

Temporary work experience

Temporary Work Experience (TWE) is an activation measure aimed at getting social assistance recipients or jobseekers to work permanently in the **normal economic circuit** (NEC). In order to reduce the distance to the labour market, specific **workplace instruments** can be used: work experience internship, individual professional training or exploratory traineeship.

The TWE programme took effect on 1 January 2017, integrating the Public Centre for Social Welfare's (in Dutch: OCMW) most important employment measure, **article 60§7**.

The maximum duration of the programme is **two years**. If one has not found a job within this period, one is a jobseeker who is entitled to unemployment benefits, with the corresponding rights and obligations.



Who is it for?

Referral to the TWE programme is made by:

- ⊕ the **OCMW**: for jobseekers who are entitled to social assistance benefits (or equivalent);
- ⊕ the Flemish service for employment and professional training (in Dutch: **VDAB**): for unemployed jobseekers.

TWE is intended for people who:

- ⊕ mainly need to improve their **generic competences**;

- ⊕ need to acquire (recent) **work experience**;
 - ⊕ have the necessary **learning potential** to bridge the distance to the NEC in up to 2 years;
 - ⊕ are able to work at least **half-time**.
- TWE is **not** intended for people for whom:
- ⊕ employment in the social economy is the highest attainable goal;
 - ⊕ there is an alternative and faster route to the labour market.

Who decides on entry to the TWE programme? And how?

The decision to enter the TWE programme is based on a uniform framework:

- ⊕ questioning the person's professional strengths, barriers and preconditions;
- ⊕ mapping the person's (recent) work experiences;
- ⊕ assessing the person's preconditions and barriers;
- ⊕ analysing the person's learning potential.

This assessment is made by the **mediator or counsellor** and implies that the person has already made a pathway before taking part in the TWE programme.



[Decree on temporary work experience \(9/12/2016\)](#) (Dutch)

[Flemish Government Decree on temporary work experience \(23/12/2016\)](#) (Dutch)
[Temporary work experience](#) (Dutch)
[FAQ temporary work experience and framework of agreements](#) (Dutch)



This factsheet was written in collaboration with **VDAB.**