

National vocational education for adults: strengthening VET labour market links

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **SWEDEN**

Timeline

2023 Design **2024 Pilot** **2025 Pilot****ID number 46960**

Background

As in many EU and OECD countries, there is a need to reduce skills shortages and mismatches in Sweden. The country is grappling with important labour and skills shortages, which are particularly pronounced in education, health care, social work, information and communication technology, industry and construction sectors.

In June 2022, the Swedish Government established a National Commission to review how vocational education and training (VET) in municipal adult education can be made more effective and better adapted to the needs of the labour market and individuals. In addition, the Commission was asked to provide recommendations on a potential reform of upper secondary vocational education to strengthen the link between adult education and working life, as well as labour market needs.

Objectives

The objective of National Vocational Education for adults at upper secondary level (NVE) is to strengthen the connection between the skills needs of working life and VET for a faster establishment on the labour market.

Description

NVE programmes last between six months and one and a half years and can lead to a qualification at SeQF level 4 (EQF level 4), when the programme duration is at least one year. To gain access to the programmes, the entry requirements are pass grades from secondary education or for learners to have their prior learning validated. The NVE programmes have flexible opportunities for learners to validate prior learning for exemptions, and thereby shorten the time in training. Students are entitled to grants and loans from the Swedish Board of Student Finance (*Centrala studiestödsnämnden*, CSN). NVE programmes are delivered by independent education providers such as municipalities or providers from the private sector, in response to labour market needs.

2023 Design

In 2023, the Swedish Government has tasked the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYH) with preparing the introduction of the National Vocational

Education for adults at upper secondary level (NVE) based on the model applied in Higher Vocational Education (HVE).

2024 Pilot

The report of the commission was finalised in spring 2024 and initiated to set up a new form of upper secondary education, the National Vocational Education for adults at upper secondary level (NVE, *Nationell Yrkesutbildning*). In autumn 2024, NVE started as a pilot, which is foreseen to run until 2026. MYH is tasked to follow up and evaluate the NVE programmes and submit a follow-up report to the government in March 2027.

Ahead of autumn 2024, MYH granted starts for 38 NVE programmes that include 840 study places. Initially, MYH has chosen to limit the range of programmes to the following selected fields of education: engineering, manufacturing and construction, electricity and energy, transport services, and agriculture and forestry. The choice of these fields is based on the needs in the Swedish labour market. MYH has also considered that there are limited opportunities for adults to train in these fields at upper secondary level (IVET, SeQF 4) in the existing education system in Sweden.

2025 Pilot

In 2025, the government has announced an expansion of the pilot scheme for NVE programmes, which has been running for just over a year. The NVE programme will receive an additional EUR 5 million per year over the coming three-year period. This means a total increase of 15 million EUR for NVE courses during the years 2026–2028.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Higher VET

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Adult learners

Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

Further reading

New form of education: National vocational education and training (NY)

Premiere for a new form of education - national vocational education and training to strengthen skills supply

Mission from the government to the National Agency for Higher VET

The Swedish Government (2024), Official report of the Swedish Government 2024:16 Vaxla yrke som vuxen - en reformerad vuxenutbildning och en ny yrkesskola for vuxna

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/46960>