


Strategy for decentralised and flexible education at vocational schools, university colleges and universities

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 NORWAY

Timeline

2021 Implementation

2022 Implementation

2023 Completed

ID number 41608

Background

The government wants to open up the education system for even more adults to have the opportunity to get an education, regardless of their place of living or life situation.

Measures such as, a new district programme, fully digital education offers, and a new application-based scheme for study centres are among the measures in the new strategy for decentralised and flexible education at vocational schools, university colleges and universities.

Objectives

The most important measures of the strategy aim at:

- (a) establishing a new district programme that will mobilise the demand side to develop the educational offers they need in collaboration with vocational schools, university colleges or universities;
- (b) creating an application-based scheme where bodies such as study centres can apply for funding for projects and activities together with vocational schools, university colleges and universities;
- (c) establishing fully digital educational offers;
- (d) emphasising flexible and decentralised offers when the government provides financing to increase the capacity of universities and university colleges;
- (e) continuing to make the schemes in the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund more flexible, to adapt them better to people in different life situations who are going to get an education.

Description

The strategy is intended to increase access to flexible and decentralised services throughout the country for vocational schools, colleges and universities.

This is intended to be done through:

- (a) strengthening cooperation between the actors in education and work through strengthening connections between supply and demand;
- (b) working to ensure that flexible offers are of high quality and are adapted to the needs of the individual and working life.

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for the strategy. Different parts of the strategy are to be implemented by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir), the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund, the county councils, and the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), in cooperation with the institutions and social partners. The strategy will be valid until a new government is in place. The new government decides whether they want to continue working with the same priorities.

The strategy intends to give students, institutions and, ultimately, working life greater opportunities through better framework conditions and through establishing fully digital educational offers.

2021 Implementation

The strategy was published on 17 June 2021 by the Ministry of Education and Research.

2022 Implementation

A report on a decentralised and flexible education strategy, published by the education ministry in August 2022, indicated great potential for people's education and skills development in and outside working life in the districts. Study centres contribute to education in the districts, they do not have a formal role in the Norwegian education system, but they are local actors who coordinate and facilitate education provision in the districts. The report concluded that these local educational environments play an important role in developing the society at local level, but lack of stable funding and low administrative capacity hinder their development. The report recommended setting up a more predictable framework for the study centres in the future.

2023 Completed

One of the measures in the strategy is increased access to decentralised and flexible study opportunities in the whole country. This has been done through new district educational offers, by creating a temporary application-based scheme, fully digital education offers and more flexible funding for students. Numbers from a report for higher vocational education show that the share of students studying 100% online or online in combination with face-to-face both increased by 4% just from 2022 to 2023. These numbers show a movement in the direction of the goals in the strategy.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

European priorities in VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[News item on the Strategy for decentralised and flexible education at vocational schools, university colleges and universities](#)

[Report from the Ministry of Education and Research on decentralised and flexible education at vocational schools, university colleges and universities](#)

[Report on study centres](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

The skills reform - lifelong learning

Work on the reform started in 2019 and will develop further in the years to come. The government has initiated several measures to reach the objectives of the reform:

Stimulating individuals and companies to invest in education and training through:

 NORWAY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/41608>