

Updating VET programmes to labour market needs

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-DE

Timeline

2019 Implementation 2020 Implementation 2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation 2024 Completed

ID number 42142

Background

In line with the Government Decree of 4 June 2009, any update of VET programmes need to be approved both by the minister responsible for training and the minister responsible for teaching.

Objectives

The main objectives of updating VET programmes are to:

- (a) align VET programmes to the constantly changing labour market needs;
- (b) increase employability of VET graduates;
- (c) increase learners' satisfaction and reduce dropout;
- (d) increase attractiveness of VET.

Description

Each year some existing VET programmes are updated to respond to new developments on the labour market, so that graduates have up to date qualifications allowing them to find an employment.

To update a VET programme, companies request the Institute for vocational and educational training in small and medium-sized companies (IAWM) to adapt its VET offer. When a programme has then been modified, the government requires three types of expertise from training companies, which certifies that all modifications correspond to labour market needs. VET programmes will finally be approved by the minister responsible for training and the minister responsible for teaching.

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) warehouse worker;

- (b) warehouse logistics technician;
- (c) metal worker;
- (d) machine fitter;
- (e) retailer;
- (f) general knowledge;
- (g) tourism agent.

In 2019, the updates of the following higher VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) public and business administration;
- (b) insurance broker;
- (c) accountant.

In 2019, the updates of the following Master Craftsperson training programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) roofer;
- (b) building plumber.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) butcher;
- (b) kitchen assistant;
- (c) furniture maker;
- (d) organ builder;
- (e) gardener in gardening and landscaping.

In 2020, the updates of the following Master Craftsperson programmes (*Meister*) were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) metal worker;
- (b) heating installer.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) farmer;
- (b) gardener;
- (c) florist;
- (d) media designer;
- (e) restaurateur.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) electrician;
- (b) foodmaker;
- (c) brick layer;
- (d) tiler;
- (e) forwarding merchant;
- (f) merchant for sport and fitness;
- (g) computer scientist;
- (h) webshop operator.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) plasterer;
- (b) hairdresser;
- (c) technical product designer;
- (d) foundry mechanic;
- (e) restaurant owner (cook and waiter).

2024 Completed

In 2024, the updates of the following VET programmes were approved by the Government of the German-speaking Community:

- (a) mechatronics technician for agricultural, forestry, garden and construction machinery;
- (b) mechatronics technician for lorries;
- (c) carpenter;
- (d) cabinet maker;
- (e) parquet layer;
- (f) craftsman in garden and landscaping;
- (g) craftsman in organ building.

The update of VET programmes is based on an agreed procedure and runs as a regular practice.

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)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Information on training programmes](#)

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Updating VET programmes to labour market needs: Belgium-DE. 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/42142>