

Increasing accessibility of VET programmes across Denmark

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 DENMARK

Timeline



ID number 29325

Background

As part of a larger agreement on education and jobs for young people, a majority in the Danish Parliament agreed on increasing the supply of vocational education and training programmes throughout Denmark. The parties wanted to ensure possibilities to complete VET in most areas of Denmark, which previously has been a challenge.

Objectives

The objective is to ensure that the distance to a VET facility does not prevent young people from choosing VET. On the contrary, choosing upper secondary education should be based on abilities and interests.

Description

The distance to general upper secondary education is shorter than the distance to a VET school in many areas in Denmark. A part of this initiative is ensuring the geographical accessibility of VET programmes, partially through general upper secondary institutions offering the first part of VET (GF1 – 20 weeks of introduction) in areas where they already operate.

Parliament earmarked EUR 3.3 million (DKK 25 million) for an application pool in the period 2020-23. This amount could be used for creating educational satellite institutions that bring VET closer to young people. It is possible to apply for funding for two different schemes:

- (a) The first scheme concerns the possibility for upper secondary schools and adult education centres (VUC) to receive temporary approval to offer basic courses 1 and 2 for certain vocational programmes;
- (b) the second scheme focusses on allowing youth education institutions that offer VET, as well as higher commercial examination (HHX) and higher technical examination (HTX) programmes, to establish new programmes in peripheral municipalities and receive subsidies for doing so.

2018 Approved/Agreed

The decision was adopted.

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the decision was being implemented.

2020 Implementation

An evaluation showed a limited effect of the initiative. In the period 2017-20 only 29 students participated in VET programmes (basic courses) in three VET schools that participated in the initiative.

2021 Implementation

New VET satellite schools continued to open across Denmark. The decision was still implemented.

2022 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

2023 Implementation

The measure was operational and ran as regular practice.

2024 Discontinued

The Danish Agency for Education and Quality evaluated the scheme in 2024. The evaluation showed that no institutions had received pooled funding for the first scheme, i.e. for establishing basic programmes in vocational education at upper secondary schools and adult education centres (VUCs). During the trial period, one application was received for the scheme, which had to be rejected as it did not fulfil the criteria for the allocation of funds. Thus, the scheme never had any effect on the overall demand for vocational education and training (VET).

Of the total pool, approximately EUR 2.7 million (DKK 20 million) was allocated to the part of the scheme where institutions with higher commercial examination (HHX) and higher technical examination (HTX) vocational programmes, could receive grants for establishing new programmes in peripheral municipalities. In total, grants were awarded to 38 new programmes.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Children and Education
- National Agency for Education and Quality (STUK)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Entities providing VET

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Evaluation of experiments with creation of basic courses in VET \[Evaluering af forsøg med oprettelse af grundforlobsafdelinger på erhvervsuddannelserne\]](#) (in Danish only)

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

Supporting higher technical and commercial examination programmes in rural areas

Higher commercial examination (HHX) has become an increasingly popular option for Danish youths (upper secondary learners) during the last few years.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Supporting small VET schools for quality VET

The initiative – more money for smaller schools to ensure the quality of education - will generally enable better conditions for VET schools to provide quality teaching, particularly small VET schools in geographic areas where the population is sparse.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

The initiative **Courage in life: paths to education and jobs**

On 19 December 2018, the Ministry of Finance presented a new policy action targeted at giving young people more room in choosing their education pathway or in changing pathways. Aspects of the initiative include:

 DENMARK

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

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