**Case Assignment: Mapping Industry and Labour Market Opportunities**

**Case Context**

Labour market mapping is a crucial skill for professionals who support policy development, vocational training, or employment services. It involves identifying the **main industries**, **economic strengths**, and **skill shortages** of a country in order to better understand opportunities and challenges.

This case presents examples from six partner countries — **Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, and Norway** — and serves as a model for developing **national labour market maps**.

**Part A: Learning from Examples**

**Task 1:** Review the mapping of Belgium, Germany, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, and Norway.

* What patterns can you observe in the way industries and economic strengths are described?
* How are shortages grouped (by sector, by skills, by demographic trends)?
* Which sources are cited (e.g., CEDEFOP, European Commission, national observatories)?

**Part B: Core Elements of Labour Market Mapping**

**Task 2:** Based on the case, identify the essential components of a labour market mapping exercise:

1. **Main Industries** (sectors driving GDP and employment)
2. **Economic Strengths** (competitive advantages, geography, infrastructure, workforce)
3. **Skill Shortages** (professions or sectors with high demand)
4. **Emerging Trends** (digitalisation, green transition, demographic changes)
5. **Data Sources** (national statistics, EU reports, sector studies, observatories)

**Part C: Apply to Your Own Country**

**Task 3:** Conduct a **labour market mapping for your own country** following the model provided. Create a structured summary with:

* **Main Industries** (list 3–5 key sectors)
* **Economic Strengths**
* **Current Skill Shortages**
* **Emerging Trends / Future Priorities**

(Use national labour observatories, EU data, or other reliable statistics to support your mapping.)

**Part D: Comparative Reflection**

**Task 4:** Compare your country mapping with the partner country cases.

* Which shortages are **similar**?
* Which industries or strengths are **unique** to your national context?
* How does your country’s position in Europe (geography, workforce, economy) influence its labour market opportunities?

**Part E: Forward-Looking Perspective**

**Task 5:** Write a short **1–2 page reflection** on how labour market mapping can:

* Support employment and training policies
* Help anticipate future skills needs
* Strengthen guidance services (without going into individual counselling)