

What is Foursquare opinion on splitting up Belgium?

CAPSTONE PROJECT FOR COURSERA IBM DATA SCIENCE
SPECIALIZATION

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1. Introduction

An over-simplification of Belgium structure as a country could be visualize as two regions (Flanders in the North and Wallonia in the South) with two different language (Dutch and French) living under one flag. The idea of splitting the country is a topic that is often discussed with a lot of arguments on both sides. It involves a lot of geo-political, socio-economic and cultural questions.

Answering if this would or would not be a good idea is obviously out of the scope of this project. What will be the scope of this project is to create an approach base on Foursquare location data that allow to compare 2 countries and compute a notion of how similar they are from a cultural / lifestyle stand point and then use that tool to compare Flanders and Wallonia as if they were separate countries and compare how similar they are relative to other neighboring countries.

The result of the analysis might be another argument against or in favor of a split or might be a start for new questions to be answered. Also, the tool developed might be used to answer other similar questions in the future.

More information about the partition of Belgium might be found at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_Belgium

2. Data

The data that will be used for this project can be separated in two groups: the data used to build the country comparison tool; the data specific to answering the Belgium question.

2.1. Country comparison tool

The first dataset required for building the tool is a list of cities for each country with their population and longitude – latitude coordinates. This will allow to find the biggest city for each country and get their location.

The list of city with their location can be found in a Kaggle dataset from MaxMind [here](#) and an additional table from Wikipedia (retrieved from a [github page](#)) is used to convert country code into actual country name

The second set of data required for building the tool is [Foursquare](#) API that will be used to retrieve information of surrounding venues for the geolocation data chosen from the previous set of data.

2.2. Belgium specific

To be able to answer the question about Belgium, an additional dataset will be required to match Belgian cities to Flanders or Wallonia.

The necessary dataset from geonames can be found on [datahub](#).