

Lithuanian delegation explores Swiss VET practices to support practical solutions in Lithuania

A study visit to Switzerland on 28 September–2 October 2026 enabled Lithuanian participants to deepen their understanding of vocational education and training (VET), observe its implementation first-hand and discuss practical solutions with Swiss partners. Through active exchanges with teachers, trainers, employers and apprentices, participants examined how selected elements of Swiss practice could be adapted to Lithuania's national context to improve training opportunities for third-country nationals. Examples from different occupational sectors and qualification levels offered complementary perspectives on training content, practical learning, apprenticeships and competence assessment.

The delegation included 17 project representatives, comprising representatives of VET institutions, employers, Lithuania's Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and Lithuania's Ministry of the Economy and Innovation. They were joined by a representative of the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) and the National Programme Officer, Project and Communication Manager at the Embassy of Switzerland to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, bringing the total number of participants to 19.

Hosted by [Hotel & Gastro formation Switzerland](#), the visit took place within the project "[Increasing Accessibility of Vocational Training for Third-Country Nationals](#)", No. PROF-ŠMSM-P-001. Its purpose was to explore practical examples of Swiss VET relevant to the integration of third-country nationals and strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Throughout the programme, participants focused on understanding how these practices work and identifying elements that could be transferred and adapted to Lithuania.

Vocational schools: connecting knowledge, skills and progression

At the [GIBZ vocational school](#), hairdressing training illustrated how specialist knowledge is connected with practical exercises and work with real clients. Participants explored teaching methods, learning materials and the use of digital technologies, and exchanged views on learning experiences with teachers and students. At the [Zurich Hotel Management School \(HFZ\)](#), participants explored higher vocational education in hospitality. Together, these examples helped the delegation examine how learning at different qualification levels supports professional development.

Companies: organising apprenticeships and supporting learners

Visits to [Emil Frey](#) and [Dätwyler Switzerland](#) provided opportunities to examine company-based training in automotive, bodywork, electrical, warehousing and plastics technology occupations. Participants actively discussed training arrangements with vocational trainers and apprentices, exploring supervision, increasingly demanding tasks and the integration of learning into everyday work. A session drawing on Professor J. Schweri's cost-benefit research added an economic perspective, examining training costs, apprentices' productive contribution and the benefits of retaining qualified workers.

Inter-company training centres: strengthening practical skills and quality

At [Mobilcity in Bern](#) and the [MLS training centre in Sursee](#), the delegation explored how inter-company courses complement learning at school and in the workplace. Automotive, bodywork and bricklaying examples demonstrated the role of dedicated training environments, realistic practical assignments, shared standards and preparation for qualification assessment. Discussions helped participants clarify how professional associations, companies and training providers coordinate their responsibilities.

Across these three learning environments, accessible training pathways remained a central theme. The “Progresso” programme, job-specific language courses and “Perfecto” programmes offered examples of support for employees without a formal qualification, unemployed people and recognised refugees. Participants examined their relevance to the project’s work, particularly the combination of practical skills development, language learning and support for labour market participation.

The visit generated ideas for adapting selected Swiss practices to Lithuania and created opportunities for continued cooperation with Swiss partners. The knowledge gained and professional exchanges will inform further project implementation, helping develop practical approaches to more accessible and inclusive vocational training for third-country nationals.