



State Visit to the Republic of South Africa

of
Their Majesties the King and the Queen of the Belgians

22-27 MARCH 2023



PARTICIPANTS BROCHURE

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The profiles of all participants and companies will be published on the website of the State Visit, www.belgianstatevisit.be.

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING

OF THE BELGIANS

BIOGRAPHY

His Majesty the King was born on 15 April 1960 in Brussels, the eldest son of King Albert II and Queen Paola.

The King is the first Crown Prince not to receive private education and to follow a classical and bilingual educational path in primary and secondary schools in Belgium. In 1978, as Prince Philippe, he began his university studies at the Royal Military Academy. Interested in aerospace since childhood, he chose to join the Air Force, where he qualified as a fighter pilot. He completed his military training with a certification as a parachutist and a commando.

He then continued his studies abroad. After a trimester at Oxford University in the United Kingdom and two years at Stanford University in the United States, he obtained a master's in Political Science.

Back in Belgium in 1985, he delved into the political, economic, and social realities of his country. Over a period of eight years, he got to know Belgium and the Belgians through numerous meetings, visits, conferences, and missions. He also gained various experiences in the field during humanitarian visits.

During this period, he greatly expanded his knowledge in areas of particular personal interest, such as history, literature, and philosophy. He travelled widely and met all kinds of committed people the world over, both leaders and ordinary citizens. He also closely followed the European integration process.

The death of King Baudouin in 1993 marked a turning point in Prince Philippe's life. Following the accession of his father, King Albert II, Philippe became heir apparent to the throne at the age of 33. From then on, his public role took precedence, and he worked primarily in a number of areas closely related to the major challenges of the time, undertaking international missions to promote the Belgian economy and Belgium's image abroad, promoting sustainable development, encouraging dialogue among Belgium's various communities, fostering support for vulnerable people, and helping nurture talent.

In 1993, he took over the Honorary Presidency of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency (BFTA), and over the next 20 years led no fewer than 85 economic missions. He forged links between Belgian and foreign companies, and among Belgian companies themselves. After his accession to the throne in 2013, he remained Honorary President of the BFTA, and asked his sister, Princess Astrid, to represent him on Belgian Economic Missions.

Another of the Prince's signature issues is sustainable development. From 1993 to 2013, he was Honorary Chair of the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, which brings together the country's economic, social, scientific, and environmental components, and which advises the federal government. He also agreed to be Honorary Chair of the International Polar Foundation.

He also actively supports dialogue among the country's communities. With the establishment of the Prince Philippe Fund in 1998, he helped to promote dialogue among citizens of different language communities and to encourage greater mutual recognition and respect for everyone's individuality and culture.

The King is fully aware of the many forms of marginalisation that beset society, and therefore meets with those whom it affects. Here, too, he gets a full sense of the needs of people affected by illness, social exclusion, accidents, and natural disasters.

He is also inspired by the many talents that Belgium has to offer, from sportsmen and women, artists, and scientists, to explorers and young talents. The King encourages them all with keen attention.

In 1999, he married Mathilde d'Udekem d'Acoz. They have four children: Elisabeth, Gabriel, Emmanuel and Eléonore. They combine family life with ceremonial and official obligations. Their children carry on tradition, getting their schooling in classical education, and are growing up in a multilingual environment.

On 3 July 2013, King Albert II announced his abdication. On the National Day, which follows a few weeks later, Prince Philippe took the oath and became the seventh King of the Belgians. His daughter Elisabeth, who turned 21 on 25 October 2022, is now first in line to the throne.

As Head of State, the King grants audiences to visitors each day: members of the Federal Government and of the regional and community governments, members of parliament, and other political leaders, as well as representatives of the economic, social, cultural, and scientific worlds, and of universities, the military, and

of the media. The King also receives many foreign dignitaries, such as heads of state and ambassadors who come to pay a State Visit or present their credentials. Since the start of his reign, the King has welcomed six State Visits.

Several times a week, sometimes together with Her Majesty the Queen, he visits organisations, companies, and various initiatives in Belgium. During these visits, the King is keen to get a clear picture of the state of the country, the projects that are being implemented, and the concerns and expectations of the people. In the case of national disasters, such as the attacks of 22 March 2016 and the floods of July 2021, the King goes to the scene to pay his sympathies.

His Majesty regularly travels abroad to promote Belgium's positive image and to highlight and strengthen relations with the host country. Since ascending to the throne in July 2013, the King and Queen have made ten State Visits to countries in Europe and beyond.

His Majesty puts his signature on laws and royal decrees every day. He also mediates with ministers on behalf of citizens who appeal to him for justice in their dealings with the political and administrative system.

In his more than eight years on the throne, the King has overseen two government negotiations, and has played a role in tackling the coronavirus pandemic in Belgium.

Their Majesties spend their holidays with family and friends. In their free time, they like to read and play sports. The King goes jogging regularly, and is especially keen on kite surfing. In May 2013 and 2014, he took part in the 34th and 35th edition of Brussels 20km. He also plays the piano and is an avid painter.



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

OF THE BELGIANS

BIOGRAPHY

Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians was born in Uccle on 20 January 1973. She is the daughter of Count and Countess Patrick d'Udekem d'Acoz.

The Queen went to primary school in Bastogne and completed her secondary education in Brussels. She studied speech therapy at the Haute École Léonard de Vinci, earned a Master's in Psychology at the Université Catholique de Louvain in 2002, and worked as a speech therapist from 1995 to 1999.

On 4 December 1999, She married His Royal Highness Prince Philippe, Duke of Brabant. They have four children, Elisabeth, Duchess of Brabant (born in 2001), Gabriel (born in 2003), Emmanuel (born in 2005), and Eléonore (born in 2008).

The Queen assists His Majesty the King in his duties as Head of State, making frequent visits to institutions and organisations, meeting regularly with members of the public, and attending ceremonies at home and abroad. She takes part in State Visits, receives representatives of various civil society groups, and makes numerous field visits.

In addition to the activities She engages in alongside His Majesty, the Queen is active in issues close to her heart, such as parenting and education, child poverty, intergenerational poverty, the position of women in our society, financial literacy, and mental health.

She regularly visits social organisations and healthcare institutions. Through these contacts, Her Majesty stays informed of the

needs and requirements of the population, as well as the many initiatives that are taken in Belgium to help others. This direct contact with the people is of the utmost importance to the Queen.

Through the Queen's Assistance Fund, Her Majesty offers help to citizens who are unable to meet their daily needs because of financial problems. For many of them, it is a last resort. The Fund also supports vulnerable young people between the ages of 18 and 25 who have spent their youth in institutions or with foster families, helping them find their way to independence.

The Queen is Honorary Chair of the King Baudouin Foundation, and regularly takes part in public debates on issues of concern to the people. Her main focus is always on the most vulnerable. As Honorary Chair of the Queen Mathilde Fund, the Queen supports initiatives taken by young people for young people.

The Queen is Honorary Chair of Child Focus, too, a foundation that works to prevent the disappearance and sexual exploitation of children. She attaches fundamental importance to children's welfare and is committed to combatting all forms of violence against them.

In addition, Her Majesty is Honorary Chair of UNICEF Belgium, and has granted her Royal Patronage to Breast International Group, which supports research on breast cancer.

The Queen Elisabeth Music Competition has enjoyed Her Majesty's Royal Patronage since 2014. The Competition was founded in 1937 on

the initiative of Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth and the well-known Belgian violinist and composer Eugène Ysaÿe.

In 2016, the United Nations Secretary-General invited the Queen to become one of the Advocates for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This group of eminent personalities assists the United Nations Organization in mobilising the international community, business and civil society to achieve the goals by 2030.

In the same context, Her Majesty the Queen agreed in 2018 to act as Honorary Chair of the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development. In 2017, She received the Honorary National German Sustainability Award for her longstanding commitment and personal contribution to the debate on sustainable development and her commitment to social and humanitarian projects.

Cooperation on development is an important theme for the Queen. She has participated in several humanitarian missions (especially in Africa), with an emphasis on issues such as children's rights, health, poverty alleviation, quality education, good governance, women's economic empowerment, and non-communicable diseases.

The Queen was also Special Envoy of the World Health Organization/Europe for the promotion of vaccinations. In 2019, in keeping with royal tradition, She became a Patron/Honorary Member of the Royal Academies of Medicine of Belgium.

The Queen is an Honorary Board Member of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. She also participates in the annual World Economic Forum in Davos.

As a firm believer in lifelong learning and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, She has taken courses in leadership at Harvard Kennedy School and Yale University.

Besides Dutch and French, the Queen speaks English and Italian, and has a good basic knowledge of Spanish.

Her Majesty the Queen has a broad interest in culture, art, and dance. She loves modern and classical music, plays the piano, and is a keen reader. In her free time She enjoys hiking, biking, playing tennis, swimming, nature and the outdoors.



HE HADJA LAHBIB

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND
THE FEDERAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

FEDERAL LEVEL

SINCE JULY 2022

- Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Federal Cultural Institutions

PROFESSIONAL

2021 – 2022

- Leader of the project preparing Brussels' candidature for the title of European Capital of Culture in 2030

1997 – 2020

- Presenter of the daily news and various cultural, societal and political programs for the French speaking public broadcaster – RTBF

2006 – 2014

- Documentary producer and director of social and cultural programs

2005 – 2009

- Presenter of the weekend news – TV5 Monde

2011

- Presenter of the Queen Elisabeth Competition and numerous conferences and public events

2000 – 2009

- Special Envoy and reporter in the Middle East, Chad, Morocco and Afghanistan

1993 – 1997

- Journalist and member of the political and societal unit of the editorial staff of the news department – RTBF

ACADEMIC

2019

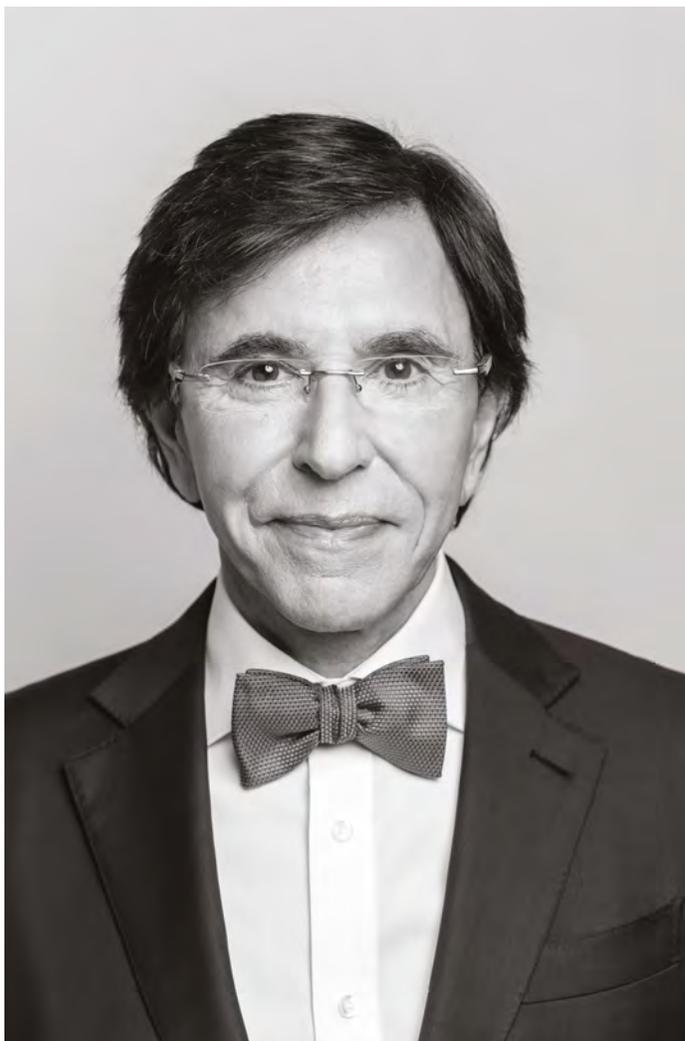
- Management training – Radio Télévision Belge Francophone (RTBF)

2019

- Training in change management and digital leadership – Solvay

1989 – 1993

- Training in change management and digital leadership – Solvay



HE ELIO DI RUPO

MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF WALLONIA

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

2019 – PRESENT

- Minister-president of Wallonia

2011 – 2014

- Prime Minister of Belgium

2005 – 2007

- Minister-president of Wallonia

1999 – 2000

- Minister-president of Wallonia

1995 – 1999

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of economy, telecommunication and foreign trade

1994 – 1995

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of communication and public enterprises

1991 – 1994

- Minister of education

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1999 – 2019

- Leader of the socialist party (social democratic party)

2000 – 2018

- Mayor of Mons, European Capital of Culture

1989 – 1991

- Member of the European Parliament

1986 – 1987

- Deputy Mayor of Mons

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- PHD in chemistry (1978)
- The Greatest Distinction
- Bachelor in chemical sciences at the University of Mons (1975) - Great Distinction

ACADEMICAL FUNCTIONS

1989 – 2006

- Senior lecturer at the University of Mons
- European institutions

1982

- Director of research at the University of Mons

1977 – 1978

- Lecture - member of staff at the University of Leeds

1975 – 1977

- Research scientist at the University of Mons

TITLES

- Doctor Honoris Cause at the University of Teramo and the University of Messina
- Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic
- Commander of the Leopold Order
- Grand Cross of the Leopold II Order



HE RUDI VERVOORT

MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF
THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

BIOGRAPHY

Born on 20 November 1958 to a Dutch-speaking father and a French-speaking mother, Rudi Vervoort is what is typically called a “zinneke” [a person of mixed origin]. From a very young age, he followed current events and the political debate with passion thanks to his subscription to the daily *Le Soir*, which he asked his parents to get for him when he was in his teens. This enthusiasm for public affairs led him in particular to become president of the “Cercle de Droit” [Law Union] at the French-speaking Free University of Brussels (ULB) when he was a student.

His political commitment then came naturally, because “when you study law, you understand very quickly the left/right stakes.” Rudi became a member of the Socialist Party at the age of 22.

In 1989, he was elected municipal councillor in Evere, the municipality where he grew up and where he still lives. An alderman in 1993, he exercised his duties in sport, education, culture, then finance, before becoming mayor in 1998.

In 1999, he was elected regional deputy and entered the Brussels Parliament. At the same time, he assumed the leadership of the Socialist Party group, which would drive him to defend and to turn the values of the Socialist Party into concrete measures for the benefit of our Region and its inhabitants. He was also a member of parliament in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation from 2004 to May 2013.

In 2011, Rudi was elected Vice-President of the Brussels Federation of the Socialist Party and succeeded Philippe Moureaux.

The ever quiet and thoughtful appearance hides a devotee of the pleasures of life. A lover of good food and an unconditional fan of classical and contemporary rock music (Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Radiohead, dEUS,...), Rudi attends various festivals every year such as *Rock Werchter*. He is also a nature lover and a touring enthusiast. He climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2009.

Since he arrived at the head of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region in May 2013, Rudi Vervoort has given new impetus to governmental action. Keen to take up the challenges faced by the Region, the Minister-President has left his imprint on the Government of Brussels.

His efforts during the 2014-2019 legislature convinced the denizens of Brussels, since they placed their trust in him in large numbers during the elections in May 2019. Rudi Vervoort heads the Government until the next elections in May 2024. The Minister-President continues to see through the projects he identified as taking priority in order to approve the daily life of the people of Brussels. The major stakes include, by way of example, the ecological challenges, urban development, the improvement of the employment rate for the city’s inhabitants, the development of multimodal mobility, the construction and renovation of housing units and the improvement of the Region’s image in Belgium and abroad.



HE OLIVER PAASCH

MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF THE
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY OF BELGIUM

STUDIES

1995

- Law degree, University of Namur and Louvain-la-Neuve

1997

- Banking training at Crédit Général (Namur) and ABB (Brussels)

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

1995 – 1997

- Credit analyst at Crédit Général in Liège

1997 – 1998

- Bank manager at Crédit Général in Malmedy

1998 – 2003

- Business relationship manager and assistant branch manager at the Business Centre of CBC bank in Verviers

2003 – 2004

- Manager of the Business Centre of CBC bank in Verviers

2004 – 2009

- Minister of Education and Scientific Research

2004 – 2014

- Minister of Education, Training and Employment

SINCE JUNE 2014

- Minister-President

ACTIVITIES AND MANDATES

1991 – 1992

- President of the General Student Assembly of Namur (AGE)

1993 – 1994

- President of the association German-speaking students in Louvain-la-Neuve (EUMAVIA)

1994 – 1995

- Vice-President of the association of Walloon students in Louvain-la-Neuve (FEDE)

1994

- Founding member of the movement “Youth for Europe” (Jugend für Europa, JUROPA)

1997 – 2004

- Member of the Council of the German-speaking Community of Belgium

2017 – 2019

- President of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

DECORATIONS AND DISTINCTIONS

POLAND

- Commander’s Cross with Star of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland

THE NETHERLANDS

- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau

GERMANY

- Knight Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

FRANCE

- Officer of the Order of Academic Palms
- Officer of the Legion of Honor

LUXEMBOURG

- Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



HE MATTHIAS DIEPENDAELE

MINISTER FOR FINANCE, BUDGET, HOUSING AND
IMMOVABLE HERITAGE

BIOGRAPHY

- Born in Sint-Niklaas and raised in Zottegem.
- In 2006, Diependaele successfully completed his university studies in Leuven as Master of Law, specialising in international and European law. He then gained his first professional work experience as a political assistant to MEP Frieda Brepoels.
- In 2009, Matthias Diependaele was elected to the Flemish Parliament at the age of 29. In 2013, Diependaele took over the torch of group chairman from Kris Van Dijck. After the 2014 elections, he again took charge of the 43-member N-VA faction in Parliament.
- In the 2019 elections, Diependaele led the N-VA list in East Flanders and was re-elected. On Tuesday 1 October 2019, the N-VA party congress agreed to join the new Flemish Government. Subsequently, the Party Council appointed Matthias Diependaele as Flemish Minister of Finance and Budget, Housing and Immovable Heritage.

ROYAL PALACE

His Majesty the King of the Belgians heads the official Belgian delegation. State Visits are the highest level of diplomatic representation. His Majesty the King is actively involved in the preparation and coordination of State Visits. During these visits the King represents His country and its citizens.

The King is assisted by a staff, the Household of His Majesty the King, consisting of five departments: the King's Cabinet, the General Secretariat, the King's Military Household, the King's Civil List and the Queen's Secretariat.



**WILLIAM
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Deputy Chief of Cabinet and Diplomatic
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FLANDERS CHANCELLERY AND FOREIGN OFFICE (GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS)

Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office is responsible for coordinating Flanders' international and European activities and is therefore in charge of the relations between Flanders and foreign governments, the European Union and international organisations.

This includes:

- International and European trade policy;
- Development cooperation;
- Controlling the import, export and transit of dual use products, arms and other strategic goods from Flanders;
- Establishing and implementing European regulations, and concluding and ratifying international treaties.

Furthermore, the Department functions as Chancellery for the Government of Flanders and is responsible for:

- Better regulation policy;
- Communication and reputation policy;
- Evidence informed policy by statistics, strategic analysis and policy research;
- Long-term strategic vision of Flanders.

To execute these tasks the Department relies on the enthusiasm and dedication of its personnel, which includes:

- About 290 staff members at its head office in Brussel.
- About 43 staff members at Flanders' Diplomatic Representations across Brussels (EU Representation), Berlin, The Hague, London, New York, Warsaw, Vienna, Pretoria, Madrid, Paris, Geneva, Rome and Copenhagen. In addition, there are also offices in Prague and Budapest. The offices in Lilongwe (Malawi) and Maputo (Mozambique) facilitate development cooperation.

The Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office cooperates with the agencies Flanders Investment & Trade and Visit Flanders in order to realize Flanders' international ambitions.



**JULIE
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FLANDERS INVESTMENT & TRADE

Flanders Investment & Trade promotes sustainable international business, in the interest of both Flanders-based companies and overseas enterprises. Whatever sector you are involved in, Flanders Investment & Trade will help you to establish contact with the Flemish companies you are looking for.

This includes not only products or services you may be sourcing, but also various types of business relationships, from joint ventures to technology transfers.

At another level Flanders Investment & Trade enhances Flanders' position as the gateway to Europe for inward investors. The Agency identifies, informs, advises and supports overseas enterprises by establishing production and research facilities, contact centers, headquarters, logistics operations and the like in Flanders, the northern region of Belgium.

This broad focus on international entrepreneurship, involving outward trade as well as inward investments, requires not only a thorough knowledge of Flemish economy, but also an extensive network outside of Flanders.

We have just that for you. Do visit our website and discover our worldwide network. With almost 100 offices we are bound to be conveniently located near you, wherever you are.



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FLANDERSINVESTMENTANDTRADE.COM



WALLONIA EXPORT-INVESTMENT AGENCY (AWEX) WALLONIA-BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL (WBI)

The **Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)** is the institution in charge of the development and management of Wallonia's domestic and international economic relations.

AWEX supports Wallonian companies - regardless of their size, sector, or target market - in every step of their international endeavors. This includes exports, technological partnerships, and development abroad.

AWEX is also committed to strengthening Wallonia's position as the premier gateway for international investors seeking success in the heart of Europe.

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) is the public body in charge of international relations of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. It's acting as the instrument of international policy for the French-speaking people in Belgium in various areas, such as scientific research, innovation, economy, environment, sustainable development, culture, education, etc.

Wallonia-Brussels Campus (WB Campus) is the agency for promoting higher education of Wallonia and Brussels abroad. WB Campus works in close collaboration with higher education institutions to promote the higher education of French-speaking Belgium on the international stage and support international students.



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**Wallonie - Bruxelles
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HUB.BRUSSELS

The Brussels Business Support Agency is offering free-of-charge a range of solutions and advice for start-ups and scale-ups in Brussels and beyond, as well as services focussing on strategy, finance, clustering and internationalisation.

Its teams assist in the design and development of businesses in Brussels, from the initial idea through to realisation, and guide them in the approaches they take. They also support businesses wishing to export beyond the region/country's borders, just as they promote foreign investment in Brussels.

Through one-off projects and actions, hub.brussels initiates new dynamics within the local Brussels environment, by encouraging connections between private and public economic stakeholders to strengthen existing links and create new opportunities.

The Agency will provide the government with recommendations based on its in-depth knowledge of Brussels' economic environment. Statistical and practical indicators on the ground will allow it to carry out informed and illuminating monitoring of the sector and the area, and, in this way, judge the actions implemented by the Region.



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FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE (FPS) FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE & DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation manages Belgium's foreign relations. Belgium's Foreign Affairs network is comprised of 133 embassies, consulates and representations throughout the world.

As an organisation with solid and long-standing experience in foreign relations, the FPS channels its expertise into actions geared towards the following objectives:

- Defending Belgian interests abroad.
- Promoting a stable, fair, and thriving world community based on solidarity.
- Combating global poverty and achieving sustainable development.



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BELGIAN FOREIGN TRADE AGENCY

The Belgian Foreign Trade Agency (BFTA) operates at the service of the three Regional authorities for export promotion: Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT), Hub.Brussels, and the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX), as well as the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs.

The activities of the BFTA were stipulated by the Cooperation Agreement of May 24th 2002 between the Federal Government and the three Regions. The Agency organizes two joint economic missions outside the EU every year at the request of its institutional partners. Furthermore, since 2015, the BFTA contributes on a biannual basis to the logistical organisation of Belgian State Visits abroad.

The Agency also runs an information platform and sends out international business opportunities, legal alerts and economic newflashes to companies on behalf of the Regions through the mobile application Trade4U. Thanks to this tool, the BFTA also offers the possibility to companies to order tenders' specifications without additional administrative fees. A centralized database listing up Belgian exporters is also kept up to date on a regular basis.

Finally, the BFTA provides information on foreign markets: from studies within the framework of economic missions to national and international statistics and legal advice or information on regulations regarding foreign trade.



**DIDIER
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Chairman of the Board

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BRUSSELS REGIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE - BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL

Brussels International implements the foreign policy of the Brussels-Capital Region. Its main missions are to manage the Region's bilateral and multilateral relations, development cooperation, European affairs and protocol. The Delegation of the Brussels-Capital Region to the European Union represents the Region to the European institutions. Brussels International also handles all files relating to exports and imports of arms and dual-use goods and technologies in the Region.



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**HE PAUL
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**MATHIAS
BOGAERT**

Consul General





3E

3E has a proven track record spanning more than 20 years across 60 countries. It operates an international team of 100+ experts from its headquarters in Brussels and offices in Barcelona, Paris, Toulouse, Cape Town and Chennai. Strengthened by partnerships with universities and industry pioneers, 3E continues to explore innovations and new developments in renewable energy and digitalisation, striving to provide the industry's most advanced energy intelligence and AI-based solutions.



**JUAN
AGARRADO**
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AB INBEV

The roots of AB Inbev's business go back to 1366 to the Den Hoorn brewery, located in Leuven. In 1987, the brewing group Interbrew was created from the merger of two major Belgian breweries, Artois (Leuven) and Piedboeuf (Liège, Jupille). Interbrew was the basis of AB InBev, which was formed in 2004 from the combination of Interbrew with Brazilian AmBev. In 2008, InBev combined with Anheuser-Busch to form Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's leading brewer. The company represents a long history of craftsmanship, quality, innovation and service to consumers and partners. AB InBev's purpose is "We Dream Big To Create A Future With More Cheers." The company is dedicated to building great brands that stand the test of time and brewing the best beers with the finest ingredients. The diverse portfolio of more than 500 beer brands includes global brands like Budweiser®, Corona® and Stella Artois®; also international brands like Hoegaarden® and Leffe®; and local champions like Jupiler®.



**JASON
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AFRIWISE

Afriwise is the leader in legal intelligence and legal technology on the African continent. Afriwise sources, organises and maintains up-to-date legal information in countries where it's lacking, and makes it both accessible and useful to organisations active in Africa. Afriwise achieves this through a combination of high-quality and up-to-date legal intelligence, a state-of-the-art user digital experience and innovative workflow solutions. Afriwise also operates a single portal for access to law firms across Africa and assists governments with digitisation of law.



**STEVEN
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Afriwise

AIR BELGIUM

Air Belgium is a Belgian airline founded in 2016 whose main mission is to connect Belgium to the world by offering direct and long-haul flights at affordable price. A warm welcome and generosity characterize the service of Air Belgium. This airline operates a fleet of passenger and freighter widebody aircraft on scheduled and unscheduled services worldwide. They also provides ACMI and charter services.



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ANTWERP WORLD DIAMOND CENTRE (AWDC)

AWDC, short for Antwerp World Diamond Centre, is an industry-established foundation, whose mission is to serve and support the diamond business in Antwerp, the world's most important diamond trade hub. AWDC is the coordinating body and the official representative of the Antwerp diamond sector, and as such are recognized internationally as the host, spokesperson and intermediary for the Belgian diamond community. In this capacity, AWDC liaises on behalf of the Belgian diamond sector with governments and actively promotes support for the diamond sector at home and abroad.

84% of all rough diamonds and 50% of all polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. Diamonds represent 5% of the total Belgian exports and 15% of all Belgian exports outside the EU, making diamonds the most important export product outside the EU.



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BARRY CALLEBAUT CHOCOLATE ACADEMY

Barry Callebaut is the heart and engine of the chocolate and cocoa industry:

- World leader in high-quality chocolate and cocoa products
- We source every fifth cocoa bean grown worldwide, creating delicious chocolate and cocoa experiences
- Leader in innovation and pioneer in sustainability
- Founded in 1996 as a merger between French Cacao Barry and Belgian Callebaut
- Some of our brands date back to the early 19th century.



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BELFIUS BANK

Belfius is the only integrated bank and insurance company that is 100% Belgian and present everywhere in Belgium. Belfius is a solid financial group wholly owned by the Belgian federal state, operating through a simple business model, with strong local anchoring and decision center in Belgium.

Belfius aims to be a sustainable and profitable financial player, supporting all segments of the Belgian economy. Belfius is the undisputed number 1 and strong historic partner for the Public and Social Sector and strongly placed in business-to-government matters. Belfius is a leading and trusted partner for enterprises, from SME to large corporations, and serving over 3 million individuals through its physical distribution networks and best-in-class digital and mobile solutions.

Belfius has committed to strive for reaching the highest customer satisfaction and put sustainability and social engagement at the core of its values.



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BRACQUENÉ LEGAL CONSULTING SIMERA SENSE

Bracquené Legal Consulting: supporting companies in their Intellectual Property policy and in the protection and exploitation of their IP.

Simera Sense: development and production of end-to-end optical payload solutions for the nanosatellite Earth Observation industry. The standard range of products target the medium to high-resolution imagery market for Cubesat, micro- and small satellites.

Simera Sense offers the highest earth observation performance in the most compact form for nanosatellites and offers its customers the opportunity to integrate these solutions in its Earth Observation value chain.



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BRACQUENÉ
— LEGAL CONSULTING —



BRANDS ON

Brands On is a Belgian company offering sustainable parasol and sign solutions to the beverage market. The branded parasols and signs are used at horeca locations.

We produce both wooden and aluminium parasols at our own production entity in Cape Town. The company is called Tradewinds and belongs a 100% to Brands On. Tradewinds works with worldwide distributors. Brands On is one of their distributors.



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brands on
parasols & signs

CGH GROUP

CGH Group is the market leader in the production of steel storage tanks and pressure vessels. Our engineering expertise and constant development allow us to design and manufacture wide variety of carbon steel and stainless steel tanks: under- and aboveground, single- and double-skinned, pressure and non-pressure, vertical and horizontal, insulated and heated, container stations and compact stations, other tanks for water and air. We also offer tank accessories, flexible pressure pipes (mainly for LPG and crude oil) and composite street covers.

Offering turn key solutions, providing highest quality products as well as maintaining all the safety and ecological standards allowed to establish an impressive customer base including most major oil companies and industrial leading companies.



**CHRISTIAAN
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CLOSE THE GAP CIRCULAR

CTG Circular is a ITAD company (founded in 1999), acting as a Certified Benefit Corporation pending BCORP.

ITAD stands for IT Asset Disposition, also called ITAM, IT Asset Management, with focus on up cycling of used electronic devices.

CTG Circular provides a sustainable solution for ICT hardware and data. We take care of the entire process: we collect, wipe and restore your not-so-old desktop, notebook and mobile device to give it a second life both for marketing and donation.

If your device is beyond economic repair, we properly recycle it with as little waste as possible. At CTG Circular, we want to do the right thing by society and the environment. Because we strongly believe circular thinking is the more natural way of organizing society.



**OLIVIER
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ECOSTERYL

As a machine manufacturer for 75 years, Ecosteryl has developed unique expertise in the development of state-of-the-art specialized eco-friendly equipment.

Ecosteryl aims to eradicate the environmental and health problems, associated with medical waste in the world.

By offering the best possible technology on the market, our goal is to contribute to a safer and cleaner planet for future generations, by becoming a leading player in the health sector and circular economy.

With the global problem of medical waste treatment, we assist them worldwide to successfully face health and environmental challenges.

With more than 230 installations in over 65 countries, Ecosteryl is a leader in the management of infectious medical waste. Our biggest machine can handle and decontaminate up to 7 tons per day.

More than ever, we are focused on future generations and we are the unique company to have a machine that can sort decontaminated hospital waste.



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ETHERNA IMMUNOTHERAPIES

eTheRNA is an mRNA technology platform company with integrated capabilities including mRNA construct design and optimization, coupled with specialized expertise in designing and manufacturing customized lipid nanoparticles (cLNP) formulations tailored for the prevention and treatment of various pathological states, providing end-to-end solutions for next generation mRNA therapeutics. The company believes that customized LNPs are critical enablers in advancing mRNA technologies to new levels of prophylactic and therapeutic utility.



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FEDERATION OF ENTERPRISES IN BELGIUM (FEB)

VBO FEB – the voice of business in Belgium – has 40 member federations, which in turn represent more than 50,000 small, medium and large companies. All told, they account for 75% of employment in the private sector, 80% of Belgium’s exports and two thirds of its added value. As the country’s only multi-industry umbrella organisation for employers, VBO FEB represents companies from all three regions of Belgium.



**PIETER
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ION BEAM APPLICATION

Leader in the field of proton therapy, considered to be the most advanced form of radiation therapy available today, IBA offers flexible and adaptable solutions from universal full-scale proton therapy centres as well as compact, single room solutions. In addition, IBA also has a radiation dosimetry business and develops particle accelerators for the medical world and industry.



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LOTUS BAKERIES

Lotus Bakeries founded in 1932 in Lembeke by Jan Boone is now active worldwide with its brands in the indulgent and natural snacking segment. In 2022 the Group achieved a turnover of EUR 877.5 million. The shares of Lotus Bakeries are listed on Euronext Brussels. The majority of the shares are owned by the Boone and Stevens family. Jan Boone, grandson of founder Jan Boone Sr, is CEO since 2011. The brands of Lotus Bakeries are Lotus, Lotus® Biscoff®, Dinosaurus, Peijnenburg, Annas, nakd, TREK, BEAR, Kiddylicious and Peter's Yard. Lotus Bakeries, with its main headquarters in Belgium, is a dynamic, internationally oriented company with production facilities in Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, South Africa and the US, and 18 own sales organisations in Europe, America and Asia. We also work with commercial partners in approximately 50 countries worldwide and have around 2,700 employees.



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MAGOTTEAUX INTERNATIONAL

At Magotteaux, we are pleased to be the global leader in process optimization solutions for abrasive and impact applications. Our products are ideally suited to use in the mining, cement, aggregates, quarrying and power station sectors, among others.

Magotteaux is a constituent part of Sigdo Koppers, an established company listed in Santiago, Chile. We have representatives working in more than 150 countries around the world.

Indeed, our global workforce numbers some 3,000 qualified and highly experienced individuals who can help our customers in numerous ways that go beyond grinding optimization and milling efficiency.

Magotteaux (Pty) Ltd
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**PATRICK
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PLUCZENIK DIAMOND COMPANY

Pluczenik is a family run third generation diamond business established in 1948 in South Africa by Isaac Pluczenik and has been a Sightholder of De Beers for 75 years.

The company today is run by Chaim Pluczenik and his two sons Tsvi and David. It has grown to be one of the largest diamond companies in the world specialising in buying and selling all rough and polished diamonds from the cheapest to the rarest and most exceptional stones ever found.

The company has a manufacturing factory Antwerp as well as in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and India. It is the largest rough diamond dealer in Antwerp with 600 local Belgian customers providing them both rough diamonds and financial services.

The company has sales offices across the globe from the USA to China.

It is committed to responsible and sustainable sourcing and fully adopts international best practice.



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PLUCZENIK
THE NAME BEHIND DIAMONDS

POLYTRA FRACHT

POLYTRA FRACHT is a Global Logistics Company – active in more the 180 locations in more than 60 Countries.

POLYTRA FRACHT has been operating in Africa since 1974 and has established own offices as from 2002 – initially mainly focussing on the import and export to and from the Copperbelt (DRC and Zambia) and consequently with an important presence on all logistics corridors of which South Africa remains the most important one.

Since 2018 our African footprint grew massively with the opening of 15 new countries on the East and West Coast of Africa – totalling as such more then 50 Offices and more then 500 employees serving the whole range of logistics.



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SABENA ENGINEERING

SABENA ENGINEERING (SAB ENG) is an international Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO/U) provider offering sustainable maintenance and engineering solutions to the Commercial Aviation and Government/Defense markets.

SAB ENG relies on nearly 100 years of experience and the expertise of over 900 employees operating from 15 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa to serve airlines, government and air forces worldwide.

SAB ENG wants to be an important player on the international market by offering partners and customers high-quality and ecologically responsible Maintenance and Engineering services.

SAB ENG belongs to the ORIZIO Group, a unique industrial ecosystem focusing on the sustainable development of the aerospace industry.



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SCHREDER

Schröder is the leading independent outdoor lighting solution provider worldwide, being present in over 70 countries, in the 5 continents.

As an expert at using light to its fullest potential, Schröder's mission is to bring meaningful moments to people in public spaces.

Schröder's products and services span from road, industry, tunnel and sports lighting solutions.

With a century-long tradition of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Schröder pushed the limits of its business towards smart lighting, broadening its expertise to not only light the urban environment but also bring more services to interact with the public space and its people. So, as problem-solvers and as engineers, Schröder invented a word that summarises its expertise: Lightability™.



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Schröder
Experts in lightability™

SWIFT

Swift is a global member-owned cooperative headquartered in Belgium. We provide our community with a platform for secure financial messaging and standards for communicating, and we offer products and services to facilitate access and integration, identification, analysis and regulatory compliance.

Our messaging platform, products and services connect more than 11,500 banking and securities organisations, market infrastructures and corporate customers in more than 200 countries and territories.

While Swift does not hold funds or manage accounts on behalf of customers, we enable our global community of users to communicate securely, exchanging standardised financial messages in a reliable way, thereby supporting global and local financial flows, as well as trade and commerce all around the world.

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THE SKATEROOM

Since 2014, THE SKATEROOM has worked closely with the world's most influential artists, to empower international skate and education nonprofits and projects.

As a proud B Corp, we embrace a social entrepreneurship model, while actively working to improve sustainability and transparency in our work.

We make a commitment to the organizations we sponsor: at least 10% of all revenue at THE SKATEROOM goes directly to creating social change. We help empower youth around the world, build new skateparks and develop education facilities and resource programs. By buying limited editions from THE SKATEROOM, our collectors and community have a direct role in creating lasting social change. Together, we work towards a brighter future for consumerism.



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THE SKATEROOM

UNIVERCELLS

Univercells is a global life sciences company with the mission of making biologics accessible to all. Using our combined expertise in scaling, production, and bioprocessing, Univercells finds new and sustainable ways to widen access to life-changing drugs.

We deploy innovations in infrastructure, drug substance manufacturing, equipment manufacturing, equipment design, training, and on-the-ground health services to drive down costs, shrink manufacturing footprints and meet the needs of the entire health value chain.

Headquartered in Jumet (Belgium), Univercells is supported by regional and national investors, as well as international investors active in vaccines and healthcare, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Investment Bank and Global Health Investment Fund, among others.



**JOSÉ
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UPGRADE ENERGY AFRICA PROPRIETARY LIMITED

Upgrade Energy Africa is wholly owned by Upgrade Energy Holdings of Belgium and has been in existence since 2008. The company focuses on funding, developing, and realizing renewable energy projects. It has developed renewable energy projects across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, making it a global player in the renewable energy space. Its range of technologies includes Solar PV, Wind, Storage solutions, Hydrogen, and Hydro, making it an all-in-one renewable energy partner. Upgrade Energy Africa is committed to delivering optimal energy solutions for various needs such as reducing carbon footprint, cutting down on energy expenses, and investing in a sustainable future.



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VALUE ASH TECHNOLOGIES

Fly ash from coal power plants is one of the most produced wastes in the world. South Africa currently disposes of around 30 million tons of fly ash per year in landfills.

Value Ash Technologies has developed and patented a unique separation and recycling technology in partnership with VITO, a leading Belgian research organization. The technology extracts superfine ash particles, which are then transformed into ultra high strength concrete and novel, durable geopolymer applications. These solutions add constructive, economic, and social value to meet South Africa's sustainable development goals and national development plan.

Value Ash collaborates with its South African partner, Cenospheres SA Ltd.

Value Ash also co-develops unique self-financing urban slum housing and hamlet solutions with Tridealhouse, incorporating 12 of 17 SDGs and combining innovative concrete, brick and geopolymer technologies.



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WATERLEAU GROUP

Waterleau is a world leading water technology company. We help industries and municipalities to limit the water footprint. In Africa and the Middle East, our municipal wastewater treatment plants turn sewage water into safe irrigation or even drinking water in regions with water scarcity. In the industry, we help production facilities to meet discharge regulations, and increase water efficiency by recovering process and drinking water from treated wastewater. From our Johannesburg office, we help global breweries in South-Africa to meet their sustainable development goals. Because every drop counts.



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WATERLEAU



AP UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS ANTWERP

AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts Antwerp is a seat of learning for about 15,000 students. AP offers 24 bachelor programmes, 8 art programmes and since 2019 also 19 degree programmes. The programmes are organized in 6 Faculties (Business and Law, Health and Life Science, Industry and Environment, Media, Design and IT, People and Society, Education and Training) and 2 Schools of Arts (Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Royal Conservatoire Antwerp).

AP University of Applied Sciences and Arts has a highly ambitious, passionate, genuine, respectful, and transparent approach. These values determine how AP fulfils its key tasks in education, social care, research, and the practice and development of the arts.



**PASCALE
DE GROOTÉ**

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ARTEVELDE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Artevelde UAS, offers a wide range of associate degree programmes, bachelor degrees (of which 5 are taught in English), advanced bachelor programmes, postgraduates, summer schools, interdisciplinary programmes. On top of that we welcome life long learners in our Artevelde Academy. Our offer focusses on the fields of Business & Management; Education; Communication, Media & Design; People & Society; and Health & Care. Divided among several campuses throughout the city, we serve as a progressive centre of expertise for education, research and development where 15 000 students, 1400 staff members and strategic partners work together in a stimulating environment and develop their talents into competences in a forward looking and internationally oriented university of applied sciences. We educate professionals who push their boundaries through creativity, innovative thinking and entrepreneurship. We aim for excellence and sustainability, we honour our social commitment and emphasise the importance of intercultural dialogue. We foster our international dimension in education, mobility, research and innovation in order to ensure the best quality within the organisation.



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 **artevelde**
university of applied sciences

HASSELT UNIVERSITY

Hasselt University (Dutch: Universiteit Hasselt, UHasselt) is located in Hasselt and Diepenbeek, Belgium. True to its Civic University mission, UHasselt is committed to advance society in every possible way through education, research and knowledge transfer. It provides the Region with a highly qualified workforce, knowledge and expertise to tackle global challenges.

UHasselt has seven Faculties (Architecture & Arts, Business Economics, Engineering Technology, Law, Medicine & Life Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, and Sciences), three Schools (Transportation Sciences, Educational Studies, and Social Sciences), four research institutes and three research centres that cover a wide range of research areas (biomedical, environmental, statistical, material, transportation research, media technology research, data science). Hasselt University is home to about 6,700 students and more than 1,500 academic, administrative and technical staff.



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HOGESCHOOL UCLL

UCLL is a University of Applied Sciences with over 16000 students in Management, Technology, Education, Healthcare and Welfare. It is market leader in Bachelor programmes in Teacher Training and Healthcare and in the advanced bachelor programmes in Flanders. UCLL focusses on regional impact and interaction with the world of work. More than 300 staff are involved in practice-oriented research with strong links to region, business and local governments. UCLL is active in 2 regions and 5 cities (Leuven, Diest, Hasselt, Genk, Diepenbeek). We offer 3 full English language Bachelor programmes in Business/Management/IT and many other semester courses. UCLL has more than 300 international partnerships ranging from mobility projects to strategic partnerships. We are involved in 45 international projects. We are part of the European University Alliance E³UDRES².

We are known as the home of the Moving Minds.



**MARC
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HOWEST UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

As a University of Applied Sciences, we like to describe ourselves as atypical, creative, innovative and entrepreneurial. With 9000 students and 800 staff on campuses in Bruges, Kortrijk and Oudenaarde, we are an affiliate of Association University of Ghent. We explore the talents and motivation of each student and coach them to become competent, highly employable, team oriented professionals.

Howest offers a diverse portfolio of future forward, innovative and creative study programmes, valorisation-oriented research and entrepreneurship for the broad regional and international labour market. With 23 bachelor and 33 post-graduate programmes, an Advanced Bachelor of Bioinformatics, a joint Master of Sustainable Energy Systems Management, and the Howest Academy for life-long learning, we offer a wide range of graduate and post-graduate programmes and made to measure microdegrees. We are renowned as best gaming school worldwide (Rookie Award) for Digital Arts & Entertainment.

We deliberately go for profiles that respond to the regional needs so as to turn the brain drain in West Flanders into a brain gain. Howest aspires to be a leading player in the higher education landscape. In interaction with the quadruple helix - the business world, the government and society - we strive to have a positive impact on the economic and social fabric.



**LODE
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howest
university of applied sciences

ICHEC BRUSSELS MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

ICHEC BRUSSELS MANAGEMENT SCHOOL is a university college. It offers day and evening management programmes, both as initial training and continuous education.

ICHEC, revealer of talents, enables its students to develop their talents and educates them to become responsible as well as open-minded managers. In order to accomplish this mission, ICHEC adopts a rigorous approach to its academic programmes informed by research with an emphasis on business practice. Our graduates gain the knowledge, skills and competences which are necessary to embark on a lifelong learning process.

The ICHEC spirit is founded on the values of respect, solidarity and integrity.

ICHEC has more than 3.000 students, more than 15.000 alumni and a faculty of 200 academically qualified or professionally qualified members.



**BRIGITTE
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ICHEC
BRUSSELS MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

KU LEUVEN

Situated in the heart of Western Europe, KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for nearly six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest university and one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university, KU Leuven offers a wide variety of international master's programmes, all supported by high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research.

KU Leuven offers its students an academic education based on high-level research, with the aim of preparing students to assume their social responsibilities. KU Leuven is a research-intensive, internationally oriented university that carries out both fundamental and applied research. It is strongly inter- and multidisciplinary in focus and strives for international excellence. To this end KU Leuven works together actively with its research partners at home and abroad. KU Leuven encourages personal initiative and critical reflection in a culture of idea exchange, cooperation, solidarity and academic freedom. It pursues a proactive diversity policy for its students and staff. KU Leuven aims to actively participate in public and cultural debate and in the advancement of a knowledge-based society. The university also offers degree programmes at 14 campuses in 10 Belgian cities, including Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp.



**LUC
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KU LEUVEN

ODISEE CO-HOGESCHOOL

Odisee is a university of applied sciences situated in Brussel, St-Niklaas, Gent, Aalst and Dilbeek with appr 11.000 students, offering professional higher education, life long learning and applied research. Our professional higher education and research covers business, health, education, social sciences and (bio) tech. Odisee goes for sustainable, inclusive, agile schemes, in co-creation.



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Odisee
DE CO-HOGESCHOOL

UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

Founded in 1425, the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) is one of Europe's oldest universities. It is also one of the 200 best and one of the 50 most international universities in the world (Shanghai, QS, THE). With its six campuses, the main one located in a green environment a few kilometers south of Brussels and two others in the very heart of the capital, UCLouvain is an international university of 32,000 students, of which nearly 20% are from an international background.

UCLouvain offers quality education in all disciplines thanks to its 14 faculties and its research activities focused on current societal issues such as democracy, sustainable development and innovation. Granted with numerous awards, teaching at UCLouvain is based on solid research and innovation, with numerous practical applications for society (62 spin-offs and more than 250 companies in the university's three science parks).



**VINCENT
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UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR

Founded in 1831, the University of Namur (UNamur) carries on the values of the Jesuit traditions of openness, excellence, freedom and sustainability in its mission of teaching, research and service to society. UNamur's priority is to educate students and young researchers to become responsible and active members of the society and encourage them not only to acquire solid knowledge in their chosen fields of study, but also to engage in extra-curricular activities and in social, cultural and humanitarian projects.

The University is situated in Namur, the capital city of Wallonia. It is home to some 7150 students studying in more than 50 academic programmes offered by six different Faculties. The programmes are embedded in strong research capabilities. Researchers collaborate in the framework of eleven transdisciplinary research institutes and nine research platforms. Research activities are clustered around five main transversal topics: Life and Health Sciences, Information and Communication Technologies and Society; Heritages, Cultures and Societies, Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Materials, Energy and Environment.

UNamur is a member of several international networks and collaborates with many international partners. It plays an important role at local, regional and national level by encouraging the dialogue with the economic and political actors. It contributes to the creation and the transmission of knowledge and promotes excellence in higher education for all students, regardless of their origin, it promotes excellence in research and the wellbeing of the entire academic community.



**ANNICK
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UNIVERSITÉ SAINT-LOUIS BRUXELLES

Dating back to 1858, The “Université Saint-Louis – Bruxelles” is a university specialized in human and social sciences, offering education to more than 4000 students in 4 faculties. It is located in the very heart of Brussels, the capital of Europe. Well known for its bilingual and trilingual (French-English-Dutch) programmes at undergraduate level, as well as its Bachelor in Business Engineering taught fully in English, USaint-Louis Bruxelles specialises in Philosophy, Letters and Humanities Law, Economics, Social, Political and Communication Sciences, European Studies, as well as Translation and Interpreting (Degrees in 10 different languages). Overall, the university offers 12 Bachelor programs, 7 Master and Advanced Master programs and 8 Doctoral programs.



**PIERRE
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UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP

The University of Antwerp is a young, dynamic and forward-thinking university, with more than 21.000 students and 6.500 staff members.

The University of Antwerp develops, provides access to and disseminates scientific knowledge through research, teaching and academic service to the community and accomplishes these tasks in a spirit of academic freedom and responsibility. The university espouses active pluralism. In that spirit, it stimulates critical research and teaching, reflection and debate on scientific, social, philosophical and ethical questions.

The University of Antwerp is ranked 131st in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2023. Internationalisation of education and scientific research is seen as a key condition for achieving quality and relevance in today's globalised society. International networking and collaboration is therefore a strategic priority.



**HERMAN
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VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Ranked as one of Europe's top universities, VUB attracts award-winning researchers and offers more than 40 English-taught programs, supported by outstanding research. In VUB's eight faculties, students choose to study and explore beyond their own discipline. 15.000 students, representing more than 120 nationalities study at VUB in view of the next step in their career. More than 20% of our student population is international, making our campuses and classrooms a truly global vibrant environment. VUB incorporates the principle of Free Inquiry in its daily operation, education, research, community engagement and outreach policy. As comprehensive university in the cosmopolitan city of Brussels, we want to be perceived as an open independent university platform, embedded in international networks. VUB, together with the hospital, is the largest Dutch-speaking employer in the Brussels Region.



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