

Supporting learners in accessing and completing apprenticeship (BIDA projects)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BELGIUM-DE

Timeline

2016 Implementation 2017 Implementation 2018 Implementation
2019 Implementation 2020 Completed

ID number 28000

Background

The dropout rate among apprentices in the first year of their training increased in recent years and was at 15% in 2020.

Objectives

BIDA's goal is to support young people facing difficulties in entering apprenticeship programmes as well as apprentices who are at risk of breaking their training contract or who have already dropped out of training. The aim is getting them back into the dual vocational education and training (VET) system. The target group also includes migrants (including refugees) and learners with disabilities.

Description

On 1 January 2016, the Centre for Education and Training (ZAWM) in Eupen set up the 2-year ESF project Vocational integration through training guidance in dual education (BIDA) for the German-speaking community. BIDA's goal is to support apprentices who are at risk of breaking their training contract or who have already dropped out of training, with the aim of getting them back into the dual vocational education and training (VET) system.

The BIDA project offers custom-made services to young people who, after starting their training, are thinking about dropping out early. Depending on the individual's needs, personalised help covers a wide variety of support:

- (a) screening of the individual and personal career;
- (b) analysis of strengths, interests and motivation;
- (c) coaching in a new career or education path;
- (d) preparation of an individual support and guidance plan;
- (e) training modules to reduce personal anxieties and weaknesses;
- (f) referral to other support services.

Participation in the project is voluntary in the sense that a young person must be willing to take up the offer. However, it is problematic that many young people tend to be unaware

of, or fail to recognise, their own weaknesses and difficulties; this stands in the way of their early rectification.

The first round of the ESF project BIDA came to an official end in December 2017. A second round (BIDA II) started in January 2018 and ended in December 2020. It included a new 'pre-apprenticeship' strand, targeted at young people not yet ready to enter the IVET system in the German-speaking Community. The pre-apprenticeship strand consists of 1-year special classes at school (2 days) and in a company (3 days), with lesson content adjusted to individual needs of students.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

Ongoing implementation of the second round of the project (BIDA II, January 2018 - December 2020).

2020 Completed

At the end of 2020, the BIDA II+ project came to an end and the service will be offered as a regular part of the VET school offer.

Bodies responsible

- Centre for Education and Training (ZAWM)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Cedefop ReferNet news](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Flexible, low-threshold and shorter training pathway (Project Anlehre+)

In 2022, the Centre for Education and Training (ZAWM) in Eupen submitted an application for the project Anlehre+, to be financed by the European Social Fund (ESF).

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28000>