
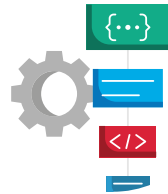




Quality Assurance in VET: French-speaking Belgium

This document provides an overview of quality assurance in VET in the respective country. It covers information on VET systems and how quality assurance takes place, which organisations are responsible for VET policy and any recent developments in VET policy.

VET system and quality assurance	
 <p>Overview of the VET system and how quality assurance takes place</p>	<p>In Belgium-fr (Walloon Region and Bruxelles Region, BE-fr), the education system is regulated by the French Community, which means that the education is regulated similarly in both Wallonia and Brussels. The training sector is a competence of the Regions, therefore there are differences between Wallonia and Brussels. Dual learning exists in the education system as well as in the training system.</p> <p>Both education and training benefit from what is called ‘the pedagogical freedom.’ Each school and each training centre, or each group (network) of schools and each group of training centres (provider) is allowed to teach and train in its own way.</p> <p>The objectives, however, are defined by the public authorities, and the certification process is very strict/restrictive.</p> <p>Informal and non-formal education of training can be certified as well by the ‘<i>Consortium de validation des compétences.</i>’</p> <p>In Belgium-fr, there is no common approach to quality assurance. Indeed, inspection for schools, ISO for training provides, as well as other systems co-exist.</p> <p>More information about the VET system in Belgium can be found on Cedefop’s VET in Europe database: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/vet-in-europe/systems/belgium</p>
 <p>System-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>Many measures have been taken to improve the quality of the vocational education and training system in French-speaking Belgium. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Service francophone des métiers et des qualifications</i> (SFMQ) – French-speaking Service for Trades and Qualifications which develops common standards for initial and continuing vocational education and training. • The <i>Cadre francophone des certifications</i> (CFC) – the French-speaking National Qualifications Framework which places all qualifications on an eight-level framework according to the same criteria.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Bassins Education-Formation-Emploi</i> (IBEFE)¹ – the Education-Training-Employment Consultation Bodies which support the management of vocational education, vocational training and skills validation provision according to local market needs. • The adoption of legislation requiring the appointment of an inter-network quality officer in adult education. • The EQAVET National Reference Point (Point de Référence National) which brings together all the VET subsystems in order to analyse their quality arrangements in the light of the EQAVET Framework.
 <p>Provider-level QA arrangements</p>	<p>In Belgium-fr there is no common approach to quality assurance. Indeed, inspection for schools, ISO, EFQM, and Qfor quality systems all coexist. Nevertheless, vocational education, vocational training and skills validation subsystems participate to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in BE-fr, which means their programs are all analysed according to the quality assurance criteria of the EQF of BE-fr. They also participate in the EQAVET NRP which means they analyse their quality arrangements in the light of the EQAVET Framework.</p>
 <p>Which organisation(s) are responsible for VET policy?</p>	<p>In Belgium-fr² five Ministers are responsible for VET policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of education of the French Community for initial education. • Minister of long-life education of the French Community for adult education. • Minister of initial and continuing vocational training of Wallonia. • Minister of initial and continuing vocational training of Brussels. • Minister of the Walloon institute for dual learning and self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises. <p>VET in BE-fr is developed by nine subsystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L'Enseignement obligatoire - The upper secondary education. • L'Enseignement de promotion sociale - The adult education. • Le service public de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle en Wallonie - The public employment and vocational training service in Wallonia. • L'Institut bruxellois francophone pour la formation professionnelle - The Brussels French-speaking institute for vocational training. • L'Institut wallon de formation en alternance et des indépendants et petites et moyennes entreprises - The Walloon institute for dual learning and self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises.

¹ <https://www.bassinefe-bxl.be/>

² https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/vet_in_belgium.pdf

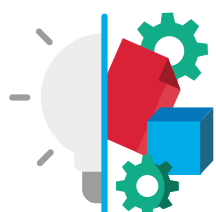
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le Service formation des petites et moyennes entreprises - The Brussels French-speaking training service for small and medium-sized enterprises. • Le Consortium de validation des compétences - The Skills Validation Consortium. • L'Interfédération des centres d'insertion socioprofessionnelle en Wallonie - The Interfederation of socio-professional integration centers in Wallonia. • La Fédération bruxelloise des organismes d'insertion socioprofessionnelle et d'économie sociale d'insertion - The Brussels Federation of socio-professional integration and social integration economy organisations.
--	---



Recent policy developments
(in the last 12 months)

An external quality assurance agency for the vocational training and skills validation providers is currently being set up.

Specific projects in the country (optional)



Please provide a short description of recent projects or initiatives in the field of QA in VET that you would like to highlight for your country

During this first year of work, the nine partners of the EQAVET NRP active in vocational education, vocational training, and skills validation joined forces to analyse the EQAVET Framework and study how each of them applies it.

The partners of the NRP identified six indicative descriptors in the EQAVET framework that they wished to analyse in 2022-2023. At the same time, the Quality working group of the French-speaking Qualifications Framework also wanted to analyse the quality principles of the NQF. A common questionnaire was therefore drawn up and sent to all partners.

Among the six indicative descriptors examined, two concern the training and skills needs of the labour market. During the analysis of the completed questionnaires, the partners of the EQAVET NRP noted that each of them tries to best meet the training and skills needs of the labour market, that each does so in its own way, and that everyone experiences difficulties inherent in his way of doing things. To improve the results of their methods, the partners of the EQAVET NRP first wanted to carry out a self-analysis on the way in which VET

actors in French-speaking Belgium meet the training and skills needs of the employment market and then submit this self-analysis to the critical eye of their peers who are members of the European EQAVET Network.

Thus, on March 22-24 2023, the first Peer Review organised by the EQAVET NRP took place, attended by a delegation of seven peers from Flanders, Italy, Latvia, Romania, and Slovenia. During the event, peers were able to discuss with actors from SFMQ, IBEFES, and VET providers the way in which, in French-speaking Belgium, training and skills needs of the labour market are collected and analysed, the way training profiles are defined, and the processes leading to the effective launch of a training course. Despite the complexity of the education, training and skills validation landscape, the peers made suggestions for future reflection with the aim of continuous improvement and which will be included in the EQAVET NRP's 2023-26 reflection plan.



Which organisation(s) are responsible for the project / initiative

The National Reference Point is hosted at the Belgian Erasmus-Plus Agency. The partners are the nine VET subsystems:

- L'Enseignement obligatoire - The upper secondary education
- L'Enseignement de promotion sociale - The adult education.
- Le service public de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle en Wallonie - The public employment and vocational training service in Wallonia.
- L'Institut bruxellois francophone pour la formation professionnelle - The Brussels French-speaking institute for vocational training.
- L'Institut wallon de formation en alternance et des indépendants et petites et moyennes entreprises - The Walloon institute for dual learning and self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Le Service formation des petites et moyennes entreprises - The Brussels French-speaking training service for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Le Consortium de validation des compétences - The Skills Validation Consortium.
- L'Interfédération des centres d'insertion socioprofessionnelle en Wallonie - The Interfederation of socio-professional integration centers in Wallonia.
- La Fédération bruxelloise des organismes d'insertion socioprofessionnelle et d'économie sociale d'insertion - The Brussels Federation of socio-professional integration and social integration economy organisations.

Use of EQAVET labels

No

**Do you use an
EQAVET label or
seal to certify VET
providers in your
country?**

Yes