



Belgium

A federal state in the European Union

Motto

'L'Union fait la force - Eendracht maakt macht' [Strength lies in unity]

1830



Geographical situation



Languages



But especially in the cities many more languages
(mainly immigration)

Berber (Marocco)	Arabic (Magreb)	Turkish
Spanish	Portugese	Italian
Greek		
Polish	Russian	Jiddish
English		
Various languages from Central Africa		

Population

Population

11.300.000

6.500.000 in the North (Flanders)

3.600.00 in the South (Walloon region)

1.200.000 in the Brussels region

Population density :363 inhabitants/km²

Far greater in the North than in the South

Ageing population

Life expectancy

♀	82
♂	77

Federal structure

The Regions



Flemish Region



Walloon Region



Brussels Region

Division of the state power

- No hierarchy between federal power and regional powers
 - Conflicts of interest are not easy to settle
 - Need to compromise
 - Delays in decision making
- Growing decentralisation of the power to the regions
 - Great costs but maintaining peace between the regions
 - Especially in Flanders a claim for more autonomy by some political parties
- Result
 - Not so much unity as stated in the official motto