



Is Belgium Working?

A benchmark Europe-Belgium

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European Employment Guidelines

- General

- Full employment
- Improving quality and productivity at work
- Strengthening social cohesion and inclusion

European Employment Guidelines

- Specific

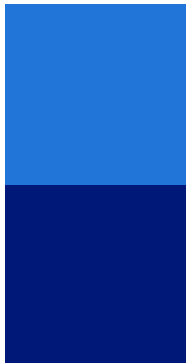
- Active and preventive measures for the unemployed and inactive
- Job creation and entrepreneurship
- Address change and promote adaptability and mobility in the labour market
- Promote development of human capital and life-long learning
- Increase labour supply and promote active ageing
- Gender equality
- Promote the integration of and combat the discrimination against people at the disadvantage in the labour market
- Make work pay through incentives to enhance work attractiveness
- Transform undeclared work into regular employment
- Address regional employment disparities

Lisbon strategy targets/objectives

- Overall employment rate of 70% in 2010 (67% in 2005)
- Female employment rate of 60% in 2010 (57% in 2005)
- Employment rate for older workers of 50% in 2010
- Increase by 2010 of five years in average age at which people leave the labour market
- Availability of child care

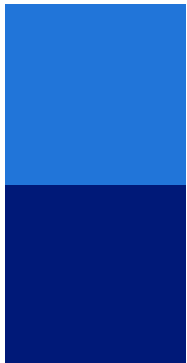
How is Belgium doing?

- Labour participation
- Weekly working hours
- Working weeks a year



Labour participation (a)

- Belgium: 60,4%
- EU (25): 63,7
- Lower: Italy, Hungary, Slovakia
- Higher: the rest of Europe

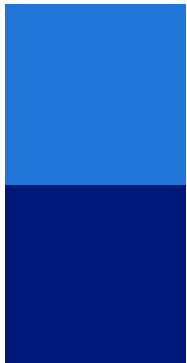


Weekly working hours (b)

- Belgium: 37,3
- Europe (25): 38,4
- Lower: Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, UK
- Higher: The rest of Europe

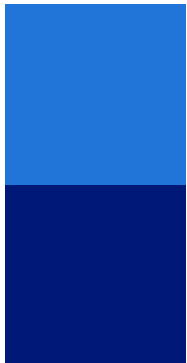
Weeks a year (c)

- Belgium: 39,7
- Europe (25): 43,1
- Lower: None
- Higher: the rest of Europe



A x B x C

- Belgium: 893
- Europe (25): 1054
- Lower: none
- Higher: the rest of Europe



How is Belgium doing? Lisbon targets

- Employment rate
 - Belgium: 60,4
 - Lisbon target: 70
- Female employment rate
 - Belgium: 52,7
 - Lisbon target: 60
- Employment rate for older workers
 - Belgium: 30
 - Lisbon target: 50

Belgium doesn't exist

- Employment rate

- Flanders: 64,3
- Brussels: 54,1
- Wallonia: 55,1

Lisbon target: 70

- Female employment rate

- Flanders: 56,8
- Brussels: 47,9
- Wallonia: 46,9

Lisbon target: 60

- Employment rate for older workers

- Flanders: 29,5
- Brussels: 35,9
- Wallonia: 29,4

Lisbon target: 50

Belgium doesn't exist...

- Flanders is performing better than Brussels and Wallonia
- Even Flanders doesn't meet the Lisbon criteria
- Biggest problem: older workers, ethnic minorities, younger workers and low skilled women

What about productivity?

- Belgian productivity is amongst the highest in the world
- But productivity growth is declining (since first oil shock)
- Danger: higher employment rate creates lower productivity growth
- Wage cost strategy must be complemented with innovation and training

Does Belgium work?

Yes, but not enough!

