

Reform of the vocational qualifications requirements

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 FINLAND

Timeline

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Completed

ID number 28205

Description

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. In August 2015, the existing legislation on VET was amended to steer the IVET system to implement validation more effectively. The most drastic change was the shift from time-bound credit points to competence points, which show the relative importance of the unit of learning outcomes to the overall qualification (e.g., based on relevance for the labour market and social integration as well as the complexity, scope and volume of the unit of learning outcomes). The implementation of ECVET was part of the reform of the qualification system and revision of the national qualification requirements. The scope of vocational upper secondary qualifications was set to 180 ECVET credits. The curricula were redesigned to serve the competence-based approach. The Finnish National Agency for Education oversaw information and cooperation in relation to ECVET.

2015 Approved/Agreed

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Completed

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Culture
- Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI)

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

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

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

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Developing upper secondary education content

The development comprises several actions.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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

2020 Completed

Expansion of the national qualifications framework

In March 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture set up a working group for the preparation and coordination of the expansion of the national framework for qualifications and other competence modules.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

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 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

2019 Completed

Reforming the qualifications structure

As part of the 2018 reform the Ministry of Education confirmed in February 2017 the restructuring of vocational qualifications as of January 2019.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET 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

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