

UNIZO – Belgium/Flanders

UNIZO is an organisation representing 110.000 SMEs & self-employed in Belgium, more specifically in Flanders & Brussels.

SME Wallet (“KMO-Portefeuille”)

The [SME e-wallet](#) is a measure by the Flemish government offering entrepreneurs or SMEs financial aid when purchasing services that improve the quality of the enterprise. These services contain training and advisory services on the following themes:

- ✓ Business strategy
- ✓ Profession-specific competences
- ✓ Digitization
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Financial literacy
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Internationalization
- ✓ Personnel Management

Depending on the size of the SME, the contribution is 70 or 80% of the training cost, with a maximum of 7.500 euro a year.

	TRAINING & ADVICE
SMALL ENTERPRISES	Support: 30 % Maximum: € 7.500
MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES	Support: 20 % Maximum: € 7.500

For further information, please contact: Joris Renard, Expert Labour market & VET, joris.renard@unizo.be

Joint initiative in paid educational leave

In Flanders, any employee in the private sector can use the system of paid educational leave. This individual right amounts to 125 hours annually. An important condition is that the chosen training is registered in a training database (subjected to conditions) (more information: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/opleidingsdatabank>).

During the COVID-period social partners experimented with a joint initiative within the system of paid educational leave. In this joint initiative, employers are given the opportunity to propose training for their employees. The employee still needs to agree to the proposal (individual right). This joint initiation includes an additional to 125h of paid leave. With the objective of realizing a win-win, the employee attends a training that is meaningful for the company and at the same time preserves his position in the labour market.

The first limited results show that this joint initiative right incentivised employees in SMEs to make greater use of educational leave than on their own initiative.

For further information, please contact: Joris Renard, Expert Labour market & VET, joris.renard@unizo.be

UNIZO Entrepreneurs' Academy (“UNIZO Ondernemersacademie”)

The UNIZO Entrepreneurs Academy (UEA) organises practice-oriented training courses, masterclasses and workshops via different learning methods (online, hybrid and classroom learning) for self-employed people, SME entrepreneurs and liberal professionals. The wide range of courses are given by top lecturers with SME practical experience. The UEA tries to equip entrepreneurs with the right set of tools to improve and boost their business.

For more information: <https://www.ondernemersacademie.be/>

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