

SENA – the National Service for Vocational Education and Training in Colombia



The National Service for Vocational Education and Training (= Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje = SENA) is a public institution.

It comprises 33 regional offices (Direcciones Regionales) and 116 training centres (Centros de Formación). In addition to VET courses free of charge, the training centres offer continuing vocational education and training programmes in the social, economic and technological fields. The aim is to foster Colombia's social, economic and technological development.

SENA is subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Labour (MINTRABAJO). Alongside vocational education and training, SENA offers information and support for projects aimed at technological development and the promotion of competitiveness.

SENA was founded in 1957 as the result of an agreement between the Colombian Government, the Colombian Confederation of Entrepreneurs, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) (Decree 164).

In its capacity as a public institution, SENA is funded by state grants and company contributions. SENA employs 32,826 people across the country, 23,827 of whom are VET staff. This makes SENA the largest employer in Colombia.

The main tasks of SENA are as follows:

- Development, implementation and evaluation of vocational education and training programmes in Colombia
- (Free) training and continuing training of professional staff

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- Provision of data, analyses and study results to decision makers for educational policy decision-making processes
- Support for projects which foster the technical development and competitiveness of Colombia