



YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER



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# VOKA IS THE BIGGEST NETWORK OF ENTERPRISES IN FLANDERS

Voka, the biggest Flemish network of enterprises, was established in 2004 as an alliance of the then eight Flemish Chambers of Commerce. As a network we unite more than 18.000 businesses representing 65% of the private employment and 70% of the added value in Flanders and Brussels.

**As the most influential network of entrepreneurs, our mission is to create an optimal framework for successful entrepreneurship.**

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## Facts and figures



MEMBERS



YEARLY  
REFERENCES IN  
NATIONAL MEDIA



OF THE ADDED  
VALUE IN  
FLANDERS



EVENTS AND  
SEMINARS



OF THE PRIVATE  
EMPLOYMENT  
IN FLANDERS



EMPLOYEES



FOLLOWERS  
ON TWITTER



ECONOMIC  
INQUIRIES  
ANSWERED

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# FLANDERS: DYNAMIC REGION



## ◀ INNOVATION

When it comes to research and innovation across a wide range of disciplines and a variety of sectors, Flanders is consistent. No less than five Strategic Research Centers are constantly developing cutting-edge technologies and processes that will shape tomorrow's society.



## ▼ ANTWERP: LARGEST CHEMICAL CLUSTER IN EUROPE

Centrally located and easily accessible, the Port of Antwerp plays a key role in Flanders' renowned chemical industry. Antwerp houses, amongst other facilities, five oil refineries and four steam crackers. With a portfolio of 300 different chemicals – the most diverse in the world – and over 500 different chemical companies, Antwerp is the largest chemical cluster in Europe (the second largest worldwide).



## ▲ THE INS AND OUTS OF FLANDERS

According to the World Trade Report, Belgium – and consequently Flanders – is one of the top 10 exporting countries in the world, and its per capita export figure is among the highest worldwide. Its position as a European hub makes Belgium (Flanders) one of the top importers as well.

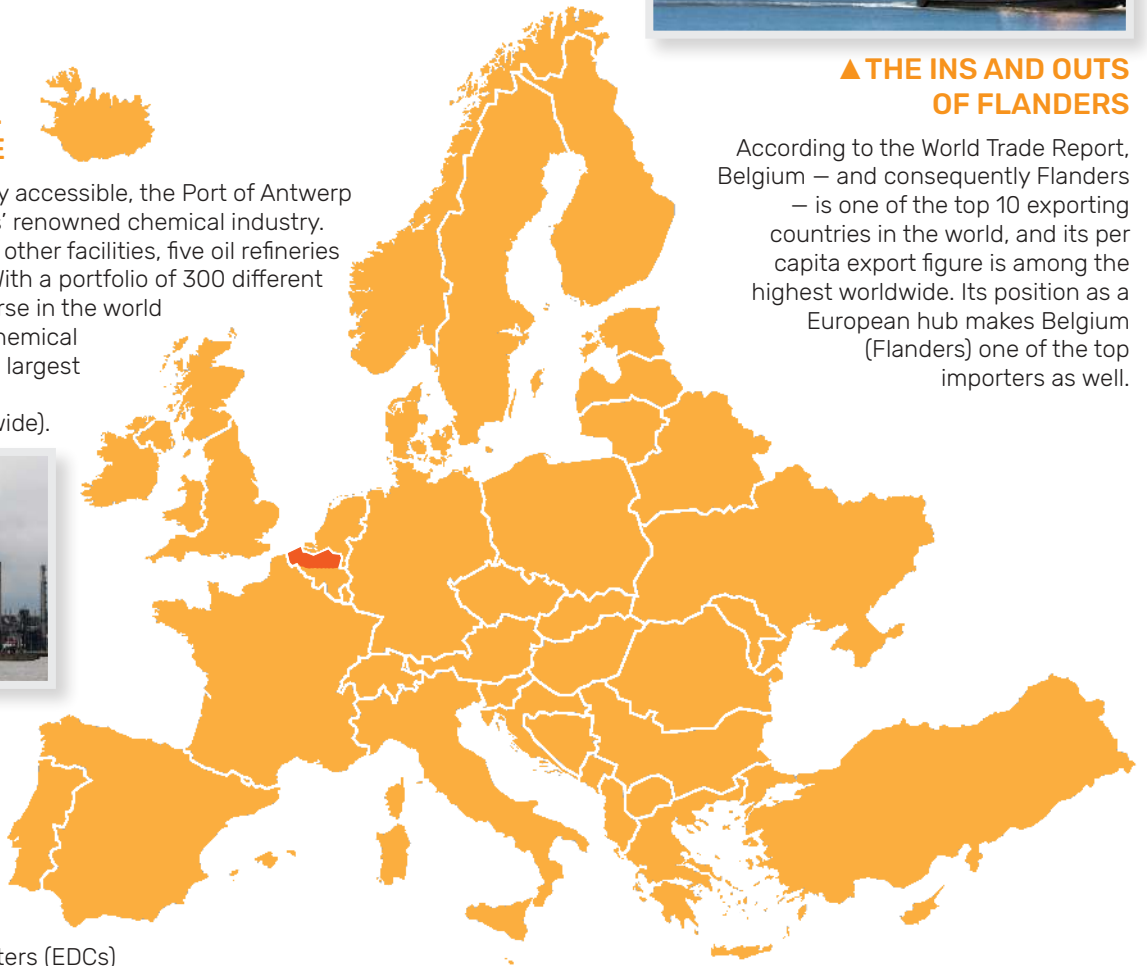
## ▼ THE LOGISTICS HUB OF EUROPE

With nearly 800 European Distribution Centers (EDCs) and an average of over six EDCs per 100 km<sup>2</sup>, Flanders boasts the highest EDC density in Europe. Furthermore, the region is among the world's best when it comes to the density of road, railway and inland waterway networks. It is, in short, a paradise for any logistics operation.



## ► TOP NOTCH EDUCATION

Belgium, and Flanders as a region is world renowned for its highly qualitative educational system. In the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2018, for instance, the region's educational system ranks 16th.



# Voka defends

One of the pillars of Voka's operations is defending the interests of the Flemish entrepreneurs, both for large and small companies. That is why we keep close contact with several authorities and institutions.

We organise a permanent dialogue between the various authorities, governments and politicians. One of the core tasks of Voka consists of bringing politicians and entrepreneurs closer to each other.



*Because of the national and European elections, Voka organised several election debates with politicians and entrepreneurs in order to discuss Voka propositions.*

Voka is a strong and influential voice in Flanders that represents the interests of the business community.



*Voka Chairman Wouter De Geest welcomes the Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel.*

Also internationally Voka is a significant player. Voka regularly organises meetings with international policymakers, diplomats and entrepreneurs.



*Voka CEO Hans Maertens joined a high level delegation of Chambers of Commerce representatives to discuss Brexit with the former British 'Brexit' Minister Dominic Raab.*

As the largest and most representative employers' organization in Flanders, Voka is a neutral and reliable partner to the government. Therefore Voka is recognised as a social partner in the official deliberative bodies.



*Voka is an officially recognised social partner in the social consultations in Flanders.*

# Voka unites

Voka is the largest and most influential network of entrepreneurs in Flanders. With 18.000 members in all fields the Voka members form a representative sample of the economy of the region. Voka unites policymakers and fellow-entrepreneurs and the wide civil society.

Each year, Voka organises traineeships for politicians at our companies. During one or more days politicians are trained at our member companies.



*Jan Peumans, the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament, visits one of the Voka members.*

Once a year, Flemish companies open their doors to the public. During the Voka Open Bedrijvendag more than 350 companies are open for an exclusive view behind the scenes.



*Voka Open Bedrijvendag: every year more than 600.000 interested people visit the Voka enterprises.*

Various network activities in Flanders bring entrepreneurs closer to each other.



*The Voka congress annually unites more than 1.000 entrepreneurs during a unique experience. The congress is one of the largest national activities for entrepreneurs in Flanders.*

Also regionally, Voka is uniting entrepreneurs at different times. During network reception parties and network evenings the entrepreneurs get to know each other better.



*The New Year's Invitito of Voka Limburg mobilises more than 3.000 entrepreneurs each year.*



# Voka connects

Your Voka, Flanders' Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is at your service.  
Thanks to personalized services we help you to start up your business,  
to make it grow or let it expand.

## ONE STOP SHOP

We provide useful advice concerning foreign investment opportunities in Flanders. We also provide tailor-made advice for your company: from tax and legal issues to transport, human resources, tenders, import and export.



*You can contact our advisors throughout Flanders for more information.*

## START A BUSINESS?

Our internationally awarded starters project Bryo, unites entrepreneurs who want to start a business and gives personalized advice during every stage of the start-up.



*Do you want to launch a business? We help you from start to realisation.*

## TRAININGS

Voka offers a wide range of quality trainings for entrepreneurs and their employees. They help you to make your company even stronger.



*From the use of social media to the development of a financial plan. Ask an overview of the trainings that fits your business.*

## LOOKING FOR TALENT THAT FITS YOUR COMPANY?

Voka aims at strong bridges between education and the labour market. By means of traineeship and dual learning, students acquire a taste of business life at an early stage.



*Voka is one of the pioneers in bringing education and business life together. Voka connects you.*

# Voka: your gateway to the world

Voka is your gateway to the world. Our international operation brings you into contact with entrepreneurs all over the world. Thanks to our network of experts we are at your service to advise and assist you in all your international questions and concerns. Moreover, you will get access to trade missions, inspiration tours and other international activities.

## BUSINESS CLUBS

Our proactive peer-to-peer learning programmes are a true success. They unite entrepreneurs and experts to exchange knowledge and good practices on doing business abroad.



*Every year more than 700 companies participate in the Voka business clubs.*

## WEEK OF INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Every year in autumn, Voka organises together with Flanders Investment and Trade the Week of International Entrepreneurship. All over Flanders country workshops are organised. Each time we focus on an other growth market. As a closing act there is a big network event in which entrepreneurs can get in touch with a select group of diplomats.



*Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission of Singapore Mrs. Koong Pai Ching addresses an audience of business representatives at the Week of International Entrepreneurship.*

## INTERNATIONAL TOP SPEAKERS

Voka brings the world to Flanders. Top congresses and exclusive meetings are organised to put our region on the map.



*Former President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy delivers a keynote speech at the "Legends and Leaders" Voka event series.*

## TRADE MISSIONS

Voka organises trade missions, inspiration tours and participates in official delegations, together with our entrepreneurs and in close cooperation with the official services.



*A delegation of Voka members during a visit of Rolls Royce headquarters at Goodwood, United Kingdom.*



## Voka's structural partners

In order to defend your interests even better worldwide, Voka has a close cooperation with partner organisations.



Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) promotes Flanders as a business location to foreign companies and supports Flemish companies in international entrepreneurship. They can make use of FIT's expertise and its national network.



Voka is a member of Eurochambers and ICC/World Chambers Federation: giving you access to a worldwide network of partners to help you with your international expansion.

# Let's get in touch

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Voka is there for you. Thanks to our network throughout Flanders  
Voka can offer you customised services.

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