

Regional planning and dimensioning of VET provision

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SWEDEN

Timeline

2018 Design 2019 Design 2020 Design 2021 Design

2022 Legislative process 2023 Approved/Agreed 2024 Implementation

ID number 28538

Background

IVET in Sweden is provided in accordance with learner demand. The underlying idea is that if teenagers are empowered in their choice of education, they are more likely to do well. The volume of IVET provision is, therefore, not primarily aligned to the labour market needs, though there is an increasing awareness that the demand-driven IVET provision contributes to mismatches in the labour market. Since education provision is also decentralised and providers compete for learners in a market, education providers tend to play safe and offer the most popular programmes.

Objectives

Improving regional cooperation in an effort to solve the mismatch between the labour market needs and the choices learners make, due to the limited offer of education and training providers.

Description

In 2018, the government launched an enquiry with a mission to propose a regionalised model of upper secondary provision (IVET and CVET) to ensure that a variety of programmes are made available to learners. The objective is to better align the supply of IVET to regional labour market needs.

2018 Design

2019 Design

In 2019 the proposal was still under preparation.

2020 Design

In June 2020, the proposals were presented, which included for example the following:

- when planning and organising upper secondary VET, both the need of the labour

market and the interest of the learners regarding type of VET and the number of study places should be considered;

- the provision of VET for adults needs to be increased and widened.

Furthermore, the National Agency for Education received a government mission to develop a model to prepare for the operationalisation of the proposals of the enquiry. The government has allocated about EUR 1 million (SEK 10 million) for the mission for 2021.

2021 Design

In 2021, the National Agency for Education developed an operationalisation of the proposal.

2022 Legislative process

In 2022, the National Agency for Education finalised their work on developing an operationalisation of the proposal and presented a final report to the government.

2023 Approved/Agreed

In July 2023, the Swedish Parliament approved the Amendment of the Education Act concerning upper secondary education in both upper secondary school and adult education. Amendments to the Education Act include for example an obligation for public and independent VET providers to consider both the need of the labour market and the interest of the learners when planning and organising upper secondary VET. Moreover, the amendment obliges regions to set goals and priorities for skills provision, as well as conduct assessments of regional competence needs in both the public and private sectors, over both short-term and long-term horizons. It will be applied for the first time in respect of education starting in 2025. The National Agency for Education supported the municipalities, regions and school in the implementation of this new law.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, the National Agency for Education was implementing the new law and supported the municipalities and regions and school.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research

Target group

Learners

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

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Planning and dimensioning upper secondary education \[Planering och dimensionering av gymnasial utbildning\]](#)

[Budget proposal for 2021, part 16, table 3.2 \[Budgetpropositionen för 2021, del 16, tabell 3.2\]](#)

[Government proposal](#)

[Education Act](#)

[National agency of education information and implementation](#)

Related policy developments

2023 Discontinued

Trade and industry schools offering training in low demand VET fields

A national commission of inquiry (Yrkesprogramsutredningen) in 2015 had already suggested establishing trade schools/industry schools for the provision of school-based training for upper secondary VET programmes in trades and industries that are too small, and have too few applicants, for VET ins

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28538>