

# Training abroad and Erasmus+ activities

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 DENMARK

## Timeline

2021 Approved/Agreed

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43068

## Background

Danish VET students have multiple opportunities to go abroad during their education either during school or training periods via, e.g., the ERASMUS+ scheme or the Training abroad scheme (OPU).

In 1992, the *Work placement abroad* scheme (PIU) was introduced, enabling students in VET to complete part or all of their training abroad. At the same time, funds were made available through the Employers' Reimbursement System (AUB) to finance the costs incurred by the individual trainee during this transnational experience. The ERASMUS+ programme has long been available for VET students to engage in for shorter periods. These international experiences offer students and trainees valuable experience and skills that the trainee/apprentice can use to apply for training places and jobs in Denmark and abroad.

Since then, students and trainees have every year availed themselves of this opportunity, however, the number is rather low. Annually, around 1 500 students go abroad with ERASMUS+ funding (predominantly from the basic programme), while 1 300-1 400 trainees do a traineeship during the main programme with financial support from the Employers' Reimbursement System (AUB).

## Objectives

The purpose of the national *Training abroad* scheme and the Erasmus+ programme is to facilitate access for students to foreign internships, to internationalise vocational education and to equip companies for global competition.

- (a) the student acquires international competencies, not least cultural understanding and language skills;
- (b) the student develops maturity and independence;
- (c) the student acquires experiences with work tools, methods and workplace culture in other countries;
- (d) in seasonal businesses, internships abroad can help to secure students' tasks during periods when there is less work in Denmark;
- (e) offers of internships abroad make the apprenticeship attractive.

## Description

The *Training abroad* scheme (OPU) is a Danish mobility programme that allows students in Danish VET to gain international experience by completing training periods abroad after finishing their basic course. The trainee/apprentice can spend all or part of their training abroad. The scheme is funded by AUB, the Employers' Reimbursement System (Arbejdsgivernes Uddannelsesbidrag). Depending on whether the trainee has a Danish apprenticeship or not either the Danish employer or the trainee/apprentice receives financial support for the stay abroad.

There are no nationally managed activities for this programme, aside from annual meetings of VET institutions organised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, which oversees the Training abroad scheme (and Erasmus+).

During school periods, VET students can participate in Erasmus+ activities funded by the European Commission but administered by the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and organised by local VET schools. The purpose of such shorter types of mobility is likewise to contribute to students' global mindset, intercultural competencies, and knowledge of European job opportunities.

Local schools have OPU counsellors who can help regardless of which type of international stay the trainee is going on (*Training abroad* or Erasmus+).

### 2021 Approved/Agreed

In 2021, the *Work placement abroad* (PIU, Praktik I udlandet) scheme changed its name to *Training abroad* (OPU) scheme. The PIU-a scheme, with long history in Denmark, was a Danish mobility programme for students who attended a vocational education programme and have passed the vocational basic course. The scheme enabled students to take a part of their work placement abroad as a part of their Danish education.

### 2022 Implementation

The programmes were still running.

### 2023 Implementation

The Erasmus+ programme and the *Training abroad* scheme were operational and ran as regular practice.

### 2024 Implementation

The Erasmus+ programme and the *Training abroad* scheme were operational and ran as regular practice.

Additionally, as part of the comprehensive reform of the Danish education system set out in the coherent plan for education announced in 2024, the government works to make VET more attractive. One of the announced initiatives, the initiative *More skilled workers for the green transition* aims to strengthen the possibilities for mobility and international collaborations in VET. The government also announced, that it will work to increase the share of the budget for VET in the negotiation of the new Erasmus+ programme for 2028-34.

### 2025 Implementation

The Erasmus+ programme and the Training abroad scheme were operational and ran as regular practice.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Higher Education and Science
- European Commission

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Adult learners

## Thematic categories

### European and international dimensions of VET

Mobility of learners and staff

## European priorities in VET

### Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international  
VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Erasmus+](#)

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['Mobile Europe' - opportunities for learning mobility for all](#)

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[About OPU](#)

## Related policy developments

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**2025 Implementation**

### A substantial reinforcement of VET

The agreement contains 31 initiatives that have the purpose of improving Danish VET. Many of the initiatives included in the agreement are linked to other agreements within the VET area.

 DENMARK

### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

### Subsystem

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**2025 Implementation****A coherent plan for the education system**

The coherent plan for the education system consists of different reforms and initiatives across the entire education system thus targeting a wide array of groups.

 DENMARK**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2025 Implementation****More skilled workers for the green transition**

The *Prepared for the future IV - more skilled workers for the green transition* agreement is a component of a holistic education reform plan encompassing various education levels.

 DENMARK**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**“ ... ” Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Training abroad and Erasmus+ activities: Denmark. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43068>