

# Expert group proposal on measures to support students in facing challenges of COVID-19 pandemic

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** NORWAY

## Timeline

**2020 Implementation****2021 Completed****ID number 39005**

## Background

The government has to ensure that students receive good follow up during the pandemic. A fast working, expert group has been assigned to assess and recommend measures, focusing especially on students' mental health, examinations and completion of studies.

## Objectives

The objective is to ensure students' welfare, including VET students at vocational colleges (EQF level 5), social contact with each other and ensure that they complete their studies.

## Description

The expert group is led by the Ministry of Education and Research and Universities Norway (UHR), the National Council for Higher Vocational Training, the Norwegian Directorate of Health, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and student representatives. Students and the community council will also be involved in the work.

There have been regular meetings with all principals, students and organisations since March 2020 to map concerns, to discuss possibilities for improving the situation and to share good examples.

Over four weeks, the group worked to find beneficial solutions for students and its report suggested several measures to ensure student welfare:

- (a) more systematic follow up and information to students;
- (b) establish seminar groups of cohorts, with regular meetings on campuses when the COVID-19 situation allows;
- (c) social activities within the restrictions of the pandemic;
- (d) a national portal to exchange experiences;
- (e) more student-active teaching;
- (f) alternative training possibilities;
- (g) increased capacity for mental health care.

## 2020 Implementation

Some measures were in the design phase and some were in the implementation phase.

## 2021 Completed

A new report was published on measures for undelivered learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many learners in vocational education and training did not receive work-based learning due to pandemic restrictions. The working group suggested, amongst other measures, a reinforced programme for learners without an apprenticeship placement. The alternative is improved training in school. The county municipalities received extra funding to facilitate the training.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

## 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

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

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

[Report from expert group \[report Measures for follow-up of students at vocational schools, colleges and universities during the corona pandemic\]](#)

[Link to news about students' mental health](#)

[Skolen etter koronapandemien. Et løft for trivsel og læring 15.06.2021 \[School after the corona pandemic. A boost for well-being and learning 15.06.2021\]](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Expert group proposal on measures to support students in facing challenges of COVID-19 pandemic: Norway. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39005>