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Best Practices – Sustainable TOURISM

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Sustainability in tourism development in the German speaking Community of Belgium.

Because of its little size, the Community is at every moment aware of the fact, that a sustainable development of tourism is only possible by making contracts with the neighbour regions.

So, an **European society of economic interest** was created in 2004 with the German Länder of "**Nordrhein Westfalen**" and "**Rheinland Pfalz**".

At the end of 2005 this reunion has been enlarged by involving the Province of Liege, the Walloon Region and steps were made in direction of the northern entities of Luxembourg.

Solid bases for a common working program with a correspondent roadmap for future items have been forged under presidency of our Minister for Tourism in December 2005.

Projects such as a **cross border bicycle track** and a **cross border pedestrian track**, designed each in one and only map are an example for good practice.

A **common reservation system** is tested.

On table we find a common project of how to use in a sustainable way the **water resources** of the region.

Not less then 35 lakes of different sizes, having leisure or reserve of drinking water as destination in the region are shown in one document and the adapted use has been described in public distributed prospects.

A way of relation between two different **national parks**, one in Belgium and one in Germany is part of a study done by the universities of Liege and Aachen.

The **accommodations for tourists** are regularly tested and classified in several classes coming up from "simple" to "luxurious" – the hotels and camping sites are classified in 5 categories, while the holiday apartments are classified in 4 categories to guarantee their quality in a reliable way.