



European Commission

Supporting reforms in

BELGIUM

DG REFORM

February 2021

Since 2017, the European Commission has provided expertise to help design over 1000 reform projects in 27 Member States through the Structural Reform Support Programme. As of 2021, the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), its successor, continues to support reforms with an emphasis on the green and digital transitions. The TSI can also support the preparation and implementation of Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans.

13

PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS UNDER TSI 2021

In the first round of the TSI, the Commission will support Belgium with 13 projects in the areas of public administration, fiscal, budgetary and tax policies, education and skills, employment, customs and business environment

Examples of new projects adopted include:



Enhancing customs control



Promoting and developing green skills



Introducing policy evaluation to improve the efficiency of public spending



Tackling long-term unemployment through innovative approaches



Developing hydrogen energy and facilitating access to networks

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33 PROJECTS

COMPLETED AND ONGOING REFORM PROJECTS

Belgium has so far benefited from 33 projects financed under the predecessor of the TSI, the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP). This support has addressed a broad range of policy areas, including fiscal and budgetary policies, green transition, employment, social protection and justice. A particular focus has been on addressing the administrative simplification and digitalisation of services, on education and health as well as on transport and budget sustainability. To date, 9 projects have been successfully concluded. Examples of successful reform projects include the following:



➔ Improving the quality of integrated primary care

The European Commission supported Belgium in improving the quality and efficiency of health care provision at regional level. Reorganising health care provision and funding is institutionally complex yet necessary in an ageing country. The programme provided expertise to help reform primary healthcare, also taking into account other services with a direct impact on patient health and the costs for the health system. As a result of this project, Belgium was able to acquire the capacity to carry out the desired reform and has also learnt from other European countries' having experience with similar reforms. support the integration of migrants in labour markets and in society.

➔ Introducing artificial intelligence in investment and trade

The European Commission helped Belgium harness the powers of artificial intelligence to help local businesses reach out to international markets. The programme helped to foster cooperation between academia and businesses and develop technical solutions and skills to apply smart specialisation to the digitalisation of the construction sector for example. As a result of this project, Belgium developed a stronger data-driven culture and enterprise architecture and is now equipped with tools to enhance skills and knowledge on artificial intelligence.

➔ Enhancing financial literacy of the population

The European Commission helped Belgium raise consumer awareness of the opportunities and risks of the financial market. Consumers increasingly need to be equipped with financial knowledge and skills to make the right financial decisions and gain confidence for investing. The programme helped Belgium design an easy to use web-based learning tool for financial literacy, adapted to a wide public including teachers and students. The web-based tool also promises to help consumers make well-grounded financial decisions and avoid investment fraud.

