

Belgium-Flemish-Community:Overview

Competence for education in Belgium has been transferred to the communities. Only the determination of the starting and finishing ages for compulsory education, minimum requirements for diploma conferrals and the pension system are still federal matters. In the Flemish Community the Department for Education and Training takes care of policy preparation and 4 internal autonomous agencies are responsible for policy implementation. Together they form the [Flemish ministry of Education and Training](#).

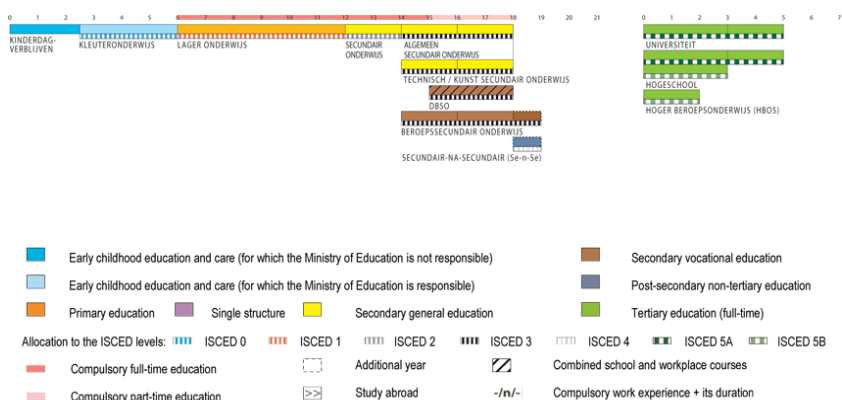
The [Flemish Education Council](#) (VLOR) is the strategic advice council for the policy domain of Education and Training. The [Child and Family agency](#) directs formal child care, including pre-school as well as out-of-school care of children up to the age of 12. Educational provision, recognised, financed/subsidised and inspected by the public authorities, is organised by different (public and private) school boards/governing bodies on the basis of freedom of education.

Elementary education, principally from the age of 2.5 to 12, encompasses kindergarden and primary education. Full-time compulsory education lasts until the age of 16, but after completion of the 1st stage secondary education at 15, part-time compulsory education can be commenced through the alternance training system, which nonetheless represents a full-time commitment. The possible learning pathways here are either part-time vocational education or an apprenticeship (with the self-employed/entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises), together with a part-time personal development pathway if needed. Higher education includes initial teacher training, higher vocational education (HBO5, ASSOCIATE DEGREE) and courses organised by university colleges and universities. Permanent training is very diverse, including adult education (AE) and part-time arts education (PAE), as well as professional training (VDAB), entrepreneurial training (SYNTRA Flanders), agricultural training and non-formal socio-cultural adult work (SCAW).

For a short description of the various educational levels and related subjects such as employment conditions, in-service training and continuing education for teachers and management, guidance of pupils, teachers and schools, support, quality assurance, internationalisation and mobility we refer to the Eurydice National System Overview for Belgium - Flemish Community.

The most elaborate and up-to-date information is found on the website of the [ministry of Education and Training](#). There you can also find all relevant links to other educational bodies and publications.

Structure of the national education system 2012/13



source: Eurydice

Common European Reference Tools Provided by the Eurydice Network

- [National Student Fee and Support Systems](#)
 - [Organisation of the Academic Year in Higher Education](#)
 - [Organisation of School Time in Europe](#) (Primary and general secondary education)
 - [Recommended Annual Taught Time](#) in Full-Time Compulsory Education in Europe (Presented by grades/stages for full time compulsory education as well as by subject and country.)
 - [Teachers and School Heads Salaries and Allowances in Europe](#) (Salaries and allowances of teachers and school heads at pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education levels.)
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