

YH-flex: Piloting a flexible validation pathway to HVE-qualifications

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Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education



About us

- Established in 2009
- Under the Ministry of Education and Science
- Offices in Västerås and Hässleholm
- Director-General Thomas Persson
- 140 employees
- Website: www.myh.se



Areas of responsibility



Higher Vocational
Education (HVE)



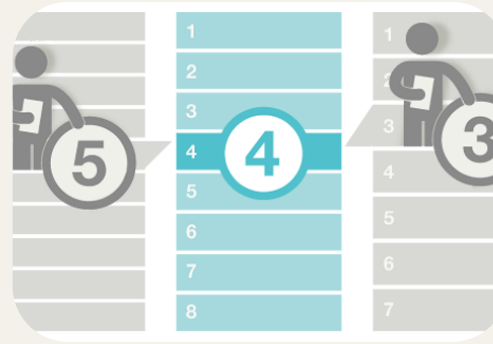
Post-secondary Arts
and Culture courses



Interpretation courses
and programmes



Validation of Prior
Learning



Swedish National
Qualifications
Framework (SeQF)

Higher vocational education (HVE)

- Post-secondary (EQF level 5 & 6)
- Training for specific vocations
- Offered throughout the country
- Responds to labour market demands
- Curricula/learning outcomes developed by providers
- Employers contribute to the shaping and running of the study programmes
- Extensive periods of work based learning are part of most programmes
- Study programmes 1 to 3 years in duration (1 year = 200 HVE credits)
- Range of study programmes vary over time
- All study programmes qualify for student finance (Swedish Board of Student Finance) and most of them are free of charge
- www.yrkeshogskolan.se

Key performance indicators 2020

- **214** HVE providers (public and private)
- **3 016** programmes running during 2020 (some are the same programmes, with different starting dates)
- **2,0** applicants fulfilling entry requirements per financed study place
- **77 900** students
- **35 800** individuals started their studies
- **14 500** graduates and graduation rate was **71** percent (for 2019).
- **87** percent of graduates (in 2019) was in employment 2020

YH-flex – piloting a validation pathway in higher vocational education

Background

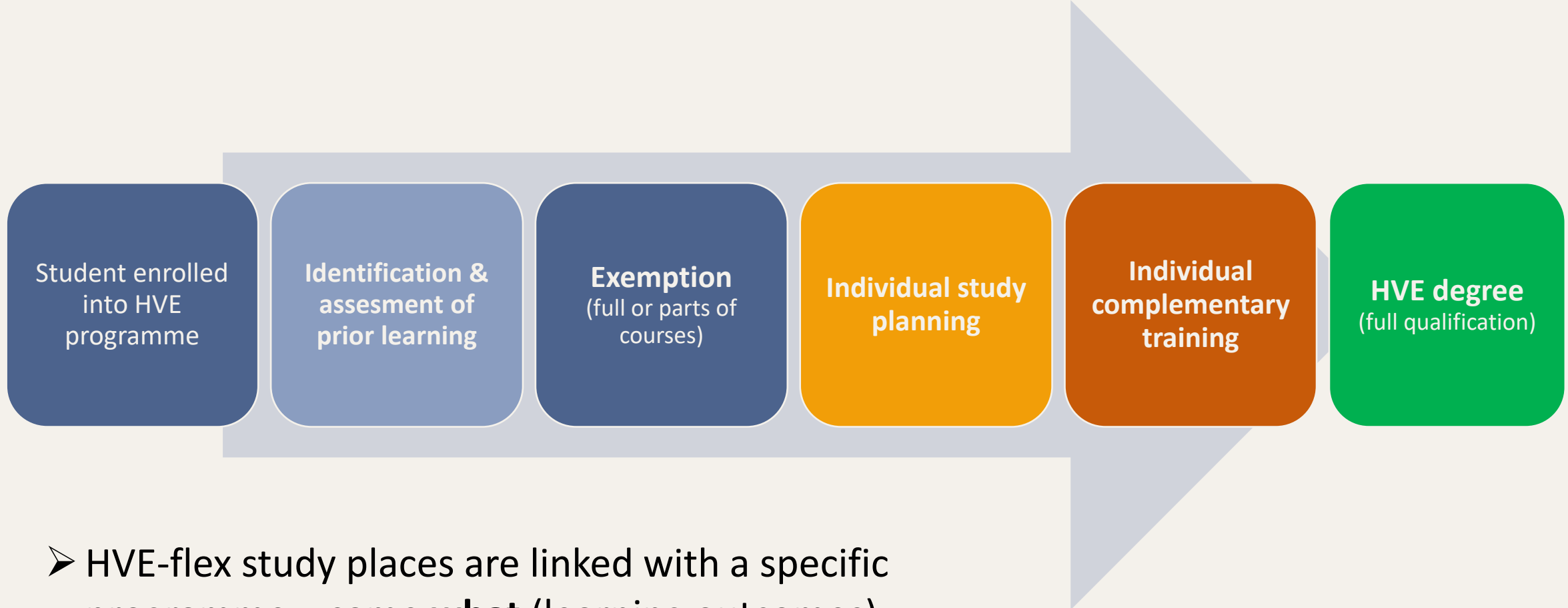
- Exemptions based on prior learning regulated since 2009, for part qualification
- Right to exemption for students enrolled into a programme
- VPL as a specific tool is NOT regulated or prescribed as a tool for exemptions – but we recommend
- Internal review conducted 2019 → the idea of YH-flex was born

- Government assignment: develop and pilot models based on exemption and individualised complementary training to achieve full qualification (HVE-degree)
- Pilot project from June 2020 to April 2023
- Aprox. 3 million Euros in funding per year → 500 students/year
- Project is tasked with proposing permanent model for implementation

Aims of the pilot

- Develop and test a financing model that supports balance between exemption/VPL and complementary training
 - Support capacity building for HVE provider to carry out VPL and individualised complementary training towards a full qualification
 - Develop support materials
- Create faster routes to full HVE qualification and/or more efficient use of government funding

The YH-flex route



- HVE-flex study places are linked with a specific programme – same **what** (learning outcomes)
- HVE-flex has a flexible **how**, **when** and **where** (agreed in individual study plan)

Funding model

Testing a new model of funding for HVE-flex study places:

1. **Validation:** Fixed grant SEK 10 000 per student
2. **Individual complementary training:** variable grant based on number of credits to be provided

Grant ceiling of 75% of regular grant per study place

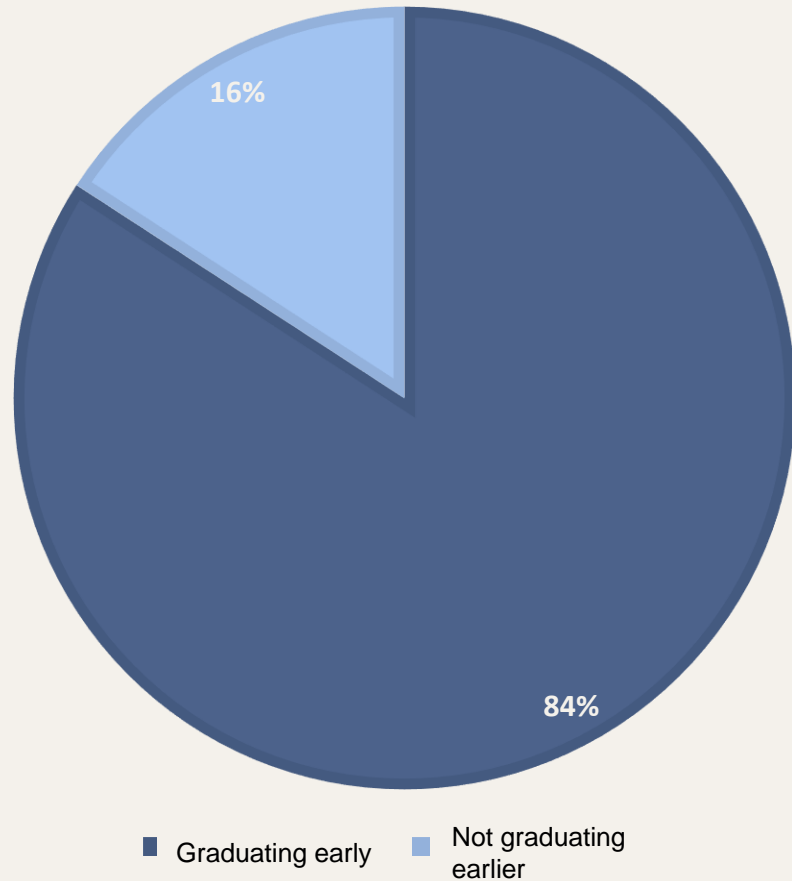


purpose is to create the right compensation (funding model) regardless of the how, when and where

Preliminary results and conclusions

Time to graduation and exemptions

8 out of 10 students planned to graduate faster*



*According to their ind. study plan

On average 50 % of programmes have been exempted

Exempted*	Number (percentage) of students
0–25 %	106 (26%)
25-50 %	98 (24%)
50-75 %	110 (27%)
75-100 %	97 (24%)
Total number of students	411

Efficient use of government funding?

Total cost for the first 417 HVE-flex students is 54 % of "normal" cost →
"saving" is aprox 46 %

	Fas 1 (126 students)	Fas 2 (291 students)
Average cost per study place	47 509	62 981
Total cost for used YH-flex study places	5 986 115	18 327 450
Average corresponding cost for regular study places	107 977	106 887
Total coresponding cost for regular study places	13 605 100	31 103 992
Potential "saving" of governmental funds	56 %	41 %

Preliminary conclusions this far

The pilot has shown that VPL used for exemptions contributes to faster and more flexible training pathways within HVE, and that students enrolled in YH-flex graduates faster and because of that better can utilise their skills in the labour market.

The cost of HVE study places can be reduced with up to 50 %. The project also clearly shows the importance of funding models that supports the use of VPL for the uptake of VPL to increase.

As most VPL processes identifies a skills gap for the individual, the fact that YH-flex as a model encompasses both the validation and the complementary training, makes it an important model for validation also in other contexts.

Operational support and capacity building is important (handbook etc.)

The model developed in the project can be implemented in the HVE-system and can serve as a model also in other parts of the education and training system in Sweden.

Questions for follow-up



84% of the students have a study plan which means they will graduate “faster” (earlier) – but **what will the graduation rate be?**



How should we measure flexibility? Is YH-flex creating **other benefits** for both the individual and society?



We see an increase in “large” exemptions compared with the use of exemptions before YH-flex - what is new is the funding model, otherwise the same conditions apply (no regulatory changes etc.) – **Is funding more important than regulation for the overall uptake of VPL?**



Have the providers recruited a different group of students/**reached a new target group?** We see that the average age of the YH-flex students is about 10 years more than that of the “normal” HVE students

The future?

YH-flex is seen by a variety of stakeholders, both labour market actors and social partners as well as education providers, as an important addition to vocational education in Sweden, and is foreseen to increase over the coming years.

And in the words of Katja Perälä, 47, from Eskilstuna, who has been employed for many years caring for the elderly. Now, she's enrolled in an HVE-flex programme to become an assistant speciality nurse in geriatrics. Given her work experience and prior knowledge, the two-year programme has been shortened to six months of part-time studies. A new, better-paid job awaits her after completion:

'I recommend HVE-flex to all of my co-workers. Many of us see the difficulty in upskilling one's qualifications, but we tend to underestimate the skills we have developed in our professional lives'.

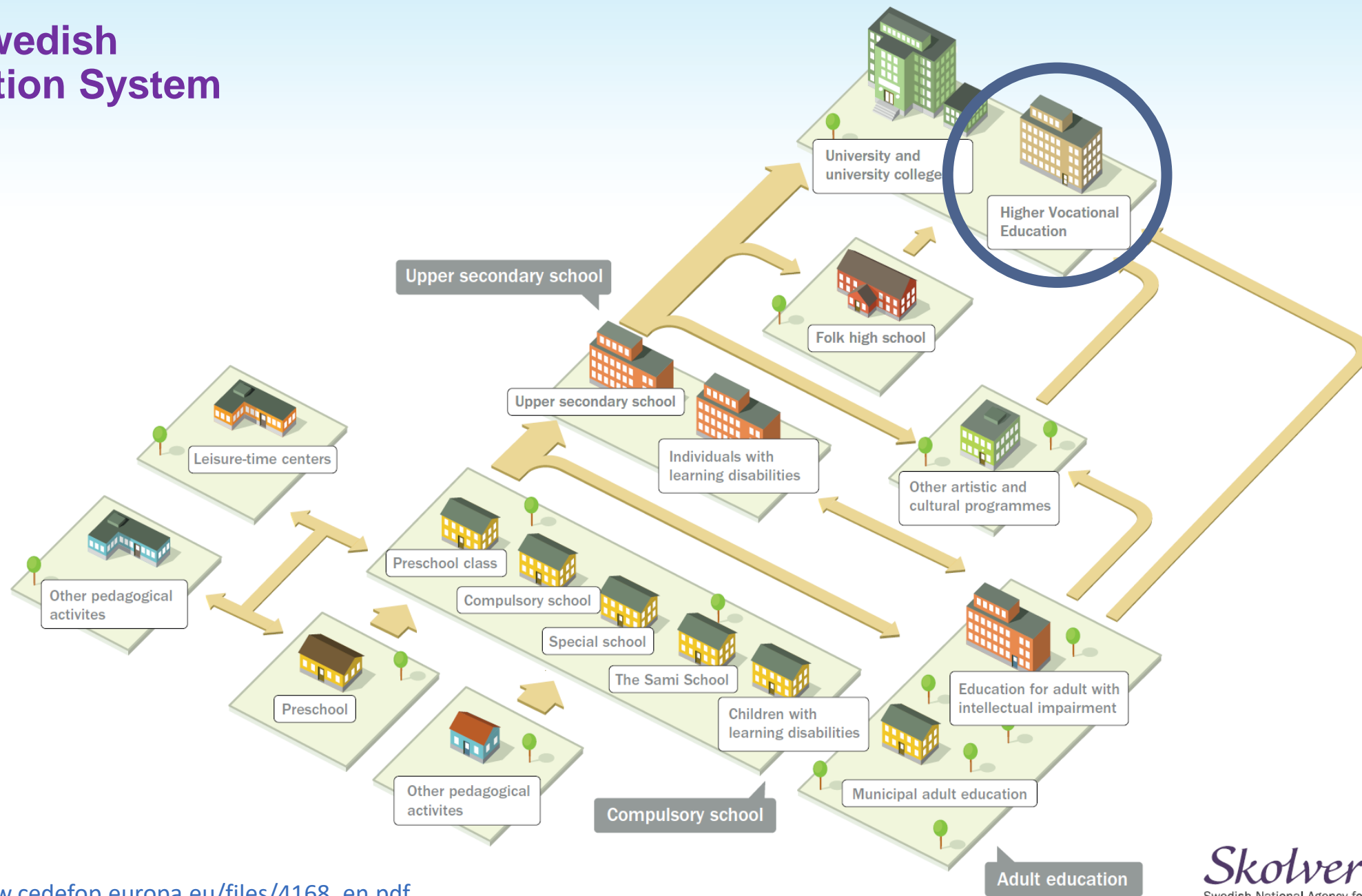
From news item 2021.06.07: [YH-flex förkortar studietiden och ökar flexibiliteten - Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan \(myh.se\)](https://www.myh.se/nyheter/2021/06/07/yh-flex-forkortar-studietiden-och-okar-flexibiliteten).

Thank you!

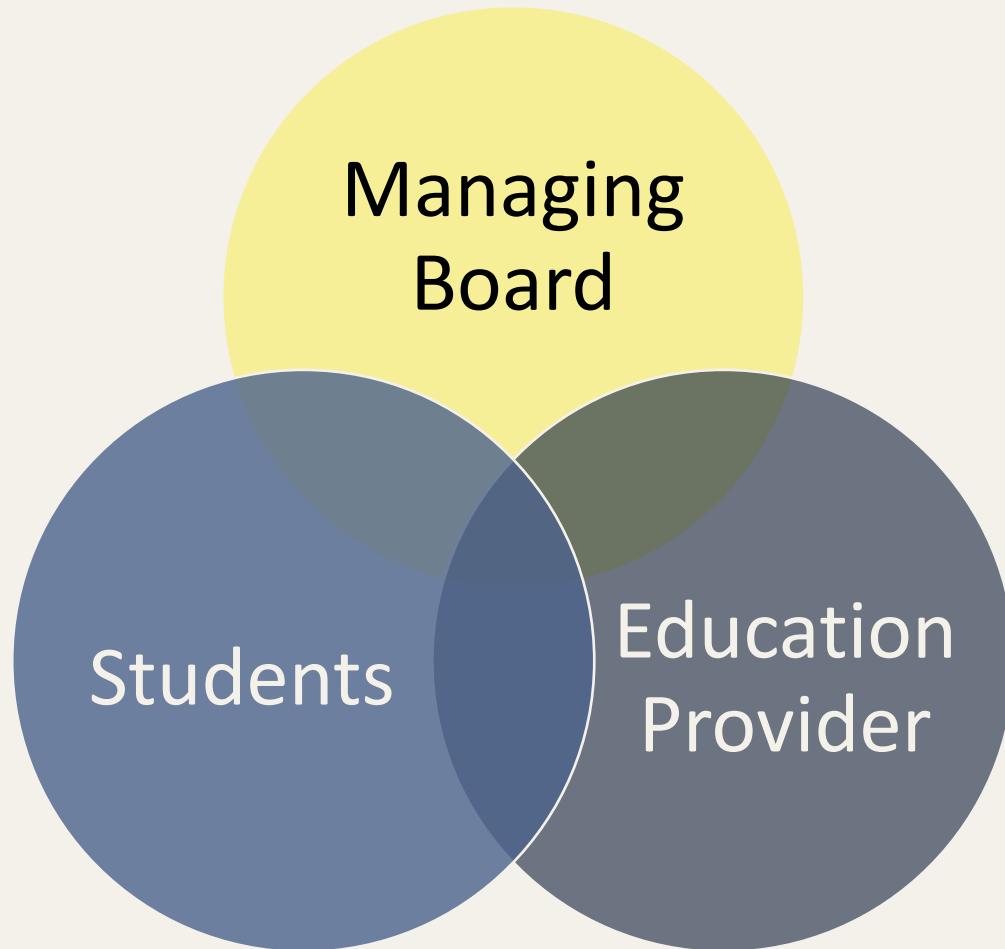
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Additional information on HVE

The Swedish Education System



- Training for specific vocations
- Programmes offered nation wide
- Employers contribute to the shaping and running of the study programmes
- Extensive periods of work based learning are part of most programmes
- Basic entry requirement is school leaving diploma from upp-secondary school (gymnasieexamen)
- Study programmes 1 to 3 years in duration (1 year = 200 HVE credits)
- Range of study programmes vary over time
- All study programmes qualify for student finance (Swedish Board of Student Finance) and most of them are free of charge for students
- Average age of students – 30 to 31
- www.yrkeshogskolan.se



Industry and labour market involvement

Designed to meet labour market demands

Each programme is managed by a board

Extensive periods of work based learning

Tertiary vocational education (EQF level 5 & 6)

- Each study programme is managed by a board
- Members are mainly employers from the sector or industry relevant to the study programme
- One student member
- Responsibilities include e.g. contributing to curricula (for LM relevance), providing a link to companies for WBL, etc.



Challenges & success factors



Career guidance



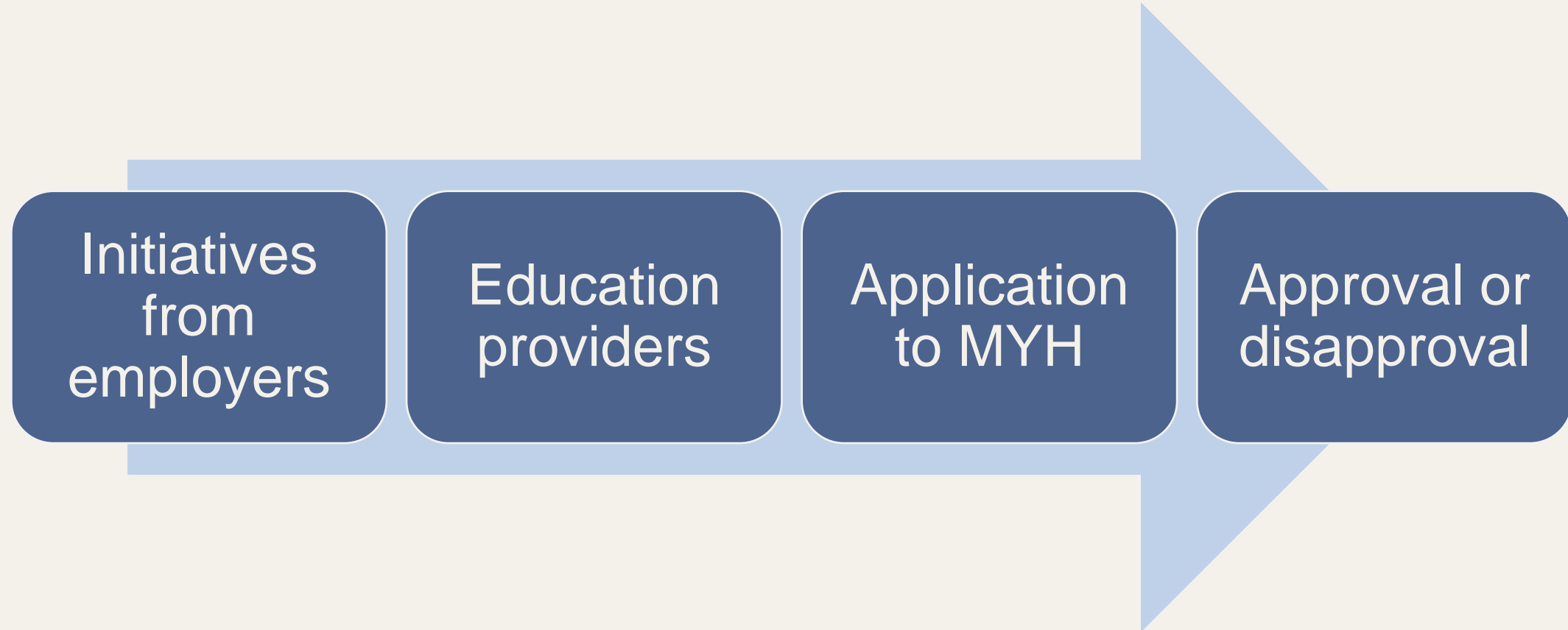
Vet as a choice for youth



Close collaboration with world of work



ROI



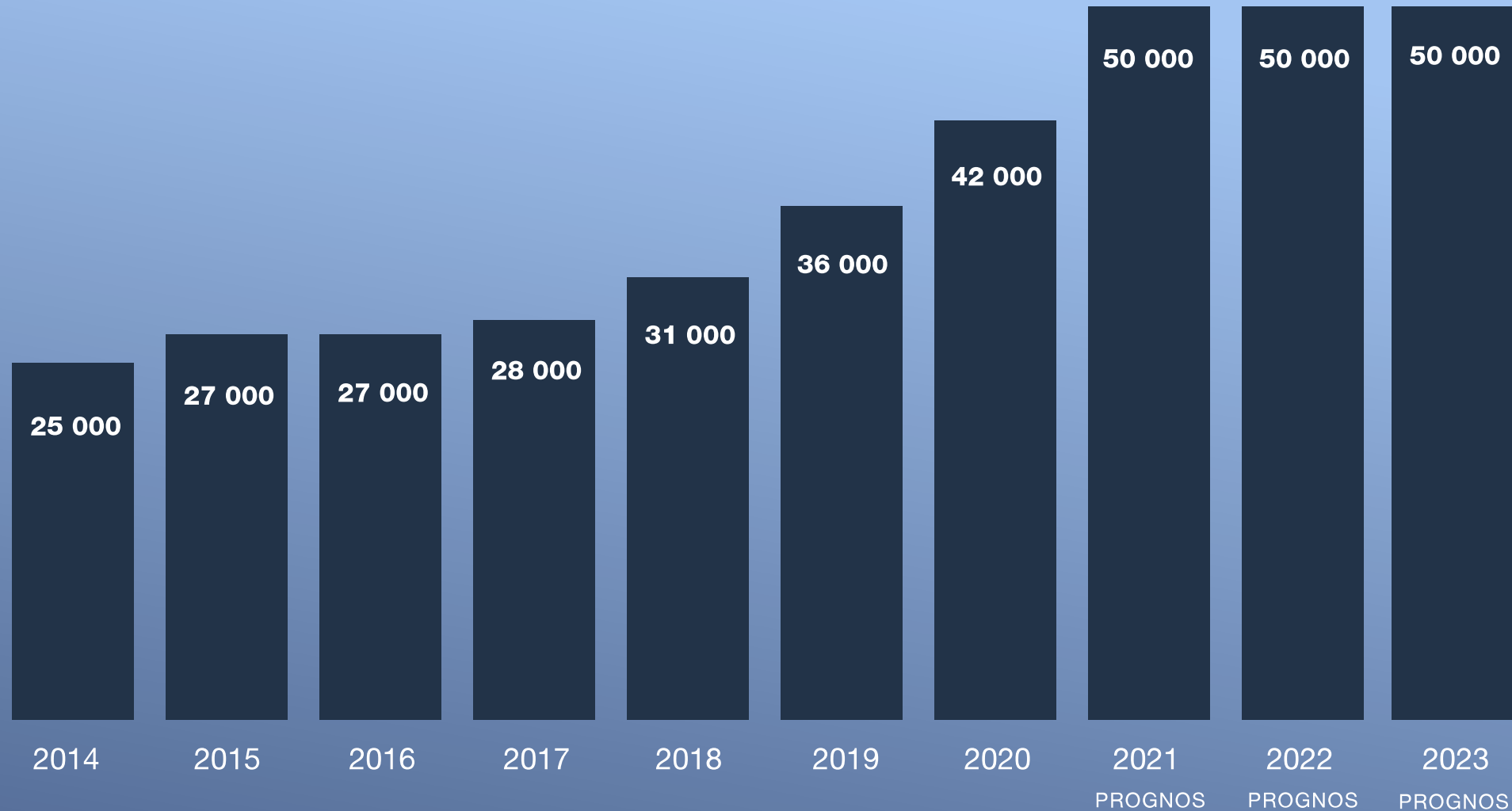
- Approval of HVE programmes and allocation of public funding
- Analyse labour market needs and demand
- Conduct inspections
- Quality Assurance Reviews
- Produce statistics
- Promote quality development in HVE programmes

- To analyse the demand for qualified workforce in relation to the current development in the labour market
- Create the broad picture – what is most important?
- The analyses are used as complementary information and they are one of the sources in the assessment of the application

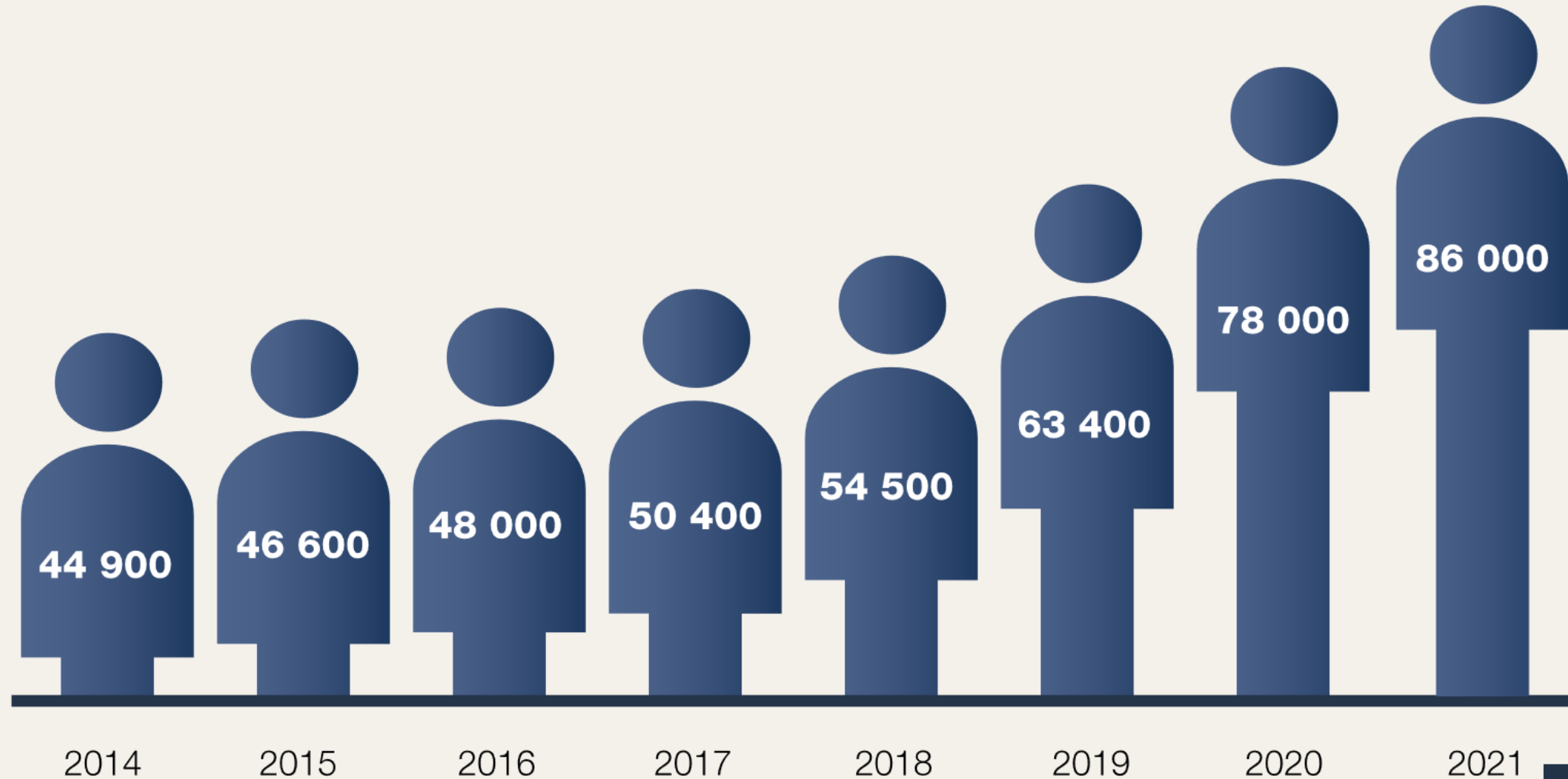
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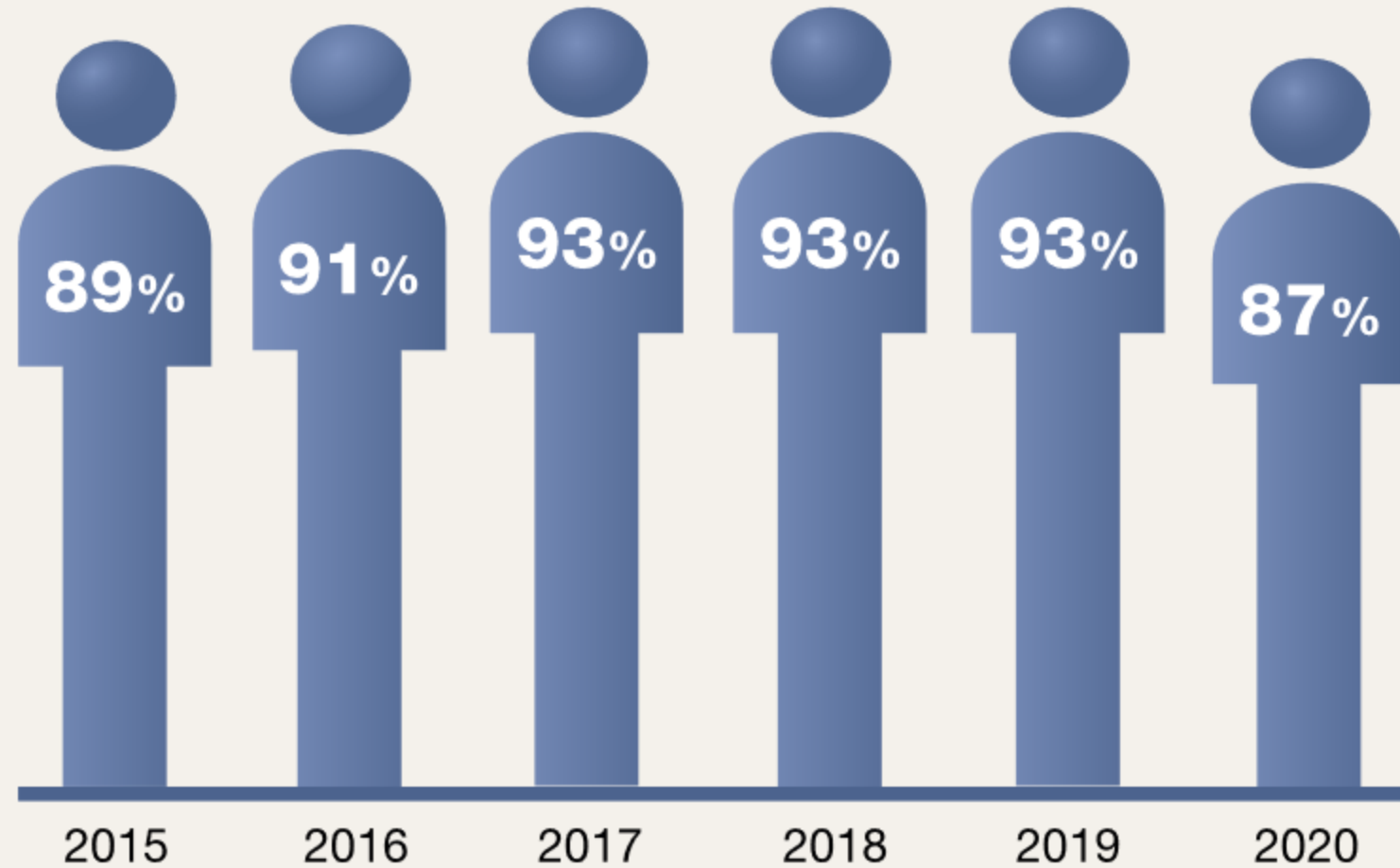
Higher vocational education is to increase by 50 percent



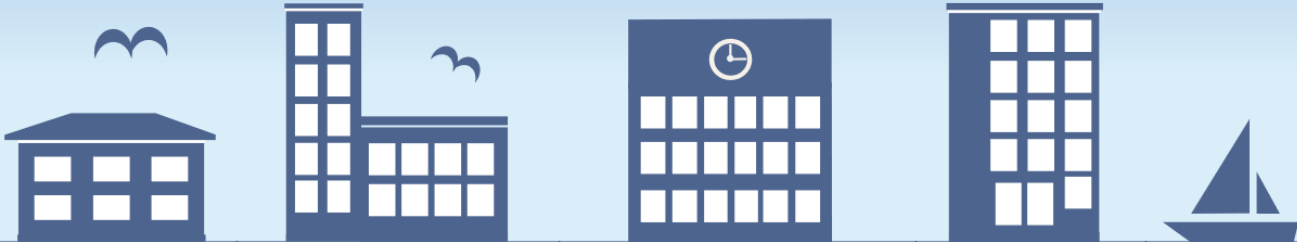
Number of active students



Source: SCB for the years 2014–2020. Forecast by MYH for the year 2021.



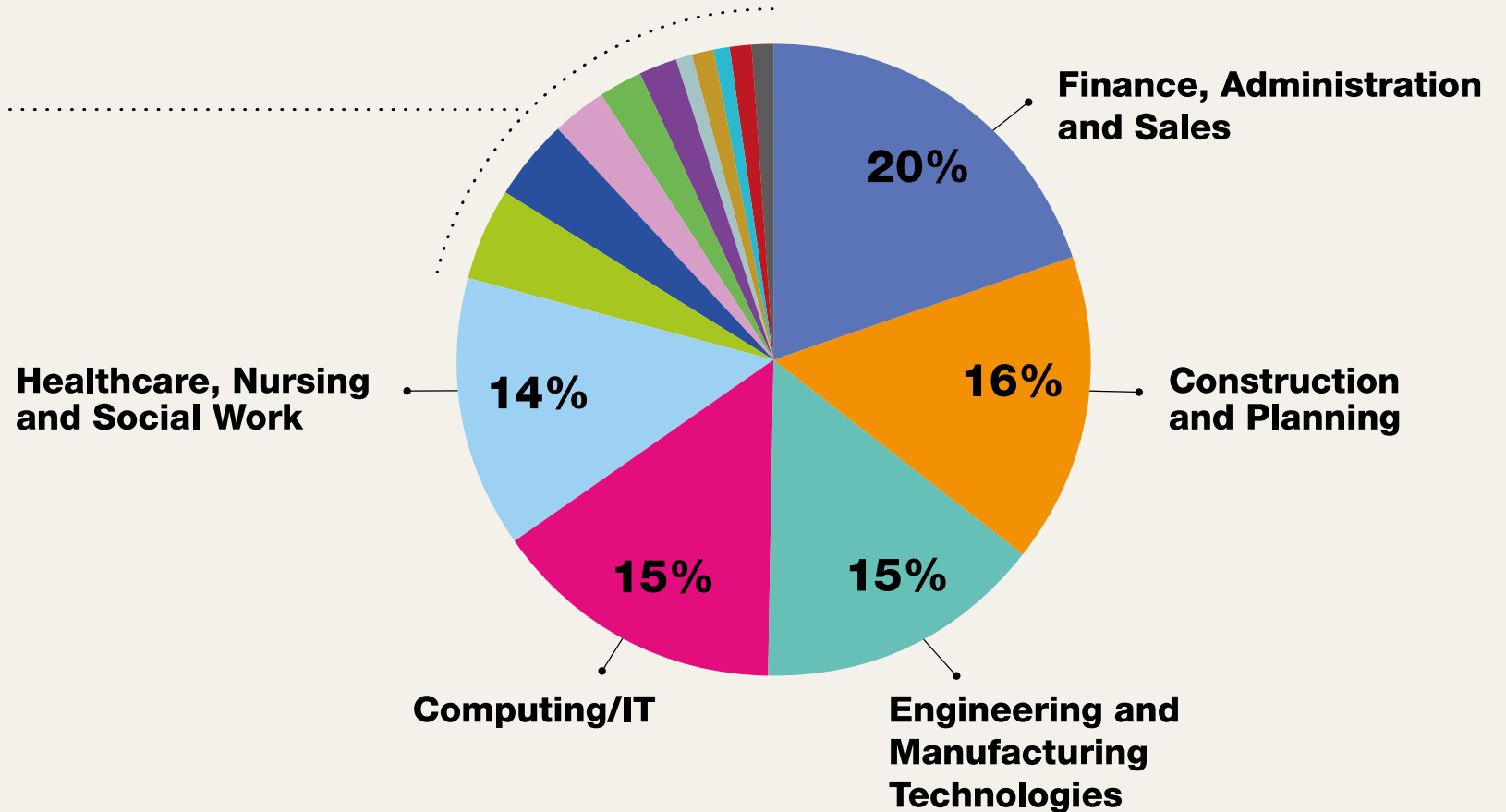
A year after graduation.

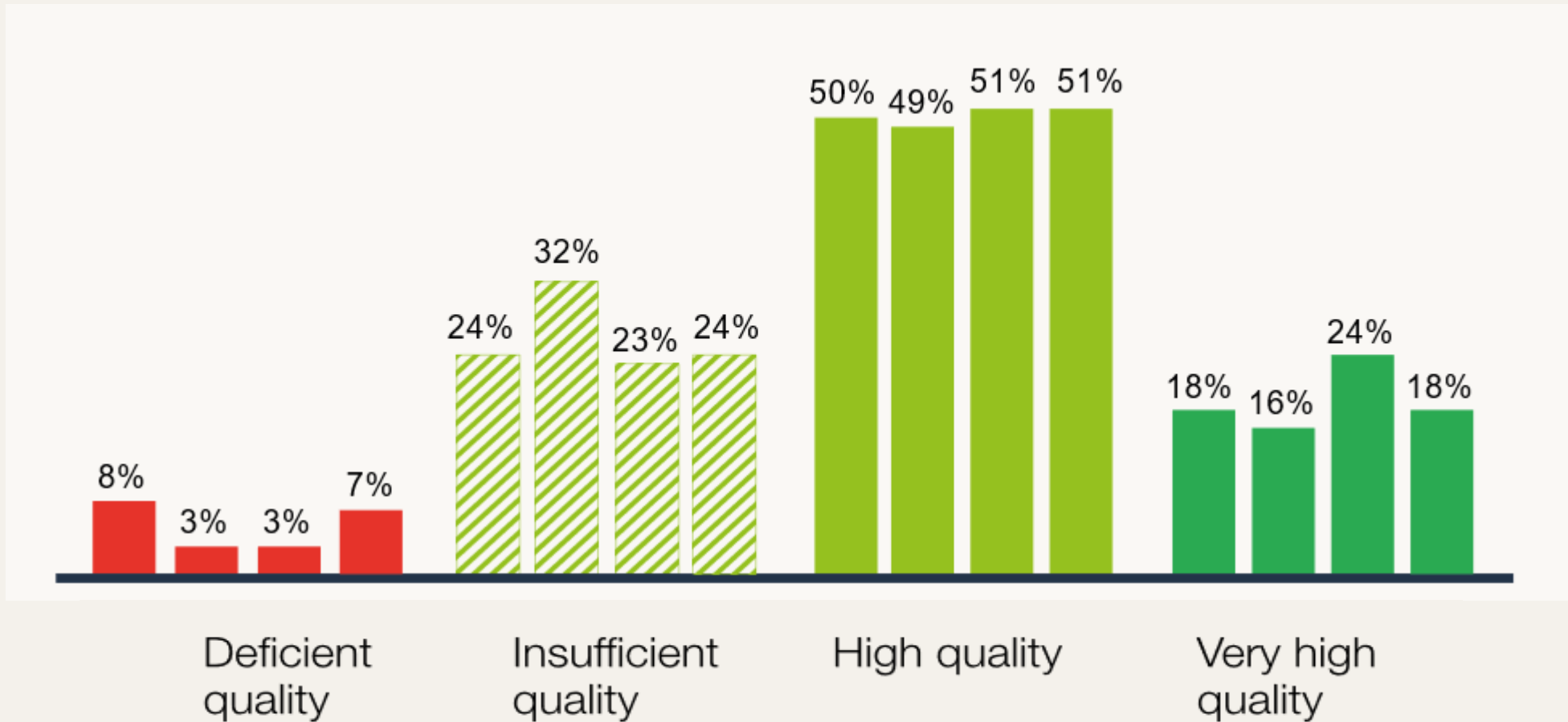


Year	Private	Regional	Municipal	Other	In total
2020	121	5	86	2	214
2019	119	5	87	2	213
2018	122	5	88	1	216
2017	127	5	87	1	220
2016	128	6	93	1	228
2015	125	6	95	1	227

Finishing in 2018–2024 per field of study

Health Promotion and Beauty Therapy	1 %
Hospitality and Tourism	5 %
Journalism and Information	1 %
Law	1 %
Culture, Media and Design	3 %
Animal Care, Agriculture Forestry and Horticulture	2 %
Teaching	2 %
Health and Information Safety	1 %
Transport and Logistics Management	4 %
Other	1 %





From the left 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

HVE short courses

- Course/modules shorter than 100 HVE-credits (1 study week = 5 HVE-credits)
- For re-skill and up-skill purposes
- Implemented in 2020
- 20 000 studyplaces, aprox. 7000 students so far,
- 80% in distance learning
- [Lyckad satsning på korta utbildningar presenteras i ny rapport - Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan \(myh.se\)](#)