

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Cheques-formation / Opleidingscheques
Name of the instrument - English translation	Cheque/voucher for training job seekers
Scheme ID	14
Country	 Belgium
Reporting year	2020
Type of instrument	Grant for companies
Sub-type of instrument	Support for direct costs
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	Companies offering indefinite contracts to job seekers or job seekers starting new businesses can apply for this public grant. The public co-funding share is 50% of the costs for education and training. Training courses/programmes provided by accredited training institutions are eligible. Fees and other costs related to education and training are considered eligible costs. Each cheque is worth EUR 30 and covers one hour of training. Cheques are valid for 1 year. Actiris (PES of Brussels) funds 50% of each training cheque up to EUR 2 250 for a training programme. If the total amount is above EUR 2 250, the difference in cost is borne by the employer or business owner, as appropriate. ICT and languages are 100% funded by Actiris. This measure can be used once in each calendar year.
Short description of the related instruments	Not applicable

Level of operation	Regional
Name of a part of the country	Not applicable
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	Brussels
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable

Relevance	Further instrument
Legal basis	Ordonnance (Brussels Regional Law): 9 FEBRUARI 2012. - Samenwerkingsakkoord tussen het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest en de Franse Gemeenschapscommissie betreffende het gekruist beleid " tewerkstelling-opleiding "
Objective(s) and target(s)	The Training Vouchers measure is intended to reinforce the employment situation of recently hired employees by giving them the opportunity to give more easily access to training tailored to the job.
Year of implementation	2004
Operation/management	Actiris, the Public Employment Service (PES) of Brussels, is the main entity managing this instrument, together with the Ministry of Training (Ministere de la Formation). Companies offering indefinite contracts to job seekers or job seekers starting new business can apply for this public grant. The public co-funding share is 50% of the costs for education and training. However, ICT and languages are 100% funded by Actiris. Each cheque is worth 30 and covers one hour of training. Cheques are valid for 1 year.
Eligible group(s)	Companies offering indefinite contracts to job seekers (registered with Actiris) or job seekers starting new business are eligible groups. The employee should be living in Brussels and the company located in Brussels.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	ICT and languages are 100% funded by Actiris (although the general public co-funding share is 50% of the costs for education and training).
Education and training eligible	Training courses/programmes provided by accredited training institutions are eligible.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Funding comes from Actiris (Brussels Regional Employment Office, regional authority). The rest of the costs are covered by the company. The public co-funding share is 50% of the costs for education and training. However, ICT and languages are 100% funded by Actiris. Actiris (PES) funds 50% of each training cheque up to 2 250 for a training programme. If total amount is above 2 250, the difference in cost is borne by the employer or business owner.
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	Each cheque is worth 30 and covers one hour of training. Cheques are valid for 1 year. Actiris (PES) funds 50% of each training cheque up to 2 250 for a training programme. If total amount is above 2 250, the difference in cost is borne by the employer or business owner, as appropriate. ICT and languages are 100% funded by Actiris.
Eligible costs	Fees and other costs related to education and training are eligible costs.
Volumes of funding	Not available
Beneficiaries/take up	According to an interpellation of the Brussels minister of Work in the Brussels Parliament (question nr. 310, date of

	publication 10/09/2020), in 2018 only 3 people applied for the cheques.
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	Actiris (Brussels Regional Employment Office)
Most relevant webpage - in English	Not available
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.actiris.brussels/nl/werkgevers/opleidingscheques/
Recent changes	Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	https://www.actiris.brussels/nl/werkgevers/opleidingscheques/