

# Certification by learning outcomes units (CPU)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-FR

## Timeline



ID number 28031

## Background

Learning-outcomes units are based on key activities resulting from training profiles (benchmarks used by all training providers) developed by the Francophone Service of Trades and Qualifications (SFMQ). Training profiles are developed after a request from the professional sector concerned, to respond to the real needs of the labour market and to establish a real school-world of work collaboration.

In 2011, 50% of relevant upper secondary VET schools agreed voluntarily to implement learning-outcomes units (CPU) in three VET sectors (auto mechanic, auto technician and beauty practitioner). The Decree of 12 July 2012 further defines CPU of professional knowledge, skills and competences structured in learning-outcomes units (UAA). In 2014, all relevant VET schools implemented the CPU in those sectors, as did hairdressing.

## Objectives

- Positive orientation towards VET (nationally called qualification education) so that it becomes as often as possible a first choice.
- The upgrading of technical professions and the sectors that lead to them.
- The fight against premature dropping out of school which leaves too many young people without secondary school leaving certification and feeds the hard core of unemployment.
- Mobility between the various training providers in Belgium and abroad.

## Description

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. Those who fail get a second chance in a complementary year with a personalised support from teachers.

The Minister of Education decides which training will be implemented in CPU; hence this certification approach is being gradually implemented.

In 2017, certification by learning-outcomes units was piloted in the 7th year of secondary education (including in dual learning and specialised training) - which is the equivalent to the 13th year of E&T. In 2018, a decree established a pilot on certification by units of learning outcomes at the second and third level of secondary education (upper secondary education), and their introduction was piloted in 2018 for the 4th, 5th and 6th year of secondary education. A new October 2018 regulation set up a guidebook for a better implementation of the CPU system at the upper secondary level of VET.

#### 2017 Pilot

#### 2018 Pilot

#### 2019 Implementation

In 2019, the certification by learning-outcomes units is further implemented.

#### 2020 Implementation

As part of the Pact for excellence in VET teaching, a quantitative (internal) evaluation took place in 2020 to see if the system continues as it is, if it should be amended or deleted. In 2020, monitoring was carried out internally in 24 schools. The main conclusions are as follows:

'If reluctance was noted at the start of its implementation [...], the philosophy of the CPU is generally well accepted and well implemented by the teaching teams, mainly for the VET courses. Most of them wish to continue this scheme. The organisation of the training over three years instead of two years allows more flexibility in the organisation of the cycle and meets the approval of all the teaching teams concerned. The standards for assessing certification profiles harmonise practices within teams and between establishments.'

#### 2021 Implementation

In 2021, a comprehensive evaluation process was under way to assess the certification by learning-outcomes unit impact on learner's career paths and grade repetition, as well as from a budgetary perspective. The evaluation was conducted by the inspection service and by the chief project of the Pact for excellence in VET Teaching.

#### 2022 Discontinued

Following the results of the evaluation of the Certification by Units of Learning Achievement (CPU), the CPU system will gradually be replaced by the Vocational Teaching Pathway (Parcours d'Enseignement Qualifiant, PEQ) system. A decree defining this PEQ system was adopted on 20 July 2022. This decree aims to gradually extend modular teaching to all vocational education programmes.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of the French Community

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies  
Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

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

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses  
Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation  
Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### **Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications**

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

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

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

### **European and international dimensions of VET**

Mobility of learners and staff

## **European priorities in VET**

### **VET Recommendation**

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

## **Subsystem**

IVET

## **Further reading**

[Decree of 12 July 2012 organising certification by learning-outcomes units \(CPU\) in secondary education qualifying and amending various provisions relating to secondary education](#)

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[Decree of 10 December 2015 approving the cooperation agreement between the French Community, the Walloon Region and the French Community Commission concerning the French-speaking service for trades and qualifications, in short SFMQ](#)

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[Decree of 14 June 2018 establishing experimental education at the 2nd and 3rd levels of qualifying secondary education with regard to certification by learning-outcomes units \(CPU\)](#)

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[AGCF of 29 August 2018 Decree of the Government of the French Community organizing, on an experimental basis, in the system of certification by units of learning outcomes, basic options grouped in the 4th, 5th and 6th years of secondary education](#)

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[Decree of 20 July 2022 on the Vocational Education Pathways](#)

## **Related policy developments**

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**2024 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

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**2015 Approved/Agreed**

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

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 (Gouvernement de la Communauté française de Belgique, Gouv

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### **Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

### **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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**2024 Implementation**

## **Pact for Excellence in Education**

The Pact for excellence in education was launched in January 2015, with a view to gradual implementation from 2017 to 2030. This was confirmed and reaffirmed in the Community Policy Statement covering the period 2019-24.

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### **Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

### **Subsystem**

IVET

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“ … ” **Cite as**

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