



World TVET Database Sweden

Compiled by
UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for
Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn
Germany

Tel: +49 228 815 0100
Fax: +49 228 815 0199
www.unevoc.unesco.org
unevoc@unesco.org

Country profiles are compiled from a variety of national and international sources and have been informed and validated by UNEVOC Centres in the country or other TVET national authorities.

The designations employed and the presentations of material throughout this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

UNEVOC/2013/TVETDB/SWE/1

© UNESCO 2015
All rights reserved

Contents

Abbreviations	4
1. TVET mission, strategy and legislation	6
2. TVET formal, non-formal and informal systems	8
3. Governance and financing	10
4. TVET teachers and trainers.....	12
5. Qualifications and Qualifications Frameworks.....	13
6. Current reforms, major projects and challenges	14
7. Links to UNEVOC centres and TVET institutions.....	15
8. References and further reading	16

Abbreviations

APL	Workplace-based learning (<i>arbetsplatsförlagt lärande</i>)
AVE	Advanced Vocational Education
CSN	Swedish National Board for Student Aid
ECVET	European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training
EQAVET	European Quality Assurance for Vocational Education and Training
EQF	European Qualifications Framework
HEPPs	Higher Education Preparatory Programmes
HVE	Higher Vocational Education
LAE	Liberal Adult Education
LIA	Work-based learning (<i>Lärande i arbetslivet</i>)
MAE	Municipal Adult Education
NAE	Swedish National Agency for Education
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
SE	Supplementary Education
SSI	Swedish Schools Inspectorate (<i>Skolinspektionen</i>)
USS	Upper Secondary School

TVETipedia Glossary

Below are listed TVET terms mentioned in this report. Click on a term to read its definitions on the UNESCO-UNEVOC TVETipedia glossary.

Adult education	Non-formal education
Apprenticeship	Post-secondary education
Assessment	Programme
Certification	Qualification
Competence/y	Quality
Curriculum	Quality Assurance
Distance learning/education	School-based programmes
Education-industry relationship	Skills
European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training	Social Partners
European qualifications framework for lifelong learning	Teacher
European quality assurance in vocational education and training (EQAVET)	Teacher In VET
Further education	Tertiary Education
Guidance & Counselling	Trainer
Informal Learning	TVET
Knowledge	Upper secondary education
Labour market	Vocational qualification
National Qualifications Framework	Work-based training

Sweden

Population:	9,779,000 (2015)
Youth population ¹ :	1,194,000 (2015)
Median population age:	41.0 (2015)
Annual population growth (2010-2015) ² :	0.83%



Data © OpenStreetMap Design © Mapbox

1. TVET mission, strategy and legislation

TVET mission

TVET is totally integrated into the education system in Sweden. The TVET mission as defined by the government is to fulfil the real labour market needs. The government therefore involves a diverse set of labour market actors in the planning and implementation of TVET policies and programmes.

TVET strategy

The government focuses mainly on raising the quality and status of TVET provision through:

- diversifying TVET programmes and qualifications, as well as streamlining of TVET options;
- devoting more time to vocational subjects along with introducing new apprenticeship programmes; and
- encouraging municipalities to organise vocationally-oriented programmes through the Local Authority Adult Vocational Education Framework (yrkesvux)

TVET Mobility

The government promotes mobility within TVET with reference to:

- the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) for lifelong learning;
- the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET); and
- the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Educational and Training (EQAVET).

TVET legislation

- **The Education Act (skollagen - SFS 2010:800), the Vocational Education in Upper Secondary School (USS) Ordinance (gymnasieförordningen- SFS 2010:2039) and the Ordinance on Adult Education (förordningen om vuxenutbildningen - SFS 2011:1108)**

¹ Population aged 14-25

² All statistics compiled from the United Nation's Population Division's *World Population Prospects, the 2015 Revision* (<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/>)

regulate vocational education in upper secondary school and municipal adult education (MAE) programmes. The Education Act contains the general provisions for all school forms and the basic provisions for the different school forms. These provisions were made more specific in their respective ordinances.

- **Chapter 16 (§ 18) of the Education Act 2010** states that students in vocational programmes at the upper secondary level are entitled to a minimum of 2,430 institutional hours over three years (on a full-time basis).
- The **Act of 2009 (lagen om yrkeshögskolan-SFS :128)**, which replaced the Law on Advanced Vocational Education (AVE) of 2001, regulates higher vocational education (HVE). The provisions in this Act aim to ensure the establishment of HVE that meets the needs of the labour market. HVE brings together vocational post-secondary programmes not found in the Swedish tertiary education system, including AVE programmes.
- The **Ordinance of 2009 on HVE (förrordningen om yrkeshögskolan – SFS :130)** also regulates the scope and specific requirements of HVE. This Ordinance lays down the responsibility of educational providers to ensure guidance and counselling on alternative study routes, admissions and entry. For instance, educational providers must describe how the counselling will be provided.

Sources:

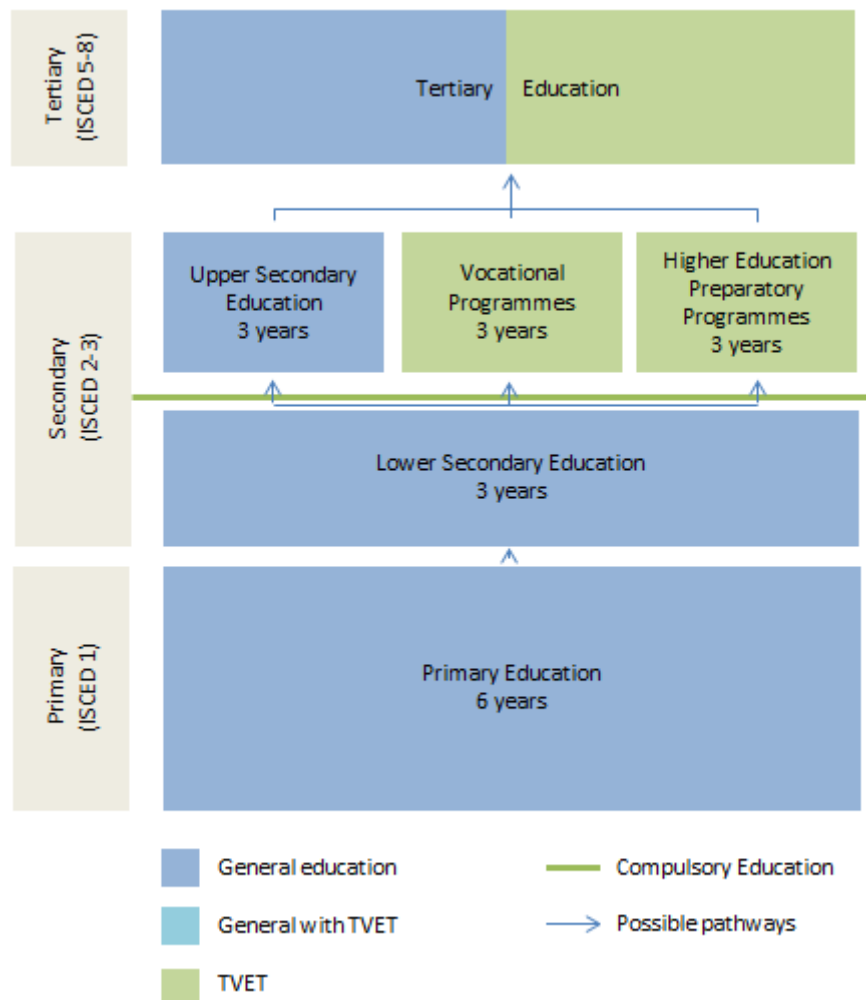
CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe – Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2009). Higher requirements for new upper secondary school. Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2011). Sweden's 2011 report on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020): Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden. Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

2. TVET formal, non-formal and informal systems



Scheme compiled by UNESCO-UNEVOC from CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

Formal TVET system

Introductory Programmes (*introduktionsprogram*)

Students who are not eligible for upper secondary schools may apply to introductory programmes (*introduktionsprogram*). These programmes are adapted to each individual's educational needs and provide clear educational routes. They mainly aim to prepare students to access the labour market, and also if possible provide a good foundation for further education.

Vocational Education at upper secondary schools (USS)

After 9 years of compulsory school, students may proceed to upper secondary schools (USS) (*gymnasieskola*) whether vocational or general streams. Both streams are provided at the same school. Vocational education in USS is offered through mainly two types of programmes:

- Vocational Programmes (*yrkesprogram*); and
- Higher Education Preparatory Programmes (HEPPs) (*högskoleförberedande program*).

Vocational Programmes last normally three years and comprise workplace-based learning (APL) (*arbetsplatsförlagt lärande*) as a compulsory component of the programme in condition that APL covers a minimum of 15 weeks with no maximum limit during the three-year of the study. HEPPs last also three years however, APL is not compulsory and generally the requirements for admission in HEPPs are higher than the ones for Vocational Programmes. Foundational vocational subjects are included in all USS programmes and vary in scope based on the programme type. Also, students have the right to study the necessary courses to be eligible to access tertiary education during or through extension of their vocational education. With the introduction of the modularised programmes, students in USS acquire the right to change their study routes and transfer their taught courses in the old route to the new one.

Apprenticeship education (*Järlingsutbildning*)

This education is introduced in 2011 as an alternative to school-based TVET programmes. 70% of the time in education must be performed in a workplace. These programmes are available for adult learners, consisting of a range from 400 to 1600 upper secondary school (USS) credits. The education is shared by the school responsible for the programme and the workplace where students perform their work based learning activities.

Municipal Adult Education (MAE) (*kommunal vuxenutbildning*)

Students enrolled in MAE may study one or more courses according to their specific needs and preconditions. The duration of the study varies based on each individual study plan, which is designed by both the individual and the education provider. In many places, MAE students are taught in the same building as USS students. MAE offers, with few exceptions, the same courses of USS that allows MAE students to design their individual study plan based on their earlier studies. MAE admits adults who are resident in Sweden, lack the knowledge that the education aims at providing, and also have the preconditions to satisfactorily complete the education. Adults who do not have an upper secondary education and/or wish to change career paths can also be admitted to MAE. MAE leads to various vocational qualifications based on the completed courses.

Higher Vocational Education (HVE)

HVE applies to education for professions requiring specific knowledge or certification to work within the profession. The education varies in length; from six months to two-year full-time studies. HVE combines school-based and work-based learning (*Lärande i arbetslivet* – LIA). For instance, in programmes called Advanced Vocational Education (AVE), at least a quarter of the study period must be taught at the workplace. This allows students to gain solid working

experience and maintain contact with future employers. HVE can also be delivered in the form of distance-learning.

Learning centres (*lärcentra*)

These centres run by municipalities, trade unions, adult education associations among others, are open to adult students enrolled in any education form such as; tertiary education, HVE, MAE, Liberal Adult Education (LAE). They offer students guidance and counselling with regard to their studies and serve as examination centres when required. They also provide students with premises and technical functions in which students may have access to computers, internet, video conferencing, and copying machines.

Supplementary Education (SE) (*Kompletterande Utbildningar*)

SE refers to courses targeted school-leavers and mature students. SE courses are offered at upper-secondary and post-secondary levels. The content of SE courses comprises a single subject mainly within the fields of arts, crafts and culture. Although SE is not part of the public education system, it is supported by the government as it is considered a complement to upper secondary education. SE is owned by individuals or private organisations.

Non-formal and informal TVET systems

Liberal Adult Education (LAE) (*folkbildning*) has a long tradition in Sweden. It is a type of non-formal learning, which is characterised by being free and voluntary. LAE courses are offered by folk high schools (*folkhögskolor*) and adult education associations (*studieförbund*). LAE courses are not restricted to national determined curricula or syllabuses. Each folk high school and adult education association decides on the content and organisation of their education.

Sources:

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden. Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

Webpage of the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education. Accessed: 15 July 2013.

3. Governance and financing

Governance

The parliament and government have the ultimate responsibility for Education. **The Ministry of Education (*Utbildningsdepartementet*)** regulates the TVET system. Municipalities, National Programme Councils and the State are the public TVET providers.

The National Agency for Education (NAE) (*Skolverket*)

NAE develops and determines the educational content of TVET programme and requirements for graduation. NAE prepares and leads the meetings of the National Programme Councils. These

meetings are held about six times per year. Recently, NAE was assigned to analyse and propose measures at the national level to support regional and local actors in implementing the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) at all levels of TVET.

The National Programme Councils (*nationella programråd*)

They are advisory bodies and a permanent forum for dialogue between the NAE and stakeholders concerning the quality, content and organisation of TVET. Each vocational programme offered at upper secondary schools has a National Programme Council to advise and support the NAE in its tasks. The councils also perform other duties such as collecting data on students' entry into the labour market, and enhancing cooperation between school and the business sector. The Councils have representatives from the industry sector and employee organisations and authorities.

The Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYh) (*Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan*)

The MYh is responsible for higher vocational education. MYh has a clear mandate to ensure:

- HVE programmes aligned to the actual needs for qualified labour in working life; and
- the development and maintenance of advanced vocational expertise in certain narrowly defined occupational fields.

The Agency collects and analyses information about the skills needed by the labour market in different industries and regions. The MYh uses this information as a basis to assess which programmes will be included in HVE, using the criteria of labour market relevance. MYh carries out functions such as; evaluations and inspections, as well as monitoring students' entry into the labour market and producing statistics on the proportion of students in work. MYh ensures the accuracy of programmes through for instance checking if students occupied positions in the field they have studied. In addition, MYh administrates the Supplementary Education (SE).

The Labour Market Council (*arbetsmarknadsråd*) is a special body linked to MYh. The Council provides information about the labour market, such as which vocational specialisations are required, what qualifications need to be introduced or, phased out. The Council is chaired by the head of the MYh, and its members are representatives of the Public Employment Service (*Arbetsförmedlingen*) and social partners.

Private providers may be approved to run independent upper secondary schools (*fristående gymnasieskolor*). **The Swedish Schools Inspectorate (*Skolinspektionen*)** is responsible for approving independent schools, which are regulated by the same steering documents as municipal schools.

Financing

Funds for the schools come from the municipal budget through state grants and municipal taxes. Central government financing is based on a number of different parameters such as population, social structure and number of immigrants. TVET upper secondary programmes and Municipal Adult Education (MAE) are free of charge. In MAE, students must pay for their teaching materials. All higher vocational education (HVE) programmes are free of charge and

moreover qualify students for financial aid from the Swedish National Board for Student Aid (CSN).

Independent schools that obtained a permit to run vocational education may receive grants from municipalities on the same conditions as for public schools.

Non-formal TVET is financed by student fees, by companies and organisations, or public grants. MYh makes the final decisions regarding public funding allocations and whether the programmes qualify students for financial aid. The majority of the Supplementary Education (SE) providers charge tuition fees and some of these qualify students for financial aid. Liberal Adult Education (LAE) is largely financed through support from the state, regions and municipalities.

Sources:

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

Webpage of the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education. Accessed: 15 July 2013.

4. TVET teachers and trainers

Normally, TVET teachers are required to have a higher education degree in the subject to be taught, which can be obtained by studying 1.5 years at a university college or university. TVET teachers must also have relevant vocational knowledge and pedagogical skills. A person who is already working as a TVET teacher, but lacks a degree in vocational education needs to study at a university college or university for one year.

TVET teacher education comprises education methodology, general teaching knowledge and skills, and practical supervised training in a school.

To teach in a Swedish school a teacher registration is required, demonstrating that the teacher is qualified to teach in the subjects. However, due to the lack of qualified staff, TVET teachers are exempt from the registration requirement although schools should give priority to registered teachers when they are recruiting.

A TVET trainer must be appointed when teaching is provided at a workplace. The trainer is the contact person for the school and provides support to students at the workplace.

Sources:

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2011). Sweden's 2011 report on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020). Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden. Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

5. Qualifications and Qualifications Frameworks

Secondary vocational education

TVET upper secondary programmes (USS) lead to a vocational diploma (*yrkesexamen*) and, under certain circumstances, a student enrolled in municipal adult education (MAE) can also receive a vocational diploma upon completion.

Post-secondary vocational education

Higher vocational education (HVE) programmes lead to different qualifications based on the length of the programmes:

- a one-year programme leads to a diploma in HVE (*yrkeshögskoleexamen*); and
- a two-year programme leads to an advanced diploma in HVE (*kvalificerad yrkeshögskoleexamen*).

National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

The Government aims to implement the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYh) is the national coordination point for EQF and reports on how the Swedish TVET system meets the requirements imposed by the recommendation. The NQF is under development and MYh has therefore been instructed to prepare proposals on broad description to facilitate such development. MYh has also been given the task of managing the link between the NQF and the EQF.

The National Agency for Education (NAE) is assigned to implement the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET). Since 2012, NAE has worked to analyse and propose measures at national level that can support regional and local actors in implementing ECVET at all levels of TVET.

Quality assurance

The Swedish Schools Inspectorate (SSI) (*Skolinspektionen*) is responsible for the supervision and quality assurance of both vocational upper secondary education (USS) and Municipal Adult Education (MAE). Regular supervision of schools is carried out on the basis of a number of assessment areas and points, whilst quality assurance follows up a specific area. SSI has been commissioned to further develop methods for both the supervision and quality assurance, ensuring that the assessment areas and points are always taken into account.

The Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYh) is responsible for quality assurance of higher vocational education (HVE) programmes. MYh carries out three different types of inspections; (1) introductory supervision, (2) regular supervisions and (3) supervisions owing to certain circumstances.

The table below shows the responsible agencies for steering quality assurance of certain education levels:

Education Level	Responsible for quality assurance
upper secondary schools (USS)	Education providers and The Swedish Schools Inspectorate (SSI)
higher vocational education (HVE) and advanced vocational education (AVE)	Education providers and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education (MYh)

Table extracted from CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

Sources:

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe - Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden. Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

6. Current reforms, major projects and challenges

Current reforms and major projects

In the budget bill for 2013-17, the government highlights a number of areas in vocational secondary and tertiary education where measures need to be developed such as:

- Strengthening TVET teachers' and trainers' competencies through further training and qualifications;
- Investing in the Vocational Introduction Programme (*yrkesintroduktion*) by offering incentives to providers;
- Reinforcing quality assurance in work-based learning through the introduction of incentives to providers, and developing a national training for TVET trainers who teach in workplaces;
- Continuing investments in apprenticeship programmes by increasing grants to employers providing places for apprenticeship;
- Improving quality of adult vocational education, allocating substantial investments to expand opportunities for vocationally-oriented adult education; and
- Strengthening higher vocational education (HVE) to attract more students, in particular foreign born students and students with functional disabilities.

New projects and programmes

- Vocationally-oriented upper secondary adult education (*yrkesvux*)

This education aims to counter the effects of the recession and labour shortages, and to reach individuals who have not completed upper secondary education or need to supplement their upper secondary vocational education. It is a three-year initiative whereby the government allocates grants to municipalities to expand the number of enrolled students.

- Adult vocational education initiative

National funds have been earmarked to expand the number of available places in vocational municipal upper secondary adult education. The initiative aims to address those who do not complete their education and also those who are either unemployed or at risk of being unemployed.

Sources:

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). Sweden VET in Europe – Country Report. Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

EURYDICE (2013). Sweden. Ongoing reforms and policy developments, Education in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Brussels: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2011). Sweden's 2011 report on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020). Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden. Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

7. Links to UNEVOC centres and TVET institutions

UNEVOC Centres

- [Guidance and Learning Centre of Kristianstad \(TECK\)](#)
- [Centre for Flexible Learning \(Söderhamn Centrum för Flexibelt Lärande, Söderhamn\) \(CFL\)](#)

TVET Institutions

- [Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy \(Institutet för arbetsmarknads- och utbildningspolitisk utvärdering\)](#)
- [National Agency for Education \(Skolverket\)](#)
- [National Agency for Special Needs Education \(Specialpedagogiska myndigheten\)](#)
- [Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth \(Tillväxtverket\)](#)
- [Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis \(Myndigheten för tillväxtpolitiska utvärderingar och analyser - Tillvästanalys\)](#)
- [Swedish Council for Higher Education](#)
- [Swedish Council for Higher Education \(Universitets- och högskolerådet\)](#)
- [Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research \(Forskningsrådet för arbetsliv och socialvetenskap\)](#)
- [Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education](#)
- [Swedish Public Employment Service \(Arbetsförmedlingen\)](#)
- [Swedish Schools Inspectorate \(Skolinspektionen\)](#)

8. References and further reading

References

CEDEFOP ReferNet (2012). [Sweden VET in Europe – Country Report](#). Thessaloniki: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

EURYDICE (2013). [Sweden. Ongoing reforms and policy developments, Education in the Europe 2020 Strategy](#). Brussels: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2009). Higher requirements for new upper secondary school. Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

Ministry of Education and Research Sweden (2011). Sweden's 2011 report on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020): Stockholm: Ministry of Education and Research.

UNESCO-IBE (2012). [World Data on Education VII Ed. 2010/11. Sweden](#). Geneva: UNESCO-IBE.

Webpage of the [Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education](#). Accessed: 15 July 2013.