

Making authorisation of VET provision more strategic and flexible

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 FINLAND

Timeline

2023 Design

2024 Legislative process

2025 Approved/Agreed

ID number 46891

Background

Authorisations to provide VET in Finland are granted by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The authorisation specifies, for example, qualifications the VET provider can provide and the language of qualification. VET providers can apply for new qualifications' authorisation or adjust the existing authorisation. However, the process of applying and receiving the authorisation can be slow and lagging the changing needs of the labour market.

There is need to develop an operational guidance for VET providers to be more strategic while giving them more freedom in offering qualifications, based on the actual local needs of the labour market. This should increase education efficiency and employment prospects of VET graduates.

Objectives

To make the authorisation system for providing VET more flexible (based on the actual local needs of the labour market) resulting in more efficient and agile VET that offers better employment prospects for VET graduates.

Description

In Finland, authorisation for providing VET is managed through the so-called operational guidance for VET providers. Updating the operational guidance requires legislative changes. It is prepared together with the reform of VET funding system to ensure coherence of the two systems.

Approximately 40 VET providers are to pilot the new operational guidance in 2026-2033 by providing qualifications without individual authorisations from the Ministry of Education and Culture (with few exceptions). These VET providers will also have more flexibility in providing qualifications in English.

Legislative changes are planned to come into effect in 2025.

2023 Design

The Ministry of Education and Culture appointed a working group to prepare proposals

The Ministry of Education and Culture appointed a working group to prepare proposals for the new operational guidance model of VET providers and new model of VET funding system. The working group's term started in October. The working group prepared guidelines for the reform and an initial plan for the new operational guidance model.

The ministry also appointed a monitoring group that started its term in October 2023. The monitoring group had representatives of education providers, students, teachers, and other stakeholders.

2024 Legislative process

In 2024, the working-group prepared drafts of the needed legislative changes. The drafts were circulated to stakeholders for comments in May and June. The government proposal for the new law was prepared taking into consideration these comments. In October, the proposal was submitted to the Parliament.

In December 2024, the Finnish Parliament approved the legislative changes concerning the new operational guidance model for VET providers and the funding system of VET.

2025 Approved/Agreed

The application period for the operational guidance pilot ended in March 2025 and the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) assessed the applications during the spring. A total of 85 VET providers applied to participate in the pilot. In June 2025, FINEEC submitted the assessments to the Ministry of Education and Culture and to the VET education providers that applied to the pilot. The Ministry chose the VET providers for the pilot.

In September 2025, the Ministry issued a decree on the operational guidance pilot. The decree defined the qualifications or competence areas within qualifications that may be excluded from the pilot permit granted to VET providers participating in the pilot.

FINEEC initiated the evaluation of the pilot to monitor and assess the achievement of its objectives, the implementation of the negotiation process between VET providers and the ministry, as well as the overall impact of the pilot. The negotiations between VET providers and the education ministry are planned to take place in spring 2026.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Culture

Target group

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Government proposal for the legislative changes \(in Finnish and Swedish only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 **Approved/Agreed**

Reform of the VET funding system

The Ministry of Education and Culture has appointed a working group to prepare the legislative changes needed to reform the VET funding system. The reform is prepared simultaneously with the reform of the operational guidance of education providers.

 FINLAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/46891>