



The Regional Development Concept – Ostbelgien leben 2025 is about your future:

- How can we ensure quality of life in our region in the long run?
- How do we meet challenges such as lack of skilled workers, climate change and demographic change?
- How can we improve our schools, infant care or the quality of life of our senior citizens?

The Regional Development Concept contains very specific answers and measures, many of which are already bearing fruit.

Please consult our website:
www.ostbelgienlive.be/mitgestalten

Your ideas are always welcome!
Contact us at: alexander.krings@dgov.be



PUBLISHER:
Norbert Heukemes, Secretary General,
Ministry of the German-speaking Community of Belgium
D/2020/13.694/7 / FbKOM.PHS/06.01-01.002/20.35
© Ministry of the German-speaking Community of Belgium, April 2020
info@ostbelgienlive.be | www.ostbelgienlive.be

Picture credits:
Front page: S. 2, 3, 4, 6: © C. Charlier | S. 5: © IAWM | S. 7: © WavebreakMediaMicro - stock-adobe.com | S. 7: © ostbelgien.eu - Dominik Ketz
Layout: JCW-Communication

Ministry
of the German-speaking
Community of Belgium



OUR VISION OSTBELGIEN LEBEN 2025

- Multilingual
- Extensively networked and engaging
- Skilled labour
- Responsible
- Rooted
- Strong companies
- Equal opportunities
- High quality education and training
- Family-friendly
- Diverse cultural landscape
- Close engagement with citizens
- Local health care
- High quality of life
- Lively villages and towns
- Sustainable

For further information see
www.ostbelgienlive.be/mitgestalten



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT
FOR THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

OSTBELGIEN LEBEN 2025

REK III IN A NUTSHELL

www.ostbelgienlive.be/mitgestalten

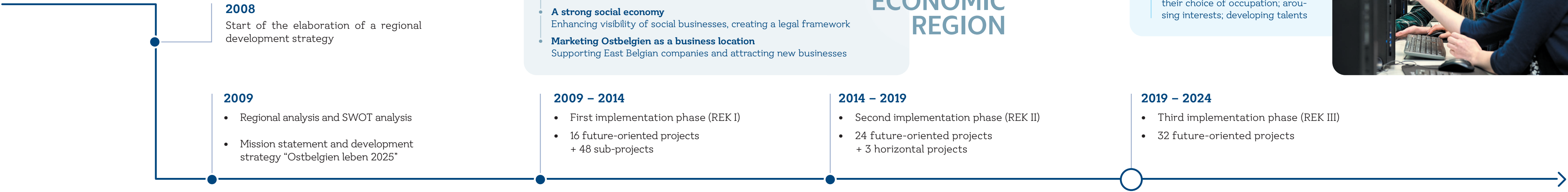


OUR STRATEGY –
HOW DO WE WANT TO LIVE IN 2025?

The Regional Development Concept (its German acronym being “REK”) lays out a vision for the German-speaking Community as a frontier region, economic region, educational region, caring region and living region. The mission statement was developed in 2008, with 350 citizens, entrepreneurs, local representatives, associations, and authorities participating. It was founded on a comprehensive analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the region.

Since then, numerous future-oriented projects were realized or initiated over the course of three implementation phases. Around 500 participants were involved in their development, online or at events. All of them contribute to further enhancing the quality of life in Ostbelgien. This brochure provides an overview of the projects of the third and final implementation phase until 2025.

REK IN FIGURES



- **Core competence for future-oriented initiatives: creativity**
Cultural education in schools, in youth work and leisure time; supporting creative pros
- **Committed to Ostbelgien**
Attracting young people to volunteer, reducing the administrative burden for volunteers
- **Youth 2025+**
Improving the lives of young people, expanding digital youth work
- **Creating an extensive network**
Bringing people in and from Ostbelgien together
- **Jointly strengthening villages**
Supporting local initiatives and expanding opportunities for participation
- **Engaging with history**
Preserving, making accessible and communicating East Belgian history

FRONTIER
REGION

- **Alliance for skilled labour in Ostbelgien**
Strengthening skilled workers' ties to the region and attracting new skilled labour
- **Learning at company level**
Training the skilled workers of tomorrow, facilitating the transition of workers from training to employment
- **One-stop job centre**
A single point of contact for job-seekers, improving their integration into working life
- **Made in Ostbelgien**
Strengthening local producers, promoting short distances from stable to table
- **A strong social economy**
Enhancing visibility of social businesses, creating a legal framework
- **Marketing Ostbelgien as a business location**
Supporting East Belgian companies and attracting new businesses



ECONOMIC
REGION

EDUCATIONAL REGION

- **Overall vision: Preparing our educational system for the future**
Mission statement for the future of the education system; fostering educational equity and efficiency of the education system
- **Integration and diversity**
Supporting migrants in training and employment
- **Promote language learning and multilingualism**
Improving school students' language skills: strengthening their skills in the language of instruction and their foreign language skills
- **Enhancing learning opportunities**
Developing educational opportunities in the STEM+C fields, in political education and media literacy
- **The future of special education in mainstream schools**
Master plan and legal framework for new structures in special education
- **Teachers of tomorrow**
Reforming primary school teacher training to better prepare soon-to-be educators for the challenges of the future
- **Developing modern learning centres**
Retrofitting school buildings; creating optimal learning and teaching conditions
- **Preparing young people for real life**
Supporting school students in their choice of occupation; arousing interests; developing talents



LIVING REGION

- **Digitisation and the future of governance**
Digitising administration; promoting digitisation in all areas of life
- **Development of spatial planning in Ostbelgien**
Vision and legislation for the future development of the living and housing environment
- **Building Culture in Ostbelgien**
Raising awareness of East Belgian building culture and developing it further in designing the living and housing environment
- **At home in Ostbelgien**
Organising the transfer of responsibilities for housing and energy
- **Protecting the climate**
Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in Ostbelgien at all levels
- **Strengthening sports structures**
Joining forces through strategic cooperation in the new sports umbrella association
- **Discovering Ostbelgien**
Ostbelgien – a region to find enjoyment and wellness; development of a long-distance hiking trail and a Stoneman Ostbelgien for mountain bikers



CARING REGION

- **Healthy living in Ostbelgien**
Promoting local health care; maintaining nursing staff; retaining hospital sites in Eupen and St. Vith
- **Uniting to fight poverty**
Developing strategies to combat poverty
- **Helping and strengthening parents**
Further developing quality childcare provision; expanding infrastructures; retaining and recruiting skilled workers; strengthening parenting skills
- **Supporting senior citizens close to home**
Concepts for the evening of life at home; maintaining self-determination and the right to a say; venturing on new ways of living
- **Leading a self-determined life**
Enabling every person to lead a self-determined life

