

Start Digital project

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BELGIUM-FR

Timeline

2020 Implementation

2021 Implementation

2022 Completed

ID number 39247

Background

The Start digital project is developed within the framework of the European Programme for employment and social innovation and, more specifically, of the call for proposals launched in 2019 to support the development of an adapted training offer within the framework of the implementation of the Skills enhancement pathways.

Its development is based on several observations:

- (a) digital skills are one of the key skills for every citizen;
- (b) in French-speaking Belgium, the initiatives in general education and vocational training, providers remain localised, unconnected;
- (c) the skills acquired in socio-professional integration centres are not yet or not systematically recognised by other providers of adult education. This slows down the process of strengthening the professional skills of citizens with little education.

Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- (a) adapt the content of digital-related training offered by providers of adult education in French-speaking Belgium;
- (b) extend the existing training offer in basic digital skills to provide a solid foundation in this area to low-skilled audiences so that they can then continue their training course;
- (c) raise the level of acquisition of basic skills of people with little education, unemployed, NEETs and those at risk of early leaving education;
- (d) establish enhanced collaboration between education and training structures to promote the diversity of pedagogical approaches;
- (e) encourage an increase in the capacity of the teaching teams of the providers concerned to adapt their methods, tools, content, etc. to the needs of the target audience and work on the basis of a common framework.

Description

The Start Digital project was submitted by the Employment and Training department of the SPW (The Walloon Public Service) as part of the EaSI (Employment and Social Innovation) programme. The project brings together 13 education and training partners from Wallonia, Brussels and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation thus involving all the partners in education

and training for adults in French-speaking Belgium (excluding higher education).

The project broadly targets jobseekers or learners over 25 years of age, with little education (below certificate of upper secondary education CESS level) and with a low level of digital skills. It is being implemented over a period of two years (2020 and 2021). A pedagogical governance committee ensures pedagogical coordination and a Steering Committee ensures its implementation.

The project revolves around several actions:

- (a) the pooling of the educational resources of the partners via the creation of a shared platform of these resources;
- (b) the creation of a table of equivalence of tools with the common DigComp repository and the development of a mapping of the training offer;
- (c) the provision of digital mediators to all partner institutions to encourage a reflective and active approach around digital technology and the adaptation of the training offer, support the teaching teams in the development / adaptation of resources, adapt and expand the existing training offer;
- (d) the implementation of a jointly constructed communication strategy aimed at first-line actors in contact with poorly educated audiences to reach audiences, get them to assess their digital skills and then consider a course to strengthen these skills;
- (e) strengthening the systematic assessment of basic digital skills before entering training;
- (f) adapting the training offer according to a work methodology jointly constructed with institutional digital mediators;
- (g) creating an experiment on certification for basic digital skills acquired in training.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the implementation of the project started.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the Start digital project, which was originally set up for a period of two years (2020-21) was extended until end of 2022 due to the COVID-19 crisis. The implementation of the project continues.

2022 Completed

In June 2022, the project ended with the setting up partnerships in the form of a 'creathon', which is organised by pedagogical mediators of each of the institutions. The 'creathon' is an educational innovation competition that brings together teams of up to 5 people to tackle an educational challenge on a given theme. Over the course of a day, participants debate, exchange ideas and work together to produce a product. For this edition, the chosen theme was 'responsible digitalising'. Following completion of the project, a final activity report is in the process of being drawn up.

Bodies responsible

- Public Service of Wallonia (SPW)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Adult learners

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Start Digital](#)

Related policy developments

2022 Completed

Start digital project: increasing digital skills of pedagogical teams

Within the framework of the European Commission's support for the development of an adapted training offer in the context of the implementation of the Skills enhancement pathways, several stakeholders from the Belgium French speaking community are working together in the framework of the EU progr

 BELGIUM-FR

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Start Digital project: 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/39247>