


# Expansion of higher VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 SWEDEN

## Timeline

2020 Implementation 2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 36427

## Background

The Agency for Higher Vocational Education (Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan) has, since its inception in 2009, been responsible for deciding which programmes qualify to be offered as HVET and for funding them, by allocating government grants to the education providers offering the programmes. Education providers are institutions or establishments such as local authorities, private training companies or universities and their programmes are tailored to suit the needs for competence provision. The programmes are offered as full-time or part-time studies. One out of four programmes are offered as distance schemes. In many of these the learners meet two or three times each semester for lectures, seminars and examinations, while in others the learners' study remotely through the internet without physical meetings.

Due to its responsiveness to labour market needs, HVET is a flexible scheme and HVET programmes, therefore, change over time. New programmes start and old ones are discontinued as the needs for competence provision change. Most HVET programmes offer work-based learning as part of their scheme. Completion of a 1- to 2-year lasting programme results in a higher vocational education diploma which is placed at SeQF level 5, and completion of a 2- to 3-year lasting programme results in an advanced higher vocational education diploma which is placed at SeQF level 6.

## Objectives

The objective of the expansion of HVET is to ensure that adults are better qualified for the labour market, which will lead to economic growth.

## Description

The Swedish Government has increased the funding to the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education, to ensure that employers have access to qualified professional skills to create growth. The agency has been able to approve an increase of more than 56% in the number of available study places between 2014 and 2019. The most rapid expansion has taken place in the last two years with an increase of 36% from 2017 to 2019.

### 2020 Implementation

In April 2020, the government proposed additional funding for a temporary addition of HVET study places. The bill proposed an additional SEK 245 million for 2020 (about EUR 24 million), of which a quarter is earmarked for the new CVET scheme with shorter courses. The bill was passed by parliament on 17 June 2020.

The government stated in its budget bill for 2021 that new CVET schemes with shorter HVET courses also need to be developed, so it can meet both the needs of working life for the skills development of its employees and provide training for other groups (e.g. migrants and refugees) to strengthen their opportunities to get a job.

### 2021 Implementation

In 2021, the authority has paid out government grants for a total of 49 730 annual places for programmes within higher vocational education.

### 2022 Implementation

In 2022, the authority has paid out government grants for a total of 49 730 annual places for programmes within higher vocational education, which is at the same level as in 2021.

### 2023 Implementation

The budget bill for 2023 presented funding for HVET at the same level as previous years.

### 2024 Implementation

In the round of applications from education providers, the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education granted 40 000 study places.

Due to the expansion of HVE, programmes that are delivered through remote/online learning or divided into several locations with flexible arrangements also have increased. In 2024, nearly a third of the programmes are offered remotely, while 15% of the programmes can be studied from several different locations. This means that students who live in parts of the country where there are fewer location-bound programmes are given the opportunity for lifelong learning and to train for occupations that are in high demand in the labour market.

### 2025 Implementation

At the time of reporting the 2025 statistics on granted study places were not yet available.

## Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Higher VET

## Target group

### Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)  
Adult learners

## Thematic categories

## Modernising VET offer and delivery

Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8

## Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

[2021 Yearly report](#)

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[2022 Yearly report](#)

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[National news on VET. Sweden: higher VET courses - a success story](#)

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[2025 Yearly report](#)

## Related policy developments

**2022 Approved/Agreed**

### Increasing flexibility in higher vocational education programmes

In 2020, the HVE-flex pilot programme was launched, aiming to ease and speed up gaining higher vocational education (HVE) qualifications at EQF levels 5 and 6.

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#### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

#### Subsystem

CVET

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**2022 Discontinued**

### Knowledge boost initiative: action plan for adult education

The Action plan for adult education (*Kunskapslyftet*, the knowledge boost) was introduced in 2015. It is aimed at supporting the Swedish government's goal of lowering unemployment rates. Relevant legislation/regulation and funding arrangements have been changed/adopted.

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#### Type of development

Strategy/Action

plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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