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## **A new overall vision for the education system presents an opportunity for the German-speaking Community of Belgium to raise quality, efficiency and equity, according to the OECD**

Despite its good overall performance, the education system of the German-speaking Community of Belgium remains below its potential. The Community's current work on a new overall vision (*Gesamtvision Bildung*) presents an important opportunity to further improve educational quality, efficiency and equity, but will require the active involvement of all stakeholders, a new OECD report finds.

The report ***Quality and Equity of Schooling in the German-speaking Community of Belgium*** presents the findings of an OECD review of the Community's education system. It supports the development of a new vision to guide reforms until 2030 and beyond by offering an international perspective and independent analysis of the system's strengths and challenges.

As the report shows, schools in the German-speaking Community of Belgium benefit from significant educational investment and favourable learning conditions. Nevertheless, the Community has a relatively small and diminishing share of top-performing students and remains below its potential in international comparison.

To implement its overall vision successfully, the German-speaking Community will need to strengthen school leaders' capacity for pedagogical leadership, leverage the revised core curricula to raise the quality of teaching and learning, raise the attractiveness of the teaching career, and place students at the centre of learning.

To ensure the buy-in of teachers in the process, the Community should continue to involve them closely during the vision's development. The report also recommends aligning the vision's goals with the revision of its core curricula and further strengthening its data collections to monitor progress. OECD countries and economies like Wales and New Zealand offer examples of successful stakeholder engagement in similar processes.

High-quality teachers are at the heart of a successful school system but the German-speaking Community faces significant teacher shortages. The report highlights important recent initiatives that have helped to strengthen school leadership teams and support teachers at the start of their careers. Nevertheless, further efforts need to ensure that the profession is intellectually rewarding, oriented towards continuing professional growth, and career progression built on effective professional development. To this end, the Community should promote collaborative forms of professional learning and create more opportunities for teachers' professional advancement at the primary level.

The German-speaking Community embraces the principle of “freedom of education” and offers a high level of pedagogical autonomy to school providers and schools. To enable schools to translate reforms into meaningful change in the classroom, the Community will need to further strengthen their capacity for pedagogical leadership, self-evaluation and continuous improvement. The report recommends moving towards more distributed leadership in schools, fostering collaboration within and between schools and providing accessible resources to help school leaders advance their school development plans.

Over the years, inclusive education has become a central element of the German-speaking Community’s school system. The system offers targeted support for students with special education needs (SEN), newcomer students and gifted students. To build on this significant progress, the OECD recommends further efforts to place students and their needs at the centre of learning. This implies adopting a broader view of inclusion that considers each students’ individual needs and all dimensions of student diversity. A systematically differentiated approach to teaching will also require further support for teachers to adapt to students’ different learning levels and styles.

The full report ***OECD Reviews of National Policies for Education: Quality and Equity of Schooling in the German-speaking Community of Belgium*** is available here:

[https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/quality-and-equity-of-schooling-in-the-german-speaking-community-of-belgium\\_9a6b6f3a-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/quality-and-equity-of-schooling-in-the-german-speaking-community-of-belgium_9a6b6f3a-en)

An extended summary in German can be found here:

[https://ostbelgienbildung.be/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-6089/10401\\_read-56450/](https://ostbelgienbildung.be/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-6089/10401_read-56450/)

For more information, journalists are invited to contact the OECD Berlin Centre (+49 30 28 88 35 3 / [berlin.centre@oecd.org](mailto:berlin.centre@oecd.org)).

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