



**Flanders**  
State of  
the Art

# Flanders Heritage Agency

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European Network of World Heritage Associations  
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# Belgian Federalised Situation

Belgium has a fully federalised structure for immovable heritage, and therefore also World Heritage.

Immovable heritage and associated policies are managed independently by the three regions: Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels.

Each region has its own legislation, minister, and focal points.

In relation to World Heritage, even though each region is entirely responsible for what happens on its territory, there is some coordination.



# State party to the World Heritage Convention since 1996

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) was founded on Nov 16, 1945

## A CULTURE OF PEACE



The organisation's mandate is to spread peace through **intellectual & moral values**

Headquartered in Paris with over **50 field offices** around the world

It has **195 member states** and 9 associate members

Nov 16 is also celebrated as the **International Day for Tolerance**

Its **"heritage"** tag is much sought after

There are **5 major themes** to all its programmes which include education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture and communication, & information



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**Belgium was relatively late in joining UNESCO's World Heritage Convention in 1996.**

**The delay was mainly due to the federal system and the need to coordinate between the different regions.**

**The first Belgian properties were added to the World Heritage list in 1998.**



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# Flemish World Heritage Overview

**Flanders has 8 World Heritage properties out of Belgium's 16, including several serial and transnational properties.**

**Sites range from historic city centres and beech forests to 1st World War heritage.**

**Flanders plays a vital role in the broader European context of World Heritage through its transnational properties.**



# Absence of an Umbrella Organisation in Flanders



**Flanders currently lacks a central umbrella organisation to coordinate the management of its World Heritage sites.**

**Even serial World Heritage sites do not have formal coordination structures in place, meaning collaboration with foreign counterparts in transnational series currently is ad hoc.**

**The formation of such an organisation is expected to be part of the agenda in the upcoming legislative period.**

# Interim Ad-Hoc Collaborations

**Despite the lack of a formal structure, Flanders engages regularly with counterparts in neighbouring countries, particularly the Netherlands.**

**These collaborations focus on knowledge exchange and specific joint projects, such as translating and promoting UNESCO's Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) guidance.**

**This partnership enhances management practices in both countries and fosters cross-border cooperation.**



Praktijkervaringen met effectbeoordelingen in een werelderfgoedcontext

In gesprek met opdrachtgever en opdrachtnemer

Studiedag | woensdag 26 juni 2024

# Contact

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# Devotion in Motion



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Flanders Heritage Agency is the agency of the Flemish Government that deals with **immovable cultural heritage**, broadly defined as archaeology, built and maritime heritage and cultural landscapes.

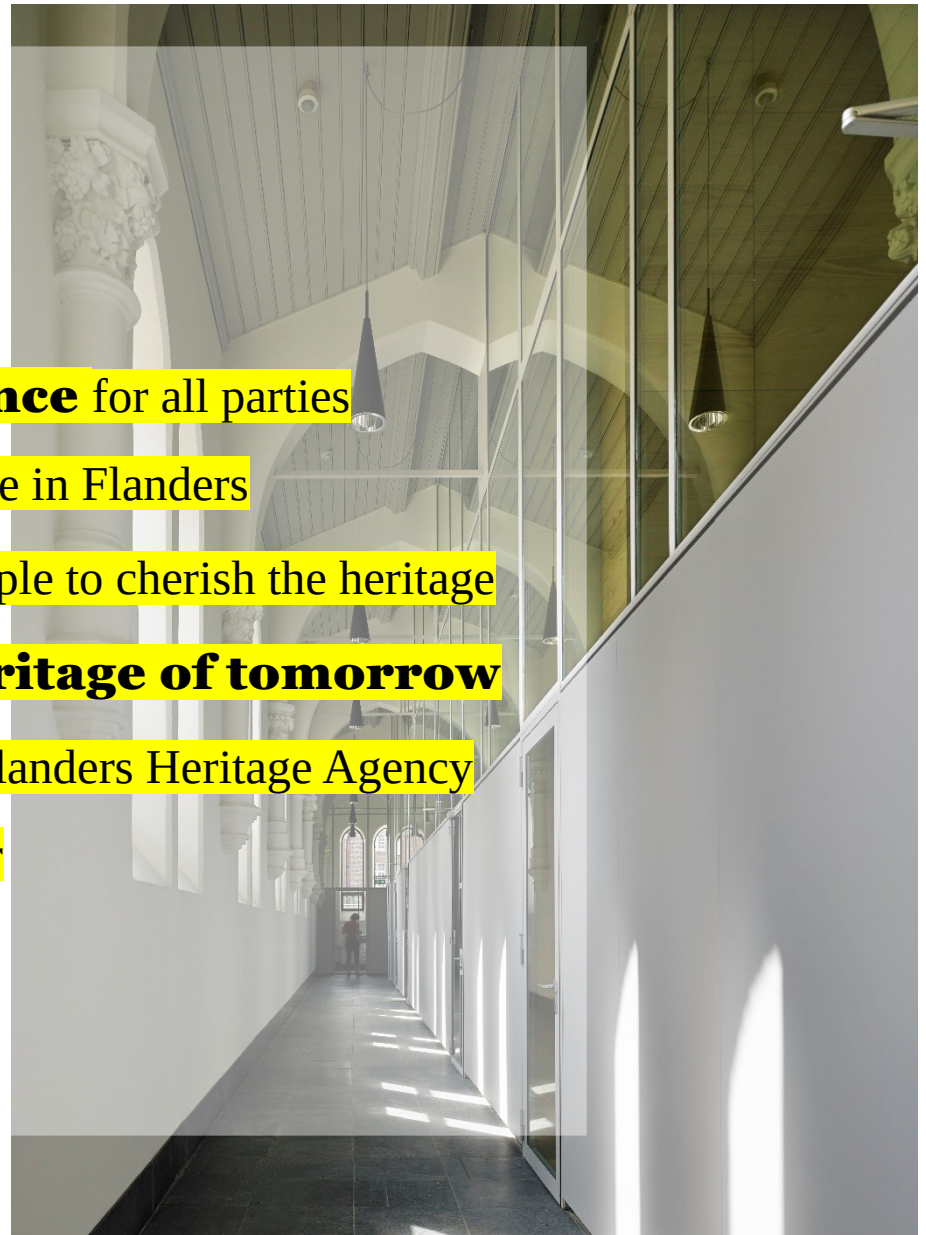
# Our Agency

- **Protects** immovable heritage
- **Supports** its conservation
- Carries out **policy-oriented research** in  
Flanders



# Our Goals

- Provide a **frame of reference** for all parties involved or interested in heritage in Flanders
- **Encourage and help** people to cherish the heritage
- Contribute to building **the heritage of tomorrow**
- **Show the world** that the Flanders Heritage Agency is an interesting heritage partner



# Our protected Heritage



11.404

MONUMENTS

1.553

TOWN AND VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREAS

676

CULTURAL-HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

49

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

33

MARITIME HERITAGE



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# Our Tasks

- Preparing, monitoring, and evaluating the **heritage policy**
- **Researching, cataloguing, and protecting** heritage values
- **Assisting the management** of protected immovable Heritage
- Management of the **heritage depots**
- **Documenting, communicating** and **collaborating**





# Preparing, monitoring, and evaluating the heritage policy

- write policy documents
- formulate suggestions for policy
- write legislation

**monitor.onroenderf**

**goed.be**

Aim: Use knowledge and data to support, advise desired policy and identify any needs, bottlenecks or opportunities



# Researching, cataloguing, and protecting heritage values

Assessing and management-driven  
**research** with the purpose of:

- **cataloguing** and **protecting**
- drawing up heritage building plans
- drawing up manuals
- drawing up assessment frameworks

Aim: Mapping heritage  
values



# Cataloguing

- Drawing up **inventory**  
(after public consultation)
- Making scientific and  
designated inventories public

[inventaris.onroenderfgoed.be](http://inventaris.onroenderfgoed.be)



# Cataloguing

	Elementen	Gehelen	Totaal
Totaal aantal erfgoedobjecten	92509	573	93082
Archeologisch erfgoed	27	198	225
Bouwkundig erfgoed	87652	0	87652
Landschappelijk erfgoed	6171	375	6546
Varend erfgoed	135	0	135




## Assisting the management of protected immovable Heritage

- Admissions and **giving advice** - supporting operations on listed heritage
- Monitoring **reports of archaeological pilot studies** and adopting archaeological memos and memoranda
- Approving management plans and preparing and monitoring immovable heritage directives
- Supporting the management of protected heritage with contributions
- Assisting local authorities



Providing financial assistance for owners of protected heritage monuments and sites



## Accrediting and/or subsidising heritage actors and partners

- Accreditation of:
  - Archaeologists
  - Metal detector operators
- Accreditation and subsidising:
  - Immovable heritage depositories
  - Inter-municipal immovable heritage agencies
  - Immovable heritage municipalities



# Project-based financing

- Synthesis research in archaeology
- Education and public outreach

» Through annual call for proposals

# Management of the heritage depots

- Circa 9000 meters of finds
- Active and preventive conservation
- Support of digs and own archaeological pilot studies



# Documentation

- **Library:**
  - nearly 100,000 books and magazines
  - online catalogue
- **Archives**
- **Geoportal**







# Communicating about our agency and heritage policy in Flanders

- [flandersheritage.be](https://flandersheritage.be)
- Podcast: De Archeotoog
- Active on social media
- External newsletter
- Thematic brochures and folders
- Reports and academic articles
- Info sessions, lectures and study days
- Organization of the Flanders Heritage Prize

# Collaboration

- **Flanders**

- Herita
- CRKC
- Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen
- Parcum
- The Organ in Flanders
- Flemish Heritage Safe
- Cities and municipalities
- VISITFLANDERS
- Spatial Development Department Flanders
- Agency for Nature and Forests
- Universities and research organisations

- **International**

- Council of Europe
- European Commission
- UNESCO

