

Attending to the needs of disabled persons Belgium

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Plan

- What do you have to know about Belgian federalism?
- Who's the Belgian Disability Forum asbl (BDF) ?
- Attending the needs of PwD
- Difficulties due to Belgian federalization process
- Not so far from the ideal situation !

Institutional structure of Belgium



Institutional structure of Belgium

- One constitutional monarchy
- Based on :
 - 1 federal state
 - 3 regions
 - 3 communities
 - 10 provinces
 - 589 municipalities
- Key element: spreading the competences

Spreading of competencies

- **Federal:**

- General matters:

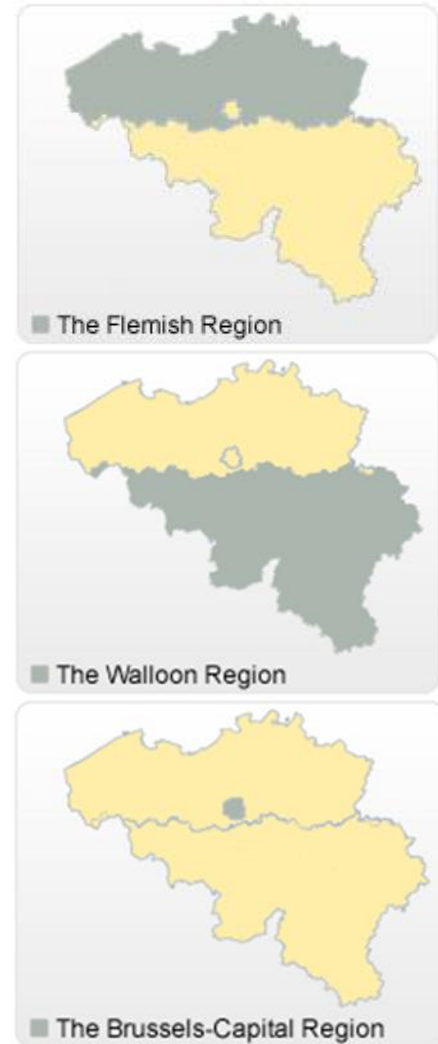
- Justice
 - Social security (employment, pensions, health care, family benefits, benefits for PwD ...)
 - Finances
 - Foreign Affairs
 - Federal police
 - Defence
 - Public enterprises (Rail company, Post...)

- Government

- Prime Minister + Ministers et State secretaries
 - Proportional voting → Several parties → Negotiations → Compromise

Spreading the competencies

- Regions :
 - Territory based competencies
 - economy
 - employment
 - agriculture
 - water policy
 - public works
 - energy
 - transportation (except rail)
 - environment, nature preservation
 - housing, town and country planning
 - international relations related to these competencies
 - Government :
 - Minister-President + Ministers
 - **Specific administrations to support PwD**
 - www.awiph.be
 - www.vaph.be
 - www.phare-irisnet.be



Spreading of competencies

- Communities

- Competencies based on the concept of individual
 - Language depends on
 - Culture (theatres, libraries, audio-visual, media...)
 - Education
 - Matters related to the individual:
 - health policy (prevention)
 - assistance to individuals : protection of youth, social welfare, aid to families, immigrant assistance services, etc.
 - Scientific research
 - International relations related to these powers
- **Specific German speaking administration to support PwD**
 - www.dpb.be



Representation of PwD's in Federal Belgium

Advice councils of PwD

- Federal → Conseil Supérieur National des Personnes Handicapées (CSNPH)
Nationale Hoge Raad voor Personen met een Handicap (NHRPH)
- Regions → Advice councils (non mandatory)
 - Commission Wallonne des Personnes Handicapées (CWPH)
 - Conseil Bruxellois Francophone de la Personne Handicapée (CBFPH) + Section handicap du conseil de la Cocom
- Communities → Advice councils (non mandatory)
 - To be created
- EU matters → **Belgian Disability Forum (BDF)**



Belgian Disability Forum asbl (BDF)



General context

EU construction

- Most important project during 20th century
 - Could become the most important project in 21st century ... if « social »
 - Growing influence on
 - Belgian political life
 - The situation PwD's
- = General context of creation of the BDF



Belgian Disability Forum (BDF)

- Forum of associations representing Persons with Disabilities (PwD's)

Members = 17 organizations

≠ individuals

≠ "Front line"

≠ "Individuals"

= meeting point, dialogue, decision making

- Role = follow-up to
 - EU legislation
 - Supra national policies
- NGO : Association Sans But Lucratif (asbl)
 - General Assembly = all powers
 - Board = implementation



BDF – Member Organisations

ALTéO asbl (Mouvement social de personnes malades, valides et handicapés)

Association de parents et de professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée, asbl (AP3)

Association nationale pour le logement des personnes handicapées, asbl (ANLH)

Association socialiste de la personne handicapée, asbl (ASPH)

Brailleliga vzw – Ligue Braille asbl

Les Briques du GAMP

Federatie van Vlaamse Doven en Slechthorende, vzw (FEVLADO)

Fédération francophone des sourds de Belgique, asbl (FFSB)

Groupe d'Action pour une Meilleure Accessibilité pour les Personnes Handicapées (GAMAH)

Katholieke Vereniging Gehandicapten, vzw (KVG)

Landsbond der Christelijke Mutualiteiten (LCM)

Le Silex asbl

Nationaal Verbond van Socialistische mutualiteiten (NVSM)

Nationale Belgische Multiple Sclerose Liga vzw

Nationale Vereniging voor Hulp aan Verstandelijk gehandicapten, vzw (NVHVG)

Vereniging Personen met een Handicap vzw (VFG)

Vereniging van Hemofilielijders en von Willebrand-Zieken, vzw (AHVH)

"Kleines Forum" - Dienststelle für Personen mit Behinderung

Attending the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

Federal support

- Disability allowance
 - Based on evaluation
 - of the autonomy of the person
 - of the gain she doesn't have because she doesn't work
- Integration allowance
 - Based on evaluation
 - of extra-cost needed in order to live like everybody
- Allowance for elderly with handicap
- 2016: 330.901 beneficiaries = 1.700 mio €

Walloon Region

- Agence pour une vie autonome (AVIQ)
 - Housing, including institutions
 - Supportive equipment for autonomy in day to day life
 - Support for education and work
 - Day centers
 - Accompaniment services
- <https://www.aviq.be/handicap.html>

Brussels-Capital Region

- **Personne Handicapée Autonomie Recherchée (Phare)**
 - Refunding of autonomy material
 - Refunding of Sign language interpretation
 - Mobility : intervention in mobility expenses
 - Accompaniment services
 - Day centers
 - Education : integrated or specialized
 - Employment & training support
 - Housing support : home care, institution
- <https://phare.irisnet.be/>

Flemish Region

- Vlaams Agentschap voor Personen met een handicap (VAPH)
- Support
 - Personal budget for adults
 - Personal budget for children
 - Funds technical aids
 - Funds multifunctional centers for children
 - Agreement of care providers
- <https://www.vaph.be/>

Federalization makes it a maze

- One lives in Liège : Walloon regulations
- Studies in Flemish University in Brussels : Flemish regulation
- Takes the train : Federal legislation
- Takes the metro : Brussels regulation
- Rides his wheelchair on sidewalks : city regulation
- Needs sign language : French community regulation
- ...

The ideal at hand

- If only the Belgian society was
 - Inclusive
 - Open
 - Accessible
- The Belgian society would have to provide less support
- This ideal situation is not an utopia
- But we have to decide it...