

TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Youth Crime
Country:	Belgium
Year:	/

Main policy page:	/
Relevant legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Act of 8 April 1965 related to the protection of young people. <input type="checkbox"/> The Act of 15 May 2006 and Law of 13 June 2006 modifying the Law on youth protection and the policy towards young people that have committed offences qualified as infractions. <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation agreements between the Belgian Federal State and the different Communities (Flemish-, French- and German speaking) in the framework of the Act concerning youth protection and the taking charge of minors that have committed an offence qualified as an infraction. <input type="checkbox"/> Various decrees specific to the Communities and pertaining to youth assistance. <p>Youth crime encompasses ‘offences committed by minors, these acts can be considered as deviant what the juridical norms in force in a certain country are concerned’.</p> <p>In Belgium, according to the Act of 8 April 1965 concerning youth protection, the criminal age of individuals has been set at 18 years old. Any person beneath this age who violates the criminal norms in force, is qualified as “a person having committed an offence qualified as an infraction for which measures of protection, preservation and education can be pronounced.”</p> <p>The Act of 8 April 1965 concerning youth protection has been modified by the Act of 15 May 2006. The philosophy of this Act can be described as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The protective system is maintained, but also completed. The emphasis has been put on the responsibility of youths and parents. Attention is also paid to the victim. 2. Regardless of age, the adolescent has to become aware of the offences he/she has committed, he/she has to learn the societal rules and has to know which responsibilities he/she has to take on. 3. The reactions society gives to an underage person who has committed an offence qualified as an infraction have to be educational, preventive, rapid and efficient, regardless of the level of danger. 4. Protecting the minors who have violated norms is not a sign of

	<p>weakness, but concerns the fundamental right of minors to have an education and also regards acting preventively so that every form of relapse can be avoided.</p> <p>In Belgium, the youth justice administration always has to pursue objectives geared towards education, taking on</p>
Trends:	<p>According to the National Security Plan, juvenile crime is increasing and this evolution is primarily perceptible in and around festive environments. Furthermore, minors start their criminal career younger and younger. Belgian national police figures confirm this trend with a decrease of the age of offenders concerning a few phenomena. It is therefore of crucial importance to guide young delinquents in a consistent manner, aimed at a permanent adjustment of their asocial behavior.</p> <p>At present, there are many steps which are developing in Belgium in order to obtain a more clear statistical vision of this phenomenon. Juvenile delinquency also being a phenomenon which is constantly evolving (with the resort to new technologies), it is drawing more and more attention from both the judicial and the police forces.</p>

Contacts:	<p>National organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal public Service Home Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Federal public Service Justice <input type="checkbox"/> The French Community of Belgium <input type="checkbox"/> The Flemish Community of Belgium <input type="checkbox"/> The Belgian Police <input type="checkbox"/> The District Attorneys <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Courts <input type="checkbox"/> Federal and regional associations aimed at a proactive, preventive, follow-up approach to the youth <input type="checkbox"/> National Institute for Forensics and Criminology <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate-General for Children's Rights <input type="checkbox"/> National Commission for Children's Rights <p>Contact Details</p> <p>Federal Public Service Home Affairs Directorate General Security and Prevention Directorate Local Integrated Security 76, Boulevard de Waterloo 1000 Brussels info@sliv.be</p> <p>Contact details Marijke DEROOVER Tel: + 32 2 557 35 35 Mail: marijke.deroover@ibz.fgov.be</p>
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