



Doctoral Training in Flanders (Belgium) and @UAntwerp

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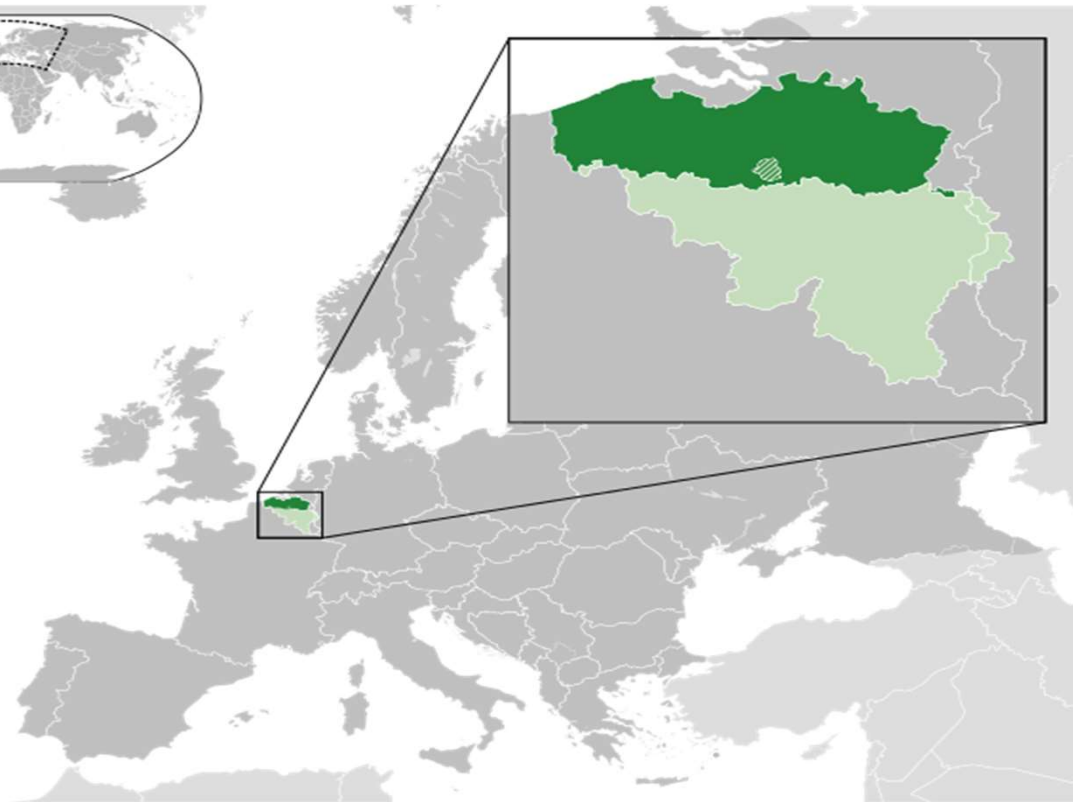
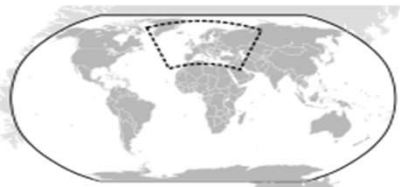


Overview

1. Doctoral training in Flanders (Belgium)
2. University of Antwerp: facts and figures
3. Doctoral training @UAntwerp



Doctoral training in Flanders

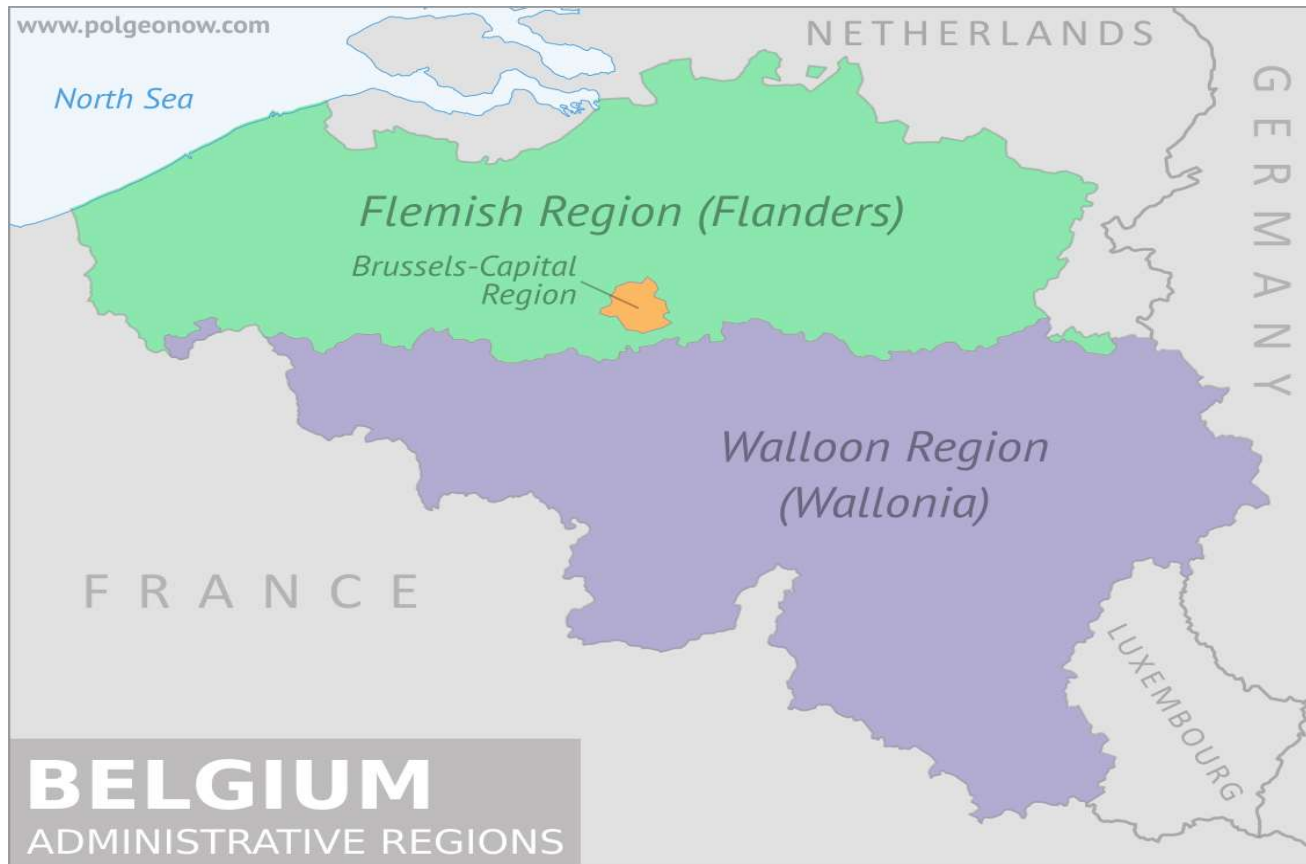


Universiteit Antwerpen





Doctoral training in Flanders



5 universities
(approx. 2200 PhDs/year)

Ghent University

Hasselt University

University of Antwerp

University of Leuven

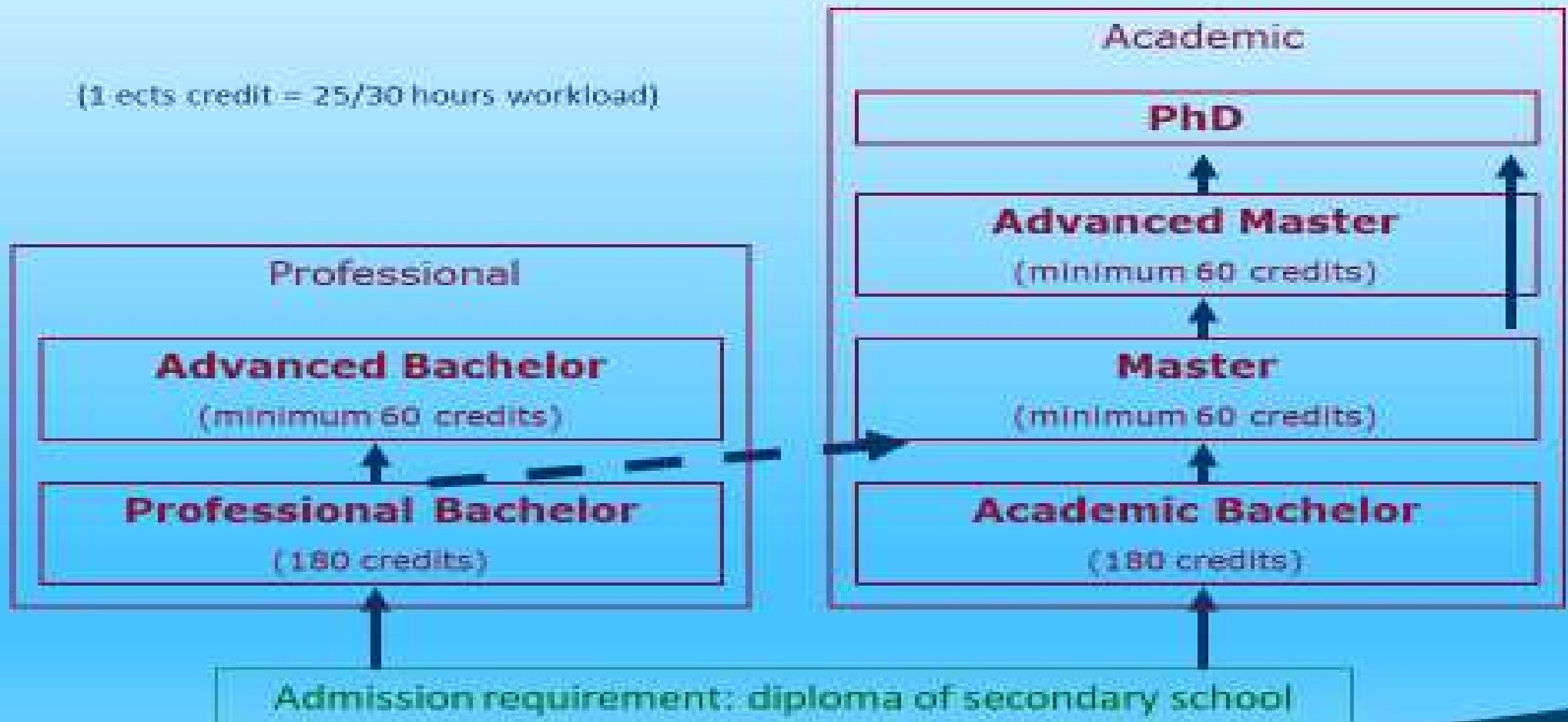
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Universiteit **Antwerpen**



Doctoral training in Flanders

(1 ECTS credit = 25/30 hours workload)





Doctoral training in Flanders

- **Admission**

- Master's degree in the discipline (or admission via an ad hoc committee)

- **Funding**

- Personal funding (external funds, such as FWO, ...) (**4 yrs**)
- Funding via the promoter(s) of a research project (**4 yrs**)
- Appointment as a teaching assistant in a department (**6 yrs**, 50% PhD research + teaching and administrative tasks)
- Voluntary PhD-researcher

- **Status**

- (in most cases) both an employee (**doctoral researcher**) and a student (**doctoral education**)



Doctoral training in Flanders

- **PhD policy** : Universities are the main governing bodies
 - PhD trajectories (admission procedures, tuition fees, supervision, quality assessment, etc.) look very similar in all Flemish universities
 - **Short distances between the universities** (geographically, relationships between individual researchers and policy-makers)
 - **Intensive collaboration between the universities** via the VLIR (Flemish Interuniversity Council), i.e. the working group 'Doctoral Schools'
 - **'OJO'-funding** by the Flemish government for the support of young researchers (€4M/year, of which 25% should be spent on interuniversity initiatives)
 - Still, some differences between universities (examples)
 - Elective vs. compulsory doctoral training programmes
 - PhD regulations and requirements to obtain the degree
 - Personal funding via the doctoral schools (or not)



University of Antwerp

- **Facts and figures**

- founded in **2003** (merger), roots going back to 1852
- medium sized: 3rd university in Flanders
- publicly funded and fully accredited
- 148 programmes (approx. 20,000 students):
 - 33 bachelor
 - 74 master (19 in English)
 - 18 advanced master (7 in English)
 - 23 postgraduates (3 in English)

14th
in the **2019**
QS University
Ranking Top
50 under 50

15th
in the **2018**
Times Higher
Education
Ranking 200
under 50



Doctoral training @UAntwerp

- **PhD programs in 12 disciplines:**

- Applied Engineering
- Design Sciences
- Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences
- Arts
- Humanities
- Law
- Social Sciences
- Applied Economic Sciences
- Medicine and Health Sciences
- Science
- Nautical Sciences
- Development Policy

**General PhD
regulations**
that concern all PhD
trajectories @UAntwerp

+

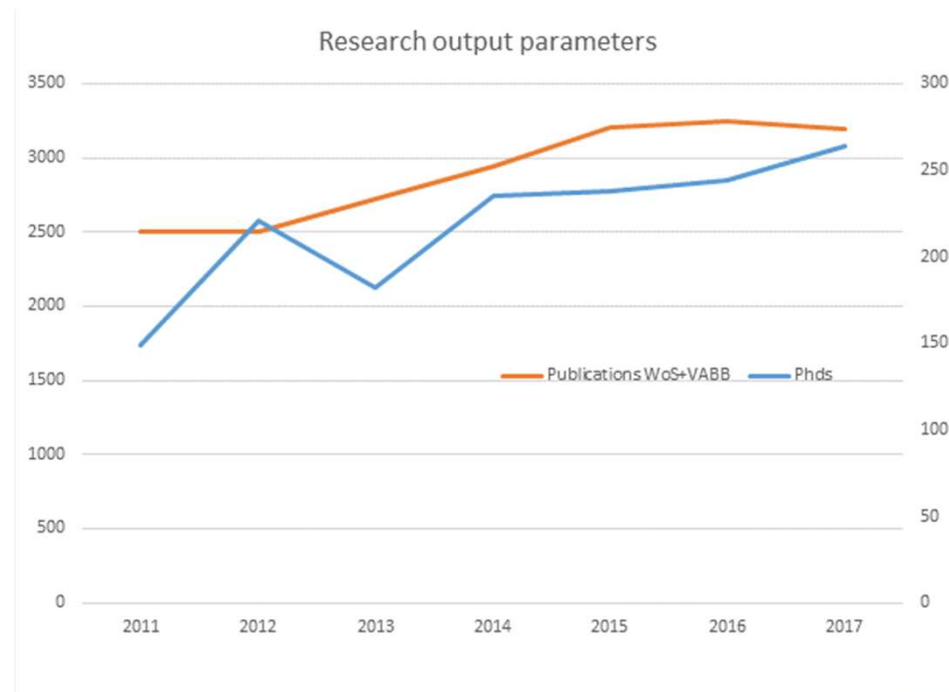
**Specific PhD
regulations**
for each discipline



Doctoral training @UAntwerp

- **Doctoral training @UAntwerp**

- about **1900 doctoral candidates** (40% international)
- 264 PhDs in 2016-2017
 - 52 joint or double degrees





VideoScribe



Doctoral training @UAntwerp

- **Doctoral research**

- Organized by Faculty/Department
- Evaluated by **individual doctoral committee** on a yearly basis
 - Supervisor(s)
 - Internal members (professors/post-docs from the same department)
 - External members (at least 1)
- The doctoral process
 - Doing the research
 - Writing up the results in a PhD dissertation
 - (Presenting them in scientific papers and at scientific conferences)
 - Defending the dissertation in public (for a PhD-jury)





Doctoral training @UAntwerp

- **Doctoral training programme**

- Organized by the Antwerp Doctoral School (ADS) (incl. yearly progress report)
- Developing both research skills (**'training for research'**) and a broad set of transferable skills (**'training for society'**)
- **Compulsory, but flexible!**
 - Collect 30 'credits' based upon a competence profile
 - Based on a PhD candidate's personal needs and interests
 - Free courses offered by ADS, research activities, teaching, etc.
- €1500 for each PhD-candidate that can be used for courses/activities outside the university
- **Certificate of the doctoral training programme is required to obtain the PhD-degree**





7 categories of competences

**A. Research
skills and
techniques**

**B. Adapting to
the research
environment**

**C. Research
management**

**D. Personal
effectiveness**

**E.
Communication
skills**

**F. Networking
and teamwork**

**G. Career
management**



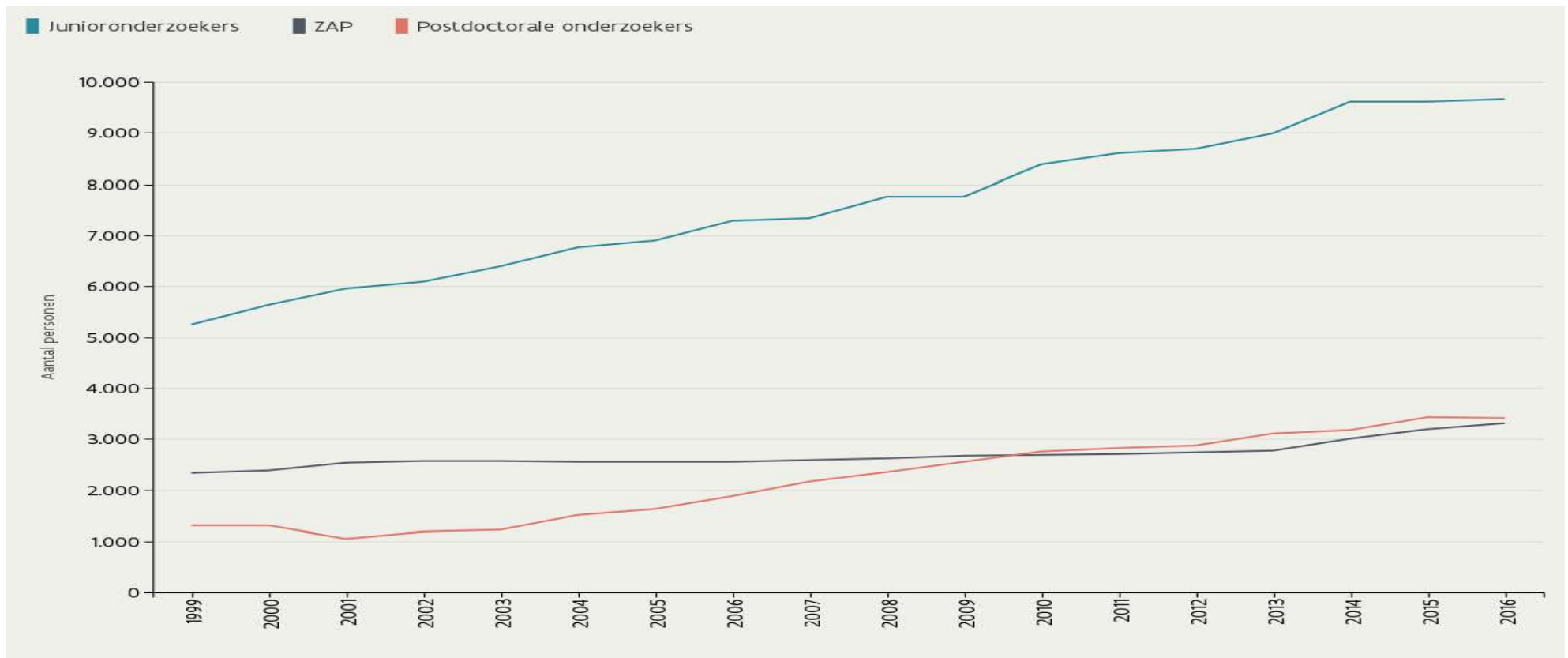
For example

A. Research skills and techniques	
You are able to think critically and contribute innovative ideas	ADS course on scientific reasoning, ...
You are able to apply research methodologies and instruments	Interuniversity course on statistics; specialised summer schools, training on research skills, ...
You are able to engage in the critical evaluation of your own research results and those of others	Review of manuscripts or articles, thesis evaluation, membership of a jury, ...

F. Networking and teamworking	
You are capable of working within and outside your own research unit and understanding the dynamics of groups	ADS course on leadership and teamworking; active participation in the organisation of conferences or symposiums
You demonstrate international mobility	Research stay abroad
You succeed in building (inter)national networks	Board member for a scientific association



Evolution Academic staff Flanders 1999-2016



Sources: VLIR-personeelsstatistieken/Indicatorenboek 2017

