



Nederlands Voorzitterschap
van het Comité van Ministers
Présidence néerlandaise du
Comité de Ministres

Benelux+ Forum on Vocational Education and Skills

13.10.2026 | 09:00-16:00

BENELUX HOUSE

RUE DE LA RÉGENCE 39, 1000 BRUSSELS

09:00-09:30 **Welcome coffee**
Spaak Room (1st floor)

The morning plenary session will take place in the Schuman Room (1st floor)

09:30-09:40 **Introduction**

- **Liesje Schreinemacher**, Deputy Secretary General of the Benelux Union
- **Mirjam Koster**, Director General DUO, Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

09:40-10:00 **Keynote speech - a presentation of the broader European and Benelux+ contexts**

- **Wouter Kerkhove**, Brussels Liaison Officer, Cedefop

10:00-10:15 **Testimonial from a VET student from the Benelux+**

- **Abel Schmidt**, Student, ROC van Amsterdam

10:15-11:00 **Panel discussion - VET in the Benelux+: recognition, mobility and employability**

Comparative overview of the different VET systems in the Benelux+

- **Charlotte Venema**, Policy Advisor, General Secretariat of the Benelux Union

Panel discussion on key opportunities and challenges related to VET in the Benelux+

- **Scilla van Cuijlenborg**, Senior Policy Advisor MBO Raad and Vice President EUproVET
- **Alexandra Donike**, Head of the EU Office for Economic Affairs and Vocational Education, Düsseldorf District Government and Ministry of Education of North Rhine-Westphalia
- **Bavo Meert**, Attaché Education and Training, General Representation of the Government of Flanders within the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU
- **Justyna Nerkowska**, Attachée in the Vocational Education Pathways Unit, French Community of Belgium

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**
Spaak Room (1st floor)

- 11:30-12:00 Presentation - European tools for partnerships**
- **Anna Barbieri**, Team Leader Apprenticeships and Erasmus+, DG EMPL (European Commission)
 - **Annick Bakker**, Coordinator for Cross-Border Cooperation, Province Overijssel
 - **Sarah Schönfelder**, Member of the Management Board, TAFH Münster GmbH
- 12:00-12:30 Panel discussion - Attractiveness of vocational training**
- **Ingrid Groenewegen**, Senior Advisor for Cross-Border Cooperation with Germany, Province Overijssel
 - **Loena Nelissen**, Coordinator Talentcenter, Flemish Network of Enterprises Voka
 - **Romain Nivellet**, Director of the Permanent Representation of the Région Hauts-de-France to the EU and the Benelux Union
 - **Anja Hessé**, Coordinator for Initial Vocational Education and Training, Luxembourgish Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- 12:30-13:45 Networking lunch**
Foyer (6th floor)
- 13:45-13:50 Short opening of the afternoon sessions**
- 13:50-14:40 Panel discussion - Recognition of VET diplomas: how to scale up existing initiatives?**
Schengen Room (6th floor)
- **Theodor Grassos**, Secretary General of the European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training
 - **Marijn van Grunsven**, Policy Officer International Recognition, Nuffic - *BRAVO II - Strengthening Cooperation on Recognition of Vocational Qualifications*
 - **Rini Romme**, Project Leader, Rijnland Instituut - *MOVE-Certificate*
 - **Justin Emontspool**, Entrepreneur, Centracar Eupen - *Alumnus of the ZAWM Double-Degree Programme for Qualified Automotive Technicians*
- From 13:50-16:00 Networking area & booths**
Schuman Room (1st floor)



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en
Wetenschap



MBO Raad

