

VET in adult education on lower secondary level

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN** SWEDEN

Timeline

2024 Design**ID number 46967**

Background

Municipalities offer upper secondary education programmes where Swedish for immigrants (SFI) or Swedish as a second language is offered next to vocational training. However, it has been shown that the pupils may have difficulty benefiting from vocational training at this level. This may be due to the individual lacking a corresponding Swedish primary education or missing the prerequisite knowledge for the upper secondary level. Municipalities have stated that there is a need for vocational courses at a lower secondary level for adults.

Objectives

The purpose is to increase equity for individuals lacking a corresponding Swedish primary education or missing the prerequisite knowledge for the upper secondary level, by preparing learners for upper secondary education or enabling them to secure employment.

Description

The Swedish National Agency for Education will develop vocational courses at a basic level (EQF level 2). These courses will provide fundamental vocational skills, include practical elements, and are counted as partial qualifications which can lead to complete a qualification at lower secondary level, providing access to programmes at upper secondary level (EQF level 4). The courses should meet the skills needs of different industries and be able to lead to work after completing the training in professional fields such as service, health and social care or horticulture. The courses, developed by the Swedish National Agency for Education, will create greater equity than the current system; each municipality will be able to create its own variations, and will facilitate opportunities for individuals, municipalities, and employers.

2024 Design

In 2024, the government has tasked the Swedish National Agency for Education with developing proposals for courses in municipal adult education in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) and vocational courses at basic level. In the following, the National Agency for Education has prepared proposals to the government, which they reported

partly in November 2024. The final report is due the latest by 15 December 2025.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Education

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Adult learners
Unemployed and jobseekers
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Press release from the Government](#)

[Mission from the government to the National Agency of Education](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). VET in adult education on lower secondary level: 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/46967>