

ifa ECP Monitor Fact Sheet

Belgium

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1. Key Indicators

		2019	% change since 2015
Population (millions)	Number/rank	11.45 / 80 th	11.23 / 2%
GDP ranking	Rank/number	24 th	25 th
GDP per capita	Number	€41,460	12
Cultural economy	As share of GDP	0.5 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0
Education economy	As share of GDP	6.2 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	- 0.1
R&D economy¹	As share of GDP	2.68 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0.3
Media economy	As share of GDP	0.2 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0
Geopolitical position	Hard power rank	70 th	> 25 -
	World trade indicators / ranking (\$ million)	19 th / 795,982	17 th / 712,867 ↓
	Soft power rank	18 th / 67.17	17 th / 58.85 ↓
	Diplomacy rank	26 th	25 th ↓

Source: OECD, World Bank, 2019a; World Bank, 2019b; Global Firepower, 2021; Soft Power 30, 2020; Lowy Institute, 2020

2. Government funding as percent of total government outlays, by selected fields

	2019	% change since 2015
Culture	1 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0.1
Education	11.9 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0.2
R & D²	1.32	0.2
Media	0.4 ⁽²⁰¹⁸⁾	0

Source: Eurostat

¹ Expressed as Gross Domestic Expenditure on R&D (GERD).

² Expressed as GBARD - Government budget appropriations or outlays on R&D.

3. Overview of External Cultural Policy

	2019
Number of countries with ECP activities	24
Total number of institutions abroad	31 (including education institutions)
Total number of FTE staff engaged in ECP activities	> 6,000 (including Dutch language teachers)
Cultural Treaties	Belgium: 45 countries Flanders: 2 countries W-B: 20 countries <u>Total: 52 countries</u>
Government financial support (€ million)	> € 12.5 million
Total expenditure of all ECP operators (€ million)	> € 25 million
Comparative ECP ranking	medium

MAIN OBJECTIVES

Flanders and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation have entirely separate approaches to ECP, including a different set of institutions involved. The objectives of the two regions are therefore listed separately below.

Flanders

- Support and further Flemish cultural industries to create international networks and partnerships.
- Strengthen Flemish visibility and reputation abroad through its arts and heritage.
- Use culture as a vehicle of values, projecting an open society and the power of the arts to create thriving democracies.
 - Flanders has created the Flanders UNESCO Trust Fund and the Flanders UNESCO Science Trust Fund to fund international projects in the fields of culture and science.
- Creating international relationships based on the principles of mutual trust and understanding in support of and cooperation with the FDFA's diplomatic network, thereby using culture as "positive soft power".

Wallonia-Brussels

- Increase the visibility of Wallonia-Brussels and its cultural operators in the World.
 - Belgian cultural exports are supported by Wallonia-Brussels International through six sector-specific agencies: Wallonia-Brussels (WB) Music, WB Architecture, WB Design Fashion, WB Theatre Dance. These agencies are emphasized on promoting and representing WB cultural exports and creating international partnerships.
- Promoting the French language, particularly its instruction in universities and forums dedicated to the study of the "Francophonie".

Sources: Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018; Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, n.d.; Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020

POLICY CONTEXT

- There are strongly separated approaches to ECP, with few initiatives on the Belgian national level. ECP initiatives take place in Dutch, French, English, as well as local languages.
- The communities foster close ties with their linguistic counterparts, i.e. Flanders with the Netherlands (formalized through a cultural and a language treaty) and Wallonia-Brussels with France.
- While the Walloon approach to arts and culture is formalized and funded through their diplomatic network and the respective Wallonia-Brussels International, Flanders' external arts policies adhere to a "follow the actor" model, where funding for international activities can be derived from a number of domestic schemes, as well.

Sources: Leenknecht, 2020; Criekemans, 2010; Tavares, 2016

REGIONAL FOCUS AND INSTITUTIONAL EMPHASIS

Regional emphases of both organizations on their linguistic counterparts:

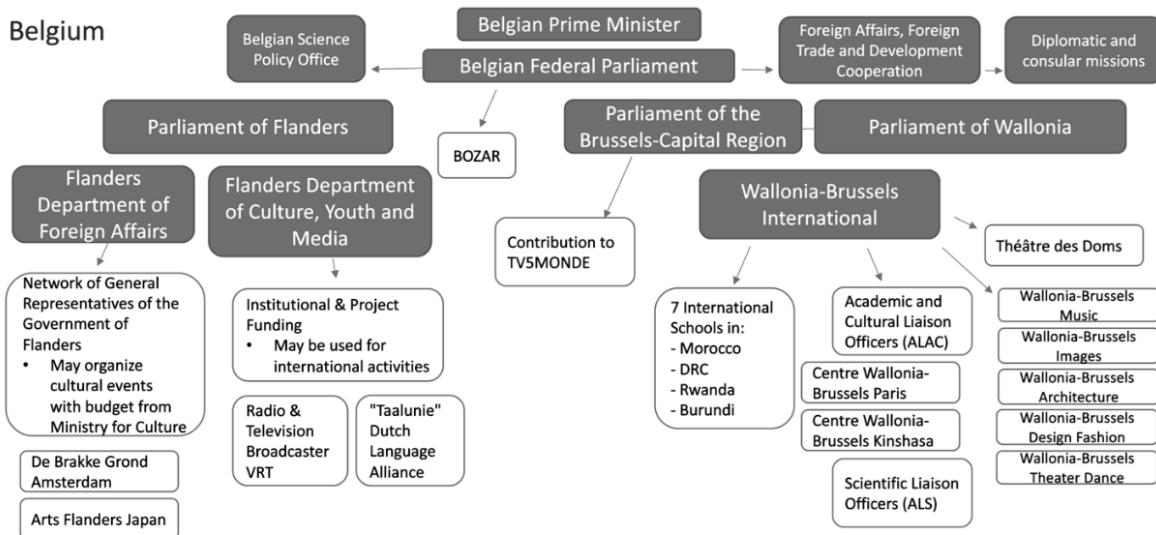
- Wallonia-Brussels:
 - Academic and Cultural Liaison Officers: Africa (2), Asia (2), South America (2), Europe (7)
 - Placement of the "Centre Culturels" on French-speaking countries: Paris, France and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
 - All international primary and secondary schools administered by Wallonia-Brussels are located in Africa, specifically in countries Belgium had previously colonized (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda) and Morocco.

Sources: Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020; AEBE, n.d.

- Flanders:
 - Flanders has two specific cultural centers abroad: "De Brakke Grond" in the Netherlands and "Arts Flanders Japan" in Japan.
 - The nation has close linguistic and historic ties with the Netherlands, which were formalized in the "Cultural Treaty Flanders-Netherlands" in 1995 and the Dutch Language Treaty in 1980 (Suriname is now also a member).

Sources: Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020; AEBE, n.d. ; Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs, 2018

INSTITUTIONAL MAP



4. Fields of External Cultural Policy

	2019	2015
Culture and the Arts		
Number of countries present	Total: 14 Wallonia-Brussels Cultural Centres: 2 Network of "Academic and Cultural Liaison Officers": 11 Flanders Cultural Centres: 2	Total : 14 Wallonia-Brussels Cultural Centres : 2 Flanders Cultural Centres: 2
Number of institutes	Total: 5 Wallonia Brussels: Two cultural centers and one Belgian Theater Flanders: Two cultural centres	Total: 5 Wallonia-Brussels: 3 Flanders 2
Number of FTE staff	-	-
Number of artists in exchange programmes	Wallonia-Brussels: > 612 ³	Wallonia-Brussels: > 566 ⁷
Number of cultural agreements	Total: 52 countries Belgium: Bilateral cultural agreements with 45 countries	-

³ Number artists or groups supported through exchange programs or mobility schemes in Wallonia-Brussels International's sector-specific sub-agencies.

	2019	2015
	Flanders: 2 countries W-B: 20 countries	
Budget (€ million)	WBI: € 7.4 million BOZAR: € 4.2 million	WBI: € 5,678 million
Government financial support (€ million)	WBI: € 7.4 million ⁴ FDFA: > € 748,000 (2020)	WBI: € 5,7 million (up by 29.93%)

Sources: Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020; Flanders Department for Foreign Affairs, 2018; BOZAR, 2020, Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2016; FDFA, personal communication, February 8, 2021, E-Mail

Language	2019	2015
Number of countries where courses are offered	Dutch: 40, incl. 14 teacher platforms worldwide	-
Number of students enrolled		
In-class	400,000 (in neighbouring countries alone) <u>Taalunie Summer Courses:</u> 120/year <u>Dutch Overall:</u> approx.	Taalunie Summer Course: 100/year
Online reach	n/a	n/a
Number of candidates for Dutch language qualifications	CNaVT (Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal): 1979 from 42 countries, 1238 passed	CNaVT: 735
Number of language teachers	Approx. 6,000 (in neighbouring countries alone)	-
Budget	Taalunie: € 10,231,163	Taalunie: € 11,923,519
Government financial support	Flanders: € 3,743,084 in the Taalunie	Flanders: € 3,338,000 in the Taalunie

Sources: Flanders Department for Foreign Affairs, 2018; Taalunie, 2020; Taalunie, 2016; Taalunie, 2015; Taalunie, n.d.

Education - Primary & Secondary	2019	2015
Number of countries	Wallonia-Brussels: 4 (Africa)	W-B: 4 (Africa)
Number of schools	Wallonia-Brussels: 6	W-B: 5
Number of students	3.362 (2017) ⁵	-
Number of staff / teachers	240 (2017)	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-

⁴ Consolidated numbers for the Belgian national government and Flanders currently unavailable.

⁵ 2017 is the most recent year available.

	2019	2015
Government financial support (€ million)	-	-

Sources: AEBE, n.d., Statut des enseignants, 2018

Education - Tertiary	2019	2015
Number of countries	2	2
Number of universities / colleges abroad	One international branch campus (South Korea) One transnational university (Netherlands)	One international branch campus (South Korea) One transnational university (Netherlands)
Number of domestic universities / colleges	Wallonia-Brussels: 25 Flanders: 22	-
Number of foreign students ⁶	444,514 (2018)	294,438
Number of foreign students ⁷	53,896 (2018)	56,453
Number of students at transnational higher education (TNE)	-	-
Number of government scholarships awarded	-	-
Number of staff / teachers	> 14 (Staff in South Korea)	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-
Government financial support (€ million)	WBI: 277.372,34 €	WBI: 4.03€ million (Research & Higher Education)

Sources: UNESCO, n.d., Ghent Global University Campus, n.d.-a, Ghent Global University Campus, n.d.-b, Transnationale Universiteit Limburg, n.d., Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus, n.d., Flanders Education, n.d., Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020; Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2016

Science and Research	2019	2015
Number of countries	Wallonia-Brussels: 20 Belgium: 1	Belgium: 1
Number of institutes	Academia Belgica: 1	Academia Belgica: 1
Number of researchers / staff	Academia Belgica: 23	-
Number of projects	Wallonia-Brussels Mobility Funds: 66 projects FWO: 87 projects (2020)	-

⁶ Data based on Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students | UNESCO UIS. (2020). Retrieved 2 September 2020, from <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>.

⁷ Data based on Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students | UNESCO UIS, 2020.

	2019	2015
Number scientists in exchange programs	Wallonia-Brussels 76 (Scholarships for exchange)	Wallonia-Brussels: 60 (Scholarships for exchange)
Budget (€ million)	Academia Belgica: approx. €500,000	-
Government financial support (€ million)	Wallonia-Brussels: € 319,541 (Scientific Liaison Officers) Belgium : > € 500,000	WB1: 4.03€ million (Research & Higher Education)
Sources: Wallonie-Bruxelles, 2020; Academia Belgica, n.d.; Hel Guedj, 2020; Wallonie-Bruxelles, 2016; FWO, personal communication, February 8, 2021, E-Mail		
Media	2019	2015
TV		
Number of countries broadcasted to	BVN: worldwide TV5Monde: 198	-
Number of languages	BVN – Dutch TV5Monde: French (13 languages subtitled)	-
Number of channels	11(BVN: 1, TV5Monde: 10)	TV5Monde: 11
Audience / weekly (million)	TV5Monde: 59	TV5Monde: 50
Digital audience / monthly average	<u>Flanders:</u> BVN YouTube: 3,820 VRT NU: 7,250 <u>Wallonia-Brussels:</u> TV5MONDE: 45.6 million (2018) YouTube: 569,000 (2020)	-
Social networks (million, combined Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	<u>BVN:</u> Facebook: 70,259 (2020) Twitter: 1,718 (2020) Instagram: 2,980(2020) <u>TV5MONDE:</u> Facebook: 3.043.000 (2020) Twitter: 1.015.000 (2020) Instagram: 334,000 (2020)	-
Budget	Flanders support for VRT/BVN: € 266,324,000 ⁸	-

⁸ The expenditure for international programming and transmission is not reported separately. This number indicates the total support by the Flanders Department for Culture, Youth and Education to the VRT network.

	2019	2015
Radio		
Number of countries broadcasted to	RTBF Online: Worldwide, FM/Satellite: DRC/ Africa VRT Radio: Worldwide	-
Number of languages	2 (French, Dutch)	-
Number of channels	RTBF International: 1 VRT Radio: 2 (one worldwide, one Europe)	RTBF International, VRT Radio
Audience (million)	-	-
Digital & social media audience (million)	-	-
New Media		
Social networks following	<u>WBI:</u> Facebook: 11,500 Twitter: 6,700 LinkedIn: 20,700 <u>FDFA:</u> Facebook: 1,350 Twitter: 1,740 <u>BOZAR:</u> Facebook: 155,000 Twitter: 38,500 Instagram: 80,700 LinkedIn: 14,600	-
Audience / unique visitors (monthly /million)	-	-
Budget (€ million)	-	-

Sources: VRT, 2020; BVN, n.d., Flanders Department of Culture, Youth and Media, 2020; TV5MONDE, n.d., TV5MONDE, 2020; RTBF Enterprises, n.d.; Facebook; Twitter; Instagram; LinkedIn

5. Current Issues and Developments

- ECP efforts originating in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation have gained in professionalization in recent years, with stronger formalization of actors available abroad.
- Flanders' current Minister-President is in charge of Foreign Affairs as well as Culture, Education and Youth. He has listed the internationalization of culture as a priority for his term (2019-2024). In line with his nationalist party's ideology, this trend indicates closer collaboration with the Netherlands.
- Current domestic politics in Belgium show a drifting apart of the two regions and their domestic, as well as external policy approaches and ideologies. Although a governing coalition of Belgium was found, the 16 months of negotiations indicate a country with severe political cleavages. This makes the assessment of a "Belgian" approach more and more nonsensical.

Sources: Wallonie-Bruxelles International, 2020; Flanders Department of Culture, Youth and Media, 2020; Leenknecht, 2020; Walsh, 2020.

6. Contributions to multilateral cultural organisations

	2019	Change since 2015
UNESCO (€) ⁹	1,096,479	-
Council of Europe (€)	7,894,333	7,075,121
Creative Europe (€)	32,528,827	26,033,182

Sources: UNESCO, 2019; CoE, 2015; CoE, 2019; European Commission

⁹ Assessed contributions to UNESCO are mandatory contributions due from States by virtue of their membership.

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