

# Sustainable VET and the green transition

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

FINLAND

## Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43196

## Background

The green transition and sustainable future require actions. In VET, the green transition means comprehensive change, including management, operations, and operational culture, working life cooperation, learning and teaching, and VET provider role as a regional developer.

Implementation of the global Agenda 2030 (Strategy of the National Commission on Sustainable Development 2022-30) and European and national sustainable development goals in VET support ecological sustainability.

## Objectives

To define and implement the sustainable development goals in VET, including innovative experiments.

To ensure that VET providers are carbon-neutral by 2035 and have integrated the operating methods required by sustainable development and the green transition into their operations.

To achieve permanent functional and structural changes so that VET institutions act as proactive operators of a sustainable future.

## Description

Development programme for the sustainable development and green transition of VET is part of the wider development package for Climate and sustainability education. The programme supports implementation of 10 projects of sustainability practices in VET. The biggest project, *Responsible and sustainable VET (VASKI)* involves 61 training providers. It prepares a sustainability roadmap for the entire VET system, aiming for sustainable and green VET by 2030.

The sustainability breakthrough affects management, teacher skills, and pedagogical solutions, learning environments and work-life cooperation, as well as the operating culture of education institutions. The projects of the development programme address these

themes by bringing practical solutions to the green transition and strengthening sustainability skills.

### 2022 Implementation

The Development programme for the sustainable development and green transition of VET was launched in 2022. Its VASKI project was under way at local and national levels. VET providers prepared their own sustainable development programmes, organised open skills development events, trained teachers and carried out carbon footprint calculations.

### 2023 Implementation

The development programmes for the sustainable development and green transition of VET were partially concluded, but many of them continued as part of larger projects and strategies. For example, the VASKI project concluded in 2023, but its outcomes are still being implemented.

At the end of 2023, the Ministry of Education and Culture tasked the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) with implementing the VET sustainability roadmap and supporting the sustainability work of education providers in 2024-27. The sustainability roadmap serves as a tool to ensure that vocational education providers can meet the green skill requirements of the labour market.

The goals of Agenda 2030 were promoted with a particular focus on the objectives of sustainable development and green transition. This was done, for example, by integrating sustainable development into education, emphasising digitalisation and green technology skills, and investing in the accessibility and equality of education.

### 2024 Implementation

In 2024, the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) started to work on developing a monitoring system for the implementation of the national sustainability roadmap. It aimed to collect information on the actions taken by VET providers and how sustainability efforts and developing sustainability competence are realised in VET. The monitoring system and the indicators, which describe various themes, were developed in close cooperation with the *Kartalla - på Kartan* project. The *Kartalla* project is funded by EDUFI and coordinated by the SYKLI Environmental College. The objective of the project is to support the implementation of VET sustainability roadmap and other education providers in their sustainability work.

The development of the monitoring system was also among work packages in the EQAVET project, co-funded by the EU and aiming to enhance the quality assurance of VET through European cooperation.

The monitoring system and indicators for the implementation of the national sustainability roadmap were piloted with 16 VET providers in late 2024 by EDUFI.

### 2025 Implementation

Based on the results from the pilot, during 2025 the indicators for the implementation of the national sustainability roadmap were further developed. The sustainability indicators were used to monitor the implementation of the roadmap through five thematic areas: leadership and organisational culture, pedagogical solutions and competence development, competence of teaching and guidance staff, collaboration with working life and partnerships, and carbon neutrality. The monitoring system and indicators were published in late 2025. The first national survey was set to be conducted in 2026, focusing on activities carried out in 2025.

During 2025, the *Kartalla - på Kartan* project, funded by EDUFI, has promoted the goals of Agenda 2030 and developed tools to support VET providers in implementing the sustainability roadmap. The project has also organised training and VET provider

events, and created opportunities for collaboration and networking around sustainability-related themes in VET.

OECD has studied the green transition in Finnish VET. The report was published in 2025. EDUFI has been the national contact point for the study.

## Bodies responsible

- Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Making VET institutions sustainable and green

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

### Osnabrück Declaration

Sustainability - a green link in VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Development programme for the sustainable development and green transition of vocational education and training](#)

[OECD \(2025\), Vocational Education and Training and the Green Transition in Finland, OECD Reviews of Vocational Education and Training, OECD Publishing, Paris](#)

# Related policy developments

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2022 Completed

## Key competences in vocational qualifications

As a part of the larger and continuous updating of VET qualifications, which is caused by the changes in working life, the Finnish National Agency for Education is preparing optional competence modules for sustainable development, financial literacy and economic understanding to be included in vo

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### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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