

Expansion of the national qualifications framework

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 FINLAND

Timeline

2018 Design 2019 Design 2020 Completed

ID number 36299

Background

The Act on the Finnish national framework for qualifications and other competence modules (Act 93/2017) and the related government Decree (120/2017) entered into force on 1 March 2017. The framework covers the entire education/qualifications system. In this framework, the qualifications, syllabuses and other extensive competence modules of the Finnish national education system are classified into eight levels based on learning outcomes. The referencing to the EQF was completed in December 2017.

Objectives

To expand the national framework for qualifications and other competence modules.

Description

In March 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture set up a working group for the preparation and coordination of the expansion of the national framework for qualifications and other competence modules. The task of the working group was to specify in more detail the criteria specified in the Act on the national framework for qualifications and other competence modules (93/2017) and to formulate a proposal for the required legislative amendments.

2018 Design

In 2018, the education ministry's working group specified the expansion criteria for the inclusion of other competence modules in the framework and identified the competence modules in various administrative branches meeting the criteria.

2019 Design

In 2019, the working group continued its work to prepare the proposal on expansion of the national qualifications framework.

2020 Completed

The framework was expanded with the inclusion of several competence modules at various levels of the framework in February 2020. The following competence modules were added:

- (a) preparatory education for working life and independent living (TELMA) at level 2;
- (b) preparatory studies for general upper secondary school (LUVA), preparatory education for vocational training (VALMA), and an advanced syllabus for basic education in the arts at level 3;
- (c) a basic course for border guards and a basic study module for non-commissioned officers at level 4;
- (d) a general level (levels 1 and 2) study module for non-commissioned officers and a master level study module for non-commissioned officers at level 5;
- (e) professional specialisation programmes provided by universities and universities of applied sciences (UASs) intended for holders of a bachelor's degree or a UAS bachelor's degree, a specific qualification on prescribing medicines, and a specialised training and pastoral qualification provided by the church at level 6;
- (f) professional specialisation programmes provided by universities and universities of applied sciences intended for holders of a master degree or a UAS master degree, an advanced pastoral qualification, a senior staff officer course, and further studies in war economy and technology at level 7.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Culture

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Adult learners

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
Adult educators

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Qualifications frameworks, Ministry of Education and Culture article](#)

Related policy developments

2017 Completed

The Act on the national qualifications framework

The Act on the Finnish national framework for qualifications and other competence (Act 93/2017) and the related government Decree (120/2017) entered into force in March 2017. The framework covers the entire education/qualifications system.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Reform of the vocational qualifications requirements

There was a need to strengthen the learning outcomes approach of vocational qualification requirements, the modular structure of qualifications, flexibility and individualisation in learning paths and validation of prior learning.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Expansion of the national qualifications framework: Finland. 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/36299>