

TITLE Denmark's responsive policy approaches for rapid accreditation in vocational and higher education	TYPE - BEST PRACTICE IN: Certification/Accreditation BENEFICIARIES Public HEI and VET providers
CONTEXT • Accreditation of different forms and levels of education provided by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Vocational Education Training (VET) providers, university colleges, business academies and art institutions in Denmark.	THE CHALLENGE • Quantity of documentation and scale of overheads within the agency required to approve changes to individual courses. • Fastest time to approval used to be minimum 6 months. • Quality of submissions received & lower rate of acceptance creates blockages & friction. • Similarity of courses and programmes can drive non-productive competition for students between entities.
THE ACTION • Institutional accreditation takes around 12 months. Post-accreditation, institutions become "self-accrediting" and can update existing programmes without changing their core identity. • Prequalification of new programmes or provisions takes about 10 weeks. This process, managed by the ministry, ensures societal relevance and prevents overlap with existing programmes.	
TAKEAWAYS • Documentation requirements for the external review should not exceed what is required for an efficient and effective internal quality assurance system on the institution, thus incentivizing a balanced level of bureaucracy. • Determine when a study programme should be considered "new", to avoid spending resources on evaluation of previously accredited and only slightly modified programmes. • Identify what accreditation format provides the highest benefit/cost ratio in a specific context. • Cultivate a trustworthy environment where training providers independently conduct periodic evaluations with external specialists, leveraging the knowledge acquired during initial programme accreditations. • Implement extensive, transparent monitoring of students' academic pathway through statistics.	 The Danish Accreditation Institution David Metz, Senior Advisor, Danish Accreditation Institution