



# Belgium's (digital) skills challenge

**Going Local Belgium 11 June 2015**

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**European Commission DG CONNECT**



European  
Commission

MAY 28, 2009

Failed State:  
The Sources of  
Pakistan's Chaos

The Unseen  
Struggle of  
Autistic Adults

Summer Arts Preview:  
From Harry Potter  
To Thomas Pynchon

# TIME

## The Future Of Work

Throw away the briefcase; you're not going to the office. You can kiss your benefits goodbye too. And your new boss won't look much like your old one. There's no longer a ladder, and you may never get to retire, but there's a world of opportunity if you figure out a new path. Ten lessons for succeeding in the new American workplace.

www.time.com



European  
Commission

**The  
Economist**

OCTOBER 17th-13th 2008

[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)

China, Japan and North Korea's nukes

The great Airbus crisis

Misery for the Republicans

Can you really stop online gambling?

Angela's ashes: Merkel in trouble

# The search for talent

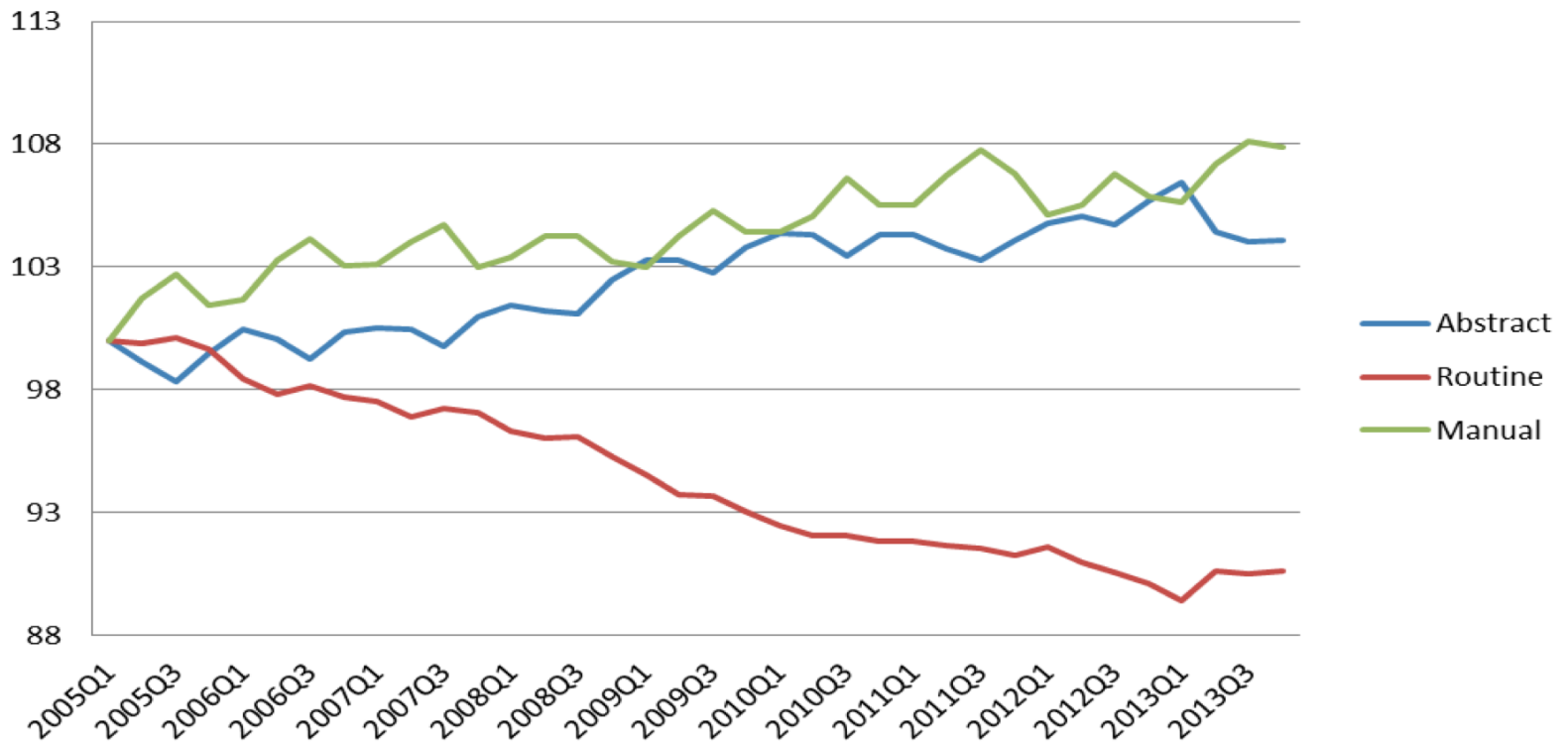
Why it's getting harder to find

A 15-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT





**Employment shares by occupational group (EU15+NO,  
2005Q1=100 for each occupation group)**



# 47%

**of occupational categories are at high risk of being automated**

# 90%

**of all jobs will require at least basic  
ICT knowledge**

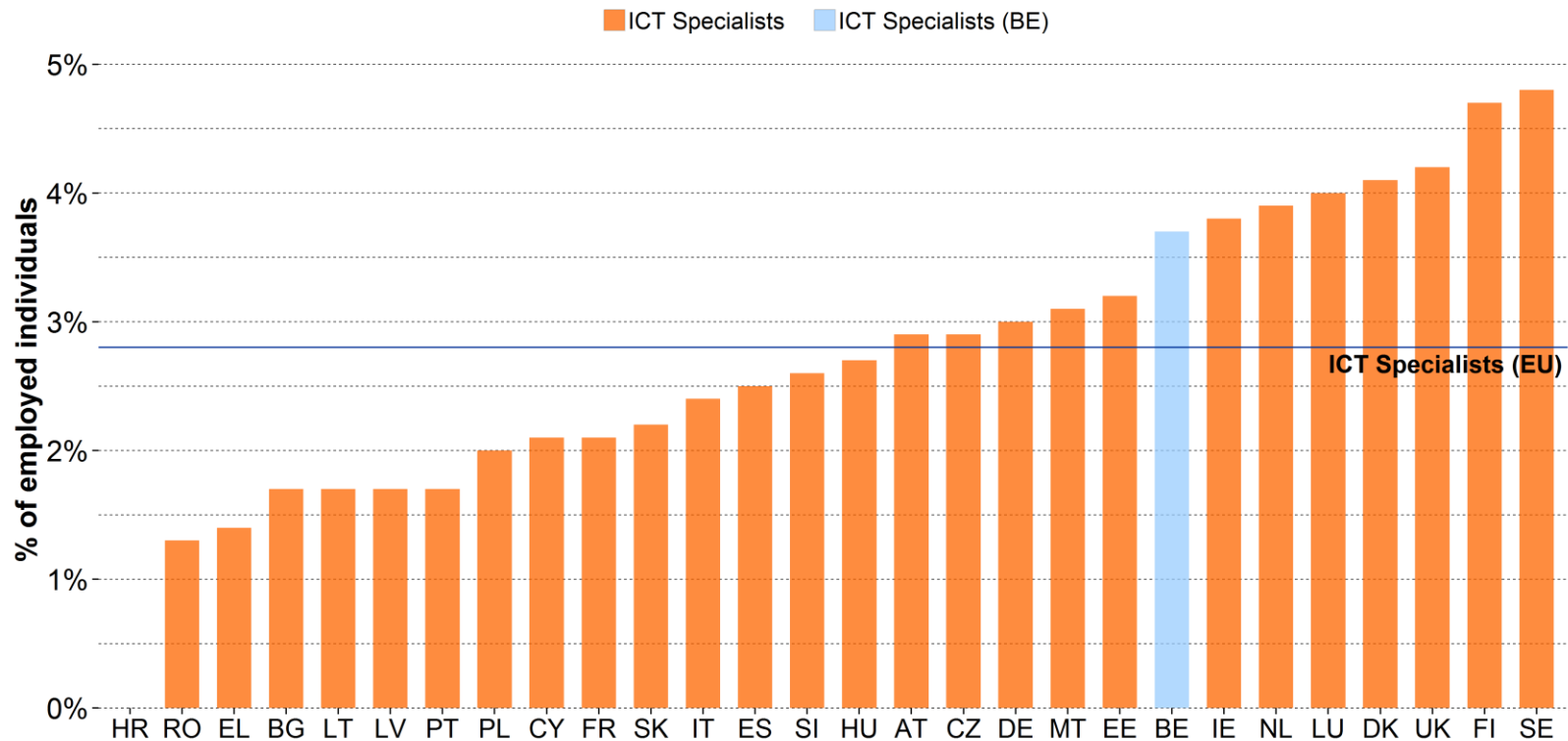
# 37%

**of all Belgians  
have no or low digital skills**



# The Belgian economy relies heavily on digital technology specialists

## ICT Specialists in the workforce (2013)

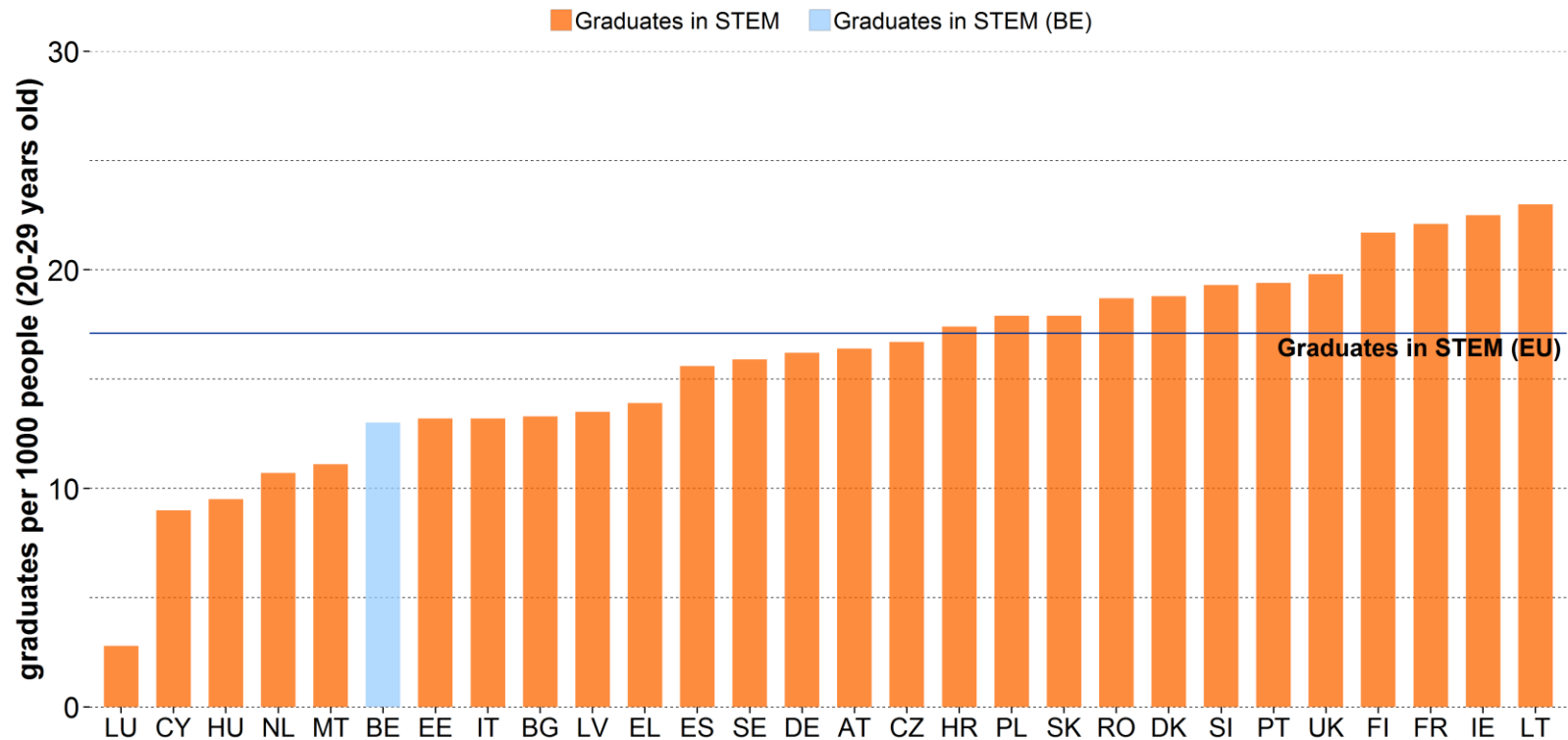


# 30.000

**unfilled vacancies for ICT experts in  
Belgium by 2020 if no decisive action  
is taken (forecast)**

# Belgium has less STEM graduates

Graduates in Science, Technology and Mathematics (2012)



# Looking into the crystal ball (a bit)

- *"The translation of technology into new ideas and products also hinges on the availability of a vast pool of aptly skilled workers. ...Shortages in these fields could become a major barrier to innovation, with shortages already emerging for certain functions. This is the case for professional digital skills, for example. Whereas Belgium has good broadband infrastructure and is above the EU average in computer and internet skills, there is a shortage of qualified ICT experts such as application developers. In 2014, 37.7% of enterprises with job vacancies requiring specialised ICT skills reported problems in filling these positions. For the ICT workforce alone, the shortfall is expected to rise from about 8 000 in 2012 to 30 000 in 2020."*

**(EC Country Report for Belgium 2015)**



**Companies can't find experts, and  
unemployed people can't find jobs.  
Right here in Brussels.**

**Isn't that crazy?**

# Solutions

- **Better collaboration** between businesses, education sector and training providers to reduce gaps and mismatches:
  - **Improve skills forecasting and adapt curricula**
  - **Motivate young people to go for digital technology**
  - **Provide more relevant trainings**

=> *Towards a national digital skills alliance?*

# Solutions

- **Education and learning**
  - **Update curricula and bring digital learning technology into schools, make learning fun and cool**
  - **Boost teacher training**
  - **Support courses on digital creativity and coding – in schools and outside**
- **Better use national and European funds** – ESF, Erasmus+, for digital skills training, including work-based training



**Thank you!**

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