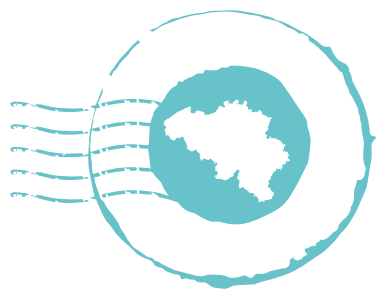


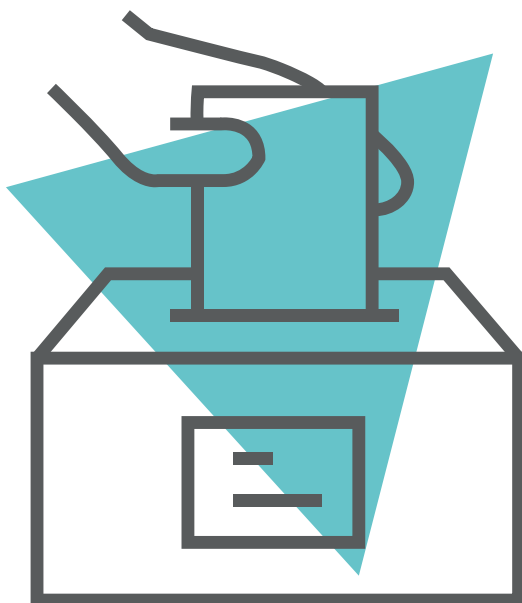
# MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

sunday 13.10.24



*My municipality,  
I live there, I vote there!*





# 2024 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS voter's handbook



*This handbook is not an electoral propaganda tool.  
This is a tool to raise awareness of citizen voting.*

Human beings have always organised their social life. The clan, the tribe, the village, whatever the mode of organisation, people had to play roles for the benefit of the community: provisioning, care, management of the group, justice...

How were these people chosen in remote times? No one knows. Yet, slowly, civilization did its work. People have created institutions and rules to organise the way in which they delegate the management of the city to elected representatives. This is what we call Democracy.

This can, however, take different forms. It seems obvious that citizenship is particularly linked to the right to vote. In our country, when women did not have the right to vote, they also did not have other rights that were exercised by men. It is not an insult to them to say that they were not, at that time, full citizens.

The notion of citizenship being too vast to be treated in this small text, let us simply say that it is made up of rights exercised and duties accepted, all contained in the Constitution, in the laws, in the decrees, in any text voted by Representatives elected by citizens.

It is obvious that if we take a vacation in a place where elections are taking place, it is absurd for us to participate in them. We are not part of that community permanently. On the other hand, where we live, it is not only legitimate but also responsible that we participate in civic and political life. It is a right but above all a duty, particularly towards our local community, the municipality where we live.

To help any person concerned to exercise this right and duty, the Consultation and Support System of the Regional Integration Centres of Wallonia (DISCRI) has published this voter's handbook. We hope that you will find there all the answers to the questions you might have about exercising the right to vote.

You now have everything you need to become a full-fledged citizen during the next municipal elections.



# Elections in Belgium

In Belgium, there are several types of elections:

- **municipal and provincial** elections are held every **6 years**;
- **regional and community** elections are held every **5 years**;
- **federal** elections are held every **5 years**;
- **European** elections are held every **5 ans**.



Even if the elections of October 13, 2024 will concern the municipal and provincial levels, this handbook only concerns municipal elections.

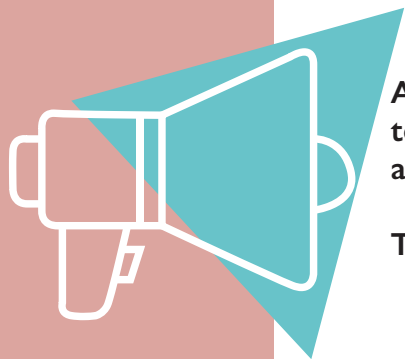
It is intended for all European Union (EU) nationals\*, as well as all non-EU nationals who have resided in Belgium for at least 5 uninterrupted years at the time of their registration request.

The Act of March 19, 2004 grants non-European citizens the right to vote in municipal elections only, subject to certain conditions developed below.

\*

*To avoid complicating the reading, we use the terms “citizens” and “voters” to designate groups of people bringing together men and women.*

## Going to vote: a civic act



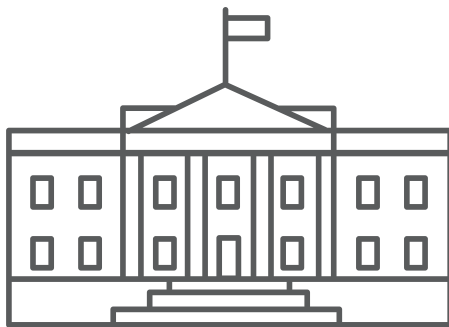
**Anyone living in Belgium resides within the territory of a municipality. The municipal authority is closest to the citizens.**

**The municipality is responsible for :**

- population (identity card, change of address, household composition, driving license, passport, etc.);
- civil status (births, marriages, deaths, etc.);
- schools of the municipal network;
- social action through the CPAS and other services (municipal child care centres, certain retirement homes, etc.);
- participation in the management of social housing;
- security with a local police service (residents' protection and road traffic) and fire service;
- development and maintenance work on streets, side walks, sewers, public lighting, etc.;
- authorisations to build (urban planning), to organise activities on public roads (demonstrations, processions), to exercise certain professions (taxi, chips shop, street trading);
- environmental protection (natural sites, garbage collection, waste recycling, toxic waste collection, cleanliness of the city).
- ...

The municipality supports cultural and sporting life (municipal libraries and museums, sports halls and swimming pools, etc.).

Some municipalities are also involved in inter-communal organisations (gas, electricity, water, hospitals, etc.).



## Voting means expressing your own will for the management of your municipality.

Before making up their minds, voters need to read the electoral programs of the different parties and compare them in order to express their confidence in one party or in one or more candidates from the same party.

At the end of the elections, a majority is formed around one or more political groups comprising municipal councillors.

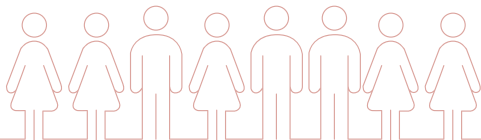
*This majority designates the managers of the municipality :*

*The aldermen and alderwomen ;*

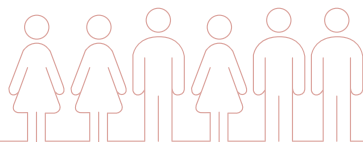
*The mayor is the person having obtained the most votes within this majority.*



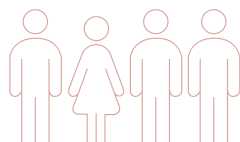
VOTERS



MUNICIPAL  
COUNCILLORS  
6-year mandate



ALDERMEN  
AND ALDERWOMEN  
6-year mandate



MAYOR  
6-year mandate



**Voting is a right :** every voter, whether Belgian or foreign, is free to choose a political party.

In Belgium, voting is also a duty: that is to say, voting is obligatory. All foreign nationals who register on the voters' register also have the obligation to vote, unless they are absent for a justified reason or gave a proxy. This is also an opportunity to take a civic action. You could also be a member of a polling or counting station in your municipality.

## Who can vote in municipal elections?

### General conditions :

- Any Belgian person :
  - ▶ be 18 years old on election day ;
  - ▶ enjoy their civil and political rights ;
  - ▶ be domiciled in a municipality.
- Any foreign person :
  - ▶ non-EU nationals who, at the time of submitting their application for registration, have five uninterrupted years of main residence in Belgium, covered by a legal residence permit ;
  - ▶ non-Belgian nationals of the European Union registered no later than July 31, 2024.

People who registered for previous municipal elections do not have to register again, but are subject to the obligation to vote.

A  
QUESTION



**Freephone :** 1718 (free call)

**Email :** [elections@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:elections@spw.wallonie.be)

**Website :** <http://electionslocales.wallonie.be>



# I register

## How ?

By submitting a registration request. In addition, non-EU nationals must sign a declaration\* by which they undertake to respect the Constitution, the laws of the Belgian people and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The registration form is available at the population department of your municipal administration and at the Regional Centre for Integration of Foreign People or People of Foreign Origin (CRI) near your home.

\*

*The model of the declaration is fixed by royal decree. It is therefore not necessary to have a form with the letterhead of your municipality.*

## Where to submit the documents ?

At the population department of your municipal administration.

If you wish, you can submit your registration application and your declaration to your municipal administration through an association.



**You must complete one form per person.**



**It is essential that you register no later than July 31, 2024. By registering, you are automatically registered for the following municipal elections and you are then obliged to vote.**

*As a non-EU foreign person, you currently do not have the right to present yourself as a candidate on the lists. However, Europeans can stand on the electoral lists for municipal elections and be elected councillor or even alderman/alderwoman or president of the CPAS.*

# I vote

## Practical instructions

On election day, you must bring your invitation and your identity card to be able to vote.

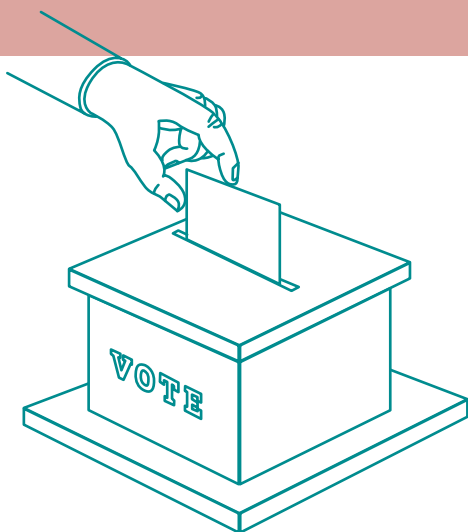
You should go to the place indicated in the invitation during the opening hours of the polling station.

## How to vote ?

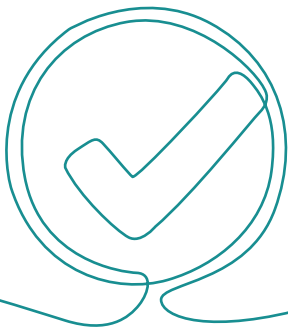
For all municipalities in Wallonia, voting is manual.

### Manual voting

1. Go to the polling station.
2. Present your identity card and the invitation to the President or to the members of the polling station.
3. You will receive a ballot.
4. Go to the voting booth.
5. Make your choice using the red pencil provided for this purpose.
6. Place the ballot paper in the ballot box.
7. Collect your identity card and your invitation with the stamp of the polling station attesting that you have voted.



For your vote to be valid,  
you must vote in the following way :



Either vote at the top of the list :

1	CANDIDATE 1	<input type="radio"/>
2	CANDIDATE 2	<input type="radio"/>
3	CANDIDATE 3	<input type="radio"/>
4	CANDIDATE 4	<input type="radio"/>
5	CANDIDATE 5	<input type="radio"/>
6	CANDIDATE 6	<input type="radio"/>

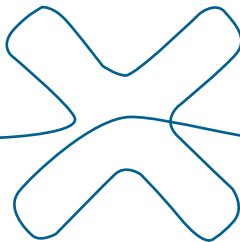
By voting at the top of the list, you approve both the list of candidates of a political party and the order in which they are presented.

Or vote for one or more candidates  
from the same list :

In this way, you cast a preferential vote, in favour of one or more candidates from the same list. If you check the box at the head of the list and a box next to the candidate on the same list at the same time, your vote will be considered a preferential vote and your vote at the top of the list will not be taken into account.

1	CANDIDATE 1	<input type="radio"/>
2	CANDIDATE 2	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
3	CANDIDATE 3	<input type="radio"/>
4	CANDIDATE 4	<input type="radio"/>
5	CANDIDATE 5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
6	CANDIDATE 6	<input type="radio"/>

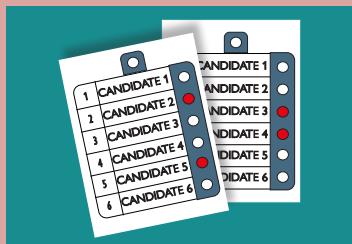
# Invalid votes



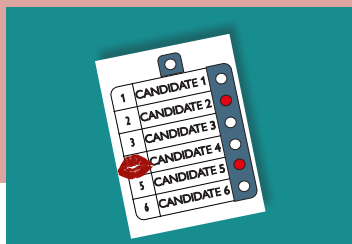
All the following ballot papers are invalid :



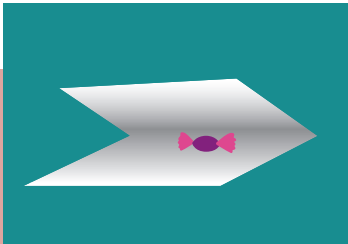
those other than those provided for



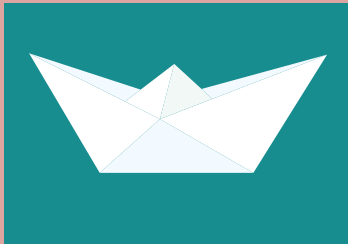
those that contain votes for different lists (panachage)



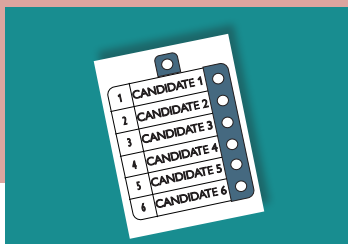
those that bear a mark or sign likely to make the voter identifiable



those that contain paper or any other object



those whose dimensions or shapes have been altered



those that do not contain any votes  
("blank" ballot)



The President of the polling station will put a stamp on your invitation. This document proves that you have exercised your right as an informed citizen. It is important to keep it.

### It is possible to vote by proxy

If, for one reason or another, you find yourself unable to go to the polling station on polling day even though you have registered as a voter, you can appoint another voter to vote on your behalf by proxy, as long as you justify your inability to do so with a valid document (medical certificate, etc.).



The proxy is drawn up on a form, the model of which can be obtained free of charge from your municipal administration.



Any other voter may be appointed as proxy holder.



Each proxy holder may hold only one proxy.



On election day, the proxy holder gives the proxy to the President of the polling station where you should have voted, and presents his or her identity card and invitation on which the President states "voted by proxy".



For any information or assistance in your processes, contact the Regional Centre for Integration of Foreign People or People of Foreign Origin in your region.

# Regional Integration Centres



**CAI** - Centre d'Action Interculturelle de la Province de Namur  
Rue Docteur Haibe 2 - 5002 NAMUR

Tél. : 081 73 71 76 - Fax : 081 73 04 41

[info@cainamur.be](mailto:info@cainamur.be) – [www.cainamur.be](http://www.cainamur.be)



**Ce.R.A.I.C.** - Centre Régional d'Action Interculturelle  
de la Région du Centre

Rue Dieudonné François 43 - 7100 LA LOUVIÈRE (Trivières)

Tél. : 064 23 86 56 - Fax : 064 26 52 53

[info@ceraic.be](mailto:info@ceraic.be) – [www.ceraic.be](http://www.ceraic.be)



**CIMB** - Centre Interculturel de Mons et du Borinage

Rue Grande 38 - 7330 SAINT-GHISLAIN

Tél. : 065 61 18 50

[cimb@skynet.be](mailto:cimb@skynet.be) – [www.cimb.be](http://www.cimb.be)



**CRIBW** - Centre Régional d'Intégration du Brabant Wallon

Rue Henri Pauwels 2 - 1400 NIVELLES

Tél. : 067 33 15 69

[info@cribw.be](mailto:info@cribw.be) – [www.cribw.be](http://www.cribw.be)



**CRIC** - Centre Régional d'Intégration de Charleroi

Rue Hanoteau 23 - 6060 GILLY

Tél. : 071 20 98 60 - Fax : 071 20 98 61

[info@cricharleroi.be](mailto:info@cricharleroi.be) – [www.cricharleroi.be](http://www.cricharleroi.be)



**CRILUX** - Centre Régional d'Intégration de la province de Luxembourg

Avenue d'Houffalize 44 - 6800 LIBRAMONT

Tél. : 061 21 22 07

[info@crilux.be](mailto:info@crilux.be) – [www.crilux.be](http://www.crilux.be)



**CRIPEL** - Centre Régional pour l'Intégration des Personnes  
Étrangères et d'Origine Étrangère de Liège  
Place Xavier Neujean 19b - 4000 LIÈGE

Tél. : 04 220 01 20

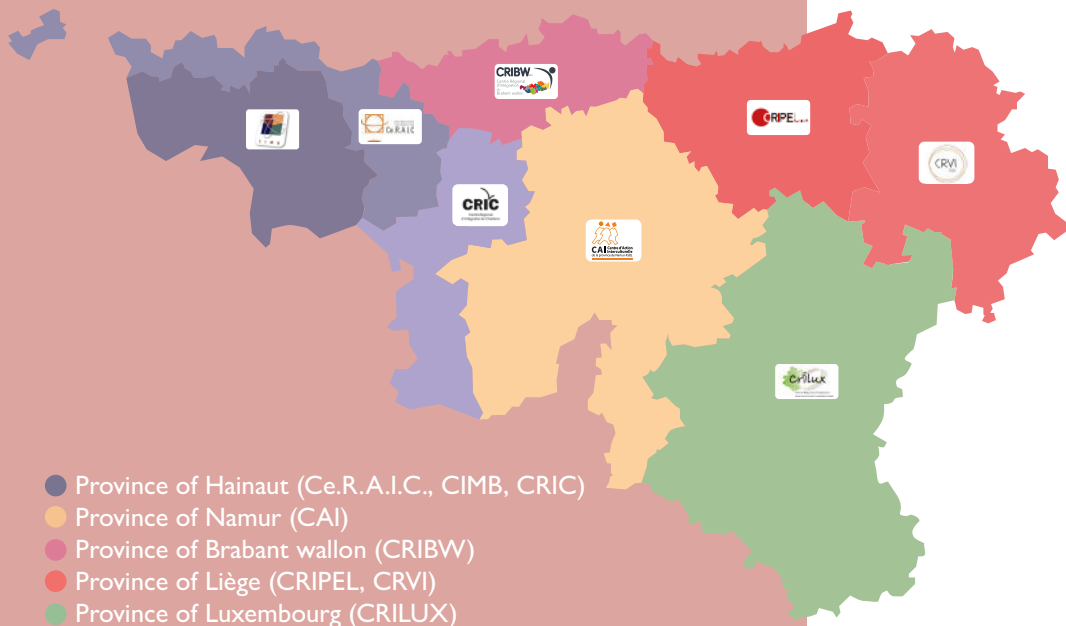
[secretariat@cripel.be](mailto:secretariat@cripel.be) – [www.cripel.be](http://www.cripel.be)

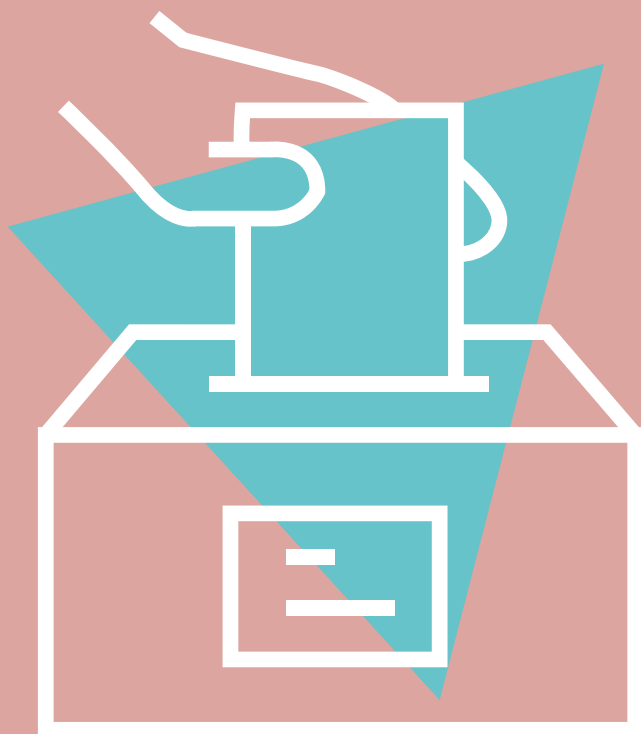


**CRVI** - Centre Régional de Verviers pour l'Intégration  
des Personnes Étrangères et d'Origine Étrangère  
Rue de Rome 17 - 4800 VERVIERS

Tél. : 087 35 35 20

[perso@crvi.be](mailto:perso@crvi.be) – [crvi.be](http://crvi.be)





## CAN I VOTE



Portal for the municipal and provincial elections of October 13, 2024

Phone : 1718 (free call)

Email : [elections.pouvoirslocaux@spw.wallonie.be](mailto:elections.pouvoirslocaux@spw.wallonie.be)

Website : <http://electionslocales.wallonie.be/>

## HOW TO DO



Regional integration centres of Wallonia

C.A.I. (Namur) : 081 73 71 76

Ce.R.A.I.C. (La Louvière) : 064 23 86 56

CIMB (Saint-Ghislain) : 065 61 18 50

CRIBW (Nivelles) : 067 33 15 69

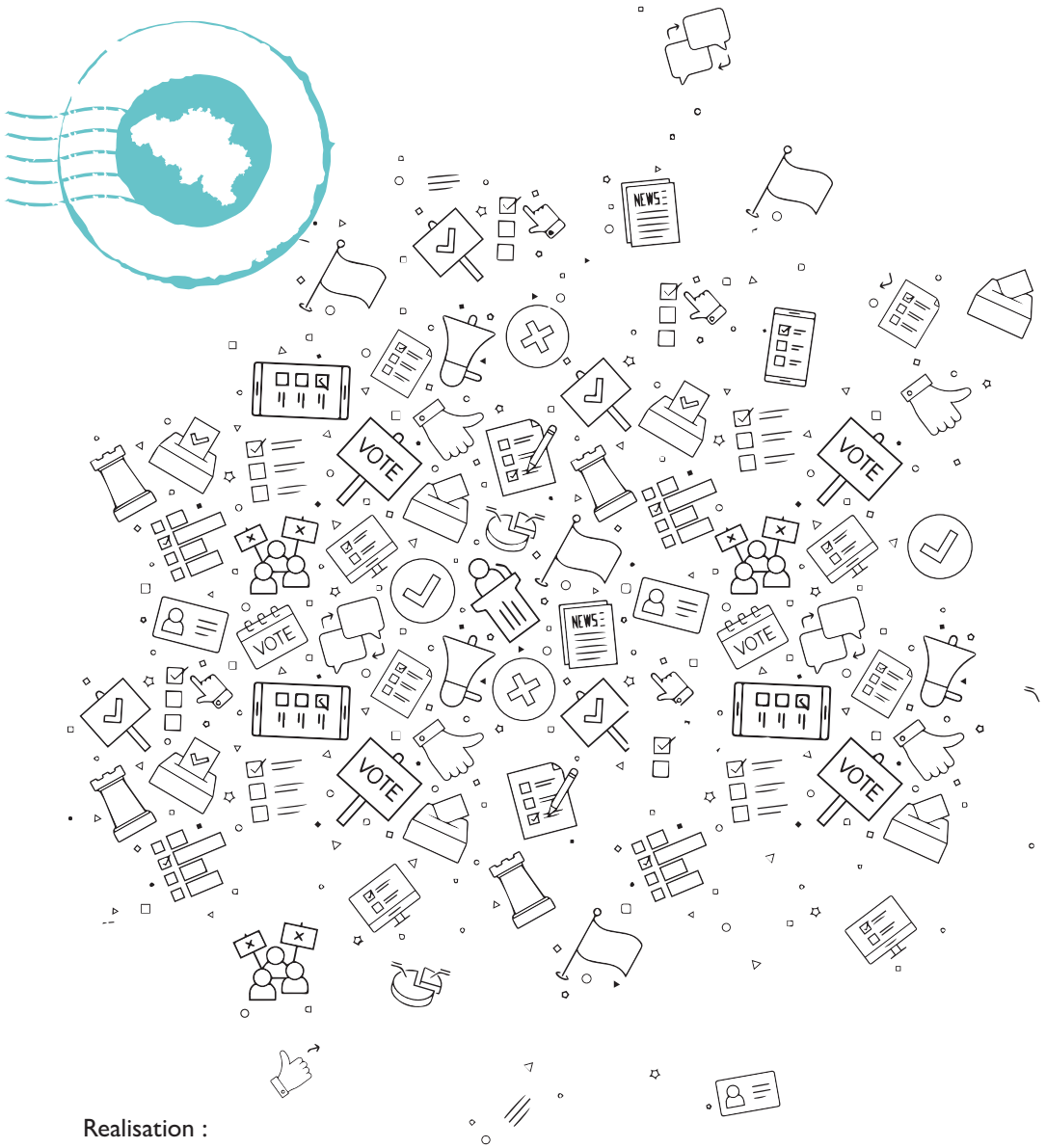
CRIC (Charleroi) : 071 20 98 60

CRILUX (Libramont) : 061 21 22 07

CRIPEL (Liège) : 04 220 01 20

CRVI (Verviers) : 087 35 35 20

DISCRI (Namur) : 081 43 55 31



Realisation :  
DisCRI Asbl, CRIPEL

Responsable editor :  
Farid Nagui, Place Gustave Falmagne 5 - 5000 Namur

Avec le soutien de

