

# Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:



## Belgium

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2025 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 53 variables.

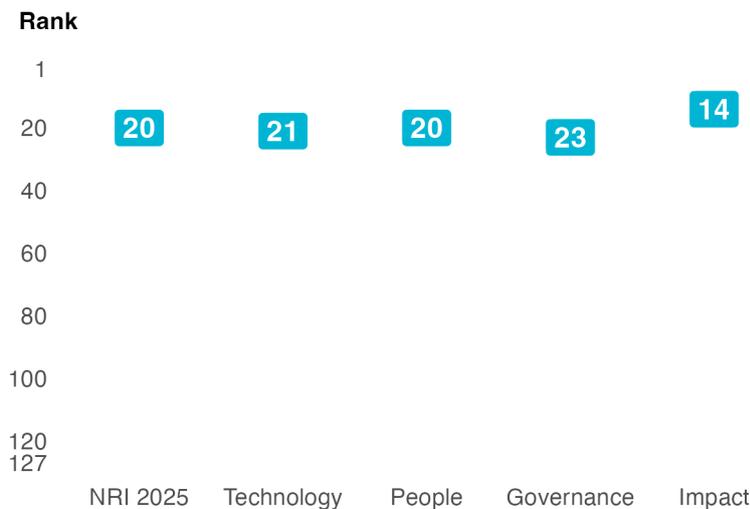
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model



### Global NRI position of Belgium

Belgium ranks 20 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Belgium global ranking, overall and by pillar



### Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Belgium relate to Regulation, Quality of Life and Businesses, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Content, Inclusion and Individuals sub-pillars.

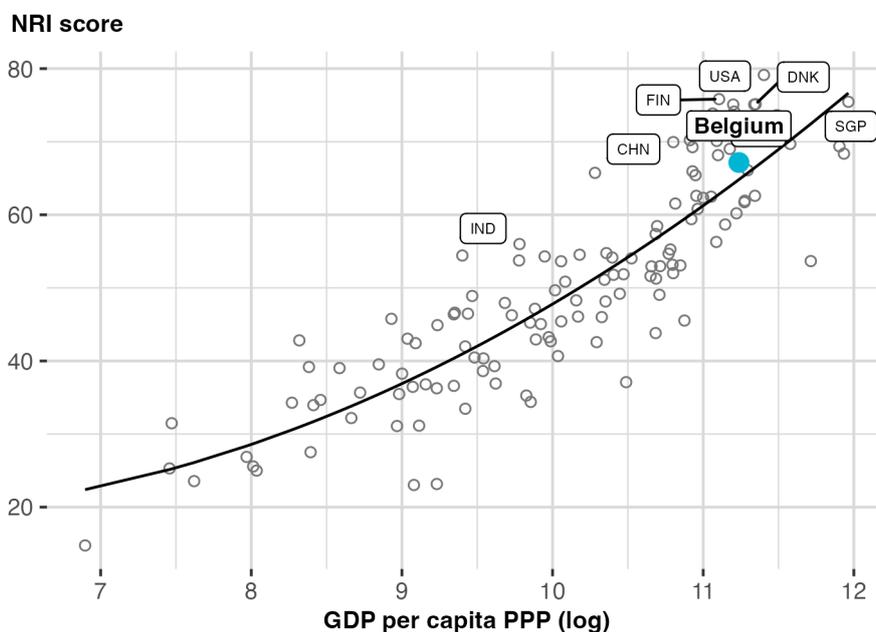
**Table 1: Belgium rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Regulation	9	Future Technologies	19
Quality of Life	9	Economy	23
Businesses	16	Access	24
Governments	17	Content	27
Trust	17	Inclusion	53
SDG Contribution	18	Individuals	79

### NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Belgium in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Belgium is well above the trend line, which suggests that it has a greater network readiness than would be expected given its income level.

**Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)**



Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

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## Performance against its income group and region

### High-income countries

Belgium is ranked 20th in the group of high-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms high-income countries in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

### Europe

Belgium is ranked 14th within Europe (Figure 4, right panel). It outperforms its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Europe in ten of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Future Technologies, Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Economy, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

**Figure 4: Performance of Belgium against its income group and region, overall and by pillar**



**Table 2: Belgium scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	Belgium	High-income countries	Europe
NRI	67.15	62.71	61.14
Technology	59.57	55.47	53.04
People	55.86	52.36	50.07
Governance	81.03	77.18	76.41
Impact	72.15	65.84	65.05

# NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Belgium

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 20 (out of 127)

Score: 67.15

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	21	59.57	C. Governance pillar	23	81.03
1st sub-pillar: Access	24	78.91	1st sub-pillar: Trust	17	86.51
2nd sub-pillar: Content	27	45.19	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	9	87.41
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	19	54.63	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	53	69.18
B. People pillar	20	55.86	D. Impact pillar	14	72.15
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	79	47.47	1st sub-pillar: Economy	23	47.96
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	16	55.81	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	9	85.28
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	17	64.30	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	18	83.20

## The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	21	59.57	C. Governance pillar	23	81.03
1st sub-pillar: Access	24	78.91	1st sub-pillar: Trust	17	86.51
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	25	85.70	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	27	84.65
1.1.2 Handset prices	18	95.74	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	40	96.18
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	95	18.62	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	n/a	n/a
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	100.00	3.1.4 Internet shopping	16	78.71
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	53	73.40	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	9	87.41
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	1	100.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	24	71.46
2nd sub-pillar: Content	27	45.19	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	5	94.38
1.2.1 GitHub commits	13	66.09	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	8	82.14
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	18	47.19	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	75	61.37	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	14	89.07
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	62	6.09	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	53	69.18
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	19	54.63	3.3.1 E-Participation	83	47.82
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	21	79.98	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	21	94.32
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	21	67.50	3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	54	65.39
1.3.3 Robot density	16	28.26	3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	n/a	n/a
1.3.4 Computer software spending	18	42.77	D. Impact pillar	14	72.15
B. People pillar	20	55.86	1st sub-pillar: Economy	23	47.96
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	79	47.47	4.1.1 ICT patent applications	23	26.89
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	68	13.36	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	35	64.22
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	32	69.07	4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	17	73.35
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	20	81.62	4.1.4 ICT services exports	34	27.40
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	n/a	n/a	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	9	85.28
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	27	25.84	4.2.1 Happiness	14	81.55
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	16	55.81	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	32	84.77

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Indicator	Rank	Score	
2.2.1 Firms with website	5	93.44	●
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	16	37.22	
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	22	56.59	
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	19	36.01	
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3rd sub-pillar: Governments	17	64.30	
2.3.1 Government online services	70	66.61	
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	17	73.95	
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	6	52.33	●

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	9	92.35	●
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	21	86.72	
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3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	18	83.20	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	1	100.00	●
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	20	61.62	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	1	100.00	●
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	51	78.69	
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	28	84.99	

NOTE: ● indicates a strength and ○ indicates a weakness.

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