

Promoting key competences in VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT **REGULATION/LEGISLATION**  DENMARK

Timeline



ID number 28835

Description

The 2015 VET reform has changed how key competences are promoted in VET. It set up two basic programmes of 20 weeks each: basic programme 1 (grundforløb 1 - GF1), and basic programme 2 (grundforløb 2 - GF2). Both programmes focus on key competences, but in different ways. GF1 is mainly designed to provide a basic introduction to vocational study, including workplace culture, processes and methods, society and health, Danish and various elective subjects. It is only meant for students entering VET directly from compulsory schooling. GF2 is organised as a specific training course, depending on which educational direction the student has chosen to pursue. It contains basic subjects and elective subjects. The basic subjects, which include key competences, have played a more significant role since the reform. As part of the reform, the strategy for improving key competences in VET (2015) supports learners in achieving the highest possible level. Measures included:

- (a) admission requirements to VET from compulsory schooling have been raised for Danish and maths;
- (b) VET learners are now offered higher levels of communication and ICT skills;
- (c) following a pilot, EUX (a combined vocational and general upper secondary programme) is now fully operational;
- (d) the Danish Evaluation Institute has piloted the strategy at the digital VET college and published the results online, which has inspired VET colleges to address the strategic priorities of: managing and setting up a common pedagogical-didactical foundation; knowledge sharing; a new way of designing teaching; stronger interplay between learning in VET colleges and learning in enterprises;
- (e) teachers' vocational and pedagogical competences are being strengthened to raise attainment levels in key competences.



2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

This initiative was in implementation phase. There were no significant changes compared to 2018.

2020 Implementation

The initiative was still in implementation phase, with no significant changes in 2020.

2021 Implementation

The initiative was operational and ran as regular practice.

2022 Implementation

The initiative was operational and ran as regular practice.

2023 Implementation

The initiative was operational and ran as regular practice.

2024 Implementation

The initiative was operational and ran as regular practice.

2025 Implementation

The initiative was operational and ran as regular practice. However, as part of the 2025 agreement on the new vocational- and professionally oriented higher secondary education (EPX), basic course 1 (GF1) will be abolished from 2030 (as GF1 will be included in the new EPX).

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Children and Education

Target group

Learners

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

Entities providing VET

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

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses
Acquiring key competences

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Vocational education and training in Denmark](#)

[Law on VET](#)

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Promoting key competences in 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/28835>