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*The information in this presentation is mainly based on what is described on the the website of the Belgian ministry of Justice (FPS of Justice): [www.justice.belgium.be](http://www.justice.belgium.be)*

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# Content

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# Facts

## Les tueurs du Brabant « the killers of the province of Brabant »



# Facts

## La marche blanche (the white march)



# Facts

- **Confidence in the judicial system declines**
- **1 citizen out of 4 is convinced that Justice is not evolving**
- **0.7% of the budget on federal level goes to the judicial system**
- **Judicial backlog persists**
- **Magistrates find it difficult to keep up with all the new and various specialisations in certain areas of expertise**

# Reform of Justice

**The 3 main axes of the reform :**

- 1. Scale-up**
- 2. Mobility**
- 3. Management**



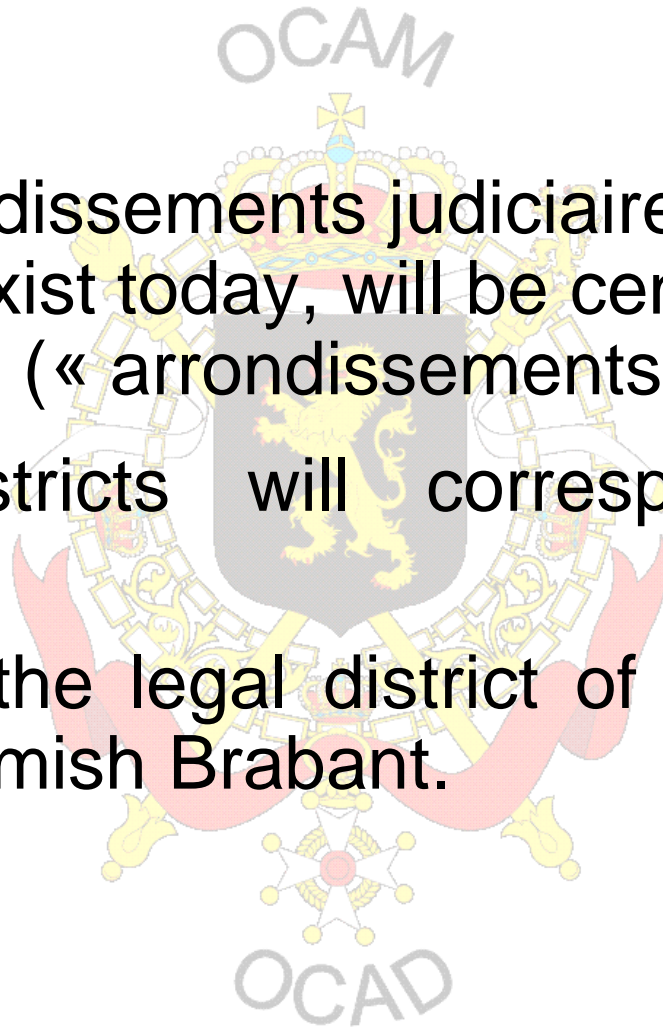
# Reform of Justice

## 1. Scale-up

The 27 « arrondissements judiciaires » (judicial districts) that exist today, will be centralised in 12 judicial districts (« arrondissements »).

The new districts will correspond with the provinces.

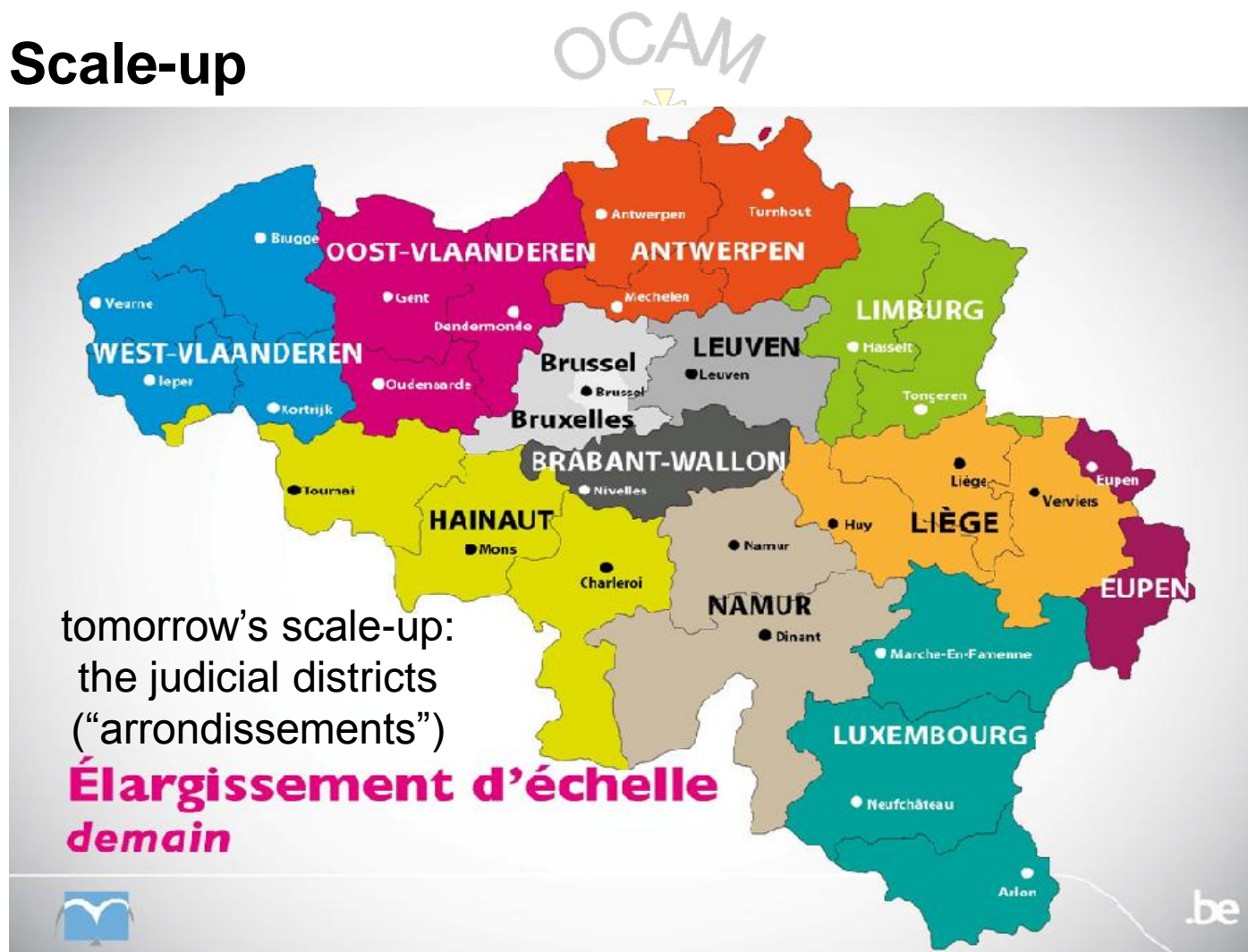
2 exceptions: the legal district of Eupen and the province of Flemish Brabant.





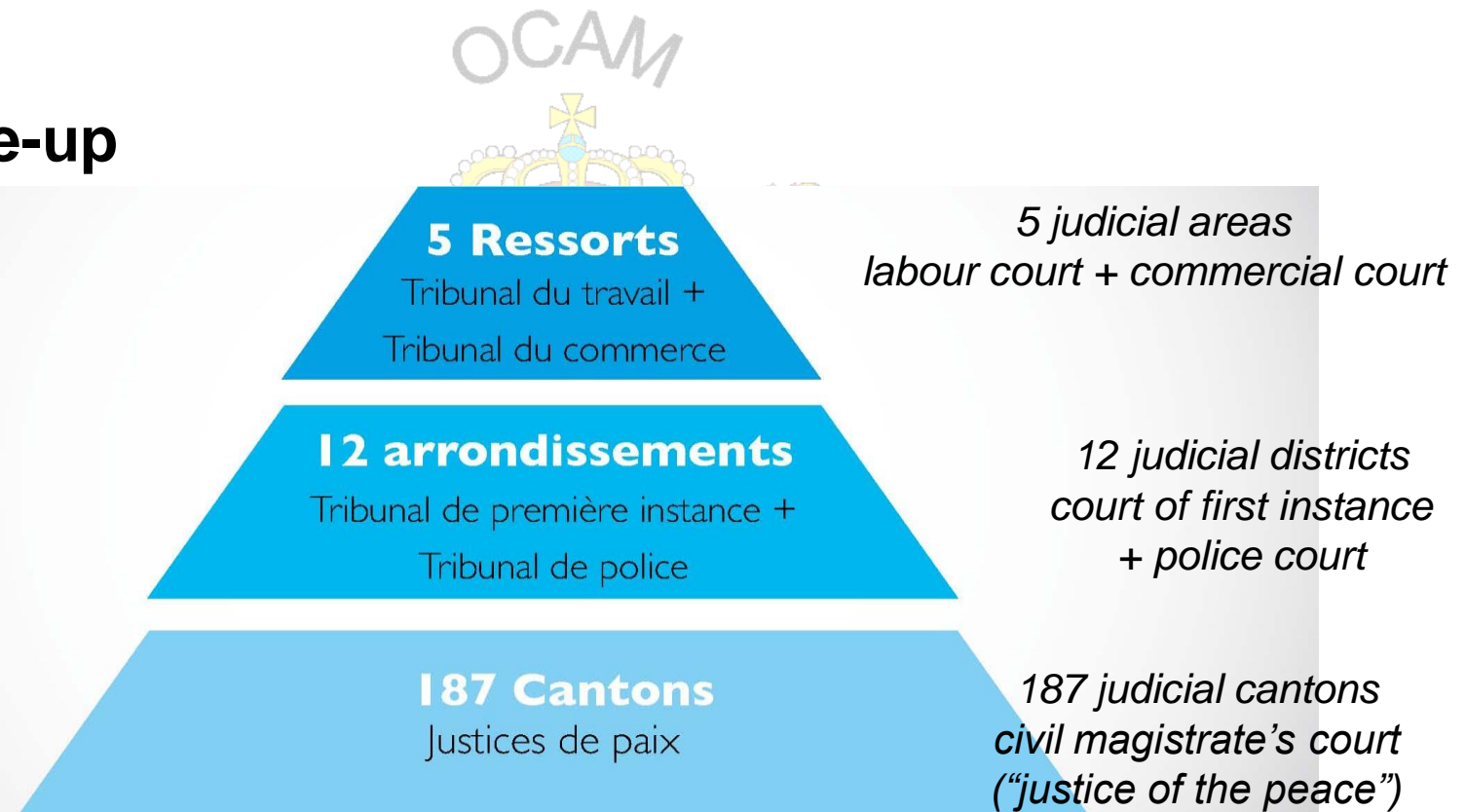
# Reform of Justice

## 1. Scale-up



# Reform of Justice

## 1. Scale-up

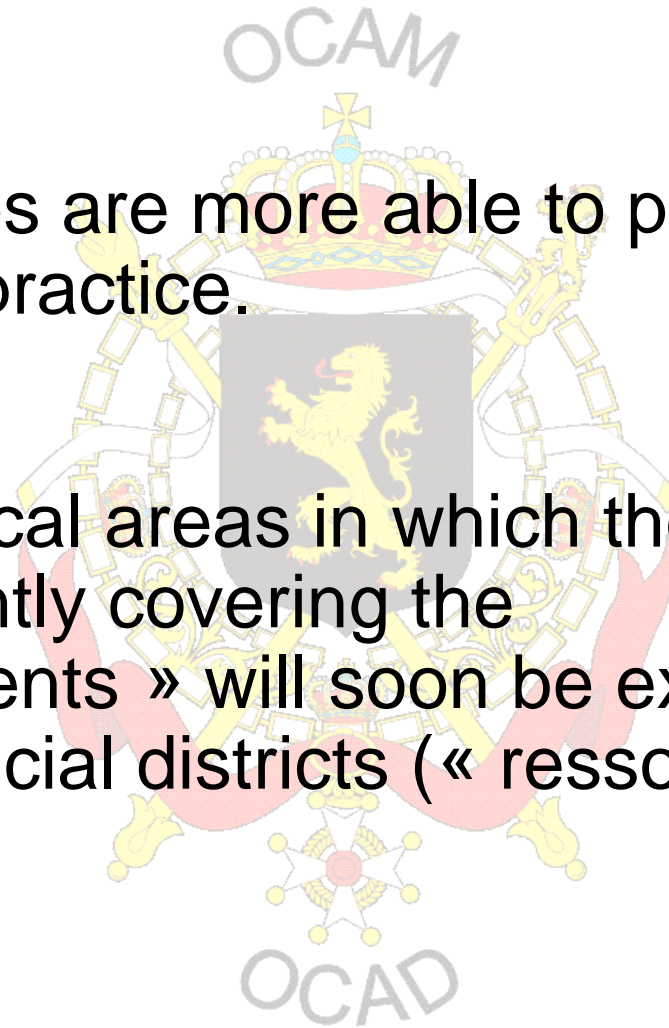


# Reform of Justice

## 2. Mobility

The magistrates are more able to put their expertise into practice.

The geographical areas in which the magistrates operate, currently covering the « arrondissements » will soon be extended to the level of the judicial districts (« ressorts »).



# Reform of Justice

## 2. Mobility

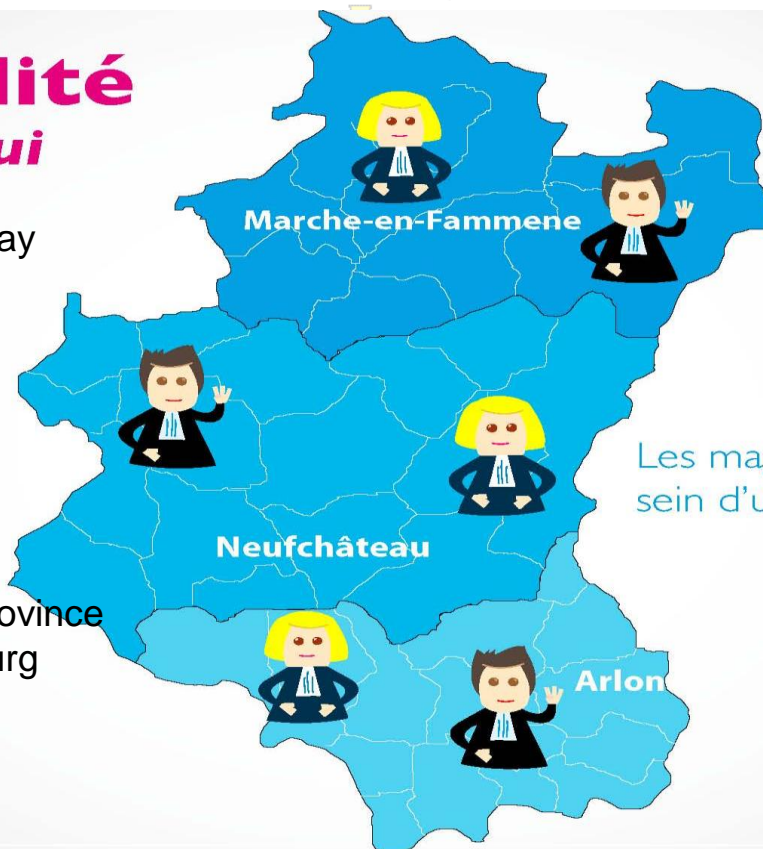
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### La mobilité d'aujourd'hui

mobility today

### Ressort Luxembourg

District of the province  
of Luxembourg



Les magistrats travaillent au  
sein d'un arrondissement.

Magistrates work within  
an "arrondissement"



# Reform of Justice

## 2. Mobility

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### La mobilité de demain

mobility tomorrow

### Ressort Luxemburg

District of the province  
of Luxemburg



La zone de travail sera  
étendue au ressort.

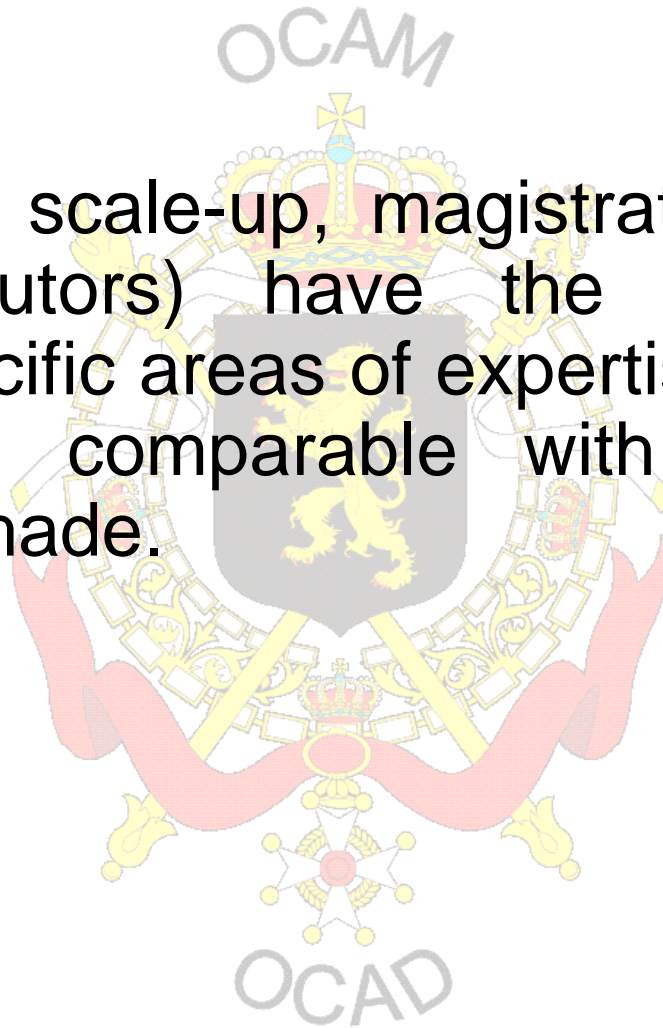
The working area will  
be extended to the  
district level ("ressort")



# Reform of Justice

## 2. Mobility

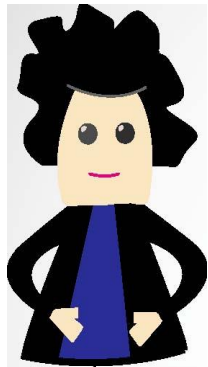
Thanks to the scale-up, magistrates (bench and public prosecutors) have the opportunity to develop in specific areas of expertise («**centres of competence**») comparable with the evolution lawyers have made.



# Reform of Justice

## 3. Management

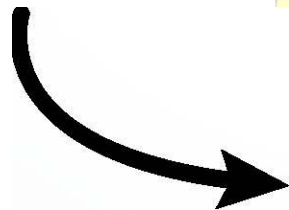
The management of personnel and resources will be centralised within the Ministry of Justice (Federal Public Service of Justice)...



Minister



Ministry of Justice



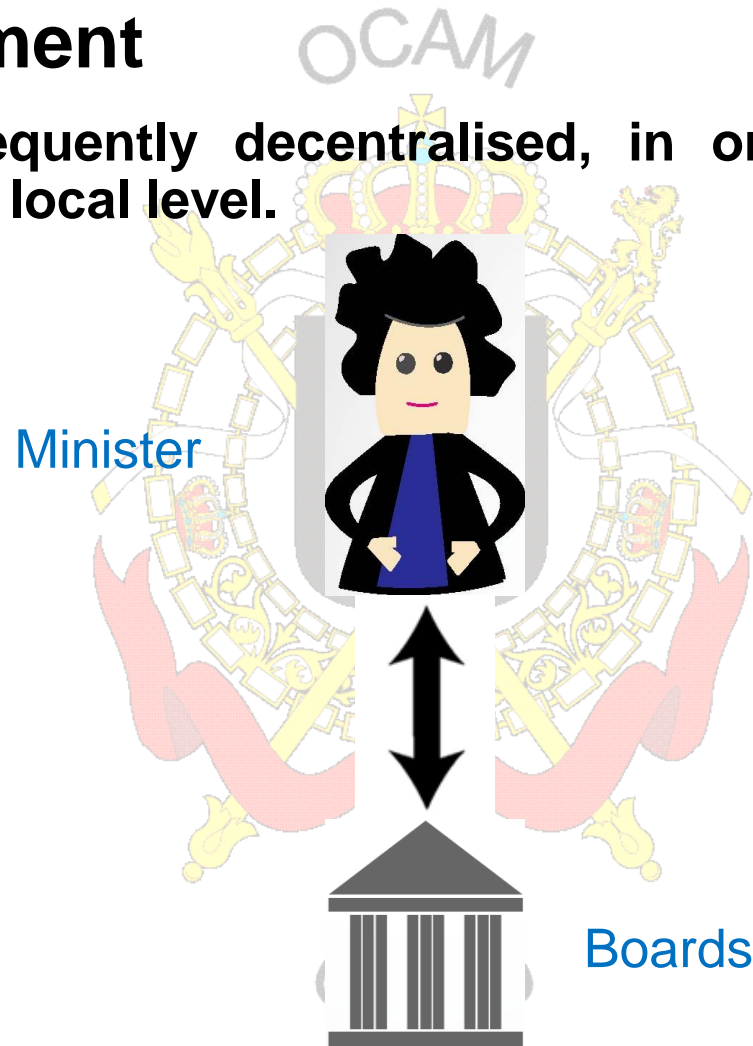
Judiciary Core (judges, magistrates & administrative staff)



# Reform of Justice

## 3. Management

... to be subsequently decentralised, in order to grant more autonomy to the local level.



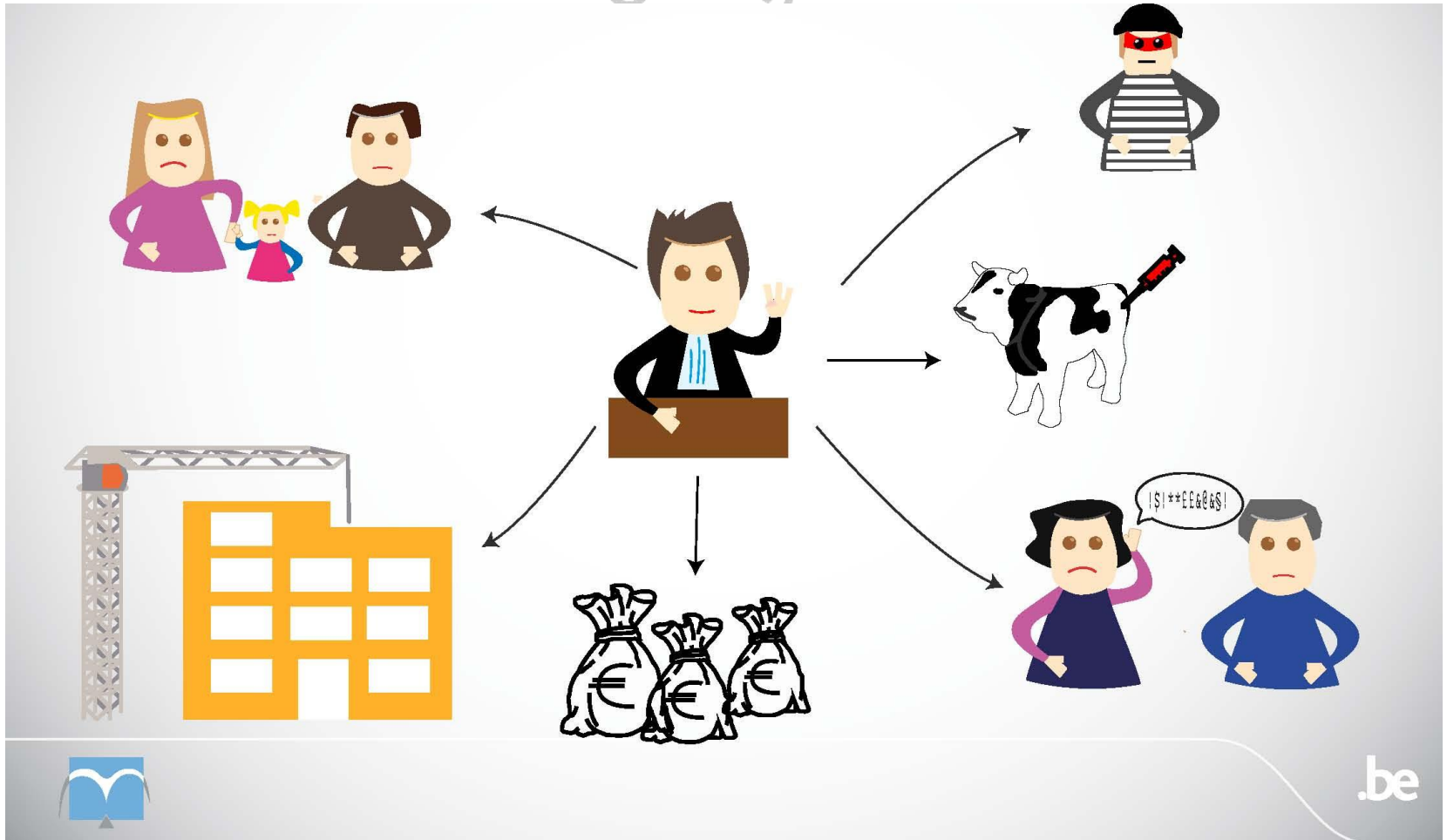


# Reform of Justice

## 3. Management

- Creation of a « **Board of the Public Prosecutor** » and of a « **Board of Appeal and Judgement** » to manage personnel and resources.
- A « management contract » has been concluded between those two boards and the minister.
- A « **management committee** » has been created on the level of all courts and offices of the public prosecutor. The committee assists the superintendent with the everyday management, the practical organisation and the management of the judiciary core.
- Assisted by the Board, the management committee draws up a management plan, which he elaborates and implements under the supervision of the Board.

# A specialisation: the new Family court

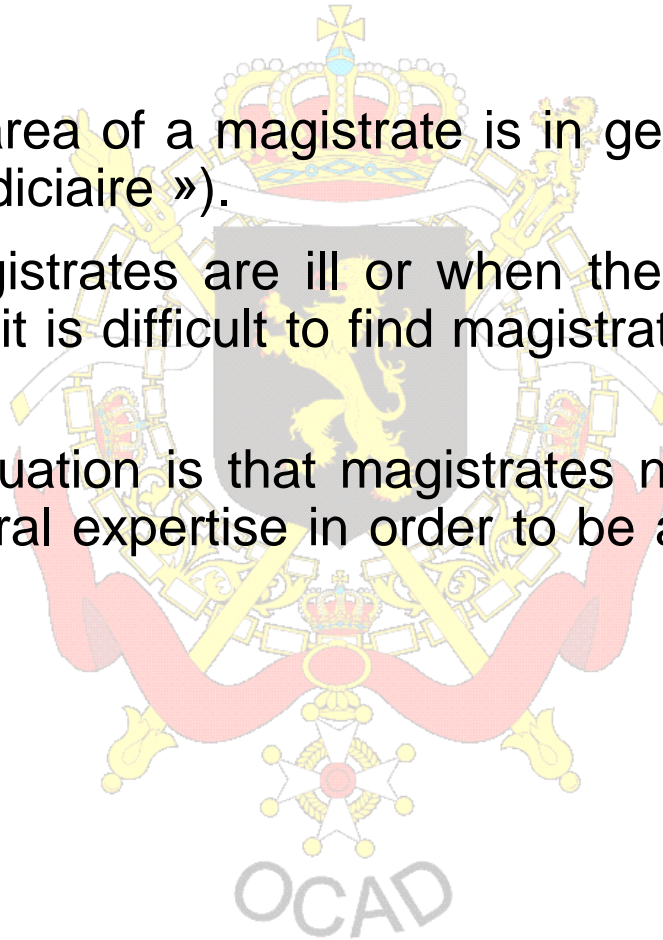


# A specialisation : the new Family court

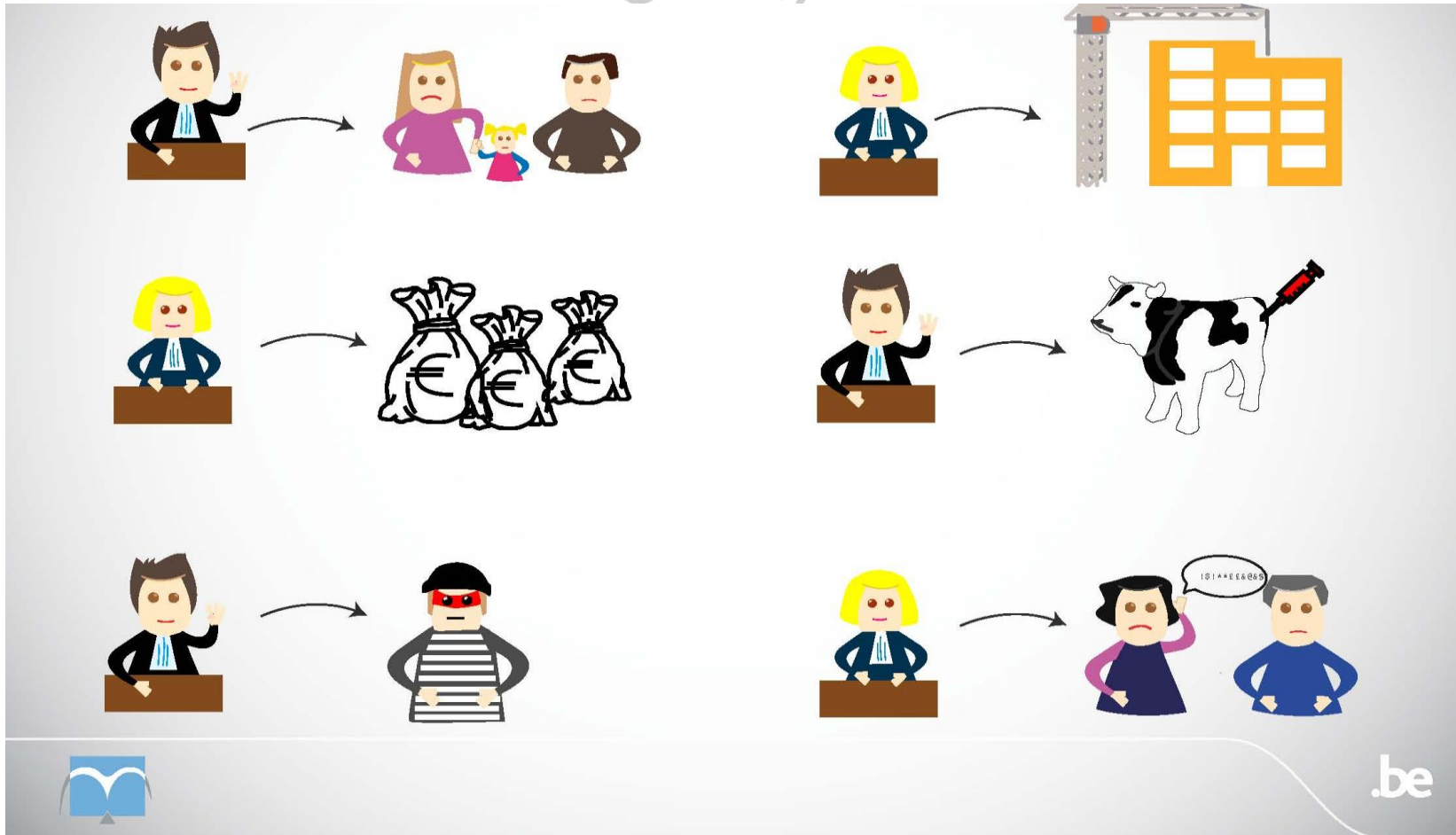
**Today** the working area of a magistrate is in general a judicial district (« arrondissement judiciaire »).

When however, magistrates are ill or when the work load of a court becomes too heavy, it is difficult to find magistrates from other districts to come and help.

The result of this situation is that magistrates need to master a very broad range of general expertise in order to be able to judge cases in various domains.



# A specialisation : the new Family court



# A specialisation : the new Family court

**Tomorrow**, the judicial districts (« arrondissements judiciaires ») will be much larger. Moreover, the regulations with regard to the mobility of the magistrates will be revised.

Thanks to this new mobility policy, magistrates will be able to be more present there where they are actually needed. They will hence be more able to specialise in certain areas of expertise.



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# A specialisation : the new Family court

The scale-up of the judicial districts (« arrondissements judiciaires ») as well as the new regulations with regard to mobility will certainly not be enough to enhance the efficiency of the judiciary system in all aspects.

**With regard to family related matters**, family disputes could be treated by different courts depending on the nature of the case (for ex. marriage, divorce,...), on the kind of questions (temporary measures or substantive proceedings) or depending on the timing in the conflict or the case (for instance: during marriage or outside of marriage,...)

The way family disputes were treated was confusing for the parties involved. The matter was complex and fragmented and therefore to the prejudice of a human and coherent Justice.

# A specialisation : the new Family court

The new Family court unifies, except for very rare exceptions, all family related matters under the expertise of one judge.

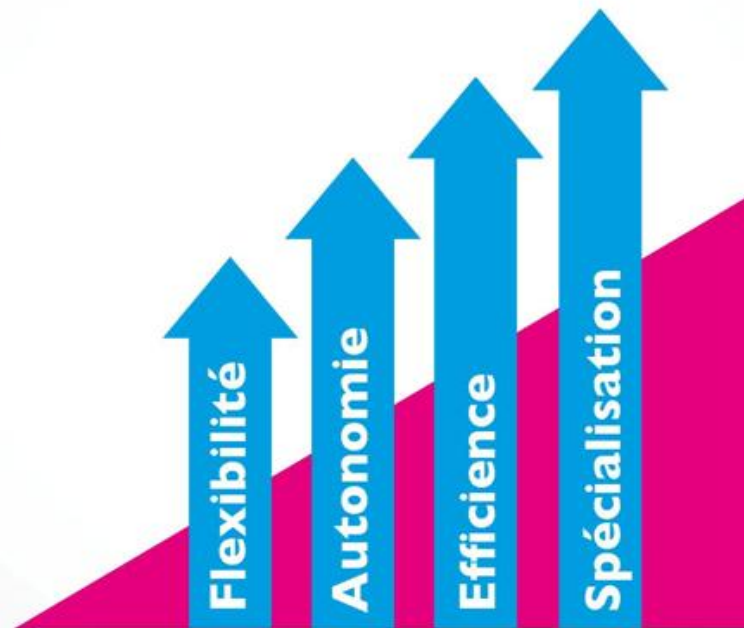
Thereby:

- All family conflicts will be treated by one and the same court.
- The families will know to which court (jurisdiction) to turn to.
- The situation of the families involved will be followed more closely by magistrates who are much more specialised and experienced.
- Justice will be able to offer a more human solution to (often) complex and painful disputes.

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# Conclusions

The expected results from the reform





# Contact details

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