

Reduced opportunities to start private profile schools and private vocational schools

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION** NORWAY

Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed**2023 Completed****ID number 43632**

Background

During the previous government (from 2021), the number of private schools increased from 268 in 2013 to 346 in 2021, while the number of public schools decreased.

The rise in the number of private schools led to greater expenses in the State budget. For Norway to be a country with small differences and high trust, and to maintain an open and tolerant society, a strong public school system is a prerequisite: children and young people from different social and cultural backgrounds should meet and learn together in the same classrooms.

In 2022, the government proposed to replace the existing private school law with a new one that should reduce the possibility to establish private schools in Norway.

Objectives

The government wants to stop the privatisation of schools and build a stronger public community school to ensure equal opportunities, and to build bridges between people with different social and cultural backgrounds.

Description

The 2022 law removes the possibility of creating and open new private schools and private vocational schools and also extending their existing study programmes. The law establishes that, to be approved, private schools must provide a real supplement to the study programmes in the public schools, something not offered in the public school. For example, private schools of a recognised type, such as the Montessori schools or an international school, can be approved.

2022 Approved/Agreed

The law was approved in June 2022.

2023 Completed

There were 102 private upper secondary schools at level EQF 4, an increase of one private school from 2022. The number of upper secondary schools for vocational education and training was 46 in both 2022 and 2023. The number may indicate that the adopted law had its effect, and the privatisation of schools has been reduced.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Link to the 2022 private school act](#)

[Link to private schools overview](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

VET-related priorities in the political platform of the government

Following the elections of autumn 2017, the government announced its priorities on 14 January 2018. For upper secondary VET, they included:



Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Reduced opportunities to start private profile schools and private vocational schools: Norway. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43632>