

# Institution of the public dual training coordination service (OFFA)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 BELGIUM-FR

## Timeline

2015 **Approved/Agreed**

**ID number 28015**

## Background

The establishment of the Francophone Office for Dual Training (OFFA, Office Francophone de la Formation en Alternance), was announced in the Framework cooperation agreement relating to dual training/apprenticeships, concluded in Brussels in October 2008, between the French Community, the Walloon Region and the French Community Commission.

## Objectives

OFFA aims to steer, promote, develop and coordinate dual training / apprenticeships in the french speaking part of Belgium for apprentices and students aged 15 to 25. OFFA's purposes include:

- (a) harmonising practices in the framework of the (common) apprenticeship contract;
- (b) centralising accreditation of companies;
- (c) centralising and processing companies' applications for incentives.

## Description

In September 2015, the Francophone office for dual training (OFFA, Office francophone de la formation en alternance) was established. Its main mission is to oversee, in French-speaking Belgium, the dual training programme organised by the education providers, the CEFA (Centres for Dual Vocational Education and Training) and by the training providers, IFAPME (Walloon institute for work-based learning training and self-employed workers and SME's) and SFPME (training service for small and medium-sized enterprises in the Brussels Region).

The launch of OFFA went hand-in-hand with the establishment of the dual training contract common to CEFA, SFPME and IFAPME, with the aim of harmonising practices between training providers and, therefore, increased mobility of the learner between the different providers. This harmonisation also concerns the remuneration of learners as well as the financial incentives for work-based learning training (bonuses) which are common to CEFA/IFAPME/SFPME.

OFFA has defined four strategic axes:

## Steering of the dual training/apprenticeships

- (a) optimise the offer of training places in companies;
- (b) provide information on work-based learning programmes;
- (c) initiate and coordinate discussions relating to the optimisation of work-based learning training as a sector of excellence;
- (d) develop proposals for the harmonisation of certifications obtained at the end of training courses organised under the joint work-based learning contract.

## Synergies and development of common tools

- (a) set up and ensure the support of the Approval Commission and mediation;
- (b) support pilot collaborative experiments carried out by CEFA and IFAPME/SFPME;
- (c) propose the common model of the skills assessment;
- (d) propose a harmonised setting of skill levels A / B / C, the three levels of progression of the learners in dual training;
- (e) support learner mobility.

## Promotion of dual learning and apprenticeships

- (a) raise awareness of dual training programmes, by supporting the organisation of events related to the promotion of work-based learning programmes;
- (b) promote and manage financial incentives for work-based learning programmes.

## Dual learning and apprenticeships monitoring.

**2015 Approved/Agreed**

## Bodies responsible

- Walloon Government
- French Community (FWB)
- French Community Commission (COCOF)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Young people (15-29 years old)

### Education professionals

School leaders

### 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

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[OFFA's website](#)

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[Cooperation agreement](#)

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[Management contract](#)

### “ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Institution of the public dual training coordination service (OFFA): Belgium-FR. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28015>