

# Renewal of the cooperation agreement of the Francophone Service for Trades and Qualification (SFMQ)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-FR

## Timeline

2015 **Approved/Agreed**

ID number 28033

## Background

The agency Francophone Service for Trades and Qualification (SFMQ) was created in support of the lifelong learning European policy developed through the Lisbon and Copenhagen treaties (2000-01). The purpose was to develop lifelong learning policy in a rich and complex Belgian education system.

## Objectives

SFMQ's objectives are to:

- (a) set up occupational profiles and training profiles in line with the reality of trades;
- (b) ensure the labour market relevance of training.

## Description

In October 2015, a new decree confirmed the renewal of the cooperation agreement of the Francophone Service for Trades and Qualification (service francophone des métiers et des qualifications, SFMQ) by all relevant Francophone parliaments (Government of the French Community of Belgium, Government of Wallonia, College of the French Community Commission COCOF).

The SFMQ agency consists of representatives of the public employment services, social partners, all VET providers from the French-speaking Community and the Skills Validation Consortium. The agency is responsible for:

- (a) creating profession profiles reflecting the reality of the job;
- (b) creating training profiles based on professions needs and thus assure the consistency between the training offered and the job-market needs;
- (c) establishing the link between profiles and structures of public employment services and improving the legibility of vocational education and training (VET) systems (nationally referred to as qualifying education), training, skills validation and job offers;
- (d) setting common references and language for all partners.

Practically:

- (a) trades profiles are elaborated within a Professions Profiles Commission and then validated by the Chamber of Trades;
- (b) training profiles are developed within a Training Profiles Commission and validated by the Teaching-Training Chamber;
- (c) the Chamber of Trades provide a matching notice between professions and training profiles;
- (d) finally, an opinion is formulated on the notice between, first, the professions profiles and the Skills Validation Consortium productions and, second, between the training profiles from the SFMQ and training programmes from education and training providers.

The use of these profiles by all training providers (IVET and CVET) facilitates learner mobility across training providers and across different levels (IVET and CVET) by ensuring that prior learning is taken into account. It also increases the transparency of the education and training system and improves validation opportunities.

**2015 Approved/Agreed**

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of the French Community
- French Community Commission (COCOF)
- Walloon Government

## **Target group**

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
Trainers  
School leaders  
Adult educators  
Guidance practitioners

### **Entities providing VET**

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

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET  
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

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

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

## **Subsystem**

## Further reading

Francophone Service for Trades and Qualification (SFMQ)

## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

#### Learning becomes modular: Vocational education pathway (PEQ)

Following the evaluation of the CPU system, a new vocational pathway was designed in 2021. On 20 July 2022, the Government of the French Community approved the decree redrawing the learners' path in vocational education and implementing PEQ.

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##### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

##### Subsystem

IVET

### 2022 Discontinued

#### Certification by learning outcomes units (CPU)

The certification by learning-outcomes units (CPU) divides upper-secondary VET tracks into different CPU. Learners receive the qualification certificate when all the learning-outcomes units are validated.

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##### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

##### Subsystem

IVET

#### Cite as

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