

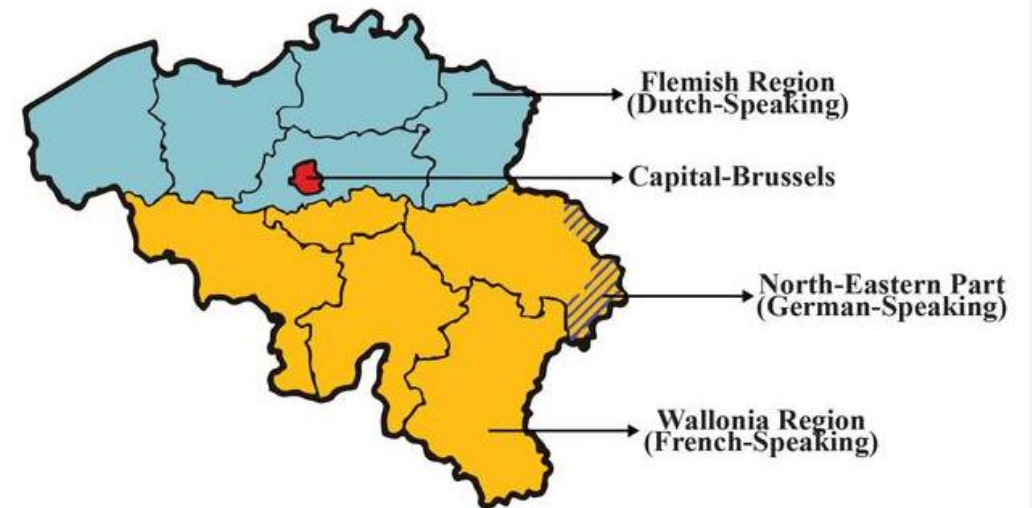
WELCOMING SPEECH

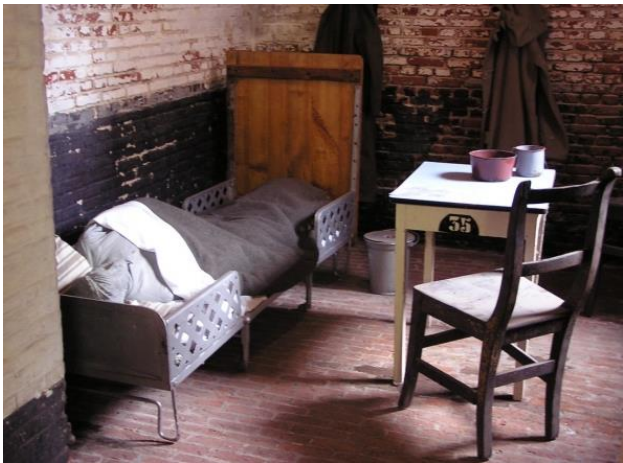
EOH Conference Leuven 2023

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WELCOME TO BELGIUM AND LOUVAIN

- One overview in 5 minutes
 - 3 languages – regions, communities, provinces
 - Very different socio-economic situations
- A country in the heart of Europe
 - Longstanding history of migration





THE HOMELESSNESS SECTOR AND PUBLIC POLICY

- 20 Years after the Emergency Program for a more solidary society
 - Closing of beggar's and vagrants depots
 - Responsibility of public welfare services
 - Also more Homelessness in the streets

=> Creation of low threshold services, street work and emergency shelters
- Nowadays
 - Integrated policy plans in all 3 regions
 - Common Framework based on housing led (and-first)
 - Homelessness counts
 - A diversity of different actors
 - In line with European policy advancements

STAKES

- Coordination with other care or policy related fields
 - Health, psychiatry, domestic violence, substance abuse, end of prison, transitions from youth care/protection services, ...
- Access to Housing
- Persistent Poverty
- Migration (Intra- and extraeuropean)
- More research on trajectories, welfare actors and policy approaches

THERE IS A LOT OF
WORK TO DO...

...IN THE MEANTIME,
THERE ARE A LOT OF
THINGS TO ENJOY IN
BELGIUM !

