



# 75 Years: North Rhine- Westphalia and her European Neighbour

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Englisch-Gk

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# 75 years of friendship between NRW and Belgium 1/2

- North Rhine-Westphalia maintains a friendship with Belgium that has grown over decades
- Belgium has about 11 million inhabitants in an area about the size of North Rhine-Westphalia, which borders Belgium
- North Rhine-Westphalia has 17.93 million inhabitants compared to Belgium
- They share just under a 100 kilometer border
- North Rhine-Westphalia and Belgium have an excellent relationship, including in the areas of transport, police and justice
- In addition, there are many collaborations between universities and research institutions

# 75 years of friendship between NRW and Belgium 2/2

- In 2018, high-level government representatives from Belgium and North Rhine-Westphalia met to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the friendship between the German-speaking Community, the Federation Wallonia-Brussels and Wallonia in Germany
- The close partnership between North Rhine-Westphalia and the Belgian regions and communities serves as a model for the whole of Europe
- The partnership is based not only on common values and mutual respect, but also on practical cooperation oriented to the reality of people's lives
- In 2019, the first "Flemish Week NRW" took place, in which the intensive cooperation between the government of Flanders (Belgium) and North Rhine-Westphalia was thematized and deepened
- Belgium wants to phase out nuclear energy by 2025

# The city region of Aachen

- The city region of Aachen is a special type of municipal association in the southwest of North Rhine-Westphalia and is located at the border triangle with the Netherlands and Belgium. The administrative seat is Aachen
- Several transport companies are active in cross-border local transport between North Rhine-Westphalia and the Netherlands or Belgium
- For the development of cross-border transport is especially the company in bus transport: → Aachen-based ASEAG operates several cross-border city bus and regional transport lines to neighboring cities in the Netherlands and Belgium, including 2 joint lines with the Belgian TEC and Arriva NL, respectively

# State capital Düsseldorf

- State parliament in Düsseldorf
- Independent city on the Rhine
- Business metropolis
- Sights: Königsallee, Rhine Tower, historic section of town, Media Port, Benrath Castle...



# Projects for the anniversary 75 years of NRW in Düsseldorf

- On August 23, 2021 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state of NRW with the state capital Düsseldorf
- Among others guests from the british royal family are expected
- Free projects
- E.g. Lighting installation on 75 public buildings
- Due to Corona: digital formats and nationwide smaller events
- 500.000 euros budget

# Federal state North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)

- More than 70 years after the founding of North Rhine-Westphalia, it can be argued that the awareness of the state, promoted by publications, events, museums with state-specific themes, the construction and presence of representative public buildings, and institutions such as Westdeutsche Rundfunk, has developed and the identity of the state's inhabitants is increasingly spatially oriented to the state's borders
- However, a particularly strong general awareness of this state cannot be said. North Rhine-Westphalia will establish a house dedicated to the history of North Rhine-Westphalia in the Mannesmann House on the Rhine promenade in the Düsseldorf government district to mark the 75th anniversary of its founding in 2021
- The state of North Rhine-Westphalia wants to communicate the development of the state up to the present to a broad audience and invite them to actively engage with the past, present and future of the state
- This is also intended to promote a state consciousness and a self-confident national identity

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