

EURONORMS



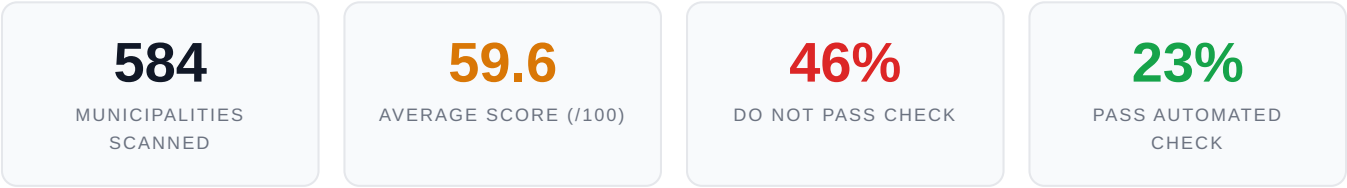
PRESS DOSSIER

Belgium

Municipality Web Accessibility

Automated WCAG 2.1 AA Compliance Scan — EU Directive 2016/2102

Belgium — Municipality Accessibility at a Glance



46% of Belgium municipality websites **do not pass** the automated WCAG accessibility check. Only **23%** of scanned sites pass.

The average compliance score across 584 scanned municipality homepages is **59.6/100**. A total of **5383** individual accessibility violations were detected, averaging **9.2** issues per site.

Score Distribution

	137	179	268	
CATEGORY	COUNT	%	DEFINITION	
PASS	137	23%	Score ≥ 80 — passes automated check	
NEEDS WORK	179	31%	Score 50–79 — partially accessible	
FAIL	268	46%	Score < 50 — does not pass automated check	
NOT SCANNED	7	—	Website unavailable or scan failed	

Most Common Accessibility Violations

The table below lists the 10 most frequent axe-core rule violations found across Belgium municipality homepages.

#	RULE	IMPACT	DESCRIPTION	OCCURRENCES	SITES
1	color-contrast	SERIOUS	Ensure the contrast between foreground and background colors meets WCAG 2 AA minimum contrast ratio thresholds	3554	283
2	link-name	SERIOUS	Ensure links have discernible text	895	151
3	image-alt	CRITICAL	Ensure elements have alternative text or a role of none or presentation	157	41
4	aria-valid-attr	CRITICAL	Ensure attributes that begin with aria- are valid ARIA attributes	140	16
5	button-name	CRITICAL	Ensure buttons have discernible text	111	31
6	aria-required-children	CRITICAL	Ensure elements with an ARIA role that require child roles contain them	101	101
7	meta-viewport	MODERATE	Ensure does not disable text scaling and zooming	82	66
8	listitem	SERIOUS	Ensure elements are used semantically	66	10
9	aria-hidden-focus	SERIOUS	Ensure aria-hidden elements are not focusable nor contain focusable elements	44	25
10	link-in-text-block	SERIOUS	Ensure links are distinguished from surrounding text in a way that does not rely on color	41	15

Municipality Ranking — Top & Bottom Performers

Top 15 Highest Scores

#	MUNICIPALITY	WEBSITE	SCORE	ISSUES
1	Grâce-Hollogne	grace-hollogne.be	100.0	0
2	Raeren	raeren.be	100.0	0
3	Lede	lede.be	100.0	0
4	Olen	olen.be	100.0	0
5	Sombreffe	sombreffe.be	100.0	0
6	Pelt	gemeentepelt.be	100.0	0
7	Langemark-Poelkapelle	langemark-poelkapelle.be	100.0	0
8	Aiseau-Presles	aiseau-presles.be	100.0	0
9	Meeuwen-Gruitrode	meeuwen-gruitrode.be	100.0	0
10	Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe	woluwe1200.be	100.0	0
11	Kapelle-op-den-Bos	kapelle-op-den-bos.be	100.0	0
12	Wervik	wervik.be	100.0	0
13	Zinnik	soignies.be	100.0	0
14	Gesves	gesves.be	100.0	0
15	Hastière	hastiere.be	100.0	0

Bottom 15 Lowest Scores

#	MUNICIPALITY	WEBSITE	SCORE	ISSUES
1	Bütgenbach	butgenbach.be	2.7	25
2	Beaumont	beaumont.be	3.1	59
3	Anderlecht	anderlecht.be	3.1	46
4	Plombières	plombieres.be	4.0	25
5	Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont	chapelle-lez-herlaimont.be	4.6	31
6	Bernissart	bernissart.be	4.6	54
7	Fleurus	fleurus.be	4.6	16
8	Sint-Lambrechts-Herk	st-lambrechts-herk.be	4.6	33
9	Bertrix	bertrix.be	5.8	38
10	Manhay	manhay.be	5.8	33
11	Burdinne	burdinne.be	5.8	25
12	Hotton	hotton.be	5.8	67
13	Sint-Joost-ten-Node	sjtn.brussels	6.8	65

#	MUNICIPALITY	WEBSITE	SCORE	ISSUES
14	Pittem	pittem.be	6.8	35
15	Fauvillers	fauvillers.be	8.5	22

Methodology & Limitations

Testing Tool

[axe-core](#), the open-source accessibility testing engine maintained by Deque Systems. It is the most widely used automated accessibility testing library and powers the accessibility checks in Chrome DevTools and Lighthouse.

Standard

WCAG 2.1 Level AA — the standard referenced by EU Directive 2016/2102 (Web Accessibility Directive) and harmonised European standard EN 301 549.

Scope

- Homepage only (crawl depth = 1). Subpages are not scanned.
- One domain per municipality (primary official website).
- Scores range from 0 (worst) to 100 (best).

Important limitation: Automated tools detect approximately 30–50% of WCAG 2.1 criteria. A site that does not pass the automated check is certainly non-compliant. A site that passes may still have accessibility barriers detectable only through manual expert review. These scores represent a **floor**, not a ceiling, of real-world accessibility issues.

Data Collection

Municipality websites were collected from official national registers, Eurostat LAU codes, and Wikidata. Domains were validated via DNS resolution and HTTP checks. Scans were performed using headless Chromium via Playwright + axe-core.

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