

De financiering van het hoger onderwijs in Vlaanderen

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ABSTRACT

Since 1989 the communities of Belgium hold the full authority and responsibility for education. Higher education has been reformed enabling the higher education institutions to make their full contribution to the economic and social development of the Flemish region. The modernisation of higher education in Flanders through enhanced autonomy, quality assurance, scaling up and mergers, reinforcement of the research mission and the collaboration between universities and university colleges was and remains still the core element of higher education policy in line with the Lisbon strategy. Pursuing and achieving those policy objectives needed a lot of structural and regulatory adjustments. A redesign of the funding model of higher education was a key reform. This chapter describes the aims and the principles that underpin the new allocation model of the teaching and research funding in the Flemish Community of Belgium and explains the main budget components. The aims are to increase opportunities for students from all types of background to get access to higher education and to achieve academic success; to maintain and enhance the quality of teaching and research; to support diversity; to support lifelong learning and to maintain and enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the higher education provision.

A regular updating of the funding model is needed in order to enable our higher education system to address the changing challenges and to keep our higher education competitive and attractive in an ever more globalised world. The funding model will be evaluated in the coming years.

There is public debate on the future of the higher education landscape and the future of the binary system. In that perspective further adjustments of funding model will come up.

Keywords: higher education finance, reform of the higher education finance in the Belgian Flemish Community

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