

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Cheques-formation (Wallonia)
Name of the instrument - English translation	Training voucher
Scheme ID	15
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 located in the French-speaking Walloon Region (only micro, small and medium-sized companies, MSMEs) may receive vouchers, co-funded by PES, for training their employees. A training voucher with a validity period of 1 year can be purchased for EUR 15 and is worth EUR 30 (including VAT). Depending on the size of the company, the number of training vouchers the company may obtain varies between 80 and 800. Training vouchers cannot be combined with other aid granted by the Walloon Region. Only the courses/programmes provided by accredited training institutions are eligible. Type of education eligible refers to training on different domains, e.g. languages, accounting, ICT, HRM, technological. Courses can be programmes leading to a formal qualification, general courses, occupational courses. In addition to the 'regular' training vouchers, there exist 2 other targeted training vouchers: (1) training vouchers for learning languages (FR: cheque-formation langue) and (2) training vouchers for learning activities in the domain of environmental studies (FR: chèque-formation éco-climat).
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)	Wallonia
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable
Relevance	Key instrument
Legal basis	Décret du 10 avril 2003 relatif aux incitants financiers à la formation des travailleurs occupés par les entreprises
Year of implementation	2004
Operation/management	FOREM, the Regional Public Employment Service (PES) in Wallonia is responsible for the management of this instrument, together with the Ministry of Training (Ministère de la Formation). Sodexo (private company) issues the vouchers. Companies located in the French-speaking Walloon Region (only micro, small and medium-sized companies, MSMEs) may receive vouchers, co-funded by PES, for training their employees. A training voucher with a validity period of 1 year can be purchased for 15 and is worth 30 (including VAT). Training vouchers cannot be combined with other aid granted by the Walloon Region. Only the courses/programmes provided by accredited training institutions are eligible. The number of vouchers a company can obtain depends on the size of the firm and on the type of the voucher (80-800 for regular vouchers; 20-200 for language vouchers and 200 - irrespective of company size for environmental vouchers -).
Eligible group(s)	Eligible groups include: - Workers bound to an employment contract, operating in businesses located in the French-speaking Walloon Region. - Self-employed and companies with up to 250 employees
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No preferential treatment
Education and training eligible	Type of education eligible refers to training on different domains, e.g. languages, accounting, ict, hrm, technological..., provided by accredited training institutions. Courses can be programmes leading to formal qualification, general courses, occupational courses.... It is estimated that there are 285 accredited providers, providing +/- 10.000 modules in 20 different domains.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	The source of funding of this instrument is FOREM, PES in the Walloon Region (Regional authority). The rest of the costs are covered by the company.
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	A voucher with a validity period of 1 year can be purchased for 15 and is worth 30 (including VAT). Depending on the size of the company, the number of training vouchers the company may obtain varies between 80 and 800: - self-employed: 80; - up to 1.9 employees: 100; - 2 to 50 employees: 400; - 51 to 100 employees: 600; - 101 to 200 employees: 700; - 201 to 250 employees: 800. Training vouchers cannot be combined with other cost-sharing schemes covering the

	same costs. Concerning allocation, the company applies to Le Forem for X training vouchers in accordance with its size. Sodexo (private company) issues the vouchers to applicant companies with corresponding 50% of the value of vouchers allocated, financed by regional authorities through Le Forem.
Eligible costs	Eligible costs are fees (tuition fees/fees for participation with external providers) and other costs related to education and training (costs for training materials, e.g. books).
Volumes of funding	Not available
Beneficiaries/take up	In 2018, there were 7 304 training modules available, with 239 providers. 1 867 different training modules were consumed and 534 919 cheques reimbursed. In 2019, there were 7 150 training modules available, with 235 providers. 2 359 different training modules were consumed and 554 344 cheques reimbursed.
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	FOREM, the Regional Public Employment Service (PES) in Wallonia
Most relevant webpage - in English	Not available
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.leforem.be/entreprises/aides-financieres-cheque-formation.h...
Recent changes	Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	https://www.leforem.be/entreprises/aides-financieres-cheque-formation.h...