# *Belgium*

**The national VET system**

The VET-system offers a choice between Technical Secondary Education (TSE), Vocational Secondary Education (VSE) and Part-time Vocational Education (DBO)

Technical secondary education (TSE) places a special emphasis on general and technical/theoretical subjects. After TSE, young people can exercise a profession or pass on to tertiary education. This education also includes practical classes. 33% of the total population of secondary education attends TSE (school year 2011-2012).

Vocational secondary education (VSE) is a practice oriented type of education in which young people learn a specific occupation in addition to receiving general education. 29% of the total population of secondary education (school year 2011-2012) attends VSE, including pupils in the 3rd grade of the 3rd stage of VSE and modular education. This type of education allows pupils to acquire specific vocational skills combined with a general education. Progression to higher education is possible but rather rare. VSE allows direct job access and is mainly focused on practice combined with apprenticeship. One or more additional years are possible: the so-called 3rd grade of the 3rd stage grade.

A special form of VSE is DBO (part-time VET). This is a form of alternating education. It targets students from 16 to 25 years. The program consists of alternately theory and practice (in a company). A training plan is designed, together with a licensed training center. This center provides the technical training and coaching of the student with the focus on his social-professional engagement. The trainee has 4 days of practical training and 1 day of theory. In school year 2011-2012, 2% of the total population of secondary education was in this type of education.

**More information about the VET-situation can be found at:** http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Information-services/vet-in-europe-country-reports.aspx