

A Contract Pushes Apprenticeships in Norway

Prognoses show that 15-20 years from now, Norway needs far more professionals than the Norwegian vocational schools educate today. This is a serious concern for social planning in the mid-long term. In Norway, the main model for vocational training consists of two years of secondary education followed by two years training as an apprentice. There are too few apprenticeships available for students in the final two years of vocational school.

Social Contract For More Apprenticeships is an agreement between the authorities and the Norwegian business world to create more apprenticeships. Even though the Social Contract features "contract" in its name, in reality it is not a contract with mutually binding obligations between the parties. The contract obliges only in the sense that the partners promise to work together to achieve the objectives of the contract. In this project, the aim is to increase the number of apprenticeship contracts by 20% over a period of four years from 2011 to 2015.

We always have two apprentices in each of our offices. A good number of them have been employed later and have remained with the company for many years.

Hans A. Nilsen, CEO of Itet

Not Quite There Yet

The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training has developed indicators showing trends in the number of apprenticeship contracts nationwide. The "Indicator Report 2014" shows that there is a significantly weaker increase in the number of signed apprenticeships than the agreement envisages. There are large differences in development between counties and between the various educational programs.