

Amendment to the Education Act: facilitating access to higher education for adults

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SWEDEN

Timeline

2017 **Approved/Agreed**

ID number 28536

Background

Local municipalities are self-governing in many areas, such as childcare and education, including municipal adult upper secondary education provision. Conditions vary and distances, population, the economy and political traditions impact the level of services offered. To ensure that all Swedes have access to basic services, like lifelong learning opportunities, there is a need to regulate the lowest level of services a municipality may offer.

Objectives

Easing progression from upper secondary VET to higher education for all adults, regardless of place of residence.

Description

Amendments to the 2010 Education Act came into effect in January 2017, granting adults the access right to study courses needed for progression to higher general or vocational education to all upper secondary VET learners. This included not only the right to access courses needed to comply with general eligibility for tertiary education, but also the right to access courses needed for meeting specific entry requirements for any tertiary programme for which the learner has applied.

2017 Approved/Agreed

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Thematic categories

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

[High school education for all \(see pp. 47-63 for a summary in English\)](#)

[The Education Act, amendments in chapter 20](#)

Related policy developments

2023 Completed

Facilitating permeability from secondary VET to tertiary education

The National Agency for Education received a government mission in 2020 to support secondary VET providers in including subjects and courses in all VET programmes that learners need to complete to become eligible for admission to tertiary education.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Amendment to the Education Act: facilitating access to higher education for adults: 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/28536>

