

Quality assurance: national reference point for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN** **BELGIUM-FR**

Timeline

**ID number 42341**

Background

Before 2020, there was only a contact and dissemination point located in the education ministry in place which was in charge of quality assurance of vocational education and training (VET). An inspectorate carried out mandatory external inspection of VET providers. Self-assessment was also in place, as most VET providers had their own quality assurance approaches.

The Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on VET for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience called for a quality assurance national reference point for VET to bring together all relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels for both initial and continuing VET, in all learning environments (such as school-based provision and work-based learning, including apprenticeship schemes) and all learning types (digital, face-to-face or blended), delivered by both public and private providers.

Objectives

The objective of setting up a national reference point for VET is to develop a culture of quality assurance in national systems, for both initial and continuing VET; in all learning environments (such as school-based provision and work-based learning, including apprenticeship schemes) and all learning types (digital, face-to-face or blended), delivered by both public and private providers.

Description

The Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on VET for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience calls to develop a culture of quality assurance in national systems, the French-speaking part of Belgium has designated for the first time a National Quality Assurance Reference Point (NRP). A partnership agreement has been signed to formalise the commitment of the project partners to the NRP and to allow the hiring of a project coordinator.

In 2021, preliminary activities for the development of a partnership agreement took place.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, a partnership agreement has been signed by all relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels for initial and continuing VET, a Coordinator has been hired and the EQAVET NRP started its work of analysing the EQAVET framework and situating each partner against the framework. The NRP is hosted at the Belgian Erasmus-Plus Agency (AEF-Europe), within the Ministry of the French Community.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the partners jointly decided to focus on the EQAVET descriptors related to labour market needs. This theme was also selected as the central topic for the peer consultation meeting organised by French-speaking Belgium in Brussels on 23 and 24 March 2023, which included participation from five reviewing countries, namely Belgium Flanders, Italy, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, all partners agreed to renew the partnership agreement for the 2023-2026 period, and the agreement was signed within that same year.

The partners also agreed to continue analysing the theme explored in 2023, this time focusing on its indicators rather than using the EQAVET descriptors.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of the French Community
- Francophone Agency for Lifelong Education and Training (AEF-Europe)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

Osnabrück Declaration

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Quality assurance in VET: French-speaking Belgium](#)

[News - French-speaking Belgium organized an intervention to explore ways to better meet the labor market's training and skill needs](#)



Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Quality assurance: national reference point for VET: Belgium-FR. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/42341>