

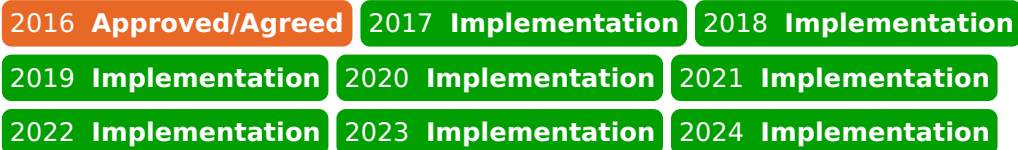
Legislation for higher dual education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-FR

Timeline



ID number 28016

Background

Higher dual education enables learners to acquire the general education needed to obtain a degree, while at the same time being immersed in the reality of the business world.

Objectives

To set a framework for the cooperation agreement between the French Community and the Walloon region for the development of common higher education structures dedicated to continuing training and lifelong learning activities.

Description

New decrees of the Government of the French Community approving the framework agreement on dual programmes in higher education of 30 June 2016 and February 2017 regulates dual programmes in higher education (bachelor and master levels) and sets requirements for concluding framework agreements for higher dual vocational education programmes.

The special feature of higher dual education is that part of it takes place in a company and part in a higher education institution.

The decree of 30 June 2016 defines its specific organisational framework.

This education offers a dual opportunity to:

- (a) discover the world of business and acquire the social, technical and professional skills expected on the job market;
- (b) acquire a higher education qualification through a practice-based methodology, while receiving an allowance.

The practical arrangements are defined by an agreement between the higher education institution, the company and the learner. This agreement sets out the learners' status, the

timetable for teaching and assessment activities, school holidays, as well as commitments in terms of safety, work accident cover, work regulations and professional ethics.

A steering committee for dual programmes in higher education was put in place within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the French Community and the Walloon region for the development of common higher education structures dedicated to continuing training and lifelong learning activities.

2016 Approved/Agreed

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, the legislations were in place and applied.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, legislation has been adapted defining the minimum compensation which needs to be paid to the trainee and included in professional training agreements, which needs to be concluded in line with the framework of dual higher education.

The legislation requires that the training company must pay a minimum monthly allowance to the student, as part of his training:

- (a) EUR 550 gross for the student enrolled in studies leading to the degree academic baccalaureate;
- (b) EUR 766 gross for the student enrolled in studies leading to the degree academic master degree.

This allowance is adjusted annually based on the health index for August of the current academic year. The final amount from the previous year is indexed accordingly, with this adjustment taking effect on 14th September of each academic year.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, legislation was in place and applied to new developments.

2022 Implementation

In April and May 2022 a quadripartite guidance note was adopted by the Governments of Wallonia, the French Community (Wallonia-Brussels Federation), the Brussels Region, and the College of the French Community Commission. The note aims to strengthen vocational education, particularly dual learning, through cross-sectoral collaboration. Between May and November 2022, a state of play assessment was conducted under the authority of a steering committee composed of ministerial representatives.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, significant progress has been made in advancing dual learning in higher education within the French Community of Belgium, as part of broader efforts to align education with labour market needs. In early 2023, the government adopted a roadmap for reforming vocational education and training (VET), with a focus on dual learning to enhance the appeal of these pathways for students.

This initiative stems from the quadripartite guidance from 2022. The 2022 state of play assessment led to the adoption of a new roadmap in February 2023, outlining reforms across different education levels, from secondary to higher education.

A new quadripartite guidance note was thus issued in early 2023. It proposed reform

scenarios focusing on dual education and VET in the French-speaking Belgium, with strategic objectives, working methods, and timelines to guide the process. These scenarios were designed to generate concrete proposals for improvement over two legislative terms.

A decision was made to extend the collaboration with the agency overseeing these reforms until December 2024. This extension emphasises dual education as a priority area and builds on the achievements of previous efforts, particularly in fostering innovative teaching methods and partnerships within the education sector. It also highlights continued cooperation among francophone regions, with the creation of a steering committee involving key ministers to oversee the reform process. The extended partnership aims to further align education pathways with labour market needs and drive systemic reform.

2024 Implementation

Following the elections, the 2024-29 Community and regional policy declarations confirmed a strong commitment to expanding dual learning across all educational levels. The Steering Committee on Dual Learning in Higher Education, working closely with the alter4sup project, is preparing a new legislative framework for dual learning, set to be implemented by the 2026-27 academic year. Alter4sup, funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the government of the French Community, supports the development of dual education by providing tools and frameworks to ensure its quality, sustainability, and identity in higher education.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of the French Community

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Decree organising higher education \(alternance\)](#)

[Order of the Government of the French Community setting the minimum allowances applicable to professional immersion agreements concluded within the framework of higher education in work-based learning programmes \(10/09/2020\)](#)

[Alter4sup project](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Legislation for higher dual education: 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/28016>