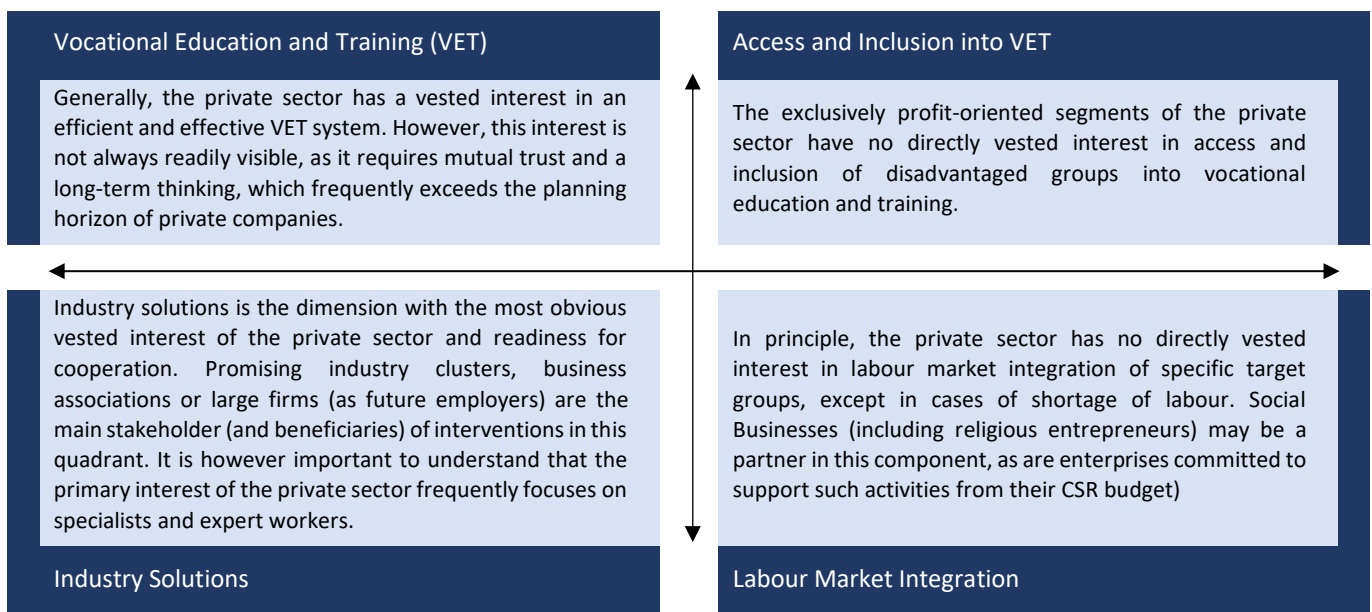


VSD TYPOLOGY ADD-ON: ROLES AND INTERESTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Today, most countries aim to organise VSD in a way that it not only responds to the social demand, but also matches labour market needs. This implies that training is provided in relevant economic sectors or respective vocational fields (*quantitative match*) and that it meets the expectations of employers and/or customers (*qualitative match*). An important element to more labour market-oriented VSD lies in the involvement of future employers and thus of the private sector in VSD planning, organising and financing. Effective VSD programmes and systems build on partnerships between the private and the public sector. Such partnerships aim to achieve overarching social, economic and educational goals (e.g. better access to employment and income, increased competitiveness of the national economy, higher educational achievements and social inclusion) in collaboration with individual firms and other private economic actors.

Vested interest of the private sector (employers)



Roles of the private sector

The involvement of the private sector in VSD projects can be structured based on its functional role in the planning and organisation of Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems (for more details cf. Maurer, 2015¹). In some functions, the term *private sector* is rather understood as *potential employers*, which also includes public enterprises. Key functions of the private sector therefore include:

- *Private sector (employers) as stakeholder in the governance of VET systems*
- *Private sector (employers) as co-financer*
- *Private sector (employers) as host of work-based learning and training processes*
- *Private sector (employers) as a client of training (i.e. as future employer of skilled workers)*

Private training providers (as a specific segment of the private sector) can, depending on the country context and the segment of trainees, play a central role in vocational skills development and offer valuable alternatives to the public education system in selected trades and sectors. Their role is a specific one that will not be further discussed in this paper.

¹ [https://www.shareweb.ch/site/EI/Documents/VSD/Topics/Engagement%20with%20the%20private%20sector/SDC-Paper-The%20role%20of%20the%20private%20sector-2015\(en\).pdf](https://www.shareweb.ch/site/EI/Documents/VSD/Topics/Engagement%20with%20the%20private%20sector/SDC-Paper-The%20role%20of%20the%20private%20sector-2015(en).pdf)

In accordance with each project's focus, as depicted in the VSD typology, very different dimensions of private sector / employers' involvement can be identified, based on the four roles discussed above:

