



NASJONALT FAGSKOLERÅD



FAGSKOLEUTDANNING

NORWEGIAN WHITE PAPER – A MAJOR REFORM FOR VOCATIONAL COLLEGES (LEVEL 5)

- The Norwegian Council for Vocational Colleges (Level 5)
 - Advisory body appointed by the Ministry of Education and Research
 - Develop frameworks and strategies for vocational college education that maintains the individual, enterprises and society's need for vocational skills and lifelong learning
 - Representatives from private and public Vocational Colleges, Business and Employer Associations, Trade Unions and Students.

- Web: <https://www.kompetansenorge.no/nasjonalt-fagskolerad/>

STATUS: THE VOCATIONAL COLLEGES TODAY

- Studies offered: Administrative, commercial, technical, maritime, healthcare, creative, media, multimedia, communication and ICT
- Both public and private vocational colleges (50/50)
- Over 90 vocational colleges - from 20 to 1000 students
- 15.000 students as opposed to 250.000 students at universities and university colleges
- Four different financing systems – but...
- 35% of the studies do not receive public funding
- Separate credit system that normally is not acknowledged in Norwegian universities and university colleges

REFORM: STRUCTURE – VOCATIONAL COLLEGES IN A WIDER EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- Upgraded to Higher Vocational Education
- Changing Vocational College Act § 1 to make it evident that vocational colleges are classified at the level above upper secondary education
- Exemption in the Vocational College Act to open up for vocational college studies of up to three years

REFORM: FINANCING

- Four different funding's merge into one joint funding
- 80% basic funding and 20% performance-based funding, with an open budget for the performance-based funding
 - Uncertain what happens to studies that are not funded today
- Applicable funds for developing and upgrading studies and improving the quality of the education
- Facilitate in order for more people to take studies in vocational colleges

REFORM: GOVERNANCE, ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

- The board of the vocational college has the ultimate responsibility for all activities at each vocational college
- At least two board members must be affiliated with relevant employment and regional workplace
- Voting rights for representatives of students and staff in the vocational college board

REFORM: EDUCATIONAL QUALITY, BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND VISIBILITY I

- ❑ Establish a quality award for vocational colleges
- ❑ Study barometer for vocational colleges (impression of quality from a student perspective)
- ❑ Regular candidate surveys for all students that have completed their studies
- ❑ Obtain new knowledge about vocational colleges education concerning relevance and quality through an employer survey
- ❑ Strengthen knowledge and information about vocational colleges studies in the public career guidance services

REFORM: EDUCATIONAL QUALITY, BASIS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND VISIBILITY II

- ❑ Ensure a good system for information on vocational college staff qualifications
- ❑ Mapping competence needs of vocational colleges as a basis for assessing the competency requirements for the teaching staff
- ❑ Take measures to improve the educational and pedagogical competence of vocational college teachers
- ❑ Include vocational college students in the next survey of living conditions among students
- ❑ Strengthen the knowledge base of the completion rate in vocational college studies through a dropout survey

REFORM: TRANSITIONS BETWEEN VOCATIONAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES/UNIVERSITY COLLEGES I

- Development of Europass Certificate Supplement for vocational college
- Degrees for vocational college studies of one year or more
- Same credit system as universities and university colleges
- Follow up universities and university colleges in processing exemption applications from Vocational College graduates, and will emphasize that these cases should be treated according to the Public Administration Act

REFORM: TRANSITIONS BETWEEN VOCATIONAL COLLEGES + UNIVERSITIES/UNIVERSITY COLLEGES II

- Examine transitional arrangements within the fields of maritime vocational college education and in business administration, and follow up ongoing processes with technical studies on level 5 and 6
- Cooperative funding for vocational colleges and university colleges / universities in Norway who intend to find good transition arrangements between their educations
- Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education is to prepare a guide for institutions and schools seeking to find transitional arrangements between vocational college education and university and university college education

REFORM: STUDENTS RIGHTS

- Right to the use of student welfare organization for vocational colleges that have more than 50 students, and offering training of at least 60 credits
- Introduce the right to study and possibly school funding for stays abroad as part of the Norwegian vocational college education
- National Diploma and Grade Portal include vocational college education

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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