

# Language training provision to facilitate integration into Brussels labour market

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **BELGIUM-FR**

## Timeline

|                     |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2016 Implementation | 2017 Implementation | 2018 Implementation |
| 2019 Implementation | 2020 Implementation | 2021 Implementation |
| 2022 Implementation | 2023 Implementation | 2024 Implementation |

**ID number 28039**

## Background

Brussels is characterised by a dynamic labour market, which requires knowledge of French, Dutch or English or a combination of these languages. Equipping citizens with the needed language skills improves their chances of finding a job.

## Objectives

Strengthen the language skills of jobseekers to improve the employment rate, especially for low-skilled people.

## Description

Bruxelles Formation (BF), the French-speaking public service in charge of vocational training in the Brussels Region, has a training centre dedicated to language learning: BF langues.

BF langues provides training in French as a foreign language, Dutch and English for employment purposes at its training centre and at the vocational training centres run by Bruxelles Formation and its partners.

The teaching approach is skills-based, occupationally targeted and interactive and the methodology is particularly well suited to the needs and difficulties of jobseekers. This approach encourages integration into the job market.

The centre also offers language immersion courses lasting six to eight weeks: these enable trainees to take a step into the professional world and put their language skills in Dutch, French or English into practice.

Finally, BF langues is an approved centre for taking the French language test when applying for Belgian nationality.

The language training offer is adapted each year in BF langues training catalogue

(programmes, number of training sessions, number of places available, etc.) to offer a range of services tailored to the needs of people active on the job market.

All residents of Brussels over the age of 18 can take advantage of online language courses and personalised coaching. Brulingua offers independent, dynamic and interactive training in 24 languages, including English, Dutch, French and German.

As part of the Strategy 2025 for Brussels, Brulingua:

- promotes employability and professional mobility;
- increases the language skills of the people of Brussels;
- stimulates the economic and tourist appeal of the Brussels-Capital Region;
- and reinforces its internationalisation.

#### **2016 Implementation**

#### **2017 Implementation**

#### **2018 Implementation**

#### **2019 Implementation**

The development of the language test digitised in FLE, Prim 'test, was finalised and started to be implemented in 2019. The tool will be available for Bruxelles Formation and its partners.

#### **2020 Implementation**

In 2020, the Brulingua training tool was adapted to smartphones. A new app now allows the learners to practice new languages whenever they want. The app gives access to Speaky, a social network allowing getting in touch with native speakers in Dutch, French, English or German.

At Bruxelles Formation, the implementation of the digital language test in French as a foreign language 'Prim'Test' was interrupted due to the health crisis.

The digital version of the nationality language test to get the Belgian nationality is under development (the test existed in paper format only).

The offer of language guidance and support before, during and after the training course offered by the Bruxelles Formation langues training centre, is being improved by developing synergies with other centres and partners. This applies also for the language training of French as a foreign language in the centres.

#### **2021 Implementation**

The language training offer is continuously being developed at Bruxelles Formation. 2021 activities concerned:

- (a) participation in the development of the future *Cité des Langues* (City of languages), a space dedicated to help improve language skills throughout life;
- (b) the development of partnerships in the Brussels Region for Alpha and French as a foreign language training programmes;
- (c) the development of blended-learning.

Since May 2021, Bruxelles Formation has been participating in the 'French as foreign language +' (FLE+) mobility project set up as a consortium and led by Proforal asbl. Its aim is to promote French language learning for adult migrants by improving FLE training provision in the Brussels Region. The project offers mobility grants to literacy and French as a foreign language trainers in Brussels to:

- (a) observe migrants' integration and training practices with European partners;
- (b) follow structured training courses in partner organisations.

## 2022 Implementation

In 2022, the language training programmes are continuously being offered at Bruxelles Formation (French, Dutch, English & work-oriented for some sectors). The *Cité des Langues* project has been put on hold.

## 2023 Implementation

In 2023, Bruxelles Formation continues to offer language training programmes in French, Dutch, English, and work-oriented courses for specific sectors. Promoting language learning also remains a key priority in the collaborative policies of Bruxelles Formation and Actiris, the Public Employment Service in Brussels. Together, they provide a variety of language-learning solutions for jobseekers, including the Language Plan, which serves as the cornerstone of their joint strategy, and Brulingua, an online self-training platform.

The Language Plan, funded through a non-institutional horizontal cooperation agreement between Actiris and Bruxelles Formation, offers 850 job-oriented language training spots in French as a foreign language, Dutch, and English, specifically reserved for jobseekers.

In 2023, 1 220 jobseekers received training at BF Langues, with 771 referred by Actiris or the *Cité des métiers* under the Language Plan. Additionally, the Brulingua platform, which provides free online training in 24 languages, including Dutch, English, French, and German, for which 23 867 new users were registered, bringing the total number of active users to 30 857.

## 2024 Implementation

In 2024, Bruxelles Formation continues to offer language training programmes in French, Dutch, English, and work-oriented courses for specific sectors. Promoting language learning also remains a key priority in the collaborative policies of Bruxelles Formation and Actiris, the Public Employment Service in Brussels.

## Bodies responsible

- Bruxelles Formation (Brussels Institute for Vocational Training)
- Brussels Public Employment Service (Actiris)

## Target group

### Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)  
Unemployed and jobseekers  
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment  
Low-skilled/qualified persons

## Thematic categories

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning;  
adaptable/flexible training formats

Acquiring key competences

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

[Bruxelles Formation - reports and action plans](#)

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[Brulingua](#)

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[2023 Report on Cross-linked employment and training policies in Brussels](#)

## Related policy developments

**2020 Completed**

### 2020 Training Plan for Brussels (2025 Strategy)

The Government of the Brussels Region adopted the 2020 Training plan in December 2016. The plan is an integral part of the major projects of the 2025 strategy for Brussels (Go4Brussels).

 BELGIUM-FR

#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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