



SERV

strong through dialogue



The Social and Economic Council of Flanders (SERV) is the main advisory body to the Flemish Government on Flemish socio-economic policy. It represents trade unions and employer associations.

www.serv.be/en/serv

The SERV consists of two groups:

10 employers' representatives

- ▶ 5 Voka (Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- ▶ 2 UNIZO (Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs)
- ▶ 2 Boerenbond (Agricultural Association)
- ▶ 1 Verso (Association of Social Profit Enterprises).

10 union representatives

- ▶ 6 ACV (Confederation of Christian Trade Unions)
- ▶ 3 ABVV (General Federation of Belgian Labour)
- ▶ 1 ACLVB (General Federation of Liberal Belgian Trade Unions).

This representative composition ensures that the SERV is firmly rooted in society.

Strong through dialogue

The SERV is an independent public agency that acts as an advisory body and think tank for the Flemish Government and Parliament.

The SERV's primary function is to advise the Flemish Government on all social and economic issues. This may be either at its own initiative or upon request of the Flemish Government, a Flemish minister or the Flemish Parliament.

Advisory role

The SERV aims for quality, in the form of research-based expertise, combined with a broad basis of agreement and public support.

The SERV's advisory reports are available to the public. The recommendations in these reports are not binding for government.

Added value through consensus

In order to develop and carry out policies, the government requires broad social support. Therefore, in their advisory role, the SERV partners aim for consensus and co-operation with the broader civil society. They are convinced that a common view, based on a well-considered consensus, represents an advantage for our society as it clearly indicates if a new policy initiative holds or lacks broad support from the various representative members.

VESOC

In addition to the advisory role, the SERV also supports and assists the trilateral discussions between trade unions, employer's associations and the Flemish Government within VESOC, the Flemish Economic and Social Consultative Committee. Consensus agreements closed in VESOC are binding for the Flemish Government, while social partners participate in their implementation.





Strategic advisory council

Finally, the SERV also acts as the strategic advisory council (SAR) for the following policy areas:

- ▶ general government policy
- ▶ economy
- ▶ work
- ▶ social economy
- ▶ energy (socio-economic aspects)
- ▶ equal opportunities and integration policy.

Among others, the Flemish Government is obliged to ask the SERV for advice on all draft decrees (primary legislation) with social or economic relevance and on all drafts of secondary legislation of strategic importance within these policy areas.

By decree, the SERV is also required to advise annually on the budget of the Flemish Community.

SERV-secretariat

The SERV's scientific secretariat helps the council to prepare and carry out its numerous activities.

Over the years, the secretariat has acquired extensive expertise in a variety of social and economic fields such as:

- ▶ medium- and long-term social and economic developments
- ▶ industrial and economic policy
- ▶ public administration and better regulation
- ▶ climate and environmental policy
- ▶ budgetary and fiscal policy
- ▶ employment
- ▶ the relationship between education and the job market
- ▶ professional competencies.





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Foundation Innovation & Work

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The Foundation Innovation & Work is an integral part of the SERV and carries out research for and on behalf of the Flemish social partners.

Its activities centre on socio-economic research into the quality of work or workability, human resources policy and organizational change as well as research in support of SERV's consultation and advisory. The Foundation is responsible for a three-yearly survey in enterprises and organizations in Flanders on diverse aspects of their organisational policies and for the Flemish Workability Monitor that provides a statistical overview of working conditions and job quality on the Flemish labour market for employees and the self-employed. It also makes great efforts to ensure the dissemination of all research results.

The Foundation's research can be divided into the following three areas:

- ▶ work organization and innovation
- ▶ entrepreneurship, economy and innovation policy
- ▶ workability and longer working lives.

www.serv.be/en/stichting

A house of many rooms

The SERV houses several other organizations. The operation and role of some of these is more closely linked to the SERV advisory and consultative tasks than those of others.

- ▶ Diversity Commission
- ▶ Social Economy Commission
- ▶ Advisory Commission Economic Migration
- ▶ Flemish Port Commission
- ▶ Flemish Airport Commission
- ▶ Various sectoral commissions

Three strategic advisory bodies

- ▶ Flanders Mobility Council
- ▶ Strategic Advisory Council for Welfare, Health and Family Policy
- ▶ Strategic Advisory Council for Agriculture and Fishery





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Diversity Commission

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The Diversity Commission oversees the proportional representation of various sections of the population (such as vulnerable groups) in social and economic life. Together with the Users' platform on Disability and Work and the Forum of Ethnic Minorities, SERV partners formulate policy advice about equal employment opportunities, diversity and equal treatment.

The Minorities Forum is an association of recognised federations of independent organisations of ethnic and cultural minorities. The Consultation Body on Disability and Work is a platform for organisations for the disabled and chronically ill.

www.serv.be/diversiteit



The Social Economy Commission organizes the consultations about current or future policies regarding the social economy.

The commission consists of representatives of the social-economy enterprises, the SERV-partners, independent experts and representatives of the Flemish Department for Work and Social Economy.

www.commissiesocialeconomie.be





• • • **Advisory Commission
Economic Migration**
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The Advisory Commission Economic Migration follows-up and interprets socio-economic developments concerning economic migration and detects potential difficulties and threats on these topics.

www.commissieeconomischemigratie.be



The Flemish Port Commission contributes to the preparation of port policy. It has an advisory and recommendatory purpose as well as a research and informative mission.

www.flemishportcommission.be



MORE INFORMATION

www.serv.be

On the website, you can find the full text of our advices, reports and other relevant publications.

Electronic newsletters

You can sign up for our electronic newsletters via the website.

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