

# Financial incentives for apprentices

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-DE

## Timeline

2020 Design

2021 Design

2022 Legislative process

2023 Completed

ID number 42149

## Background

At the beginning of 2020, the Institute for vocational and educational training in small and medium-sized companies (IAWM) conducted interviews with various stakeholders involved in apprenticeship training, such as representatives of different VET professions and syndicates. Several apprentices from construction, commercial and logistics sectors were also interviewed: they pointed out that there are unhappy with the current remuneration system. Compared to remuneration paid to apprentices in neighbouring countries, a Belgian apprentice earns less.

The remuneration depends on the training year in which the apprentice is studying. Apprentices earn a monthly minimum of EUR 246 in the first year up to EUR 567 in the third year.

## Objectives

Raise the attractiveness of following an apprenticeship programme for young people so that more training places can be occupied.

## Description

The Government expressed its willingness to increase monthly minimal remuneration in order to increase the attractiveness of VET for young people.

### 2020 Design

In 2020, the design phase for raising the financial incentives for young apprentices started.

### 2021 Design

Due to COVID-19 and the difficult economic situation in some training companies, this project was not developed further in 2021.

### 2022 Legislative process

In 2022, IAWM got the informal 'go' from the minister and legislative process started to implement higher incentives for apprentices. The implementation phase started in July 2022 (start of the 2022-23 academic year) with the application of the new remuneration of apprentices.

Year of training Former remuneration  
(in EUR) Improved remuneration  
from 01/07/2022 (in EUR)

1st year 1st semester	249.60	350
1st year 2nd semester	249.60	400
2nd year 1st semester	305.10	450
2nd year 2nd semester	443.52	600
3rd year 1st semester	520.07	650
3rd year 2nd semester	567.22	700

### **2023 Completed**

In 2023, the increased minimum monthly remuneration rates are now in effect.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Government of the German-Speaking Community
- Institute for vocational and educational training in small and medium-sized companies (IAWM)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

### **Entities providing VET**

Companies  
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)  
VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

## **Subsystem**

IVET

## **Further reading**

[German-speaking Community Government's decree on training measures](#)

### **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Financial incentives for apprentices:

Belgium-DE. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/42149>