

Notes from Workshop Session 1
Case Studies from Belgium (Flemish Community) and France
Tom Schuller, Chair

Flanders Case Study (Tweedekansonderwijs or TKO) “second chance school” in Hoboken, Belgium (Inge de Win and David Rosen)

Title: *Improving teaching and assessment of unqualified adults*

General Information

- In Flanders, ‘adult education’ is getting more high-level attention than it has in the past.
- The case study focused on the ‘second chance education’ (that is, secondary education for adults), is identical that provided in compulsory upper secondary school. Certificates have identical value to those provided in compulsory full-time education.
- Antwerp has the highest number of unqualified adults in Flanders. The main objectives of the second chance school have been to help adults reintegrate into society with better qualifications.
- Furthermore, instructors at the case study site changed their roles, serving more as instructor and guide to learners (rather than playing the traditional role, primarily based on “transmitting knowledge”). Many new alternatives to the traditional exam-based system are also needed.

Observations

- Many adults have regained confidence and higher self-esteem thanks to this programme
- Some instructors have objected at the new approaches to assessment

Learn and Workplace, Leuven, Belgium (Heidi d’Haene and David Rosen)

Title: *Basic education in Flanders*

General Information

- In Flanders, the Open School, where basic education is provided, is very popular.
- Many types of skills are offered (social education, ICT, math skills, Dutch for immigrants), with the collaboration of local authorities.
- Individually tailored learning groups are offered.
- The IALS showed 16.7% of adult Flemish learners had maths skills at the lowest level. Within this number, 27.7 % report that their math skills limit their opportunities at work, while 82.5 % performing in this group rate their skills either good or excellent.