



# NOKUT and social partners

*Quality Assurance and accreditation at level 5 and the role of employers in work-based learning and adult learning*

Kristin Vinje, Chief Executive

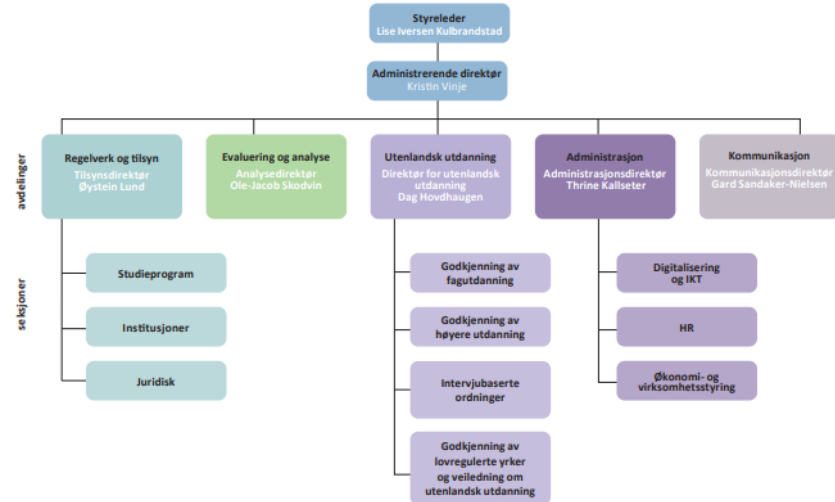
**Who we are**

**What we do**

**Where we go**

# NOKUT (the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education)

- **Independent expert body**
- **NOKUT has a board**
- **150 employees**



# We contribute towards quality assurance and enhancement in education

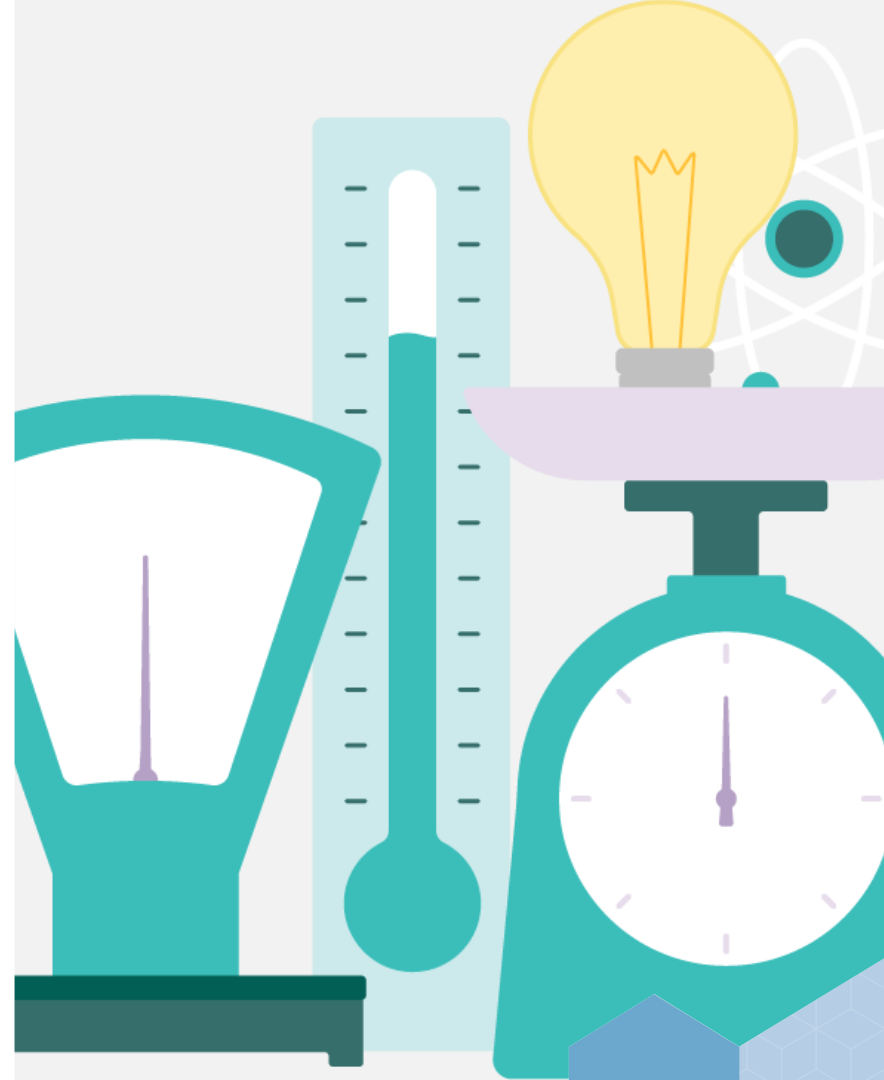
“At the heart of all quality assurance activities are the twin purposes of accountability and enhancement



**Quality  
assurance**



**Quality  
enhancement**

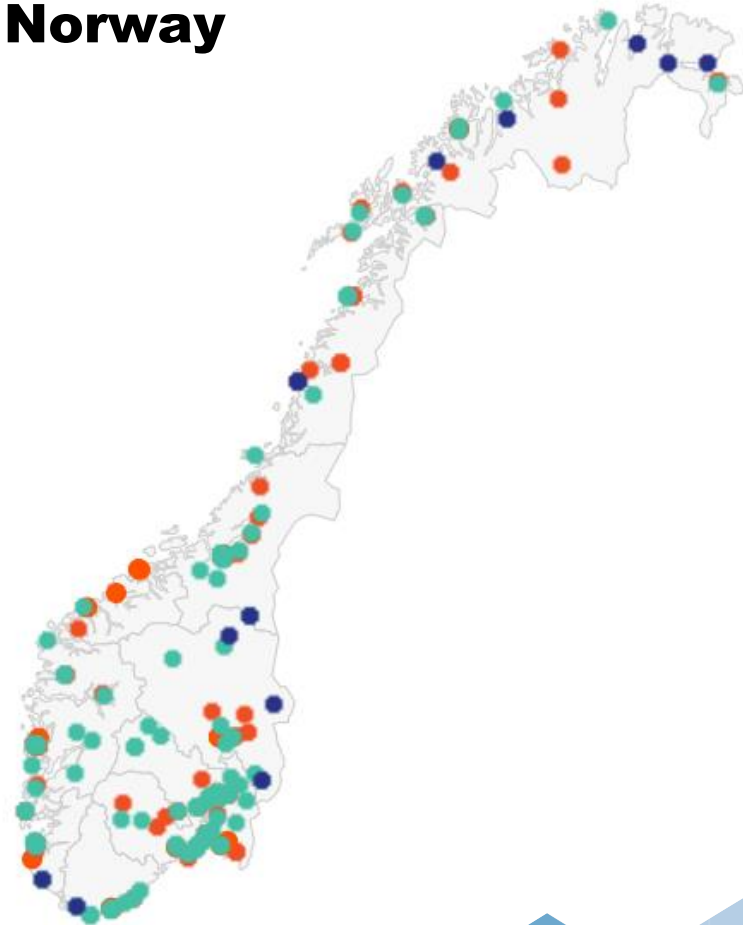


# Map of educational institutions in Norway

**Higher academic institutions (37)**  
**- 312 220 students (2021)**

**Higher Vocational Institutions (58)**  
**- 28 241 students (2021)**

**«Study Centre» (12)**



# Universitet og høyskular

## Lov

- [Universitets- og høyskoleloven \(lov om universiteter og høyskoler\)](#)

## Forskrifter

- [Studiekvalitetsforskriften \(forskrift om kvalitetssikring og kvalitetsutvikling i høyere utdanning og fagskoleutdanning\)](#) – forskrifta er utdjupa i rundskriv (sjå under)
- [Studietilsynsforskriften \(forskrift om tilsyn med utdanningskvaliteten i høyere utdanning\)](#) – sjå merknader frå NOKUT under
- [Forskrift om opptak til høgre utdanning](#)
- [Forskrift om grader og beskyttede titler \(forskrift om grader og yrkesutdanninger, beskyttet tittel og normert studietid ved universiteter og høyskoler\)](#)
- [Forskrift om krav til mastergrad](#)
- [Forskrift om ansettelse og opprykk \(forskrift om ansettelse og opprykk i undervisnings- og forskerstillinger\)](#)
- [Forskrift om NKR og EQE \(forskrift om Nasjonalt kvalifikasjonsrammeverk for livslang læring og om henvisningen til Det europeiske kvalifikasjonsrammeverket for livslang læring\)](#)
- [Forskrift om private universiteter, høyskoler og fagskoler – krav til regnskap mv.](#)
- [Forskrift om overtredelsesgebyr etter universitets- og høyskoleloven og fagskoleloven](#)

## Merknader mv. frå NOKUT

- [Merknader til studietilsynsforskriften](#)

## Fagskular

### Lov

- [Fagskoleloven \(lov om høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning\)](#)

### Forskrifter

- [Fagskoleforskriften \(forskrift om høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning\)](#)
- [Fagskoletilsynsforskriften \(forskrift om akkreditering av og tilsyn med høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning\)](#)
- [Studiekvalitetsforskriften \(forskrift om kvalitetssikring og kvalitetsutvikling i høyere utdanning og fagskoleutdanning\)](#) – forskrifta er utdjupa i rundskriv (sjå under).
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### Rundskriv mv. frå Kunnskapsdepartementet (KD)

#### Merknader til fagskoleforskriften:

- [Informasjon om forskrift om høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning \(pdf\)](#)

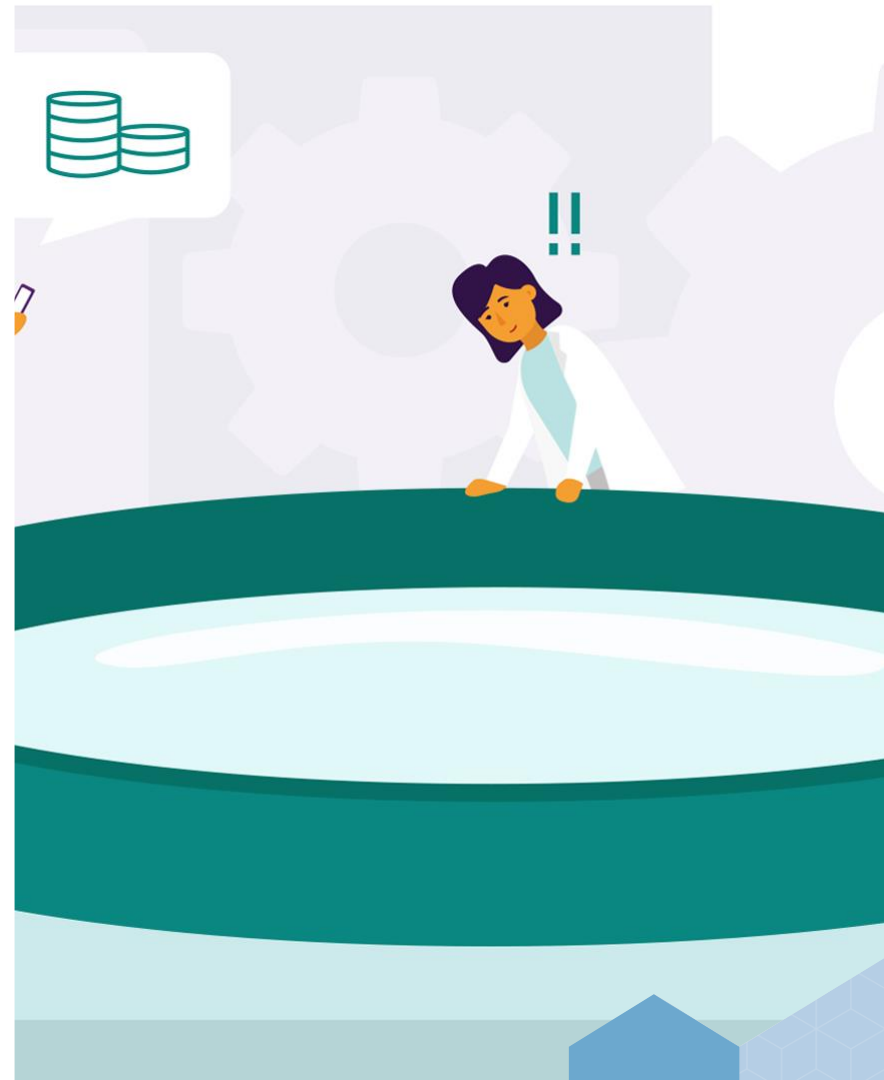
#### Merknader til studiekvalitetsforskriften:

- [Rundskriv F03-16 datert 24.06.2017](#)
- [Rundskriv F-08-10 datert 15.03.2011](#)



# Quality assurance

- Recognition of programs
- Recognition of the right to establish programs in a specific subject area
- Recognition of quality assurance systems
- Supervision



# Quality enhancement

- Advice in quality assurance reports
- Provide guidance
- Sharing of experiences (through workshops, webinars, podcast etc.)
- The vocational school student survey and other analyses



# Evaluation and Analysis

- evaluations, studies and analyses in order to acquire, compile and communicate knowledge that can be useful in the development work of the institutions and authorities
- further development of NOKUT's policy instruments, and it is NOKUT's statistics and quantitative data resource
- In addition, the department is also responsible for Studiebarometeret – the National Student Survey





# Recognition of foreign education

- Recognition of Regulated Professions and Guidance on Foreign Education
- Recognition of Higher Education
- Recognition of vocational education and training
- Recognition Procedure for Persons without Verifiable Documentation (UVD-procedure)



# Recognition of education and qualifications from Ukraine

NOKUT has many years of experience evaluating education and qualifications from Ukraine, but not everyone needs a recognition of their education in order to work in Norway.

Published on March 25, 2022



# Strong growth in higher vocational education;

**Number of students doubled since 2018**

14 600 students (2018) vs 28 241 students (2021)

Almost 5000 more students from 2020

NOKUT is experiencing strong growth in

- Recognition of programs and

- Recognition of the right to establish programs in a specific subject area

NOKUT has recognised a total of 15 programs in a specific area (8 institutions), in 2015 there was only one.

NOKUT experiences large differences in quality



**Students ask for more contact  
with work life**

**Strong need for qualified  
candidates**



# The student survey for vocational school students

- Commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Research
- Conducted annually since 2018 (pilot in 2017)
- “Sister”-survey to the student survey for university- and university college students, which has run since 2013
- Population: all vocational school students who had studied for more than one semester, and some vocational school students in their first semester of study
  - 2022: Around 20 000 recipients and over 9000 respondents, accounting for approx. 720 programmes at 57 vocational schools
- Results made public in September each year, at programme level
  - Vocational schools receive results earlier



# Purpose and use

- The purpose of the student survey is to give educational institutions, students, higher education applicants, the government and other stakeholders information about educational quality in the vocational education sector
- Results shared with vocational schools in the form of raw data and curated graphical reports
- Datasets also made available to researchers through Sikt (Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research)
- Primary practical application today: a resource in vocational schools' quality development work
- At NOKUT: used in various reports and analyses, and as one among several quality indicators in the quality assurance of study programmes



# Publications

- “Preserving high quality social and academic environment in times of crisis” (forthcoming – working title)
- «Working life relevance of vocational school programmes» (12. september 2021)
- «Vocational students’ perception of programme quality during the corona pandemic» (24. september 2020)
- «Quality overviews» at [nokut.no](https://nokut.no) - topics include:
  - School/programme collaboration with labour market
  - Qualifications of enrolled vocational students (qualifications-requirements gap)
  - The organisation of technical programmes

# Characteristics of higher vocational education



European Quality Framework level 5



Builds on European Quality Framework level 4 – vocational



“Education that provides competence for working life without further general training measures”



# Evaluation of The Norwegian qualifications framework for lifelong learning (NQF)

- The Norwegian qualifications framework for lifelong learning (NQF) gives a view of the Norwegian educational system and its levels of qualifications. NQF is meant to facilitate the work on lifelong learning, as well as ensure that qualifications are transparent and understandable.
  - Tertiary vocational education currently at level 5 in NQF
  - Universities/university colleges at level 6-8 (BA to PhD-level)
- NOKUT is currently conducting a comprehensive evaluation of NQF, commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Research
  - Examines a) how NQF is currently used, and b) whether NQFs stated goals are currently fulfilled, as well as potential obstacles and future measures
  - Project also looks at the prerequisites for, and possible consequences of, opening up for vocational education at higher levels in NQF



# Evaluation of The Norwegian qualifications framework for lifelong learning (NQF)

- Several descriptive reports to be published before the end of the year
  - Covers the perspectives of the students + institutions / academic environments
  - Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir) to cover the employer perspective in separate, later publication (Virksomhetsbarometeret)
- Final evaluation to be published by the end of Q1 2023



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Hovedmål	Styringsparametere
1. Norsk høyere utdanning og høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning har god kvalitet	SP01: Kvalitetsindikatorer for utdanningen som skal bidra til utvekslingen av kunnskap og kompetanse mellom utdanning og arbeidslivet
2. NOKUTs virkemiddel for ekstern kvalitetsassessering er treffsikre og bidrar til utvikling	SP02: God tilgang til kunnskap om kvalitet gjennom utveksling og samarbeid
3. Samfunnet er godt informert om kvaliteten i norsk høyere utdanning og høyere yrkesfaglig utdanning	SP03: Institusjonene samarbeider med samfunnet for å øke kvalitetsbegrepet
	SP04: Etiske verdier er integrert i praksis og styrer som NOKUT foreslår
	SP05: Kunnskap om kvalitet formidles til og brukes av studenter og arbeidslivet
	SP06: Kunnskap om kvalitet brukes i regionalt samarbeid
	SP07: Godt samarbeid og platformer for kunnskapsutveksling til alle nivåer