

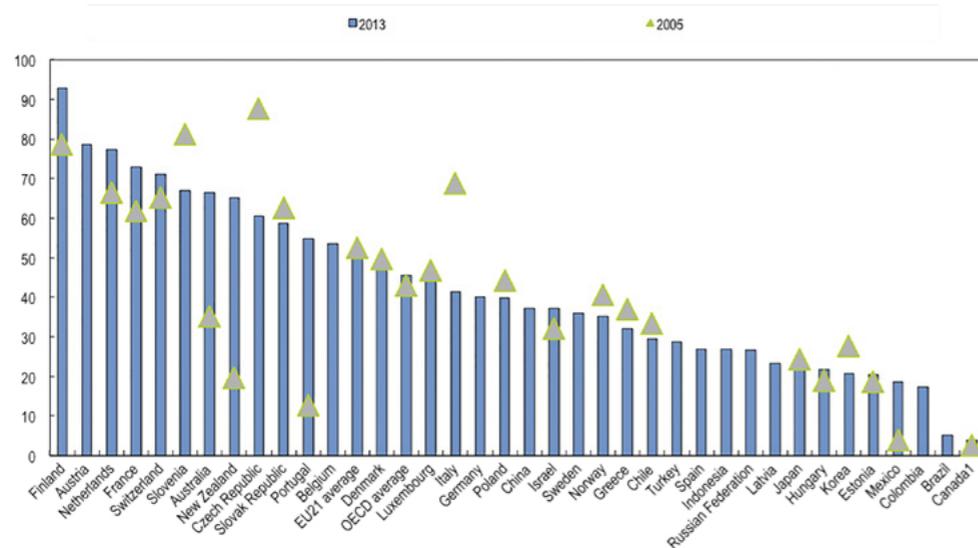
The First Choice

The positive image of VET is due to several factors such as strong working life orientation, blending school-based and on-the-job learning with a hands on approach to building skills, knowledge and competence. Lifelong learning and entrepreneurship skills are also embedded into all vocational qualifications.

Modern learning environments, pedagogy as well as mobile and web-based tools enable learning anytime and anywhere. All qualifications are learning outcomes-based and competence is tested in real-life situations.

Continuous development of VET is a joint effort of all VET providers and is a national priority shared by working life. The national quality system ensures consistency in training and skills.

Finnish VET completion rates are the highest in the OECD.



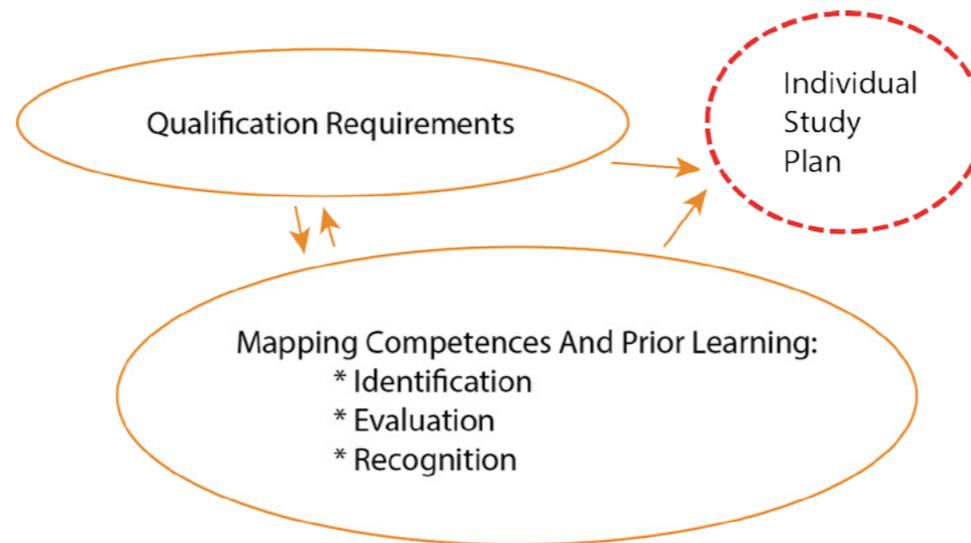
Trends in Vocational Upper Secondary Graduation Rates (2005 and 2013). Source: OECD. Table A2.4. See Annex 3 for notes (www.oecd.org/edu/leag.htm)

Mix And Match

The framework for flexibility comes from the national curricula and qualification requirements. The key factor in successful implementation of flexible individualised learning paths is an efficient and well-structured guidance system.

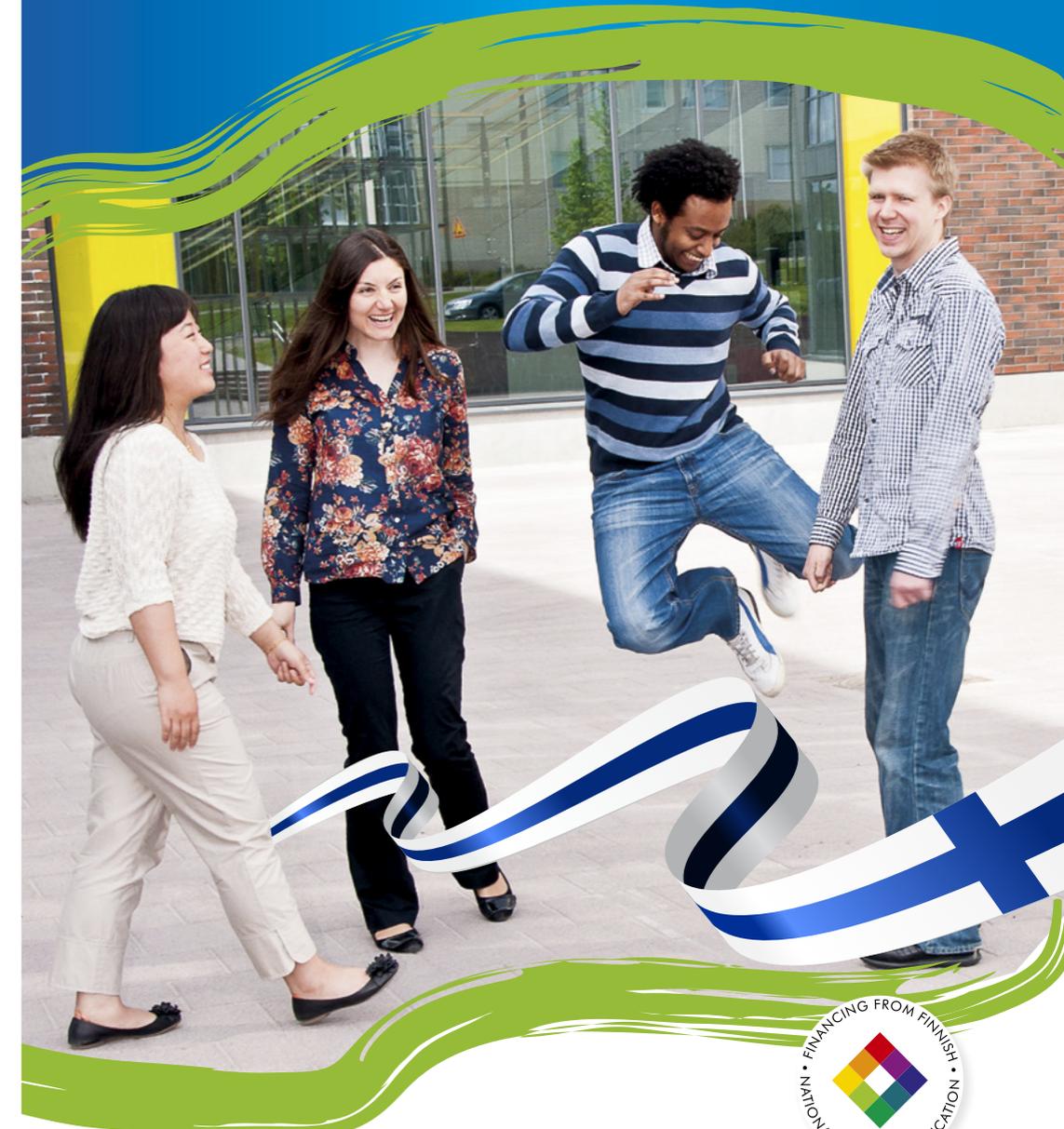
All qualifications include compulsory and elective studies. The flexibility of the individual study plan and the qualification requirements make it possible to select complementary modules from other VET qualifications. In addition, students can choose to mix and match learning environments; in school, on-the-job, through apprenticeships or even hobbies. All learning counts, as long as it can be documented and assessed. Recognition of prior learning is mandatory in VET and thus can shorten study times considerably.

The flexibility and individualised learning paths increase the students' motivation for completing their studies. Furthermore, it gives education providers an opportunity to meet the demands of the regional and local working life needs. The system ensures that employers get skilled workers, and teachers are in constant dialogue with the working life.



Individual Study Plan.

Vocational Education and Training Creating Competence – Why Finns Do It The Best



Vocational Education And Training (VET) in Finland

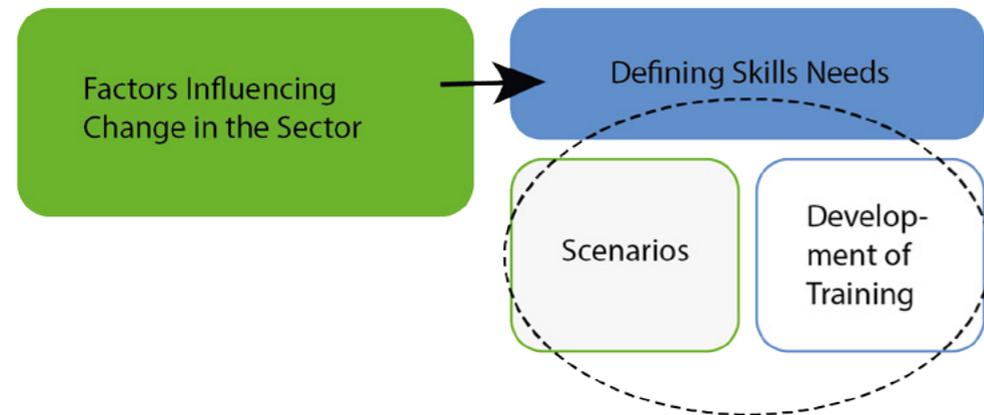
Today, in Finland, 50% of young people follow a path into initial vocational education as their first choice. This is the result of over 20 years of development of VET which has led to a steady increase in number of first choice applicants. In Finland VET is state funded and provides a career with flexible learning pathways for the individual. VET teachers are highly competent professionals with both experience in their respective fields, a university degree and a pedagogical qualification.

VET graduates benefit from the 'no-dead-ends' policy. This means that graduates can continue their studies at university level, enter working life or apply at a later stage to continuing VET programmes.

Anticipation for the Nation

Qualifications are a joint effort: ministries, trade unions, employers' organisations, regional councils, universities, student unions and social partners are involved in compiling the anticipatory data. On a regional level, each VET provider plans the local implementation of the curricula with the regional authorities and working life partners.

Quantitative factors are taken into consideration to balance the supply of education and the demand of the workforce. The qualitative model (VOSE) is used for skills anticipation across a time span of 10-15 years. With these two models, an optimal result for the individual and the system is obtained. Anticipation is all about employability and creating jobs that are relevant for the future.



A simplified process description of the VOSE-model. Based on the model by The Finnish National Board of Education.

Learning for Earning

In Finland, the Finnish National Board of Education approves the requirements for all qualifications on a national level. Professional skills, competencies, life-long learning skills, languages, mathematical and digital skills are all embedded into the assessed learning outcomes. Based on these requirements, training providers design curricula to respond to regional needs. The students' individual study plans are always matched with the national requirements.

The Finnish VET system offers lifelong learning paths by providing three levels of vocational qualifications. Initial VET qualifications are the basis for entering working life, while continuing VET meets the more specific needs of sectoral development. The learning outcomes-based curricula is updated on a regular basis to ensure the training remains relevant.



Finland as Your Partner

Finnish VET providers have excellent international references from working with both public and private sector partners.

Extensive reform projects are implemented by networks of VET providers making it possible to offer multi-sector expertise and commit to long-term international partnerships.



For contact information and more information on Finnish VET, please visit our MOOC

