

The “patent information landscape” in Belgium. Organization and history of BEPIUG

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History of BEPIUG

Only five years ago there was no common platform for patent information professionals in Belgium. Some joined the Dutch WON, others the French-speaking CFIB, but most were just on their own.

In May 2010 a handful of people from different companies met in the Belgian Patent Office in Brussels to talk about this unsatisfactory situation -some more enthusiastic, others sceptic. Retrospectively, this was the birth of the **BEPIUG** (= Belgian Patent Information User Group), even so name, logo and homepage were introduced later (2011).

Today, BEPIUG offers almost 100 members the opportunity to meet, network, exchange ideas and share the latest information in the world of patent information specialists.

Most participants of the initial meeting are still in the BEPIUG-board.

Mission of BEPIUG

The principles of BEPIUG are described in “*the charter*”.
The main goals are:

- Giving patent information searchers a place for networking and open discussions
- Sharing knowledge concerning the research of patent information (“best practice”)
- Organizing training sessions for patent information experts
- To interface with national & international organizations on matters of patent information
- To be the showcase of the profession, recently called “QPIP” (= Qualified Patent Information Professional), towards the public

The Organization

The key to achieve the goals of BEPIUG and to have such a broad support throughout the whole country probably lies in the simple formula:

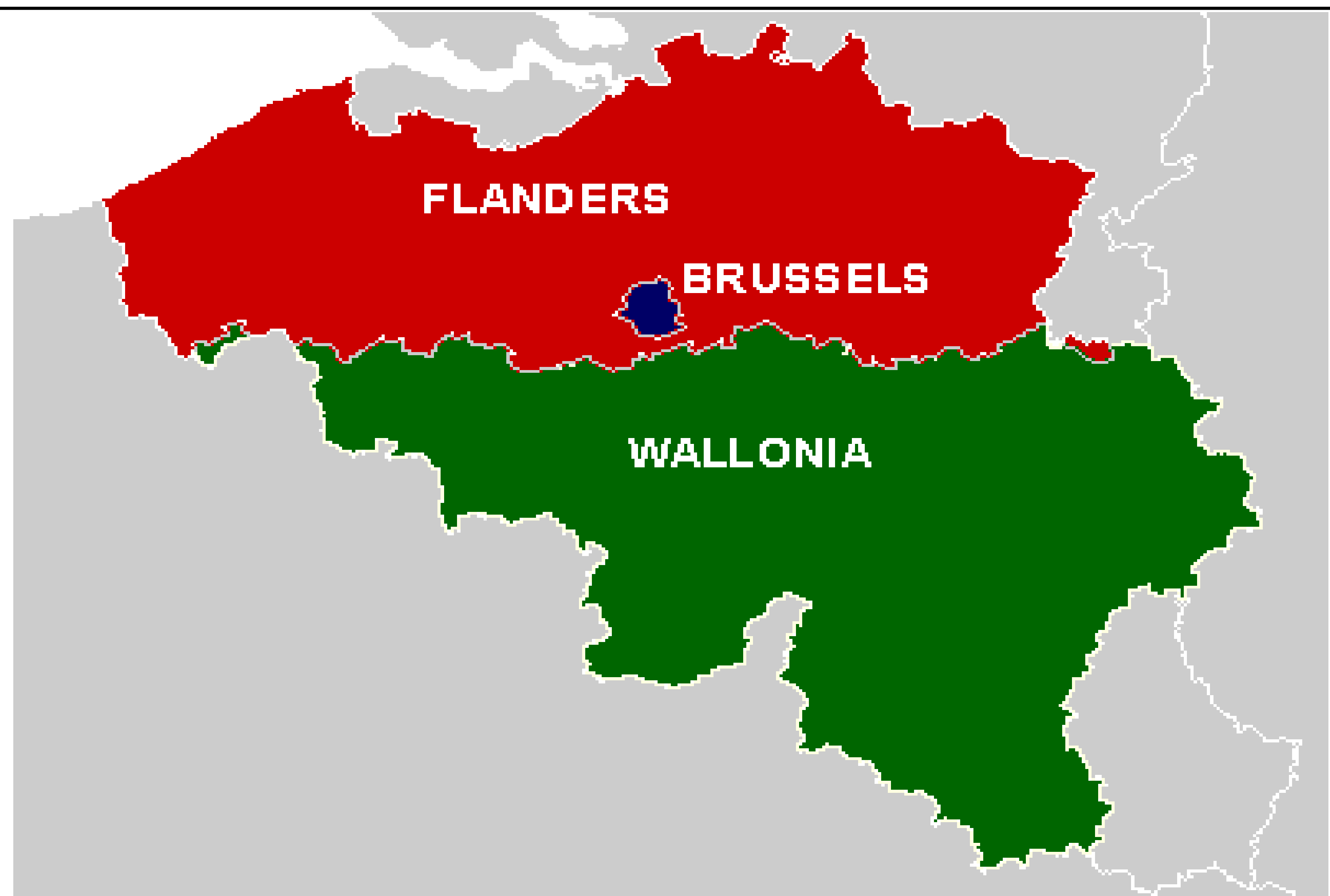
FOR THE MEMBERS BY THE MEMBERS

BEPIUG is a non-statutory community of individuals. Everything is organized by volunteers. A steering committee, consisting of 9 members, gives general guidance and prepares the regular member meetings, hosted by one of the members of the BEPIUG. Hosting such a meeting gives the opportunity to present the own company and in particular also the way this company handles patent information. 2-3 major presentations on specific topics as well as short event reports (conferences, meetings) round up a standard program. The working language is English to facilitate communication in this multilingual country (Dutch, French, German).

Confidentiality of information shared in presentations during such meetings is another small but important aspect of the BEPIUG community.

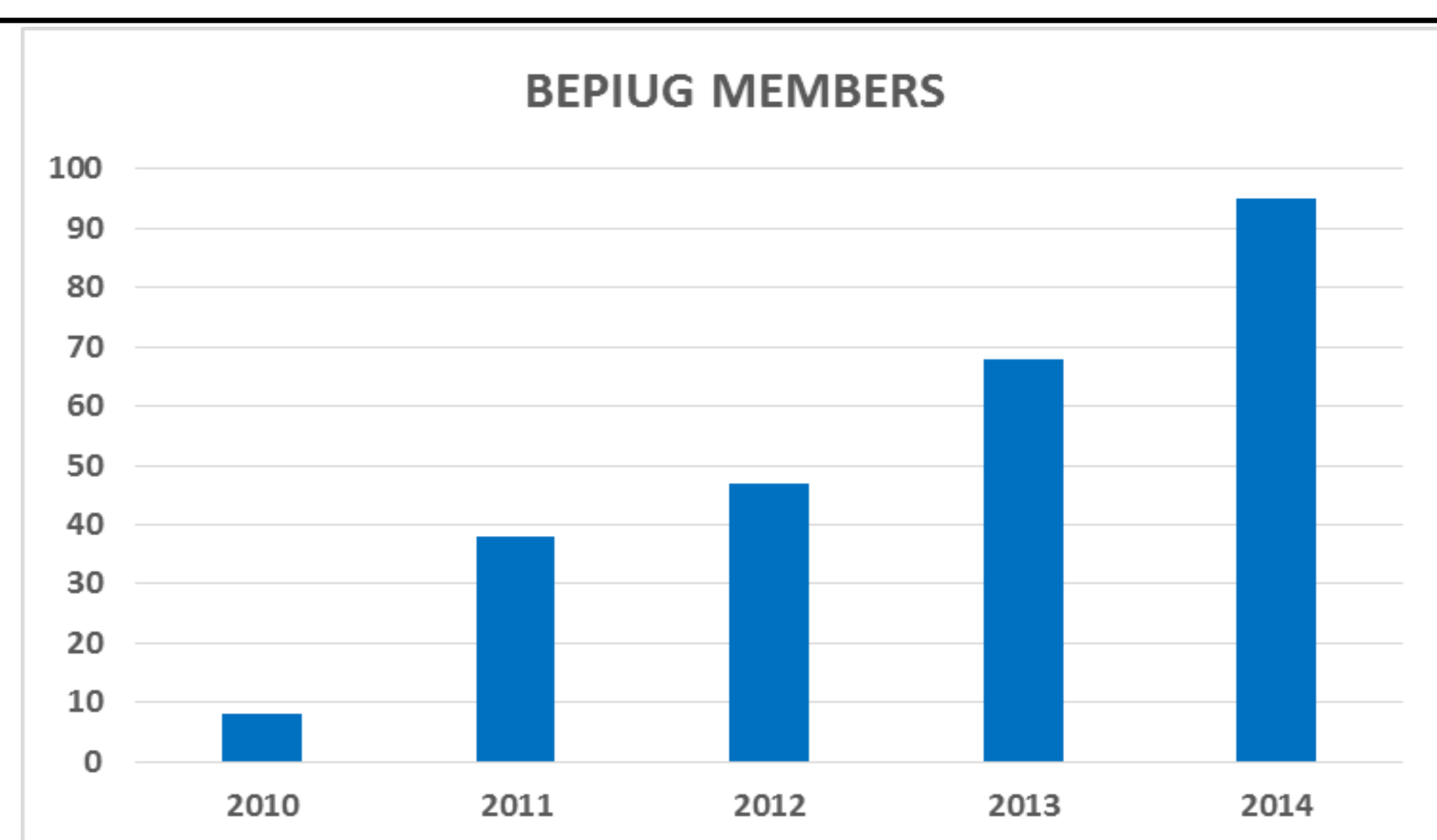
Member meetings all over the country

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 25-05-2010 | Belgian Patent Office - Brussels |
| 2. 07-10-2010 | Sirris - Heverlee |
| 3. 24-01-2011 | Imec - Heverlee |
| 4. 05-05-2011 | Huntsman - Everberg |
| 5. 05-09-2011 | Bekaert - Zwevegem |
| 6. 21-03-2012 | BBRI - Limelette |
| 7. 27-09-2012 | Sirris - Heverlee |
| 8. 10-05-2013 | Niko - Sint-Niklaas |
| 9. 05-11-2013 | Umicore - Brussels |
| 10. 25-03-2014 | Barco - Kurne |
| 11. 16-09-2014 | Picarré – Liège |
| 12. 17-03-2015 | Agfa - Mortsel |



Members

BEPIUG has evolved from an informal, “random” group to an organization with almost 100 members, representing more than 50 different companies (beginning of 2015).



International organizations & cooperations

Representatives of the BEPIUG are active in CEPIUG and SACEPO/PDI, linking the Belgian community of patent information professionals to international partners.

There are also close relationships to WON, CFIB or PDG; members of BEPIUG are also members in these organizations.

Contact

More information via our homepage www.bepiug.org, on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bepiug) or via the general e-mail info@bepiug.org.

In addition, any member of the board can be addressed directly and will be pleased to answer your questions.