

# Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Belgium

United States Board on Geographic Names – Foreign Names Committee



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## 1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of **Belgium** for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies, and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

## 2. Languages and Language Policy

### a. *Demographics*

There are approximately **11.4 million** people living in Belgium (1 January 2019).<sup>1</sup>

Here is a summary of the population in the country's three linguistic regions:

Region	Population	% of Population
Flanders (Dutch)	6,589,069	58%
Wallonia (French)	3,633,795	32%
German-speaking municipalities	78,000	1%

The population of Belgium has been increasing annually by 0.49%.<sup>2</sup>

### b. *Languages*

Dutch (Flemish), French, and German are the three official languages:<sup>3</sup>

<b>Dutch (Flemish)</b>	ISO 639-3, code 'nld'
<b>French</b>	ISO 639-3, code 'fra'
<b>German</b>	ISO 639-3, code 'deu'

Dutch (Flemish) is official in Flanders (Flemish Region), French is official in Wallonia (Walloon Region), and German is official in nine (9) municipalities in eastern Wallonia. Dutch (Flemish) and French are co-official in the urban municipalities that comprise the Brussels-Capital Region. The list below shows in which administrative division the languages are official. See Appendix E for a graphic map.

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<sup>1</sup> STATBEL, The Belgian Statistical Office: [www.statbel.fgov.be/en](http://www.statbel.fgov.be/en)

<sup>2</sup> STATBEL, The Belgian Statistical Office: [www.statbel.fgov.be/en](http://www.statbel.fgov.be/en)

<sup>3</sup> Belgium.be, Official Information and Services: [www.belgium.be/en](http://www.belgium.be/en)

<b>Dutch (official)</b>
<i>Flemish Region (ADM1)</i>

<b>French (official)</b>
<i>Walloon Region (ADM1)</i>

<b>Dutch / French (co-official)</b>
<i>Brussels-Capital Region (ADM1)</i>

<b>German (official)</b>
<i>Gemeinde Amel (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Büllingen (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Burg-Reuland (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Bütgenbach (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Eupen (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Kelmis (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Lontzen (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Raeren (ADM4)</i>
<i>Gemeinde Sankt Vith (ADM4)</i>

### **c. Geographic Names Standardization**

The **National Geographic Institute (NGI)** is the national mapping agency of Belgium. Its name in Dutch is **Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI)**, and its name in French is **Institut Géographique National (IGN)**. The website is in Dutch and French. [www.ngi.be](http://www.ngi.be)

## **3. Toponymic Policies**

**Dutch (Flemish), French,** and **German** are the country's official languages. **Dutch (Flemish)** is the only official language in Flanders. **French** is the only official language in Wallonia. **German** is the only official language in nine (9) municipalities in Wallonia, which are listed above. **Dutch (Flemish)** and **French** are co-official languages in the Brussels Capital Region, where neither language is officially dominant. Some municipalities along the boundary separating Flanders and Wallonia, as well as the boundary separating the German municipalities and the French municipalities in Wallonia in eastern Belgium, and the boundary separating the Brussels-Capital

Area and Flanders, have protected status for the linguistic minority. Map sources might show features in these municipalities with an additional name in parentheses. These names in parentheses are of the minority language and are to be labeled as variant names and their language identified with their language code.

**a. Orthography**

**Dutch (Flemish)**

Dutch (Flemish) utilizes twenty-six (26) letters of the standard 26-letter Latin alphabet and one (1) one with diacritic. See also section ‘C. Diacritics’ for their Unicode values.

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j  
 K k L l M m N n O o P p Q q R r S s  
 T t U u V v W w X x Y y Z z Ę ę

**French**

French utilizes all letters of the standard 26-letter Latin alphabet, twenty (20) letters with diacritics, and two (2) ligatures. See also section ‘C. Diacritics’ for their Unicode values.

A a	B b	C c	D d	E e	F f	G g	H h	I i	J j	K k	L l	M m	
N n	O o	P p	Q q	R r	S s	T t	U u	V v	W w	X x	Y y	Z z	
À à	Â â	Ç ç	È è	É é	Ê ê	Ë ë	Ì ì	Í í	Î î	Ï ï	Ò ò	Ó ó	
Ô ô	Ö ö	Ù ù	Ú ú	Û û	Ü ü	ÿ	Æ æ	Œ œ					

**German**

German utilizes all letters of the standard 26-letter Latin alphabet, three (3) letters with diacritics, and one (1) ligature. See also section ‘C. Diacritics’ for their Unicode values.

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j K k L l M m  
 N n O o P p Q q R r S s T t U u V v W w X x Y y Z z  
 Ä ä Ö ö Ü ü ß

Following standard English lexical practice and BGN precedent, names and terms appearing in lists and tables henceforward are listed in English alphabetical order.

**b. Romanization**

Romanization is not required.

**c. Diacritics**

The following diacritics appear in geographic names:

**Dutch (Flemish):**

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
E with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ë	00CB
E with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ë	00EB

**French:**

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
A with grave above, Latin capital letter	À	00C0
A with grave above, Latin small letter	à	00E0
A with circumflex above, Latin capital letter	Â	00C2
A with circumflex above, Latin small letter	â	00E2
E with grave above, Latin capital letter	È	00C8
E with grave above, Latin small letter	è	00E8
E with acute above, Latin capital letter	É	00C9
E with acute above, Latin small letter	é	00E9
E with circumflex above, Latin capital letter	Ê	00CA
E with circumflex above, Latin small letter	ê	00EA
E with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ë	00CB
E with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ë	00EB
I with grave above, Latin capital letter	Ì	00CC
I with grave above, Latin small letter	ì	00EC
I with acute above, Latin capital letter	Í	00CD
I with acute above, Latin small letter	í	00ED

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
I with circumflex above, Latin capital letter	Î	00CE
I with circumflex above, Latin small letter	î	00EE
I with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ï	00CF
I with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ï	00EF
O with grave above, Latin capital letter	Ò	00D2
O with grave above, Latin small letter	ò	00F2
O with acute above, Latin capital letter	Ó	00D3
O with acute above, Latin small letter	ó	00F3
O with circumflex above, Latin capital letter	Ô	00D4
O with circumflex above, Latin small letter	ô	00F4
O with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ö	00D6
O with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ö	00F6
U with grave above, Latin capital letter	Ù	00D9
U with grave above, Latin small letter	ù	00F9
U with acute above, Latin capital letter	Ú	00DA
U with acute above, Latin small letter	ú	00FA
U with circumflex above, Latin capital letter	Û	00DB
U with circumflex above, Latin small letter	û	00FB
U with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ü	00DC
U with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ü	00FC
Y with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ÿ	00FF
AE ligature, Latin capital letter	Æ	00C6

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
AE ligature, Latin small letter	æ	00E6
OE ligature, Latin capital letter	Œ	0152
OE ligature, Latin small letter	œ	0153

**German:**

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
A with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ä	00C4
A with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ä	00E4
O with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ö	00D6
O with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ö	00F6
U with dieresis above, Latin capital letter	Ü	00DC
U with dieresis above, Latin small letter	ü	00FC
SS with ligature, Latin small letter	ß	00DF

**d. Generics and Abbreviations**

A **generic** is a term in a geographic name that describes a feature. Generics are used often. Be aware that a generic found in a name of a populated place, however, such as ‘berg’ (‘hill’) in the populated place name ‘Wolvenberg’, is not a generic, but rather a false generic and must not be identified as a generic. A few common generics are below:

Dutch (Flemish)	French	English
<i>Bos</i>	<i>Bois</i>	Forest
<i>Beek</i>	<i>Rivière</i>	Stream
<i>Hof</i>	<i>Ferme</i>	Farm

A glossary of generics in geographic names is in Appendix A.

**Abbreviations** in geographic names must be written out in the GNDB:

Abbreviated Name	Expanded Name
<i>St.-Juliaan</i>	<i>Sint-Juliaan</i>
<i>St.-Denis</i>	<i>Saint-Denis</i>

Abbreviated Name	Expanded Name
<i>Kast.</i> van Binderveld	<i>Kasteel</i> van Binderveld
<i>Chât.</i> de Lassus	<i>Château</i> de Lassus

A comprehensive list of abbreviations of generics and other terms (modifiers, descriptors, etc.), commonly found on maps and charts, is in Appendix B.

### ***Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling***

When spelling geographic names, extract names as they are shown on current, authoritative maps.

Some guidelines, particularly applicable to understanding geographic names, include the following:

**Capitalization.** Names begin with a capital letter.

**Names with generics.** Proper names will be separated from a generic or attached to a generic. Dutch (Flemish) and German names commonly have attached generics at the end. French names commonly have separated generics. The separated generic is commonly at the beginning of the name and begins with a capital letter.

Separated Generic (French)	Attached Generic (Dutch/Flemish) / German
<i>Eau</i> de Spa	Schamperijbeek / Getzbach
<i>Bois</i> des Valises	Vroenenbos / Katharinenbusch

**Adjectivals.** Any format is possible. Names consisting of *adjectives* are compounded, hyphenated, or separated:

Adjective attached (Dutch)	Adjective hyphenated (Dutch)	Adjective separated (Dutch)
<i>Nieuw</i> poort	<i>Nieuw</i> -Limburg	<i>Nieuwe</i> Koerswijk
<i>Oude</i> kapelle	<i>Oud</i> -Gooreind	<i>Oude</i> Kerk
Adjective attached (French)	Adjective hyphenated (French)	Adjective separated (French)
<i>Vieux</i> ville	<i>Vieux</i> -Gauchy	<i>Vieux</i> Sart
<i>Haut</i> bise	<i>Haut</i> -Fays	<i>Haut</i> Donjon
Adjective attached (German)	Adjective hyphenated (German)	Adjective separated (German)
<i>Neuen</i> bend	<i>Neu</i> -Moresnet	<i>Hohes</i> Venn
<i>Ober</i> forstbach	<i>Alt</i> -Hatlich	<i>Oberste</i> Heide

A list of adjectives found in geographic names is in Appendix C.

**Hyphens.** A hyphen in a name is common. It is used in at least five (5) situations:

- to separate two proper names to form one name
- to tie the adjective ‘Sint’ with the proper name or names that follow it
- to tie, sometimes, an adjective with a proper name
- to tie a proper name of a coastal populated place with the generic ‘Bad’
- to tie, sometimes, the parts of a long-form name that can include a preposition and definite article

Name-Name	‘Sint’/‘Saint’-Name	Adjective-Name	Coastal Name-‘Bad’	Parts of Name
Waterland-Oudeman	Sint-Laureins	Oud-Heverlee	Westende-Bad	Kapelle-op-den-Bos
Hamont-Achel	Sint-Jan-in-Eremo	Kleine-Brogel	Nieuwpoort-Bad	Herk-de-Stad
Aiseau-Presles	Saint-Denis	Vieux-Waleffe		Fresnes-sur-Escaut
Fontaine-l’Évêque	Saint-Jean-Sart	Petit-Lanaye		Villers-la-Ville

**e. Numbers**

Geographic names containing numerals as integral parts, both cardinal and ordinal, should be treated according to the following BGN principles:

- Arabic numerals are expanded
- Roman numerals are expanded, except for royalty names:

Numerical Name	Expanded Numerical Name
Kanaaldok B2	Kanaaldok B <i>Twee</i>
2. Havendok	<i>Tweede</i> Havendok
Avenue Albert Ier	Avenue Albert Ier (Not: Avenue Albert <i>Premier</i> )

Add the numeric form as a variant name in the GNDB. For royalty names, add the expanded name as a variant name in the GNDB.

Below is a reference for the spelling of cardinal and ordinal numbers:

Cardinal	Dutch / French	Ordinal	Dutch / French
1.	Een / Un	1st	Eerste / Premier
2.	Twee / Deux	2nd	Tweede / Deuxième
3.	Drie / Trois	3rd	Derde / Troisième
4.	Vier / Quatre	4th	Vierde / Quatrième

<b>Cardinal</b>	<b>Dutch / French</b>	<b>Ordinal</b>	<b>Dutch / French</b>
5.	Vijf / Cinq	5th	Vijfde / Cinquième
6.	Zes / Six	6th	Zesde / Sixième
7.	Zeven / Sept	7th	Zevende / Septième
8.	Acht / Huit	8th	Achtste / Huitième
9.	Negen / Neuf	9th	Negende / Neuvième
10.	Tien / Dix	10th	Tiende / Dixième
11.	Elf / Onze	11th	Elfde / Onzième
12.	Twaalf / Douze	12th	Twaalfde / Douzième
13.	Dertien / Treize	13th	Dertiende / Treizième
14.	Veertien / Quatorze	14th	Veertiende / Quatorzième
15.	Vijftien / Quinze	15th	Vijftiende / Quinzième
16.	Zestien / Seize	16th	Zestiende / Seizième
17.	Zeventien / Dix-sept	17th	Zeventiende / Dix-septième
18.	Achttien / Dix-huit	18th	Achttiende / Dix-huitième
19.	Negentien / Dix-neuf	19th	Negentiende / Dix-neuvième
20.	Twintig / Vingt	20th	Twintigste / Vingtième
21.	Eenentwintig / Vingt et un	21st	Eenentwintigste / Vingt et unième
22.	Tweeëntwintig / Vingt-deux	22nd	Tweeëntwintigste / Vingt-deuxième
30.	Dertig / Trente	30th	Dertigste / Trentième
40.	Veertig / Quarante	40th	Veertigste / Quarantième
50.	Vijftig / Cinquante	50th	Vijftigste / Cinquantième
60.	Zestig / Soixante	60th	Zestigste / Soixantième
70.	Zeventig / Septante*	70th	Zeventigste / Septantième*
80.	Tachtig / Huitante*	80th	Tachtigste / Huitantième*
90.	Negentig / Nonante*	90th	Negentigste / Nonantième*
100.	Honderd / Cent	100th	Honderdste / Centième

Numbers marked with ‘\*’ are Belgian French versions and not standard French.

### **f. Short and Long Forms**

Short and long forms of geographic names are commonly used with administrative divisions:

Name	Form	Rank
Vlaams-Brabant	Dutch (Flemish) short form	1
Provincie Vlaams-Brabant	Dutch (Flemish) long form	2
Brabant Wallon	French short form	1
Province Brabant Wallon	French long form	2
Amel	German short form	1
Gemeinde Amel	German long form	2

The short forms are usually shown on maps. Long forms are usually shown on lists of names. Both short and long forms are approved. In most instances, the short form is cartographically preferred and should, therefore, be ranked as the primary name. Most other features have one approved geographic name form.

### **g. Language Codes**

The language codes are to be used for identifying the language of any approved name in the Belgium file. Language codes are not necessary for variant names. Identifying the language of a variant name of a major feature, however, such as *Flandre* (fra) for the region of *Vlaanderen* (nld), is helpful.

Language	Language Code (ISO 639-3)
Dutch (Flemish)	<i>nld</i>
French	<i>fra</i>
German	<i>deu</i>

## 4. Political Geography Policy

### a. Country Name

Name Type	Name
Conventional short form	Belgium
Conventional long form	Kingdom of Belgium
Approved Dutch (Flemish) short form	België
Approved Dutch (Flemish) long form	Koninkrijk België
Approved French short form	Belgique
Approved French long form	Royaume de Belgique
Approved German short form	Belgien
Approved German long form	Königreich Belgien

### b. Capital Name

Name Type	Name
Approved conventional form	Brussels
Approved Dutch (Flemish) form	Brussel
Approved French form	Bruxelles
Approved German form	Brüssel

### c. Administrative Division Structure

Belgium is divided into four (4) levels of administration:

Administrative Level	English	Dutch (Flemish)	French	German
1 <sup>st</sup> -order administrative division (ADM1)	Region	Gewest	Région	Region
2 <sup>nd</sup> -order administrative division (ADM2)	Province	Provincie	Province	Province
3 <sup>rd</sup> -order administrative division (ADM3)	District	Arrondissement	Arrondissement	Bezirk
4 <sup>th</sup> -order administrative division (ADM4)	Municipality	Gemeente	Commune	Gemeinde

### d. First-order Administrative Divisions (ADM1s)

The first-order administrative divisions (ADM1) are the regions (Gewest / Région). Belgium has three (3) ADM1s:

ADM1 Name	GEC (FIPS)	GENC (ISO)	Seat
Brussels-Capital Region Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest (nld) Bruxelles-Capitale (fra) Région de Bruxelles-Capitale (fra)	BE11	EE-37	Brussels
Flanders Flemish Region Vlaanderen (nld) Vlaams Gewest (nld)	BE13	EE-39	Brussels
Wallonia Walloon Region Wallonie (fra) Région Wallonne (fra)	BE14	EE-44	Namur

For a reference map of the first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s), see Appendix D.

**e. Conventional and Anglicized Variant Names**

The Belgium country file in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) contains conventional names, but no Anglicized variant names. Conventional names are usually preferred over native names for small-scale purposes. Additional conventional names, modified conventional names, and Anglicized variant names require BGN's Foreign Names Committee (FNC) approval.

Conventional Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Antwerp	-1953257	-2725089	PPLA2
Belgium	-1954041	14052081	PCLI
Bruges	-1955473	18915036	PPLA2
Brussels	-1955538	-2728208	PPLC
Brussels-Capital Region	-1955537	6088752	ADM1
Flanders	6237688	6262357	ADM1
Flemish Region	6237688	6262350	ADM1
Kingdom of Belgium	-1954041	-2726152	PCLI
Ostend	-1966651	-2743952	PPLA3

Conventional Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Wallonia	6237687	6262352	ADM1
Walloon Region	6237687	6262349	ADM1

**f. Unique Geopolitical Situations (Exclaves and enclaves, disputed territories and names, undesignated sovereignty)**

For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, consult the U.S. Department of State’s Office of the Geographer and Global Issues: <internationalboundaries@state.gov>

**Exclaves**

There is one (1) fragmented Belgian exclave inside the Netherlands:

- *Baarle-Hertog* (ADM4)      Vlaams Gewest      (BE13)

**Enclaves**

There are five (5) German enclaves within Belgium:

- *Münsterbildchen* (LCTY)      Nordrhein-Westfalen (GM07)
- *Mützenich* (PPL)      Nordrhein-Westfalen (GM07)
- *Roetgener Wald* (PPLX)      Nordrhein-Westfalen (GM07)
- *Rückschlag* (FRM)      Nordrhein-Westfalen (GM07)
- *Ruitzhof* (PPL)      Nordrhein-Westfalen (GM07)

**Disputed Territories and Names**

None

**Undesignated Sovereignty**

None

**5. Source Material**

The following sources are recommended:

**a. Online**

**Belgium.be.** This source is the official information and services website of the Belgian government. Languages: English, Dutch (Flemish), French, and German

[www.belgium.be/en](http://www.belgium.be/en)

The **National Geographic Institute (NGI)**. This source is Belgium’s official mapping agency. Its name in Dutch (Flemish) is **Nationaal Geografisch Instituut – NGI** and in French is **Institut Geographique National – IGN**. The institute is not responsible for geographic names, but it does

promote standardization of geographic names that the **Royal Commission for Toponymy and Dialectology (RCTD)** establishes.<sup>4</sup> Languages: Dutch (Flemish) and French

[www.ngi.be](http://www.ngi.be)

**Statbel – Belgium in Figures.** This source is the country’s official statistical agency. Languages: English, Dutch (Flemish), French, and German

[www.statbel.fgov.be/en](http://www.statbel.fgov.be/en)

### **b. Hardcopy maps and charts**

The **National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Belgium** produces official maps over the country. These include the following map series:

Map Scale	Series Name	Production Years
1:20,000	<i>Topographic Map</i>	1990-2004
1:25,000	M836	1997-2005
1:50,000	M736 & M737	1975-2017
1:100,000	M633 & M634	1986-2006
1:250,000	M534 & TFCL	1987-2017

**Afdeling Kust** is the Belgian, specifically Flemish, Coastal Division for hydrographic information. To see an index of charts, select ‘Publications.’ Languages: Dutch (Flemish), English, French, and German

[www.afdelingkust.be/en](http://www.afdelingkust.be/en)

**Topografische Atlas België / Atlas Topographique Belgique** is an atlas produced by the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of Belgium and has a scale of 1:50,000. It was produced in 2003. Languages: Dutch (Flemish) and French

### **c. Reference texts**

**INT 1 International Chart Series: Symbols, Abbreviations, Terms Used on Charts – Belgium, 2017**, is available as a downloadable publication from the website of the Belgian (Flemish) Coastal Division for hydrographic information - Afdeling Kust, which is shown above.

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<sup>4</sup> **Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use, Belgium**, Working Paper No. 93, produced by Kathleen Van Doren, National Geographic Institute – NGI for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at the 25<sup>th</sup> session in Nairobi, Kenya, 5-12 May 2009.

**Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use, Belgium**, Working Paper No. 93, produced by Kathleen Van Doren, National Geographic Institute – NGI for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at the 25th session in Nairobi, Kenya, May 5-12, 2009.

## Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

### *Dutch (Flemish)*

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Abdij</i>	Convent, Monastery	CVNT, MSTY
<i>Akkerland</i>	Cultivated area	CULT
<i>Arrondissement</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> -order administrative division, district	ADM3
<i>Baach</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Baai</i>	Cove	COVE
<i>Bank, banken, bankje</i>	Bank, shoal, tidal flat	BNK, SHOL, FLTT
<i>Bassin</i>	Dock	DCK
<i>Beek</i>	Ditch, stream	DTCH, STM
<i>Begraafplaats</i>	Cemetery	CMTY
<i>Bekken</i>	Reservoir	RSV
<i>Berg</i>	Dune, hill	DUNE, HLL
<i>Bergen</i>	Dunes, hills	DUNE, HLLS
<i>Bol, bollen</i>	Mound, shoal	MND, SHOL
<i>Bos, Bosch</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Bossen</i>	Forests	FRST
<i>Brandweer</i>	Fire station	FIRE
<i>Broek</i>	Marsh, pond	MRSH, PND
<i>Brug</i>	Bridge	BDG
<i>Bruggen</i>	Bridges	BDG
<i>Bult</i>	Shoal, tidal flat	SHOL, FLTT
<i>Burg</i>	Castle	CSTL

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Busch</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Dam</i>	Dam	DAM
<i>Diep</i>	Channel, marine channel	CHN, CHNM
<i>Dijk</i>	Dike	DIKE
<i>Dok</i>	Dock	DCK
<i>Duin</i>	Dune	DUNE
<i>Duin, duinen</i>	Dunes	DUNE
<i>Eiland</i>	Island	ISL
<i>Fort, Fortje</i>	Fort	FT
<i>Gaat, gaatje</i>	Marine channel	CHNM
<i>Gat</i>	Canal, channel, tidal creek	CNL, CHN, CRKT
<i>Gebouw</i>	Building, buildings	BLDG
<i>Geleed</i>	Ditch	DTCH
<i>Gemeente</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> -order administrative division, municipality	ADM4
<i>Gemeentehuis</i>	Administrative facility (city hall)	ADMF
<i>Geul</i>	Channel, marine channel, navigation channel, tidal creek	CHN, CHNM, CHNN, CRKT
<i>Gewest</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> -order administrative division, region	ADM1
<i>Golfbreker</i>	Breakwater	BRKW
<i>Gracht</i>	Canal, ditch, stream	CNL, DTCH, STM
<i>Groeve</i>	Quarry	MNQR
<i>Gronden</i>	Bank, shoal, tidal flat	BNK, SHOL, FLTT
<i>Hart</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Haven</i>	Dock, harbor	DCK, HBR

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Havendok</i>	Dock	DCK
<i>Havenhoofd</i>	Pier	PIER
<i>Havn</i>	Cove	COVE
<i>Heide</i>	Dune, forest, heath, meadow	DUNE, FRST, HTH, MDW
<i>Heuvel</i>	Dune, hill	DUNE, HLL
<i>Hinder</i>	Shoal	SHOL
<i>Hoek</i>	Point	PT
<i>Hof</i>	Farm	FRM
<i>Hooft</i>	Point	PT
<i>Hout</i>	Forest, marsh	FRST, MRSH
<i>Hoeve</i>	Farm	FRM
<i>Hoeven</i>	Farms	FRM
<i>Huis</i>	House	HSE
<i>Jachthaven</i>	Marina	MAR
<i>Kaai</i>	Quay	QUAY
<i>Kade</i>	Quay	QUAY
<i>Kanaal</i>	Canal, canalized stream	CNL, STMC
<i>Kapel, kapelle</i>	Church	CH
<i>Kasteel</i>	Castle, country house	CSTL, HSEC
<i>Kerk, Kerke</i>	Church	CH
<i>Kliniek</i>	Clinic	HSPC
<i>Klooster</i>	Convent, Monastery	CVNT, MSTY
<i>Koninkrijk</i>	Independent political entity, kingdom	PCLI

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Kop</i>	Island	ISL
<i>Kreek</i>	Lake, pond, stream	LK, PND, STM
<i>Krib</i>	Jetty	JTY
<i>Laan</i>	street (avenue)	ST
<i>Land</i>	Area region	AREA, RGN
<i>Landhuis</i>	Country house	HSEC
<i>Lede</i>	Ditch	DTCH
<i>Leed</i>	Ditch, stream	DTCH, STM
<i>Loop</i>	Ditch, stream	DTCH, STM
<i>Luchthaven</i>	Airport	AIRP
<i>Marinehaven</i>	Naval harbor	HBR
<i>Meer</i>	Lake, reservoir	LK, RSV
<i>Moer</i>	Marsh	MRSH
<i>Moeren</i>	marshes	MRSH
<i>Molen</i>	Mill	ML
<i>Natuurreserveaat</i>	Nature reserve	RESN
<i>Nauw</i>	Marine channel, narrows	CHNM, NRWS
<i>Overloop</i>	Marine channel	CHNM
<i>Paleis</i>	Palace	PAL
<i>Pas</i>	Marine channel, navigation channel, pass	CHNM, CHNN, PASS
<i>Plaat, platen</i>	Shoal, tidal flat	SHOL, FLTT
<i>Plas</i>	Lake, pond	LK, PND
<i>Polder</i>	Polder	PLDR

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Poort</i>	Port	PRT
<i>Provincie</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> -order administrative division, province	ADM2
<i>Put</i>	Marsh, well	MRSH
<i>Putten</i>	Marshes, wells	MRSH
<i>Rak</i>	Marine channel	CHNM
<i>Rassen</i>	Shoal	SHOL
<i>Ratel</i>	Shoal	SHOL
<i>Rede</i>	Anchorage, roadstead	ANCH, RDST
<i>Rivier</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Rug</i>	Shoal, tidal flat	SHOL, FLTT
<i>Ruïne</i>	Ruin	RUIN
<i>Schaar</i>	Marine channel, tidal flat	CHNM, FLTT
<i>Schans</i>	Fort	FT
<i>School</i>	School	SCH
<i>Schor</i>	Tidal flat	FLTT
<i>Slikken</i>	Mud flat, tidal flat	FLTM, FLTT
<i>Sloot</i>	Ditch	DTCH
<i>Sluis, sluisen</i>	Lock, sluice	LOCK, SLCE
<i>Spuikanaal</i>	Sluice race	SLCE
<i>Station</i>	Railroad station	RSTN
<i>Steengroeve, steengroeven</i>	Quarry	MNQR
<i>Steiger</i>	Landing, pier	LDNG, PIER
<i>Straat, straatje</i>	Road, strait, street	RD, STRT, ST

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Strand</i>	Beach	BCH
<i>Stroom</i>	Channel, stream	CHN, STM
<i>Toren</i>	Tower	TOWR
<i>Tunnel</i>	Tunnel	TNL
<i>Vaargeul</i>	Channel (navigation)	CHNN
<i>Vaart</i>	Canal, ditch, dock	CNL, DTCH, DCK
<i>Vaarwater</i>	Marine channel, navigation channel	CHNM, CHNN
<i>Veld</i>	Field	FLD
<i>Ven, Venn</i>	Marsh	MRSH
<i>Verbindingskanaal</i>	Canal	CNL
<i>Verdronken Land</i>	Tidal flat	FLTT
<i>Vishallen</i>	Fish hall	MKT
<i>Vijver</i>	Pond, reservoir	PND, RSV
<i>Vlakte</i>	Shoal, tidal flat	SHOL, FLTT
<i>Vliegveld</i>	Airfield, airport	AIRF, AIRP
<i>Vliet</i>	Ditch, stream	DTCH, STM
<i>Voorhaven</i>	Dock	DCK
<i>Vuurtoren</i>	Lighthouse	LTHSE
<i>Waard</i>	Tidal flat	FLTT
<i>Wad</i>	Tidal flat	FLTT
<i>Wal</i>	Seawall	WALL
<i>Water</i>	Lake, marsh, pond	LK, MRSH, PND
<i>Watergang</i>	Ditch, stream	DTCH, STM

Dutch (Flemish) Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Waterloop</i>	Ditch	DTCH
<i>Waterweg</i>	Canal, navigation channel	CNL, CHNN
<i>Weel</i>	Pond, reservoir	PND, RSV
<i>Wijd</i>	Marine channel	CHNM
<i>Windmolen</i>	Windmill	MLWND
<i>Zand</i>	Island, sand area, shoal	ISL, SAND, SHOL
<i>Zandgroeve</i>	Quarry (sand)	MNQR
<i>Zee</i>	Sea	SEA
<i>Zeearm</i>	Estuary	ESTY
<i>Zeegat</i>	Inlet	INLT
<i>Zeewering</i>	Wharf	WHRF
<i>Zijkanaal</i>	Canal	CNL

## **French**

French Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Abbaye</i>	Convent, Monastery	CVNT, MSTY
<i>Aérodrome militaire</i>	Airfield (military)	AIRF
<i>Aéroport</i>	Airport	AIRP
<i>Arrondissement</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> -order administrative division, district	ADM3
<i>Barrage</i>	Dam	DAM
<i>Bassin</i>	Dock	DCK
<i>Bois</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Bras</i>	Anabranh	STMA
<i>Camp</i>	Camp	CMP

<b>French Generic</b>	<b>Feature Designation Name</b>	<b>Feature Designation Code</b>
<i>Canal</i>	Canal	CNL
<i>Carrefour</i>	Road junction	RDJCT
<i>Carrière</i>	Quarry (rock)	MNQR
<i>Cascade</i>	Waterfall	FLLS
<i>Chapelle</i>	Church	CH
<i>Château</i>	Castle, country house	CSTL, HSEC
<i>Chemin</i>	Trail	TRL
<i>Cimetière</i>	Cemetery	CMTY
<i>Clinique</i>	Clinic	HSPC
<i>Col</i>	Pass	PASS
<i>Colline</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Colonne</i>	Monument	MNMT
<i>Commune</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> -order administrative division, municipality	ADM4
<i>Couvent</i>	Convent	CVNT
<i>Digue</i>	Dike	DIKE
<i>Domaine</i>	Estate	EST
<i>Eau</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Écluse</i>	Lock	LOCK
<i>Église</i>	Church	CH
<i>Embouchure</i>	Estuary, stream mouth	ESTY, STMM
<i>Étang</i>	Lake, marsh, pond	LK, MRSH, PND
<i>Étier</i>	Canal, drainage ditch	CNL, DTCHD
<i>Fagne</i>	Marsh	MRSH

French Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Falaise, falaises</i>	Cliff, cliffs	CLF
<i>Ferme</i>	Farm	FRM
<i>Fleuve</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Fontaine</i>	Spring	SPNG
<i>Forêt</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Fort</i>	Fort	FT
<i>Gare</i>	Railroad station	RSTN
<i>Grotte</i>	Cave	CAVE
<i>Hôtel</i>	Hotel	HTL
<i>Île</i>	Island	ISL
<i>Lac</i>	Lake, pond, reservoir	LK, PND, RSV
<i>Maison</i>	House	HSE
<i>Maison communale</i>	Administrative facility (city hall)	ADMF
<i>Marais</i>	Marsh, swamp	MRSH, SWMP
<i>Marécage</i>	Marsh	MRSH
<i>Mine</i>	Mine	MN
<i>Mont, Montagne, Monte</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Morne</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Moulin</i>	Mill, windmill	ML, MLWND
<i>Musée</i>	Museum	MUS
<i>Parc</i>	Park	PRK
<i>Parc national</i>	National park	PRK
<i>Parc naturel</i>	Nature park	PRK

French Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Pas</i>	Pass	PASS
<i>Phare</i>	Lighthouse	LTHSE
<i>Pic</i>	Peak	PK
<i>Piton</i>	Peak	PK
<i>Place</i>	Square	SQR
<i>Pompiers</i>	Fire station	FIRE
<i>Pont</i>	Bridge	BDG
<i>Province</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> -order administrative division, province	ADM2
<i>Rapides</i>	Rapids	RPDS
<i>Région</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> -order administrative division, region	ADM1
<i>Réserve naturelle</i>	Nature reserve	RESN
<i>Réservoir</i>	Reservoir	RSV
<i>Retenue</i>	reservoir	RSV
<i>Rivière</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Roc, Roche, Roches</i>	Rock, rock, rocks	RK, RKS
<i>Route</i>	Road	RD
<i>Royaume</i>	Independent political entity, kingdom	PCLI
<i>Ruine</i>	Ruin	RUIN
<i>Ruisseau</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Ry</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Sablière</i>	Quarry (sand)	MNQR
<i>Saut</i>	Rapids, waterfall	RPDS, FLLS
<i>Stade</i>	Stadium	STDM

French Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Tour</i>	Tower	TOWR
<i>Trou</i>	Cave	CAVE
<i>Vallon</i>	Valley	VAL
<i>Villa</i>	House	HSE
<i>Virée</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Vivier</i>	Pond, reservoir	PND, RSV
<i>Zone industrielle</i>	Industrial area	INDS

### **German**

German Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Abtei</i>	Convent, monastery	CVNT, MSTY
<i>Bach</i>	Stream	STM
<i>Bauernhaus</i>	Farm	FRM
<i>Berg</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Busch</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Dorf</i>	Village	PPL
<i>Erholungsheim</i>	Convalescence facility	FCL
<i>Feuerwehr</i>	Fire station	FIRE
<i>Friedhof</i>	Cemetery	CMTY
<i>Garten</i>	Forest, garden	FRST, GDN
<i>Gemeinde</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> -order administrative division, municipality	ADM4
<i>Grenzübergang</i>	Border crossing	PSTB
<i>Grube</i>	Quarry	MNQR
<i>Heide</i>	Heath, meadow	HTH, MDW

German Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
<i>Hof</i>	Farm	FRM
<i>Höhe</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Hütte</i>	Hut	HUT
<i>Hüvel</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Kapelle</i>	Church	CH
<i>Klinik</i>	Clinic	HSPC
<i>Kloster</i>	Convent, monastery	CVNT, MSTY
<i>Knopf</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Kopf</i>	Hill	HLL
<i>Krankenhaus</i>	Hospital	HSP
<i>Kurhaus, Kurort</i>	Spa	SPA
<i>Leuchtturm</i>	Lighthouse	LTHSE
<i>Mühle</i>	Mill	ML
<i>Naturschutzgebiet</i>	Nature reserve	RESN
<i>Naturschutzpark</i>	Nature reserve	RESN
<i>Rathaus</i>	Administrative facility (city hall)	ADMF
<i>Ruine</i>	Ruin	RUIN
<i>Sandgrube</i>	Quarry (sand)	MNQR
<i>Schloss, Schloß</i>	Castle	CSTL
<i>Schule</i>	School	SCH
<i>See</i>	Lake	LK
<i>Stadtgemeinde</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> -order administrative division, municipality	ADM4
<i>Stausee</i>	Lake	LK

<b>German Generic</b>	<b>Feature Designation Name</b>	<b>Feature Designation Code</b>
<i>Steinbruch</i>	Quarry (rock)	MNQR
<i>Turm</i>	Tower	TOWR
<i>Venn</i>	Forest, marsch, moor	FRST, MRSH, MOOR
<i>Wald</i>	Forest	FRST
<i>Weiher</i>	Pond	PND

## Appendix B. List of Abbreviations

The following list of abbreviations is useful for the understanding geographic names on Belgian maps:

### **Dutch (Flemish)**

<b>Dutch Abbreviation</b>	<b>(Flemish)</b>	<b>Dutch (Flemish) Equivalent</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
<i>Ab.</i>		Abdij	Convent, Monastery
<i>a/d</i>		aan de, aan den	At the, on the
<i>Bw.</i>		Brandweer	Fire station
<i>Gh.</i>		Gemeentehuis	Administrative facility (city hall)
<i>Gr.</i>		Groot	Big
<i>Gr.</i>		Gracht	Canal, ditch
<i>Hn.</i>		Haven	Harbor
<i>Hve.</i>		Hoeve	Farm
<i>Kan.</i>		Kanaal	Canal
<i>Kap.</i>		Kapel	Church
<i>Kast.</i>		Kasteel	Castle
<i>Kl.</i>		Klein, kleine	Little
<i>Kl.</i>		Kliniek	Clinic
<i>Kler.</i>		Klooster	Convent, Monastery
<i>Mol.</i>		Molen	Mill
<i>N.</i>		Noord	North
<i>Nat.</i>		National	National
<i>Nw., nwe.</i>		Nieuw, nieuwe	New
<i>O.</i>		Oost	East
<i>'s</i>		Des	Of the
<i>Sch.</i>		School	School
<i>St.</i>		Sint	Saint
<i>Stgve.</i>		Steengroeve	Quarry
<i>'t</i>		Het	the
<i>W.</i>		West	West
<i>Z.</i>		Zuid	South

Dutch (Flemish) Abbreviation	Dutch (Flemish) Equivalent	English Equivalent
<i>Zandgr.</i>	Zandgroeve	Quarry (sand)

## French

French Abbreviation	French Equivalent	English Equivalent
<i>Ab.</i>	Abbaye	Convent, Monastery
<i>Anc., Ancnne.</i>	Ancien, Ancienne	Former, Abandoned
<i>B.</i>	Bois	Forest
<i>Bge.</i>	Barrage	Dam
<i>Carr.</i>	Carrière	Quarry (rock)
<i>Chap.</i>	Chapelle	Church
<i>Chât.</i>	Château	Castle, Country house
<i>Cl.</i>	Clinique	Clinic
<i>Couv.</i>	Couvent	Convent
<i>Cr.</i>	Crique	Stream
<i>Dom.</i>	Domaine	Administrative division
<i>Éc.</i>	École	School
<i>Est.</i>	Estuaire	Estuary
<i>Fal.</i>	Falaise	Cliff
<i>Fl.</i>	Fleuve	Stream
<i>Fme.</i>	Ferme	Farm
<i>Ft.</i>	Forêt	Forest
<i>G., Gd., Grd., Grde.</i>	Grand, Grande	Big, Large
<i>I.</i>	Île	Island
<i>M.C.</i>	Maison communale	Administrative facility (city hall)
<i>Mgne., Mgnes.</i>	Montagne, Montagnes	Hill, Hills
<i>Min.</i>	Moulin	Mill
<i>N., N°</i>	Numéro	Number
<i>Pl.</i>	Place	Square
<i>Pnte.</i>	Pointe	Point
<i>Pp.</i>	Pompiers	Fire station

French Abbreviation	French Equivalent	English Equivalent
<i>Ptit., Ptite.</i>	Petit, Petite	Little, Small
<i>Rer.</i>	<i>Rocher</i>	Rock
<i>Rés.</i>	<i>Réserve</i>	Reserve
<i>Riv.</i>	<i>Rivière</i>	Stream
<i>Rte.</i>	Route	Road
<i>Rvoir.</i>	Réservoir	Reservoir
<i>Sabl.</i>	Sablière	Quarry (sand)
<i>Set.</i>	Sommet	Hill, Peak
<i>Somm.</i>	Sommet	Hill, Peak
<i>St., Ste.</i>	Saint, Sainte	Saint
<i>Ston.</i>	Station	Station (railroad)

## German

German Abbreviation	German Equivalent	English Equivalent
<i>Abt.</i>	Abtei	Convent, Monastery
<i>Brnh.</i>	Bauernhaus	Farm
<i>Ehem.</i>	Ehemalig-	Former
<i>Fw.</i>	Feuerwehr	Fire station
<i>Kap.</i>	Kapelle	Church
<i>Kl.</i>	Kloster, Klein	Convent, Monastery, Little
<i>Krkhs.</i>	Krankenhaus	Hospital
<i>M.</i>	Mühle	Mill
<i>NSG</i>	Naturschutzgebiet	Nature reserve
<i>Rh.</i>	Rathaus	Administrative facility (city hall)
<i>Sandgr.</i>	Sandgrube	Quarry (sand)
<i>Sch.</i>	Schule	School
<i>Schl.</i>	Schloss, Schloß	Castle
<i>Stbr.</i>	Steinbruch	Quarry (rock)

## Appendix C. List of Common Adjectival Name Components

The following list of abbreviations is useful for the understanding of geographic names on Belgian maps:

### **Dutch (Flemish)**

<b>Dutch (Flemish) Adjective</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
<i>Aan de, aan den</i>	At the, On the
<i>Binnen</i>	In, inner, interior
<i>Buiten</i>	Out, outer, exterior
<i>En</i>	In
<i>Groot</i>	Big
<i>Hoger</i>	Upper
<i>Hoofd</i>	Main
<i>Klein, Kleine</i>	Little
<i>Kort</i>	Short
<i>Lang</i>	Long
<i>Midden</i>	Middle
<i>Nieuw, Nieuwe</i>	New
<i>Noord</i>	North
<i>Onder</i>	Lower
<i>Oost</i>	East
<i>Opper</i>	Upper
<i>Oude</i>	Old
<i>Smal</i>	Narrow
<i>Voor</i>	In front of
<i>West</i>	West
<i>Wijde</i>	Wide
<i>Zuid</i>	South

### **French**

<b>French Adjective</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
<i>Ancien</i>	Old
<i>Basse, Basses</i>	Lower

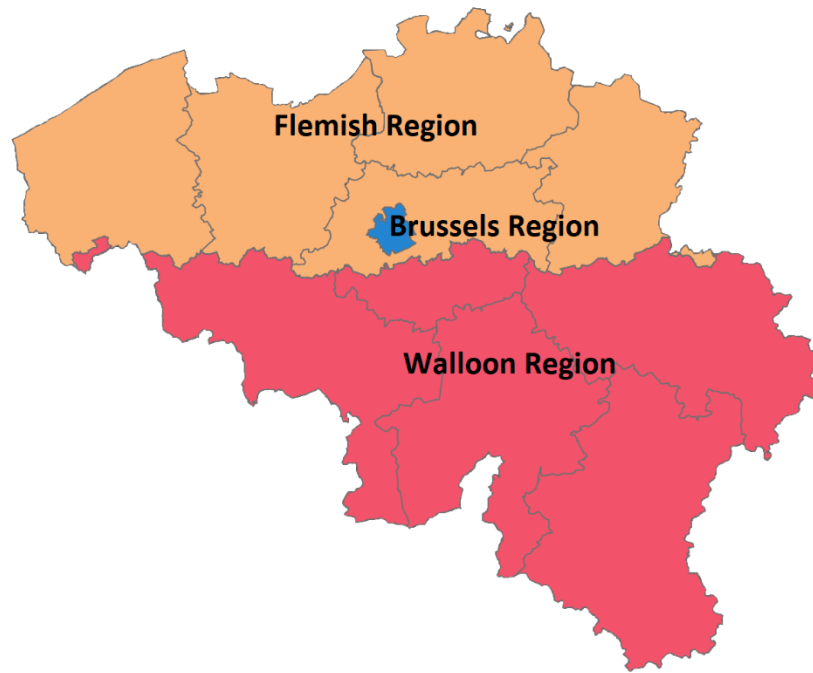
<b>French Adjective</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
<i>Est</i>	East
<i>Grand, Grande</i>	Big
<i>Haute, Hautes</i>	Upper
<i>Neuf</i>	New
<i>Noir</i>	Black
<i>Nord</i>	North
<i>Nouveau</i>	New
<i>Petit</i>	Little
<i>Sud</i>	South
<i>Sur</i>	Along, on
<i>Vieux</i>	Old
<i>Ouest</i>	West

### **German**

<b>German Adjective</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
Alt-	Old
Aussen, Ausser-, Äusser-	Outer
Blau-	Blue
Braun-	Brown
Gelb-	Yellow
Groß-	Big
Hinter-	Back, In back of
Hoh-, Hoher-, Höh-, Höher-	High, Higher
Innen, Inner-	Inner
Klein-	Little
Link-	Left
Mitte, Mitter-	Center, Central
Neu-	New
Nied-, Nieder-	Low, Lower
Ober-	Upper

<b>German Adjective</b>	<b>English Equivalent</b>
Platt-	Even, Flat
Recht-	Right
Rot-	Red
Rund-	Round
Schwarz-	Black
Über-	Upper
Unter-	Lower, Under
Vorder-	Front, In front of
Weiß-	White

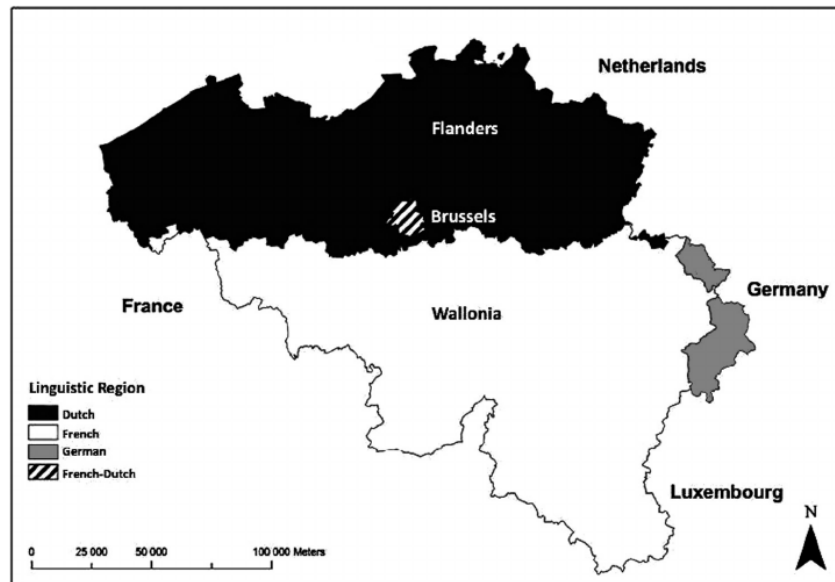
## Appendix D. First-order Administrative-Divisions (Regions) of Belgium<sup>5</sup>



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<sup>5</sup> Graphic source: [flemishparliament.eu](http://flemishparliament.eu)

## Appendix E. Linguistic Divisions of Belgium<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>6</sup> Graphic source: researchgate.net