

Supporting small VET schools for quality VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT **REGULATION/LEGISLATION**  DENMARK

Timeline

2019 **Approved/Agreed** 2020 **Implementation** 2021 **Implementation**
2022 **Implementation** 2023 **Implementation** 2024 **Legislative process**
2025 **Implementation**

ID number 29221

Background

In the reform of the Danish VET system in 2014, some funding was reserved for continuous quality development of VET and to solve actual problems within the VET system. Some of this money is now being given to develop the quality of VET schools and to support the EUX programme (a combined vocational and general upper secondary programme) because of financial problems due to small classes.

Objectives

The objective of the initiative is to strengthen the quality of VET in Denmark and to give small VET schools better opportunities to deliver EUX programmes.

Description

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. This enables smaller VET schools to provide EUX programmes.

2019 **Approved/Agreed**

EUR 9.333 million (DKK 70 million) was reserved for this initiative.

2020 **Implementation**

In 2020, some small VET schools received funding.

2021 **Implementation**

The parties to the agreement have decided to continue the special grant for small VET

schools in less populated areas until 2022.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the parties to the agreement continued to attribute significant importance in supporting small institutions in the peripheral areas. They, therefore agreed on a 1-year extension of the temporary increase in the peripheral subsidy for general upper secondary schools of EUR 2.07 million (DKK 15.5 million) and to increase the temporary pool for special grants for small vocational schools with a total amount of EUR 4.3 million (DKK 30 million) in 2023. This increase corresponds to -almost-a tripling of the pool from 2022 to 2023.

2023 Implementation

The scheme was operational and ran as regular practice.

2024 Legislative process

In November 2024, the government presented the 2025 Finance Bill and announced its decision to introduce several adjustments to the taximeter and subsidy system in secondary education to support financially sustainable secondary education across the country.

Through adjustments to the taximeter and subsidy system, the government will redistribute funds from large to small schools giving a major financial boost to upper secondary schools and vocational schools in remote and rural areas that are challenged by low activity and an uncertain financial basis.

General and vocational upper secondary education in peripheral and rural areas is financially challenged by declining youth cohorts and thus declining state subsidies in the coming years. Therefore, a new and increased peripheral subsidy of EUR 509 thousand (DKK 3.8 million) per educational institution is being introduced in 2025, which applies to both general upper secondary schools and vocational schools.

2025 Implementation

The increased peripheral subsidy of EUR 509 thousand (DKK 3.8 million) per educational institution was introduced in 2025.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Children and Education

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Ministry of Children and Education. (2022, October 3). New agreement: Financial boost for FGU, VEU and youth education in peripheral areas

Ministry of Children and Education.(2024, August 24). Youth education: The government wants to move three-digit million amounts from large to small institutions

Related policy developments

2024 Discontinued

Increasing accessibility of VET programmes across Denmark

The distance to general upper secondary education is shorter than the distance to a VET school in many areas in Denmark.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Supporting small VET schools for quality VET: Denmark. 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/29221>