



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
  - Representatives from private and public Vocational Colleges, Business and Employer Associations, Trade Unions and Students.

## STATUS: THE VOCATIONAL COLLEGES 2017

- Studies offered: Administrative, commercial, technical, maritime, healthcare, creative, media, multimedia, communication and ICT
- Both public and private vocational colleges (50/50)
- Over 80 vocational colleges - from 20 to 1100 students
- 16.000 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
- Same credit system as universities and university colleges
- Degrees for vocational college studies of one year or more
- Exemption in the Vocational College Act to open up for vocational college studies of up to three years

# 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

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

- 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: 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 (35%)
- Applicable funds for developing and upgrading studies and improving the quality of the education
- Funding to restructure the sector



# REFORM: STATUS MARCH 2018 - FINANCING

- OK: 80% basic funding and 20% performance-based funding, with an open budget for the performance-based funding
- OK: Applicable funds for developing and upgrading studies and improving the quality of the education
- OK: Funding to restructure the sector
- Extra funding for 1300 extra admissions to study programs

# REFORM: STATUS MARCH 2018 – STRUCTURE I

- Revised law expected in Parliament in June:
- Upgraded to Higher Vocational Education
- Exemption in the Vocational College Act to open up for vocational college studies of up to three years
- Degrees for vocational college studies proposed
  - Professional degree (one year)
  - Higher professional degree (two years)
- Same credit system as universities and university colleges
  - OK: Nationally
  - BUT: Internationally suggested to convert via ECVET and not ECTS
  - ECVET is only in use in a limited number of industries, in some countries – and mainly on level 3 and 4.

# REFORM: STATUS MARCH 2018 – STRUCTURE II

- National Council with permanent working committees
  - Quality development
  - Leadership and governance
  - Cooperation Vocational colleges and the workplace
- National Councils for different industries
  - Industry and technology
  - Maritime
  - Healthcare and early childhood
  - Agriculture and possibly aquaculture
  - Business, administration and marketing
  - ICT, web development and social media
  - With representatives from private and public Vocational Colleges, Business and Employer Associations, Trade Unions and Students

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How is this in your country?
- Do you have suggestions for us?
- Are there measures you would like to see in your country?



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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