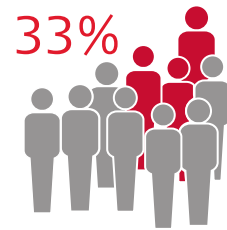


HEARING LOSS IN BELGIUM



69% of Belgians with hearing loss are not aware of the link between hearing loss and comorbidities.

This puts Belgium in last position compared to the other EuroTrak countries.



33% of Belgians are affected by some degree of hearing loss between the ages of 65 and 74.

Only 32% of Belgians with hearing loss had a hearing test during the last 5 years. With this, Belgium ranks below the average of the other European EuroTrak countries.



97% of Belgium hearing device users find their quality of life improved.

Almost **10 out of 10** working hearing aid users state that their hearing device is useful for their job.

31% of Belgians with hearing loss are being informed about hearing aids reimbursement.



The WHO recommends regular hearing screenings:

- 50+ years > every 5 years
- 65+ years > every 1-3 years



Policy Recommendations

- Raise awareness of the importance of hearing health, the impact of hearing loss and the benefits of hearing loss treatment among the public and healthcare professionals.
- Promote the need for national hearing health strategies including diagnosis, rehabilitation, service, and maintenance.
- Introduce national Newborn and Over-55 Hearing Screening Programmes.
- Acknowledge access to professional hearing care as a right.
- Promote access to effective treatments including hearing aids, bone conduction devices, and cochlear implants.
- Share best practices among EU Member States.

Evidence proves that hearing loss is linked to other health conditions:



- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Falls
- Heart Disease
- Renal Failure
- Premature Death



34% of Belgians with hearing loss have a hearing device. Belgium lags with its adoption rate behind its European neighbours.

Of those hard of hearing Belgians without a hearing device, almost **7 out of 10** Ear, Nose, Throat specialists did not recommend further action.

