Identity management in Belgium

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Belgium

- 589 municipalities

- 11,190,845 inhabitants (1st January 2015)
  - 9,927,576 Belgians
  - 1,252,759 Foreigners

- 3 Regions

- 3 Languages
Societal conception of identity

Identity: basis of the legal personality

- **Identity**: biological person with biometric and societal parameters.

- **Societal conception of identity**: largely used in civil law.
Fixation of the constitutive constituents of identity

- **Constitutive constituents** of identity generated by the civil status:
  - Surname
  - First name(s)
  - Date and place of birth
  - Nationality
  - Gender

- **Public identity**, original, unique, stable and permanent, is **certified and guaranteed by the State**. It is the latter that sets the rules according to which the elements that constitute the ID are allocated.
Population registration system
The Belgian model

- **Registration of the population**: management of the individuals and their identity in the population registers and the National Registry.

- **Rigorous population registration system**

- Based on civil status records = Belgian specificity

- 1846: first general population census.
Population registers

Original purpose:
Facilitate the first scientific population censuses (19th Century).

Mean:
Each municipality keeps population registers containing the principal identification information of the persons who are herein recorded.

Fundamental criterion:
The main residence in the municipality
From population registers to identity card

- **Origins**: Introduced by the German occupant during the first World War, the identity card has been kept and generalised.

- Considered as a **certificate of inscription in the population registers**: proof for the holder that he/she is the owner of a unique and specific identity.

- Allows the holder to **be recognised as the person he/she pretends to be** in his/her relations with public authorities and in his/her social relations largely speaking.
From population registers to the National Registry

National Registry of physical persons:

- Created at the end of the 60’s.

- Bundle of identification and localisation information about the persons registered in the population registers and the Belgians registered in a Belgian consular post or diplomatic mission abroad.
The National Registry of physical persons

- Created as from 1968 on an ad hoc and voluntary basis
- Existence in law since the law of 8 August 1983
The law of 1983 organising a National Registry of physical persons

- defines the **legal tasks** of the National Registry;
- enumerates the **pieces of information** that are herein registered and their source;
- defines the **conditions and the procedure** to:
  - *obtain the authorisation to get access* to these information or to obtain communication of these information;
  - *obtain the authorisation to use the National Registry identification number.*
- determines the **penal sanctions** that can be inflicted to the offenders of some provisions of the law.
Municipality: The electronic population file

• **Creation:**
  At someone’s birth (or later if the person was not born in Belgium and comes to settle afterwards):
  - collection of information related to his/her identification
  - attribution of a unique identifier

• **Localisation:**
  In the municipality of residence. The file automatically follows the person when he/she transfers his/her residence in an other municipality or with regard to a Belgian, when he/she transfers his/her residence abroad and is registered in the registers kept by the Belgian diplomatic missions and the consular posts abroad.
What is the National Registry?

= an information processing system responsible for

- the **intake** (registration)
- the **storage**
- the **communication** of information regarding the identification of natural persons
National Registry: Objectives

- Facilitate information exchange
- Enable **automatic updating of databases** from public services
- **Rationalise the municipal management** of population registers
- **Simplify administrative formalities** for citizens
Description of the information

1. The name and first names;
2. The place and date of birth;
3. The gender;
4. The nationality;
5. The main residence;
6. The place and date of death;
7. The profession;
8. The civil status;
9. The family composition;
10. The mention of the Registry in which the persons are registered;
11. The administrative status of the persons registered in the waiting registry;
12. If applicable, the existence of the identity certificate and the signature;
13. The legal cohabitation;
14. The residence situation of foreigners.
Since the 1st of January 2015, 3 new types of legal information are registered in the National Register:

15. The ascending lineage (father and mother);
16. The descending lineage (first degree children in the direct line);
17. The information regarding the legal incapacity
A unique identifier: the national number

• Creation:

An identification number is given to each person at the initial registration of his/her population information in the National Registry.

• Composition (determined by Royal Decree): 11 digits

  - First 6 = the date of birth.
  
  - The next 3 digits = series number that identifies the person born on the same day and also gives an indication of the gender. Each male person receives an odd series number and each female person receives an even series number.
  
  - Last 2 digits: control number allowing to verify this number.
A unique identifier: the national number

- Date of birth: 75.02.09
- Serial number of the registration: 377
- Verification number: 92

The unique identification number = cornerstone of the National Register
‘My File’ and the legal value of data

- The citizen has **the right to dispose of his/her data**.

- Each holder of an electronic identity card can, if authenticating by means of his/her identity card, **consult** his/her data registered in the National Registry via the «myfile» application and **receive a recapitulation** in PDF format and signed by the NR.

- If he/she wishes so, he/she can **forward** this recapitulation to a third party, for instance in the context of contractual relations with this third party.

- The law of 2007 has **reinforced the legal value** as well as the evidential value of the registered identification data.
Access to the information

The law of 8 August 1983 makes a clear distinction between:

- the **access to the information** registered in the National Registry (governed by article 5)

- the authorisation to **use the identification number** (governed by article 8)
The authorisation to access information as well as the authorisation to use the national number is given by the Sector committee of the National Registry.
The committee consists of:

- three members of the Commission for the protection of private life, one of them being the President (or someone designed by him)

- three external members designed by the Parliament.
Who gets access?

The committee gives the authorisation to access or use the information to:

- Belgian public authorities
- Public organisations
- Private organisations under public law
- Physical or moral persons who act as subcontractor of these authorities
- Organisations respecting certain conditions fixed by law.
The National Registry – Access - Who

- the **notaries and the bailiffs** for the information they are allowed to know by virtue of law, decree or ordinance

- the order of **pharmacists** so they can communicate to their members the main residence of a customer having received a medicine which is dangerous for his/her health

- the **order of the three Belgian Bars** with the sole aim of giving the lawyers the information they need for the tasks they fulfil as officers of the Courts.
The committee gives the authorisation to access or use the information for:

- information needed to accomplish **tasks of general interest** which they are **confided by means of law**, decree or prescription
- or for **tasks explicitly accepted** by the sector committee
Privacy protecting prescriptions

The law contains a lot of privacy protecting prescriptions by subjecting the access to these data to very tight rules.
The information management: process

Business Processes

How we manage the data?

Communications- platform ID data
Municipalities
Regions
Provinces
TAX
Back up ID data
Cross point bank social security
Cross point bank education
Back up ID data
The National Registry: a constantly increasing number of transactions

- **694,578,642** transactions (consultations and updates) in 2014

- Peak of **3,975,000** transactions a day registered on 20 May 2014
‘My File’ and the electronic Identity card

- As we saw before, each Belgian citizen has the **right to dispose of his/her data**.

- He or she can consult his/her data registered in the National Registry via the « **MyFile** » **application** and receive a recapitulation in PDF format and signed by the NR.

- All this **thanks to authentication by means of his/her electronic identity card**
The Belgian electronic identity card allows the citizen to:

- be recognised in the context of his/her relations in the real world
- cross the borders inside the European Union
- safely develop digital relations as well in the public sphere as in the private sphere
The electronic identity card introduced in 2003 – The start: the learning

- The prototype
- Pilot phase: 11 municipalities
- Learning and improvement
- Roll-out: 589 municipalities
2004 – 2009: Generalisation of the eID

Started in 2004, the generalisation of the eID to the whole Belgian population, came to an end at the end of 2009.
Introduction of the Kids-ID and the electronic foreigners cards

Different cards in production in Belgium:

- **eID** (the Belgian citizen)
- **Kids ID** (the child under 12) on spontaneous request of the parents
- **ERP** (Electronic Residence Permit) (A, B, C, D, E & E+, F & F+, H: the different types of card for all the non Belgian residents)
The different types of card
The different types of card

Non EU Resident

EU Resident
The production process
BIOMETRICS
Security

Evolution

• **Graphical**
  - Kinegram
  - Printing techniques

• **Electronically**
  - Contactless chip (RFID)
  - Extended access control
  - Contact chip

• **Biometrical data**
  - Photo
  - 2 digital fingerprints

• **Checkdoc.be**
Residence permit & e-passport

Common characteristics:

- Biometric data
  - Photo ICAO conformity
  - Digital fingerprints

- Digital manual written signature

- Contactless chip
Efficient and reasonably priced

1 biometric pack / RAPC

- Fingerprint scanner
- Digital manual written signature
- Card reader official
- RFID reader
- Citizen contact chip card reader
- Photo scanner
- RA/PC
- Scanner de photos
- PAD de signature
- Scanner d’empreintes
- Lecteur de documents
Efficient and reasonably priced

Generic module:

- Municipality
- Belpic application
- RA/PC
- National Registry
- FPS
- Foreign Affairs
- Passport manufacturer
- Residence permit manufacturer
Benefits

- Economical scaling
- Optimal management of logistics
- Harmonising the procedures
- Utilisation of existing infrastructure:
  - National Register
  - RAPC – Belpic infrastructure
Working together

- Federal administration
  - National Registry
  - Immigration Office
  - FPS Foreign Affairs
- Municipalities
- Hardware Suppliers
- Steria (Integrator)
- Zetes (Manufacturer of the ‘Residence permit’)
- Certipost (Bpost) (Certification Authority)
Some figures

**eID**

- Number of cards for Belgian that are **active** and have been delivered to the holders on 06/12/2014: **8,515,809**

- Number of cards for Belgian that have been **delivered** on 06/12/2014: **19,182,261**
Some figures (continuation)

**ERP (foreigners cards)**

- Number of foreigners cards that are *active* and have been delivered to the holders on 06/12/2014: **961,789**

- Number of foreigners cards that have been *delivered* on 06/12/2014: **2,004,476**
Some figures (continuation)

Kids-ID

- Number of **active** Kids cards on 06/12/2014: **993.185**

- Number of **delivered** Kids cards on 06/12/2014: **1.919.712**
Some figures (continuation)

Annually average of documents:

- 1M - 2,5M eID’s
- 350 000 kidsID’s
- 100 000 Biometric residence permits
- 400 000 international passports
Future developments

- Convocations for Foreigners
- Foreigners card for 10 years
- Kids-ID’s for foreigners
- Kids-ID’s for Belgians abroad
- ...

31 October 2014
Conclusion

For many years Belgium has understood the importance of and has implemented a rigorous system for the identification of persons.

This system has evolved over the years with the integration of new technologies while rigorously guaranteeing the protection of the persons privacy.
Conclusion (continuation)

With the introduction of the identity card all Belgians and foreigners were given a tool allowing them to safely authenticate and sign in the context of their electronic relations.

The electronic identity card and the « My File » application let the citizen gain visibility into his information and the other persons consulting these personal information.

Transparency for a better protection of privacy.
Thank you for your attention

Any questions?