Vocational education and training in Sweden

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Governance model

• A highly decentralised education system
  – goal- and result-oriented steering system (learning outcomes)

• Parliament and Government have the overall responsibility for education
  – set the framework and national goals (Education Act, Curricula, Syllabi etc)

  – Central authorities monitor, evaluate and supervise school activities, schools must systematically follow up and evaluate their own activities
Governance model

• Municipalities have overall responsibility for *educational activities within the school system*. (mainly financed through municipal taxes)
  – **Schools**: considerable freedom to determine how activities should be implemented in order to achieve the nationally established goals

• Central and local authorities are, together with the different organisers, responsible for ensuring that activities are implemented in line with the legislative framework and national goals.
Vocational Education and Training

Exist in several forms – mainly in three core parts:

1. Initial VET (IVET) in upper secondary education
2. IVET in municipal upper secondary adult education
3. Higher Vocational Education (HVE)

- Other VET – exist both inside and outside the educational system
Other forms of VET
- inside and outside the education system

Examples:

- Different forms of post-secondary VET
  - some forms of IVET at Folk High Schools

- Labour market training
  - provided by The Swedish Public Employment Service
    - **aims** to increase the competences of the unemployed to meet employer qualifications demands

- Sector-based apprenticeship
  - business and trade unions organise apprenticeship
Upper secondary apprenticeship programmes in secondary education for pupils with learning disabilities

- In close concordance with the aim for upper secondary education in general
- Allowed in national programmes (9 programmes 2013)
- At least half of the education-time is located at a work-place/s with focus on high quality in placement
- Stable relationship between the student, the school and the employer
- Included as a part of and financed within the framework of the upper secondary apprenticeship education (local programme councils)
- Close cooperation with Public Employment Service
Diploma documents informs about:

- which programme the pupil has attended (normal programme, reduced or extended)
- courses and areas of specialisation – students can read all types of courses at general upper secondary school (flexible, tailored education that provides a good basis for working life and further studies)
- course-credits attained and fulfilled
- grades
- orientation of work-place learning
- information about the pupils school project
Current reforms in Sweden

• Authorisation of teachers
• Initial education exam + special teacher exam focused on learning disabilities
Compulsory school (children aged 7–16)

- 886,000 pupils in school year 2010/11
- 88% attend municipal schools
- 12% attend independent compulsory schools. In major cities 22% of pupils attend these schools
- Earlier school start (from 6 years) 1% of all pupils in grade 1
Compulsory school for children with learning disabilities (2010/11)

- 12,100 pupils 1.4% of all pupils in compulsory schools
- Foundation school 8,100 pupils
- Training school 4,000 pupils

- During the period 1992/93 – 2010/11 the number of pupils in these schools has increased 47%. The proportion has started to decrease over the four last years.
Upper secondary school (non compulsory)

• 386,000 total number of pupils in autumn 2010

• 290,000 in municipal schools 75%

• 92,000 in independant schools 24% In major cities 47% of pupils attend these schools

• 3,800 in county council schools 1%
Upper secondary school for individuals with learning disabilities

- The municipalities are legally required to provide this education
- Offers national, individual and tailor-made programmes (most of them are vocational orientated)

- Total number 9,300 pupils (42% girls and 58% boys)
- The number has increased by 158% since 1992/93 when the number of pupils were 3,600