

REPORT ACTIVITIES BELGIUM

The official authorities producing geographical information and maps are largely defined by the federal structures of the Belgian state. At federal level the national mapping agency is the *Institut Géographique National* (IGN) (<http://www.ign.be>) Beside this Institute other governmental bodies are generating geographical information, such as the former *Institut National de la Statistique* (now FPS Economy - Directorate-general Statistics Belgium, http://statbel.fgov.be/home_en.asp) and the land registry (*Documentation patrimoniale*, <http://minfin.fgov.be>). The *Institut Géographique National* is currently producing maps on a scale of 1 : 10 000, 1 : 20 000, 1 : 50 000, 1 : 100 000 and 1 :250 000. Different special products are also available.

At regional level the regions of the Flemish, the Walloon and Brussels Capital region are responsible for different topics related to the management of the territory and are also producing geographical data. They have also agencies functioning as clearing houses for other public and private administrations in their region. This is for Flanders AGIV (<http://www.agiv.be>), for Brussels Capital region it is *Département Géomatique* of the *Centre d'Informatique de la Région Bruxelloise* (http://www.cibg.irisnet.be/site/fr/departements/geomat/index_htm) and for the Walloon region a coordination is set up for the different cartographic activities by a *Comité Technique Cartographique* (CTC) (<http://cartographie.wallonie.be/NewPortailCarto/index.jsp>) . Besides basic very large scale geographic information all these regional administrations are producing thematic information (e.g. geological maps, hydrographic maps, ...).

Important changes during the last four years where (1) the extension of the use of web cartography by the different institutional partners, (2) the introduction of GPS reference systems covering the three regions by the regional authorities in strong collaboration with IGN, (3) a more intensive collaboration between the different federal administrations involved in cartography and geographical information and (4) the definition by the IGN of a new national cartographic system with a new grid (<http://www.ngi.be/FR/FR2-1-7.shtm>).

The *Third National Atlas of Belgium* is still in production (<http://www.belspo.be/belspo/fedra/prog.asp?l=fr&COD=AT>).

Different academic research laboratories are involved in map production, such as *Laboratoire Surfaces* of *Université Liège* (<http://www.geo.ulg.ac.be/index2.htm#top>), the *Unité d'environnement et géomatique* of *UCLouvain* (http://www.enge.ucl.ac.be/cartes-RDC/index_EN.html) and the *Geography Department* of *Ghent University* (<http://www.geoweb.ugent.be/research/carto.asp>). Other universities, such as *KULeuven* and *ULB* are involved in thematic research and thematic map productions; at the *Cartography and GIS unit* of the *VUB* error modeling and map projection issues are hot items (<http://www.vub.ac.be/DGGF/cgis/research.htm>).

http://www.enge.ucl.ac.be/cartes-RDC/index_EN.html

On the private market different companies are operating, from which especially Tele Atlas came in the picture as a world leader for collecting digital road network information.

Different organizations try to promote the activities of the geographical information community, such as the Belgian sub-commission on cartography and GIS and regional organizations such as Flagis.

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