

# Paul Boutsen

Address: Rond Punt 7  
3550 Heusden-Zolder  
Mobile: 0477 632920  
E-mail: [paul.boutsen@adact.be](mailto:paul.boutsen@adact.be)  
Date of birth: 12 September 1962  
Marital status: Married with 2 children  
Website: [paulboutsen.wordpress.com](http://paulboutsen.wordpress.com)

*I have 35 years of experience in supervising growth trajectories, developing visions and creating practical applications for them. A constant in my career is policy preparation, local or regional development and the establishment of change management processes. Furthermore, 'production assignments', in which the challenge lay in refining a rough idea, finding the resources and people and elaborating a working structure. Often, these have been assignments or private initiatives concerning the regeneration of the mining region in Limburg, Belgium. I operate effectively in teams as well as solo assignments. I am not intimidated by large measures of responsibility. My strengths are: networking, communication, clear analyses and engaged strategies. And my passion is change and development in mining regions.*

## Career

### Recent

- Since 2000: manager for 'ADACT bv', consultancy firm.
- Since 1991: founder and director of 'Het Vervolg', a project centre of the Limburg Mining Region, independent not-for-profit development agency with a portfolio in culture, media, tourism and heritage projects. More info: [www.hetvervolg.org](http://www.hetvervolg.org) .
- Since 2012: founder and director of 'transit\_LAB', a cooperative company for change projects and reconversion initiatives aimed toward sustainability. More info: [www.transitlab.be](http://www.transitlab.be).
- Since 2019: manager and co-owner of 'IPAS nv –urban mining-, engineering company promoting WASTE REFINERY as sustainable solution for municipal waste, recovering materials and energy with a technology derived from the coalmining technologies. More info: [www.ipas.world](http://www.ipas.world) .

### Executed impact - assignments

#### 2018 – 2019: development of a long term vision on development of the mining settlement ZOLDER (B)

- Advisor to the municipality.
- Creating and writing of the long term strategy-paper.

#### 2016: development of masterplan for the coalmine Marcasse in the Borinage (B)

- Strategy advise for a local initiative.
- Writing the content of the development-plan.

**2015 – present: manager visitors centre ZLDR Luchtfabriek**

- Organising and coordinating a group of volunteers for the daily reception of a visitor centre dedicated to mining history in Limburg, Belgium.

**2013 – 2014: advisor and executor in Interreg project SHIFT-X for STEBO vzw**

- Advisor in international network with partners in Central and Eastern Europe within the theme of valorisation for industrial heritage.
- Producer of the Cultural Heritage Container: reconstructing a shipping container into a mobile art gallery. More info: [www.container001.com](http://www.container001.com).

**2008 – 2012: project officer Cleantech Campus Houthalen-Helchteren for Autonomous Municipal Company Masterplan and the town of Houthalen-Helchteren**

- Elaboration of the vision on Cleantech development for Limburg.
- Assistance in the realization of GREENVILLE, incubator for Cleantech companies.
- Elaboration of a concept for the visitor centre Cleantech.
- Supervision of various Cleantech trajectories and the municipal core team for Cleantech development.
- Establishment of Cleantech acquisition for Houthalen and Limburg.
- International projects and involvement in conventions and prospects.

**2006 – 2007: director vzw Het Vervolg**

- Business and personnel management.
- Expansion of the project 'Mining & More': tourism disclosure of the mining heritage based on oral history. Rocco & Marina tour, Mining Region Tours, Key Figures, i.a. More info: [www.miningandmore.be](http://www.miningandmore.be).
- Organisation of the 'Kolenspoorfestival' (coaltrack festival).
- Expansion of COALFACE: art gallery and photography projects. More info: [www.coalface.be](http://www.coalface.be).
- Various cultural productions (theatre, music, multi-disciplinary)

**2004 – 2005: project officer tourism development of the mining heritage for the city of Genk**

- Concept elaboration for Visitor Centre coal mine Winterslag, now C-Mine expedition.
- Concept elaboration for recreational destination slag heap Winterslag.
- Tourism arrangements elaboration multiculturalism Genk.
- Interim management tourism office.

**2004: advisor for Provincial Government Limburg concerning the vision and development of a plan for the mining museum in Beringen**

**2003: project officer tourism plan mining heritage for the Limburg regional tourism authority**

Creating and mediating a feasible plan in cooperation with the mining communities and provincial authorities.

**2001 – 2002: project officer Mining patrimony for the Flemish Government, department of Monuments and Sites**

Advisor / networker added to the Director-General of the department of Monuments and Sites, assigned to accelerate the redevelopment of the mining patrimony.

**1999 – 2000: director nv Ecowatt (construction of hydropower plants)**

- Daily management.
- Restructuring and professionalisation of the company.
- Development of human resources management.
- Positioning of the company within the political environment.

- General troubleshooting at construction sites.
- Director for nv Ecowatt and nv 'Wind- en Waterkracht Vlaanderen' (investment firm)

**1995 – 1999:** **staff member Regional Platform Mining Area Limburg, collaboration between 6 municipal authorities (regional development agency)**

- General feasibility research concerning the platform and development of a central and people-mobilizing project
- Managing the themes mining heritage, tourism and master planning for the Mining Region.
- Communicator and promoter for the framework project Kolenspoor / Coaltrack as structuring project for the region and for the Coaltrack-festival 1998.

**1990 – 1994:** **coordinator vzw STEBO (Steunpunt Buurtopbouwwerk Limburg)**

- Daily management of the organisation.
- Final responsibility for team planning and management.
- Positioning of the community work in the Limburg reconversion and development of innovative projects concerning the renovation of mining garden cities, district development and management.
- Preparatory trajectory and political mediation for the foundation of RIMO Limburg.

**1989 – 1990:** **community worker Zwartberg for vzw STEBO**

- Start-up social economic project Open Buurtatelier: fabricating wooden play equipment.
- Extension of community centre as basic facility in the neighbourhood.
- Projects for road safety.
- General assistance in the neighbourhood.

**1984 – 1989:** **community worker 'De Keeting' in Mechelen and vzw PRISO-Antwerp**

- Urban renewal in "Klein Begijnhof" Heembeemd: participation guidance.
- Welfare planning at district level in cooperation with OCMW (social welfare office).
- Improvement of housing situation for Moroccan migrants.
- Development of community centre for single men.
- Development of neighbourhood renewal in the Adegemstraat.

## **Additional assignments**

- Consulting assignments for engineering offices, mostly related to assignments in mining regions in Belgium, Kazakhstan, Ukraine,...
- Structural consulting assignments based on the analysis methods of Robert Fritz:
  - Reprofiling STEBO.
  - Reprofiling Social Support Services Heusden-Zolder
  - Various ad hoc company assignments.
- Funfair Paradiso: Renting of nostalgic funfair attractions to events and festivals.

## **International experience**

- EURACOM, network of local governments from mining regions in Europe, Belgian representative.
- PROSPECTS, Interreg project with 10 partners from Mining Regions. Exchange of best practices sustainable regional development.
- SHIFT-X, Interreg project in Central Europe. Exchange of best practices cultural heritage as developmental factor.
- OVSE / OSCE, symposium concerning the reconversion of mining regions, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine.

- Ukraine, preliminary study concerning the restructuring of coal mines and prospection concerning options for rapeseed cultivation.
- WASTE REFINERY & GENCOAL, new technological approach to the issues of Municipal Solid Waste. Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Italy, West-Africa, Emirates.

### **Training**

- Social work (Geel) 1984, department Social Cultural Work, specialisation community development.
- Structural Consulting with Robert Fritz in Newfane (USA) 2000 – 2003.

### **Additional**

- Dutch, English: excellent (oral and written)
- French, German: basic to good (oral)
- Spanish, Greek: notions (mainly understanding)
- Driving licence: B and C (lorry)