

REPORT TO THE WALLOON PARLIAMENT

Forem and vocational training operators



The Belgian Court of Audit has examined how the Walloon Office for Vocational Training and Employment (FOREM) has been planning its vocational training actions and assessing the implemented programmes according to the principles of sound management. The Court has also looked into the legal nature of the relationship between FOREM and the vocational training operators. Vocational training is one of FOREM's essential tasks to achieve the objective of helping jobseekers back into the labour market.

FOREM's planning of vocational training actions and assessing of this process

The Court has noticed that the programming and monitoring processes and the methods used (public procurement contracts, exceptions to public contracting, partnerships and subsidies) differ from one operator to another (training centres, skills centres responsible for their own management or acting as non-profit organisations, regional umbrella agencies), are not synchronised and are hampered by several budgetary obstacles. As a result, no department has a comprehensive, complete and up-to-date overview of the training offer.

Legal nature of the relationship between FOREM and the vocational training operators

The Court has noted that FOREM has recategorised a few partnerships as public procurement contracts and has developed a guideline on the different methods to resort to third parties. The legality of certain operations has therefore not been fully proven.

The Court recommends pursuing the steps that have already been undertaken, clarifying the legal nature of some operations and developing indicators that will allow FOREM to choose the most efficient operating methods.