

Grants for flexible continuing education in digital competence

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 NORWAY

Timeline

2019 Implementation

2020 Implementation

2021 Completed

ID number 28963

Background

Flexible continuing education in digital competence is part of the government's skills reform.

Objectives

The goal of the skills reform launched in 2019 is that no one should become outdated and that more people are enabled to work longer. The goal of the grant scheme is to establish several further education digital competence programmes.

Description

Skills Norway announced grants totalling near EUR 3 million (NOK 35 million) for the development of flexible continuing education programmes in digital competence. These programmes are aimed at companies and employees who need more expertise as a result of digitalisation.

The grant scheme aims to contribute to:

- (a) development of flexible training programmes for companies in need of expertise to digitise their business;
- (b) better access to flexible and work-relevant continuing education programmes for individuals;
- (c) increased cooperation between education institutions and the business community to develop further education programmes.

The continuing education programmes will be developed as a mutually binding collaboration between clusters or other associations of private enterprises (minimum two enterprises) and universities, colleges or vocational schools. Public enterprises can also be part of a cluster or association with private enterprises.

2019 Implementation

Full scale implementation

2020 Implementation

The grants for flexible continuing education continued in 2020 with a priority for education within ICT security and digital competence for Norway's green shift. Additionally, new grants are being developed as a response to the pandemic. Skills Norway, together with Diku, announced a grant for online education programmes with the possibility of rapidly upscaling already established online programmes.

2021 Completed

Grants for flexible education programmes have become operational and run annually as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)
- Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills
- Skills Norway (until 2021)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Adult learners

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Developing and updating learning resources and materials
Acquiring key competences

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

[Link to information about the scheme](#)

Related policy developments

2025 **Completed**

The skills reform - lifelong learning

Work on the reform started in 2019 and will develop further in the years to come. The government has initiated several measures to reach the objectives of the reform:

Stimulating individuals and companies to invest in education and training through:

 NORWAY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Grants for flexible continuing education in digital competence: Norway. 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/28963>