



EDUCATION AND TRAINING 2010

The implementation of a coherent and comprehensive strategy for lifelong learning^{*}

Since today the delimitation between initial training and continuous training, between formal and non-formal education becomes more fluent, Luxembourg has implemented a consistent and flexible system structuring the different types of education and training in the perspective of lifelong learning.

This system includes, from preprimary education to higher and adult education all offers of education and training permitting to everybody **acquiring new skills throughout life**. By recent reforms the coherence between the different types of education has been strengthened and new gateways between the systems have been created.

A new law on **basic education** has been adopted on 21 January 2009. It reorganizes the first 9 years of schooling on the pedagogical and organizational plan. All schools, preschool and primary, now called basic schools, will be organized into 4 cycles of learning. Learning cycles will replace the traditional organization in school years. Cycle 1 consists of early education (optional) and preschool. Cycle 2, 3 and 4 correspond to primary education and each has duration of 2 years. After the fourth cycle the students are orientated either to general secondary education or to technical secondary education.

From the school year 2008-2009, **competence based learning** will be introduced gradually in basic education, secondary education and vocational education and training (VET). The competence based approach and the definition of learning units (modules) and standards will facilitate individual training pathways. This approach will also facilitate support and reintegration of those who have left school prematurely. Particularly in the framework of vocational education and training, it will be possible for the learner to resume his studies at any time of life respectively obtaining a vocational qualification by validation of professional experience or training.

^{*} National report : « Education et Formation 2010 », Ministère de l'Éducation nationale et de la Formation professionnelle, Luxembourg 2009

By the reform of the vocational education and training were also created new **gateways to higher education**. Thus preparatory studies to higher education can be either made during the normal curricula or as supplementary modules after the vocational qualification.

The definition of a **national qualifications reference framework** will increase the transparency of qualifications and will facilitate the recognition of studies at national and transnational level.

In beyond the initial training and education, different **measures allow adults to access to a formal qualification, to develop basic skills and to participate in continuous training**.

Some measures are in place for years, others have been put in place recently, to expand the training offer and to promote the participation of individuals and companies:

1. grants for companies which invest in continuous training (since 1999);
1. grants for municipalities and associations offering courses for adults (since 2001);
2. formal adult education offered by colleges since 1991 and more recently (2006) the possibility to acquire secondary education diploma by e-learning “projet e-bac”;
3. adult apprenticeship (since 2000);
4. second chance school for young adults aged 18-24 (2011);
5. individual training leave (since 2008);
6. linguistic training leave (since 2009) ;
7. language courses and civic education as part of integration measures for migrants (2010).

A coherent **quality assurance** system for education and training is under development. It will be based on the European quality assurance reference framework for VET, on internal and external evaluation of the system, on assessment of learning outcomes, on school plans to increase success and equity at students’ level and on accreditation and quality labels for continuous VET and adult education providers.

For further information: <http://www.men.public.lu/>