The child and youth impact report (JoKER) in Flanders

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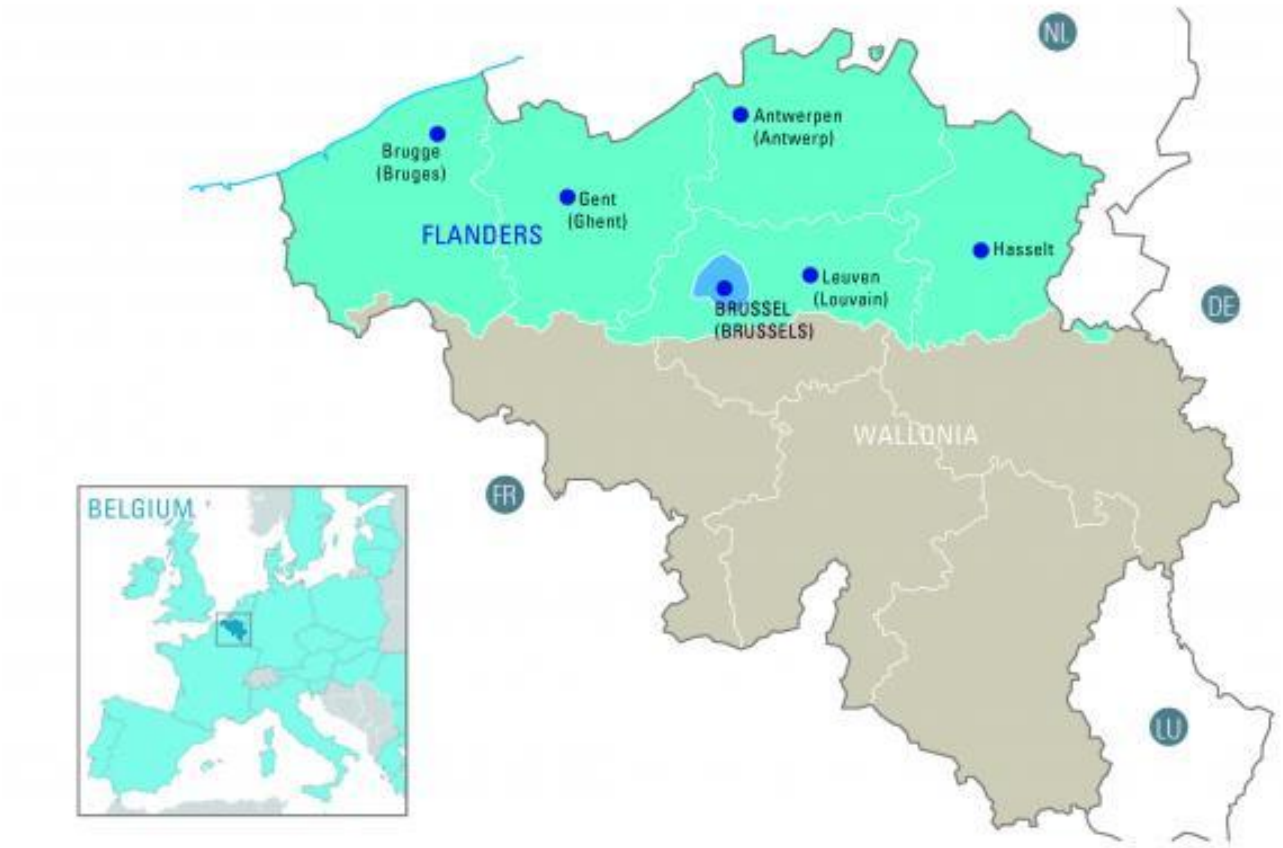
Setting the scene

Context


NL
Antwerpen
(Antwerp)
Brugge
(Bruges)
Gent
(Ghent)
FLANDERS
Hasselt
Leuven
(Louvain)
BRUSSEL
(BRUSSELS)
DE
WALLONIA
FR
LU
BELGIUM

History & focus of evaluation

1997: child impact report (KER)

2005: regulatory impact assessment (RIA)

2008: child and youth impact report (JoKER)

-> Whenever RIA -> integrate JoKER in RIA

-> evaluation of the 19 JoKERs of 2010-2011

(+/- 19% of draft decrees)

JoKER?

- *Ex ante* impact assessment carried out by the Flemish administration

- For all legislative proposals based on initiative from the Flemish government (‘draft decrees’)

- That have a direct impact on the interest of persons under the age of 25

How does it work? (1)

- **Decision to elaborate JoKER and responsibility for JoKER process**
  - Policy domain of new legislation
  - RIA template and JoKER manual
    1. Title
    2. Reason and objective
    3. Options
    4. Effects
       1. Target groups and involved parties
       2. Option …
          - Direct effects / Distribution effects / Indirect effects
          - Comparative table

How does it work? (2)

5. Elaboration, implementation and monitoring
6. Consultation
7. Information for Inspection of Finance
8. Summary
9. Contact information

- **Support and quality control**
  - Youth Division
  - JoKER opinion
    - Incl. control of motivation why no JoKER
- **Submit file to Flemish government**

Methodology of evaluation

- Literature review
- Document analysis
- Electronic survey
- Focus groups
    - Civil servants
    - Children's rights and youth actors
- Expert consultation

-> carried out by the Children's Rights Knowledge Centre (www.keki.be)

-> with Hanne Op de Beeck & Wouter Vandenhole

Results & recommendations

Scope

- Material scope
  - Recommendation:
    - Extend to regulatory decisions
    - Extend to decree proposals (initiative from member(s) of Parliament)
- Personal scope (0-25 years)
  - Both a strength and a weakness

Quality

- Rights-based approach

- Diversity
  - Between minors and young adults / between various age groups / in other domains

- Experts
  - Internal or external?

+ Establish ‘JoKER cell’

Process

- Launch of JoKER process
  - Mention in regulatory agendas -> trigger
- Consultation
  - Feedback
- Political commitment
  - Communication strategy

+ Focus on *process*

Effectiveness & impact

Effectiveness

- Objectives?

Impact

- Impact on the proposed legislation
  - Earlier launch

- Impact after approval of draft bill
  - Importance of ex post evaluation

Tensions

- Between ‘mainstreaming’ (integrating JoKER in RIA) and preserving JoKER specificity
- Between international leadership and novelty of process
- Between ‘ideal situation’ and pragmatism
- Between JoKER evaluation and other policy processes

Thank you

Children’s Rights Knowledge Centre – www.keki.be

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