

Hainaut steel



Reference	EGF/2013/007 BE/ Hainaut steel
Member State	Belgium
Sector	Steel
Submitted to	27.9.2013
European Commission	
Total budget planned	€1 963 912
EGF contribution	€981 956
Intervention criterion	2(b) – globalisation
Period of reference	22.1.2013-22.10.2013
Redundancies during period of reference	719
Active employment measures	To be provided to 701 workers and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Job-search assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support and guidance for occupational redeployment and employment integration - Training and re-training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Vocational training courses in various fields of skills and competences o Transfer of experience by encouraging certain workers to train to become vocational teachers - Promotion of entrepreneurship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support for enterprise creation through information and advice, individualised support and start-up grants for collective projects

BACKGROUND

- There has been a rapid decline of the EU's market share in the sector of the production of crude steel at worldwide level in recent years. Between 2006 and 2011, at worldwide level, the EU-27's market share in the production of continuously-cast crude steel (in volume terms) decreased from 16.6 % to 11.7 %, whereas, by contrast, China's market share increased from 33.7 % to 45.0 %, while production at worldwide level also increased from 1 249.0 million tonnes to 1 518.3 million tonnes.
- The redundancies are related to the closure of Duferco and staff reductions at NLMK in La Louvière, although these companies had intended to develop their activities there. The redundancies stem from uncertainties linked to the effects of the economic crisis on the structure of world trade in steel products, and to overcapacity problems and intensified competition.
- These redundancies affect the area of La Louvière in the province of Hainaut, in the Walloon Region. The area of La Louvière is a former coal-mining and steelmaking area in which employment is strongly dependant on traditional heavy industry. It is characterised by a high level of unemployment, with a high proportion of long-term unemployment and low qualification levels and skills levels. These redundancies are linked to the redundancies addressed in application EGF/2013/002 BE/Carsid as Duferco was a client of Carsid.