



FINNISH NATIONAL  
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# Vocational Education and Training in Finland

- current issues, projects and legislation

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# REFORM OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

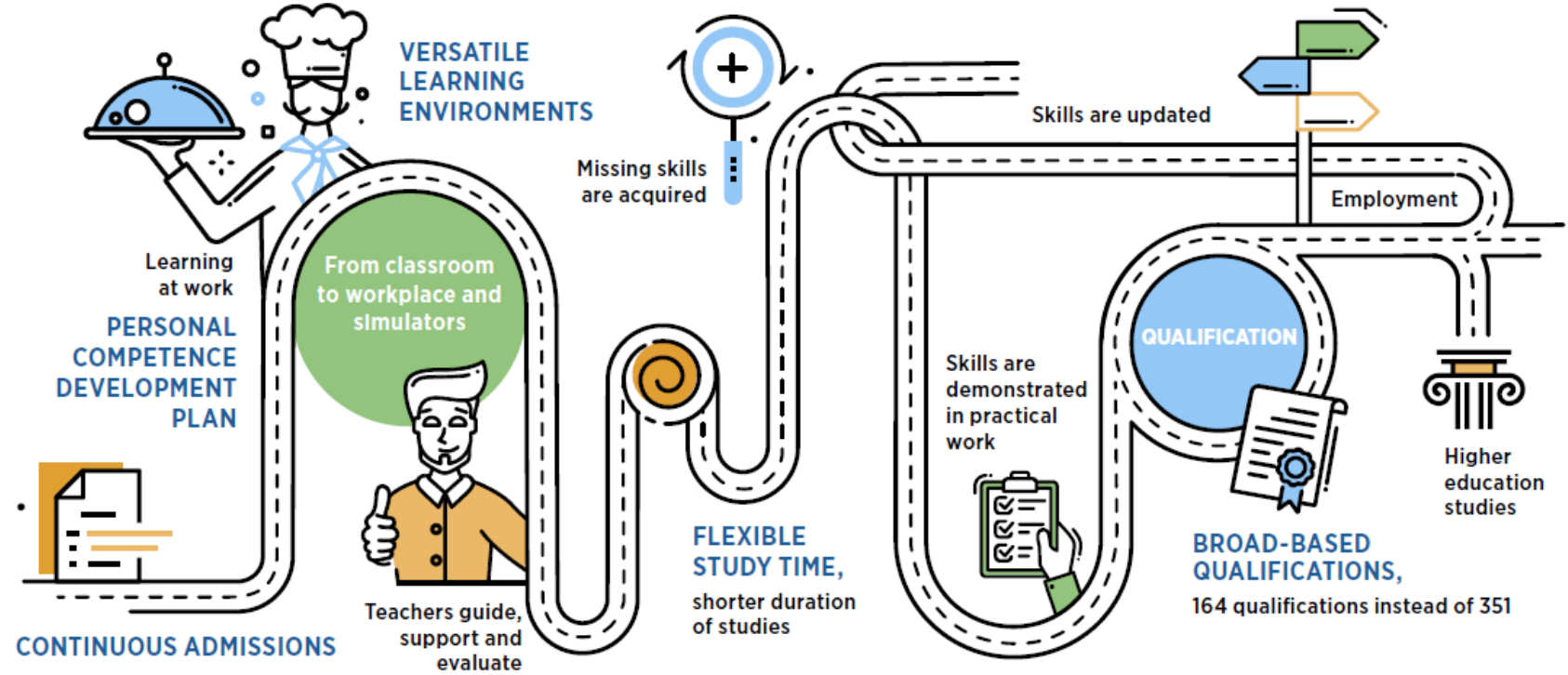
Legislation in force since 1.1.2018

WATCH A VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzRklnHP5iU>

## NEW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING as of 1 January 2018

Working life is undergoing changes. New occupations keep on emerging and old ones disappear. Technology advances. Revenue models are renewed. Students' needs are becoming more and more individualistic. Skills need to be updated throughout careers.



**FUNDING THAT ENCOURAGES EFFECTIVENESS**  
Students do not drop out, they complete their studies, obtain a vocational qualification, access employment or continue studying



**A SINGLE ACT, A SINGLE AUTHORISATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATION**  
No boundaries between young people and adults



**LESS BUREAUCRACY AND MORE AUTHORITY**  
for education providers

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE**  
UNDERVISNINGS- OCH KULTURMINISTERIET

**#AMISREFORMI**

VET Reform / New Vocational Education and Training  
side by side with current and future policies

# VET in Finland: Current issues, programmes and legislation

## EXTENSION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION



## REFORM OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING



## EDUCATION POLICY REPORT



### Quality Strategy for VET

to be prepared also  
for general upper  
secondary school

### Programme to Develop Quality and Equality in VET

also in early  
childhood education  
and comprehensive  
school

### Programme for Guidance Counselling

comprehensive  
school, general  
upper secondary  
school and VET

### Strategy for Lifelong Guidance 2020–2023

in co-operation:  
the Ministry of Education  
and Culture and  
the Ministry for Economic  
Affairs and Employment

# Extension of Compulsory Education

- The aim of the Government Programme is that, having completed their comprehensive school education, **all students gain an upper secondary qualification.**
- The minimum school leaving age will be raised to **18 years.**
- In addition, student guidance and student welfare services will be improved, along with the capacity of comprehensive schools to provide everyone with the skills to complete upper secondary education.
- The extension in compulsory education becomes **effective in 2021.** The related new Act applies for the first time to those subject to compulsory education whose compulsory education under the current Act terminates in 2021.
- The reform aims to **improve conditions for learning and wellbeing among young people and to increase employment rate.**



**Extensive programme for guidance counselling – additional resources for guidance as part of the extension of compulsory education**

# Reforming continuous learning

- Continuous learning will be reformed, the focus being on the **skills of working age people**.
- The reform will respond to the educational needs arising from **changes in the world of work** and seek **solutions to combine work and study**.
- Implementation of the comprehensive reform will continue beyond this government term.



*jatkuva oppiminen*  
= continuous learning in English

# Continuous Learning - Vision and Objectives

The reform of continuous learning examines especially the potential for upskilling, reskilling and developing competence over the course of people's careers. The vision and objectives of the reform are that:

## **Everyone develops their skills and competence during their careers.**

- Opportunities for everyone to upskill and reskill proactively, so that they can develop in their work, find a new job and advance in their careers.
- More equitable participation.

## **Everyone has the knowledge, competence and skills required for employment and a meaningful life.**

- A higher level of competence.
- A higher employment rate.
- A higher number and proportion of 25 to 64-year-olds with a higher education degree and lower number and proportion of 25 to 64-year-olds without a post-primary qualification or degree.

## **Competence renews the world of work and the world of work renews competence.**

- A labour force that is skilled supports sustainable growth, innovation and competitiveness, and consequently wellbeing.
- Skilled workforce for employers.
- Workplace communities advocate learning new things.

The reform is based on information that provides a shared view of the current situation, formed by collecting statistics, data from researchers, interviews with experts and citizen surveys, among other things. The OECD assessed the current state of continuous learning in Finland and issued its own recommendations.

# Education Policy Report

**The Government will draw up an education policy report for skills and learning in 2030. The report aims increasing the level of education and competence in Finland. In addition, topics like equality in education, and reduction of the differences in learning outcomes will be targeted.**

Finland is famous for its education system but at the same time, the system needs continuously to be developed. Our objective is that

- the level of education and competence among the population will rise at all levels of education, differences in learning outcomes will decrease, and educational equality will increase
- children and young people will feel well
- education system offers for all equal opportunities for learning
- Finland will be an internationally attractive place to study, conduct research and invest.

The Government will draw up an education policy report for skills and learning in the beginning of 2021. The education policy report will examine the entire education system.



# Quality and Equality in Vocational Education and Training

- This programme (from 2020 to 2022) to develop equality and quality in vocational education and training will help ensure that **all students in vocational education and training acquire solid occupational competence and good basic skills for work, life and lifelong learning.**
- The programme promotes **raising the level of competence, strengthening equality and non-discrimination in education, reducing learning gaps** and realising objectives related to developing quality in vocational education and training, as outlined in the Government Programme.
- In addition, it helps prepare the of Government's key measures, such as extending compulsory education, reforming continuous learning, and preparing measures for supporting integration. The programme will pursue and step up support for the implementation of the reform of vocational education and training.





# Strategy for Lifelong Guidance 2020-2023

- Based on the strategy, over the government term of 2020–2023, measures will be taken to **widen access to guidance, strengthen lifelong career management skills and enhance skills assessment, upskilling and career development in the working life.**
- The aim is to create a **well-functioning digital service for continuous learning** that makes better use of shared information on education, the labour market and competence.
- Co-operation across governmental sectors enhanced by a permanent national representative structure to co-ordinate the development of evidence-based quality and impact of lifelong guidance services. This entity will support both national and regional actors.
- The training programmes of career practitioners will be evaluated and subsequent descriptions of the core and special competences of career professionals will be developed to promote the overall quality of the guidance services.
- The long-term objective is that guidance advocates an equal, fair and diverse society in Finland.



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# Thank you

<https://minedu.fi/en/frontpage> *(in English)*

*Ministry of Education and Culture*

[www.oph.fi/en](http://www.oph.fi/en) *(in English)*

*Finnish National Agency for Education*

