


BELGIUM

Belgian Toy Libraries are grouped in 2 associations, according to the language community: the toy library association of the French community (LUDO) and the toy library association of the Flemish community Vlaams Overleg Spelotheken (V.O.S.). A third association specifically groups and supports the French toy libraries in the Brussels territory. It is the only association that is officially recognized in its mission by the Brussels government Department of Culture.

BELGIUM: BRUSSELS

Link person and Email	Sophie Hanozet info@ludotheques.be>
National toy library association	LUDO Association, founded in 1982 
Web link	www.ludotheques.be
Contact person	Sophie Hanozet (sophie@ludotheques.be) or Michel Van Langendonck (ninavlg@hotmail.com)
Brief History	LUDO was officially recognized in 1986 after the third ITLA Congrès (organised in Brussels in 1984). Having lost this recognition, the association has however signed in 2008 a little convention of financial support with the Belgian French Community Government (permanent education section of the Culture department). This support is enough to finance most of our activities, but to be a member of LUDO's permanent team is no more a professional activity since 2000. About 50% of our toy libraries receive financial support from their local government. 30% of our toy libraries receive also money from the French Community: those which are linked with a library. Last but not least, all toy libraries in Brussels are sustained by the regional government (COCOF).
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring people together by play • Improve the access for everybody to quality toys and games • Promote reflexion about play • Prove the cultural importance of play and educate people by play • Take care of our planet
Services /Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LUDO makes annual games selections for more than twenty years. Since 2004, the Label "LUDO Prize" celebrates the best family board game of the year in Belgium. In 2010, the winner was "Qwirkle" (by Susan Mc Kinley Ross) • We have each year a little communication campaign about play and toy libraries in May (World Play Day) and a bigger one in November (our "playing fever" is called "fureur de jouer") • The two LUDO magazines ("Artichouette" and "Cahiers de LUDO") have 4 issues each year. A web version of them is published after a few months on our website • Our center "LuCIFER" (Ludo Center of Informations, Formations –trainings- Education and Research) is located in the pedagogic department of the High School of Brussels. It is dedicated to a French library with hundreds of books about games, a toy library specialised in pedagogical board games, a little permanent museum of games, exhibitions and trainings.
Conferences	No information at this time
Meetings	No information at this time
Networking	Member of ITLA; Member of the European Toy Library Group

Toy Library Information			
Number of known toy libraries	The Belgian French community has today about 145 toy libraries (116 in Wallony and 29 in Brussels) for about 4,5 million people. Fifteen of them are specialised for disabled people and ten for adults players (“game clubs”)		
Administration	No information at this time		
Communities served (clients)	No information at this time		
Qualifications of toy librarians	No information at this time		
Training	In 2010, the LUDO association organized a training course of 8 modules (each of 3 hours) for toy librarians. The last one happened in 2005, so it is not regular.		
Specific courses offered: N/A			
Name of course:	Duration	Offered by:	Certificate
Content			
Name of course:	Duration	Offered by:	Certificate
Content			
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Content			

BELGIUM: FLANDERS

Link person and Email	Gudrun Iserentant gudrun@walala.be sotclaeys@hotmail.com
National toy library association	"VOS" : Vlaams Overleg Spelotheken
Web link	N/A
Contact person	Gudrun Iserentant gudrun@walala.be
Mission	<p>"The responsible accompaniment of persons, with special attention to diverse target groups, by the creation and the following-up of toy libraries*, and the reporting of their existence to parents, educators, authorities,... on a local, provincial, federal or national level. " (statutes, 2005)</p> <p><i>*The term 'toy library' in Dutch language refers to 3 aspects: the lending of toys and games, the possibility of playing at a location (like play groups), and the combination of those two aspects with an accompaniment or animation program. Unlike the French part of Belgium, the lending of toys is, in Flanders, a condition to be recognized as toy library.</i></p>
Services offered by the Association	<p>Apply for governmental and financial recognition of toy libraries based on well-defined criteria</p> <p>Advice and permanent education on the theme of toys in all its aspects</p> <p>Quality support, by sharing knowhow, and searching for optimal lending conditions (such as I.T.)</p> <p>Quality production and adaptation of toys</p> <p>Optimizing external communication with the associative, press, governmental and commercial platforms.</p>
Networking	No information at this time
Toy Library Information	
Number of known toy libraries	78
Administration	<p>Two thirds of all toy libraries (48) are run or supported by local government. In half of the cases the initiative is private but the financial funding is governmental. In the other half, the government itself takes the leading role.</p> <p>The remaining toy libraries (30) are private initiatives with only sponsoring support, or with a link to an NGO.</p>
Communities served (clients)	A quarter of the associated toy libraries (20) offer adapted toys and games to disabled persons combined with supporting activities for groups. The other ¾ offer a service for all families. In several cases, the toy library focuses on the baby or toddler age (0-5 yrs.), either in its collection, or in its activities.
Qualifications of toy librarians	No information at this time
Conferences	No information at this time
Meetings	No information at this time
Training	The 'Flemish Archive of Board Games' (http://spelarch.khbo.be), part of the teacher's University of Bruges & Ostend, permanently offers a range of 10 to 15 short informational training sessions for individual teachers. A certificate of presence is provided for the participants.
Specific courses offered are: N/A	

<p>Brief history of toy libraries in Belgium</p>	<p>The first toy library in Belgium was founded in 1972 in the south of the country. The first organized Flemish toy libraries all had a specialized, sometimes therapeutic mission. They were created for children who, because of a handicap, had difficulties in using average toy materials. About 15 of those toy libraries were grouped in the Flemish Toy Library Consult (V.O.S.) whose main aim was to adapt toys, lend them out, exchange views and experiences with other specialized toy libraries, and give support in the search for governmental, financial and commercial recognition. Other toy libraries were started throughout the eighties, mainly in city centers. Most of them have an 'AngloSakson' vision: They mainly serve disadvantaged populations, and a family approach often is inherent to the way of working. Local libraries and youth organizations were interested in the concept and created their own toy library.</p> <p>In some cities or provinces, toy libraries grouped themselves in voluntary associations which survive to the present day. The task of the Flemish Toy Library Council has been broadened to associate all Flemish toy Libraries regardless of the</p>
<p>Flemish toy libraries today</p>	<p>Today, there is a large variety of toy libraries in Flanders, in the way they are run, as well as in the population they serve and in the vision they follow.</p> <p>There are an unknown number of toy libraries that are not linked to the federation, because their toy collections are not available to the public. Many schools and after school care centres have toy collections, which are lent out only to school members. Some NGO's have or create their own toys and games, and lend them to their members.</p> <p>In the past decade, there has been a booming of game clubs. Some of these game clubs are associated in their own Federation. www.forumfederatie.be; www.fbjs.be</p> <p>And last of all, there is the commercial lending out of toys and games, for example traditional wooden party toys, jumping castles, pinball machines, etc.</p>
<p>Snoezelen</p>	<p>A new concept in play experience is the 'snoezel space'. It refers to a defined space where the five senses are activated in a basic way and as much as possible, by arranging the room with materials that will give the participant new and surprising experiences, focused on a feeling of security and warmth.</p> <p>Snoezel spaces were originally therapeutically inspired, but have found their way to schools, toy libraries, and kindergartens.</p>