

Adults access upper-secondary vocational programmes in regular education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **BELGIUM-DE**

Timeline

2025 Pilot**ID number 50571**

Background

Under the federal government's programme law of 18 July 2025, the regulation of unemployment in Belgium is undergoing significant reform. A key element is the introduction of a two-year limit on unemployment benefits. This change is expected to drive demand for new, short training programmes to help jobseekers gain qualifications that are in demand on the labour market and make it easier for them to secure employment.

Objectives

The measure is designed to integrate adults into the formal upper-secondary VET school system to strengthen their career prospects and employability. By bringing adults into regular classes, younger learners benefit from the experience and perspective of older learners, promoting exchange and improving the overall quality of learning. Ultimately, the programme aims to provide flexible and adaptable education in response to skills shortages and labour market needs.

Description

This measure enables adult learners to take part in vocational classes and practical training offered within the regular VET school system at ISCED level 3 as Vocational programme (duration of 2 years). It allows them to acquire vocational competences that qualify them for relevant professions in the labour market, without requiring additional human resources from the educational institution. The target group are adults wishing to broaden or change their educational and/or professional qualifications, or to gain new professional skills.

Adults can attend the same vocational classes within upper-secondary VET programmes as regular learners, particularly in the field of 'specialised foot care', where no adult-specific programmes previously existed. Learners receive pedagogical support to help them integrate into the programme structure and maximise their learning experience.

The programme is intended to last one or two school years. Training can also be completed on an individual basis by selecting specific modules. In an open learning environment, participants combine theory and practice through self-directed learning, supported by differentiated learning guidance. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate of attendance.

Admission requirements to access this programme include German language skills at a minimum of B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), enabling the learner to follow the lessons, an extended certificate of good conduct, and proof of payment of the registration fee.

2025 Pilot

In September 2025, the pilot project was launched to test this vocational programme for adults in the field of specialised foot care. The pilot aims to assess the feasibility of, and approaches to, providing vocational qualifications for adults within regular VET education at upper-secondary school level. The project is coordinated by the Academy for Adult Education (Akademie für Erwachsenenbildung am Robert-Schuman-Institut) which offers programmes for adults in cooperation with the affiliated secondary school (Robert-Schuman-Institut), which offers general and vocational secondary education for learners from the age of 12.

Bodies responsible

- Academy for Adult Education ('Akademie für Erwachsenenbildung am Robert-Schuman-Institut')
- Robert-Schuman-Institut Eupen

Target group

Learners

Adult learners
Unemployed and jobseekers
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs
Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Robert-Schuman-Institut](#)



Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/50571>

