


# Vocational orientation in HE preparatory programmes

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SWEDEN

## Timeline

2018 Design 2019 Design 2020 Design 2021 Design 2022 Design  
2023 Design 2024 Discontinued

ID number 28539

## Background

There are 12 vocational programmes in the Swedish upper secondary school system – each provides a foundation for working life and includes mandatory work-based learning periods – and six higher education preparatory programmes aimed to prepare learners for academic tertiary education. With a few exceptions, work-based learning and vocational subjects and courses are not available to learners in the higher education preparatory programmes.

## Objectives

Introducing a vocational profile in higher education preparatory education.

## Description

In September 2018, the government asked the National Agency for Education to develop a vocational orientation for the Business management and economics programme which is a higher education preparatory programme. The National Agency for Education will propose a vocational outcome that will serve as a hybrid between higher education preparatory programmes and vocational upper secondary programmes. The new orientation will serve as a pilot for introducing a vocational profile in higher education preparatory education. It would include mandatory work-based learning and mechanisms for cooperation between stakeholders in the trade and commerce sector and education providers. It is expected that learners will be prepared for employment in a sector that is undergoing rapid development and also for education at higher vocational institutions.

2018 Design

2019 Design

In March 2019, the National Agency of Education proposed to the government that a pilot should be launched in 2020 and assessed in 2025. The government has so far not made any decisions.

### 2020 Design

In 2020, the government has not made any decisions.

### 2021 Design

In 2021, the government has not made any decisions.

### 2022 Design

In 2022, the government has not made any decisions.

### 2023 Design

In 2023, the government has not made any decisions.

### 2024 Discontinued

In 2024, the government has still not made any decisions and there is finally no indication that the introduction of a vocational profile in higher education preparatory education will take place.

## Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Education

## Target group

### Learners

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

## Thematic categories

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

## Subsystem

IVET

## Further reading

[Presentation of a pilot proposal on the trade sector in business management and economics programmes, upper secondary schools](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Vocational orientation in HE preparatory programmes: Sweden. 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/28539>