

BELGIUM: TICKING ALL THE BOXES

BID FOR THE EUROPEAN
CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRIAL,
TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
COMPETENCE CENTRE



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BRUSSELS AS THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY COMPETENCE CENTRE

The increased dependency on technology and digital infrastructure comes with risks and vulnerabilities. At the same time, it provides important strategic opportunities for the European Union to develop its own cybersecurity competences and products.

The recent COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the need to guarantee the resilience and safety of an increasingly digitalised society and economy, in line with our core European values and principles. Establishing a European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres is therefore of the utmost importance and a strategic urgency to ensure the security and autonomy of the EU and its Member States.

Belgium is proud to launch its bid to host the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre. Centrally located in the heart of Europe, and home to the EU institutions, Brussels offers the ideal conditions for the swift opening of the Centre's offices. It also enables the Centre to unlock numerous synergies with nearby EU institutions and international organisations.



WHY CHOOSE BELGIUM? BECAUSE BRUSSELS TICKS ALL THE BOXES:

- ☑ proximity to the European Institutions, specialised bodies and agencies;
- ☑ effective synergy with NATO and other international organisations;
- ☑ dense and vibrant cybersecurity ecosystem;
- ☑ fast, secure and reliable IT infrastructure with 5G access;
- ☑ secure and high-quality premises;
- ☑ optimal conditions for a swift and cost-effective set-up of operations;
- ☑ efficient redeployment of Brussels based staff;
- ☑ direct connections across the continent;
- ☑ quality of life, world-class education and health care, multilingual services.



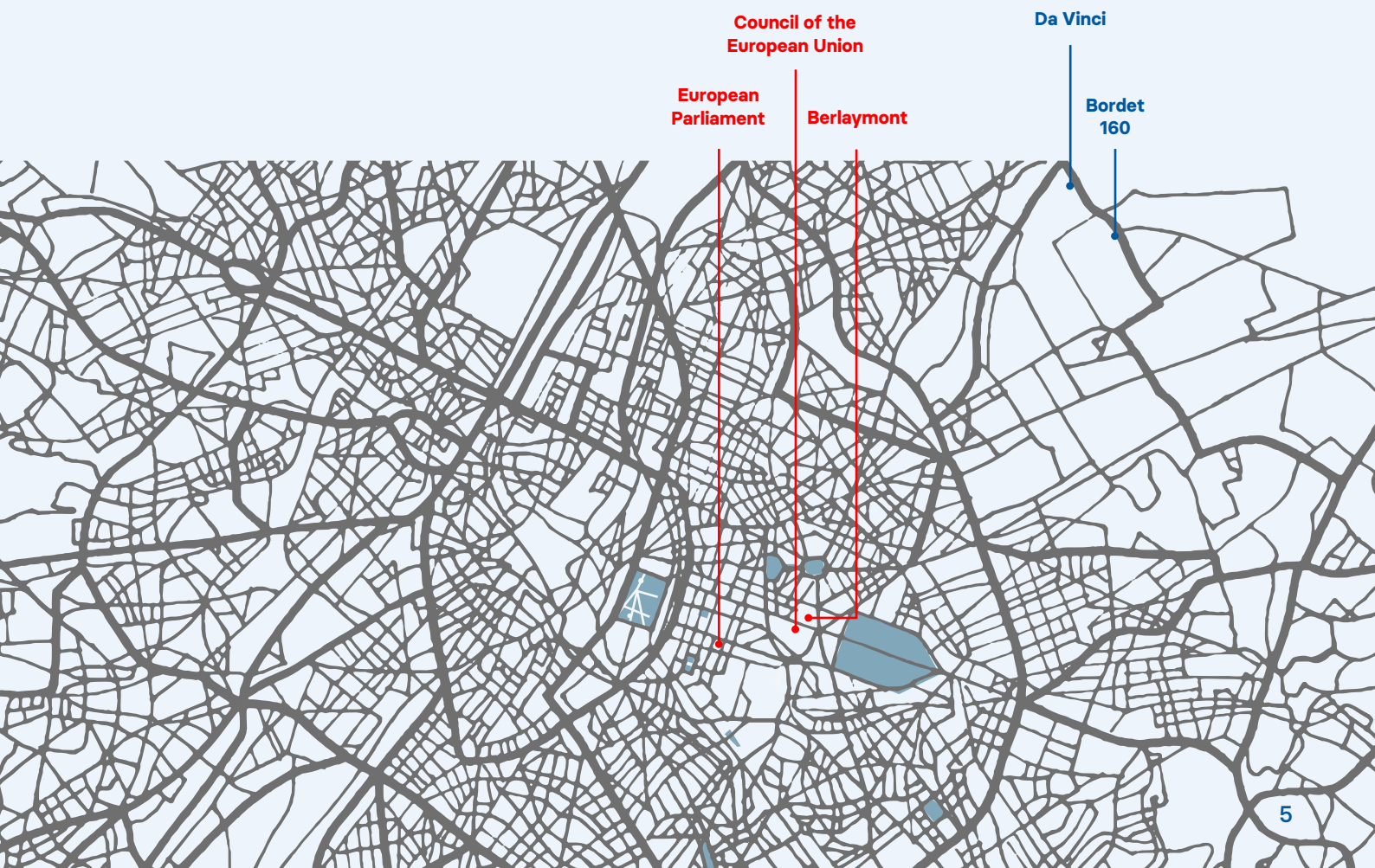
1 | SECURE PREMISES IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Belgium stands ready to offer secure and high-quality infrastructure for the Centre, close to the European institutions. This proximity will facilitate exchanges between the Centre and EU decision-makers. Belgium can provide two flexible and attractive options for the location of the Centre.

Brussels has **solid experience** with building projects that meet the specific needs of international organisations, guaranteeing their smooth integration in the existing urban fabric. **The local construction sector, as well as the regional administration for urban development, have decades-long experience in working with the EU Institutions.** Belgium stands ready to provide the necessary technical assistance in matters related to the occupation of suitable premises.

Belgium takes the (cyber)security of the organisations it hosts very seriously. **The Belgian Security Services in general, and the Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium (CCB) in particular, have a solid reputation in the field of information exchange, international cooperation and early detection of vulnerabilities.** They stand ready to extend specific assistance, including with regards to the national Early Warning System or Spear Warning Process. The Belgian Security Services have established a strong and performant cooperation with the EU and NATO, addressing their specific security concerns.

Settling in Brussels means benefitting from established security protocols. Belgium shall take the necessary steps to ensure the protection of the Centre's premises, in accordance with the Provisions of the Arrangement on Security between the Belgian Government, the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, signed in Brussels on 31 December 2004.



POTENTIAL PREMISES

The Belgian government has identified two available buildings in close proximity to one another, which are both excellent options to house the Centre. The two locations offer a secure, cost-efficient and flexible working environment for the Centre's staff. They easily allow for a rapid expansion of the Centre. Special financial conditions apply for each building (see below), but both will be put at the Centre's disposal free of charge.

DA VINCI

This building offers a **multi-purpose space on the ground floor** (of 859 m² net), which will be available immediately and can be freely adapted to the Centre's needs in terms of meeting rooms and equipment, as well as **offices on the first floor** (of 1,331 m²). The building occupation can be gradually adapted to **support the growth and development of the Centre**. By 2024 at the latest, it can be used as a stand-alone building (2,190 m²), entirely dedicated to the Centre. There are 70 private parking spaces on site.

Conditions:

- **Free of charge for 12 years (renewable in the future);**
- The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros;
- Fully equipped with fiber optics;
- Located in a technologically competitive and international ecosystem (NATO, security sector, aviation sector, IT sector, etc.).



BORDET 160

Bordet 160 currently offers a surface area of 3.900 m² for immediate use by the Centre. Future expansion, up to a total of 6.600 m² is possible. This site counts 59 indoor and 17 outdoor parking spaces.

Conditions:

- The Belgian federal government offers "Bordet 160" **free of charge to the Centre for an indefinite period of time** (open-ended contract);
- The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros;
- The building currently has 6 meeting rooms of different sizes on the ground floor, including small meeting rooms for +/- 5 to 10 persons and several medium-sized meeting rooms for +/- 10 to 20 persons. A large conference room of approximately 300m² for +/- 100 persons is available for use on the 4th floor. Except for the ground floor, mezzanine and 4th floor, which are fitted out, all other floors are provided "casco", which means the office floor can be easily adapted to the Centre's needs.
- Located in a technologically competitive and international ecosystem (NATO, security sector, aviation sector, IT sector, etc.).



	DA VINCI	BORDET 160
Distance	7km (approximatively a 10min ride) from both the European quarter and the international airport.	7km (approximatively a 10min ride) from both the European quarter and the international airport.
Financial Conditions	Free of charge for 12 years (renewable).	Free of charge for an indefinite period of time.
Parking	70 private parking spaces.	59 indoor and 17 outdoor parking spaces.
Office spaces	859 m ² net on the ground floor and 1,331 m ² on the first floor.	A surface area of 3.900 m ² .
Room for expansion	By 2024 up to 2,190 m ² .	Up to a total of 6.600 m ² .
Meeting rooms	• Ground floor can be freely adapted to the Centre's needs in terms of meeting rooms and equipment. • Same for offices on the first floor.	• 6 meeting rooms of different sizes on the ground floor. • conference room of approximately 300m² for +/- 100 persons on the 4th floor. • other floors are "casco" and thus easily adaptable to the Centre's needs.
Refurbishment	The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.	The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.

2 | PROXIMITY TO EU DECISION-MAKING

The European Union sees obtaining **strategic autonomy** as necessary to promote our common interests as well as our principles and values. Cybersecurity is an important vector in this regard. Belgium takes a leading role in European cybersecurity pilot projects such as ECHO (European network of Cybersecurity centres and competence Hub for innovation and Operations).

Reaching this objective requires knowledge-based decision-making which, in turn, underlines the need – against the backdrop of limited public resources – to be able to **effectively inform European decision-makers on a permanent basis**.

Moreover, as other relevant Joint Undertakings are based in Brussels, the synergies between different technological fields should be nurtured as much as possible. The geographic proximity of the following organisations will certainly facilitate beneficial exchanges:

- EDPS, the European Data Protection Supervisor
- EDPB, the European Data Protection Board
- The Joint Supervisory Authority for the CIS (Customs Information Service)
- INEA, Innovation and Networks Executive Agency
- ECSO, the European Cyber Security Organisation
- INHOPE, the network of Member State Awareness Centres for a Safer Internet
- EUCPN, the European Crime Prevention Network
- ENISA, future Brussels Office, European Union Agency for Cybersecurity

3

SYNERGY WITH NATO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Cooperation and exchange with NATO are important cornerstones of the European cybersecurity framework. Since the 2016 Technical Agreement, NATO and the EU cooperate on cybersecurity issues. **NATO has located its most important cybersecurity infrastructure in Belgium** (NATO Cyber Security Centre - NCSC). NIAS, the largest NATO cybersecurity conference, takes place every year in Belgium. The presence of the NCI Agency in Brussels is an important asset.

As a host nation, Belgium has a track record of close cooperation with NATO in terms of cybersecurity. Belgium participates international cybersecurity exercises with a.o. NATO, ENISA and ITU. The central position of Brussels in the international diplomatic and policy ecosystem will certainly strengthen the leverage and impact of the European cybersecurity efforts.

ENISA will soon open an office in Brussels. Interpol has a base in Brussels, and Europol and Eurojust have their headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands, which is only a 2-hour train ride away. In addition, one of the bi-annual meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Supervisory Group on Europol is held in Brussels.

Last but not least, the 22 Member States of the **European Space Agency** (ESA) have decided that the new **Cyber Security Operations Centre** (C-SOC) of the agency will be based in Redu, Belgium, located 100 km south of Brussels. The centre will be tasked with monitoring ESA's assets and services, as well as protecting them from cyber threats, whether intentional or accidental. Besides the C-SOC, Redu will also host the SCCoE (**Space Cyber security Centre of Excellence**) which will provide cyber awareness and training, functionalities with regard to security validation, as well as security vulnerability assessment and tests and a threat and security information-sharing platform.



4

STATE OF THE ART FIBER TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF SECURE AND RELIABLE 5G NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

DIGITAL BELGIUM

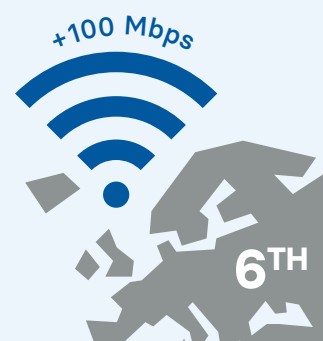
Belgium boasts a fast, secure and reliable IT infrastructure, providing the ideal backbone for the operations of the Centre. Belgium offers high quality access to the TESTA network. Broadband fibre-optic internet and secure servers are widely available, offering secure cloud solutions and collaborative computing.



the solid performers in the European Commission's 2020 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)



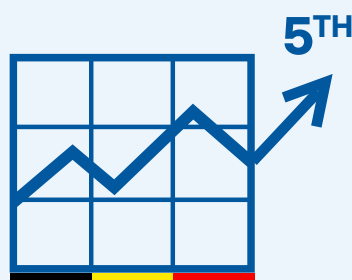
fast broadband (NGA) coverage in the EU



take-up of very fast fixed broadband coverage in the EU



overall position DESI



most innovative economy in the EU according to the EU's 2020 European Innovation Scoreboard



Belgium is world leader with a substantial lead in terms of IPv6 adoption

The Belgian networks have demonstrated their resilience in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. Despite massive concomitant usage, networks have continued to perform normally, without a single outage.

The Centre will be able to rely on the network and services of telecommunications operator IRISnet. The operator is committed to offering tailor-made solutions for a fast and efficient access to data while paying attention to the performance and the security of the network, as well as the flexibility of the service. IRISnet offers VIP services for public authorities.

ROADMAP TOWARDS SECURE AND RELIABLE 5G CONNECTIVITY

A solid reputation. Belgium has long-running experience in ensuring fast, secure and reliable mobile connectivity. It currently has the 2nd best 4G coverage in the EU and is working hard to ensure premium quality mobile connectivity in the future.

Secure networks. The Belgian federal government takes its responsibility as a host nation very seriously. Given the importance of 5G-technology for future connectivity and activity of international entities, including the Centre, adequate security measures have been adopted to minimize and manage potential risks. These measures, in line with the EU's 5G security toolbox, will be implemented to guarantee an excellent security level.

Embracing the future. The Belgian authorities, operators and businesses are committed to ensuring 5G connectivity. Also, the Brussels-Capital Regional Government is fully committed towards next generation mobile technologies. It has made becoming **a smart city**, benefitting both citizens and public authorities, one of its main policy objectives. Within this framework, the government sees introducing modern technologies in the various security professions as a priority. It is on course to make Brussels 5G-ready.

Preparing the ground. Since April 2020, the Belgian National Telecommunications Regulator (BIPT) has issued more than thirty 5G test licenses to operators and companies willing to perform live tests on important sites (e.g. Port of Antwerp). These tests have allowed operators to be well-prepared for a swift 5G roll-out. On 15 July 2020, the national regulator granted a temporary licensing regime for the 3.5 GHz band, allowing for the roll-out of 5G connectivity in the whole territory of Belgium, while awaiting the adoption of the legal framework for the definitive 5G auctions both in the 700 MHz and the 3.5 GHz band. Discussions with various telecom operators in July 2020 have confirmed an imminent readiness as well as the necessary technical capacity to deploy and ensure reliable 5G network coverage for the Cybersecurity Centre—on a timely basis and in compliance with the applicable emission norms.



5 | A STRONG AND VIBRANT BELGIAN CYBER ECOSYSTEM

As a frontrunner in the area of cybersecurity, Belgium is home to **a dense ecosystem that unites private, public and academic actors** in long-term collaborations that safeguard our digital society. Initiatives such as the Cyber Security Coalition illustrate the hands-on approach that Belgian security experts are valued for.

This **ecosystem contains dedicated governmental services** such as the Brussels-based national Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium (CCB) and the Data protection Authority, as well as different sectoral authorities such as the Belgian Internet Service Provider Association (ISPA) or the Belgian association of Digital Technology Leaders (BELTUG) and many other closely-linked initiatives, allowing decisions to be implemented swiftly. The EUR 14 million support for the ESA Cyber Security Operations Centre in Redu is a clear sign of our support to the industry. Belgium will also be joining the Quantum Communication Initiative. It

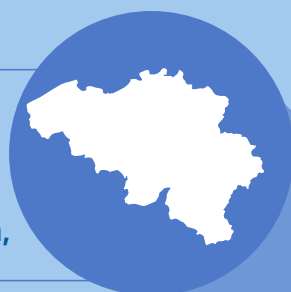
sees close cooperation between government, industry and academia at national and international level as a key vector of effective cybersecurity. Moreover, the hands-on knowhow of Belgian government experts is well known and appreciated. It was, for example, the Belgian army that developed the internationally used MIPS approach (malware information sharing programme).

Belgium is also an important **ICT Hub for the private sector**. Many important companies active in the cybersecurity sector, such as IBM, Cegeka and Mastercard, have chosen Brussels as a location for their offices. The My Innovation Centre in Brussels, supported by Microsoft, is a private-public partnership aimed at sustaining the development of the IT sector focusing on SaaS and Cloud technologies. This initiative supports startups with the launch of a call for projects, boot camps, and other innovative initiatives.

3TH in terms of the integration of digital technology in businesses in the European Commission's Digital Economy & Society Index.

26,000 ICT companies in Belgium, including **2,000** in Brussels

A labour market of **300,000** experts employed in the tech sector



One of the core tasks of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre will be to coordinate and administrate the Cybersecurity Competence Community, which will serve as the successor of the cPPP community managed by ECSO. Animating this network so as to make sure that the invaluable work by ECSO would not be lost, will require close proximity and a continuous interplay with the cybersecurity ecosystem. Of the members of ECSO, more than 60% of large suppliers and users of cybersecurity solutions have their seat or a satellite office in and around Brussels. In addition to that, almost 45% of ECSO member associations have a physical presence as well. The continuation and expansion of the cPPP community will therefore be effectively ensured.

The **leading position of Belgian research and academia** is well known. A recent European analysis showed that research in Belgium, embedded in trans-border cooperation, is more internationally focused than anywhere else in Europe. A marked example of this is the strategic research platform Secur'IT, which connects academic research

groups to design new security schemes, while fostering ties with the industrial sector. It has also paved the way for the Brussels Initiative on Cybersecurity Innovation (BICI).



TOP 5
OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
regarding patents and
publications on cybersecurity



considered to be
a world leader
in cryptography



6 | THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE LOCATION

Located in the heart of Europe, **Brussels is one of the most accessible capitals on the continent.** Thanks to its dense, high-quality transportation infrastructure, Belgium offers fast connections to locations all over Europe by air, sea or land.

Brussels Airport is located 12 km Northeast of Brussels' city centre and the European Quarter, and is easily accessible via a direct train connection, taxi or bus in just 20 minutes.

Extensive public transport, cycling infrastructure and bicycle hire stations throughout the city make Brussels an attractive city in terms of eco-friendly transportation for its residents and visitors.

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Brussels can easily accommodate the Cybersecurity Competence Centre's annual visitors. The city has close to **200 world-class hotels with around 20,000 hotel rooms.** With easy access (under 30 minutes) to the city centre, the EU institutions and NATO, an additional 3,000 hotel rooms are available in the immediate vicinity of Brussels Airport. Hotels range from international branded hotels to several unique family-owned boutique hotels. Price levels are generally much lower than in comparable European capitals. Thanks to preferential corporate agreements, all major hotels apply favourable rates for EU institutions, their staff and their visitors.

DIRECT FLIGHTS •

DEPARTING FROM BRUSSELS TO EU MEMBER STATES

			Frequency (daily average)
Madrid	10	Warsaw	3
Copenhagen	9	Athens	3
Rome	8	Bucharest	3
Lisbon	7	Paris	2
Vienna	7	Zagreb	2
Berlin	7	Riga	2
Stockholm	6	Tallinn	2
Budapest	5	Malta	1
Prague	5	Ljubljana	1
Amsterdam	4	Sofia	1
Helsinki	4	Larnaca	0.5
Dublin	4		

DIRECT TRAINS

DEPARTING FROM BRUSSELS THALYS-EUROSTAR-TGV-ICE

		Frequency (daily average)
Amsterdam	32	
Paris	22	
London	9	
Cologne/ Frankfurt	7	
Vienna (night train)	2x/ week	



DIRECT FLIGHTS •

DEPARTING FROM BRUSSELS TO IMPORTANT DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE

		Frequency (daily average)
Geneva	9	
London	9	
Tel Aviv	4	
New York	3	
Dubai	2	
Washington	2	
Montreal	2	
Tokyo	1	
Toronto	1	
Atlanta	1	
Chicago	1	
Beijing	1	
Abu Dhabi	1	
Doha	1	
Addis Abeba	1	
Kigali	1	
Dakar	1	
Abidjan	1	
Bangkok	1	
Hong Kong	1	



7 | EDUCATION FACILITIES

In terms of secondary education, the Centre's staff first choice might be the European schools present in Brussels. They provide a broad, high-quality education, from nursery level to university, develop high standards in the mother tongue and in foreign languages, and give pupils confidence in their own cultural identity.

There is also a broad range of outstanding international schools available for their children following British and American curricula, as well as a large network of Belgian schools. **Belgium's education**

standards are high. Annual reports by the OECD rank Belgium's education among the top 10, with students performing above average in science, mathematics and reading. Investment in education is also one of the highest among the 40 OECD countries.

Belgian universities offer English language (alongside French or Dutch) bachelor and master programmes, providing numerous possibilities for the Centre's staff and their families to continue their education.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN AND AROUND BRUSSELS

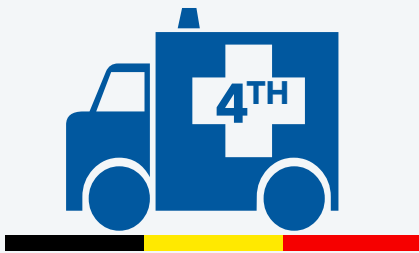
In Brussels

European Schools (I – II – III – IV)
Lycée français Jean Monnet
International School of Brussels (ISB)
Brussels International Catholic School (BICS)
Agnes School
Bogaerts International School
Japanese School of Brussels
Brussels (American) Elementary High School
Brussels English Primary School (BEPS)
International Montessori School 'Hof ten Berg'
Nederlandstalige School Prinses Juliana
British Junior Academy of Brussels
British International School of Brussels (BISB)
École Internationale Montgomery
Montessori House Brussels
École Internationale Ace of Brussels
Ecole Française Internationale de Bruxelles (EFI Bruxelles)
Roots and Wings School

Around Brussels

The British School of Brussels (Tervuren)
Internationale Deutsche Schule Brüssel (Wezenbeek-Oppem)
St. John's International School (Waterloo)
International Montessori Schools (St. Stevens Woluwe, Tervuren, Sterrebeek, Wezenbeek-Oppem)
ISF Waterloo International School (Waterloo)
Scandinavian School of Brussels (Waterloo)
European School of Bruxelles-Argenteuil (Waterloo)
Montessori Kids (Lasne)
ISF Tervuren International School (Tervuren)
Montessori House Belgium Int. School (Braine-l'Alleud)
The Courtyard International School (Tervuren)

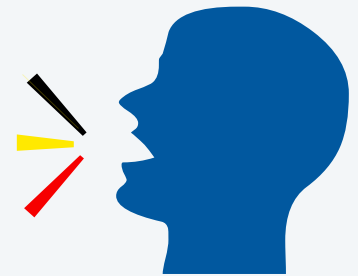
Belgium, located in the beating heart of Europe and home to numerous European institutions and international organisations, has a long-standing tradition of hosting expats. Its labour market, medical services and social security provisions are mindful of the specific needs of the numerous expats living on its territory. EU staff enjoy access to Belgium's affordable, reliable and world-renowned healthcare system.



Belgium is home to Europe's fourth best healthcare system¹



24/7 access to medication thanks to pharmacy rotation



A high number of doctors who speak English, French and Dutch

Belgium has a vibrant labour market with ample opportunities for accompanying partners. Belgium is one of the most internationally oriented economies in Europe, with expats making up more than 10% of the workforce. More than 140,000 European nationals are currently working in Brussels. The city, home to numerous international institutions, advocacy groups, lobbying groups, law firms and others, can offer scores of challenging employment opportunities for the family members of staff of the Cybersecurity Centre.

THE EXPAT WELCOME DESK -
A ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR EU-STAFF & THEIR FAMILIES



The Expat Welcome Desk is part of the Office of the Brussels Commissioner for Europe and International Organisations and serves as **a single point of contact for all international organisations and their staff on behalf of the regional government**. The Expat Welcome Desk provides free, personalised, multilingual administrative assistance to internationals who settle in Brussel as part of their activities within and around the European and International organisations. It can offer the Centre's staff a range of services in the areas of housing, residence formalities, taxes, transport, employment, civil status, social security, education, and more.

¹ Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI) published by the Health Consumer Powerhouse in 2019

9

PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

The Centre and its staff will enjoy the same **benefits as the EU Institutions and officials**. The Centre itself will have full legal personality under Belgian law (enabling it to open bank accounts, make purchases, hire personnel, etc.) and it will enjoy the usual immunities and inviolabilities (it will have legal immunity and its premises, official correspondence and archives will be inviolable). Full fiscal exemption of direct and indirect taxes for its official use will be granted.

The officials of the Centre will have immunity from legal proceedings in respect of acts performed by them in their official capacity, they will be exempt from Belgian income tax and Belgian social security contributions and they will have the right, if they are not Belgians, to buy, free of VAT, a car and a number of goods during one year following the start of their function within the Centre.

Although signing a new “headquarters agreement” is not strictly necessary, Belgium is prepared to sign a text in which the PPI application is confirmed and the Centre’s external security is guaranteed by the host nation.



