



Vocational education and training (VET) in Finland is competence-based and learner-oriented, making for an attractive choice. Nine out of ten Finns think that VET is of high quality and provides skills needed for jobs. Four in ten graduates from compulsory basic education opt for vocational upper secondary education.

VET is attractive because of its flexibility and good job and study prospects: graduates may enrol in higher education or enter the labour market. The fact that vocational education is developed and delivered in cooperation with the labour market and highly professional teachers serves as a guarantee for its quality and attractiveness.

VET, an attractive choice in



The Finnish VET system focuses on:

- flexible application and admission systems;
- a clear range of qualifications to meet the needs of working life;
- competence-based qualifications;
- flexibility of qualification structure, allowing students to complete entire qualifications, parts of them or smaller units, or combine parts of different qualification programmes or even university of applied sciences degrees;
- competence-based and individual study paths for all learners;
- more versatile learning environments and work-based learning: training agreements and apprenticeship training;
- a funding system encouraging effectiveness and outcomes.

The current Finnish EU Presidency has a series of education priorities: to advance Erasmus+ negotiations; promote future-oriented education and training; promote investment in human capital; strengthen equity, equality and effectiveness; enhance cooperation between education and research; and foster continuous learning.

Continuous learning has been a focus of recent discussion in Finland as the rapid development of artificial intelligence and digitalisation requires constant updating of skills. The Finnish government has decided on parliamentary reform of continuous education, responding to the people's lifelong need for upskilling and reskilling. This reform will apply to each point of the education pathway at which the education system interfaces with the provision and funding of education, social, relocation and unemployment security, independent and labour market training, and recognition of prior learning.

Continuous learning will also be the main topic for the meeting of the EU's Directors General for VET in October during the main European vocational skills week celebrations in Helsinki. ■



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