

## ***Rijbewijzer* app: the key communication tool for the learner driver, accompanying driver, driving teacher and examiner**

A state reform and a motivated Minister of Mobility and Public Works gave Flanders the opportunity to reform and renew the existing driving education. The renewed driving education is currently still under development and will most likely start on June 1, 2017. The reform process began in 2009 with the project *Start to Drive*, a driving education for learner-drivers and their accompanying driver, and the establishment of the Working Group on Driving Education.

The main goal of the renewed driving education is educating novice drivers to be and to stay good and safe drivers. Therefore, developing and mastering skills such as independency, self-reflection and self-assessment are crucial. To accomplish this, we focus on everyone who is involved in driving education: learner drivers, accompanying drivers, driving teachers and examiners. Consequently, the VSV (the Flemish Foundation for Traffic Knowledge) has published a key document *The Curriculum Driving Education Category B*. The Curriculum is divided into four chapters and 59 learning objectives, formulating thoroughly what a learner driver should know and which skills and attitudes the pupil should master as a driver. The learning objectives are further developed and customized for each type of person involved in driving education:

- **For driving teachers:** The VSV published *The Manual for the Driving Teacher for The Curriculum Driving Education Category B*. In this manual, each learning objective is further specified in the part ‘What exactly should the learner driver be able to do?’, and thus covering the secondary objectives. The part ‘How can you teach your learner driver?’ gives useful tips and offers example questions to ask learner drivers, so they can reflect on their own actions. Additionally, the VSV provide a training course for driving teachers on how to use the manual in their driving lessons.
- **For examiners:** The driving test will be updated to the renewed driving education. The feedback on the driving test will be based on the Curriculum and the 59 learning objectives. So the learner driver knows his weak points and can continue practicing.
- **For accompanying drivers:** It remains possible to obtain a driving licence only by practicing with an accompanying driver. Yet, each accompanying driver is required to participate in a training course about learner drivers’ learning process, pedagogical and didactic aspects, practical information and a refreshment of their knowledge of the traffic rules.

- **For the learner drivers:** The learning process will be divided into a learning, practicing, completion and eternal learning phase. Each learner driver may also attend the training course for accompanying drivers and is required to participate in a recurrent training nine months after obtaining a full driving licence.

Even though, the VSV offers training courses for everyone involved in driving education, a main communication tool connecting all parties involved is missing. Therefore, the VSV has developed the *Rijbewijzer* app:

- The app records time, duration and the distance you have driven.
- The app creates exercise trajectories for each learning objective and also gives useful tips.
- The app creates personalized exercise trajectories, taking into account:
  - o the exercise(s) you have completed;
  - o the learning objectives you have worked on during your driving lessons;
  - o the homework after your driving lessons;
  - o the feedback after your driving test.
- It offers learner drivers, accompanying drivers and driving teachers the opportunity to evaluate the progress on the exercises.
- Learning objectives can easily be registered after each driving lesson or driving test.

During the different training courses for driving teachers, examiners, accompanying drivers and learner drivers, the VSV will present and explain how each target group can use the *Rijbewijzer* app.

As stated earlier, the renewed driving education will most likely start on June 1, 2017. The app will probably be launched at that same moment. The VSV would like to present the app and her collaboration with the partners of the renewed driving education at the Cieca congress.

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