



**DIGITAL**  
Belgium

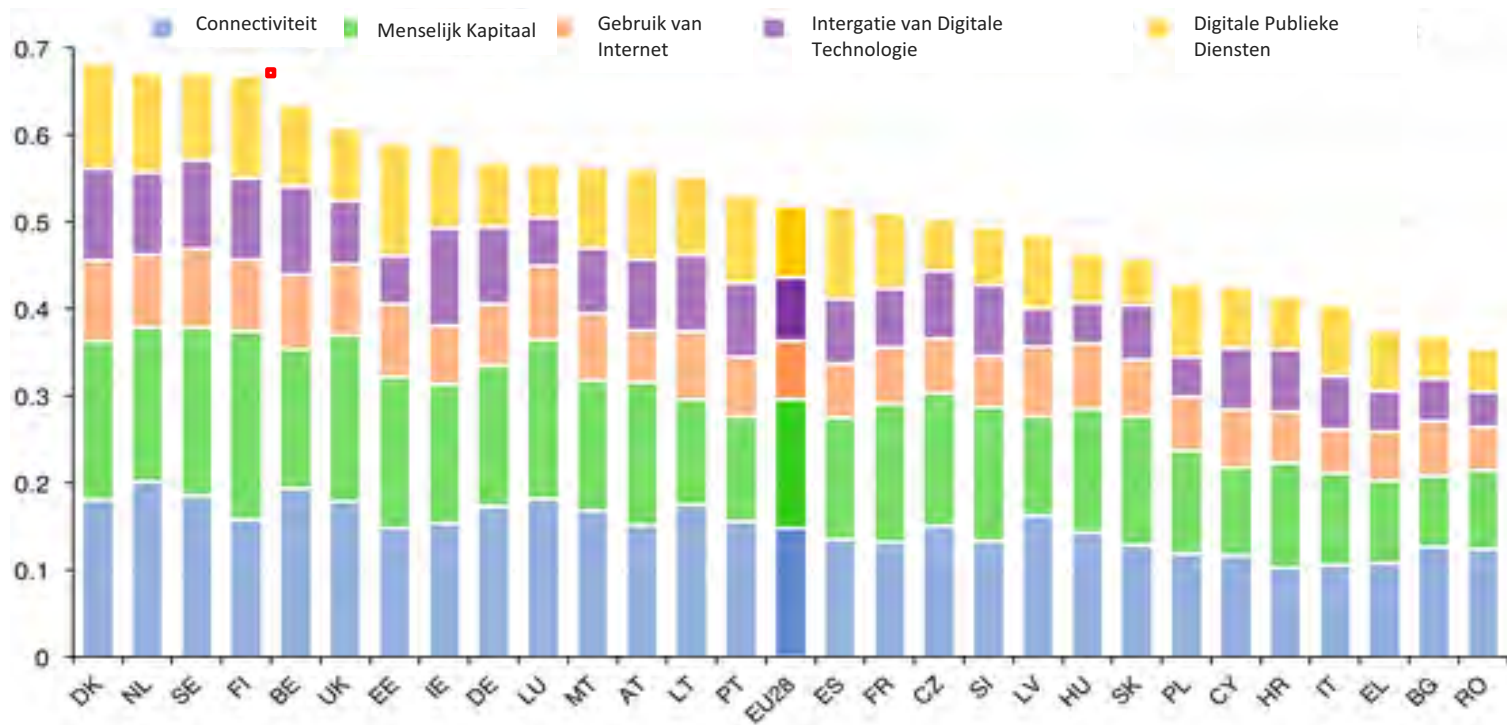
**Starterseminarie VUB**

# We are in the middle of the fourth industrial revolution



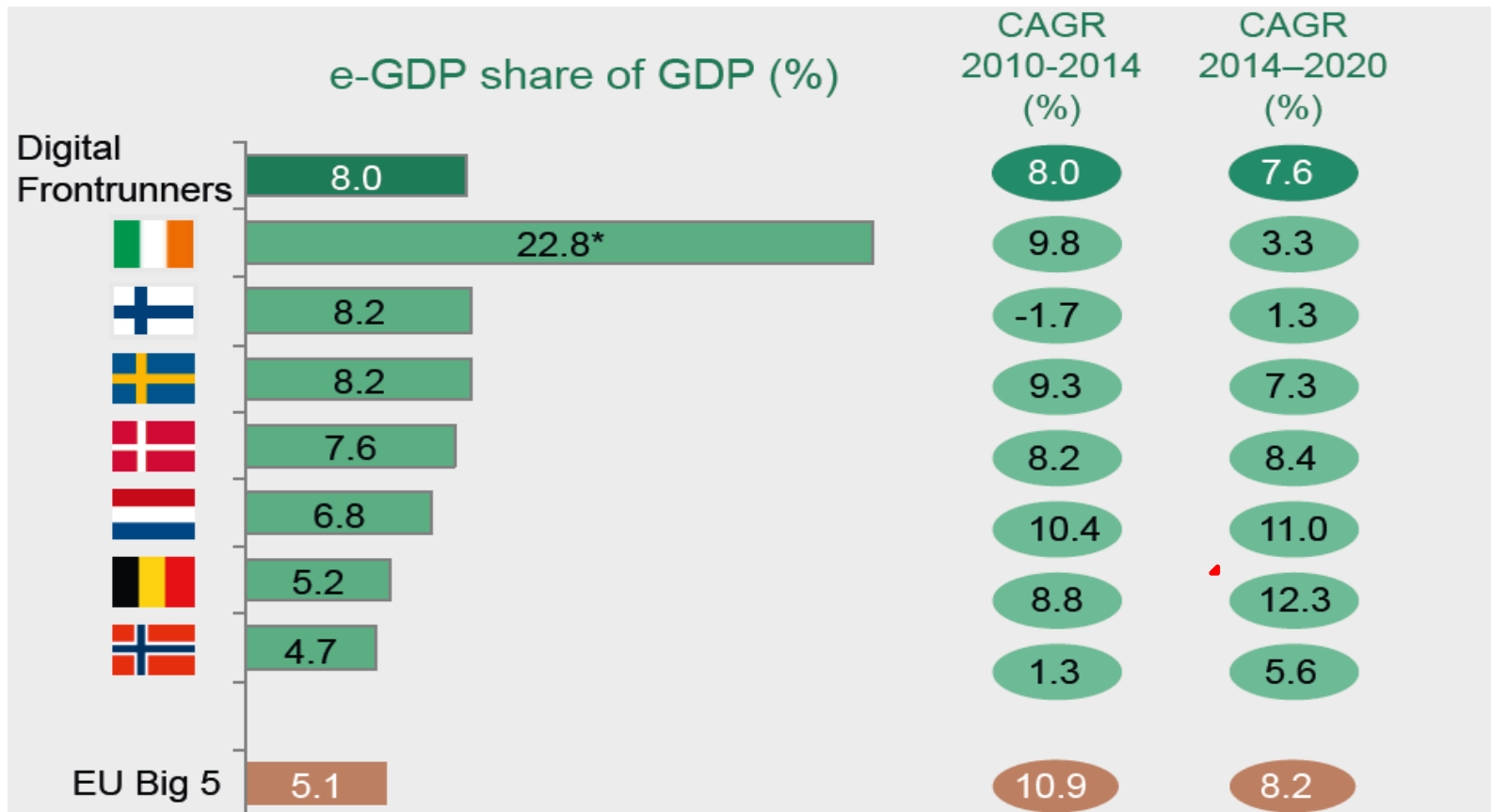
# Belgium is a digital front-runner

## Digital Economy & Society Index (2015)



Bron: Europese Commissie, mei 2016

# Belgium is a digital front-runner



Source: The Boston Consulting Group, June 2016

# Digital Belgium is our programme to be a leading Digital Nation



# Our action focuses on 4 priorities



# 1 Concrete measures to reduce cost of hiring talent



**No social contribution for first employee**



**-20% social contribution for all employees of very small firms, during first 4y of existence**

- Annual turnover <0.7M€
- Balance sheet <0,35M€
- Average FTE <10



**-10% social contribution for all employees of small firms, during first 4y of existence**

- Annual turnover <9M€
- Balance sheet <4.5M€
- Average FTE <50

## 2 Making the market bigger for start-ups



**Government buying from start-ups**



**Favoring new business models through Open Data**



**A truly Digital Single Market at European level**



3

# Environment making new business models possible



## Sandbox programmes

- Eg. running: Mobile health
- Eg. planned: 5G




## Simplified fiscal & social framework for platform contributors (“sharing economy”)

- Up to 5000€ revenues per year
- Simplified rules: no need to register as self-employed, no VAT number
- Lower tax rate (10%), collected directly by platformers
- Will practically come into force in a few weeks



## Digital Act

- Full equivalency between digital & paper (eg.  for fintech)
- Opportunity to set the standards: Belgium is front-runner in Europe

## 4 Making access to funding easier – Tax Shelter



**Tax shelter for start-ups = tax reduction for individuals who invest in start-ups**

- 45% of invested amount if very small company
- 30% of invested amount if small company



**3 channels**



**Direct Investments**

*Already now*



**Equity Crowdfunding**

*Very soon – law in  
parliament*



## 4 Making access to funding easier – Tax Shelter



### Which companies?

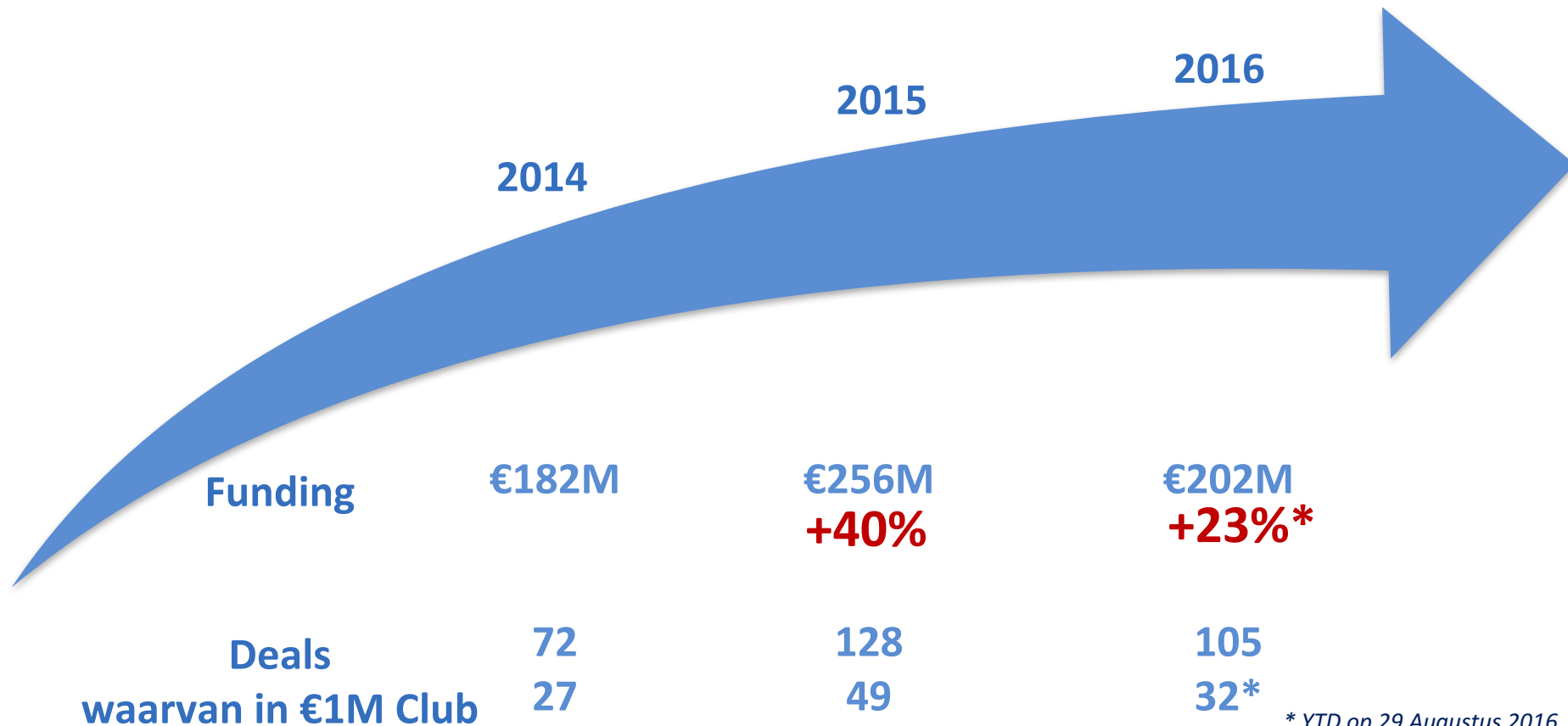
- Less than 4 years old (incorporation after 1/1/2013)
- Almost any sector (only a few exceptions)
- A few limitations: not resulting from M&A, no dividend already distributed,...
- Can raise up to 250,000€ (over lifetime) through the mechanism – *investments cannot be used to pay a dividend, make a loan or buy stocks*



### Which investors?

- Can benefit from tax shelter for up to 100,000€ per year
- Investment can represent up to 30% of company ownership
- Cannot be part of management at the time of the investment
- Must keep the investment for min. 4 years

# So let's Keep up the good pace !



\* YTD op 29 Augustus 2016

Source: Sirris



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