

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)