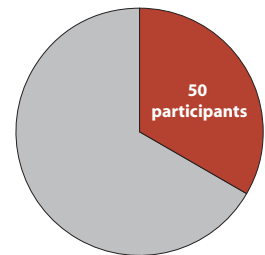




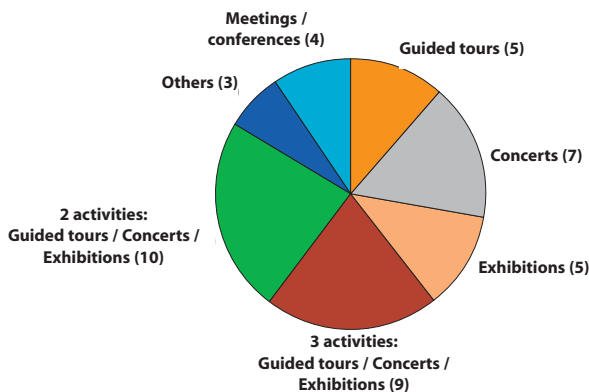
REPORT ON THE "OPEN CHURCHES' OPEN DAY Sunday 1st June 2008

The basis for this report is around thirty oral and written reports on the 50 places of worship which helped to make this day a success. (programme 2008 : www.eglisesouvertes.be > à la une > Dimanche 1er juin 2008).

Overall, reactions were very enthusiastic. The public turned up in mass for the activities offered during the day: it attracted more than 10,000 visitors. Occasionally the participation was just satisfactory or even below expectations: the reason given was a low level of publicity provided late. Those who made **individual posters** or who informed the **local press** had a better result. **Assistance from the commune**, the tourist office or the cultural centre improved participation.



50 participants out of 155 members



There was a very positive reaction from visitors when there was a special exhibition of the church's patrimony or where there was a guided tour. (see the photos of Sint Servatius at Berg: <http://picasaweb.google.nl/sintservaas/DagVanDeOpenKerken> .)

Guided tours with a theme were a great success and the concerts were also highly appreciated. Certain exhibitions started the 1st of June **to continue for several weeks or even all summer**.

A major distribution of 2008 cards will improve visits in the other buildings. In some places it gave the opportunity to improve the welcoming procedure and to set up the visitors' book. The event helped to improve the cohesion of the welcoming committees and to encourage the local team.

We have 3 suggestions for next year:

- programmes and posters must be completed before Easter in order to circulate the information. We must receive all information (partnerships and photos) by 31st January at the latest.
- It would be helpful to co-ordinate events or to set up a circuit in the same area so that the public could participate in a number of activities in different religious buildings.
- a symbol, a descriptive vertical emblem with the logo of the foundation is already available for those that want it; the banner or flag that we propose will be ready soon.

A big thanks to all those who participated, who were so enthusiastic and who gave us their critical comments.

The next open day for "Open Churches" will be Sunday 7th June 2009 (same day as the elections).

Foundation open churches