

BE-C[C41]-R[R-402] Higher education advancement fund

BE-C[C41]-R[R-402]-M[128] Vision paper for a future oriented, agile, and digital higher education

Date of completion: Q4 2023

1) Context: description of the measure and relevant context from the CID annex [text in full from the English version]

C41.R-402 Higher education advancement fund - Vision paper for a future oriented, agile, and digital higher education

Endorsement by the Minister of education and training of a vision note by the Flemish government laying out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders. The new text aims at setting the vision to develop a Flemish high education portfolio that is future-proof and agile. It shall be elaborated in consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including: higher education institutions, the professional field, and social partners.

Concretely, it shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art and (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning.

2) Copy of the milestone/target wording [text in full from the English version]

Seq.num	Measure (reform or investment)	Milestone/Target	Name	Qualitative indicators (for milestones)	Quantitative indicators (for targets)			Indicative timetable for completion		Reporting and implementation responsibility	Description of each milestone and target
					Unit of measure	Baseline	Goal	Quarter	Year		
128	C41.R-402 Higher education advancement fund	Milestone	Vision paper for a future oriented, agile, and digital higher education	Adoption of a vision note by the Flemish government				Q4	2023		Endorsement by the Minister of education and training of a vision note by the Flemish government laying out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders. The new text aims at setting the vision to develop a Flemish high education portfolio that is future-proof and agile. It shall be elaborated in consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including

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											higher education institutions, the professional field, and social partners. Concretely, it shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art and (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning.

Verification mechanism (as mentioned in the Operational Arrangements between the Commission and Belgium pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241):

Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.

This document shall include as an annex the following documentary evidence:

1. Copy of a vision note endorsed by the Minister of Education and Training and communicated to the Flemish government.
2. Link to the website where the endorsed vision note can be accessed.

Further specification: (if relevant)

3) List of key evidence provided in FENIX

	Identifier [same as in FENIX]	Name of the evidence. For legal acts please provide the full legal reference and date of entry into force	Short description	Link to the requirements below
1	Attachment 1 _summary document milestone 128		Summary document duly justifying how the milestone (including the relevant elements of the milestone, as listed in the description of	all

			milestone and of the corresponding measure in the CID annex) was satisfactorily fulfilled.	
2	Attachment2_VisionNote	VR 2024 0202 VV MED.0001-1 Voorsprongfonds - mededelingBIS MEDEDELING AAN DE VLAAMSE REGERING Betreft: Beschouwingen Voorsprongfonds	This communication of the Government gives an overview of the results of the projects of the Higher Education Advancement Fund and presents a vision note with the main reflections on the impact of the Higher Education Advancement Fund on a future-oriented education portfolio and lifelong learning. In addition, the note also provides insight into the draft agreement framework around micro-credentials in higher education.	All requirements (1, 2,3,4 and 5)
2bis	Attachment2bis_attachmentVisionNote	Annex by the vision note	18 Reports of the institutions who participated	Requirement 1 Endorsement
3	Attachment3_AgendaFlemishGovernment	Agenda Flemish Government	Agenda, page 15, B, point 1.	Requirement 1 Endorsement
4	Attachment4_MinutesFlemishGovernment	Minutes Flemish Government VR PV 2024/5-VV	Minutes "Mededelingen plan Herstel en Veerkracht", point 1	Requirement 1 Endorsement

4) Detailed justification

*[Explain clearly how the achievement of the milestone/target is demonstrated by the evidence provided, **covering ALL elements of the milestone/target and the elements of the measure description that are directly or indirectly linked to the milestone/target's requirements.** (e.g. the fact that (i) a certain institution had (ii) to accomplish something (iii) in a certain way in order (iv) to achieve a certain goal (v) by a certain date). Please provide **a clear link between all the below elements and the one or more evidence items listed above.***

Requirement 1: 'Endorsement by the Minister of education and training of a vision note by the Flemish government laying out the profile for higher education and life-long learning in Flanders' (**Attachment 2,2bis,3 and 4**)

At Feb, 2, 2024, the Flemish Government endorsed a vision note, proposed by the Minister of education, with a reflection on the Higher Education Advancement Fund. This Vision nota was published on following webpage: <https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/directies-en-administraties/hoger-onderwijs/projecttoelagen-voorsprongfonds-voor-hogescholen-en-universiteiten>.

Requirement 2: ‘The new text aims at setting the vision to develop a Flemish higher education portfolio that is future-proof and agile.’ (**Attachment 2**)

This vision note, as described in requirement 1, consists of following chapters:

1. *Situating of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
2. *Global results of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
 - a. *The development of a training portfolio that is future-proof and agile*
 - b. *Strengthen lifelong learning within higher education*
 - c. *Stronger commitment to digital forms of education*
3. *Impact of the Higher Education Advancement Fund on the training portfolios*
 - a. *Analysis of the training portfolios*
 - b. *New programmes*
 - c. *Improvement of the existing training portfolio*
4. *Policy framework for strengthening lifelong learning in higher education*
 - a. *Policy concretisation: a draft agreement framework for micro-credentials as an instrument for lifelong learning*
 - b. *Further steps*
5. *Conclusions*

Taking into account the results of the Higher Education Advancement Fund, the vision note sets the scope for further developing a Flemish higher education portfolio that is future-proof and agile is addressed throughout the text. More specifically, the conclusions state that:

“This note shows that the results of actions within the Higher Education Advancement Fund have greatly exceeded expectations. The great merit of the Fund lies in the fact that the higher education institutions were given time, resources and space to experiment together and reflect deeply on their future-proofing. For instance, they evaluated their training portfolios, examined its relationship with lifelong learning and reached agreements on the use of micro-credentials.

The actions within the Higher Education Advancement Fund led to an accelerated and substantiated picture of what the higher education landscape can look like and the position higher education can hold within the context of lifelong learning. The willingness to cooperate between institutions was given a boost, the vision of the future was opened up and the path towards it cleared.

It goes without saying that the end point has not been reached and there is still a long way to go, but the criteria to be applied have been clarified and the results provide sufficient foundations to build on. In that sense, the Higher Education Advancement Fund is not an end point but rather an encouragement to continue with the same élan.”

Requirement 3: ‘It shall be elaborated in consultation with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including higher education institutions, the professional field, and social partners.’ (**Attachment 2**)

This vision note, as described in requirement 1, states at page 2:

“This included input from the wider field of stakeholders such as the action plan ‘Koers zetten naar een lerend Vlaanderen’ of the Partnership LLL, the outcomes of the (temporary) working group LLL, advice from the Flemish Education Council (VLOR), reflections from the Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad (VLIR) and the Vlaamse Hogescholenraad (Vlhora).”

Requirement 4: ‘Concretely, it shall (i) define a new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art (**Attachment 2**)

This vision note, as described in requirement 1, consists of following chapters:

1. *Situating of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
2. *Global results of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
 - a. *The development of a training portfolio that is future-proof and agile*
 - b. *Strengthen lifelong learning within higher education*
 - c. *Stronger commitment to digital forms of education*
3. *Impact of the Higher Education Advancement Fund on the training portfolios*
 - a. *Analysis of the training portfolios*
 - b. *New programmes*
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4. *Policy framework for strengthening lifelong learning in higher education*
 - a. *Policy concretisation: a draft agreement framework for micro-credentials as an instrument for lifelong learning*
 - b. *Further steps*
5. *Conclusions*

The new profile for higher education in Flanders to ensure that higher education institutions are state of the art is addressed in chapter 3 (requirement 4).

Requirement 5: and (ii) develop a vision on lifelong learning..’ (**Attachment 2**)

This vision note, as described in requirement 1, consists of following chapters:

6. *Situating of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
7. *Global results of the Higher Education Advancement Fund*
 - a. *The development of a training portfolio that is future-proof and agile*
 - b. *Strengthen lifelong learning within higher education*
 - c. *Stronger commitment to digital forms of education*
8. *Impact of the Higher Education Advancement Fund on the training portfolios*
 - a. *Analysis of the training portfolios*
 - b. *New programmes*
 - c. *Improvement of the existing training portfolio*
9. *Policy framework for strengthening lifelong learning in higher education*
 - a. *Policy concretisation: a draft agreement framework for micro-credentials as an instrument for lifelong learning*
 - b. *Further steps*
10. *Conclusions*

The development of the vision on lifelong learning is described in chapter 4. (requirement 5)

Contribution to the achievement of other elements from the measure description: [evidence related to the elements that are not directly addressing the M/T but in the measure, where relevant] :/