

Law on higher vocational education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**REGULATION/LEGISLATION****NORWAY**

Timeline

2018 Approved/Agreed**2021 Legislative process****2022 Completed****ID number 28770**

Description

A law for post-secondary vocational education (EQF level 5) was adopted in 2018. Higher vocational colleges are categorised as post-secondary (referred to as tertiary in Norway) vocational education schools. Their students have strengthened rights. The law intended to ensure equal rights for all students and to increase the attractiveness of VET.

2018 Approved/Agreed

2021 Legislative process

A revised law on post-secondary vocational education or higher vocational education was sent on a public consultation round. The approval of foreign vocational qualifications (craft- and journeyman's certificate - EQF4), as well as foreign higher vocational ones (EQF5), were suggested to be transferred to the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills.

2022 Completed

The schemes for recognition of foreign vocational education and higher vocational education were moved to the Directorate for Higher Education and Skills. The directorate became responsible for the schemes.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Other

Higher vocational educations
students

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Link to the public consultation](#)

Related policy developments

2018 Completed

New degrees introduced for post-secondary VET

In November 2018, based on the work of the National Higher Vocational Education Council (Nasjonalt fagskolergrad), and following public consultation until September 2018, new degrees for post-secondary vocational education were introduced.

 NORWAY

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2023 Completed

Skilled workers for the future: white paper, 2016

The 2016 white paper, *Skilled workers for the future*, contained 48 measures on how to make post-secondary VET more attractive as a profession-oriented, fully equivalent alternative to higher education.

 NORWAY

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Law on higher vocational education: Norway. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28770>