

Brussels' initiatives to tackle early school leaving

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BELGIUM-FR

Timeline

2019 Implementation 2020 Implementation 2021 Implementation
2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation
2025 Implementation

ID number 39417

Background

In 2019, 11.8% of young people in Brussels left school without a secondary school diploma and 25% of learners in Brussels are at least two years behind in their school programme.

Since 2000, the Region of Brussels has supported initiatives from the associative sector to fight against school dropout.

Objectives

To face the challenges of early school leaving, the Brussels Region has put in place funding mechanisms to support schools, municipalities and the non-profit sector to prevent school dropout, to intervene when a student is about to drop out, or to re-engage the young person who interrupted a programme.

Description

As part of its 2025 Strategy, the government put the following measures in place to combat early school leaving:

- (a) strengthening its 'DAS and DASC' mechanisms (stated as a priority, see below for further details on these mechanisms);
- (b) increasing financial support but also to simplify (one call every three years);
- (c) introducing more systematic monitoring of actions (see school service).

In 2016, the Brussels government established the School Service within perspective.brussels (Strategy 2025). This service addresses school dropout prevention and monitors also related projects. It was initiated by the various regional actors, whose activities are financially supported for this purpose.

The multidisciplinary centre of expertise perspective.brussels is a public interest body, created in 2015, which brings together expertise in knowledge and territorial development, statistics and socio-economic analyses, support for the school sector and architectural

quality. The team follows school developments, for which action by the Brussels Region can be useful: improvement of the quality of the infrastructure, coordination and centre of expertise for the fight against school dropout.

At the end of 2019, the Brussels government approved to pay a subsidy to the Brussels municipalities for their actions to fight early school leaving within the local prevention system and proximity plans. EUR 7 350 000 has been granted and more than 440 projects selected for the 2019-21 period. The Region pays particular attention to the most disadvantaged groups and to the participation of parents through two mechanisms:

- (a) the school attachment system (DAS): this concerns activities to prevent early school leaving that must take place in school, outside of school time; 384 approved projects (+/- 70% of the budget);
- (b) the support and accompaniment system for educational and citizenship support activities for children and young people (DASC): the government supports 58 associations.

2019 Implementation

At the end of 2019, the Brussels government granted a subsidy to the Brussels municipalities for their actions to fight early school leaving within the local prevention system and proximity plans.

2020 Implementation

On 7 July 2020, the Government approved its post-COVID-19 recovery plan, one of the priorities of which is the fight against school dropout. Amongst the measures adopted are financial support for the recruitment of one person that works full time per municipality to ensure the consistency and effectiveness of local actions to fight against early school leaving.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, thanks to the networking system encouraged by the perspective.brussels School Service, the Brussels Region can now rely on a professionalised and active communal network to carry out prevention in the fight against school dropout (via the Municipal school attendance Plan, pASc, *Plan d'accrochage scolaire communal*).

The pASc call, launched in July 2021, led to the introduction by the 19 municipal prevention services or mandated services of a school attendance plan, including issues and findings in the fight against school dropout at the local level and projects intended to respond to them.

In December 2021, the Brussels Government confirmed its financial support for preventing school dropouts.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the Brussels Region launched a call for projects to support young people at risk of dropping out of school in vocational education (qualification education): the call aimed at setting up pilot projects for young people aged 15 to 21 enrolled in vocational education and who have dropped out of school. A budget of EUR 300 000 is available for projects starting in 2022 and ending in 2024 at the latest.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, perspective.brussels continues to fight against dropping out of school in the Brussels-Capital Region by launching an online library. This resource consolidates a vast collection of academic and institutional literature, regulatory texts, and specialised articles on school engagement. With user-friendly navigation, the library allows the public to easily search by category, author, keywords, publication year, and

language, making valuable resources widely accessible.

2024 Implementation

On 16 May 2024, the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region approved the launch of a new call for projects under the support programme for activities promoting educational support and citizenship among children and youth (DASC) for 2025-27. A total of EUR 1.5 million has been allocated.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, the publication 'Combating school dropout: key figures by municipality' (*Lutte contre le décrochage scolaire: les chiffres clés par commune*) was published by Perspective. The publication presents key statistics on school dropout for the 2022-23 school year for each municipality in the Brussels-Capital Region. These factsheets are made available to local stakeholders such as municipalities, associations, and schools in Brussels. They include indicators related to the main risk factors for school dropout and aim to offer a clearer understanding of the situation at the local level.

Bodies responsible

- perspective.brussels

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[School service](#)

[Projects funded by the Brussels Region](#)

[Post Covid-19 recovery plan](#)

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/39417>