



6th UNICA - SGroup - Compostela Joint Workshop

**Rethinking competence development for students'
employability: practical solutions for Europe**

*14 April 2016 at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Karel van Miert building,
Pleinlaan / Boulevard de la Plaine 5, 1050, Brussels*



Vrije
Universiteit
Brussel

PRACTICAL GUIDE



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe



Table of contents

Venue3

Arriving in Brussels4

Public transport & taxis6

Recommended hotels7

Belgium and Brussels must-know8

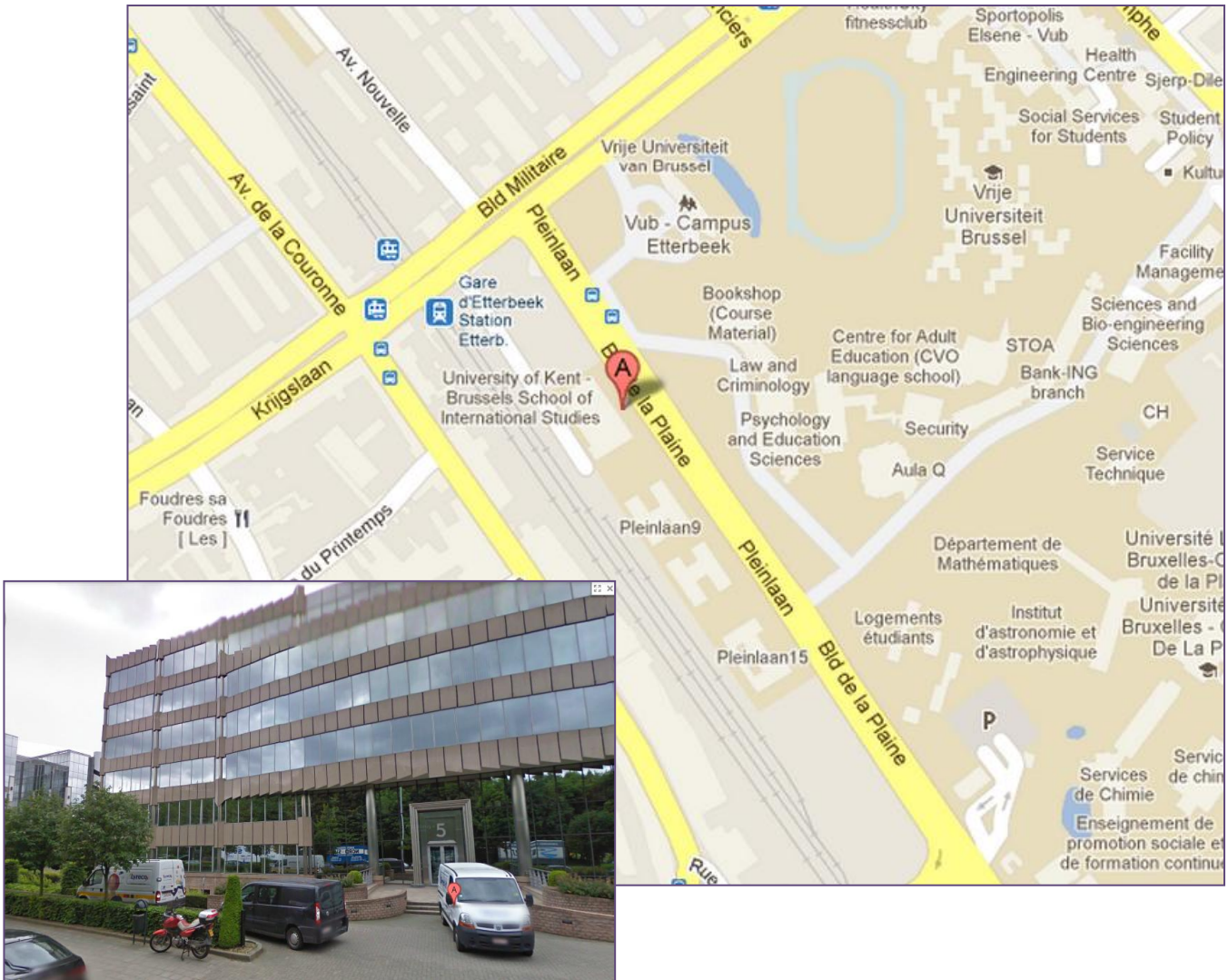
Recommended sights.....9

Wining and dining in Brussels9

Host University 11

Venue

The Workshop is hosted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and will take place at VUB Etterbeek Campus in **Karel van Miert building (level -1)**, located in **Pleinlaan/Boulevard de la Plaine 5, 1050 Brussels**. To see the location, click on the link [here](#) or take a look at the map and the picture of the building below.



The **PETILLON metro station (metro line 5)** is located within a 15-min walking distance to the VUB campus. GARE D'ETTERBEEK (ETTERBEEK RAILWAY STATION) is an important transport hub for the University with **tram** (lines 7 and 25), **bus** (lines 95 and 71) and **local train** connections.

Arriving in Brussels

Brussels International Airport, BRU (www.brusselsairport.be) is situated in Zaventem, 14 km outside the city centre.

JOURNEY FROM BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

- **BY TRAIN:** The airport train station is located below the Arrivals Terminal (Level-1). Up to 4 trains per hour connect the airport to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels South stations. Information on the schedule of trains can be found on the Belgian Railways website (www.b-rail.be). Enter BRUSSELS AIRPORT as departure station. The first train departs at 5.27 a.m. and the last train at 0.27 a.m.
 - **On your way FROM the Airport: Buy your ticket at the ticket desk or in one of the vending machines before boarding.**
 - **On your way TO the Airport: Buy your ticket in one of the SNCB vending machines located at every train station. Don't throw away your ticket immediately upon arrival to the Brussels Airport. You will need to scan it at the automated access gates.**

Price per ticket (2nd class): € 8.50

- **BY BUS:** The bus station is located on level 0 – just one floor down from the Arrivals Terminal. The STIB/MIVB Airport Line connects Brussels International Airport to the European quarter (housing the EU institutions). From Monday to Friday until 8 p.m. the Airport Line is operated as an express service with **number 12** and only serves the major stops. On weekdays after 8 p.m., and the whole day on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays the Airport Line is operated as a regular service with **number 21**, serving all stops.

All MIVB/STIB buses depart from platform C.

Buy your ticket from the GO ticket vending machines before boarding. The vending machines accept Maestro bank cards, credit cards and coins. Tickets bought from the driver are more expensive.

Fares

- Single journey (purchased outside vehicle) : **€ 4,50**
- Single journey (purchased inside vehicle) : **€ 6,00**

More information: www.stib.be. You can visit the mobile website m.stib.be or download the STIB application for iPhone or Android (available in English).

- **BY TAXI:** Taxis with a taximeter are available in front of the arrivals hall. The fare from the airport to the city centre of Brussels is approximately **€45-50**. Licensed taxis can be recognised by the blue and yellow emblem. You are advised to avoid unlicensed taxis!

JOURNEY FROM BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT:

Brussels South Charleroi Airport, CRL (www.charleroi-airport.com) is located in Charleroi-Gosselies, 66 kilometers south of Brussels. The airport serves low-cost and charter airlines.

HOW TO REACH THE BRUSSELS CITY CENTRE FROM BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT

- **By Brussels City Shuttle** (<http://www.brussels-city-shuttle.com/en/#/>): The shuttle bus connects the airport with Brussels South Railway Station (Bruxelles Midi/Brussel Zuidstation; the bus stops at the intersection of Rue de France and Rue de l'Instruction). The shuttle bus leaves the airport every 30 minutes and the journey takes about 45 minutes, depending on the traffic. For the bus schedule please visit www.voyages-lelan.be.

Buy your ticket online or from a vending machine just outside the airport building.



Fares

For 1 journey (single ticket): max. **€14** (the fare may be lower if the ticket is booked in advance)

Return ticket: **€28**

- **By bus & train:** When you leave Brussels South Charleroi Airport, you can buy a single or return ticket (same-day return) to "any Belgian station" from one of the two ticket machines available. This ticket includes the TEC bus journey (Bus line A from the airport to Charleroi-South station) and the train journey (from that station to any Belgian station of your choice). Both ticket machines are outside the Terminal near Door 2. You can pay using cash or credit/debit card.

Combined fare – bus & train ticket: **€14.40**

- **By taxi:** The taxis are available at the exit from the terminal. The fare from the airport to Brussels city centre is approx. **€85.00**

Public transport & taxis

You can easily purchase public transport tickets in numerous STIB/MIVB GO **ticket vending machines**. The machines operate in French, Dutch, and English, and accept Maestro and credit cards, and coins. The tickets bought from a driver are more expensive.



Apart from getting single-fare tickets (€2,10 if bought in a machine, €2,50 if bought inside the bus), you may also buy a **1-day ticket** (€7.50) – once validated, allows an unlimited number of journeys on the entire public transport network of trams, buses, trains and the underground within Brussels on the given day until the end of service (except for the NATO-Brussels Airport section of lines 12 and 21). More information about the fares [can be found here](#).

TAXIS

Taxis Verts: To order your taxi, call at **+32.(0)2.349.49.49** (service in French, Dutch, and English)

Taxis Verts accept payment by credit cards

Taxis Bleus: To order your taxi, call at **+32.(0)2.268.00.00** (service in French, Dutch, and English)

IMPORTANT: You should only take taxis with on-board taxi meters. Once arrived at your destination, you can ask for a taxi meter receipt. The receipt will contain details of your trip and can be used as an expense note.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTE PLANNERS

In order to plan your journey to the venue(s) from your hotel or any place in the city, we encourage you to use the public transport planners:

- Google Maps & Street View: www.maps.google.com; for public transport choose the train icon
- STIB/MIVB: <http://www.stib.be/reisweg-itinaire.html?l=en>

Recommended hotels

Hotel	Location
<p>Agenda Louise*** Rue de Florence 6, B1000 Brussels, BELGIUM Phone : +32 (0)2 539 00 31 Email: louise@hotel-agenda.com Website: http://www.hotel-agenda.com/</p>	<p><i>Hotel Agenda Louise is located 100 metres from Avenue Louise and the LOUISE metro station is a 13-minute walk away. The Hotel is also situated within a 2-minute walk from the DEFACQZ tram stop, which offers direct access to the Brussels historical centre as well as a good connection with the VUB Campus (tram 94 to BUYL + trams 25 or 7 from BUYL to ETTERBEEK GARE).</i></p>
<p>University Foundation Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM Phone : +32 (0)2/545 04 00 Email: club.fu.us@universityfoundation.be Website: http://www.fondationuniversitaire.be/en</p>	<p><i>The Hotel of the University Foundation is located between TRONE and PORTE DE NAMUR metro/bus stations. The hotel offers good access to the VUB Campus (bus no. 95 direction WIERTZ from TRONE bus stop or bus no. 71 direction DELTA from PORTE DE NAMUR bus stop, final stop: ETTERBEEK GARE).</i></p>
<p>NH Stéphanie*** Rue Jean Stas 32, 1060 Brussels, BELGIUM Phone: +32 (0)2/537 42 50 Website: www.nh-hotels.com/NH-Stephanie</p>	<p><i>NH Stephanie is located in the Avenue Louise shopping district, only 230 m from Louise Metro Station. Brussels-South Train Station and the Eurostar terminal is only 15 minutes' walk away. You can reach the VUB Campus easily with trams: line 94 to BUYL + trams 25 or 7 from BUYL to ETTERBEEK GARE.</i></p>
<p>Hotel Chambord*** Rue de Namur 82, 1000 Brussels Phone:+32 (0)2 548 99 10 Website: http://www.hotel-chambord.be/</p>	<p><i>The hotel is located next to PORTE DE NAMUR station and within a 7-minute walk from Palais Royal de Bruxelles. The hotel offers good access to the VUB Campus (bus no. 71 direction DELTA from PORTE DE NAMUR bus stop, final stop: ETTERBEEK GARE).</i></p>

Belgium and Brussels must-know

Weather

On average, Brussels has approximately 200 days of rainfall per year, more than London and Paris. No matter how optimistic the weather forecast may be, you should always be prepared for rain in Brussels. Warm and sunny weather is rarely constant and the dampness makes the weather feel much colder than it is. In April, daily temperatures are quite pleasant at 13-15 degrees Celsius during daytime.

Time Zone

Central European Summer Time: GMT plus one hour.

Language

Brussels operates as a bilingual city where both French and Dutch (Flemish) are official languages. Given the location of EU institutions in Brussels, English is also a widely spoken language.

Currency & ATMs

The currency used in Belgium is euro.

Cashpoints/ATM can be found all over Brussels and a full list of them is available at: <http://www.brussels.be/artdet.cfm/6660>

Telephone

To call Belgium you have to dial **0032** + City Area Code (**2** for Brussels if you call to a landline, not necessary for mobile phone numbers) + Number you wish to call.

112 is the national emergency telephone number.

Recommended sights

- o **Galleries Saint Hubert** - designed in 1847, were the first commercial galleries in Europe and remain probably the most elegant; the 200-metre-long street of shops is covered by a glass dome.
- o **Parlamentarium** (Willy Brandt Building, Rue Wiertz 60/ Wiertzstraat 60) The European Parliament's Visitors' Centre. Dynamic, interactive multimedia displays guide visitors through the journey of European integration.
- o **Horta Museum** (Rue Americaine/Amerikaansestraat 25, St-Gilles)- Victor Horta is one of the founders of Art Nouveau. The museum is located in the house that Horta designed for himself.
- o **Musical Instruments Museum** (Rue Montagne de la Cour/Koudenberg 2)- More than 1,500 instruments from around the world are exhibited in this museum, which occupies one of the city's most beautiful and historic Art Nouveau buildings.
- o **Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelspark** (MÉRODE metro station) - For Belgium's golden jubilee (50th anniversary) in 1880, Leopold II built this park to showcase the country's finest arts and crafts. Today, its massive buildings house three city museums: Autoworld, the Royal Museum of the Army and Military History, and the Royal Museum of Art and History.
- o **The Belgian Comic Strip Centre** (Rue des Sables/Zandstraat 20) chronicles the history of Belgian comic books. Housed in a former department store, it exhibits examples of comic strips in French, Dutch and English.

Wining and dining in Brussels

- o **Arcadi** (Rue d'Arenberg/ Arenberglaan 1B, next to Galleries St Hubert, reservation: +32 2 511 33 43)- is a charming mid-range restaurant situated at the end of Galleries St Hubert. Although it offers a varied menu, the reason the restaurant regulars go there is its selection of over 30 savory, both sweet and salty, pies (*tartes*). Stop by at Arcadi after shopping in Galleries St Hubert for a heavenly slice of *tarte framboise meringue* (raspberry meringue pie) or *tarte forestière* (wild mushroom pie).
- o **Chez Léon** (Rue des Bouchers/Beenhouwersstraat 1, reservation: +32 2 513 04 26) – mid-range restaurant at the end of Brussels' famous dining street, Rue des Bouchers. It offers quick service at any time of the day and serves traditional Belgian dishes at affordable prices, which is not so common in this tourist area of the city. If you would like to try mussels with a pint of Belgian beer, Chez Léon is an excellent choice.
- o **Quincaillerie** (Rue du Page/Edelknaapstratt 45, reservation: +32 2 533 98 33) – housed in a former ironmonger's shop, the restaurant has an impressive décor. It is known for its oysters and a good wine selection.
- o **La Mort Subite** (Rue Montagne-aux-Herbes Potagères/Warmoesberg 7, reservation: +32 2 513 13 18 – a perfect place for your first Belgian beer tasting. The place's wood panelling, high ceilings, big marble pillars and mirrored walls will make you feel as if you have just been

transported back in time. One of Belgium's brews took its name after this bar, although despite the name's meaning ('sudden death'), the beer is not that strong 😊

A few words about Brussels

BRUSSELS - A CAPITAL OF MANY THINGS

- o **a capital of Belgium:** Brussels has grown from a 10th-century fortress town founded by a descendant of Charlemagne into a metropolis of more than one million inhabitants and...
- o **a capital of Europe:** Brussels serves as capital of the European Union, hosting the major political institutions of the Union.
- o **a capital of chocolate:** Ever since the Brussels chocolatier Jean Neuhaus invented the praline 100 years ago, the city has been at the forefront of the chocolate business.
- o **a capital of beer:** Belgium produces more than 1,000 varieties of beers, and many come with customized glasses in which only that type may be served. Try the real sour *gueuze* beer: it gets its unique taste from a natural brewing process that is typical for the area around Brussels. If you have time, pay a visit to Cantillon Gueuze brewery!
- o **a capital of waffles:** Brussels waffles can be easily differentiated from Liège waffles by their regular shape: they are also crispy and light whereas the latter are denser and sweeter.
- o **a capital of... French fries!** Despite their name, the origin of French fries is actually attributed to Belgium. Being probably the most popular forms of "street food", you will find French fries in Brussels on every step of the way: you can get them at fast food stands or in small fast-food restaurants called "friterie" or "frituur". They are served with a large variety of sauces: from "traditional" ketchup and mayonnaise to *samurai*, *cocktail*, and *andalouse*.



Host University



Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB, www.vub.ac.be) is a dynamic and modern university spread over two green campuses in the Brussels Capital Region. The University is organised into 8 faculties covering a broad range of fields of knowledge, including natural sciences, classics, life sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering. It offers 27 Bachelor programmes, 68 Master programmes (24 in English) and 24 Advanced Master programmes (9 in English), as well as a teacher programme and a wide range of post-graduate (6 in English) and post-academic programmes. High quality education and research are central focal points. The VUB research teams are internationally recognised in many disciplines of fundamental and applied research.

The total number of Bachelor, Master and PhD students amounts to 12,742 of which 2,681 are international students. The largest group of international students comes from the Netherlands (14% of international students) and Germany (10%).

With a total of over 6,000 staff members, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is the largest Dutch-speaking employer in the Brussels Capital Region.

The University is a strongly research-oriented institution, with an important focus on research cooperation (alliance research groups), technology transfer and entrepreneurship. On 1 January 2011, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel held 34 patents/patent applications in progress on its own behalf, and 72 patents were being held together with third parties.

Useful links and contact with Organisers

- Brussels International Airport: www.brusselsairport.be
- Brussels South Charleroi Airport: www.charleroi-airport.com
- Belgian Railways: www.b-rail.be
- Public transport in Brussels: www.stib.be
- Google Maps & Street View: www.maps.google.com
- Weather in Brussels: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2800866>
- Tourism Office of Brussels: www.visitbrussels.be
- Tourism Office of Belgium: www.visitbelgium.be
- Trip Advisor: www.tripadvisor.com

UNICA Secretariat:

c/o University Foundation
Rue d'Egmont/Egmontstraat
11,
B-1000 Brussels,
BELGIUM
Phone: +32/(0)2/514.79.00
E-mail: office@unica-network.eu
www.unica-network.eu

Group European Universities' Network:

Square de Meeûs 35,
B-1000 Brussels,
BELGIUM
Phone: +32 2 613 16 37
E-mail: sgroup@sgroup.be
www.sgroup.be

Compostela Group Delegation in Brussels:

Jean Pierre Roose, CGU
Delegate in Brussels:
compostela.brussels@gmail.com
Phone: +32 477 520 133
www.gcompostela.org