

Project title: Well-schooled for Work? School-work and work-school transitions, and the labor market returns to vocational education and training

Duration: October 2021 - October 2025

Client: The Research Council of Norway

Project leader: Kjell Gunnar Salvanes

### **Project description**

In industrialized countries, workers with low skill levels are experiencing wage stagnation and increasing levels of unemployment. In Norway, the share of prime-aged workers not in employment is rising. Worryingly, the pandemic may have caused a further long-term reduction in employment, and those with low levels of education or outdated skills are especially at risk. Well-schooled for Work aims to address the challenges faced by youth that are at risk of dropping out of school or training and workers with low levels of education or outdated skills that struggle to find permanent jobs. Through the project, the education sector, the welfare sector and researchers share knowledge in order to develop an understanding of these societal challenges, evaluate already implemented programs, cooperate to design and test new programs, and ultimately offer some policy recommendations. The project will use surveys, administrative data and experiments to learn more about students' choices of and rewards from vocational education and training, the transitions from school to workplace training and to the labor market and from work or unemployment to school. In the first work package, labor market returns to vocational education and training, we estimate the returns to different vocational fields and inform students of the returns to see how that affects their schooling decisions. In the second work package, the school-to-work transition, we will assess the effect of an existing school-to-apprenticeship program and use of practitioners input to design and implement a novel program to promote this transition. In the third work package, the work-to-school transition, we will make use of the education reforms and expansions of policies enabling the return to work and conduct a field experiment targeted at training for NAV clients with skill needs.