

# Funding part-time vocational education and training in Denmark

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# Types of part-time education for adults in Denmark

- Leisure-time courses ('Popular enlightenment') and Folk High Schools
- General adult education (making secondary general school degrees available to adults)
- **Part-time vocational education and training (CVET)**
- Part-time higher education (Open education)

# The Danish CVET (AMU) system

- Vocational adult and continuing education for unskilled and skilled workers, based on the needs of the labour market and of the participants.
- Mostly relatively short upskilling courses. Some CVET subjects are aimed at specific subject groups and occupations (examples: *manufacture of wigs, cheese production*) while others aim more broadly (examples: *communication in teams, Danish as a second language for refugees/immigrants*).
- System established in the 1950s, reformed in recent years in order to better respond to labour market-relevant competences and improve overall cost-effectiveness.
- Comprises approximately 3,500 labour market training programmes, associated with some 140 joint competence descriptions, offered by approximately 80 institutions for vocational training.

# Funding CVET: Two types of costs

*Providing the courses:*  
educational institutions, buildings, teachers, administrative staff. course development, evaluation etc.

*Compensating companies or employees* for loss of income, transporting employees to the educational institutions.

# Funding CVET: The courses

## Funding sources for providing the courses

- Most funding for courses provided by the state (Ministry of Children and Education). This funding is thus politically decided by central government.
- Public funding for individual institutions consists of different elements, some of them general grants, others generated through an activity-based system, the so-called taximeter system.
- As basis for activity-based funding schools report course activity and participant numbers to the Ministry at least twice a year.
- For most courses the individual participant or his/her employer pays a (relatively low) fee. Some courses exempted from participant fees. especially social and health service.

# Funding CVET participation

- Economic support is provided for individual CVET students, compensating for loss of wage income during study periods. Support scheme (VEU benefit) only available for persons in employment.
- VEU benefit provides same amount as the unemployment benefit (between 65 and 90 pct. of last income). It is available up to 10 weeks each year.
- Persons not receiving wages while participating in courses can apply for VEU benefit as compensation.
- Persons receiving wages while studying can also apply for the VEU benefit, which is then paid to their employer.
- The employer or the employee may also apply to have travel costs (between home and educational institutions) covered.

# Funding CVET participation

- The VEU benefit is funded by the Employer Contribution to Education (AUB) fund, which is based on levies paid by private and public employers. Contributions are compulsory and based on fixed rates decided by the state.
- Besides CVET participation the AUB funds benefits for IVET students in company training (this is the major part of AUB expenses)
- Longer periods of training leave benefits available, generally depending on employer approval.

# General grants for CVET schools

- Basic grants (fixed, including compensation for merged schools)
- Grants for schools with boarding facility
- Periphery grants (for schools in rural municipalities)
- Shadow grants (for schools with too low number of students)
- Grants for specific programmes
- Basic grants for school-based training

# Examples of course fees, 2025

Title	Max days	Participant fee	Fee group	Teaching cost	Admin cost fee	Building cost fee
Advanced restaurant serving	2,5	42800	3	50700	17510	22750
Aircraft turbine engines	5	42800	6	77670	32650	37530
Working with dying and deceased patients	5	42800	3	50700	17510	22750

Participant fee, teaching cost fee, administrative costs fee and building fee are given in DKK per student year. A full-time student year 200 days, so the figures above should be divided with 200 and multiplied with the number of days of the individual course.

# Governing CVET

- CVET part of the Danish public education system; administrative and political governance by state and parliament.
- Tradition of institutionalised influence for social partners of labour market in VET and CVET governance. Perhaps not as strong as earlier?
- National level education committees in each trade with equal representation from employers and employees have a main responsibility for course development. Supplemented by local committees.
- Tripartite negotiations and agreements between the state and the social partners, concerning labour market issues including CVET

**Thank you!**