

valantic

Ostbelgien 

VALANTIC – SUCCESS STORIES OF THE DIGITAL NOW!

Digitalization as a growth engine – Eastern Belgium relies on digital management





The Member State of East Belgium

Belgium, with a total population of about 11.5 million, is divided into three member states: the Dutch-speaking Flemish region, which makes up roughly 60% of the population; the French-speaking region; and the German-speaking community in the eastern part of the country. In eastern Belgium, approximately 80,000 residents live in nine municipalities. The German-speaking Community of Eastern Belgium has a total budget of around EUR 744 million.

During the sixth state reform, many additional powers were transferred from the federal government to the individual regions and communities. The German-speaking community is not only responsible for budget and financial planning but also for culture, social affairs, family, and the elderly, for example. Other areas for planning projects include education, digitalization, recruiting skilled workers, and improving services for citizens. Citizens, advisory experts, and various organizations are actively involved in developing the new concept „East Belgium Living 2040.“

The challenge

A transparent, digitalized budget and financial planning for the German-speaking Community of Eastern Belgium.

In recent years, the Kingdom of Belgium has delegated more tasks and powers to its communities and regions. Traditional planning and reporting tools could no longer meet the growing demands. The goal of the Ministry of the German-speaking Community was to enhance the development of Eastern Belgium more effectively by digitalizing administrative tasks.

valantic's consultants started in 2010 with a reporting and planning application for the finance department. Over the years, more responsibilities have been transferred to the Ministry of the German-speaking Community, and technical support has been expanded. Today, in addition to the finance, budget, and controlling departments, Valantic supports a total of nine specialized departments and the three municipalities of Eupen, Raeren, and Lontzen, serving around 450 users.

The main topics at a glance include: budget planning, budget implementation, infrastructure planning for external services, financial monitoring, residential and care homes for the elderly, the regional



development concept and ongoing work program, simulation of teaching salaries, (financial) monitoring of teaching projects, planning of child benefits, control of European Social Funds, subsidy of the socio-cultural sector, development of a personnel registry for the non-profit sector, integration of municipalities, development of multi-year planning, and the development of liquidity planning.

Solutions & results in detail

Administrative applications at a glance

- **The Ministry's finances:**

Budgetary planning in accordance with the European Economic Area, with extensive comments for Parliament, the Federal Court of Auditors, and the European Union. Current picture of budget implementation, automated annual financial statements, balance sheet, and profit and loss statement.

- **Health, residential, and care centers:**

Planning, simulating, and reporting the utilization of senior citizens' care homes for people with varying support requirements, including short-term stays (e.g., day care).

- **Teachers' salary simulation:**

Planning of cost drivers, currencies, step increases, and retirements for schools. Collection and management of projects and measures to be funded for supporting pupils.

- **Family benefits:**

Planning and simulation of child benefit claims, support payments, and social benefits for families with a corresponding reporting system.

- **Municipalities' finances:**

Budgetary planning for the EEA and related projects, automatic allocation of commitments.

- **Infrastructure expenses:**

Planning and decision-making regarding infrastructure expenditures, taking into account the regional development concept.

- **Currencies (rates) – salary simulation:**

Planning and simulation of the impact of salary adjustments in certain salary classes and in different occupational groups, including part-time retirement models.

- **Projects of the Ministry:**

Project management for general projects such as the regional development concept for Eastern Belgium and the ongoing work program.

"valantic's solutions enable the Ministry to perform its tasks transparently and efficiently, using available data, and for the benefit of the citizens."

Oliver Paasch

Prime Minister of Eastern Belgium



Technical solutions in use

- SAP ERP with special focus on the modules Finance (FI), Controlling (CO), Project System (PS), and Business Warehouse (BW)
- Eastern Belgium uses a SaaS solution from valantic. This SaaS solution uses components from IBM, Microsoft, and Apparo, among others
- Reporting tool: valantic financial pilot powered by IBM Cognos Analytics
- Planning tool: valantic financial pilot powered by IBM Planning Analytics (TM1)
- Data warehouse/databases: Microsoft Data Warehouse/Databases in the Cloud
- Creation of data entry applications: Apparo Fast Edit



Six advantages at a glance

- More accurate planning, forecasting, and simulation based on current data
- Shorter reporting cycles (quarterly instead of annual)
- Much greater transparency and efficiency throughout the budgetary and financial planning process
- More precise allocation of resources with high added value for the citizens of Eastern Belgium
- Process optimization and drastically reduced manual effort for the Ministry, municipalities, and specialist groups
- Better decision-making thanks to detailed analysis and real-time data

Project history

Eastern Belgium is **shaping the digital administration of tomorrow**

During the sixth state reform, the Federal State of Belgium delegated many tasks and powers to individual communities. The detailed and diverse vision of „East Belgium Living 2040“ acts as a guiding political principle.

This gave the German-speaking community the freedom, but also the responsibility, to administer its own budget and financial planning, as well as to allocate resources for many social and cultural projects. The previous planning tools and processes could no longer handle the new tasks, and they were no longer state-of-the-art.

The Ministry of the German-speaking Community therefore decided to press ahead with the digitalization of all administrative processes and to use financial resources more efficiently and transparently to create as much added value and quality of life as possible for its citizens.

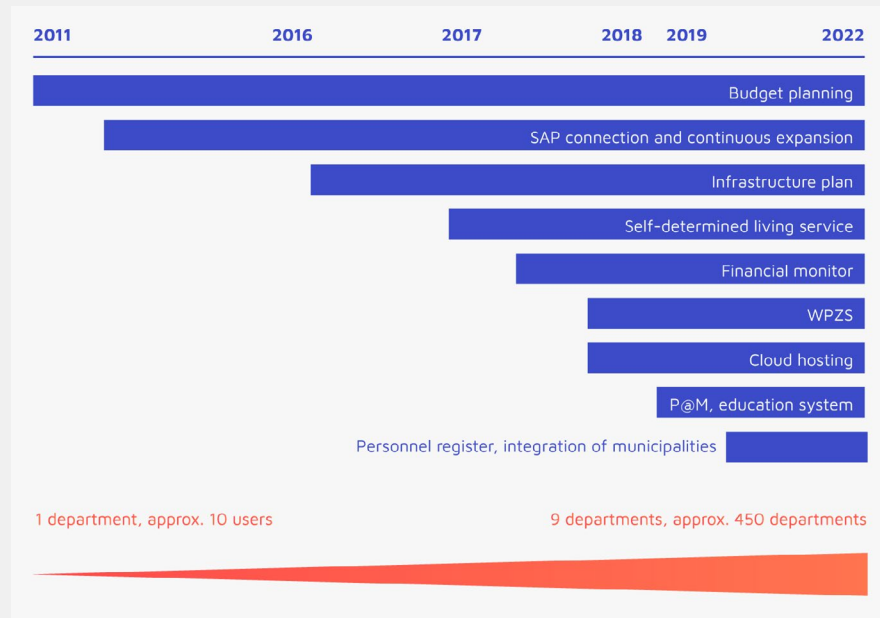
Initially, it all began quite simply: valantic's consultants joined the project in 2010 and were the first to develop a reporting and planning application for the finance department; this project was very successful. It quickly became apparent to all stakeholders: The future of East Belgium depends on digitalization. Today, along with the finance, budget, and controlling departments, valantic supports a total of nine departments and three municipalities with approximately 450 users.

„Digitalization has enhanced planning, forecasting, and simulation. It accelerated reporting cycles, improved visibility and efficiency, optimized resource allocation, and greatly decreased manual effort.“

Elena Kalf

Assistant for Budget and Controlling and
Project Manager of Eastern Belgium





René Miribung

Head of Finance and Head of Budget
and Controlling of Eastern Belgium



„valantic’s web-based financial monitor provides all citizens of Eastern Belgium with transparent and accessible budget planning and up-to-date financial information on a daily basis.“

Financial Monitor provides transparency

Planning and strategy discussions focus on education, teaching, youth, inclusion, care, funding for social and cultural projects, recruiting skilled workers, and improving citizen services. valantic has created a web-based financial monitor that offers transparent, freely accessible information on the current budget, financial planning, and budget implementation for all residents of Eastern Belgium.

Housing and care homes for senior citizens

There are many questions to consider to ensure the best care and support for senior citizens. Which retirement homes have vacancies, and which have waiting lists? How many caregivers does each facility have, and who will retire when? Are all the funds being used effectively and appropriately?

Previously, institutions sent an Excel spreadsheet to decision-makers at the Ministry and to specialist departments at the end of each year. Now, data is collected quarterly and stored in a central data warehouse, including details about residents, staff statistics, and personnel cost simulations. The Ministry’s administration can access up-to-date summaries instantly, enabling more accurate planning and data-driven decisions. Moreover, the homes gain valuable insights through these reports—information that was previously inaccessible to them.

Teaching, schools, and education

Personnel planning and cost trends, including different salary rates, are based on complex calculations. This is partly because the school year does not align with the Ministry's fiscal year. How many teachers work how many hours at each institution? Who is planning to retire soon? How many teachers are hired temporarily, are exempted during the summer, and therefore do not appear in summer statistics at all?

To plan for the next school year, Excel spreadsheets with up to 20 documents were previously printed and manually reviewed. The Ministry received applications by mail, phone, or post. Now, just a few mouse clicks are enough to analyze the centrally stored data and make planning more secure and reliable. valantic's analysis and planning solution has greatly reduced manual effort and process times.

Expenses for child benefits

valantic-designed models simulate population growth over the medium and long term, enabling informed predictions about future costs of child benefits. These include annual lump sums for families, birth bonuses, and expenses for children with special needs.



Digitalization that improves the quality of life

These are just a few examples of many projects. valantic's digitalization solutions allow the Ministry of the German-speaking Community to perform its tasks transparently, efficiently, and in a data-driven manner, for the overall benefit of citizens. More projects will be launched soon, including liquidity planning, establishing personnel controlling, and creating a planning model in the personnel sector to improve social professions.

valantic provides end-to-end solutions, from data warehouse architecture to reporting, dashboarding, and detailed planning and budgeting. valantic's experts ensure that all components integrate smoothly and the intended value is achieved in practice.



About us

valantic Business Analytics (valantic BA) is part of the valantic Group (www.valantic.com). We advise companies on the introduction and implementation of digitalization strategies and are proven

specialists in business management solutions (business analytics, artificial intelligence, connected planning, Big Data, data warehousing, predictive analytics). For more than two decades, we have been a successful, trusted partner to our customers (including companies in the pharmaceutical, retail, and manufacturing industries, banks, and insurance companies).

valantic is a market leader in digital transformation and one of the top digital solutions, consulting, and software companies, with more than 4,000 developers and consultants around the world (Q2/24).



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For additional information, please visit our website

at: www.valantic.com

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