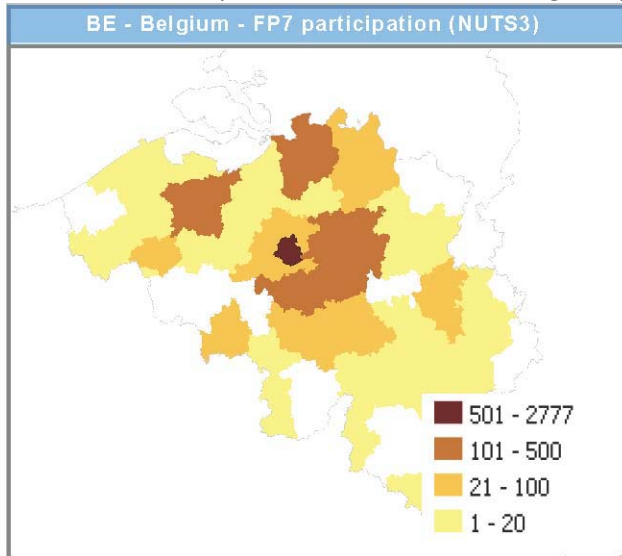




BELGIUM



The Belgian research and innovation system is characterised by a high quality research and education system and a strong international openness for research and innovation in both the public (54% of Belgian publications are internationally co-authored and have high impact/citation scores) and private sector. This has attracted



large knowledge-intensive multinationals from the EU and abroad which in turn have further spurred excellent research in universities and research centres and the development of Belgian technology-based SMEs.

However, the renewal of the economic fabric has slowed down in recent years, resulting in a concentration of business research in the manufacturing sector (which accounts for 80% of all BERD) with more than half performed by only 3 sectors (Chemicals; Radio, TV and telecommunication equipment; and Machinery and equipment). As a result of the declining share of these sectors in the total Value Added, BERD has slowly decreased over the years and R&D intensity has stagnated at below 2% since 2000 (1.96% in 2009).

Belgium is therefore engaged in policy reforms to strengthen industry-academia links, orient public support more towards the development of innovative companies and better articulate demand- and supply-side policies. In this respect, the recent renewed fiscal schemes aimed to reduce the costs of investments (notional interest scheme) and labour costs for R&D (dedicated schemes to acquit employers advance labour taxes) were warmly welcomed by the business and research sector.

Innovation Union Scoreboard position	6 out of 27
R&D intensity target	2.8%
Number of eligible proposals	9.686 in response to 294 FP7 calls for proposals
Number of applicants	13.272 (4.23% of EU-27)
Success rate (EU-27 =21,5%)	26.8%
Rank in number of participants signed contracts (EU-27):	7
Rank in budget share (EU-27)	8
Top collaborative links	DE, UK, FR, IT, NL
Total Population & EU 27 Population Share	10.951.665 (2.2% of EU-27)