

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union
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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN BELGIUM

Last updated : 17/11/2010

1. Context of national youth policy (give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...))

Warning: All the information provided in this questionnaire concerns the French Community of Belgium (Communauté française de Belgique) which is the higher institutional level in charge of youth policy for young French speaking Belgians.

In the years 2008 and 2009, intense negotiations with the representatives of the youth sector have lead to several changes in the legislation in order to reform and adapt the following pillars of the youth policy in the French Community of Belgium:

- Composition and functioning of the French Community's Youth Council, the official advisory board of the young people of the French Community of Belgium : new decree (2008-11-14);
- A new decree establishing the rules for recognition and subsidiation of Youth organisations (2009-03-26).

On the political level, the Declaration of Community's Policy 2009-2014 - made by the Gouvernement that was established after the elections of June 2009 - announces among others the introduction of a transversal youth programme for the 12-25 years old. The Gouvernement also pledged to set up a Permanent Interdepartmental Conference dedicated to the matters relating to the Youth in order to allow a better articulation of Youth policies lead at the different levels of power (federal, regional, community).

2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people aged from 13 to 30 living in the country
(if you do not have statistics covering this age range, please give the number of
young people specifying the age range used)

Number and Percentage of young people in global population

The available statistics do not allow us to give a range from 13 to 30 years old. We
have chosen the two following ranges: the 10-29 years old and the 15-29 years old.

The actual statistics cover the age range of 10-29

Total 10-29 years old 1,087,009
Total 15-29 years old 833,006

Number and percentage of young people in the total population :

10-29	25%
15-29	19%

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population

Age	Girls	Boys
10-29	12.5%	12.5%
15-29	9.6%	9.4%

Number and Percentage of young people with a different nationality (“migration
background”).

10-29	12.24
15-29	16.37

Warning : due to missing figures, includes German speaking young people

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth

- Minister : Mrs Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister of Youth and youth protection :
<http://evelyne.huytebroeck.be/>
- Duration of mandate : 5 years (2009-2014)

Youth Department in the Ministry

- Main tasks of the Youth department

The Youth Department is in charge of the implementation of the youth policy of the French Community of Belgium, whose main aim is to promote the individual and collective participation of young people by learning to be an active, critical and responsible citizen.

The Youth Department is concerned by every issue relating to young people, whether organised or not. However, it has privileged relationship with the associative sector, notably the recognized associations: youth organisations, youth coordination's structures, youth centres and youth houses.

See: <http://www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be>

The Youth Department is among others in charge of:

- promoting and supporting voluntary associations by
 - recognizing and granting ordinary subsidizations to youth organisations and youth centres.
 - granting for particular projects to recognized or not recognized associations;
 - providing for free teachers detached from their school to lead training activities inside recognized youth organisations
 - intervening in the field of employment as part of the decree of the 24th October 2008 relating to the employment in the socio-cultural sector.
- conducting regular dialogue and consultation with the official representative bodies of the sector : the Advisory Commission of the Youth Organisations (Commission Consultative des Organisations de Jeunesse), the Advisory Commission of the Youth Centres and Youth Facilities (la Commission Consultative des Maisons et Centres de Jeunes) and the French Community's Youth Council (le Conseil de la Jeunesse de la Communauté française).
- promoting and supporting specific initiatives such as *Projets jeunes* (Youth Projects), the organization of seminars, round-table conferences relating to specific themes, the

publication of researches, reference documents, acts of the round-table conferences,
...

- defining main lines and priorities of the international youth policy, in close partnership with the Direction for international relations and International Youth office.

- Number of people working in this ministry's youth department :15
- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry

Charles-Yvon Gérard : charles-yvon.gerard@cfwb.be

See : <http://www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be>

- Contact person in the youth department competent for European Youth Policy
Françoise Crémer (Service Jeunesse)

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- Other Ministries
- Offices
- The Child Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) (Délégué général aux droits de l'enfant)
See: www.dgde.cfwb.be
- The *BIJ* (International Youth Bureau) was created by the [Commissariat Général aux Relations Internationales](#) and [Direction Générale de la Culture of the French speaking Community of Belgium](#) to implement and manage youth exchange programmes. The *BIJ* supports in more than 70 countries the international projects of young people from Wallonia and Brussels. Within the BIJ, there is also the [SALTO youth Initiatives Resource Centre](#). See:<http://www.lebij.be/>
- The Childhood, Youth, and Youth Protection Observatory (OEJAJ) is a department of the Ministry of the French Community of Belgium. It conducts and commissions researches and assessments on all relevant issues relating to children and young people as targets of policies conducted by the French Community. See: <http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/>.
- The General Direction of Youth Care is in charge of the implementation of the youth protection's policies. See: <http://www.aidealajeunesse.cfwb.be>

Advisory commissions/boards

- The Advisory Commission of the Youth Centres and Youth Facilities (Commission consultative des Maisons et Centres de Jeunes – CCMCJ) gives advices to the Minister responsible for recognition, subsidies, approvals and qualification of Youth Centres and Youth Facilities as well as advices on matters of general policy concerning these institutions;

- Advisory Commission of Youth Organisations (Commission consultative des organisations de jeunesse – CCOJ), gives advices and proposals on matters relating to recognition, subsidies and promotion of youth organisations or new youth initiatives;
- The French Community's Youth Council (Conseil de la Jeunesse de la Communauté française - CJCF), is the official representative and advisory board of the young people of the French Community of Belgium. Its main mission is to bring the youth's voice to the national and international level. The aim of the Youth Council is also to promote the image and the commitment of the young people, to encourage their development and their emancipation as well as to promote their expression; See: <http://www.conseildelajeunesse.be/>
- The Youth Care Community Council (Conseil Communautaire de l'Aide à la Jeunesse) is a consultative and propositional body with a general competence in all matters relating to youth care, youth protection and child abuse:
See: <http://www.ccaj.cfwb.be/>

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

- Name : Commission de la Jeunesse et de l'Aide à la Jeunesse du Parlement de la Communauté française.
See: http://www.pcf.be/ROOT/PCF_2006/public/commissions/com_perm.html
- name of president / chair : M. Yves Reinkin
- role and competence : Youth and Youth Protection Policies, as per article 21 of the statute 5, § 1er, II of the special law and without prejudice of the article 139

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

There are six regional sub-entities: five provinces (Walloon Brabant, Liège, Luxembourg, Hainaut, Namur) and the region of Brussels capital.

Each of these sub-entities has competences in the field of Youth: education, culture, sports, health, training, employment ... and each one of them has expressed these competences in its own specific way. There is no coordinating structure.

The Hainaut province has a distinct “Youth department” (see: <http://www.hainaut.be/>) as the Liège province (<http://culture.prov-liege.be/home.go?es=in&sp=jn>) which maintains a specific youth service.

The Walloon Brabant province has a “Culture, Sport and citizenship” department as well as a County Youth Council, with 18 representatives aged 12 to 16, elected for 2 years.

See: <http://www.brabantwallon.be/> and

http://www.brabantwallon.be/index.cfm?Content_ID=6817018

The Luxembourg province also created a county youth council :

http://www.province.luxembourg.be/provlux/provlux_fr_profils_ecoles/cpi-conseil-provincial-des-jeunes/index.html

In the other provinces such as Namur or the Region of Brussels Capital, the youth policy doesn't show under a distinct heading but appears to be mixed with other fields of actions.

About the ties with the European Institutions: the « Europe Direct » are the information relays of the European Commission. These information points are being established with the collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most of them are established within the Provinces. Some of the *Europe Directs* are not especially part of the provincial administration but are supported by these administrations.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) and local level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

Each municipal authority may take initiatives in the field of Youth. The initiatives taken may vary widely.

The list of municipal councillors in charge of youth matters in the 262 municipalities of the Walloon Region is available through a request at the following Internet address:

<http://www.uvcw.be/communes/requete.cfm>

The services provided by the 19 municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region, with detailed contact information, can be accessed at the following Internet address:

http://www.avcb.be/comm/c_comm_fr.htm

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

Please explain the structure of youth welfare services in your country and mention the major implementing institutions.

Warning: The specialised care and protection for the young people and their families in the French Community are a combination of public services and private (associative), publicly funded, initiatives. We focus here on the voluntary care and help. Compulsory care related to judicial decisions and criminal justice is not presented here.

http://www.aidealajeunesse.cfwb.be/ajss_pro/servicespro/

Regarding the **voluntary** care and protection services, we point out the (public) Youth Support Services (Services d'aide à la jeunesse (SAJ) and the (private) non residential care services (Services d'Aide en Milieu Ouvert: AMO). There are more than a dozen other categories of non residential (private) care services which are described at the following Internet address: http://www.aidealajeunesse.cfwb.be/ajss_pro/services1/servicesagrees/

- Youth support service (SAJ) : is a public authority that works only in a protection framework (the SAJ doesn't work in the civil, nor in the criminal field: it gives advices and orientations to young people up to 18 years old and their family, who are in difficulties or in danger. One of the SAJ's objectives is to generate a solution to the problems, with the young and his family in order to avoid the intervention of the justice. There is one SAJ in each of the 13 judicial districts (Namur, Liège, Charleroi, Mons, Tournai, Nivelles, Bruxelles, Marche-en-Famenne, Neufchâteau, Arlon, Huy, Dinant, Verviers).
- AMO : The AMO is a service that provides help to young people up to 18 years old in their usual living environment (family, school, ...). AMO's first priority is to help young people to thrive in their living environment and in their relationships with the social environment (among others at school, at home, in their neighbourhood, ...) :
 - By giving them an individual help;
 - By supporting their projects;
 - By helping them cope with their family, school, administrative and legal difficulties.

The AMO service is free, confidential and anonymous. There are about sixty AMO in Brussels and Wallonia.

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures who are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process.

The youth organisations

The youth organisations are a major pillar of the cultural and associative life and an important partner in the youth policy.

These voluntary organisations are mainly composed by young people up to 30. They contribute to the development by young people themselves of their responsibilities and personal skills. They aim at making them active, responsible and critical citizens within society.

These associations fall in five recognized categories :

- Youth movements ;
- Thematic movements ;
- Youth services ;
- Federations of youth organizations;
- Federations of youth centres.

In 2010, there were 86 recognized youth organisations plus 8 so called “groupings“ in the French Community of Belgium.

The complete list of these youth organisations can be downloaded on the youth departement’s website : http://www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be/sj_operateurs/#c855

The Youth Facilities, the Meeting and Housing Centres and the Information Centres

On a local scale, the Youth Facilities carry out cultural, recreational and sportive activities by and for the young people.

The core principle is the youth participation to the planning and realisation of their actions and the youth participation to the consultation and decision structures. Welcoming youngsters in groups or individually, the Meeting and Housing Centres organize residential activities of limited duration and encourage contacts between the groups and individuals that are joining it.

The mission of the **Youth Information Centres** is to promote the young people appropriation of the information and information tools through an ethic of pluralism, independence and sufficiency.

There are 189 recognized Centres (Youth Facilities, Meeting and Housing Centres, Information Centres) in the French Community of Belgium.

The complete list of these youth organisations can be downloaded on the youth departement's website : http://www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be/sj_operateurs/#c855

3.3.1 Youth councils

Describe the national youth council. Please refer to its role and objectives as well as to its composition (who is a member). Please mention if there are youth councils on other geographical levels and describe their role. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (=contact person)

The French Community's Youth Council (Conseil de la Jeunesse de la Communauté française - CJCF), www.conseildelajeunesse.be is the official advisory board of the young people of the French Community of Belgium. Its main mission is to bring the youth's voice to the national and international level. The aim of the Youth Council is also to promote the image and the engagement of the young people, to encourage their development and their emancipation as well as to promote their expression.

It defends the interest of young people by negotiating with the political leaders of the country. The Council collects the voices of the young people from all over the French Community and then, transmits them to the community, national, european or international level.

The general assembly comprises 50 members directly elected by young people aged 16 to 30 living in the French Community. The duration of their mandate is 2 years. To get a better representativeness, a quota system has been adopted : 30 members from Youth Organisations or Youth Centres, 15 members from the student field or from the Youth Care and Youth Protection field, and 5 members from collective initiatives.

President : Anne-Caroline Burnet

County youth councils

The County Youth Councils (Conseils Provinciaux des Jeunes – CPJ) are composed by young people chosen for 2 years. The number of the members and functioning of these

councils may vary from one province to another. In French Community, there are County Youth Councils in the Walloon Brabant province and in the Luxembourg province :

<http://www.brabantwallon.be/fr/Culture-et-citoyennete/La-citoyennete/>

http://www.province.luxembourg.be/provlux/provlux_fr_profils_ecoles/cpj-conseil-provincial-des-jeunes/index.html

Town youth council

A town youth council aim to :

- Contribute to train the citizens of tomorrow;
- Initiate the young people into the municipality functioning;
- Integrate the young people in the public life;
- Bring the young people to think about municipal problems;
- Give to the young people the possibility to speak and to be heard.

The Carrefour Régional et Communautaire de la Citoyenneté et de la Démocratie (Creccide) is the federative body of these councils in Wallonia. This association helps municipal authorities to elaborate, create and follow their councils/

See: <http://www.creccide.org>

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Please mention the most relevant youth NGO's which are not members of the National Youth Council. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (=contact person)

According to the new decree concerning the French Community Youth Council, the Youth Organisations aren't direct members of the National Youth Council anymore. The complete list of theses recognized organisations can be downloaded on this adress :

http://www.servicejeunesse.cfwb.be/sj_operateurs/#c855

3.4 Other structures

Expert groups, permanent networks etc.

Please mention permanent structures in the field of youth research; (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

Federations of youth organisations and federations of youth centres

These federations take charge of the coordination and the networking of their members, and of the internal and external training of their members, young people, professionals and volunteers. They also offer a pedagogical and methodological support and organize best practice exchanges. The federations manage projects and provide information and reflection tools, pedagogical aid and enhance the sector's image. They also represent the sector at a political level.

There are 5 recognized fédérations of youth organisations (la [Confédération des Organisations de Jeunesse](#) (COJ), Le [Conseil de la Jeunesse Catholique](#) (CJC), [Relie-F](#) (anciennement Réseau des Non Confédérés – RNC), Le [Réseau Socialiste des Organisations de Jeunesse](#) (RéSOJ), [Jeunes et Libres](#) (anciennement Confédération des Organisations de Jeunesse Réformatrices – COJR).

There are 3 recognized federations of Youth Facilities (La [Fédération des Maisons de Jeunes en Belgique francophone](#) (FMJ), La [Fédération des Centres et Maisons de Jeunes en Milieu Populaire](#) (FCJMP), La [Fédération de Maisons de Jeunes et Organisation de Jeunesse](#) (FOR'J)).

There are 3 recognized federations of Youth Information Centres (Fédération des [Centres d'Information et de Documentation pour Jeunes](#) (CIDJ), [Fédération Infor Jeunes Wallonie-Bruxelles](#) (Infor Jeunes), Le [Service d'Information sur les Etudes et les Professions](#) (SIEP))

There are 2 recognized federations of Meeting and Housing Centres (La [Fédération des Auberges de Jeunesse](#) et Les [Gîtes d'Etape du Centre Belge du Tourisme des Jeunes](#) (CBTJ))

Afterschool Classes Federation

The Afterschool Classes Federation - Fédération des Ecoles de Devoirs (FFEDD) - is an association which has defended, represented and informed associative afterschool classes in French Community for 20 years. It federates five regional Coordinations rallying more than 160 afterschool classes.

The federation is recognized and subsidized by the French Community of Belgium, in the framework of the decree "Afterschool Classes" since January 2005 and as Youth Organisation since 1998.

See: <http://www.ffedd.be/ffedd.php>

The NGO coordination for the rights of the child

The "CODE" (Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l'enfant – NGO coordination for the rights of the child) is a network of NGO who share a common preoccupation with developing

specific and non auxiliary action of defending and promoting child rights. Contact: CODE - 32
2 209 61 60 rue Marché au Poulet 30 1000 Bruxelles info@lancode.be www.lancode.be
See: <http://www.lancode.be/>

4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

National legislation on youth

Part 2 of the constitution: Belgians and their rights.

Equality, equal rights and freedoms (including freedom of expression (19) without discrimination (12). Right to the respect of privacy and family life- (22) All children are entitled to respect for their moral, physical, mental and sexual integrity (22bis). All are entitled to a dignified existence: right to work, social security, accommodation, environmental protection, cultural and social development (23). Right to free & neutral education until the end of the compulsory school period (24), right of association (27) Unhindered use of languages (30)

Regional and local legislation on youth

Législation nationale en matière de jeunesse

- Décret du 4 mars 1991 relatif à l'aide à la jeunesse. (Decree of 4 March 1991 relative to youth care: organises the procedures and means for providing specialised youth care and youth protection)
- Décret du 17 mai 1999 relatif aux centres de vacances (Decree of 17 May relative to the Holiday centres)
- Décret du 20 juillet 2000 déterminant les conditions d'agrément et de subventionnement des maisons de jeunes, centres de rencontres et d'hébergement et centres d'information des jeunes et de leurs fédérations (Decree of 20 July 2000 establishing the rules for the recognition and subsidisation of youth centres and facilities)
- Décret du 20 juin 2002 instituant un délégué général de la Communauté française aux droits de l'enfant (Decree of 20 June 2002 establishing a child rights commissioner for the french Community of Belgium)
- Décret du 20 janvier 2004 instaurant la réalisation d'un rapport sur l'application des principes de la Convention internationale des droits de l'enfant (Decree of 20 January 2004 establishing the obligation to produce a report on the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child)

- Décret du 28 avril 2004 relatif à la reconnaissance et au subventionnement des écoles de devoirs (Decree of the 28 April 2004 establishing the rules for the recognition for the afterschool classes)
- Décret du 14 novembre 2008 instaurant le Conseil de la Jeunesse en Communauté Française (Decree of te 14 November 2008 establishing the Youth Council of French Community)
- Décret du 26 mars 2009 fixant les conditions d'agrément et d'octroi de subventions aux organisations de jeunesse. (Decree of 26 March 2009 establishing the rules for the recognition and subsidisation of youth organisations)

(Guidelines or Principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field)

5. National Programmes on youth

Name and describe the national programmes on youth.

Please refer to their objectives and the duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

Quebec programmes

The Quebec programmes enable young people (16-35 years old) to carry out projects in the other side of Atlantic.

See: <http://www.lebij.be/>

Axes Sud

Group exchanges with young people from Morocco, Senegal, Benin, Tunisia, Rwanda, ... For 18-30 years old. This programme is developed as part of the non formal education with the aim to allow young people to get new skills out of the school's context.

See <http://www.lebij.be/>

PECO Programme

This programme enables the BIJ to organize exchange activities and training courses for young workers from the French Community of Belgium and Central and Eastern countries.

See <http://www.lebij.be/>

Action plans i.e. official strategies

Name and describe (very shortly) the national action plans on youth

Coordinated Youth plan

In his Declaration of Community's Policy 2009-2014, the French Community Government announces a transversal coordinated youth plan for the 12-25 years old. The project got started in 2010. It aims to allow a better articulation of policies from the French Community in the youth field (Youth Care and Protection for the young people, Culture, Sport, Audiovisual Policies, ...) and with policies from other levels of power (regional – employment -, federal – social action).

See:

http://www.cfwb.be/fileadmin/sites/portail/upload/portail_super_editor/Docs/declaration_politique_communautaire.pdf

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

“Plan Mashal 2.vert” : strategic economic programme of the Walloon Region. It is aimed, among others, at the young people through priority themes such as education, technical and scientific courses promotion, temporary jobs consolidation for the young people, languages,...

See: <http://planmarshall2vert.wallonie.be/>

Job tonic programme : a specific accompanying programme for the young people up to 25 who have finished their studies, with or without diploma .

This programme promotes the contact of young people with the working environment and helps them find quickly a first job.

See: <http://www.leforem.be/endirect/actions/jobtonic/programme-accompagnement-pour-les-jeunes-jobtonic.html>

For the young people living in the Brussels capital Region, a specific information in the matters relating to employment (working as a student, finding a first job, jobseeker's allowance, ...) can be found at the following address :

<http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be/fr/citoyens/home/travailler.shtml>

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

Regional level (French Community of Belgium

Organic Division	Department	Activity	Service	2010 initial budget (1,000 euro)
11	Services généraux	16	Observatoire de l'Enfance	216
11		17	Cellule Maltraitance	205
11		19	Conseil de l'éducation aux medias	90
		37	Protection des droits de l'enfant	50
16	Santé	24 (partim)	Vaccination	6,002
		25 (partim)	Dépistage anomalies métaboliques	840
			Dépistage surdit�	383
		Programme 3	Promotion de la sant� à l'�cole	18.929
17	Aide à la jeunesse			243,036
19	Enfance			205,062
20	Culture	13 (partim)	Arr�t� Culture-�cole	160
21		12 (partim)	Diffusion des arts de la sc�ne dans le cadre scolaire	562
21		25	Th�tre pour l'enfance et la jeunesse	4,094
21		37 (partim)	Jeunesses musicales	976
22		25 (partim)	Livre de jeunesse	230
23		Programme 2	Jeunesse	25.510

26	Sport (à l'exclusion du finacement des federations sportives et des centres ADEPS	32	Plaines de jeux	252
		34	Insertion sociale par le sport	6,156
26		35 (partim)	Fédérations sportives scolaires	647
			Matériel de psychomotricité	754
Ch. II	Enseignement (à l'exclusion des académies, de la recherche, de l'enseignement à distance et de l'enseignement de promotion sociale			6,042,281
Total	Dépenses Communauté française			8,399,621

The budget affected to childhood and youth policies in the French Community of Belgium (excluding Education and subsidies to International Office for Youth – BIJ) is **513,154,000** euros, which is 6.11 % of the total spending budget of the French Community.

Source: OEJAJ, Mémento de l'enfance et de la jeunesse en Communauté française, 2009

(http://www.oejaj.cfwb.be/fileadmin/sites/oejaj/upload/oejaj_super_editor/oejaj_editor/pdf/memento_oejaj_2009.pdf)

7. European Dimension of youth policy

Please describe the context in which international youth work takes place (legislation, implementing institutions)

The youth policy finds its place in the framework of an intra-belgian coordination between the three communities of the country.

7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)

Voir avec le service Jeunesse (Policy Review)

7.2 European Union programmes

Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other)

Please also refer to European action in the field of youth information (national website of Eurodesk)

The YOUTH Programme is implemented through 5 actions, which support different projects for young people (15-25 years old) within the European Union and with different partner countries (Mediterranean basin, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, South East Europe, Latin America). There are different possibilities: youth exchanges, voluntary activities, local projects, support for youth workers. In the French speaking Community of Belgium, the agency in charge of the implementation of the programme is: the International Office for Youth – BIJ.

See: <http://www.lebij.be/>

Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes

SALTO Participation Resource centre

Part of the International Office for Youth – BIJ - this centre supports the development of the Youth Initiatives (Youth programme): training tools, seminar for National

Agencies, youth workers and young European and encourage the non-formal training via the Youthpass.

8. Forthcoming events/conferences

8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines

As stated in the Declaration of Community's Policy 2009-2014 of the French Community Government, the Minister in charge of Youth Policies is currently initiating a transversal youth programme for the 12-25 years old.

Political intentions of the Minister are being discussed with the different stakeholders in the youth sector; they will be discussed by the Government in the beginning of the year 2011.

Starting from spring 2011, these intentions will be translated in a program with specific targets. A dedicated working group will pinpoint the policy domains where youth organisations and youth care associations could directly contribute starting from the summer 2011.

This working group will be invited to make operational recommendations for revising the current measures taken for orienting young people through their studies and supporting them toward independence.

The whole process is designed to prepare a new Decree pertaining to the elaboration of a Youth long term plan before the end of the legislature.

8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities

Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen.

The presidency of the European Union is held by Belgium during the last six months of 2011. Belgium's priorities in Youth matters during this presidency are: Youth Work, Youth Employment and European and International agenda concerning Childhood, Youth and the rights of the child. More information on the website of the Belgian presidency: <http://www.youth-trio.be>