



### INTRODUCTION



In order to answer at best to the expectation of their citizens and visitors, and to transform their drawbacks into assets for the local sustainable development, the European communities involved in the Qualicities project are committing today with determination in a next step of the project : preparing to submit the quality approach they engaged to an independent audit aiming at obtaining the European label Qualicities.

Two years of common work, with the help of the European Union and of the expert team AFAQ-AFNOR certification, were necessary to write the good practices referent document, basis of the sustainable development of European historical cities and territories ready to be tested.

The communities are thus entering the quality label process by choosing to involve their political authorities in the quality approach which implies also the commitment of civil servants and local actors of heritage and tourism.

### ASSESSMENT



#### European session of Anderlecht (Belgium) - December 2006 .

During the recent European session of Qualicities project in Anderlecht, the 8 lead partners met to share their experiments of setting up of the approach and of the referent document in their communities.

Every community created its Qualicities local committee as written in the chapter 3

of the referent document (fundamental principles). The local committee, made of elected officials, civil servants and actors of heritage and tourism, is responsible for developing the approach within the community and follow its progress.

Following step is the self assessment period: the community must evaluate its situation for each criterion of the referent document. This general diagnosis will enable the community to begin the progress method acting according to strategic axes. The majority of partners realised this diagnostic work. From the results of this work, the expert team of the project could conclude that the referent document is adapted to the needs of historical communities and recommended to the steering committee to validate it.

Finally, the most advanced communities have already begun to write their local progress plan. This plan includes a strategic orientation document and a program to set up in order to respect the requirement of the referent document.

Once the communities absolutely ready, local audits, realised by AFAQ-AFNOR certified auditors will begin. They will allow checking the implementation of control points of the referent document.

After the audit, the auditor will deliver its opinion to the Qualicities label commission which will decide if the label is attributed or not to the community involved. If the community is considered as not ready, he auditor will recommend improvements to prepare the next audit.

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Contacts

**M. Benoît STIEVENART**  
Financial and administrative European departement  
Rue Rospy Chaudron, 7  
1070 ANDERLECHT  
BELGUM  
Tel : +32 2521 4533  
[bstievenart@anderlecht.irisnet.be](mailto:bstievenart@anderlecht.irisnet.be)

**Ms Amandine LEOPOLD**  
Quality officer  
Service patrimoine, Mairie d'Arles 13200 ARLES  
FRANCE  
Tel + 33 4 9049 59 09  
[a.leopold@ville-arles.fr](mailto:a.leopold@ville-arles.fr)

Find out more on :  
[www.qualicities.org](http://www.qualicities.org)

## City of Anderlecht – Belgium

During European Session of Anderlecht, Qualicities Partners had the honour to meet Mrs Fabienne Miroir, new Echevin delegated to kindergarten French speaking area, culture (French speaking area), Youth (French speaking area), Monuments and Sites, Relation North/South, Sports, Tourism and associations (French speaking area). Mrs Fabienne Miroir committed herself to follow the Qualicities project very closely.



Anderlecht is situated in the North East of Brussels. With its 90.000 inhabitants and a surface area of 1.784 hectares (11% of the region) Anderlecht is part of the 19 communes which make up the Brussels –Capital region, and one of the most important..

Today's communal territory used to be different hamlets of which the most important were Cureghem and Anderlecht (historical centre). In fact, the development centred on the Mons axis, Cureghem village and the village of Veeweyde, being somewhat apart from the major communication routes.

Urban expansion began in the first half of the XIXth century, when Brussels began to expand beyond the city walls.

Around 1880, the eastern half of Cureghem was built. The urbanisation of the Mons route began and the village expanded. The end of the XIX and beginning of the XX century saw the constructions along the banks of the canal.

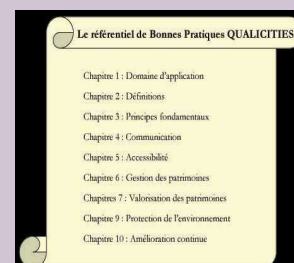
Between 1920 and 1930 three new areas were created in Anderlecht: La Roue, Moortebeek and Bon Air. Then, according to the town planning principles of the Athens charter (Sunlight, space and green spaces being the three principle materials), quarters such as Peterbos were developed.

The Roman collegial, the Roman crypt, the tomb of Saint Guidon, the Gothic collegial, stained glass from different times, the 18th century buildings, gravestones and monuments, the Vandenpeereboom house, the beguine museum, the old presbytery, the porcelain street with its artists, modern art at Cureghem, the slaughterhouses, cellars and house of Erasmus can be visited in Anderlecht.

## NEWS

### QUALICITIES good practices referent document

The referent document has recently been finalised. It did not last less than two years for the 15 European communities of the Qualicities project to write, test and validate the reference document of the label of sustainable development for historical cities and territories in Europe. The final referent document is the latest version among 12 versions produced by partners with the help of the association AFAQ AFNOR certification, Paris. It includes today 10 chapters and 53 criteria to be respected to obtain the label.



## NEXT...



### A first wave of local audits will be launched in spring 2007.

Their objective will be to check the application of the referent document; to evaluate the durations of audit of the referent document according to the size of the communities; to determine the points to be audited in priority with the auditor at the time of the follow-up audits; and finally to evaluate the work completed by the cities in order to give an opinion to the label commission for the attribution of the label.

The decision of the audit date will be done on an individual basis: Each community partner of the project has to decide if and when it feels ready to be audited. The control points file must also be filed by the community and sent to the auditor. All these elements will be checked at the time of the next European session of the project, in Cosenza in February 2007.

Their organisation: 2 auditors AFAQ AFNOR Certification will be selected, the dates will be planned at the latest in Cosenza and the audits will take place from March to the beginning of June 2007. At the end of each audit, recommendations will be communicated by the auditor to the label commission.

## TO COME...



### Qualicities Meeting in Cosenza :

Next Qualicities session will be held on **friday 23 and Saturday 24 of February 2007 in Cosenza, Italy.**

The program of this session will be available on line in January 2007.