



More than 500 sacred sites to visit in Europe



Making our religious buildings accessible to the general public is an important and topical challenge: sharing these exceptional places, and meet the desire of many people, whatever their beliefs, enter religious buildings for spiritual, cultural or tourist reasons, or simply out of curiosity.

This heritage represents the centre of villages, a social life, a cultural space, a place of prayer or peace, a tourist attraction, etc.

"Open Churches" encourages church leaders to open the doors of their churches, to use them and make them welcoming, while respecting the place of worship. It raises awareness among local residents of their heritage.

*"Closing a church
is for me
a sacrilege"*

Stéphane Bern

Objectives of the Open Churches project

- To showcase our religious heritage and make it accessible to the local and foreign visitors.
- To create tools that will help visitors to discover and interpret it.
- Disseminate and promote activities to bring religious heritage to life, such as visits, concerts, conferences, activities, etc.
- Establish links between local teams and the network, breaking the isolation administrators.





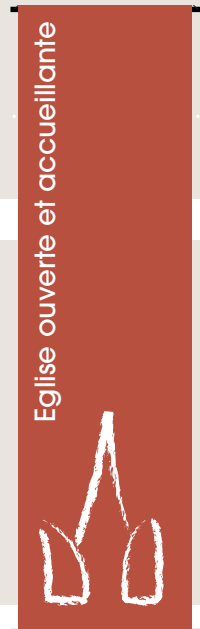
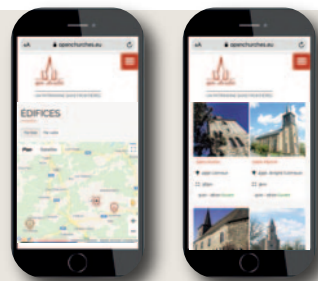
*I am a traveller, a tourist,
a walker or passer-by,
what can I visit in the region?*



In practical terms, this project involves a number of actions :

Creation of a network of "open and welcoming" churches

- An "Open Churches" map published annually and distributed to all the regions in the network
- A website in 4 languages with a geolocation system listing places to visit, a diary of events, routes to take, etc.



WELCOME MATERIAL

- A personalised nameplate
- A banner
- An adult guest book
- A children's guest book
- Three badges for guests
- Professional photos
- A permanent page on the website

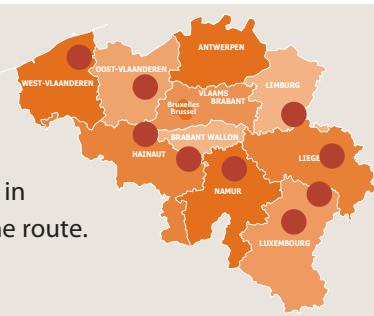


"Open Church Days": first weekend in June.

The aim of these days is to showcase our religious heritage by offering a range of activities during this festive weekend. Over 600 events are organised each year.

Tourist routes (cycling, walking and driving)

Development of tourist routes.
Publication of brochures distributed in tourist offices and churches along the route.



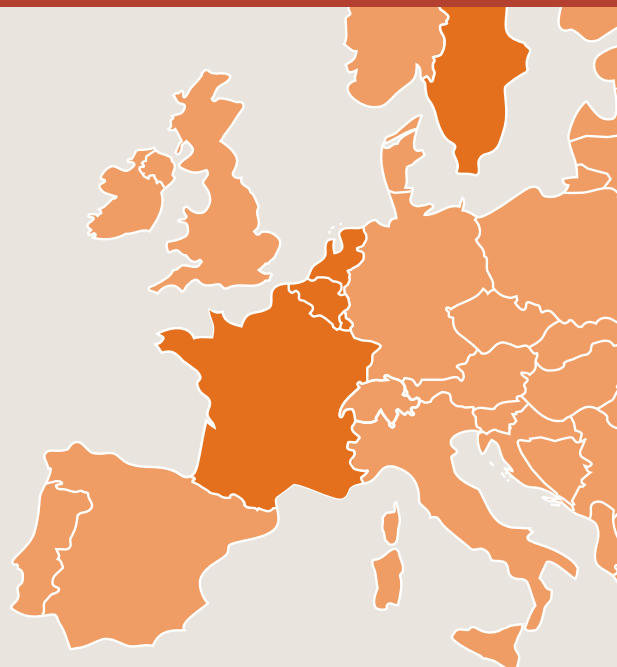
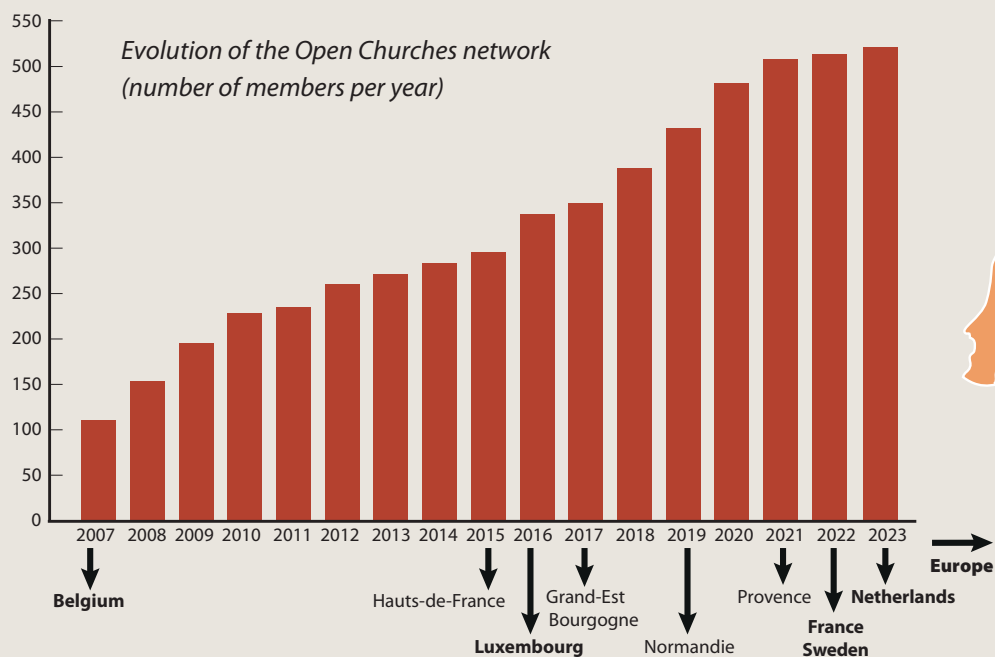
*From steeple to steeple
in the heart of the Ardennes*



Open Churches in Europe

Establishment of a Europe-wide Open Churches network (2015)

Export of the concept to other European countries.



In 2007, Marc Huynen brought together a number of people from different professional and philosophical backgrounds, all of whom were interested in the project: opening up our churches.

