

Knowledge centres for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE	 DENMARK
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Timeline

2017 Implementation	2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation
2020 Implementation	2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation
2023 Implementation	2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation

ID number 28836

Background

One aspect of the 2015 VET reform was the suggestion that 10 knowledge centres be established to provide knowledge and inspiration in specific areas relevant to the VET sector. This centre of excellence concept has emerged out of a focus on the role of further education provision in delivering education with a high degree of relevance for industries undergoing rapid change.

Description

The suggested maximum of 10 knowledge centres materialised in 2017 as nine centres with different foci: robotics and automation (two centres), welfare technology (two centres: assisted technologies), process technology, craftsmanship and handicrafts, craftsmanship and design, sustainable building and energy related building renovation, e-business, and data-based service development. Each centre is placed in a VET college, but the centres also have close formal cooperation with knowledge institutions, other colleges and relevant industries. The knowledge centres steer the VET sector in the direction of playing a more effective and relevant role in relation to the needs of industry. A government allocation of EUR 17.8 million (DKK 133 million) for implementation and operation in 2017-20 and a further EUR 10.7 million (DKK 80 million) for specific technology investments provides the financial foundation for these centres.

2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation The knowledge centres were evaluated and continued to develop.
2020 Implementation The knowledge centres were still under development.

2021 Implementation

The knowledge centres were still expanding their activities.

2022 Implementation

The government set aside EUR 1.3 million (DKK 10 million) for a digital equipment funding pool for the knowledge centres at the vocational schools. With the pool, the knowledge centres can apply for funds for the purchase of new digital technology and new digital equipment as well as for competence development for teachers and trainers.

2023 Implementation

In November 2023, the Danish government allocated funds to establish an eleventh knowledge centre for soil and agriculture, so that agricultural education keeps up with the rapid developments in technology and the green transition. The knowledge centre is expected to be established in 2024.

2024 Implementation

An evaluation from the Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA) showed that teachers, students and managers at Danish vocational schools think positively of the knowledge centres. However, the evaluation also demonstrated that public awareness of knowledge centres is low.

The knowledge centres for vocational education and training aim to support both vocational and labour market training with a special focus on the green transition. The knowledge centres are self-governing units with VET institutions as partners. A new agreement between the government and all parties in the Danish Parliament on more skilled workers for the green transition was reached in June 2024. The agreement made the centres permanent (as of 2025), when the funding would otherwise lapse. It was decided to continue funding the knowledge centres with DKK 27 million (EUR 3.6 million) annually from 2025. To strengthen the professional focus of knowledge centres professional focus and minimise overlaps between the centres, from 2025 onwards selected centres will be merged to create a total of 7 knowledge centres, including the new knowledge centre for soil and agriculture, which is going to operate from 2025.

With regards to funding, it was decided that DKK 4.4 million (EUR 590 thousand) will be allocated annually from 2024 onwards for the operation of the knowledge centres and DKK 7.5 million (EUR 1 million) in 2024 and DKK 3 million (EUR 402 thousand) in 2025 for the equipment of the knowledge centres.

2025 Implementation

From 7 January 2025, 7 knowledge centres were established and will remain operable. These are the following:

- (a) knowledge centre for welfare technology;
- (b) knowledge centre for craftsmanship and sustainability;
- (c) knowledge centre for process technology;
- (d) knowledge centre for automation and technology;
- (e) knowledge centre for soil and agriculture;
- (f) Merkura - knowledge centre for commercial development;
- (g) CIU - centre for IT in education.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Children and Education

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders
Adult educators

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training
Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences
Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs)

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Homepage of the knowledge centres](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

More skilled workers for the green transition

The *Prepared for the future IV - more skilled workers for the green transition* agreement is a component of a holistic education reform plan encompassing various education levels.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Education efforts for green transition

The initiative supports:

 DENMARK

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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