

Battling Dropout Rates Means Battling Poverty

Due to concern over high dropout numbers in Norwegian upper secondary schools, the Government decided to start a goal-oriented plan of action aimed at preventing and monitoring dropouts. This initiative to fight dropout rates in upper secondary education was financed under the government's Poverty Action Plan.

Running from 2003-2006, the program aimed firstly at anticipating and preventing young people aged 15-21 from dropping out in the first place; and secondly to offer advice and counselling to those who have opted out in an effort to help them back to school or into a job; and finally to improve statistical basis and documentation in this area.

The initiative was part of the government's action plan against poverty (2003-2005), focusing on combating poverty in Norway. The theme of dropout in secondary school was included because a clear link between dropping out of education and having trouble getting into the labour market was seen. The initiative helped prevent dropout, identifying and steering young people back to work or education, all while developing further efforts to improve statistics and documentation.

Long-range planning, methodical work and comprehensiveness

One of the evaluations summarized that there is no singular, revolutionary effort vital to bringing down the dropout rates. Of far greater importance are long-range planning, methodical work and comprehensiveness in the whole effort. Diversity and combinations of instruments can collectively shape the needed factors.

This evaluation of the project has a five-page summary in English:

<http://www.nibr.no/filer/2004-19.pdf>

The Anti-dropout Programme for Upper Secondary Education is a precursor for Ny GIV, which is the current major campaign against dropout in Norway.