



BELGIUM

Flanders



Belgium: a federal state

- Federal State
- Regions: Regions have powers in fields that are connected with their region or territory in the widest meaning of the term.
 - the Flemish Region (het Vlaamse Gewest)
 - the Brussels-Capital Region (het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest)
 - the Walloon Region (het Waalse Gewest)
- **Communities**
 - Flemish community (de Vlaamse Gemeenschap)
 - French community (de Franse Gemeenschap)
 - German – speaken community (de Duitstalige Gemeenschap)
- Provinces
- Communes

The structure of the Belgian State

BELGIE

DE FEDERALE STAAT



DE GEMEENSCHAPPEN

DE VLAAMSE GEMEENSCHAP



DE FRANSE GEMEENSCHAP



DE DUITSLIJGE GEMEENSCHAP



DE GEWESTEN

HET VLAAMSE GEWEST



HET BRUSSELS HOOFD- STEDELIJKE GEWEST



HET WAALESE GEWEST





Communities

Since the Communities are based on the concept of "language" and language is "dependent on the individual", a number of other powers are obviously associated with the Communities. The Community has **powers for culture** (theatre, libraries, audiovisual media, etc.), education, the use of languages and matters relating to the individual which concern on the one hand health policy (curative and preventive medicine) and on the other hand assistance to individuals (protection of youth, social welfare, aid to families, immigrant assistance services, etc.) They also have powers in the field of scientific research in relation to their powers and international relations associated with their powers.



The Flemish Community

- This story is not about Belgium, but about Flanders.
- The cultural policies in Flanders and in Wallonia are different.



About the VVC - 1

- Association of the **Flemish** Culture – and community centres
- The aim of the VVC is to have a representation of our members' financial and special interests to the different governments as well as the interest's promotion by various consulting and support activities. The VVC contributes to spread the positive image of its members and its cultural work in general. At the same time it works to strengthen the connections between its members and to extend the network.



About the VVC - 2

- Members: 137
 - 59 Culture centres
 - 78 Community centres
- More information about VVC on:
 - <http://www.encc.eu/structure.php#members>
 - <http://www.cultuurcentra.be/>



Cultural policy in Flanders - 1

Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Media

- **Global budget: € 882.042.000**

- culture:

- Social-cultural work: € 172.488.000
- Arts and heritage: € 186.593.000

- youth: € 60.119.000

- sports: € 94.249.000

- media: € 307.706.000

- general cultural issues: € 60.887.000

- **In this presentation we focus on Culture.**



Cultural policy in Flanders - 2

Culture

- social-cultural work
 - social-cultural work for adults (decree 2006 – new 2008)
 - amateur Arts (decree 2000 – new 2006)
 - local cultural policy, including libraries, culture centres and community centres (decree 2001 – new 2007)



Cultural policy in Flanders - 3

- arts
 - global decree on the production of all arts: the performing arts, music, fine arts, audio-visual arts, literature, architecture, design, new media (2004)
- heritage
 - Act on the organisation and funding of a cultural heritage policy (2006 – new 2008)
 - Flemish Parliament Act on the protection of movable cultural heritage of exceptional importance (2003)



Cultural policy in Flanders - 4

- general cultural issues
 - interesting topics in the field of culture
 - crossing the classical boundaries of culture
e.g. intercultural dialogue, academic research,
e-culture



Cultural policy in Flanders - 5

More information on:

<http://www.cjasm.vlaanderen.be/cultuur/>



Cultural centres – 1

More information in the VVC – brochure:

CULTURAL CENTRES IN FLANDERS.

A brief introduction to the social & political background and legislation of the cultural centres in Flanders (Belgium)



Cultural centres - 2

Basic principle: since the foundation of cultural centres in the early sixties – and this is still true today – **the initiative of creating a cultural centre has been the privilege of ‘lower’ levels of government, mainly local authorities.**

Cultural centres are ‘local’ government enterprises ...



Cultural centres - 3

This means:

- the local government takes the initiative
- the local government is owner of the infrastructure
- the local government is the first responsible for the financing of the centre
- the local government decides of the juridical form and the composition of the board

But



Cultural centres - 4

But...

- In most of the cases the needs of the local population – by means of the Culture Board (the official local cultural advisory body) – are the basis of the cultural centre.
- One half of the board must include representatives of private social-cultural work. The other half are representatives of ‘local’ cultural parties (politics).



Cultural centres - 5

Flemish legislation

- infrastructure

Act of 1965 (till 1991): this legislation provided a subsidy of 60% of the costs of the local infrastructure

- recognition and subsidising

different decrees: 1973, 1991, 2002, 2007



Cultural centres - 6

Before 2002: cultural centres have their own act and are divided in different categories based on:

- the infrastructure
- the catchment area/the number of inhabitants



Cultural centres - 7

Since 2002: cultural centres are part of 'the Local Cultural Policy Act for town and village' with a distinction between

- culture centres
- community centres

based on the hierarchical list of the Environmental Structure Plan for Flanders



Cultural centres - 8

Culture centres: 3 categories

- **A: regional urban areas**
11
'envelope subsidy': € 325.000
- **B: structurally supportive suburban areas**
20
'envelope subsidy': € 190.000
- **C: suburban areas at provincial level**
31
'envelope subsidy': € 110.000



Cultural centres - 9

This envelope subsidy must be spend entirely on the wages of the staff of the culture centre.

Beside the envelope subsidy there is also a surplus or extra:

- for category A: € 700.000 for the 11 centres
- for the category B and C: € 700.000 for the 51 centres



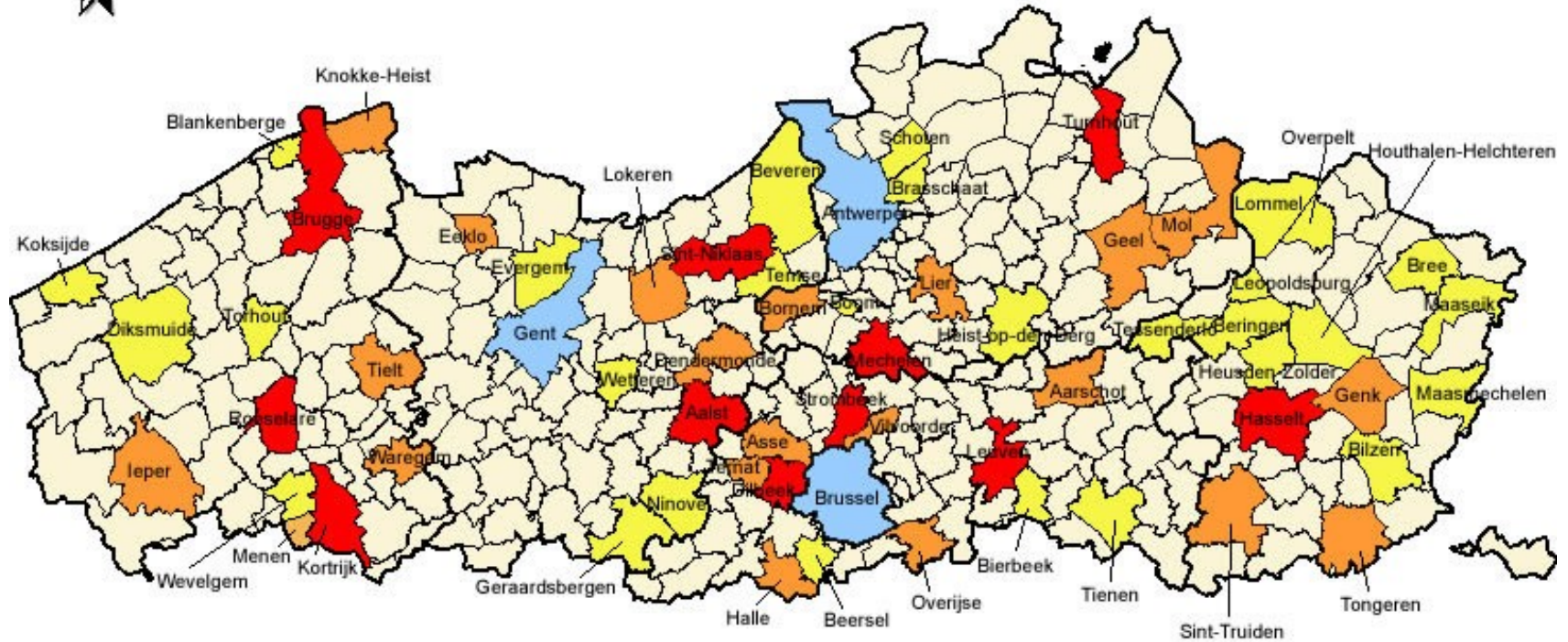
Cultural centres - 10

Community centres:

- their presence is a basic condition for a local authority to be brought under this act
- but they are no longer subsidised directly
- a transitional measure: an extra project subsidy of € 500.000 till 2007
- from 2008: € 500.000 by means of a new act on the promotion of cultural participation



map of the culture centres



0 — 21km

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Influence of the VVC - 1

- The VVC is recognised on the Flemish level in a special act as the representative interlocutor of the culture and community centres.
- From that position we have regular contacts with the Flemish cabinet and administration of culture and members of the Flemish Parliament, especially when there are projects for changing the regulations.
- On federal matters, the VVC has contacts with cabinets, administrations and members of the parliament.



Influence of the VVC - 2

- In general terms we can say that the Flemish and federal regulations – concerning culture and community centres – always are influenced by the VVC.
- The VVC is also involved in an informal meeting of all the lobby – organisations in the culture, youth and sports sector who acts on Flemish and on federal level.



Expectations for the future - 1

The VVC expects from the Flemish level a positive policy towards the culture centres and the community centres as the instrument for spreading culture (arts and education).



Expectations for the future -

2

We ask attention for:

- the return of the community centres to the ‘Local Cultural Policy Act’ with their own subsidy (for wages of the staff and for the daily work). Only in this way the community centres will be again recognised as an essential part of the network for spreading culture;
- to maintain the subsidy for the wages of the staff as a guarantee for professionalism and quality;



Expectations for the future -

3

- to increase the amount of the subsidy for the daily work and to search for transparent and qualitative criteria as a basis for dividing this budget among the centres;
- the maintenance and the renovation of old infrastructures of the centres.