

Impact of crisis on education and training

French speaking Community of Belgium

Until now, the crisis does not cause a lot of visible restrictions on education and training.

However, some measures scheduled earlier are deferred.

Some examples:

- ▶ A proposition of the Education Minister wanted to transfer the special funding for schools working with disadvantaged people from more advantaged schools. The proposition has been cancelled under the pressure of trade unions, but the founding will be partially differed to next years.
- ▶ In Higher Education, an important restructuring is planed. It's also planed to facilitate access to HE for disadvantaged people, to increase guidance and remediation, but this has to be done without any change in the budget.
- ▶ For education for adults, funding for remediation is divided by two.

But it's difficult to determine if those restrictions are directly due to the actual crisis or if they were structurally planed in initial political orientations.

It's important to underline that the restrictions affect special funding for action for disadvantaged people who are the first victims of the crisis.

Otherwise there was in Wallonia, before the crisis, a plan (named Plan Marshall) aiming to revitalize economy and to reduce structural unemployment. In this strategy, actions which aim to support education and training are planed. Those actions continue now, despite the crisis.

There is thus a tension between

- ▶ investment in education and training as factor of increasing economic development and social cohesion;
- ▶ necessity to control the budget.

To sum up, **we have to do best with same or lower funding.**

The CEF, the Council of Education and Training of the French speaking Community of Belgium has a message to the other Councils:

It wishes to express its concern with the restriction in Education funding occurring now in some new Member States of the EU.