Belgium

Introduction

Belgium has two (main) tertiary education systems: the French-speaking and the Flemish. The systems differ in terms of governance. For example, the French-speaking system's funding is input-oriented, while the Flemish system includes output-oriented criteria such as the number of publications and citations. The analysis of St. Aubyn et al. (2009), however, is aggregated for Belgium as a whole. Belgium is a good performer in terms of quality and efficiency of the tertiary education system and it is clearly specialised in research.

Indicators

Table - Summary of indicators in St. Aubyn (2009)

	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
BE	4,98	7	1,38	5	1,77	5
best performer	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
worst performer	RO - 1,63	26	CZ -1.06	16	GR - 1.02	16

	Funding rules		Staff policy		Evaluation	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
BE	5.80	5	6,97	14	5,43	12
best performer	PT - 7,8	1	CZ, DK, NL, AT, SK, SE,	1	HU - 8,3	1
worst performer	SK - 2,9	18	FR - 1,8	18	GR - 2,3	18

	Academic staff	Students	Graduates	Publications	Students	Graduates	Graduates
			per capita			*per academic staff*	*per student*
BE	1,7	37,2	7,8	1,0	21,8	4,5	20,8
EU27	1,9	33,7	7,1	0,6	17,8	3,7	19,8

	PISA	
	Score 2000*	Rank
BE	508	7
best performer	FI - 540	1
worst performer	RO - 410	18

In quantitative terms, the teaching performance is above average and the number of publications per academic staff is the 2nd largest. Quality in both dimensions is high. As regards research, the high production per capita is explained by very high academic staff productivity, as academic staff per capita is below average. Furthermore, quality of research is high, with a large impact of scientific publications in terms of citations.

As regards teaching, the recruiter review indicator, which reflects graduate employability, is very good and the score of the peer review indicator, which reflects the ranking of Belgian Universities, is also among the highest. The gap in employment rate by educational level is very large (statistics for Brussels Capital Region and the Walloon Region),

The average PISA scores are above average.

The number of students per academic staff is above-average and graduate production seems efficient: graduates per capita and graduates per academic staff are above average.

As regards the efficiency indicators, the score for the funding rules indicator is above average. The francophone system provides for a fixed envelope of operational budget, input-oriented. The Flemish system has shifted the emphasis towards output funding (student-performance based).

The scores of the staff policy indicator and the evaluation indicator are below average.

Policy developments

Financial incentives for TEIs to merge were set (francophone system).

Recent reforms have changed the higher education landscape in Flanders, in particular as regards funding rules with a formula based on the performance of students.