

OSH Authorities — Belgium

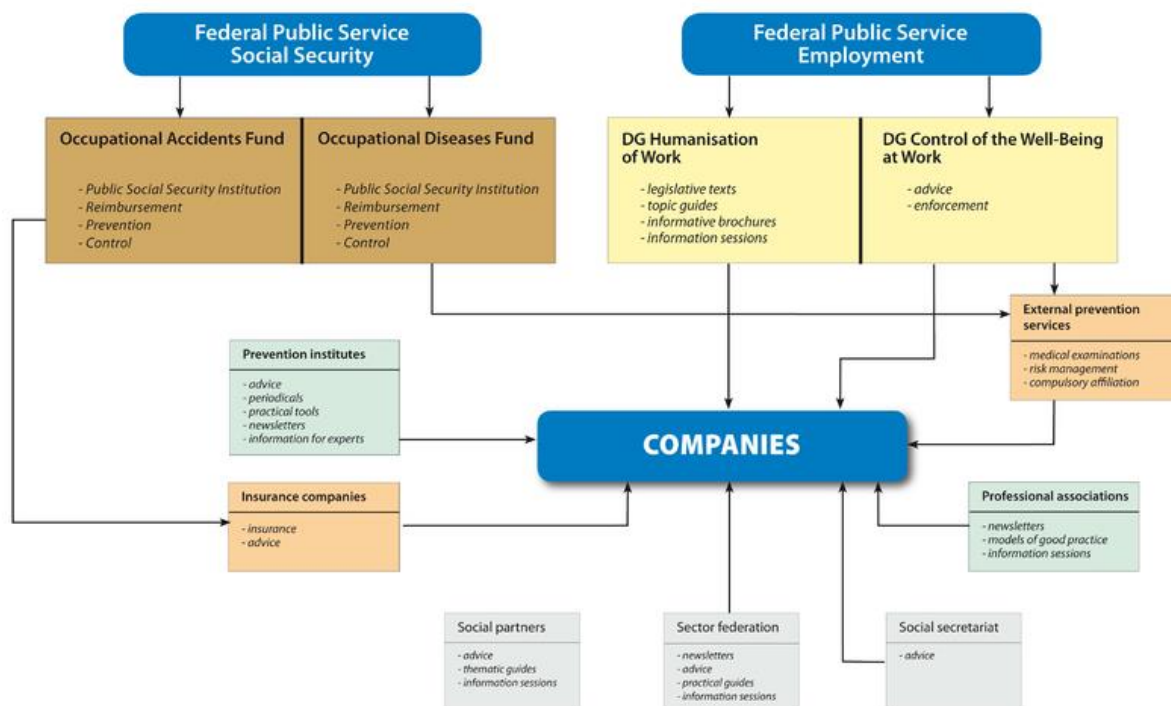
Description scheme for country overviews

BELGIUM

Source: https://oshwiki.eu/wiki/OSH_system_at_national_level_-_Belgium

OSH infrastructure

Scheme:



OSH authorities and inspection services

Name of authority	Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue
Link	http://www.emploi.belgique.be
Short abstract	Occupational safety and health (OSH) is a matter within the competence of the Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue. The main executive agencies are the Directorate-General for the Humanisation of Work (<i>DG Humanisation du travail</i> — DGHT) and the Directorate-General for the Control of Well-Being at Work (<i>DG Contrôle du bien-être au travail</i>). The Federal Public Service is the responsible administrative body, led by the Federal Minister for Work.
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Name of authority	Directorate-General for Control of Well-Being at Work (inspection services)
Link	http://www.emploi.belgique.be/defaultTab.aspx?id=6550
Short abstract	<p>The Directorate-General for the Control of Well-Being at Work is organised into three main divisions: (1) a division for regional control, with eight regional directorates; (2) a division for chemical risk control, with three directorates — one for the prevention of major accidents, one for control policies and one for industrial toxicology; and (3) a division for knowledge management. It covers all topics as defined by the law for well-being at work.</p> <p>The task of the inspection services is to help reduce accidents and health problems in businesses and public services, based on the regulations. They ensure that the rules are adhered to and have an advisory, preventive and enforcing role. Another of its tasks is indicating all the loopholes in the legislation and helping the authorities to close these.</p>
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Name of authority	Directorate-General for the Humanisation of Work
Link	http://www.emploi.belgique.be/defaultTab.aspx?id=332
Short abstract	<p>The Directorate-General for the Humanisation of Work is organised into three divisions: (1) a division for the preparation of legislation; (2) a division for the promotion of well-being at work; and (3) a division for social consultation.</p> <p>The division for the preparation of legislation draws up the accepted norms regarding well-being on the shop floor and interprets and evaluates these accepted norms. It also deals with the preparation of these accepted norms at European and international levels and the incorporation of the European and international norms into Belgian law.</p> <p>The division for promoting well-being at work arranges promotion activities and information regarding well-being at work at an international level and a Belgian level. It develops action programmes on the distribution and use of 'good practices' and networks to exchange information on well-being at work.</p> <p>With a view to reaching small businesses more effectively, provincial committees promote work in each province. These committees are tripartite committees that consist of representatives of employers, employees and the administration, of which the governors of the provinces are presidents. They carry out regional information campaigns controlled by the Directorate-General for the Humanisation of Work.</p> <p>The division for social consultation on well-being at work organises social consultation, among other things, on the level of accepted norms regarding well-being at work. It also manages the procedures for recognition and approval of the external stakeholders involved in well-being at work.</p>
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■ Compensation and insurance bodies

Name of body	Belgian Social Insurance for Occupational Risks
Link	https://www.assuralia.be
Short abstract	<p>Industrial accident insurance is in the hands of private insurers. This system is an important aspect of social security, given that it is compulsory for each employer. Accident insurance is compulsory for employers in the private sectors, trainees and people in apprenticeships. The self-employed are exempt from the compulsory system. There are special regulations that exist for the public sector. Most insurance institutions have set up a prevention service; its task is to stimulate the prevention of industrial accidents in affiliated businesses. The main activities of these prevention services include providing assistance in the working out and application of a prevention policy in the affiliated businesses; studying and analysing industrial accidents; studying and assessing risks; and taking action in the areas of information, training and promotion aimed at employees and employers.</p> <p>Assuralia is the professional association of insurance companies and represents the Belgian and foreign insurance companies operating in the Belgian market.</p>
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Name of body	Federal Agency for Occupational Risks (Fedris)
Link	https://www.fedris.be/
Short abstract	<p>The remuneration of occupational illnesses is in the hands of Fedris, the former Occupational Illness Fund (<i>Fonds des Maladies Professionnelles</i>). This is a state-controlled institution, managed by a management committee on which the social partners are represented. Fedris forms a part of social security, which means that employers are obliged to spend a certain percentage of the total amount of wages on financing Fedris. Fedris is under the guardianship of the Federal Public Service Social Security.</p> <p>Since January 2017, the former Occupational Illness Fund and the former Accidents at Work Fund were merged to create a new institution called Fedris.</p> <p>The insurance premiums are related to the compensation paid to the victims of industrial accidents that have taken place in recent years and are therefore also related to the frequency of accidents in the company.</p>
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■ Research institutes

Name of institute	Directorate DIRACT-DIOVA (<i>Direction de la recherche sur l'amélioration des conditions de travail</i>)
Link	http://www.emploi.belgique.be/moduleTab.aspx?id=556&idM=127
Short abstract	<p>Belgium does not run a national OSH research institute. Research in the field of health and safety at work is mainly carried out by research groups at universities. The Belgian Directorate-General for the Humanisation of Work runs a directorate, DIRACT-DIOVA, that is responsible for the coordination and promotion of research on the improvement of working conditions.</p>
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■ Prevention institutes

Name of institute	Constructiv
Link	http://www.constructiv.be
Short abstract	Constructiv is a private service organisation for the construction industry. It is jointly managed by employers and construction workers. It provides information, advice and assistance on the prevention of occupational accidents and illnesses for employers and employees in this sector.
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Name of institute	Prevent
Link	https://www.prevent.be/
Short abstract	Prevent is a multidisciplinary and private institute that promotes the quality of working conditions. The institute is active in research, and supports, advises and informs companies and institutions, insurance companies, external prevention services, professional associations, social partners, authorities and other stakeholders in society.
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Name of institute	Provinciaal Veiligheidsinstituut Antwerpen (PVI)
Link	https://www.provincieantwerpen.be/aanbod/doe/pvi.html
Short abstract	PVI is a public institution funded by the Province of Antwerp. The institute provides information and guidance concerning prevention, protection and well-being at work and in the private sphere.
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Name of the institute	Prevention and Interim (PI)
Link	http://www.p-i.be/
Short abstract	For the sector of temporary employment agencies, a central prevention service, PI (<i>Service Central de Prévention pour le Secteur du Travail Intérimaire, Prévention et Interim</i>), was created in 1998 by a national collective agreement. It is jointly managed by the employers' organisation Federgon and the unions representing employees in the sector of temporary employment agencies. The goal of this non-profit OHS service is to reduce the number of working accidents in the sector by increasing the number of prevention campaigns and health and safety investigations carried out in the sector.
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■ Standardisation bodies

Name of body	NBN (Bureau de Normalisation)
Link	https://www.nbn.be
Short abstract	The NBN is the Belgian organisation responsible for the development and publication of standards in Belgium. It is a semi-governmental institution with juridical responsibility. The NBN represents Belgium at European level as a member of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) and at a global level as a member of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO).
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