

VET graduate tracking



Timeline



ID number 28008

Background

Tracking VET graduates (i.e. following recent graduates in Flanders for a year in their search for a first job) provides information on their employability and actual employment. This information is useful for adjusting existing and future VET programmes to better align the offer with the labour market needs. It also provides a guidance for learners in their choice of a VET programme: will this path lead to employment?

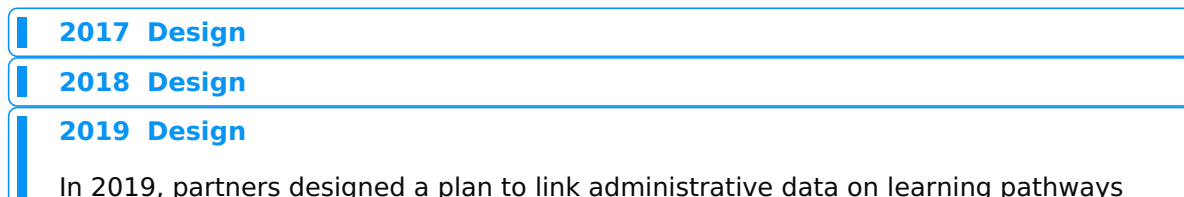
Objectives

To link data on learning pathways with information on labour market participation more easily.

Description

In 2017, progress was made towards more easily linking administrative data on learning pathways with information on labour market participation. Based on an agreement between the Flemish public employment service (VDAB) and the Flemish Department of Education and Training, schools will, in the future, receive data not only on the progression of their graduates towards higher education (as was the case so far) but also on the transition of their IVET graduates to the labour market. VDAB and the Flemish Department of Education and Training agreed on a common monitoring profile wherein the number of indicators is increased from two to five: labour market position (working/seeking job/inactive); work experience; work regime; sector of employment; and remuneration.

VDAB delivers information on labour market participation of IVET graduates at the level of field of study, to provide information to support the study choice.



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2020 Pilot

In 2020, a pilot was started with the Belgian Crossroads Bank for Social Security to link administrative data on learning pathways with information on labour market participation.

2021 Pilot

In 2021, VDAB and the Flemish Department of Education and Training are still in the process of receiving and examining the data from the Belgian Crossroads Bank for Social Security.

2022 Pilot

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2023 Pilot

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2024 Pilot

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2025 Implementation

The study based on the linked data that VDAB received from the Belgian Crossroads Bank turned out to be unusable, leading to the termination of that project. Since information on the employment outcomes of IVET graduates remains crucial for identifying labour market trends among school leavers, a new approach has been adopted.

On one hand, since early 2025, 'Steunpunt Werk' (a university-based labour market expertise centre) has been conducting a study that links data on school leavers registered with VDAB to employment data, within the scope of existing privacy authorisations. However, this approach is limited because VDAB is not authorised to use data from school leavers who are not registered with VDAB.

On the other hand, in 2025 VDAB and the Department of Education began the process of obtaining the necessary authorisations from the Flemish Privacy Commission to link VDAB's employment data with the Department of Education's data on school leavers. If these authorisations are granted, VDAB and the Department of Education will be able to perform the data linkage themselves, removing the dependency on the Crossroads Bank for this process, as was previously the case.

Bodies responsible

- Flemish Department of Education and Training
- Flemish public employment service (VDAB)

Target group

Learners

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

Education professionals

School leaders
Guidance practitioners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[School leavers report](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28008>