

Right to six weeks of job-oriented vocational training

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 43097

Background

Upskilling/reskilling unemployed people is of great importance for the Danish Government and the social partners. Consequently it is part of measures stemming from relevant tripartite agreements and Danish Active labour market policy (ALMP).

Objectives

This measure aims to reduce the number of unemployed people.

Description

Individuals eligible for unemployment benefits (regardless of their origin, as the right applies to people with foreign qualifications according to applicable provisions) generally have the right to take advantage of this measure.

The right is extended to both skilled and unskilled individuals. Whether someone is considered skilled or unskilled typically depends on their completion of upper secondary education, either general or vocational. However, the key factor in determining a person's status as skilled is the vocational focus of their qualifications, as defined by the education ministry's regulations and the entry requirements for specific programmes.

The programme also targets NEETs (youth not in employment, education, or training). To be eligible for six weeks of job-oriented vocational training, a person must have been unemployed for at least five weeks. During the first meeting with the job centre, if requested by the unemployed, the job centre is required by the legislative framework to guide on accessing this training. The job centre may also offer additional training to supplement the initial six weeks, allowing the individual to begin a course as job-oriented training and complete the remainder under the Act on Active Employment Initiatives.

Eligible individuals can apply for a variety of courses across different occupational fields, such as healthcare, construction, and services. These courses have been selected to equip participants with skills that are in demand in the labour market. For individuals under 25, the courses must be completed within the first six months of unemployment, while those 25 and older must complete them within the first nine months of unemployment.

The courses are listed on an annually updated 'positive list' managed by the education, higher education, and employment ministries. The list is published by the Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment Courses. The list includes courses within occupational groups with strong job prospects, such as adult vocational training (AMU courses, arbejdsmarkedssuddannelser) and modules from Academy business courses.

AMU provides participants with skills and competencies relevant to the labour market and is primarily geared to specific sectors and jobs. Modules from Academy business courses, which are supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science and provided by business schools, are typically shortened versions (modules) of their regular training programmes. Examples of courses on the list include verification of electrical installations (AMU), practical help for the elderly (AMU), photovoltaic systems (Academy), and business administration (Academy).

Providers of AMU courses and Academy business modules are authorised to propose specific courses and must meet certain requirements to receive payment. Private VET providers must be accredited to offer courses.

The right to six weeks of job-oriented vocational training was established by the Act on Active Employment Initiatives (LAB) in 2014, with the current regulations coming into effect in 2020. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to promote lifelong learning and equal access to education and training. Guidance practitioners in municipal service centres and educational institutions play a crucial role in supporting this initiative.

The initiative is part of a broader strategy to upskill unemployed individuals, alongside other initiatives such as the regional education fund, the JOB-VEU-Model, the Education lift, and the Job rotation.

2021 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

2022 Implementation

During 2017-22, 49 000 unemployed people have been involved in these types of courses. The main areas are transport, business and administration.

2023 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

2024 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

2025 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Employment
- Ministry of Children and Education
- Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment
- Ministry of Higher Education and Science

Target group

Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Education professionals

Guidance practitioners

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Announcement regarding six weeks of job-oriented training for insured unemployed persons](#)

[Positive lists - see which courses and programmes you can get access to](#)

[Six weeks of job-oriented training](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Regional education fund

The regional education fund provides grants for municipalities to purchase short vocational training courses.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Job-VEU-Model

Private companies, education institutions, municipal job centres and actors on the labour market are all involved in the coordination of short training programmes in which both employed and unemployed people (adult learners, low-qualified, persons who belong to minorities or may have any sort of

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Education lift

Through the education lift scheme, unemployed persons over the age of 30 who are unskilled or skilled with an obsolete education can take part in vocational training while receiving benefits. Since August 2020, there have been two ways of participating in education lift scheme.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Job rotation

Under the job rotation scheme private and public companies are entitled to receive a job rotation allowance when an employee temporarily participates in continuing education/upskilling and an unemployed is hired as a substitute for the employee during the training period.

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation**Tripartite agreement on better and more flexible continuing vocational education**

The Tripartite agreement on better and more flexible continuing vocational education was approved in 2017 and implementation started in 2018. The agreement had initially a lifespan until 2021. The main aspects of the agreement are as follows.

 DENMARK**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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