



Belgium 2012 – 2018 Elections

Customized voting solution for a pioneer in electronic voting

Achievements

Over **20** million votes cast

Enfranchised some **3.6** million voters

153 communes served

22,100 voting machines deployed

Smartmatic in Belgium

Since 2012, Smartmatic has been Belgium's official election technology provider. As such, it has deployed some 22,100 voting machines across the regions of Flanders and Brussels-Capital, and in the German-speaking Community of Belgium (DGB).

Smartmatic technology has enabled a seamless election experience for voters and poll workers. It also allowed authorities to broadcast timely official results.

In 2018, a new voting machine (A4-517) and a new president machine (VIU-805), both featuring innovative designs and user-friendly interfaces, were added to the country's existing automated voting platform. In addition, polling stations in two Flemish municipalities —Aalst and Mechelen— were equipped with Smartmatic's assistive technology to help voters with visual disabilities to follow audio instructions to navigate the ballot and vote independently.

Since 2012, Smartmatic has participated in 9 local and parliamentary elections:

- 2012 Local Provincial
- 2012 Local Municipal
- 2012 Local City Districts
- 2014 Regional Parliament
- 2014 Federal Parliament
- 2014 European Union Parliament
- 2018 Local Provincial
- 2018 Local Municipal
- 2018 Local City Districts

Scope

We have provided elections technology and services to 4,129 polling stations across 191 communes in the Flanders region, the Capital District of Brussels and the German-speaking community.

Place	# Polling Stations	%
Antwerp (Flanders)	1,340	32.5%
Flemish Brabant (Flanders)	655	15.9%
Limburgo (Flanders)	566	13.7%
West Flanders	391	9.5%
East Flanders	406	9.8%
Capital District of Brussels	713	17.3%
German-speaking community	58	14%
Total	4,129	100%

Technology

In Belgium we have worked with authorities and experts in developing two generations of fully-auditable voting systems. The result, a custom-made robust voting system comprising:

- Voting machines with touchscreen terminals that print audit paper trails;
- Smart cards to activate the voting machines;
- Electronic ballot boxes to scan, register and store ballots;
- President systems for the polling station officials who control the process;
- Pen drives that contain the originals and the copies of: the approved system logic, ballot configuration data, the digital images of the registered ballot choices, the counted poll office results per election, and the digital image of the poll office report.

Voting Machines

Belgium has deployed two of our voting machines: the SAES-3370 and the A4-517. These 17" touchscreen voting machines facilitate the voter experience by allowing voters to easily make, verify, correct and confirm their choices. A built-in printer produces physical copies of each electronic vote, making of each voter an auditor.

Within the Belgian voting solution, the SAES-3370 and the A4-517 work as ballot printing devices. The printer generates a paper ballot of the vote which contains all choices made in plain human readable text, as well as in a QR type barcode. The printed ballot does not become a registered vote until it is scanned and cast by the voter using the electronic ballot box.

President Machine

The President Machines (PM) help poll workers to conduct the election. In Belgium, both the Clevo Notebook and the VIU-805 are used as PMs.

The President Machines have four main functions: To activate smartcards that voters use to access the voting machines; to electronically register and store each vote; to count all votes and store the results; and to generate a polling station report.

The PMs works in conjunction with peripheral devices:

- **Smart cards:** Before entering the polling booth, each voter receives an activated card to access and use the voting machine. All used cards are automatically deactivated after the voting session and must be returned to the President before leaving the polling station.

- **Smart card reader unit:** Can be connected to the PM via USB or a fully integrated (second-generation). It has a contact chip card activation function that enables voters to access the voting machines.
- **e-Urn (electronic ballot box):** This electronic ballot box reads the ballot's barcode and transfers the data to two separate USB Pen Drives before physically storing the paper ballot of each voter. The e-Urn connects to the PM via a combined power/USB cable.

Smartmatic's Belgian voting solution for each election (approximate numbers, incl. contingency, training and test equipment)	
Device	Quantity
Voting Machines	23,500
President Machines	4,700
eURNs (electronic ballot box)	4,700
USB Pen Drives (Master and Backup USB Keys)	9,400
Smartcards	235,000

Scope – Services

Because we know what it takes to conduct a successful election, we don't just provide the technology, we couple our advanced hardware and software with a complete suite of services to guarantee a flawless execution.

We have provided Belgium with technical support, maintenance and supervision on Election Day, including a Help Desk, monitoring and reporting. Technical support also included:

- Inspection and repair service during non-electoral years, 3 months prior to elections; and after equipment installation;
- Warehouse storage services;
- On-premise training sessions: "Train the Trainer" and "Members of poll offices";

- Voter education activities: Demos, publication of videos and printed material;
- Technical support to the electoral agencies in mastering the election data (by means of the Smartmatic ECM – Electoral Management System – and mass duplicators for pen drives);
- Delivery of voting system components, controlled from the warehouse;
- Installation, disassembly and retrieval of voting offices;
- Technical field support on election day including dispatching services for people and equipment.

About Belgium

Officially known as the Kingdom of Belgium, it combines a hereditary constitutional Monarchy with a federal parliamentary democracy.

Belgium has a particular government state structure, based on areas defined by language and/or geographical location. In 1993, a constitutional revision established a unique federal state with segregated political power into three levels:

- 1| The Federal Government, based in Brussels.
- 2| The three regions:
 - the Flemish Region, subdivided into five provinces;
 - the Walloon Region, subdivided into five provinces;
 - the Brussels-Capital Region.
- 3| The three language communities:
 - the Flemish Community (Dutch-speaking);
 - the French Community (French-speaking);
 - the German-speaking Community.

Voting in Belgium is compulsory for everyone over eighteen years old. Penalties can be applied to those who refuse to turn up on Election Day. This is probably one of the reasons why Belgium has one of the highest rates of voter turnout in the world. More than 90% of registered citizens usually vote, out of an electorate of over 8 million people (October 2018). Approximately 49% of Belgians vote electronically.

Continent: **Europe**

Country: **Belgium**

Capital: **Brussels**

Estimated population: **11.4 million**

Government type: **Hereditary constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy**

Administrative division: **11 provinces and 581 municipalities**



About Smartmatic

Smartmatic is the world's leading elections company.

Its comprehensive portfolio offers unique and innovative technologies and services to improve every stage of the process.

Since forming in 2000, the company has processed over 3.7 billion votes in election projects in five continents.

Smartmatic is headquartered in the UK and serves its customers through an organization of more than 500 employees working in 15 offices around the world.