


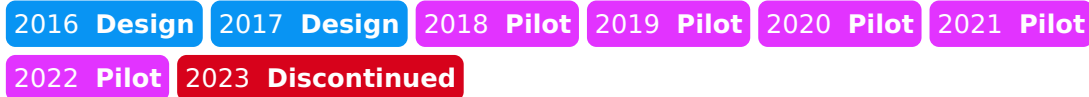
Competence tests

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SWEDEN

Timeline



ID number 28535

Objectives

To determine whether competence tests may strengthen upper secondary vocational education for young people, adults and newly arrived migrants by increasing their labour market relevance and cooperation between the world of work and education, and by easing validation.

Description

The National Agency for Education was commissioned in December 2016 to investigate if competence tests at the end of the programme may strengthen upper secondary vocational education by increasing their labour market relevance and by increasing cooperation between the world of work and VET.

In December 2017, the mandate of the National Agency for Education was amended to include a pilot phase to determine whether competence tests may also ease validation of adults' and newly arrived migrants' competences. If they are found to be useful for validating parts of their education, the learner will not have to redo those parts.

In addition, the National Agency for Education was commissioned to develop exams for testing partial qualifications of the upper secondary VET diplomas, and to consider if the tests could replace the diploma project.

2016 Design

2017 Design

2018 Pilot

2019 Pilot

As of February 2019, there were 18 competence tests under development, of which half had been tried out on students. The measure is a pilot that will continue to develop new competence tests until 2021. The number of vocations participating in the pilot increased to 32 in 2019. A progress report to the government proposed that competence tests ought to strive for the development of a model that, through increased cooperation between the VET sector and the world of work, can enhance the relevance of VET for competence provision.

2020 Pilot

In 2020, the pilot of the competence tests is still operating and includes 32 vocations.

2021 Pilot

In 2021, the pilot is still operating and includes 32 vocations.

2022 Pilot

In February 2022, the mission was reported to the government.

2023 Discontinued

In 2023, the government did not take any measures after they have received the report on the competence tests.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Education

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Adult learners

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full
Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

European and international dimensions of VET

International qualifications

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Partial report of the trial of competence tests](#)

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Competence tests: 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/28535>