

Financial incentives for VET learners

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SWEDEN

Timeline



ID number 28523

Background

Financial incentives for VET providers (State grants) have been in place to support engagement in VET. To boost apprenticeships in upper secondary VET programmes (*lärlingsutbildning*), a financial incentive for learners was introduced in 2014 to cover extra living costs. At the beginning of the reporting period forecasts of skill needs up to 2030 identified the need to further strengthen the work-based learning component of VET programmes at all levels and to strengthen links between education and businesses. Financial incentives for learners/apprentices had previously been put in place and financial incentives for companies to engage in apprenticeship were also introduced.

Objectives

To further strengthen the work-based learning component of VET programmes at all levels and to strengthen links between education and businesses.

Description

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 living costs, so they received the same economic benefits and conditions as learners in national VET programmes. The measure is part of policy initiatives to promote work-based learning and apprenticeships, promoted by the apprenticeship centre, which has been operating since 2014.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Approved/Agreed

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the incentives for VET learners continued to be offered.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

2024 Completed

In 2024, the measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Education
- Local authorities

Target group

Learners

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

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

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

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Related policy developments

2022 **Discontinued**

Knowledge boost initiative: action plan for adult education

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.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 **Completed**

Financial incentives for training companies and education providers

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

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 **Implementation**

Supporting apprenticeship

Swedish National Agency for Education, has been playing a key role in the development of apprenticeship.

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Practical

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Financial incentives for VET learners: Sweden. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28523>