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## Organisations - Belgium, Flanders

**Country:** Belgium-Flanders

### **Summary:**

#### COMPETENT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

In Flanders, the governmental responsibility for cultural heritage is divided:

(1) The Flemish minister for Immovable heritage is in charge of the immovable heritage policy (archaeology, monuments and landscapes). This is supplemented with two smaller responsibilities, namely heraldry and heritage fleet.

The Flemish immovable heritage policy and legislation are prepared and carried out by the Flanders (Immovable) Heritage Agency.

The Flanders (Immovable) Heritage Agency is an autonomous entity, linked to the ministry of Town Planning, Housing Policy and Immovable Heritage.

The Flanders (Immovable) Heritage Agency is divided in 4 services, covering different aspects:

(-) Heritage policy: responsible for political and legal advice, carries out policy-linked research, prepares legislation, is responsible for follow-up of international affairs (Council of Europe, UNESCO, European Union ...);

(-) Research and listing: responsible for inventories, listing procedures and scientific research concerning heritage conservation, and for the management of the agency's heritage depository;

(-) Heritage management: the 'face' of the agency; handles management plans, permits, grants, recognition of experts;

(-) Information and communication.

The follow-up of compliance and law-enforcement are not carried out by the Flanders (Immovable) Heritage Agency, but by the inspection service of the Department of Town Planning, Housing Policy and Immovable Heritage.

(2) The Flemish Minister of Culture is competent for movable and intangible heritage (i.e. artifacts, archives, traditions and customs ...).

The development and implementation of the Flemish government's cultural heritage policy regarding movable and intangible heritage is carried out by the Department (ministry) of Culture, Youth, Sport and Media.

For Flanders, the content of the HEREIN-database is limited to the information concerning the immovable heritage only. For information about the movable and intangible heritage, see [www.culturalpolicies.net](http://www.culturalpolicies.net).

## PARTNERS

Apart from the Flanders Heritage Agency and its cultural counterpart, different partners are active in the field of immovable heritage:

(1) the Flanders Heritage Agency cooperates with different government partners:

- (-) ministries covering different aspects of spatial planning and management: the Flemish department for spatial planning (Ruimte Vlaanderen) and the Flanders Nature and Forests Agency;
- (-) Visit Flanders (the tourism ministry);
- (-) The heritage sites managed or supervised by Flemish ministries.

(2) certain tasks performed by the Flanders Heritage Agency can be taken over by 'third parties', which have to be officially recognized by the agency: immovable heritage cities, inter-communal immovable heritage services, immovable heritage depositories, archaeologists, metal-detector users and immovable heritage entrepreneurs. The department of Culture, Youth, Sport and Media also recognizes 'third parties' (museums, archives, libraries, centers of expertise) which sometimes cover immovable heritage aspects.

(3) the government interacts with a large and heterogeneous group of governmental, private, professional and voluntary organizations, carrying out a wide range of heritage-related functions:

- (-) heritage research, documentation and interpretation;
- (-) (assistance in) heritage conservation, management and public relations;
- (-) representation of interest groups (professionals, owners or other private instances).

Some organizations are pure heritage organizations, sometimes with a thematic focus, for others heritage issues fit into a larger picture.

Three major umbrella organizations are considered preferential partners and are financially supported by the Flanders Heritage Agency:

- (-) Herita ([www.herita.be](http://www.herita.be)): organization specialized in heritage management, heritage interpretation and heritage public relations. As 'Flemish National Trust' is responsible for the day-to-day running of 13 Flemish heritage sites and setting up a much larger network of 'open monuments' (visitable heritage

locations) in Flanders. Herita also organizes the European heritage days, the biggest cultural event in Flanders (400.000 visitors in 2014). It also represents 260 smaller heritage organisations (the Flemish historic mill associations, organisations running 'open heritage' ...);

(-) Monument Watch Flanders ([www.monumentenwacht.be](http://www.monumentenwacht.be)): assists heritage owners (6.213 paying members in 2014) with conservational advice;

(-) the Centre for Religious Art and Culture ([www.crk.be](http://www.crk.be)): center of expertise in the field of religious heritage (immovable and cultural) and acts as (religious) heritage depository.

The website [www.erfgoedkaart.be](http://www.erfgoedkaart.be) provides an interesting overview of heritage organizations at different levels.

Expand all

### 1.1.A Overall responsibility for heritage situated in the government structure.

1.1.A Where is overall responsibility for heritage situated in the government structure? Is it by itself, or combined with other areas?

**Ministry's name:**

Flemish Ministry of Spatial Planning and Housing and Immovable Heritage

**Overall responsibility:** Overall responsibility

**Ministerial remit:** Environment

Heritage

Planning

**Other (please specify):** Housing

### 1.1.B Competent government authorities and organisations with legal responsibilities for heritage policy and management.

**Name of organisation:**

Flanders Heritage Agency

**Address:**

Koning Albert II-laan 19

**Post code:**

1210

**City:**

Brussel

**Country:**

Belgium / Flanders

**Website:**

www.onroenderfgoed.be

**E-mail:**

info@onroenderfgoed.be

**Approx. number of staff:** 314.00**No. of offices:**

7

**Organisation type:**

Agency with legal responsibilities

Government

Governmental agency

## Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

Yes

**Heritage management:**

Designation

Financial support

Permits

Security

Spatial planning

**Policy and guidance:**

Advice to governments/ministers

Advice to owners

**Research:**

Conservation/maintenance

Documentation

Field recording (photogrammetry..)

Inventories

Laboratories

Post-excavation analysis

Restoration

**Properties:**

Properties

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No Archaeological Heritage

**Learning and communication:**

Communication

Publication

**Other (please specify):**Nautical Heritage Policy **Main responsibility:** Yes

Heraldry

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:** No

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:** Yes**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:** No

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:** Yes**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:** No**Name of organisation:**

**Name of organisation:**

Flanders Nature and Forests Agency (Agentschap Natuur en Bos)

**Website:**

www.natuurenbos.be

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Properties:**

Properties

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Yes

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

No

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management**

No

**Name of organisation:**

Herita vzw

**Address:**

Oude Beurs 27

**Post code:**

2000

**City:**

Antwerpen

**Country:**

Belgium / Flanders

**Website:**

www.herita.be

**E-mail:**

info@herita.be

**Approx. number of staff:** 33.00**No. of offices:**

1

**Other (please specify):**

Subsidized partner organisation

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

Yes

**Policy and guidance:**

Support to the sector

**Research:**

Conservation/maintenance

Restoration

**Properties:**

Properties

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Yes

**Number of properties:**

13

**Learning and**

Communication

**Name of organisation:**

Intercommunal immovable heritage services

'Immovable Heritage Cities'

local governments

**Country:** Belgium / Flanders

**Other (please specify):** Local government

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:** No

**Heritage management:** Financial support

Permits

Security

Site monitoring

Spatial planning

**Policy and guidance:** Advice to governments/ministers

Advice to owners

Advice to professionals

Legislation

Support to the sector

**Research:** Conservation/maintenance

Documentation

Inventories

Restoration



**Name of organisation:**

Kempens Landschap

**Website:**

www.kempenslandschap.be

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage**

No

**Name of organisation:**

Regionale Landschappen (Regional Landscapes)

**Website:**

www.regionalelandschappen.be

## Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

No

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Policy and guidance:**

Support to the sector

**Research:**

Conservation/maintenance

**Ownership and/or**

No

**Name of organisation:**

Botanic Garden Meise

**Website:**

www.plantentuinmeise.be

**Organisation type:**

Governmental agency

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

No

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

No

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management**

No

**Name of organisation:**

Gaasbeek Castle

**Website:**

www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage**

**Name of organisation:**

Alden Biesen Castle

**Website:**

www.alden-biesen.be

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage**

No

**Name of organisation:**

Bokrijk Open-Air Museum

**Website:**

www.bokrijk.be

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:**

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:**

Landscape Heritage

**Main responsibility:**

No

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage**

**Name of organisation:**

Recognised Immovable Heritage Depositories

**Website:**<https://www.onroenderfgoed.be/nl/erkenningen/erkenningen/erkende-onroenderfgoeddepots/>**Organisation type:** Agency with legal responsibilities

Approach

Integrated approach

**Main responsibility:** No**Research:** Conservation/maintenance

Documentation

**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:** No

Archaeological Heritage

**Main responsibility:** No**Ownership and/or management of heritage properties:** No

Architectural Heritage

**Main responsibility:** No**Ownership and/or management (maintenance/visitor access) of heritage properties:** No

Landscape Heritage

## 1.1 Commentary

Commentary (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

### NOTE ON THE RECOGNIZED 'THIRD PARTIES'

(-) The possibility to be recognized as a 'heritage city', and to take over certain tasks of the Flanders Heritage Agency has only recently been introduced. Up till now only 10 cities are officially recognized 'heritage cities'. For a graphic overview, see: [www.onroerenderfgoed.be/assets/files/content/downloads/erkende\\_OEG\\_situa...](http://www.onroerenderfgoed.be/assets/files/content/downloads/erkende_OEG_situa...)

(-) Many cities (for instance the 'Art Cities' Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Mechelen, Leuven ...) have a local heritage service, responsible for the management of the local public heritage, assisting inhabitants with heritage issues, interacting with the Flanders Heritage Agency and sometimes developing complementary heritage policies;

(-) Intercommunal immovale heritage services are created at the initiative of different cities, that have decided to work together on certain immovable heritage issues. The Flanders Heritage Agency provides subventions for intercommunal services. The instrument is not entirely new, but is a development of the older 'intercommunal archaeological services'. At this moment 16 intercommunal immovable heritage services are active: [www.onroerenderfgoed.be/assets/files/content/downloads/erkende\\_IOED\\_17-0...](http://www.onroerenderfgoed.be/assets/files/content/downloads/erkende_IOED_17-0...)

(-) The Flemish immovable heritage decree defines 'immovable heritage depositories' as controllable storage and research facilities where archaeological ensembles, archaeological artifacts or parts of listed heritage from all over Flanders can be stored and conserved. Apart from the Flanders Heritage Agency, 10 regional or local depositories are officially recognized.

Archaeological Heritage

(-) Link to the database of officially recognized archaeologists: <http://erkenningen.onroerenderfgoed.be/>



## 1.2.A Professional membership organisations or professional research institutes (not indicated under 1.1) whose activities are..

**Name of organisation:**

Centre for Religious Art and Culture (CRKC vzw)

**Address:** Abdij van Park 7**Post code:** 3001**City:** Heverlee**Website:** www.crkc.be**Organisation type:** NGO**Other (please specify):** Subsidized partner organisation

Heritage depository

Research institute

Recognized Center of Expertise

**Name of organisation:**

Monument Watch Flanders (Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen vzw)

**Address:** Oude Beurs 27**Post code:** 2000**City:** Antwerpen**Website:** www.monumentenwacht.be**E-mail:** info@monumentenwacht.be**Membership type:** Voluntary**Organisation type:** NGO

**Name of organisation:**

Order of Architects

**Address:**

Koningsstraat 144

**Post code:**

1000

**City:**

Brussels

**Website:**[www.ordevanarchitecten.be/](http://www.ordevanarchitecten.be/)**E-mail:**[vlaamse.raad@ordevanarchitecten.be](mailto:vlaamse.raad@ordevanarchitecten.be)**Membership type:**

Compulsory

**Other (please specify):**

Umbrella organisation

**Type of activity of members:**

Architectural conservation

Building/Construction industry

Heritage management

**Approximate number of members:**

14 000

**Name of organisation:**

Flemish Construction Confederation (VCB)

**Address:**

Lombardstraat 34-42

**Post code:**

1000

**City:**

Brussels

**Website:**[www.vcb.be/](http://www.vcb.be/)**E-mail:**[info@vcb.be](mailto:info@vcb.be)**Membership type:**

Voluntary

**Name of organisation:**

Flemish federation of the SMEs of the construction (Bouwunie)

**Address:** Maria-Theresialaan 35**Post code:** 1800**City:** Vilvoorde**Website:** www.bouwunie.be**E-mail:** info@bouwunie.be**Membership type:** Voluntary**Organisation type:** NGO**Other (please specify):** Umbrella Organisation**Type of activity of** Architectural conservation**members:** Building/Construction industry**Approximate number of** 8 000  
**members:****Name of organisation:**

Flemish Association of Archaeologists (VONA)

**Address:** Laagstraat 12**Post code:** 9140**City:** Temse**Website:** www.vona.be**E-mail:** info@vona.be**Membership type:** Voluntary

**Name of organisation:**

Center for Flemish Architectural Archives (CVAa)

**Country:** Belgium-Flanders**Website:** [www.cvaa.be](http://www.cvaa.be)**Type of activity of members:** Research institute**Other (please specify):** Recognized Center of Expertise**Name of organisation:**

Center of Expertise for Technical

Scientific and Industrial Heritage (ETWIE)

**Country:** Belgium-Flanders**Website:** [www.etwie.be](http://www.etwie.be)**Other (please specify):** Recognized Center of Expertise**Name of organisation:**

Center of Agrarian History (CAG)

**Website:** [www.hetvirtueleland.be/](http://www.hetvirtueleland.be/)**Other (please specify):** Recognized Center of Expertise**Name of organisation:**

Antwerp Zoo (KMDA)

**Website:** [www.zooantwerpen.be](http://www.zooantwerpen.be)

**Name of organisation:**

Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA)

**Website:**[www.kikirpa.be](http://www.kikirpa.be)**Name of organisation:**

Association of art restoration and conservation professionals (BRK/APROA)

**Website:**[www.brk-aproa.org/](http://www.brk-aproa.org/)**Organisation type:**

NGO

**Type of activity of members:**

Conservation (objects/artworks)

**Approximate number of members:**

150

**Name of organisation:**

International Council of Museums (ICOM) - Flanders

**Website:**[www.icom-vlaanderen.be/](http://www.icom-vlaanderen.be/)**Type of activity of members:**

Museums

**Name of organisation:**

Gorduna

**Website:**<http://www.gorduna.be/>**Organisation type:**

NGO

**Type of activity of members:**

Architectural conservation

## 1.2 Commentary

Commentary (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

(-) Different Flemish ministeries are responsible for heritage sites. The Flanders Nature and Forests Agency manages 243 resorts and estates, the Culture Department is responsible for a few museums housed in/on heritage locations, the botanic garden in Meise (listed heritage) is run by a seperate government agency ...

(-) The Flemish immovable heritage sector closely interacts with the moveable and intangible heritage field. Although on a 'ministerial' level the competences are strictly seperated, this is not necessarily the case on the field. Many institutions (museums, centers of expertise ...) officially recognized by the department of Culture, Youth, Sport and Media (the Flemish 'ministry of culture') also concern immovable heritage. Some of them are mentioned above. Moreover, many museums are housed in listed monuments and also have immovable heritage management responsibilities.

(-) The Flemish immovable heritage sector also interacts with the nature field, adding a cultural landscape dimension to the 'green' policy. The Flemish Nature and Forests Agency manages natural estates, some of whom contain listed immovable heritage or overlap with listed areas. The Flemish government also recognizes 'regional landscapes', where a broad range of activities are developed by public and private parters, and which also have a very strong cultural landscape focus.

### 1.4.A Legislation that regulates the heritage-related activities of voluntary organisations / NGOs

Yes

## 1.4.B Main heritage-related voluntary organisations/ NGOs

**Name of organisation:**

Natuurpunt vzw

**Address:**

Coxiestraat 11

**Post code:**

2800

**City:**

Mechelen

**Website:**

www.natuurpunt.be

**Organisation type:**

NGO

**Approximate number of members:** 95 000**Name of organisation:**

Flemish Mill Platform (Molenforum Vlaanderen)

**Website:**<http://mfv.molenforumvlaanderen.be/>**Name of organisation:**

Industrial Heritage in Flanders (VVIA)

**Website:**[www.industrieelerfgoed.be/](http://www.industrieelerfgoed.be/)**Name of organisation:**

National Orchard Foundation (Nationale Boomgaardenstichting)

**Country:**

Belgium-Flanders

**Website:**[www.boomgaardenstichting.be](http://www.boomgaardenstichting.be)**Organisation type:**

NGO

**Name of organisation:**

Epitaaf (Association for Funeral Heritage)

**Website:**[www.epitaaf.org](http://www.epitaaf.org)**Type of activity of members:**

Architectural conservation

Conservation (objects/artworks)

Heritage management

Museums

Research institute

**Name of organisation:**

Flemish Association for Natural and Urban Beauty (KVNS)

**Website:**<http://www.kvns.be/kvns-in-english/>**Name of organisation:**

Simon Stevin Flemish Fortress Center (VVC)

**Country:**

Belgium-Flanders

**Website:**[www.simonstevin.org/home.html](http://www.simonstevin.org/home.html)**Name of organisation:**

Open Tuinen van België

**Website:**[www.open-tuinen.be/nl](http://www.open-tuinen.be/nl)



**Name of organisation:**

Levende Molens

**Website:**[www.levendemolens.be/](http://www.levendemolens.be/)**Name of organisation:**

Molenzorg Vlaanderen vzw

**Website:**[www.molenechos.org/molenzorg/index.php](http://www.molenechos.org/molenzorg/index.php)**Name of organisation:**

Het orgel in Vlaanderen

**Website:**[www.orgelinvlaanderen.be/](http://www.orgelinvlaanderen.be/)**Name of organisation:**

Forum Vlaamse Archeologie (FVA)

**Website:**[www.f-v-a.be/](http://www.f-v-a.be/)**Name of organisation:**

Open Churches (Open Kerken)

**Website:**<http://openkerken.be/>

Commentary (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

(-) The above list of heritage-related voluntary organisations/NGO's is a non-limitative overview of organizations that operate on a 'Flemish' level. Their range of activities vary from lobbying, awareness-rising, research, voluntary work, site management ... Sometimes different organizations have a comparable focus (eg. mill organizations). Sometimes a Flemish thematic organization serves as an umbrella for different smaller organizations;

(-) Apart from the 'Flemish' organizations, many more organizations operate on a regional or local level, for instance managing a specific heritage site. The Flanders heritage agency can officially recognize 'open heritage' organizations, with a focus on site management and public relations.

#### 1.5.A Formal heritage collaboration networks

Yes

Integrated approach

Archaeological Heritage

Architectural Heritage

Landscape Heritage

#### 1.5.B Partners in these networks.

Approach

Integrated approach

Government

Government Agency

Local Authorities

## 1.5 Commentary

Commentary

Integrated Approach

All the actors mentioned in the chapter interact in different projects and activities: restoration, awareness-rising ...  
Heritage often is an ingredient of big infrastructural of spatial projects ...

## 1.6.A Training bodies

Yes

**Name of organisation:**

Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC)

**Website:**

<http://sprecomah.eu/rlicc/>

**Responsibility:**

Integrated approach

Archaeological Heritage

Architectural Heritage

Landscape Heritage

**Main role:**

Providing training

**Name of organisation:**

**Name of organisation:**

Eucora vzw

**Website:**[www.eucora.be/](http://www.eucora.be/)**Responsibility:**

Architectural Heritage

**Main role:**

Providing training

**Name of organisation:**

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**Name of organisation:**

Department of Art

Music and Theatre Sciences

Ghent University

**Website:**[www.ugent.be/lw/kunstwetenschappen/en](http://www.ugent.be/lw/kunstwetenschappen/en)**Name of organisation:**

Department of Archaeology

Leuven University

**Website:**[www.arts.kuleuven.be/archaeology/archaeology](http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/archaeology/archaeology)**Name of organisation:**

Department of Art History

Leuven University

## 1.6 Commentary

Commentary (click to collaps)

Integrated Approach

- (-) In Flanders the major universities cover heritage education and research in specialized history, history of arts and archeology departments;
- (-) 2 institutions offer a formal body of heritage management, conservation and restoration courses: RLICC (linked to the architecture department of Leuven University) and the master monuments and landscape architecture at Antwerp University;
- (-) Eucora offers trainings for aspirant craftsmen;
- (-) many of the above mentioned organizations offer thematic training on an occasional or permanent basis.

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