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Short cycle higher education in Flanders



Co-funded by
the European Union

Nina Mares

Short history

- ▶ Higher education, Short cycle and long cycle

→ Organised by university colleges

- ▶ Higher education, Long cycle

→ Organised by universities

- ▶ Higher education, Short cycle, for social promotion

→ Organised by centres for adult education



Short history

- ▶ **2004-2005:** Bachelors and masters
- ▶ **2009:** Decree on qualification structure

Primary education	Level 1
Special needs or dual	Level 2
Secondary education - vocational orientation	Level 3
Secondary education - orientation to higher education	Level 4
Associate degree (SCHE)	Level 5
Professional / Academic Bachelor	Level 6
Master	Level 7
Doctor	Level 8



Short history

▶ 2013-2014:

- **Professional bachelors**: university colleges
- **Academical bachelors**: universities
- **Arts programmes (bachelor + master)**: Schools of Arts
- **Associate degree programmes**: centres for adult education,
but in collaboration with university college



A new start

▶ 2019-2020:

Associate degree programmes: university colleges

- New programmes, based on 'professional qualifications'
- Attract more youngsters, not forgetting 'original public'
- 1/3 workbased learning
- 90 or 120 ECTS



A new start

- ▶ **Clear position:** “It is higher education”
- ▶ A third option for youngsters
 - Professional bachelor (UC)
 - Academical bachelor (U)
 - Associate degree (UC)
- ▶ Missing step between secondary education and bachelor

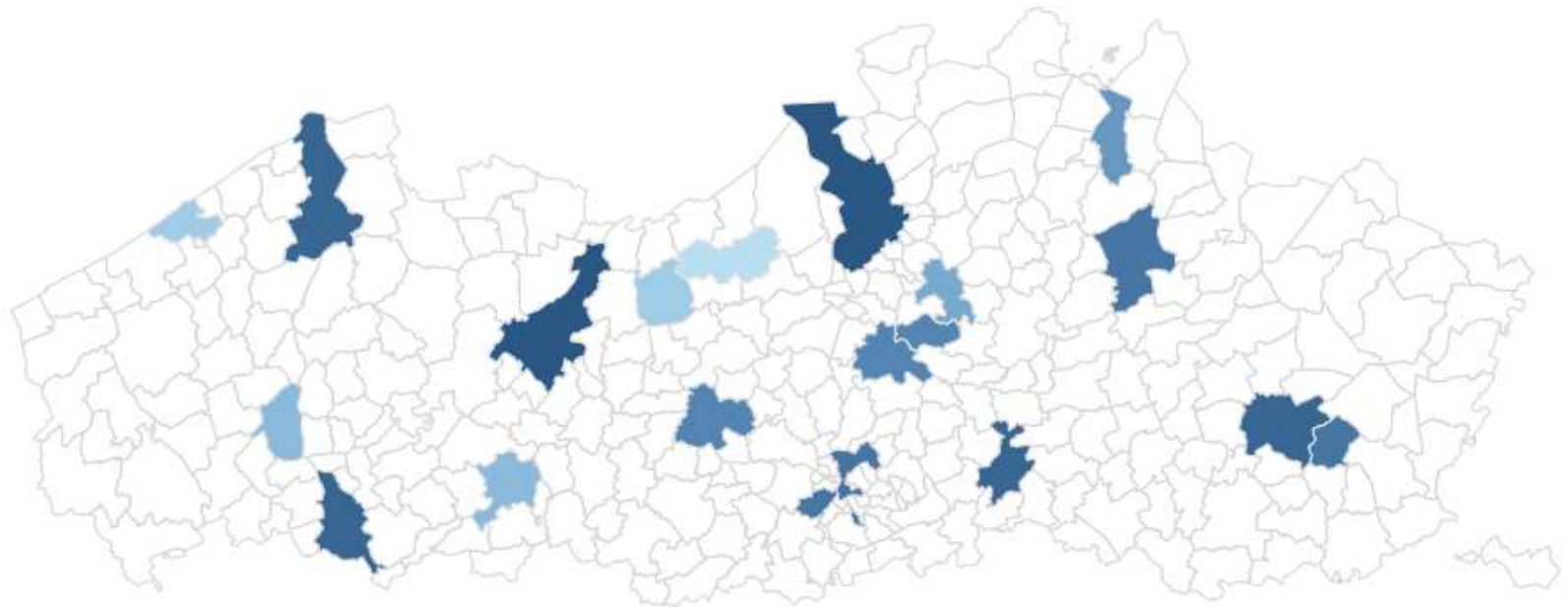


Areas of study

	#Programmes	%Students
Commercial science and business management	12	45,5%
Industrial science and technology	9	17%
Socio-agogic work	5	28%
Biotechnique	1	0,75%
Education	1	5%
Music and performing arts	1	0,75%
Combined areas	2	3%



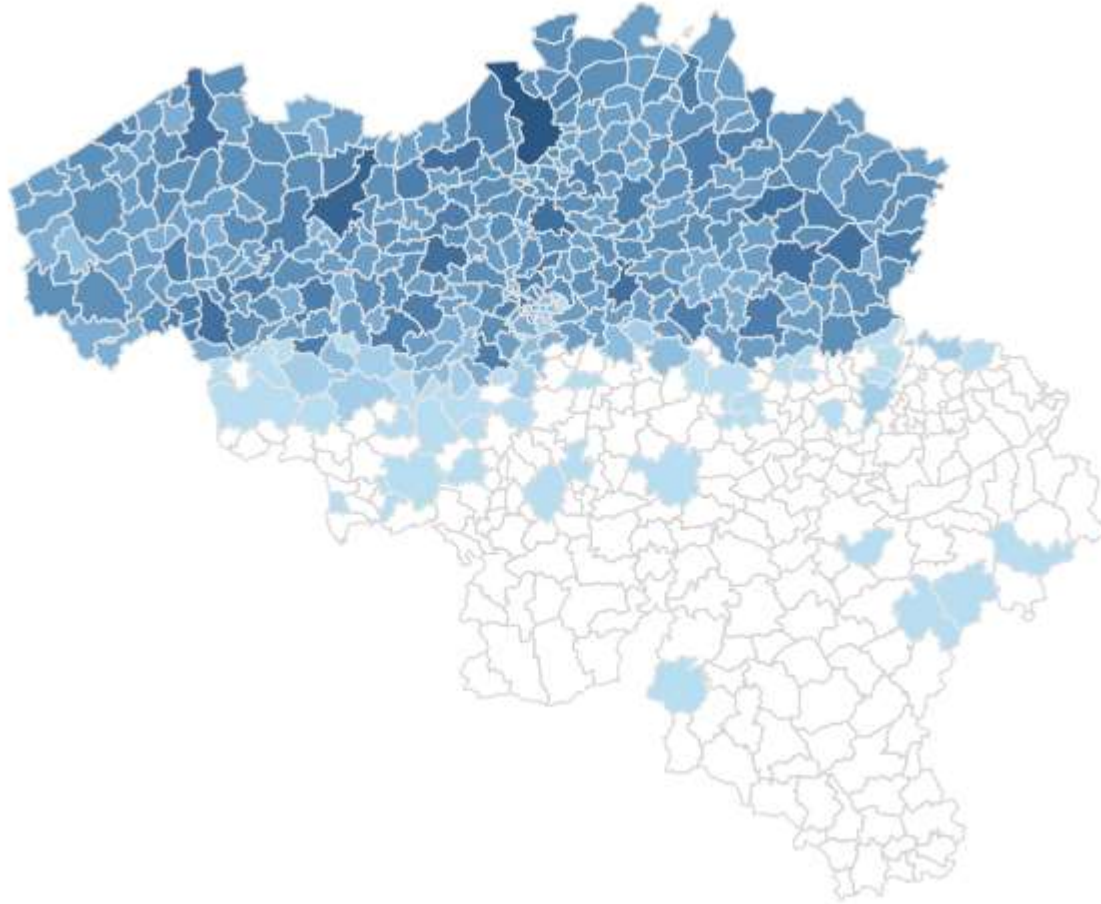
Offer of programmes



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Students



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A comparison

Centres for Adult Education	University colleges
2018-2019: 12.539 students	2023-2024: 23.400 students
2018-2019: 52% > 25y	2022-2023: 25% >25y
No grants – but low fee for certain groups	38% receives grant



A comparison (2)

	Associate degree	Professional bachelor
2018-2019	12.539 students	113.062
2023-2024	23.400 students + 86%	117.625 + 4%
>25y	25%	10%



After the programme (2022)



1 year after graduation: on average 2,7% has no job (PBA 2,1%)

Commercial science and business management: 5%

-> competition with PBA profiles?

Lowest unemployment: teacher for technical subjects

(basic)nursing



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Challenges

- ▶ Even more students will enrol
 - Demographical evolution
 - Attractive programmes
 - Big demand from the labour market
 - QF level 3 will have no direct access to bachelor
 - Stricter measures in BA programmes to ensure study progress
- ▶ Financing by government doesn't rise in the same way
- ▶ Students need more support / guidance than bachelorstudents
- ▶ Work based learning is time consuming
- ▶ UC have no initiative to develop new programmes

