

Motivating learners for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** NORWAY

Timeline

2015 Implementation**2016 Implementation****2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2019 Pilot****2020 Implementation****2021 Completed****ID number 28466**

Background

The Norwegian government strategy for more apprenticeships, linked to the social contract for VET, is aiming to provide skilled workers in both the private and public sectors.

Description

A 2015 amendment to the Education Act clarified and underlined the importance of continuous assessment as the basis for final assessment in apprenticeship programmes. The measure is expected to increase motivation and commitment of apprentices throughout the programme. To motivate young people to choose and complete vocational education and training, the Ministry of Education and Research, in cooperation with social partners, World Skills and the School Student Union of Norway (SSUN), rolled out an online and social media campaign, VET year 2018 (Yrkessfagenes år 2018).

2015 Implementation**2016 Implementation****2017 Implementation****2018 Implementation****2019 Pilot**

A new practical and work-related elective subject, practical craft, was tested at lower secondary level from 2019 onwards. The subject aims at motivating more pupils for school work and leading them to see the value of school through a practice-oriented subject. It gives them the opportunity to choose more practical subjects in lower secondary school. An important goal of the new optional subject is to strengthen recruitment to vocational subjects and counteract the traditional gender divide of working life.

Pupils will have experience of one or more crafts. By trying out different aspects of the craft, pupils can discover, and become better acquainted with, what different occupations entail, and can make them better equipped when choosing a path in upper secondary school. The theoretical element of the new elective should also be

closely linked to the practical element.

Pupils in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades have optional subjects and can choose one subject each year. Each year, each optional subject comprises 57 hours. Schools must offer at least two optional subjects.

An experimental curriculum for the new practical craft option (praktisk håndverksfag) is ready to be tested and schools may offer it from autumn 2019. In the subject, students get to practice and experience mastery in a craft field. Cooperation with local craft companies is an important part of the work in the new elective. Through cooperation with local businesses and artisans, pupils can gain much better knowledge of working life than they could just through classroom activities.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the new subject was on a public consultation round and is now being implemented as an ordinary optional subject.

2021 Completed

The new subject is available for all pupils as an elective at EQF level 3.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

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

[Link to curricula](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

VET-related priorities in the political platform of the government

Following the elections of autumn 2017, the government announced its priorities on 14 January 2018. For upper secondary VET, they included:



Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2024 Implementation

The social contract for VET

The social contract for VET was renewed in 2016 aiming at providing apprenticeship places to all qualified young people who applied, therefore tackling high dropout rates, increasing the number of apprenticeships and the number of adults acquiring a trade or journeyman's certificate.



Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“...” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Motivating learners for VET: Norway. 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/28466>