

Regional education fund

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 43091

Background

The growing number of areas with a labour shortage is a serious challenge in Denmark and is addressed by several initiatives in which the regional and local authorities play a major role.

Objectives

The initial purpose of this measure/initiative was to make it easier for the unemployed to participate in short, job-oriented training programmes and to provide employers with skilled personnel in line with the particular labour market needs at regional/local levels. This objective is in line with the general objectives of the Danish National implementation plan for the 2020 Council Recommendation on VET and Osnabrück Declaration (NIP) and with the objectives of the Tripartite agreement on better and more flexible continuing vocational education and training.

Description

The regional education fund provides grants for municipalities to purchase short vocational training courses. The purpose of the regional education fund is to support more unemployed people being offered guidance and upskilling by the job centre in the form of short, vocational courses from the first day of unemployment. The overarching legal framework for the regional education fund is the Act on Active Labour Market Initiatives (LAB) and it is regulated by the Executive order BEK No 1974 of 11 December 2020.

Upskilling/reskilling is offered through short, vocationally oriented courses within the adult vocational training (AMU, *arbejdsmarkedsuddannelser*) system. This system allows adults with at least two years of work experience to receive VET education without needing to complete the basic programme and without an internship. AMU courses equip participants with skills and competencies tailored to specific sectors and jobs in the labour market.

At the beginning of each year, the Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment announces grants available to municipalities from the Regional Education Fund. If additional funds are available, they may issue a second announcement later in the year.

In collaboration with the eight Regional Labour Market Councils (RAR), the three regional labour market offices (AMK) under the Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment compile a regional education/positive list for each RAR area. This list, which identifies short vocational courses relevant to the labour market needs of each region, is published twice a year on 1st of April and 1st of October.

The creation of these regional education lists is based on job categories where labour shortages have been identified through labour market intelligence in each RAR area. The process also considers various surveys, data, and input from training providers, job centres, and unemployment insurance funds. Once drafted, the regional labour market councils review and approve these lists, determining which short vocational courses should be included. These courses can be offered by both private and public VET providers.

The courses included in these lists are associated with different occupational areas to make the lists more manageable, although many of the courses provide key competencies that are applicable across various sectors.

This initiative is part of a broader set of labour market initiatives focused on upskilling, including the right to six weeks of job-oriented vocational training, the JOB-VEU model, the Education Lift, and the Job rotation scheme.

2021 Implementation

The Executive Order BEK No 1974 of 11/12/2020 came into force from 1 January 2021. The Executive Order provides new implementing provisions on the scope, distribution, payment, administration, financial reporting, auditing and, if applicable, reversal of the appropriation allocated to the regional training fund. It also expands target groups covered by the Act. Examples of such groups are: the unemployed on unemployment benefits; people on sickness benefits; young people under the age of 18 in need of training; persons under the age of 30 who are ready for training without a vocational qualification; and NEETs, older workers, people that are employed but are at risk of unemployment.

From 1 January 2021, a regional labour market council (RAR) can, in exceptional cases, include additional courses on their regional education list. This may be in cases where there is a demand for specific courses relevant to the COVID-19 job tasks, e.g. within testing, contact tracing, care, hygiene, laboratory technology.

2022 Implementation

The regional education fund was operational and ran as regular practice.

2023 Implementation

The regional education fund was operational and ran as regular practice.

2024 Implementation

The regional education fund was operational and ran as regular practice.

2025 Implementation

The regional education fund was operational and ran as regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- The National Association of the Danish Regions (Danske Regioner)
- Ministry of Employment
- Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

Companies
VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies
Optimising VET funding
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs
Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[The regional education fund \(Den regionale uddannelsespulje\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Right to six weeks of job-oriented vocational training

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.

 DENMARK

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

 DENMARK

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.

 DENMARK

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.

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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.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Regional education fund: Denmark. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

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