



# CIAOSN 2.0

## Education Vs Cults?

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# Agenda

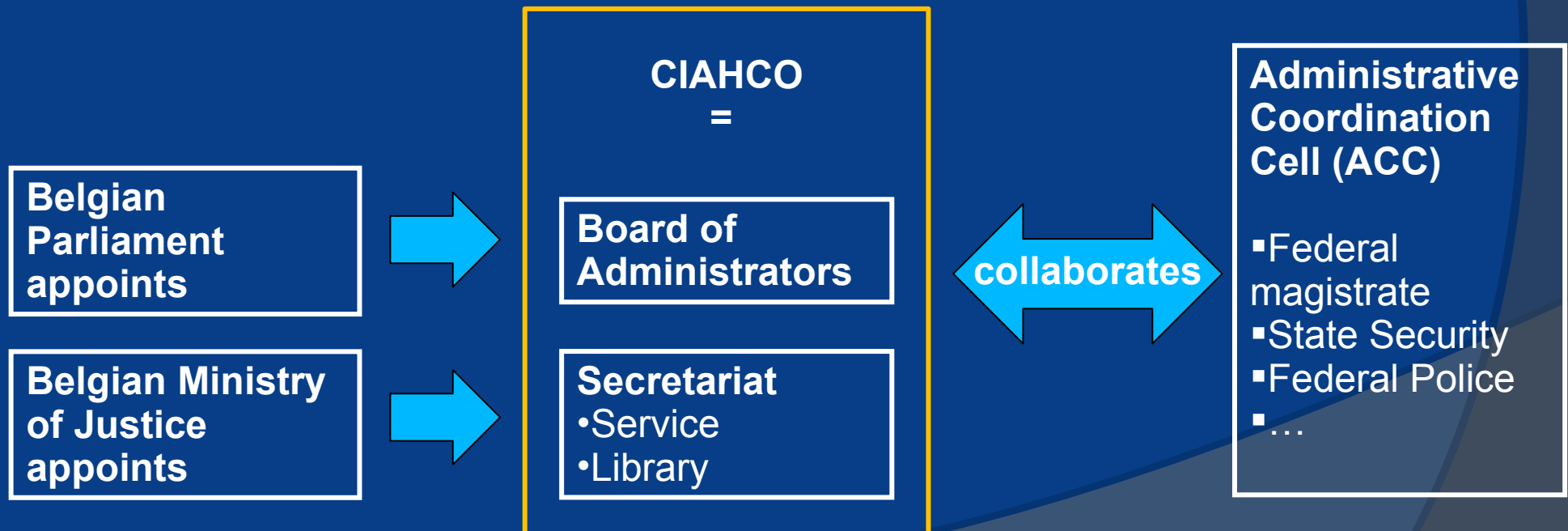
- Who are we?
- 20 years of activities
- Identified challenges
  - ✓ Classical threat
  - ✓ Virtual threat
- Education? “Exercise critical thinking through building knowledge”



# Centre for Information and Advice on Harmful Cultic Organizations



Created in 1998  
in Brussels (Belgium)  
as an **independent** body  
following a parliamentary inquiry

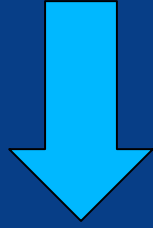
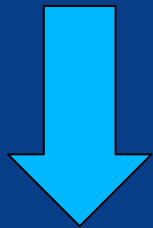




# Centre for Information and Advice on Harmful Cultic Organizations



## Missions given by the legal framework



**Information**  
to the public

**Advice**  
requested/offered  
from/to the Belgian  
authorities

**Recommandation**  
to the Belgian  
authorities

**Collaborate with  
the Administrative  
Coordination Cell  
(ACC)**

**Independence**



**Objectivity**



**Reasoned opinion**





# Centre for Information and Advice on Harmful Cultic Organizations



**Organization**

**Cultic**

**Harmful**

- Deceptive or abusive recruitment
- Mental manipulation
- Physical or mental abuse
- Deprivation of adequate medical care
- Violence, including sexual
- Break with the inner circle
- Abduction of children
- Deprivation of freedom to leave the organization
- Disproportionate financial requirements, fraud and embezzlement
- Exploitation of work
- Total break with democratic society and destruction of the society in profit of the organization
- Use of illegal methods to occupy power

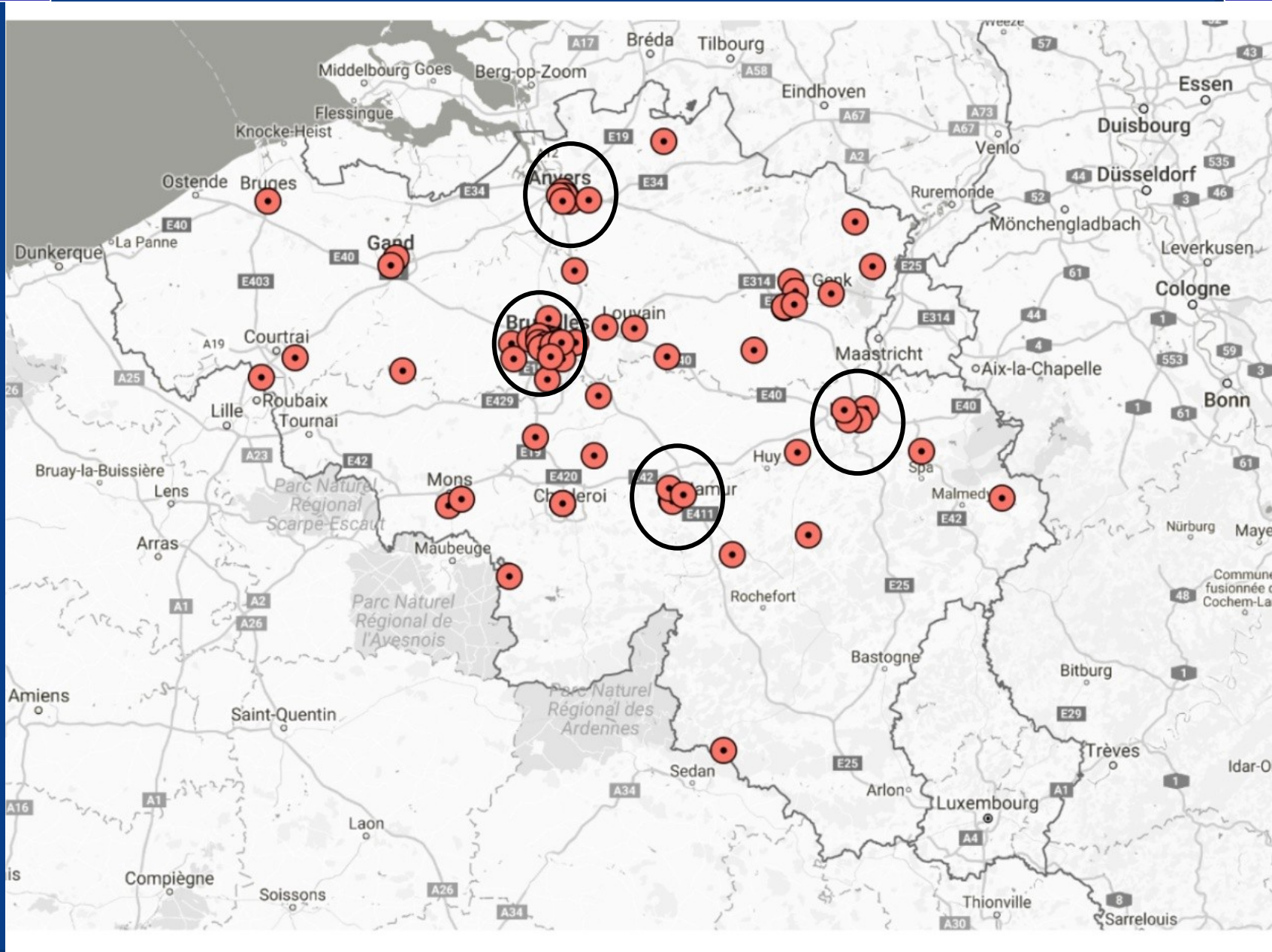


# 20 years of activities



- The need of the public does not fade, on the contrary !
- The monitored organizations in Belgium:
  - their structural size has decreased
  - they follow immigration routes and therefore are mainly urban at first
  - trends linked to health, therapy and counselling are mushrooming
  - sometimes have decreased their physical scope but...
- **Recruitment and manipulation are more and more taking place in the virtual world !!!!!**

# Location of the organizations



# Identified challenges: how do we deal with the 'classical threat'?

- Criminal procedure
- Towards a more administrative approach
  - **Prevention** (highly comprehensive and accurate information, timely transmitted)
  - **Action against recruitment directed to 'weak audiences'** (identify the evolving modus operandi and offer adequate counter measures)
  - **Recommendation to public stakeholders** (Ministries of Finances, Health, ...)





# Identified challenges: how do we deal with the 'virtual threat'?



- Motivation of the organizations =
- Along with the target audience, identify the evolving modus operandi of the organizations
- Adapt new criterias to evaluate the harmfulness?

# Education?

## “Exercise critical thinking through building knowledge”

- Priority given to the youth but the target audience reaches far beyond
- Brochure: “Young people facing cultic drift”
- Prevention campaign in schools

But what about the virtual threat?



Questions?