

Reforming the qualifications structure

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 FINLAND

Timeline

2017 Approved/Agreed

2018 Implementation

2019 Completed

ID number 28206

Description

As part of the 2018 reform the Ministry of Education confirmed in February 2017 the restructuring of vocational qualifications as of January 2019. The number of vocational qualifications has decreased from 351 to 164 (43 vocational qualifications, 65 further vocational qualifications and 56 specialist vocational qualifications). The new qualification structure, which is composed of broader qualifications, helps individual learners better organise their competence development in a more flexible way and in line with the changing demands of working life.

2017 Approved/Agreed

2018 Implementation

2019 Completed

The restructuring was completed in 2019, setting up 42 vocational qualifications, 64 further vocational qualifications and 55 specialist vocational qualifications.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Culture

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Degree structure - information provided on the EDUFI`s web page](#)

Related policy developments

2022 Completed

Key competences in vocational qualifications

As a part of the larger and continuous updating of VET qualifications, which is caused by the changes in working life, the Finnish National Agency for Education is preparing optional competence modules for sustainable development, financial literacy and economic understanding to be included in vo

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Validation of prior learning for adults

The competence-based qualifications in Finland embed validation of non-formal and informal learning as an integral part of the entire CVET qualifications system. The system has been in place since 1994 and was further strengthened in 2007 and in 2015 by the Decree on individualisation.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

CVET

2017 Completed

The Act on the national qualifications framework

The Act on the Finnish national framework for qualifications and other competence (Act

The Act on the Finnish national framework for qualifications and other competence (Act 93/2017) and the related government Decree (120/2017) entered into force in March 2017. The framework covers the entire education/qualifications system.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Reform of the vocational qualifications requirements

There was a need to strengthen the learning outcomes approach of vocational qualification requirements, the modular structure of qualifications, flexibility and individualisation in learning paths and validation of prior learning.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2020 Completed

National anticipation model for adult education

The Finnish National Agency for Education has been developing and coordinating the skills anticipation model for adult education since 2016. The participatory and interactive process ensured an opportunity to participate in developing and piloting the model as extensively as possible.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2021 Completed

National skills anticipation groups

In 2017, 30 national education and training committees were replaced by nine skills anticipation groups, each representing different vocational fields and together with the steering group formed the National forum for skills anticipation.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Reforming the qualifications structure: Finland. 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/28206>