

# THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

## TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

### ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY BELGIUM (FLANDERS)

#### Environmental and health information on transmitting antennas for mobile telephony, WIFI in Flanders

<https://www.lne.be/straling-zendantennes-wifi-gsm>

## I. Description

- **1. Brief description: Portal governmental website with integrated information on:**
  - Radiation and health issues
  - Standards and regulations on electromagnetic radiation in Flanders
  - Interactive map (GIS) with all existing transmitting antennas, including official attestations
  - Possibility to ask official radiation measure by the government
- **2. Type:** governmental website with information for local communities (municipalities)
- **3. Scope:** Regional (Flanders), local (municipalities)
- **4. Working language(s):** Dutch
- **5. Target users:** general public, municipalities, NGO's
- **6. Starting year:** 2017
- **7. Budget and funding source:** 100K euro every year
- **8. Contact:**

Mart Verlaek,  
business responsible,  
Flemish Authority, Department of Environment and spatial Development  
email:mart.verlaek@vlaanderen.be

## II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context:** legislation on electromagnetic radiation (Flemish competence)
- **10. Partner organizations involved:** regional environmental authority
- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** local communities (cities and municipalities): information to their inhabitants, possibilities of public participation and formal objection
- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment:** internet availability
- **13. Technology choice:** portal website with online interactive information map (GIS)
  - all data available as linked open data
  - technologies used : virtuoso triple store, netkernel application server, java , xslt

## III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:**
  - it is possible to apply for conformity statements online

- backend workflow is completely digital
  - digital model of radiation is used to evaluate the conformity statement request
  - all data of the conformity statement request and decision is publicly available in a human and machine readable way.
- **15. Efficiency gains:**
    - less paper work
    - better evaluation due to use of models
    - more transparency for the general public
  - **16. Risks:**
    - none
  - **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):**
    - it was hard to convince people on the benefits of the use of LOD technology (resolved)
    - more user friendly way of querying the data for people with lower digital literacy
  - **18. Lessons learned:**
    - use of accurate business models is a necessity
  - **19. Conditions for successful replication:**
    - Business people open to change
  - **20. Overall assessment of the tool:**
    - very user friendly ( assessment done by the applicants)