

# Financial incentives for training companies and education providers

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SWEDEN

## Timeline

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Completed

ID number 28525

## Background

Forecasts of skill needs up to 2030 identified the need to strengthen the work-based learning component of VET programmes at all levels and to strengthen links between education and businesses. In 2014, a grant geared towards social partners and vocational boards was approved by the government to increase companies' capacity to provide training.

## Objectives

Increase companies' involvement in training provision.

## Description

To enhance the cooperation at regional level between upper secondary VET providers (adult education programmes included) and companies providing work places, the State grants for companies were broadened through an amendment of the the Education Act and the Ordinance of upper secondary education in November 2015. The funding scheme covers initial VET programmes which can be followed as school-based VET and apprenticeship based pathways. Further, since 2016 enterprises that participate in apprenticeship may receive State-funded grants if their workplace trainers have participated in training-the-trainer programmes. The aim is to encourage more training enterprises to have qualified trainers. The National Agency for Education is responsible for reviewing the applications and distributing the funding.

Furthermore, in 2018 the State grants intended as an incentive for education providers to offer VET as apprenticeship paths were expanded to include also the offer of introductory programmes (bridging programmes).

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

## **2018 Completed**

In 2018, the financial incentives for training companies and education providers are operational and run as a regular practice.

## **Bodies responsible**

- National Agency for Education

## **Target group**

### **Entities providing VET**

Companies  
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### **Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences**

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## **Further reading**

[Cedefop ReferNet Sweden \(2014\). Apprenticeship centre established in 2014](#)

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[Cedefop ReferNet Sweden \(2015\). Working life gains in influence on vocational education and training \(VET\)](#)

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[Cedefop ReferNet Sweden \(2015\). More apprentices in upper secondary school](#)

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[Ordinance regarding government grants for developing learning in workplaces and regional support mechanisms for VET](#)

## **Related policy developments**

**2020 Discontinued**

## Grants for developing regional support structures for workplace training

At the end of 2015, a National commission (Välja yrke) made proposals to the government to strengthen the involvement of social partners in providing VET. The options discussed included developing regional support structures.

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### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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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

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### Type of development

Practical  
measure/Initiative

### Subsystem

IVET

### “ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Financial incentives for training companies and education providers: 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/28525>