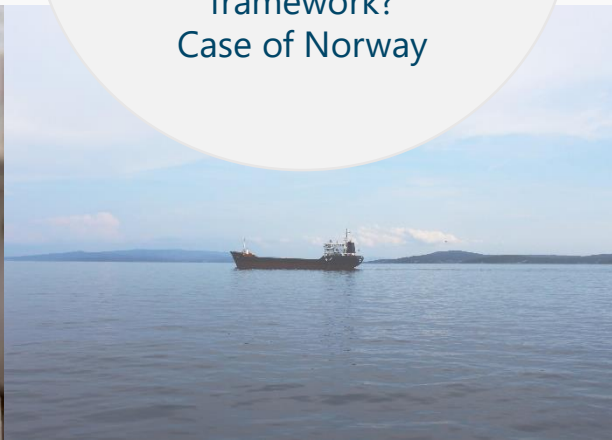




Higher Vocational
Education:
Is the level in
accordance with the
qualification
framework?
Case of Norway

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Reforming the education
system for vocational education
on tertiary level

2013	The government points out a commission to write a green paper on vocational education (tertiary level)
2014	The green paper is published
2016/17	A white paper is published and approved in the Parliament
2018	New law on Higher Vocational Education passed by Parliament
2019	New regulations into place



Key elements of the reform

- Enhancing quality development
- Structure - level(s), length, credits and degrees



MAJOR CHANGES

- New law passed in Parliament June 2018
- Upgraded to Higher Vocational Education
- Exemption - option studies up to three years
- Degrees approved by the Ministry of Education in
 - Professional degree (one year)
 - Higher professional degree (two years)
- Same credit system as universities and university colleges
 - National - OK
 - ECTS/International: Need to revise according to Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA
- *Revision of the National Qualification Framework*

National Qualifications Framework

Established in December 2011

Planned revision by Ministry of Education within 6 years – now longtime overdue

Indications that some studies are expanding into level 6.

Norwegian Council sets down working committee

Levels | Diplomas and degrees

Level 2

Certificate for primary and lower secondary education

Level 3

Document of competence in basic competence, partially completed upper secondary education

Level 4

Certificate for upper secondary education and training

Craft certificate

Journeyman's certificate

Level 5

Diploma for tertiary vocational education (Enrolled in tertiary vocational education 1 and 2)

Level 6

University College Graduate (Partial level qualifications/ intermediate qualifications)

Bachelor's degree

General teacher training programme

Level 7

Master's degree

Master of Arts

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Master of International Business (MIB)

Master of Technology Management

Master i rettsvitenskap (laws)

Candidata/candidatus medicinae (cand.med.)

Candidata/candidatus medicinae veterinariae (cand.med.vet.)

Candidata/candidatus psychologiae (cand.psychol.)

Candidata/candidatus theologiae (cand.theol.)

Level 8

Philosophiae doctor (ph.d.)

Doctor philosophiae (dr.philos.)

Diploma, artistic development programme

MANDATE

- Inquire if some studies are at level 6?
- Need to establish learning outcomes for Higher Vocational Education at level 6?

FINDINGS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE

- Several studies breaking into level 6
 - Technical studies where specified certifications are linked to the study programs in the electrical and construction industry
 - Maritime studies based on the international standard for qualifications and certificates for seafarers (STCW Convention)
 - IT, communication and media studies that qualify for further studies into Higher Academic studies in Norway and abroad
 - Fashion studies based on a recognized international fashion education, where three years studying in France qualifies for admission to master's programs in other European countries

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE

- Establish and suggest a new set of learning outcomes for Higher Vocational Education at level 6 towards the Ministry of Education – for the limited study programs concerned
- In the longer scope – look into the possibility of establishing a binary system with parallel sets of learning outcomes for an academic and vocational pillar in higher education