

Vocational education and training system in Bulgaria

Full name: Bulgaria

Population: 7 563 710 (2009)

Capital: Sofia

Area: 111 000 km

Major language: Bulgarian

Major religion: Christianity

Life expectancy: 67 years (men), 74 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 lev = 1, 95033 Euro

Main sectors: tourism, textile, pharmacy, food production, tobacco production, construction,

Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic and the legislative power is embodied by the National Assembly (the parliament). The executive power is a prerogative of the Council of Ministers which is headed by a Prime Minister.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The system of vocational education and training is part of the national education system . According to the CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA compulsory schooling in Bulgaria is up to 16 years.

The paths for acquiring vocational education and training include:

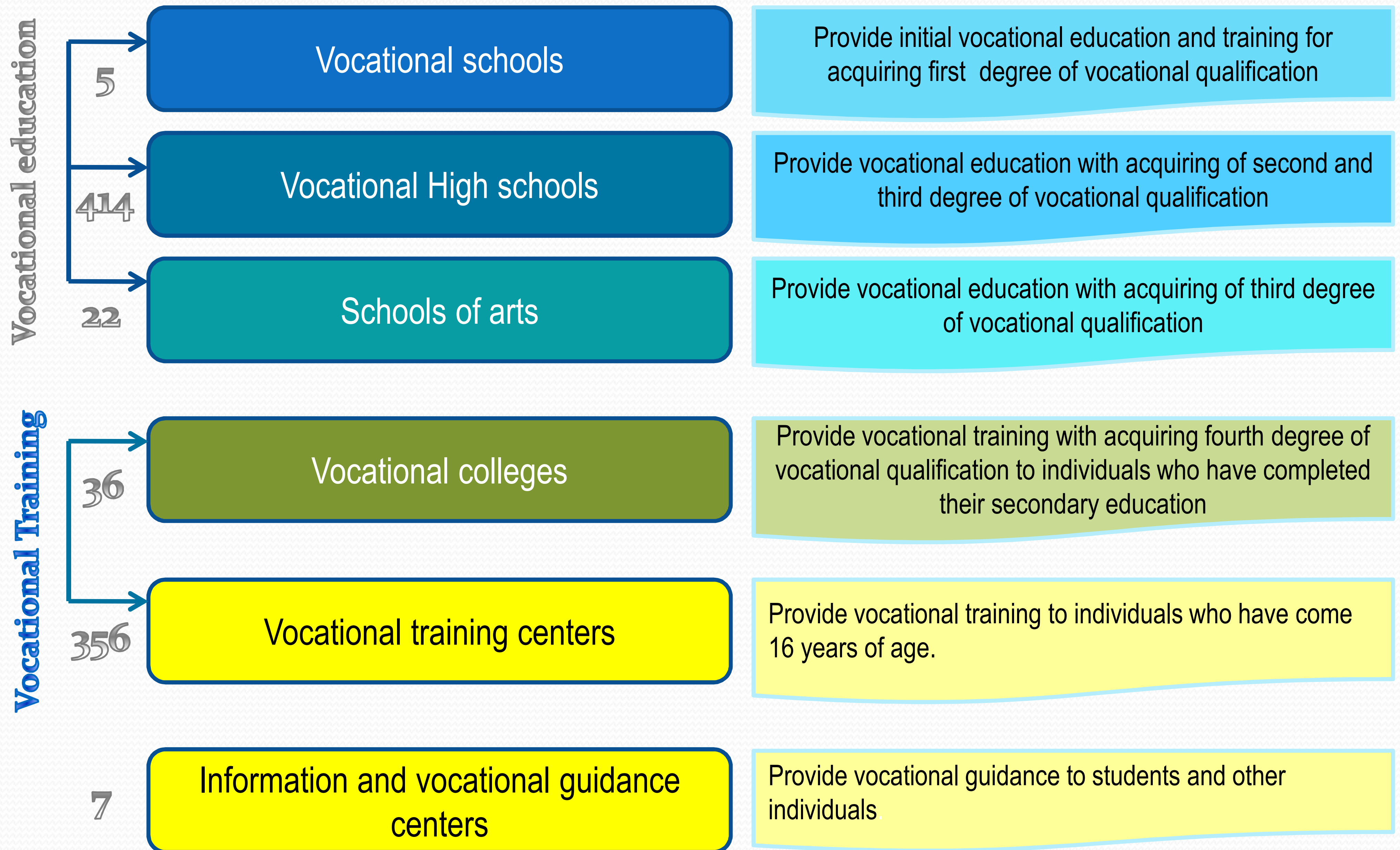
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- within the basic education, parallel with attaining basic education level – after 6th grade;
- within the upper secondary education system, parallel with attaining secondary education level (after 7th - 8th grade);

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- acquiring a certificate for vocational qualification, without attainment of a level of education within the system of formal and non-formal education.

TRAINING INSTITUTIONS FOR VET IN BULGARIA



BASIC ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS

National Agency for Vocational Education and Training

Licensing and conducting follow-up control of the centres for vocational training and the centres for information and vocational guidance.

Coordinating institutions and organizations related to the vocational education, training and guidance.

Development and providing to the Minister of Education, Youth and Science for approval :

- a) **The List of professions for vocational education and training**
- b) **The State educational requirements by vocations.**

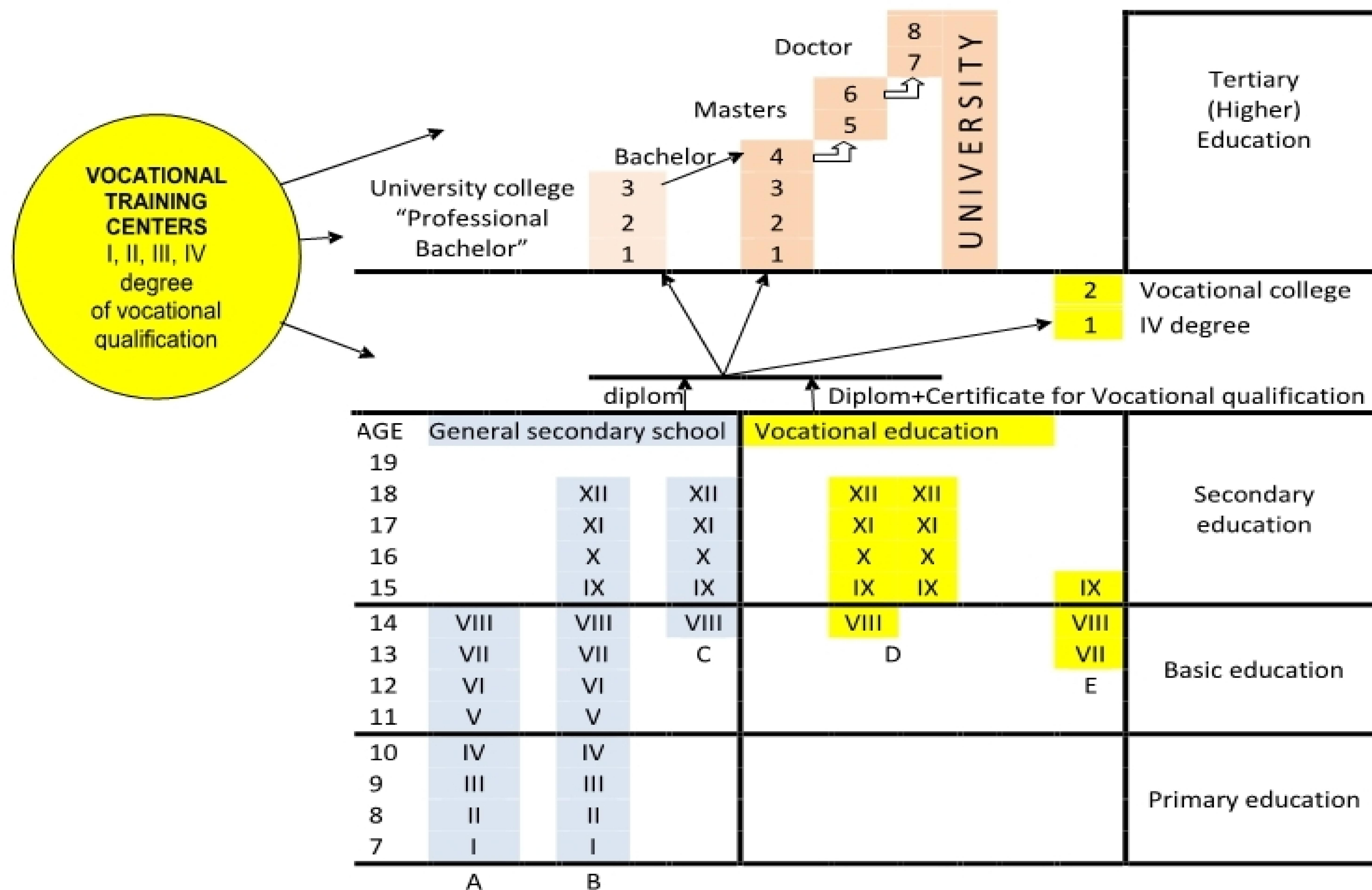
Vocational Education and Training

Professions and specialties shall be classified in professional branches
(In 2009, it covers 222 professions) and by degree of education and professional
qualification degree.

Degrees of professional qualification

Degrees	Acquired professional competence for practising professions	At least school hours	The minimum entry educational
First degree	Which include routine activities carried out under permanent conditions;	300	6th grade
Second degree	Which include activities of complex nature carried out under changing conditions;	660	Primary education,
Third degree	Which include activities of complex nature carried out under changing conditions, as well as assuming responsibility for the work of other persons;	990	7th grade
Fourth degree	Which include a wide range of activities of complex nature carried out under changing conditions, as well as assuming managerial responsibilities for the work of other persons and for the allocation of resources.	1250	completed secondary education.

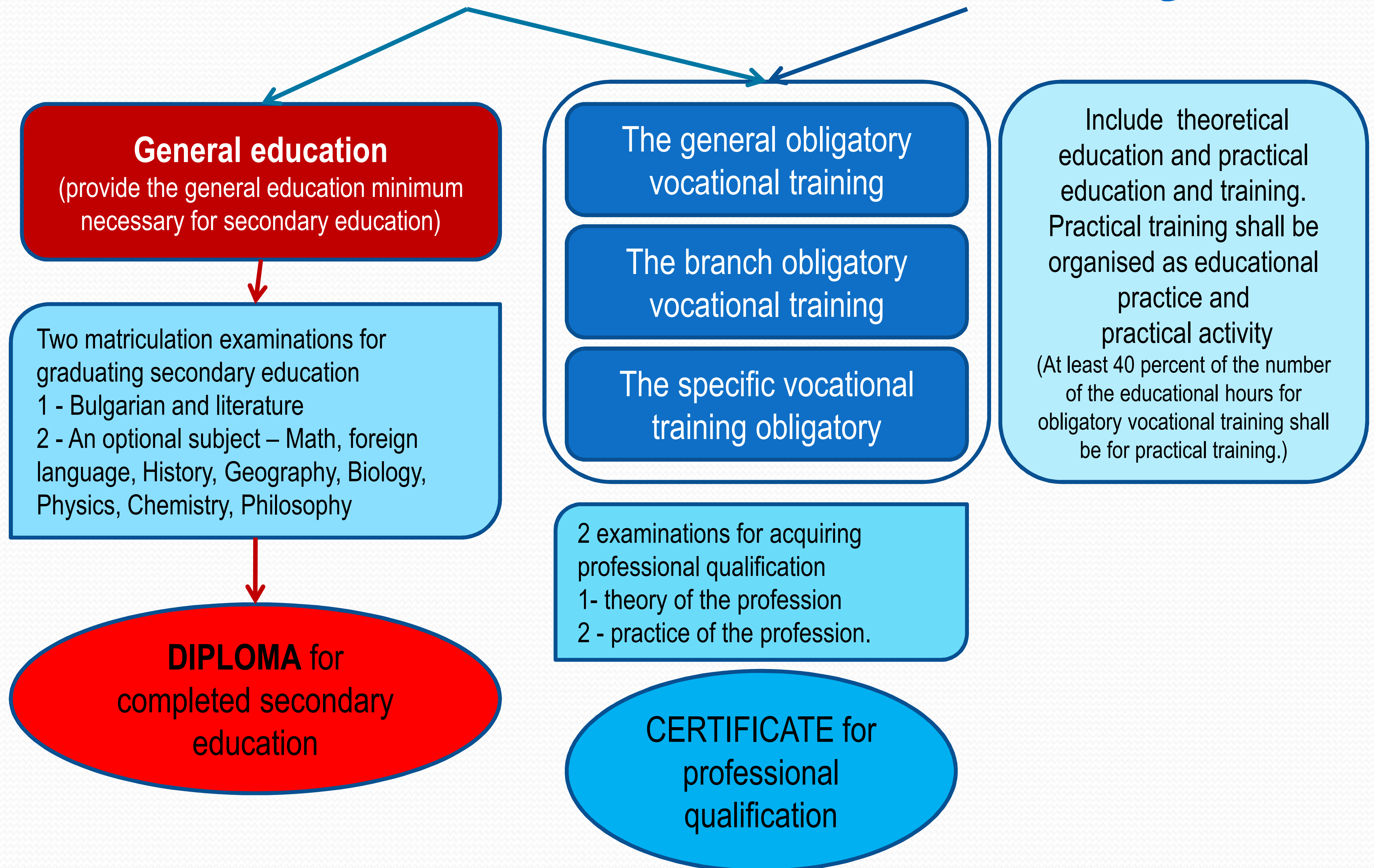
Education system and VET in Bulgaria



A – Primary School; B – Comprehensive School; C – High school (mathematical, linguistic, profiled);
D – Vocational High School (second degree IX-XII, three degree VIII-XII); E – Vocational School

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CONTENT, GRADUATION, CERTIFICATION.

Vocational education Vocational training



TEACHERS

According to Public Education Act the “teacher” (both for general and vocational subjects) can be citizen qualified to work as a “teacher”. Teachers are trained in higher institutions. The Act enables persons, who have completed education in the certain sector of the industry to carry out vocational training, i.e. persons, who have not obtained qualification “teacher”.

The position of “teacher” in vocational subjects as part of the compulsory vocational subjects can be held by people having educational degrees ‘Master’, ‘Bachelor’ and ‘Specialist’ in one of the specialty from the professional area engineering, technology, economy , agriculture, tourism, healthcare, social affairs, ecology, etc.

In Bulgaria there are no significant differences between the preparation for teaching in the vocational education system and preparation for teaching in the system of adult education. According to the regulations, the compulsory employment of the teachers (for General and for Vocational Subjects) is determined in different ways. The teaching standards set the number of classes of the teachers within the working hours, set forth in their contract, according to the requirements of the Labour Code. For the theory teachers there are 680 classes and for practice teachers - 864 classes per school year.

Higher education

The system of higher education organizes studies after completed secondary education and consists of the following degrees:

- "professional bachelor"

- "bachelor"

- "master".

The higher education programmes are not defined by the legislation as VET programme.