

The initiative **Courage in life: paths to education and jobs**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

Timeline



ID number 28762

Background

This initiative aims to improve young people's path to education and jobs. It should be easier for young people to choose their education pathway, but also to choose again if they regret their initial choice. And more young people in the social welfare system must be equipped with a job-oriented desire to complete their education.

Description

On 19 December 2018, the Ministry of Finance presented a new policy action targeted at giving young people more room in choosing their education pathway or in changing pathways. Aspects of the initiative include:

- (a) a new subsidy and taximeter system: the current grant and taximeter system in youth education does not in itself motivate schools to focus on quality and has become too opaque. The government will therefore initiate a review to implement changes and simplify the system;
- (b) better education coverage in sparsely populated areas: to give young people better opportunities to train in different parts of the country, the government will provide DKK 25 million (EUR 3.333 million) for new education satellites providing vocational education programmes, which are designed to bring vocational education closer to young people;
- (c) several vocational schools and colleges under the same roof: having several interdisciplinary institutions under the same roof will make it easier for young people to change education pathways within the same institution;
- (d) a new referral taximeter system from colleges to vocational schools: young people who regret having begun high school at an early stage must be better supported in switching to vocational education. A new referral taximeter should give colleges a cash reward if they help students change and gain a foothold in vocational training;
- (e) harmonisation of institutional legislation: public high schools, adult education centres and vocational schools are based on different institutional legislation. Under this proposal, the government will work to harmonise legislation so it does not slow down cooperation across education institutions;
- (f) strengthening Study Choice Denmark: the government will strengthen Study Choice

Denmark (Studievalg Danmark), which advises 250 000 young people each year, with a grant of DKK 24 million to provide better guidance on choosing higher education.

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Approved/Agreed

This agreement is from late 2018, so there have been no new developments in this policy.

2020 Implementation

This initiative was still under implementation and development in 2020.

2021 Implementation

The work on all actions continued, but affected by Covid-19 and the closing of VET institutions for some parts of the year.

2022 Implementation

The action was operational and ran as a 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.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Finance

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
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Courage in life: paths to education and jobs](#)

Related policy developments

2024 **Discontinued**

Increasing accessibility of VET programmes across Denmark

The distance to general upper secondary education is shorter than the distance to a VET school in many areas in Denmark.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). The initiative Courage in life: paths to education and jobs: 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/28762>