



## GES NewsFlash

### European Union

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#### Deloitte 2013-2014 Comparative Immigration Study

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Comparative  
Immigration Study**

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On 19 November 2013, Deloitte announced the results of its 2013-2014 Comparative Immigration Study, conducted by Deloitte Belgium in cooperation with over 20 other Deloitte member firms throughout Europe. The survey summarizes the main and most notable trends and differences in the employment of third-country nationals in 26 countries all over Europe.

The objective of this survey is to compare the immigration schemes for highly skilled foreigners in the different nations of the European Union (EU). Whereas the European Council has set the objective of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, it seems the EU is struggling to come up with a harmonized immigration strategy.

The results show that Belgium is one of the most attractive countries for highly skilled foreigners thanks to the speed, low cost, and accessible conditions for obtaining a work permit. Along with the Scandinavian countries, Belgium is in the leading group of nations pursuing an efficient and accessible policy.

#### Background

In 2007, the European Commission adopted two proposals. The first establishes the EU Blue Card Directive, for the purpose of admitting highly educated immigrants to the EU. The second, the Single Permit Directive, is a directive to simplify immigration procedures by funneling applicants into a single application procedure.

A third directive on intra-corporate transferees is yet to be adopted, but together with the Single Permit and the Blue Card, it will make Europe more economically competitive to tackle the current trend of workers emigrating to traditional immigration countries like the United States, Australia, and Canada. So far, the Blue Card has been implemented only in the legislation of EU member states, and it will still take many years before the EU has a truly unified immigration strategy.

In this context, and in view of the shortage of highly skilled people on the European labor market, individual EU member states seem to have begun a battle for brainpower. They are trying to attract as many third-country professionals as possible by adapting their immigration rules that apply to highly skilled workers and high-net worth individuals. It is, therefore, still relevant to look at the immigration schemes of different countries to see how they adapt in economically turbulent times, while slowly conforming to European standards.

You can find out more about the 2013-2014 Comparative Immigration Study and download the full report by clicking [here](#).

## Contacts

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