

Knowledge boost initiative: action plan for adult education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 SWEDEN

Timeline



ID number 28530

Background

The initiative addressed the Swedish labour market's weak alignment between the skills needed in working life and the actual skills workers have.

Objectives

The Action plan for adult education addresses four strands:

- (a) higher vocational education;
- (b) liberal adult education through folk high schools;
- (c) adult IVET and adult apprenticeship in IVET;
- (d) adults' right to general education.

Description

The Action plan for adult education (*Kunskapslyftet*, the knowledge boost) was introduced in 2015. It is aimed at supporting the Swedish government's goal of lowering unemployment rates. Relevant legislation/regulation and funding arrangements have been changed/adopted. The plan aims, at the same time, to address skilled labour shortages and enable people to (re)train.

2015 Approved/Agreed
2016 Implementation
2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation
In October 2019, the government proposed increased resources for the knowledge

boost in the budget bill for 2020 with SEK 530 million (approximately EUR 48.5 million).

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the funds were allocated for an expansion of:

- (a) higher vocational education and validation measures administered by the Agency for Higher Vocational Education;
- (b) liberal adult education through folk high schools, in particular to train newly arrived migrants in Swedish;
- (c) municipal adult IVET and general education, with State grants financing 42000 student places in 2020.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the government has continued to emphasise the role of adult education, not least as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, the budget further increased to approximately EUR 26 002 374 (SEK 2.7 billion) to finance the following actions:

- (a) higher vocational education - funding for 6 000 new study places in addition to the previous 50 000 study places;
- (b) liberal adult education through folk high schools - funding for a temporary addition of 2 000 study places in the general education equivalent of a compulsory school diploma;
- (c) adult IVET and adult apprenticeship in IVET - a strengthened focus on competence provision and funding for 15 500 study places.

2022 Discontinued

The 'knowledge boost initiative' has been stopped. Lifelong learning activities are not any longer offered under an overarching initiative, but are organised and offered differently.

Bodies responsible

- Government

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Adult learners
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Education professionals

Adult educators

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Related policy developments

2022 **Approved/Agreed**

Increasing flexibility in higher vocational education programmes

In 2020, the HVE-flex pilot programme was launched, aiming to ease and speed up gaining higher vocational education (HVE) qualifications at EQF levels 5 and 6.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 **Approved/Agreed**

Easing transition from unemployment to adult education through data sharing

In 2021, the National Agency for Education and PES have been tasked by the government to analyse information exchange between the spheres of education and the labour market, with the objective to ease the transition for the unemployed to municipal adult education.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Expansion of higher VET

The Swedish Government has increased the funding to the National Agency for Higher Vocational Education, to ensure that employers have access to qualified professional skills to create growth.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Partial qualifications: vocational packages for adults

In October 2016, the government commissioned the National Agency for Education to recommend vocational packages for adults. These packages are clusters of courses agreed with industry as entry points into the labour market.

 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

2025 Implementation

Opening up municipal adult education

The government, through the ministry of education and research, set up an enquiry: A second chance and another chance – an updated municipal education in 2017 to propose changes needed in the legislation on prioritising groups admitted to municipal adult education.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2017 Approved/Agreed

Financial study support for low-qualified unemployed adults

In May 2017, the parliament approved the introduction of a new financial support to stimulate low-qualified unemployed adults (aged 25 to 56) to begin, or resume, their studies.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2020 Discontinued

Retraining the young unemployed

In June 2015, the government adopted an ordinance, according to which study within the so-called education contracts may be combined with work or work experience, enabling the learners to both apply for study aid and receive remuneration from work.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2018 Approved/Agreed

Financial incentives for VET learners

The State grants measure (used as an incentive for education providers to offer VET as an apprenticeship path) was expanded in 2018 to also offer learners in bridging programmes

(programmes for learners not eligible for national upper secondary programmes) financial support to cover their extra I

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

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