

Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Strategisch transformatie steun (STS)
Name of the instrument - English translation	Strategic transformation support
Scheme ID	21
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	All companies located in Flanders are eligible to receive a public grant, but they need to present (either as a single company or in cooperation with others) a large-scale development plan. Education and training related to such a development plan is eligible for funding. The Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship Agency (VLAIO) is the main entity managing this instrument. A company or a group of companies may receive support equivalent to 20% of eligible training costs (fees and other related costs). Training projects need to have a minimum value ranging from EUR 100 000 to EUR 700 000, depending on the type of company or network of companies. No preferential treatment is applied.
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)	Flanders
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	Not applicable
Relevance	Key instrument

Legal basis	Decree for the Flemish Region
Objective(s) and target(s)	The main objective of this instrument is to support regional economic growth
Year of implementation	2013
Operation/management	VLAIO: Vlaams Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen (Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship Agency) is the main entity managing this instrument. This is the procedure: 1. Application by firm 2. Registration of application and confirmation of receipt 3. VLAIO investigates whether application is in line with all regulations and procedural aspects 4. Substantive assessment and advice to minister
Eligible group(s)	All companies are eligible (provided that they are located in Flanders), but they need to hand in a large-scale development project, either as a single company or in cooperation with others.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	No preferential treatment
Education and training eligible	Training eligible is education and training related to companies' (or group of companies') large-scale development plan
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Funds come from public funding/European regional funding, and from companies. A company or a group of companies may receive support equivalent to 20% of education and training costs. The rest is paid by the company.
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	A company or a group of companies may receive support equivalent to 20% of education and training costs. The overall education and training costs over a 3 year period must at least amount to: - 100 000 for an individual small sized enterprise - 200 000 for an individual medium sized enterprise - 300 000 for an individual large enterprise - 300 000 per project for a collaboration of small enterprises (minimum 50 000 per enterprise) - 400 000 per project for a collaboration of which at least one medium-sized enterprise (minimum 50 000 per enterprise) - 700 000 per project for a collaboration of which at least one large enterprise (minimum 50 000 per enterprise). In addition to the 20% support, 5 additional percent will be provided if sustainable employment growth agreed with Enterprise Flanders at the outset of the project has been realised. Payment is made in 3 installments: 30%-30%-40%. Allocation of funds (directly transferred to the company) is as follows: - 30% payment by no earlier than 30 days following the decision to grant the subsidy, and provided the project was started - 30% payment by no earlier than 30 days following the decision to grant the subsidy, and provided 60% of the project has been completed. - 40 % payment by no earlier than 30 days following the decision to grant the subsidy, and provided that the project has been fully completed Those companies' training plans that meet predefined (through top-down procedures) criteria best are funded.

Eligible costs	Eligible costs are fees and other costs related to education and training (such as personnel costs of instructors or learners, travel expenses of instructors or learners, costs of materials, depreciation of equipment, costs of advice and support).
Volumes of funding	STS (Strategisch transformatie steun, Strategic transformation support) involves two major submechanisms: 1) investment support, and 2) training support. It is difficult to disentangle these 2 submechanisms in the statistics supplied in annual reports of VLAIO. According to available data, training support provided is as follows: 2017: EUR 26 843 576,35 (i.e. 49% of total STS) 2018: EUR 12 665 973,57 (i.e. 33% of total STS) 2019: EUR 19 653 137,23 (i.e. 60% of total STS) Further breakdowns are difficult (only available for STS as a whole)
Beneficiaries/take up	STS (Strategisch transformatie steun, Strategic transformation support) involves two major submechanisms: 1) investment support, and 2) training support. There is no disaggregated information available on the number of beneficiaries for the 2 pillars separately.
Organisation responsible for monitoring/evaluation	VLAIO: Vlaams Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen (Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship Agency)
Most relevant webpage - in English	Not available
Most relevant webpage - local language	https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/strategische-transformat...
Recent changes	Recent changes in response to COVID-19 No changes
Sources	Website of Enterprise Flanders: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/strategische-transformat... Annual reports of VLAIO https://www.vlaio.be/nl/over-ons/jaarverslagen