

European Economic Area recognition of foreign qualifications

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **NORWAY**

Timeline

2016 Implementation **2017 Implementation** **2018 Implementation****2020 Implementation** **2021 Completed****ID number 28776**

Objectives

The objective is to ease the mobility of workers from a selected number of countries by enabling automatic recognition of trade and journeyman's certificates.

Description

As one of the adaptations to the internal labour market (through the European Economic Area – EEA agreement), the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) has established a formal system for recognition of foreign trade and journeyman's certificates, which is aimed to address the problems of migrant workers from the European Economic Area. The procedure was established in 2016. Foreign certificates are assessed according to the scope, level and content of comparable Norwegian certificates. The procedure is open to a selected number of German, Polish, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian qualifications and is being developed to include more vocational qualifications and countries. There are also some education and language cooperation contracts and agreements between the Nordic countries. In June 2018, following the 2016 revised Reykjavik Declaration, which introduced automatic approval of comparable qualifications from the Nordic countries, NOKUT launched the automatic recognition of higher education, including VET, from the Nordic countries. People with a higher education qualification from a Nordic country can download a confirmation showing that the degree is automatically approved in Norway.

2016 Implementation**2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2020 Implementation**

No new developments took place in 2020, but the scheme for recognition of foreign trade and journeyman's certificates was expanded to more countries and qualifications.

2021 Completed

The measure was operational and run as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

Target group

Learners

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

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European and international dimensions of VET

International qualifications

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

The requirements for the recognition of trade and journeyman's certificates were set out in October 2016 and the first applications were received in December 2016

[Link to recognition information](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). European Economic Area recognition of foreign qualifications: 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/28776>