WP3. Formal Media Education

BELGIUM

1. Education System

The Belgian education system depends on the governments of the three communities that make up the country: Flemish, French and German. The responsibility for education falls on the shoulders of each community, which organizes its education system and decides how to implement media literacy in their region.

The education system in each community can be viewed on the following links: comunidad flamenca, comunidad francesa y comunidad alemana.

2. Policies in Media Literacy

In terms of media literacy policy development, the following have been implemented in each of the three communities:

- In the Flemish region the responsible body for the preparation of education policies is the Department of Education and Training, while the implementation is carried out by four internal autonomous agencies, all of which depend on the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training. The Media Literacy Policy Note & Action Plan (2011-2014), for the creation of a strategic framework for media literacy, aims at integrating ICT as well as media and image literacy in school curricula. It also aims to improve teacher training in this field with the figure of a media coach. The idea is to create educational portals and virtual libraries, improve infrastructure, set a gaming policy, as well as teach e-safety. In 2012 they designed the New Strategic Literacy Plan 2012-16 which, once again, covers and promotes all forms of literacy especially among groups with little chance of access.

> **The policies for the development of media literacy and the teaching of ICT are dealt with separately in the three regions**

- In the French region the General Strategic Plan for the use of ICT was adopted in schools with the intention of introducing ICT in communications and learning as well as innovation throughout the school system.

- In the German region there is no available information.

3. Media Literacy and National Curricula

Media education is developed separately in each of the three Belgian communities. They are the following:

- In the Flemish community media education appears transversely in the curriculum of secondary schools under the name of *Mediawisdom.* The name makes reference to the ethical dimension of this type of education to show how the world has changed due to the use of new technologies. It is one of the 27 elements of the core curriculum in secondary schools and appears in 4 of the 7 possible contexts as in Mental Health.

- In the French community Media Literacy is one of the transversal subjects in elementary and secondary schools for which programs like *Ma classe fa sa téle* and *Ouvrir mon quotidien* are proposed.

- The German community has adopted its own policy with respect to media education but there is no information on how it is being developed in their system of education.

4. Tools to measure the Level of Competencies

The Flemish community is the only one where tools have been found to measure levels of media literacy among its people.

In primary and secondary schools in the Flemish region students are only assessed in ICT competency but not in media education.

Since 2007 a tool has been used to evaluate the integration of ICT in primary and secondary education; this tool is called MICTIVO (Monitoring ICT Integration in Flemish Education). The most recent assessment of students in the final year of primary school was done through the Practical ICT Test in 2012.

The universities of Ghent and Leuven have developed a monitoring tool based on a web page that provides useful information for future development policies in media competency assessment. The website offers four types of indicators: 1.ICT competencies for teachers and students; 2.Infrastructures for ICT; 3.Use and integration of ICT in the education setting and 4.Perception of interested parties in the educational use of ICT.

5. Teacher Media Training

Media literacy in the Flemish community is integrated into the core competencies that teachers should acquire, and are required to have, in their training. In order for that to occur, one of the objectives of the New Strategic Literacy Plan 2012-2016 is to increase the digital literacy of teachers by financing

> **In the Flemish community media literacy is integrated in the basic competencies of teachers**

in-service ICT courses for all teachers who have the help of *REN-Vlaanderen (Regional Expertise Network for Flanders)*. This is a competency center which offers continuing education in the introduction and use of ICT on the teaching, learning, technical and organizational levels.

In the French community teachers have access to the magazine for educators, *Prof en ligne,* which is found within the website of the Federation *Wallonie Bruxelles*, which has a section on ICT called *Clic & Tic*. In the resources section, among the pedagogical material, are *TICE in classe* and *Éducation par la technologie* in primary and secondary schools.

In the German community there is no information to this effect.

6. ICT in Schools

In Flemish schools ICT, or "technological education", is one of the curriculum objectives which appears in primary education as a specific subject and in secondary school as a transversal one.

In the French community, the *Éducation par la technologie* is one of the *socles de competences,* or core competencies, in primary and junior secondary education.

There is no information on ICT in the German community.

The keys to the inclusion of ICT in Belgian schools can be summarized as follows:

- Belgian schools are digitally well equipped with fast broadband and good connectivity.
- Belgian students use computers less than those of other EU countries.
- Neither teachers nor students show great confidence in the use of ICT.

Annex. Country Key Features

	Languages	Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%, legally bilingual (Dutch and French)
	Population	10,444,268 (July 2013 est.)
	Major cities	BRUSSELS (capital) 1.892 million; Antwerp 961,000 (2009)
(a)	**Government type**	Federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy
	GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)	$419.6 billion (2012 est.)
	GDP real growth rate	-0.2% (2012 est.)

	GDP per capita (PPP)	$38,100 (2012 est.)
	GDP composition by sector	Agriculture: 0.7% Industry: 22.3% Services: 77% (2012 est.)
(b)	GDP per head (PPS)	118.0 (year 2011) (Index, EU27=100)
(c)	Year of EU entry	1952 (Founding member)
	Currency	Member of the eurozone since 1999 (€)
	Schengen area	Member of the Schengen area since 1985
(d)	Pupils and students (ISCED levels 1-6) (1 000)	2.462,3 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 1 (1 000)	736,1 (year 2011)
	Pupils at ISCED level 2 (1 000)	337,5 (year 2011)
	Pupils and students at ISCED level 3 (1 000)	853,3 (year 2011)
	Students at ISCED level 4 (1 000)	73,0 (year 2011)

Source: Original authorship, using data from:

(a) Central Intelligence Agency (2013). *The World Factbook 2013-14*. Washington, DC [Retrieved from: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html]

(b) European Commission (2012). *Country Fact Sheet: Belgium*. Directorate-General Regional Policy. Analysis Unit C3. European Commission [Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/brochures/pages/country2012/index_en.cfm]

(c) European Union (2013). Member states of the EU. European Union [Retrieved from: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm]

(d) Eurostat (2013). Education and training. Pupils and students (tps00051). File: educ_ilev.xls [Retrieved from: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/education/data/main_tables]

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http://aei.pitt.edu/14575/1/Includ-ed_FG_on_Ed_System_in_Belgium.pdf

European Schoolnet (2012). *Survey of Schools: ICT in Education. Country Profile: Belgium.*

https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/sites/digital-genda/files/

Belgium%20country%20profile.pdf

Unicef (2013). *At a Glance: Belgium*.

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/belgium_statistics.html#90

▣ Comunidad alemana

Comunidad alemana de Bélgica

(*Deustchsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens*)

http://www.dg.be/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-2788/5431_read-34851/

▣ Comunidad flamenca

Competences for the knowledge society. ICT in education initiative 2007 - 2009.

(*Competenties voor de Kennismaatschappij . Beleidsplan ICT in het onderwijs 2007-2009*)

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/ict/english/competencies_knowlegde_society.pdf

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/ict/beleid/beleidsplanICT2007-2009.pdf

European Schoolnet. (2013). *Belgium (Flemish Community). Country Report on ICT in Education.*

http://cms.eun.org/shared/data/pdf/belgium(nl)_cr_2013_final_website.pdf

Eurydice. National System National overview on education systems in Europe. Belgium- Flemish Community. 2011 edition.

http://www.vlaanderen.be/en/publications/detail/national-systems-overview-belgium-flemish-community-2011

Flanders.be. Official website of the government of Flanders**.** Education in Flanders. The Flemish educational landscape in a nutshell 2008.

http://www.vlaanderen.be/en/publications/detail/education-in-flanders-the-flemish-educational-landscape-in-a-nutshell-2008

La alfabetización mediática. Documento de síntesis 2012.

(*Conceptnota Mediawijsheid* 2012)

 http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/ict/beleid/conceptnota-mediawijsheid.pdf

Nuevo Plan Estratégico de Alfabetización 2012-2016

(*Advies Plan Geletterdheid 2012-2016*)

http://www.vlor.be/sites/www.vlor.be/files/ar-ar-adv-021.pdf

Plan de Políticas sobre Alfabetización Mediática en Bélgica (comunidad flamenca)

(*Belgium -Flemish speaking community- Media Literacy Policy Plan*)

http://www.european-agency.org/agency-projects/ict4i/country-report-files/Belgium-Flemish-speaking-community-Media-Literacy.pdf/at_download/file

Regional Expertise Network for Flanders REN
(*REN-Vlaanderen*)
http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/ict/english/competencies_knowlegde_society.pdf

The Flemish Education Council VLOR

(*Vlaamse onderwijsraad*)

http://www.vlor.be/

The Flemish Ministry of Education and Training

(Beleidsdomein Onderwijs en Vorming)

http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/wegwijs/

Comunidad francesa

Décret "missions"

http://www.enseignement.be/index.php?page=25230&navi=12

Le Plan Stratégique d'intégration des TIC en Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (2002)

http://www.enseignement.be/index.php?page=26472&navi%3D3218

Portal de l´enseignement en Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

http://enseignement.be/index.php?page=0&navi=815

Socles de compétence

http://www.enseignement.be/index.php?page=24737