

2nd April 2024

Pupils' skills – We need your opinion!

Dear fellow citizen,

The Parliament of the German Speaking Community of Belgium has drawn you by lot: you can become a member of the Citizens' Assembly!

Register and meet around 29 other citizens drawn by lot. Together you will have the opportunity to give your opinion to politicians on the subject of "Pupils' skills: How can East Belgian schools prepare their pupils to the future?"

In around 5 meetings, you and the other members will gather information, discuss and then formulate recommendations to politicians. You will be paid an expense allowance and travel expenses for attending the meetings.

Anyone can take part: No special knowledge is required! You will receive information material and can listen to experts to familiarize yourself with the topic. The idea is that ordinary citizens express their opinions. The discussion is accompanied by a professional facilitator to ensure that everyone has their say.

Some of the participants then present the recommendations drawn up by the citizens' assembly to the politicians. The politicians then explain in a public meeting how they will implement the recommendations. A year later, a check is made to see whether the politicians have kept their promises. The Citizens' Dialogue can therefore have a direct influence on East Belgian politics!

If you would like to take part, please complete the attached yellow form and return it to me by post or email by April 19, 2024. We will then draw lots for the final 30 participants from all the confirmations received. If you have any questions or concerns of any kind, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Let our politicians know what you think about the topic of "pupils' skills" and help ensure that East Belgian schools prepare their pupils to the future.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Anna Stuers
*Permanent Secretary of the permanent Citizens' Dialogue in East Belgium
Parliament of the German Speaking Community in Belgium*

Please also note the information on the back!



The sessions will last from 9am to 4pm and are expected to **take place as follows:**
Saturdays 14/9/24 and 28/9/24 at the Parliament in Eupen; 12/10/24 and 26/10/24 at the "Triangel" in Sankt Vith, and 9/11/24 at the Parliament in Eupen. Catering will be provided.

Please also complete the blue **survey** form attached and send it to us together with the yellow "Expression of interest" form. This will enable us to evaluate and improve. Thank you very much for your support!

Note:

If you hold a mandate or a function from the following list, you are unfortunately not allowed to participate in the Citizens' assembly:

- a. Member of the Parliament, the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Walloon Parliament and the European Parliament,
- b. Member of the federal Government, a Community or Regional Government,
- c. Governor of a province, Vice-governor, Adjunct-governor or Provincial clerk,
- d. Member of the Provincial Council of the Province of Liège,
- e. District commissioner,
- f. Holder of a mandate in the Judiciary,
- g. Councillor, assessor at the legislative department or member of the auditeur's office, the coordination office or the chancellery of the Council of state,
- h. Judge, article clerk or clerk at the Constitutional court,
- i. Member of the Court of audit,
- j. Any office in a public or private institution, which is exercised as representative of the state, a community, a region, a province or a municipality, insofar as this mandate comprises more entitlements than the simple membership in the general assembly or the council of administration,
- k. Mayor, alder(wo)man, president of the Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW), member of the municipal council or the PCSW council,
- l. A mandate under the direct oversight of the Parliament or Government, with exception of the members of the staff of the educational sector,
- m. A leading mandate in an institution of public interest of the German-speaking Community.

You can find information on data protection at <https://www.buergerdialog.be/en/data-protection>.