

Education lift

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 43074

Background

Political agreements on upskilling led to several initiatives by different stakeholders aiming to reduce the number of unemployed people and to meet the demands of a labour market in need of competent professionals.

Objectives

The objective of the initiative is to reduce the number of unemployed over the age of 30. This is in line with the general objectives of the Danish National implementation plan (NIP) for the 2020 Council Recommendation on VET and Osnabrück Declaration and also with the objectives set in the Agreement on better and more flexible continuing vocational education and training.

Description

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.

Education lift (80% unemployment benefits).

Unemployed persons who receive unemployment benefits can participate in vocational training while receiving 80% of their benefits. Recipients of cash benefits can participate in a basic course (the first part of a vocational training programme).

Temporary right to education lift within areas with labour shortages (110% unemployment benefits)

There is an education lifts funding pool of EUR 16.8 million (DKK 126 million) providing recipients of unemployment benefits the opportunity to be granted parts of or an entire vocational education programme. Job-ready recipients of benefits can be granted a basic course via the pool. It is a requirement that the person must be at least 30 years old and be either unskilled or skilled with an outdated education.

The municipalities receive 80 per cent of the costs of purchasing vocational training from

the pool.

The training programmes included in the education lift are indicated in a 'positive list' of vocational areas with shortage of skilled people. These programmes are part of the adult vocational training system (AMU-arbejdsmarkedsuddannelser) and so include both IVET and CVET.

The education lift scheme falls under the jurisdiction of the employment ministry. The Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment is responsible for the implementation, including managing the 'positive list'. The regional and local authorities (Jobcentres) are implementing bodies in close cooperation with VET schools.

The education lift scheme is one of several initiatives aiming to upskill groups in need of competence development.

2021 Implementation

According to an evaluation of 2021, 2 718 individuals had participated in the education lift scheme since 2015. The main vocational areas were industrial operator, warehouse and terminal education and service assistant.

2022 Implementation

The temporary right to education lift within areas with labour shortages (110% unemployment benefits), the second 'entrance point' since 2020, expired at the end of 2022. It should be noted that the education lift funding pool is a permanent scheme with no expiry date.

2023 Implementation

The right to undertake VET training with 110% unemployment benefits became permanent with the Finance Act for 2024 (voted in 2023).

The scheme applies to unemployment benefit recipients over the age of 30 who are unskilled or skilled workers with an outdated qualification. The vocational training programmes that unemployed people can start under with 110% unemployment benefit are listed in the positive list.

2024 Implementation

The educational lift scheme was operational and ran as a regular practice.

2025 Implementation

The educational lift scheme was operational and ran as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Employment
- Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment

Target group

Learners

Adult learners
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

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

Osnabrück Declaration

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Evaluation of the education lift scheme](#)

[Scheme for education lift](#)

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

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Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Regional education fund

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

 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

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Subsystem

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.

 DENMARK

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

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Subsystem

CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43074>