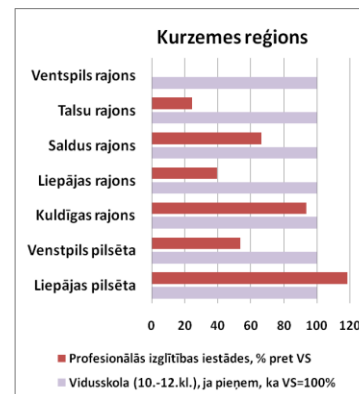
 Nozares atbalsts kompetences centram

 Jārada iespējas apgūt specialitāti



profesionālās izglītības iestādes Kurzemē

-  - profesionālās skolas
-  - profesionālās skolas ar zemu audzēkņu piepildījumu
-  - potenciālie kompetenču centri
-  - nozaru atbalsts
-  - uzņemšanas problēmas
-  - ERAF uzaicinātās skolas
-  - dienesta viesnīcas



School Network Optimization

KURZEME studycase

- The planned number of VET / GENERAL students - the capacity of the existing VET school network exceeded the required number of places by 2x
- Three schools in Liepāja with an insufficient number of students - were merged
- Compliance with regional labor market demand - additional metalworking is needed in Ventspils (to meet the needs of existing companies)
- General education schools were reorganized in Ventspils at the same time



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VET school in Ventspils

2010





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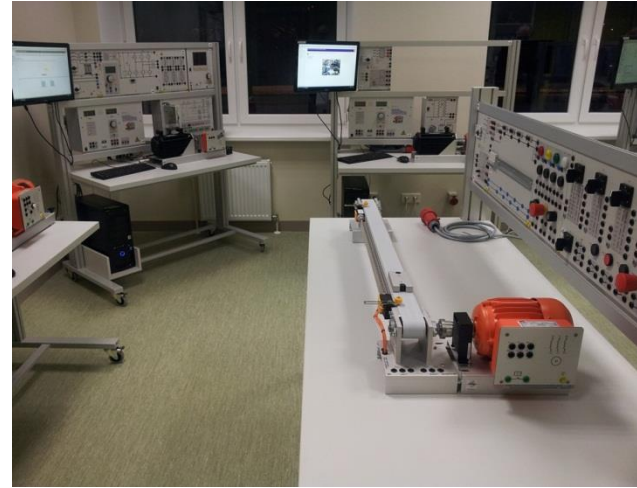
VET Competence Center in Ventspils 2015





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The future becomes the present





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The future becomes the present





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The future becomes the present



School Network Optimization

Results and benefits

- ✓ Optimized school network that meets regional labor market requirements
- ✓ Fully renovated, modernly equipped VET training centers that also implement adult education programs, including EQF-5 level professional qualification improvement programs
- ✓ Rational use of state budget funds, e.g., heating expenses reduced by 2x
- ✓ Improved student/teacher ratio

School Network Optimization

Conclusions / recommendations

- ✓ **Define clear political goals of the reform**
- ✓ **A unified concept at the national level**, taking into account the needs of the regions and the demand of the labor market (sectors)
- ✓ **View the school network reform in a complex way**, united with general education, as well as taking into account the needs of adult education (ideally, there is one "owner" of secondary education - either the state or the regions)
- ✓ **Small, compact working group** that receives information from all parties involved, discusses with the parties involved about possible solution options, but is independent in the development of the final concept