


Fast track labour market integration for newly arrived migrants

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SWEDEN

Timeline

2015 **Approved/Agreed**

ID number 28544

Background

During the early 2000s, approximately 30 000 refugees arrived each year in Sweden. With the upheavals in Syria and other parts of the world leading to the refugee crisis in 2015, the number of refugees in Sweden soared to more than 160 000 that year. The high number of newly arrived migrants in a short time could not be absorbed in the Swedish labour market without new targeted policy developments addressing faster integration measures.

Objectives

Creating fast tracks for newly arrived migrants, to reduce the time from arrival to entry in occupations that face skills shortages.

Description

In 2015, the government started consultations with social partners, the Public Employment Service (PES) and other government agencies to create fast tracks for newly arrived migrants and to reduce the time from arrival to entry in occupations that face skills shortages. An agreement involving employer and employee organisations assigned the PES responsibility for creating fast track paths for labour market integration. Employment services at local and regional level managed the programme for newly arrived migrants, including:

- (a) training in vocationally-oriented Swedish;
- (b) speedy validation of skills and competences;
- (c) assessment/recognition of foreign qualifications;
- (d) supplementary training with a focus on occupations that face skills shortages.

Training included key competences depending on individual needs. The modules on teaching the Swedish language to newly arrived migrants were developed within the framework of the online training programme for workplace trainers, implemented by the committee for work-based learning in the professional introductory period of employment (*Delegationen för arbetsplatslärande vid yrkesintroduktionsanställningar*). Amendments to the Education Act were also adopted in 2015 to make tuition of Swedish for migrants an integrated part of municipal adult education. The aim is to integrate Swedish language learning with other training, such as initial VET modules in adult education. Since 2016,

municipalities may also apply for grants for this type of combined programme. The PES also provided enterprises/organisations with support. By May 2016, 22 professions/occupations/sectors were involved. Regulations adopted in spring 2016 allowed for financial support to enterprises/organisations employing newly arrived migrants. By December 2018, a total of 8 022 individuals had participated in the programme.

2015 Approved/Agreed

The measure was approved in 2015 and is since then operational and runs as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research
- Public employment service (PES)

Target group

Learners

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

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

CVET

Related policy developments

2022 Completed

Integration of newly arrived immigrants in VET and labour market

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 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2022 **Approved/Agreed**

National strategy for validation

In 2015, a National Delegation for Validation was appointed by the Swedish Government to follow up, support and promote coordinated development work in the area of validation at the regional and national level and to propose a national strategy for validation.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28544>