

External Relations

The province of West Flanders considers investing in good neighbours and distant friends. Of great importance is the collaboration with regions within the European Union and far beyond for many years.

The EE department prepares and implements policies within the scope of its international co-operation.

It always concerns structural co-operation based on a co-operation agreement and/or the implementation of specific projects in the fields of culture, economy, spatial planning, education, etc.

Europe Direct

In order to inform the inhabitants of West Flanders on the European Union, the province of West Flanders has established Europe Direct. It is an active information service to help people find answers to their questions about Europe.

Europe Direct offers free brochures and leaflets on all subjects and policy fields relating to the European Union.

Specific services are provided for primary schools and regularly information activities regarding European subjects are organised for different target groups.



Department of External Relations and European Programmes

Do you have any questions on European financing in the province of West Flanders, do you wish to share a project idea or know more about the regions we co-operate with? Do not hesitate to contact us!

General EE secretariat

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8200 Sint-Andries
T 0032 50 40 34 72,
E extern@west-vlaanderen.be
W www.west-vlaanderen.be/europa

Europe Direct, project database and newsletter of the province of West Flanders

- For general questions regarding Europe, please contact Europe Direct of the province of West Flanders at 0032 50 40 34 82 or europedirect@west-vlaanderen.be.
- Looking for an inspiring example or specific project information? Surf to www.west-vlaanderen.be/projectendatabank. There you will find an overview of all approved projects in the province of West Flanders.
- Keep yourself informed of existing projects and new calls by subscribing to our e-zine 'West Flanders without borders' at www.west-vlaanderen.be/europa.

f www.facebook.com/westvlaanderen
t @provinciewvl
w www.west-vlaanderen.be

Province of West Flanders

Department of External Relations and European Programmes



Testimonials

Thanks to the EE department of the province of West Flanders, the port of Ostend is active in European structural funding programmes. Not only are opportunities for potential projects investigated into depth, the opportunity is also offered to enter into new partnerships. During the implementation, the EE department serves as a committed mentor board which actively guides you in order to solve problems or to lead the realisation of our European projects in a new direction.

**Wim Stubbe, Business Development Manager
AG Port Ostend**

The provincial authorities are an indispensable link in the positive progress of our SUCCES, INSPIRER and DNA projects. From the beginning, the facilitator turned out to be an experienced guide through the maze of administrative rules, priorities on policy level and other information. We have always counted on the province, and the facilitator continued to provide advice and assistance even after submission and approval. Finally, I would like to thank the province for the financial support, both for the co-financing and for the meticulous first level control.

**Piet Lareu, Head of the Public Centres for Social Welfare
of Kortrijk**

Thanks to the co-operation of the EE department we, as a typical rural municipality, were able to thoroughly renovate two meeting places in our sub-municipalities of Houtave and Meetkerke. The co-operation and the payment of the funds went very smoothly. Our sincerest thanks for this support.

Alain De Vlieghe, Mayor of Zuilenkerke



West Flanders without borders

West Flanders looks beyond its borders. This is not only the case for the provincial authorities, but also for organisations, businesses and, last but not least, for the West Flemish people.

Together we face challenges and further develop our contacts with other European regions.

Our ambition for the future is to strengthen our position in Flanders, Europe and even beyond!

European Programmes

The province of West Flanders is an active partner in European programmes.

The external relations and European programmes team supports local authorities and organisations with regard to the development of their European projects and informs potential project implementers on the different possibilities and opportunities Europe has to offer.

The team provides guidance to project leaders during the selection of a programme and the development and submission of a project.

Thanks to our involvement in a number of programmes,

the province furthermore has a clear view of what occurs behind the scenes of these European programmes. It is thus easier for us to identify the opportunities for organisations from our province.

The list below gives an overview of the programmes we are involved in and of the contacts who can point you in the right direction for EU support.

- **ERDF Objective 2**
 - ✉ ellen.cardoen@west-vlaanderen.be
 - ✉ charlotte.destoop@west-vlaanderen.be
- **Interreg Flanders-The Netherlands**
 - ✉ leen.ervinck@west-vlaanderen.be
- **Interreg France-Wallonia-Flanders**
 - ✉ ina.dewasch@west-vlaanderen.be
- **Interreg 2 Seas**
 - Interreg North West Europe
 - Interreg North Sea Region
 - Interreg interregional cooperation
 - ✉ liesbet.lefevere@west-vlaanderen.be
- **Rural Development Programme (Axis 3 and Axis 4)**
 - ✉ kristof.verhoest@west-vlaanderen.be
- **European Fisheries Fund**
 - ✉ stephanie.maes@west-vlaanderen.be
- **Community Action Programmes**
 - ✉ kaatje.gevaert@west-vlaanderen.be