

## VET in Sweden

Swedish vocational education and training (VET) starts after compulsory education and includes programmes at upper secondary, post-secondary and tertiary levels.

To enrol in upper secondary VET programmes, learners need a sufficient number of passing grades in a lower secondary programme. Alternatively they can follow individualised introductory programmes, giving access to upper secondary programmes or to the labour market. Depending on the programme type and the students' performance, they last from one to three years.

Upper secondary VET programmes are three-year programmes leading to an upper secondary vocational diploma at EQF level 4. Each programme can be followed through two pathways: school-based and apprenticeship. Both pathways incorporate mandatory training at the workplace; in school-based programmes the overall share of work-based learning is at least 15% and in apprenticeship the minimum is 50%. Upper secondary schools are run by municipalities, county councils, the State and private training providers.

An upper secondary diploma and sufficiently high grades in particular modules (such as Swedish, English and mathematics) are required to access higher vocational education. All learners in VET programmes are entitled to study those modules or can do so at a later stage for free in municipal adult education.

At post-secondary and tertiary VET levels, one- or two-year higher VET programmes are offered, leading to a diploma or advanced diploma in higher vocational education at EQF levels 5 and 6. They combine school-based learning with training at the workplace. To obtain an advanced diploma in higher vocational education, at least a quarter of the programme must be carried out as workplace training. The training providers are chosen by the Swedish Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYH) and can be municipalities, private providers, counties or universities.

Adult education has a long tradition in Sweden. Participation in lifelong learning was above 30% in 2017, making it the highest in the European Union (Eurostat), and it is provided in many forms. Municipalities offer formal adult education where learners can also acquire an upper secondary vocational diploma. Individual modularised

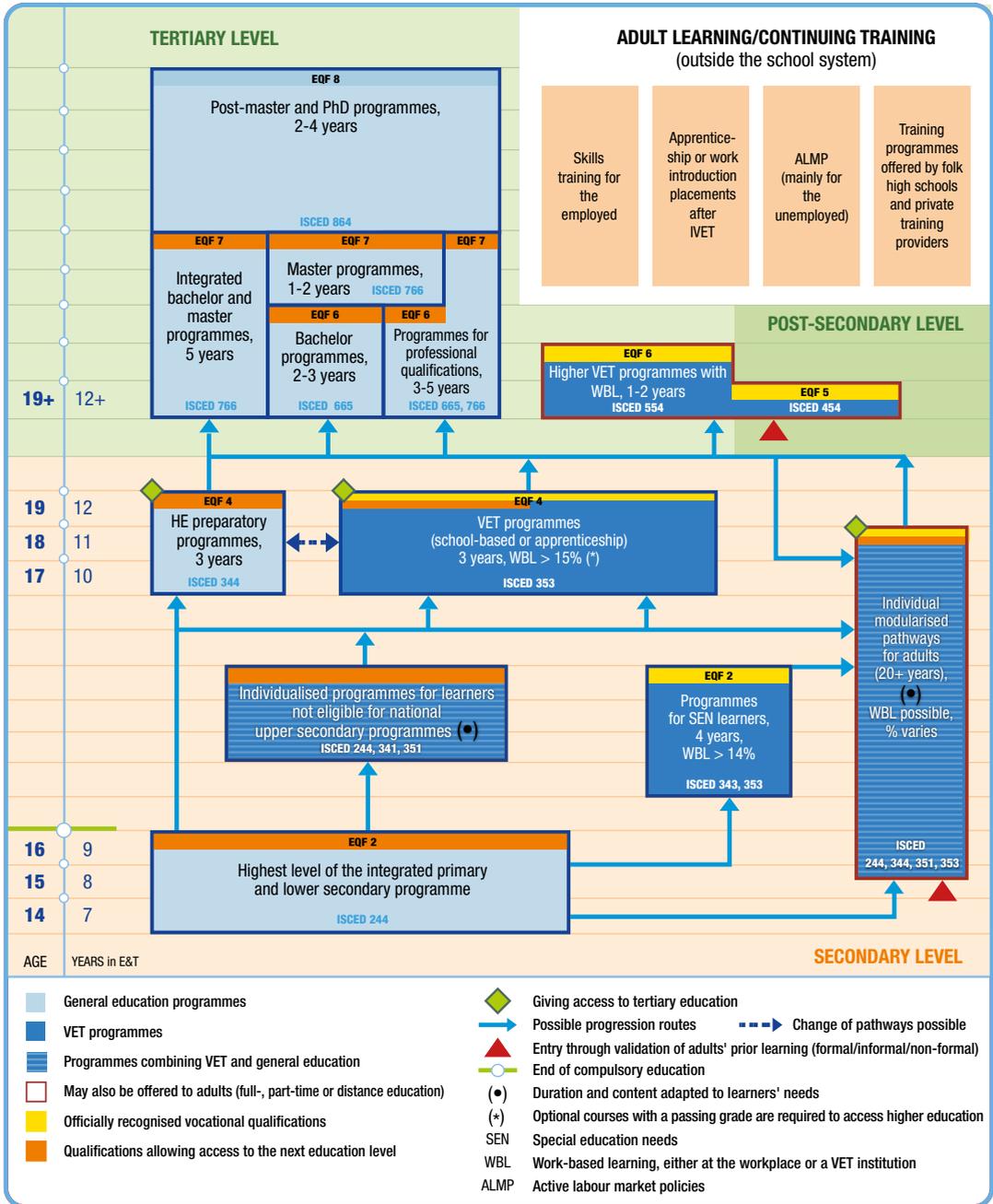
pathways for adults, set up according to the specific required needs, are the most common way to gain a qualification in a new field or study the courses required to access higher vocational or higher general education. At a non-formal level, folk high schools and private training providers offer various courses for adults. Several active labour market policy programmes (ALMP) for the unemployed are also vocationally oriented or feature different forms of work placement. Courses and programmes are financed through fees or by companies and organisations, with public grants also provided.

Since 2016, non-formal and private sector qualifications and certificates can be referenced to the Swedish national qualifications framework (SeQF).

### Governance

The Swedish government has overall responsibility for the education system and sets the policy framework at all education levels. Goals and learning outcomes are defined centrally but with decentralised implementation. The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for most education fields, including upper secondary schools, adult education, and higher VET. Steering documents regulating upper secondary school and municipal adult education are drawn up by the government and by the Swedish National Agency for Education (*Skolverket*). There is a national programme council for each vocational programme; these advise and support *Skolverket* regarding adaptation, development and modernisation of vocational education. Social partners, industry representatives and sometimes also public authorities are members of these councils.

The MYH is in charge of higher VET, approving training providers who then cooperate with the world of work to develop and deliver programmes. The government needs to give their final approval to the introduction of any new higher VET programme.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Sweden.



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