

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

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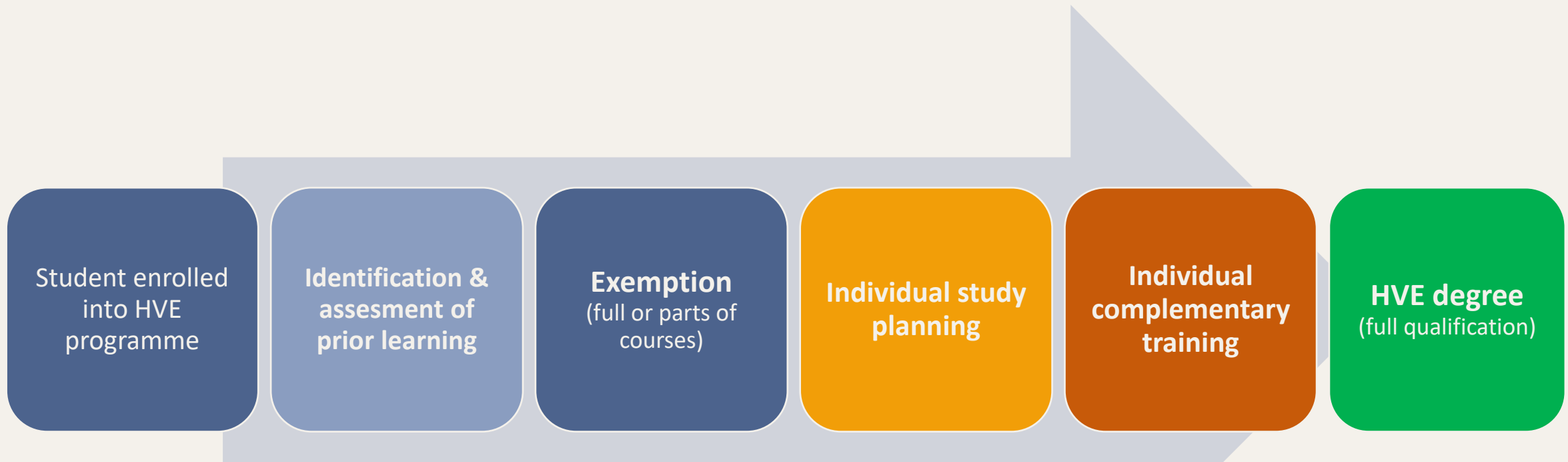
YH-flex – a faster, more flexible learning pathway



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

→ Important for recent labour market reforms, for transitions, re- and upskilling

The YH-flex pathway



- 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)

Why

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 YH-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).

Summarised results from the pilot

- On average **44 %** of programme credits have been exempted
- **47 %** of the students have had half or more than half of the programme exempted.
- Out of the 217 students who graduated so far, **80 %** of them graduated faster than they would following the standard programme pathway.
- Work-life experience is the most common basis for exemptions—**78 %** (of the graduated students)
- Total cost for HVE-flex students is **57 %** of "normal" cost → "saving" is **43 %**

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.

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



8 out of 10 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

Thank you!

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Additional information on 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

About the Swedish agency for higher vocational education

- 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



Key performance indicators 2021

- **227** HVE providers (public and private)
- **3 259** programmes running during 2020 (some are the same programmes, with different starting dates)
- **2,2** applicants fulfilling entry requirements per financed study place
- **86 000** students
- **32 900** individuals started their studies
- **17 100** graduates and graduation rate was **72** percent (for 2020).
- **89** percent of graduates (in 2020) was in employment 2021

Areas of responsibility



Higher Vocational Education (HVE)



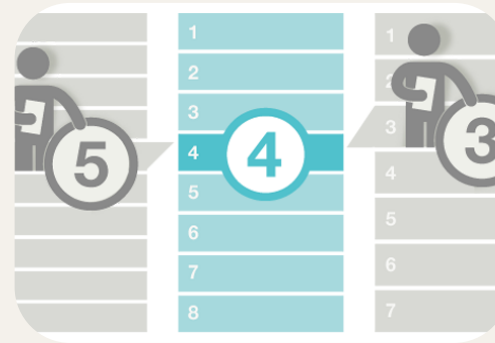
Post-secondary Arts and Culture courses



Interpretation courses and programmes

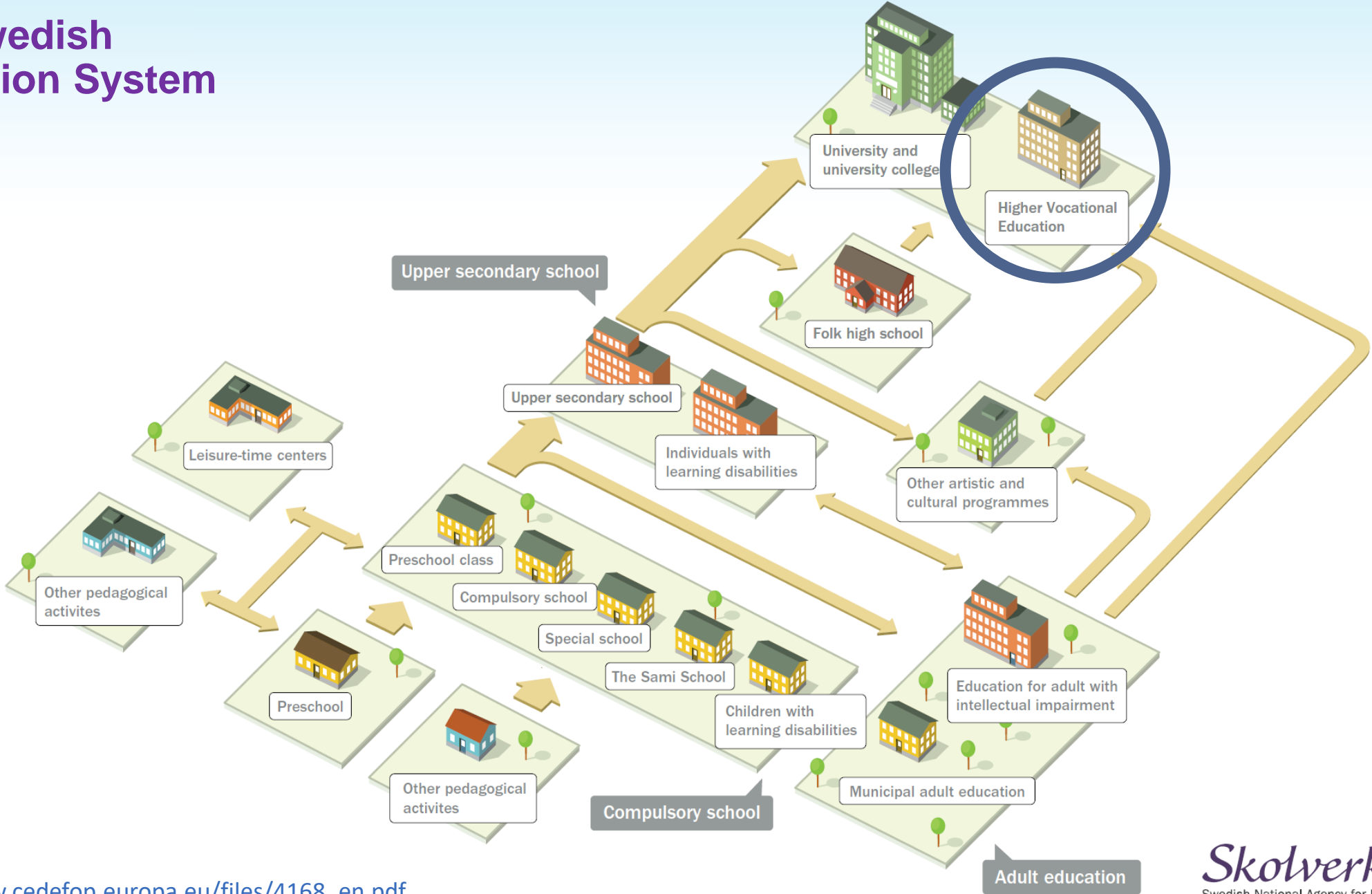


Validation of Prior Learning

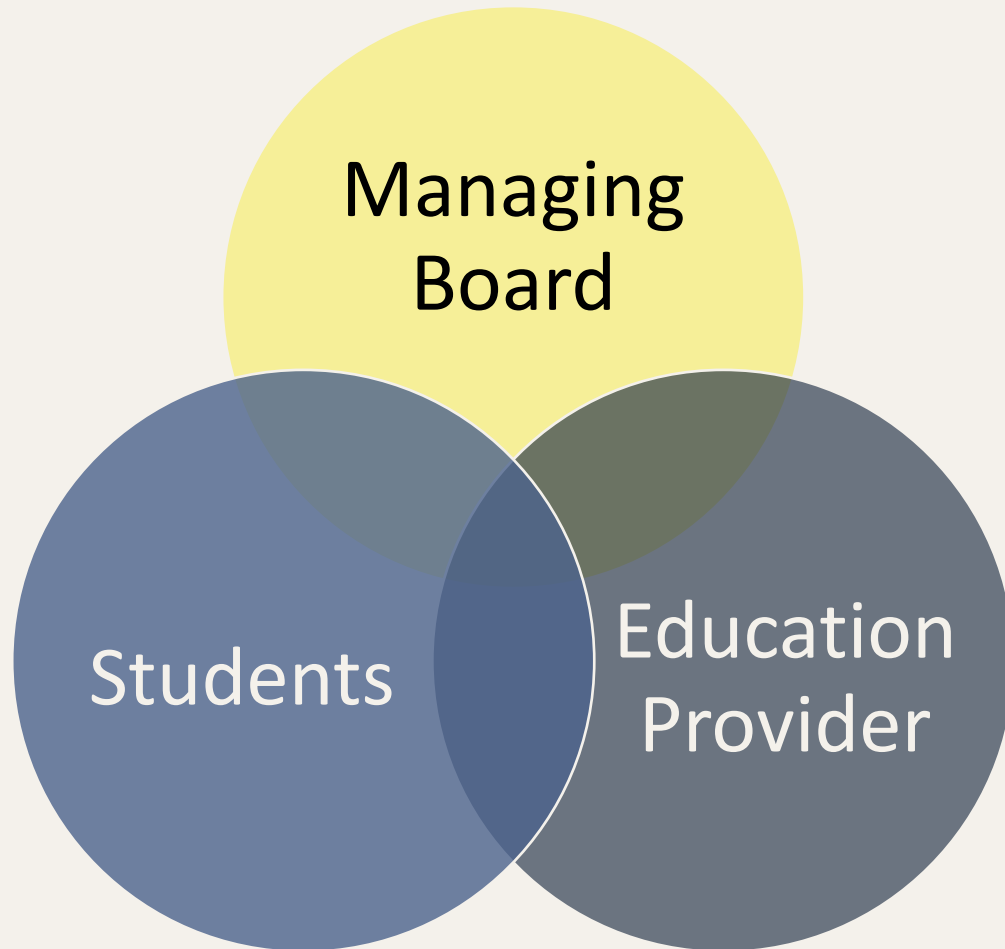


Swedish National Qualifications Framework (SeQF)

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



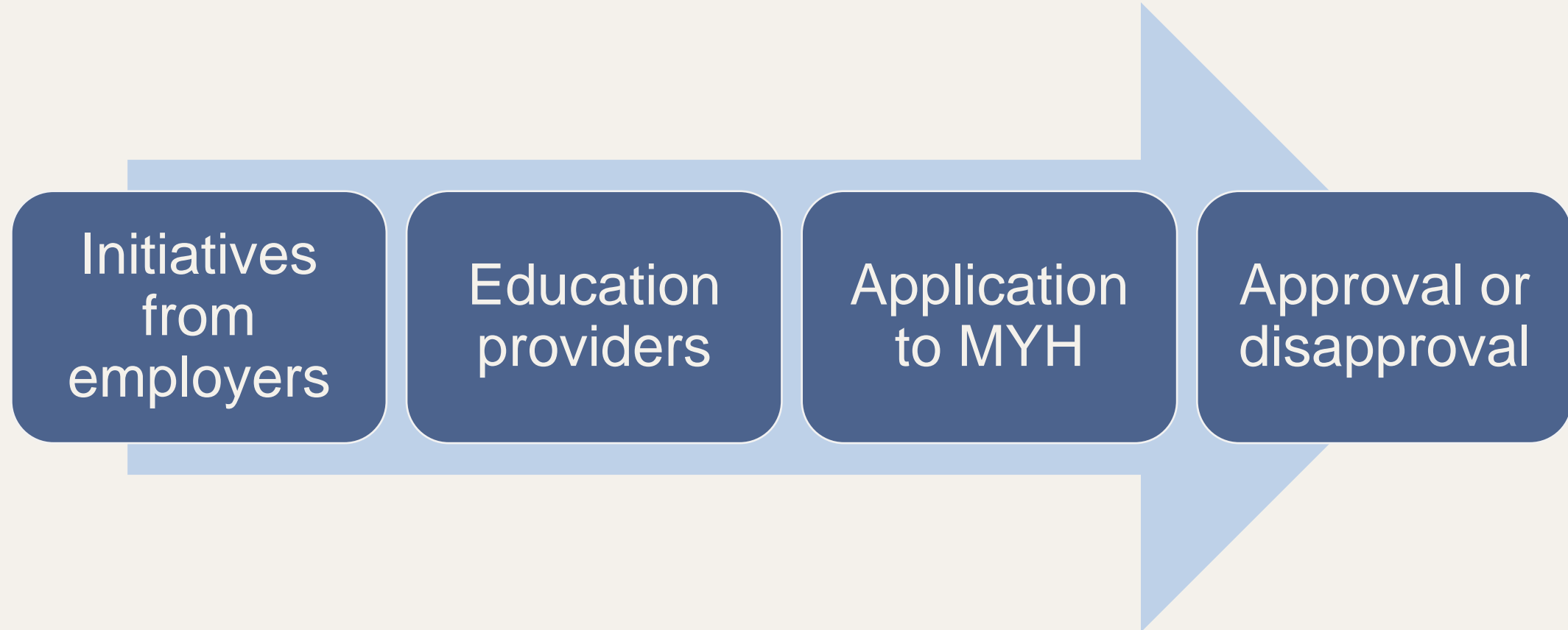
Vet as a choice for youth



Close collaboration with world of work



ROI



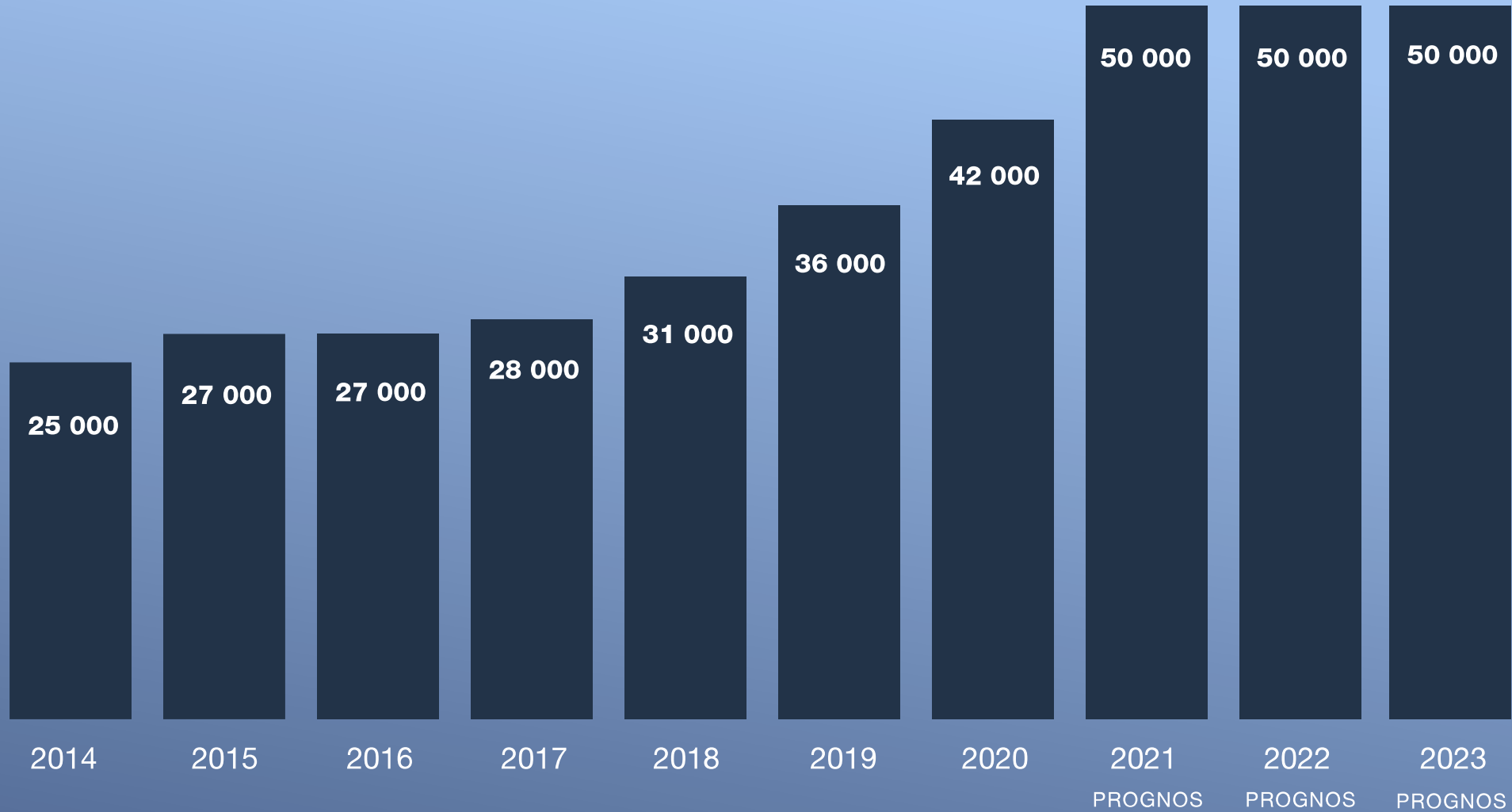
- Approval of HVE programmes and allocation of public funding
- Analyse labour market needs and demand
- Conduct inspections
- Quality Assurance Reviews
- Produce statistics
- Promote quality development in HVE programmes

- 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

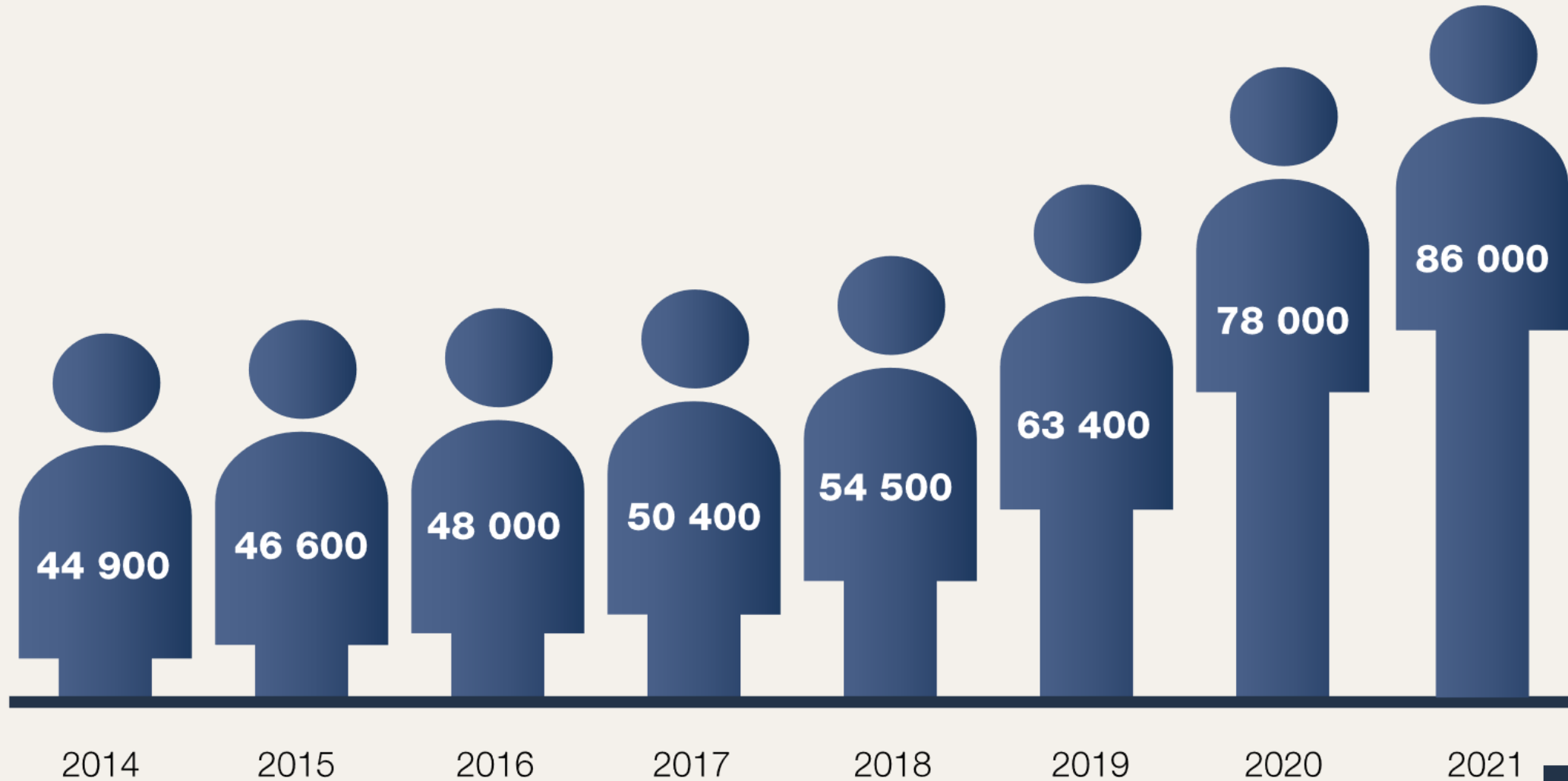
Key performance indicators 2020

- **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

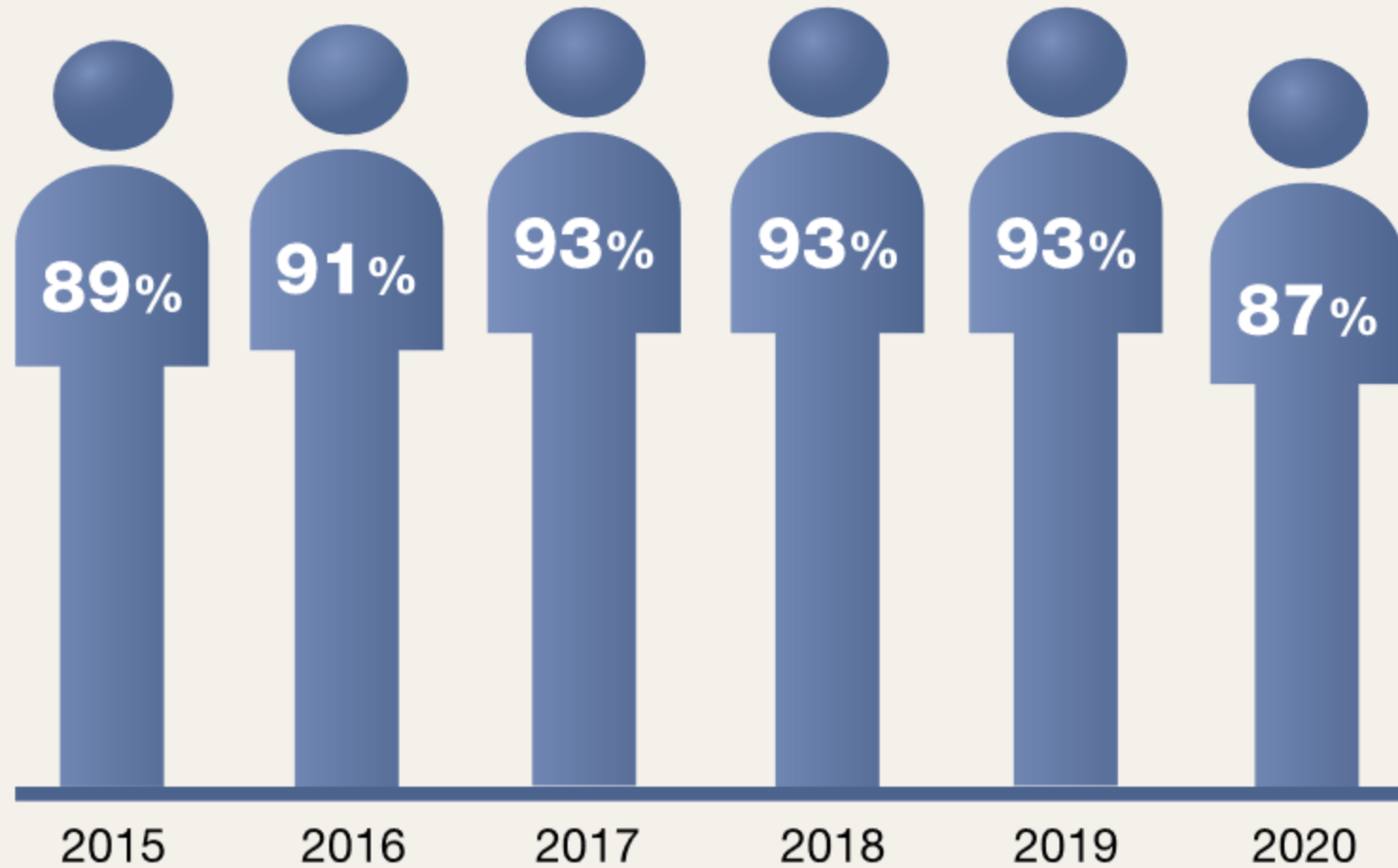
Higher vocational education is to increase by 50 percent



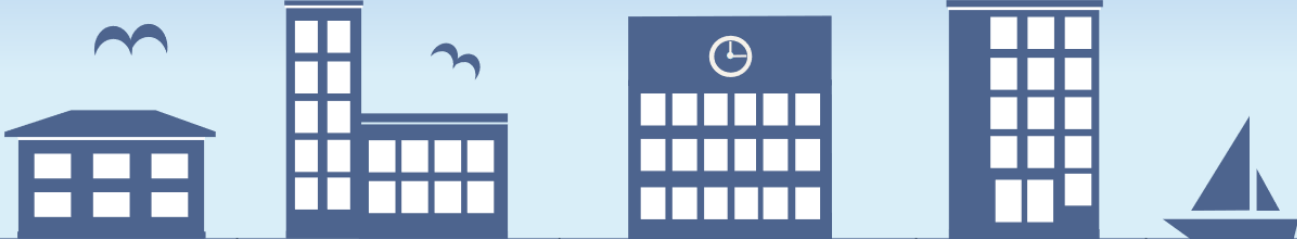
Number of active students



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



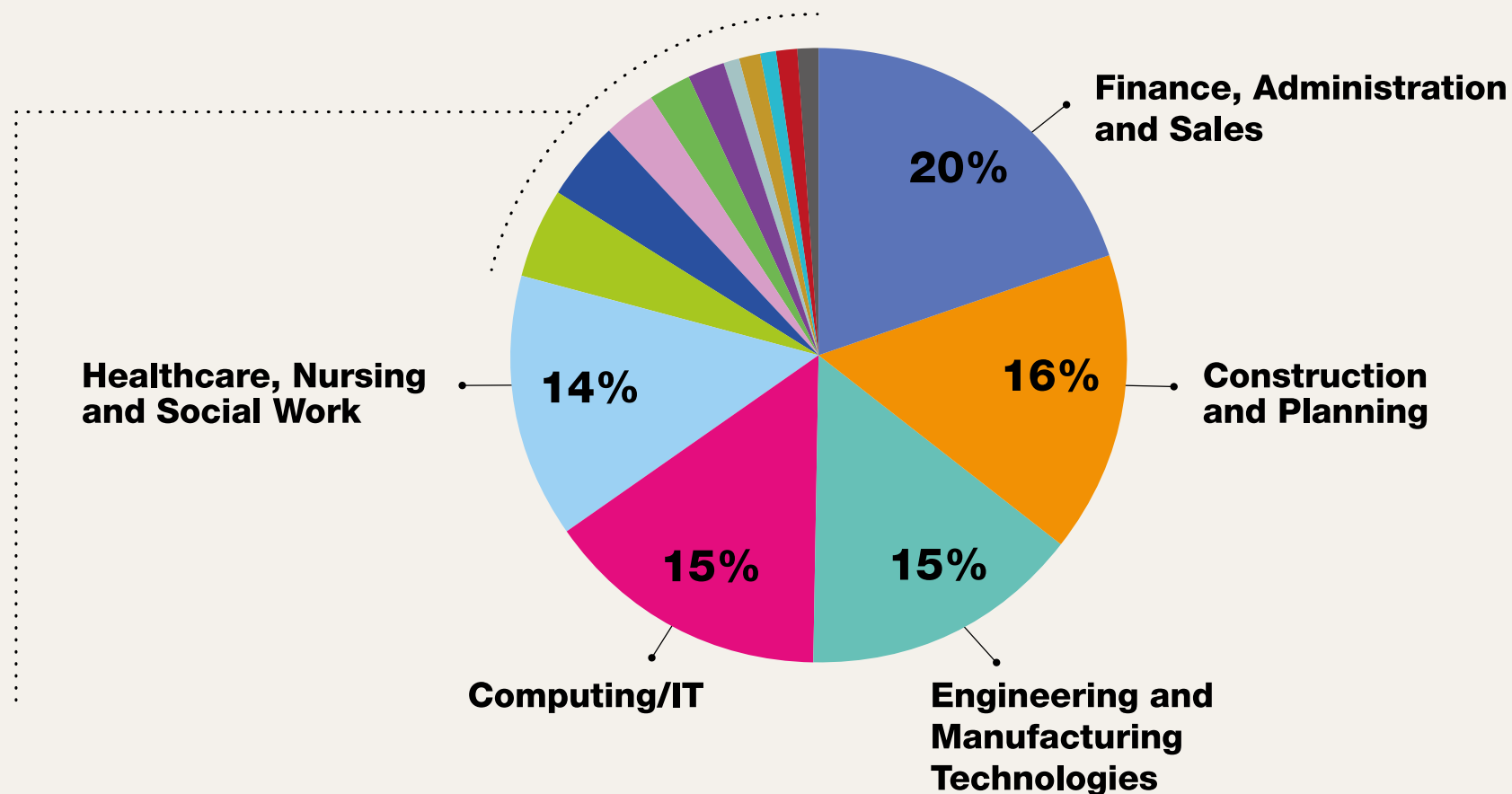
A year after graduation.

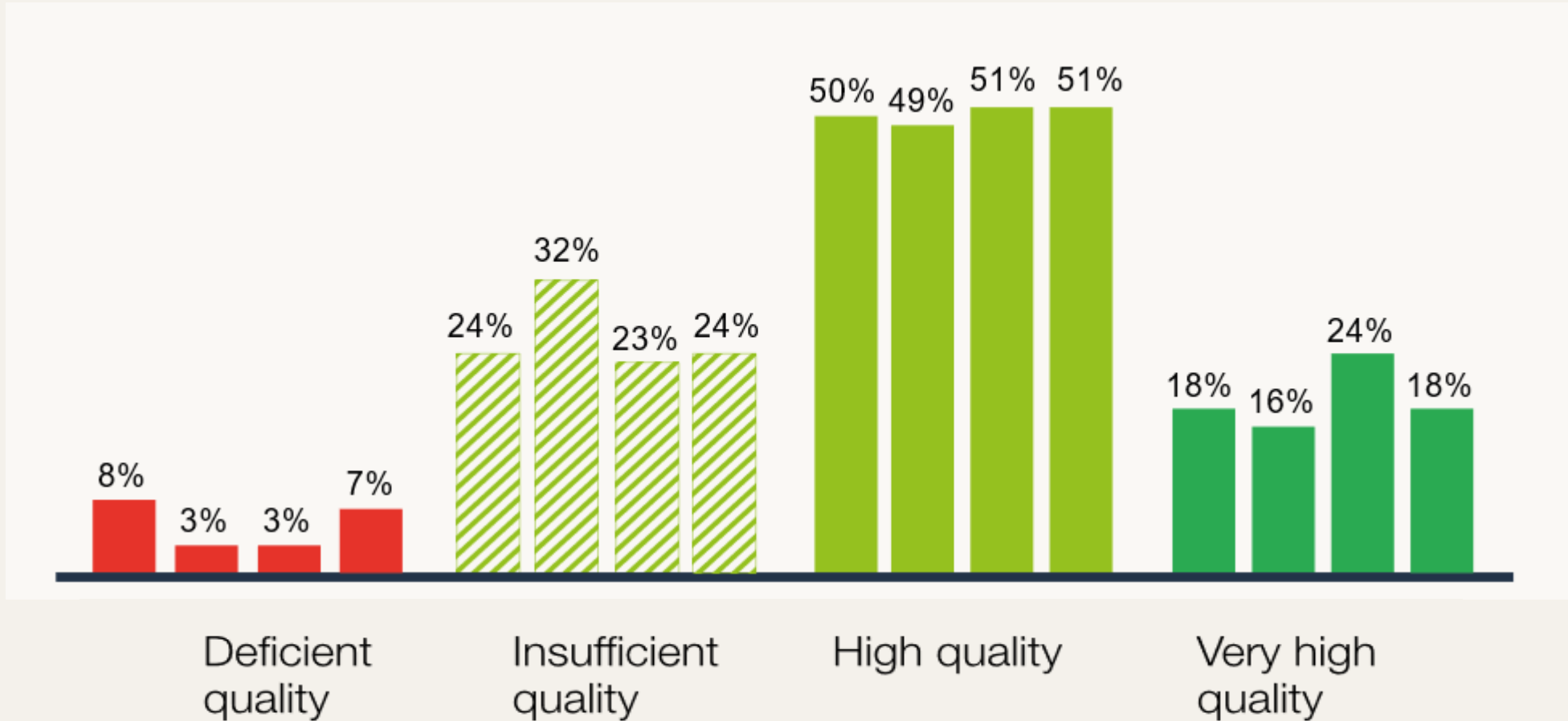


Year	Private	Regional	Municipal	Other	In total
2020	121	5	86	2	214
2019	119	5	87	2	213
2018	122	5	88	1	216
2017	127	5	87	1	220
2016	128	6	93	1	228
2015	125	6	95	1	227

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 \(myh.se\)](#)