

Measures of guidance and promotion of work-based learning

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BELGIUM-FR

Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation	

ID number 28020

Background

At the age of 14, upper secondary learners have the opportunity to learn a profession at school, but they need to be supported in their choice they make.

Advanced technology centres (CTA) of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation were created in 2007 as part of the actions put in place by the Government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to enhance and promote technical and vocational education (nationally called qualifying education) and improve the match between the equipment available in education and that used on the labour market.

The 30 CTAs are infrastructures recognised by the French Community Government and developed as a priority in promising professional sectors. Their mission is to make available high-tech equipment and to develop specialised technical training that complements that offered in the technical and vocational streams to learners and teachers of secondary, higher and adult education (whatever the network and type of education), apprentices and trainers from the Walloon institute for apprenticeship and entrepreneurial training in small and medium-sized enterprises (IFAPME), the agency for quality in life (AVIQ) and VET, job seekers and workers.

The development of CTAs is included in a more global policy for the transformation of vocational education involving:

- (a) concerted synergy between regional policies for the development of employment and training and community policies for the development of vocational secondary education, adult education and higher education, by allowing the provision quality teaching equipment;
- (b) the provision by competence centres and professional reference centres of a training offer for:
 - (i) learners and teachers of vocational secondary education and the third degree of general secondary programmes with technical stream;
 - (ii) students and teachers in adult education and non-university higher education;
 - (iii) trainers from IFAPME, AVIQ and and the training centre in Brussels for SMEs (EFP);

- (c) the organisation, by the CTAs, the competence centres (Walloon Region) and the professional reference centres (Brussels Region), of awareness-raising actions on technical professions for learners and teachers in primary and secondary education;
- (d) the modernisation of educational equipment in vocational education establishments and in labeled CTAs;
- (e) the establishment of a register of all educational equipment present in schools and training centres;
- (f) the definition of qualification profiles, on the basis of which training profiles have been constructed by the SFMQ;
- (g) setting up the Vocational Education Pathway (PEQ).

Objectives

To promote the positive orientation of upper secondary learners in choosing adequate education pathways. In collaboration with sectors and various partners, develop recognised and technologically advanced training courses.

Improve initial training and education in French-speaking Belgium. Strengthen the links between skills and the needs of companies, by working on the quality and complementarity of the training offer and tools, innovation, the attractiveness of trades and sectors and the investment of companies in training.

Description

The Order of the Government of the French Community on work-study contracts was approved on the 17.7.2015 and introduced the single contract, which defines the roles and needs to be signed by the stakeholders involved in dual training, namely the apprentice, the training company and the VET provider. Since 2015, various guidance and promotion actions have been carried out, to communicate a positive orientation towards vocational education and training (VET). For these purposes, various offers of doing an internship in companies were introduced:

- (a) company visits: periods of contact and discovery of trades, the professional environment, centres of competence and professional reference, centres of advanced technologies, *Cité des métiers* or other schools, which are organised within the framework of the orientation process for learners in school-based VET.
- (b) company internships: periods of training in a professional environment which involve gradual student activity, from observation to responsible practice.
- (c) the development of work-based training: alternating secondary education was born out of the desire to offer young people an alternative to the traditional forms of full-time education. The work-based training programme allows young people to take vocational and general training courses for two days in a centre for dual education and training (CEFA) and to develop their skills related to the profession for three days with a company.

The internship process has been further formalised in parallel with the implementation of the learning-outcomes units.

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

The platform 'My school, my job' was deployed in 2019 to inform a large public about training courses for different professions. This platform aims to promote VET pathways and facilitate orientation.

2020 Implementation

In 2020, the various measures in place continued to be offered.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, the various measures in place continued to be offered.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, the various measures in place continued to be offered. The platform 'My school, my job' was updated with relevant information on vocational education and trending occupations.

2023 Implementation

The work on amending the decree of 11 April 2014, which guarantees the educational provisions of technical and vocational education (nationally referred to as qualifying education) and sets out the organisation of advanced technology centres, was launched in 2023.

2024 Implementation

The decree of 11 April 2014, which governs the operation of CTAs and the annual call for projects to modernise qualifying education facilities, has been substantially amended to strengthen governance and enhance effectiveness. These amendments were approved on 18 April 2024.

2025 Implementation

In 2025, the various measures in place continued to be offered.

Bodies responsible

- Social partners - Employers organisations and workers unions
- Ministry of the French Community

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

Companies

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

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Lifelong guidance

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Order of the Government of the French Community on work-study contracts](#)

[18/04/2024 - Decree amending the decree of 11 April 2014 guaranteeing educational equipment for vocational training and establishing the organisation of advanced technology centres](#)

Related policy developments

2025 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

2017 Discontinued

Social partner pact for employment and training

Trade unions, employers and the Walloon government signed the first Pact for employment and training in 2016. The pact focused on six areas:

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Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28020>