

BRUZINE



Grand Tour

Exploring
Brussels

In the footsteps
of locals

Living in
Brussels

Your own place under
the Brussels sun

Learning in
Brussels

A giant offer of
education

Relaxing in
Brussels

Lose yourself in the
city's leisure offering

Healthy in
Brussels

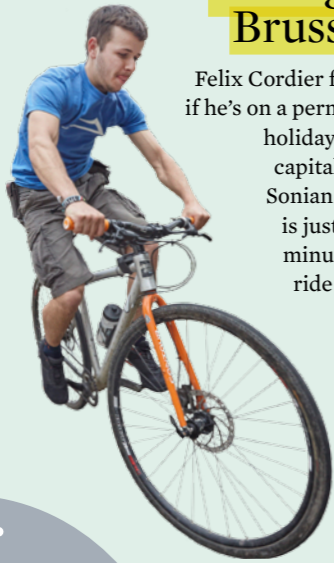
Keeping everyone fit

Working in
Brussels

Why not stray off
the beaten path

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Living in Brussels



Felix Cordier feels as if he's on a permanent holiday in our capital: "The Sonian Forest is just a ten-minute bike ride away."



Learning in Brussels

Sarah Schippers is fluent in Dutch and French: "In class we speak Dutch, but we can choose which language we speak in the playground."

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Relaxing in Brussels

Have you ever heard of the Brussels Beer Project? The brewery in Dansaertstraat likes to experiment and co-create with its customers.



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Exploring Brussels

Fadoua will take you on a walk around "her" Brussels, a city she has called home for over three years now.



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Working in Brussels

Marie is embarking on a three-year programme through ART2WORK: "I have since come to realise that failure is not staying down, but getting back up."



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The people of Brussels often bring out the best in each other, both on the medical and sports level.



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Brussels-Capital Region

Three regions and just as many communities, but what is the actual role of Brussels in our country?



Brussels, for sharing

Have you ever been to a concert in the AB? Ever heard of the trendy Flemish theatres and festivals in the capital? Did you know that Brussels has the biggest student population in the country, with Dutch-speaking universities and university colleges that have something for everyone's taste?

Do you like the city? Did you know that Flemings feel at home in the only, largest, super-diverse and cosmopolitan city of Belgium? That the city has plenty to offer for Dutch speakers, along with all the other things that make a city so exciting to live in?

What do you think of when you think of Brussels? Do you think it's dirty, unsafe, busy, dangerous even? Sometimes it can be.

But Brussels is also colourful and green, loves a good party, can move you to tears, be super-trendy and amazingly historical, all at the same time. It is also a city where Flanders invests in a high-end cultural offering, in plenty of schools, in youth and welfare ... But Flanders does not do this alone. Together with the Flemish Community Commission (VGC), we contribute to creating a qualitative learning and living environment, for residents and for visitors alike.

This brochure gives you a sample of the Flemish achievements in Brussels. It is far from complete. The idea was to give you an impression. So why don't you browse through it, take a look at the photos, screen the titles, choose a quote, read and be amazed? Because Brussels is simply teeming with Flemish initiatives and people who can't wait to share their Brussels with you! Are you up for it?

SVEN GATZ

Flemish Minister for Culture, Media, Youth and Brussels Affairs

BRUZZINE
FINDING YOUR WAY
AROUND BRUSSELS

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Living in Brussels

I love Brussels

WHAT MAKES BRUSSELS SO UNIQUE IS THE MIX OF CULTURES, COLOURS AND AGES.



Anis Benabdellah

BRUSSELS-CITY

"I love the old buildings in Brussels, the magnificent façades, all the heritage. I enjoy taking a walk near the Atomium, around Grote Markt or Sint-Katelijneplein. I work as a community guard of the City of Brussels, which means I walk a lot, up to twelve or fifteen kilometres a day on some days. Which is why I'm so fit. And I know the city inside and out. If I ever quit this job, I can always become a cab driver, because I can find even the tiniest streets."

Lieven P. Bulckaert

SINT-JOOST-TEN-NODE

"I've lived in Sint-Joost-ten-Node since the Nineties. It's a transit commune, where we try to put the motto "immigration enriches you and me" as much as possible into practice. I am trying to teach the Roma gypsies in my neighbourhood to read. The former occupants of my house left behind some children's books, which I loan to the local youth."



Felix Cordier

**BLOEMENHOF-
PLEIN
BRUSSELS-CITY**

"I think Brussels is just perfect, I wouldn't change a thing. It is a beautiful, refreshing and large city and everything is nearby. I feel as if I'm on a permanent holiday here. One of my passions is cycling. I ride to Halle with friends or stop for a beer at Café Kring Vélo near Bloemenhofplein. You're never far away from nature either. The Sonian Forest is just a ten-minute bike ride away."

"I feel as if I'm on a permanent holiday here."

Laila Amasslam

**FLAGEYPLEIN
ELSENE**

"Ten years ago I was still living in Amsterdam, but I've had ties with Brussels since birth. My mother lived and studied here. My grandmother, my uncle and my cousins all live near Flageyplein. I fell in love and followed the love of my life to Brussels and I immediately felt at home here. The city is a world unto itself. I get to know new people every day and discover new things like a park, a neighbourhood or a street. And now my children also live here."



Jan and Marit

VUB ETTERBEEK

"Brussels is the perfect environment for students like us, who are majoring in archaeology and art science. A lot of the city's heritage has been preserved and new cultural initiatives are constantly added. We like to take advantage of the student discount on Wednesdays in Bozar or discover hidden gems like the Art et Marges Museum in the Marollen neighbourhood. We usually stop off in one of the many nice pubs in the city centre or have a drink on an outdoor terrace in Sint-Katelijneplein."



Carine Lauwers

**VLAAMSESTEENWEG
BRUSSELS-CITY**

"I'm originally from Limburg but ended up moving to the city centre after my studies and I never left. We recently opened a shop in a relatively new and undiscovered part of Vlaamsesteenweg, which has all the potential of becoming the boutique/workshop neighbourhood of Brussels. My children grew up here and I like seeing the ease with which they move around the city, how they have adapted to the various languages and the amazing variety of cultures here."

Aube Dierckx & Samuel

**GEORGE
HENRI PARK
SINT-
LAMBRECHTS-
WOLUWE**

"After school, I like to take my grandson Samuel to George Henri Park. It's an old cemetery but they have preserved the monumental tombs and tombstones. You can sometimes still make out the names of the dead. I think it's a great way of letting these people live for eternity. We take many walks through the city because I want Samuel to get to know his city and be able to tell others about it."

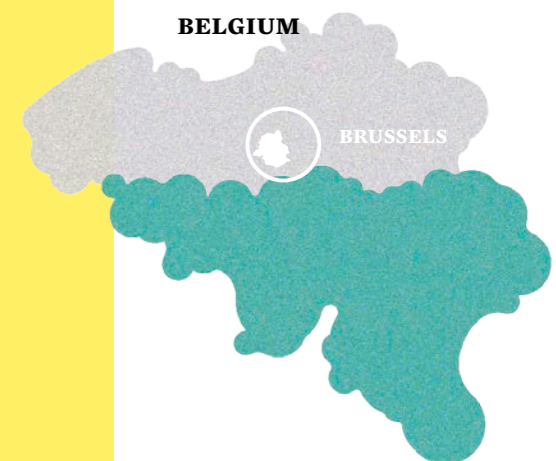
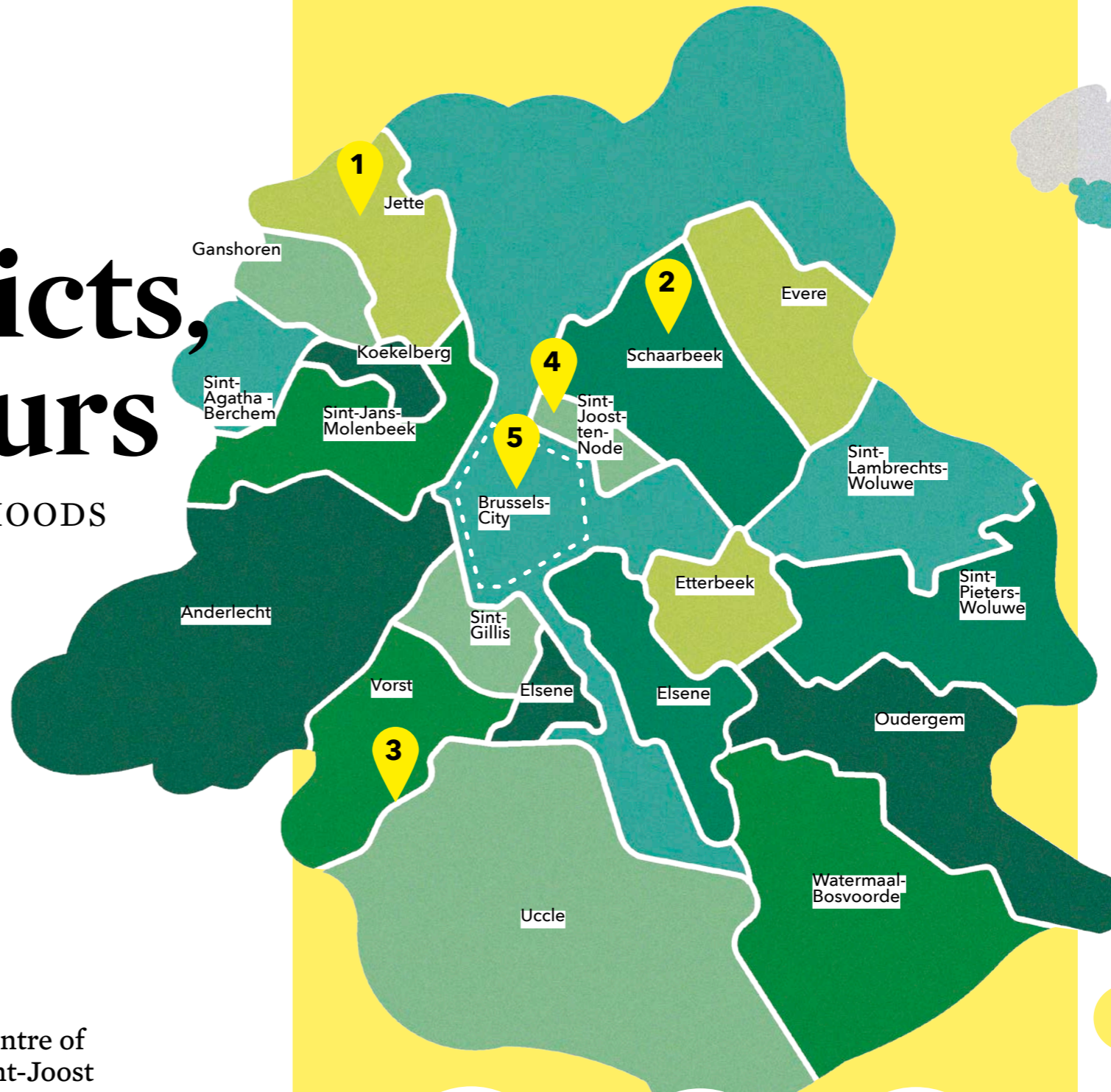


Living in Brussels

So many districts, so many flavours

EXPLORE LESSER-KNOWN NEIGHBOURHOODS

The website Brussel.opkaart.be is a treasure trove of information about the various neighbourhoods of Brussels. Are you looking for a nice place to live in our capital? Brussel.opkaart.be lists all 118 neighbourhoods, providing figures for every neighbourhood, as well as a description and information about the type of neighbourhood. It also has a directory of all the Dutch-speaking schools, community centres, youth centres, child-care facilities, libraries and sports centres. We have put five neighbourhoods in the spotlight.



“I had expected some diversity but I have to say that I was still quite surprised at the reality and the huge amount of diversity in the city.”

Lidewij Nuitten, documentary filmmaker

5 neighbourhoods, 5 stories. See next page ▶▶

1 Centre of Jette

AN OLD VILLAGE CORE AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE

Neighbourhood between bustling Spiegelplein and the recently renovated Kardinaal Mercierplein near the station of Jette. Boudewijn Park and Poelbos Forest are on the neighbourhood's fringe. A neighbourhood with a colourful mix of housing: terrace houses, apartments, town houses and Bel-étage style homes. On Sunday, there is a popular market in Spiegelplein.

2 Schaarbeek Station

A MIXED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

Tiny, quiet neighbourhood between Lambertmontlaan, the station of Schaarbeek and Demolderlaan. The squares along Huart Hamoiriaan are considered the neighbourhood's "green lungs" and the stately town houses only lend additional prestige to the neighbourhood.

3 Molière - Longchamp, Uccle

SETTLED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

A smaller neighbourhood bordered by Alsebergse Steenweg, Albertlaan and a section of Charleroise Steenweg. On the territory of two communes: Uccle and Vorst. A neighbourhood with very varied housing including elegant town houses and apartment buildings as well as more modest and new terraced houses.

4 Centre of Sint-Joost

LIVELY DIVERSITY

A densely-populated neighbourhood with narrow streets, bordering on Kleine Ring and near Madou underground station. Leuvensesteenweg is the neighbourhood's main shopping street and major route. The presence of the European institutions is keenly felt in the housing prices, which have gone up significantly in recent years.

5 Marollen, centre of Brussels

A WORKING-CLASS NEIGHBOURHOOD IN THE CITY CENTRE

A working-class neighbourhood around Vossenplein, with its daily flea market. The glass lift connects Hoogstraat below with the plateau of the Law Courts. A neighbourhood that attracts many tourists with a lot of pubs, restaurants, hotels and antiques stores. A poor neighbourhood with a lot of rental properties. You can feel the influence of the more prosperous neighbourhood around Zavel as you walk towards Kapellekerk.

1
47.4% zone 30 roads

2
100% of the residents live close to a tram stop

5
61.4% of the population is single

2
Low average age: 32.5 years

4
9.7% of the population originally comes from the new EU member states.



Find out all there is to know about "Living in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/living

Living in Brussels

5 neighbourhoods, 5 stories



Liesbeth Velghe

A MEMBER OF JETTE'S SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

"Jette's motto is 'A village in the city' and there is no better way to describe it. But we don't have the disadvantages of a village here. We make up for the anonymity of a large city with real interest and engagement. The strengths of our neighbourhood: strong, social cohesion, a lot of greenery, a park and forests. We are working on developing these assets even more with our Sustainable Neighbourhood Committee. We already organised a workshop on building garden furniture from old pallets and will soon build a loam oven for baking pizza and bread."



Lidewij Nuiten

MADE A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HER NEIGHBOURHOOD

"This neighbourhood really is a good reflection of Brussels. I had expected some diversity but I have to say that I was still quite surprised at the reality and the huge amount of diversity in the city. On every level too: in terms of social classes, prosperity, religion, colour ... While the houses may look the same on the outside, you might find that one house is the home of a rich old widow, while another one is home to five or six families who live in cramped surroundings and whose children have to sleep on the floor. There is also a lot of diversity in terms of age. I regularly spot an old woman walking by who enjoys chatting with the Moroccan youths on the street."

"Jette's motto is 'A village in the city'."



Frans Nijs

EU OFFICIAL IN THE EUROPEAN QUARTER

"To the right of our house, we have the Italian representation to the EU. In the morning, the impatient Italian drivers all love to sound their horn, creating a real cacophony. Other than that, it's like living in the country, albeit in the centre of the city. My wife Miep is responsible for all the flower boxes on our street. We know our neighbours very well. They include a Spanish lady, an elderly British gentleman and a Flemish-Romanian couple. We regularly visit each other, and then we open one or more bottles of wine. It's all very nice. We once even organised a spontaneous meeting on the street. Just like that. Within minutes, everyone had brought out some drinks and snacks to enjoy."

"The mix of cultures and backgrounds is so typical of Brussels."

Marry Mastebroek

HAS BEEN LIVING IN UCCLE FOR 30 YEARS

"We settled on this house and this street thirty years ago because of the front garden. The children used to play outside in the street and even now it's still relatively quiet here. I love gardening. I have no choice really because our home came with a garden that is thirty metres long. I live in a residential, mixed and international neighbourhood with a lot of EU employees and their children. Everyone knows everyone, everyone talks to each other and greets each other. My neighbours have become good friends and when the old man across the road fell ill, the whole neighbourhood helped him."



Terence van Dijk

A STUDENT LIVING IN THE MAROLLEN

"Every time I step outside, there's always something going on. Street musicians, tourists walking to the flea market or browsing the antiques stores. Some of the traders here have been here for many years. The flower shop at the top of the street, for example, has been here for twenty years. The art store next door twenty-five years. The mix of cultures and backgrounds is so typical of Brussels. You hear languages from all over the world here, including Spanish, Italian, Arabic and Turkish. I like the sense of community you feel here."



Living in Brussels

The bare figures

Brussels is a young, multicultural city. In the past ten years, the city's population has become younger and more international. Which is a good thing, but at the same time this fast population growth also demands a lot from the city. More housing, child-care facilities, schools and other amenities must be built in the short term in other words. On top of this, the city also must deal with such challenges as the high number of school drop-outs and high (youth) unemployment figures. These two factors cause a lot of poverty and social disadvantage. In fact, one in four children in Brussels is affected by this.

YOU CAN FIND FURTHER INFORMATION AT WWW.BRIOBRUSSEL.BE



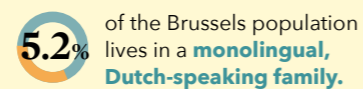
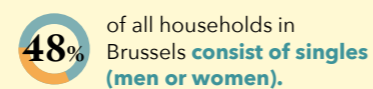
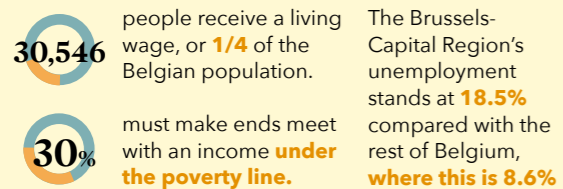
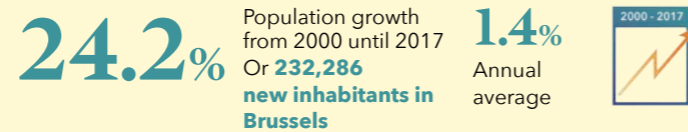
Find out all there is to know about "Living in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/living



DEMOGRAPHICS

1,191,604

population of Brussels + 25,000 students living in student housing on 1 January 2017



TOP 10: Most represented nationalities

1. France
2. Morocco
3. Romania
4. Italy
5. Spain
6. Poland
7. Portugal
8. Bulgaria
9. Germany
10. Congo

inhabitants of non-Belgian nationality. This amounts to **33%** of the non-Belgian population in Belgium.

398,726

GEOGRAPHY

161 km²

Brussels is Belgium's **smallest region**



THE GREEN CAPITAL OF EUROPE



Brussels has **19 communes**

Largest commune: **Brussels-City** 178,552 inhabitants

Smallest commune: **Koekelberg** 21,638 inhabitants

The Brussels population is growing faster than the population of the other regions.

Increase in the number of inhabitants by region in 2016 compared with 2014:

The population of Brussels is and continues to be younger than that of the other regions.

Increase in the average age from 2014 until 2016:

Brussels-Capital Region 27%

Flemish Region 14%

Walloon Region 20%

Brussels-Capital Region from 37 years to 38.5 years

Flemish Region from 41 years to 44 years

Walloon Region from 42 years to 45 years

ECONOMY

97,173

Businesses in Brussels in 2015

198,116

people are employed by international companies based in Brussels.

IN 2016 BRUSSELS HAD **702,000** employees **340,700** incoming commuters (about 2/3 from Flanders) **69,000** outgoing commuters

92.79% of the region's employment is generated by the services industry.

80% percent of the population of Brussels goes to the market at least once a month.



The gross domestic product per inhabitant in the Brussels-Capital Region.

€ 35,836.00 National average

€ 27,500.00 European average

Learning in Brussels

“I don’t like Mondays!”

AND YET GOING TO SCHOOL IN BRUSSELS IS A BALL.

From kindergarten to higher education, Brussels has over 120 kindergartens and primary schools, just under 40 secondary schools and five universities and university colleges. All in all, the Dutch-speaking education system provides education to about 70,000 pupils and students. While going to school in a multicultural, large city like Brussels can be quite different sometimes, it is often also surprisingly similar to going to school in a small or medium-sized city. Three pupils share their experience.



Sarah Schippers (11)

**5TH YEAR
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

“My school is on my street, I walk there. There are 350 children in my school. They all speak different languages: Turkish, French, Moroccan, Spanish, Bulgarian, Russian ... In class we speak Dutch, but we can choose which language we speak in the playground. My mum was born in Morocco and I speak French with her. I speak Dutch with my dad. I do like that my school is in the city, because my street is very quiet, and not that many cars drive through it. The municipal library is also nearby and I sometimes do my homework there with my friends.”



Find out all there is to know about “Learning in Brussels” at bruzine.be/en/learning

“In Brussels you don’t even notice that you are in a student city, even though it is Belgium’s top student city.”

Nathan Stroomer (18)

**1ST YEAR MARKETING
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

“The difference between Brussels and other student cities, such as Ghent and Leuven, is that you don’t even notice that you are in a student city, even if it is the biggest student city in Belgium. Then again, I also like going out in Leuven or Ghent, among people my own age. But there is always something going on in Brussels, even without students. The city is home to many different cultures and there is a lot of public transportation available, which is really an asset. You can get anywhere in no time at all, by bus, train or metro. I usually go out in the city centre, to pubs, night clubs or I just hang out with friends. And I’m a member of the Bruxellas student club.”

Studying in
Belgium’s top
student city?

**BRIK WILL
POINT YOU
IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION!**

Searching for student digs? Tips about *must sees* in Brussels? Want to know more about higher education at a glance? There’s only one place to look: brik.be. Brik is the service desk for students in Brussels, which is hosted by the Dutch-speaking education institutions. Don’t miss: the Brik List, the city blog for and by Brussels students.

Learning in Brussels

Hannah Kempenaers (13)

2ND YEAR OF GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

"We live on the outskirts of Brussels and I go to school in Laken by bike every day. I bike with my friends, and it takes about 15 to 20 minutes. I feel safe and they are also building new cycling paths. The fun thing about a school in the city is that everything is nearby. So just before the holidays start, I like to go to the cinema or the shopping center with friends. During our project days, we visited the Egypt Museum and the Protestant church, which was very interesting. We also take a trip with our class at least once a year, sometimes we go swimming."



An inclusive school in Brussels: 1+1 equals more than 2

The inclusive schools in Brussels are schools and organisations that invest in creating maximum opportunities for development for children and young people. They partner with the community, with parents and with local partners in education, culture, sports, youth, child care and welfare. A lot of children and youngsters in Brussels live in poverty or are confronted with social inequality. They get every opportunity in an inclusive school. The network of inclusive schools is constantly expanding. You can find them in every commune, and they all display the "Brede School" logo.

WWW.VGC.BE/AANBOD/OPGROEIEN-BRUSSEL



Boundless offering

A SELECTION OF COURSES OFFERED IN BRUSSELS



Find out all there is to know about "Learning in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/learning

Super-diverse Brussels

Studio Globo organises trainings, inspiration activities and neighbourhood walks in Brussels for Flemish and Brussels schools. One of their most popular activities is the inspiration workshop "Wonen op het dak/Living on the roof", during which pupils learn to cope more positively with diversity in their classroom and in society. Combine the workshop with a neighbourhood walk in Kuregem.

Flemish with a hint of Africa

Kuumba (Swahili for creativity) is situated in the heart of Matonge, the African neighbourhood in Elsene. Enjoy the surprising dance and music workshops, concerts, jam sessions, films, debates and exhibitions that are hosted in this Flemish-African House.

By and for the people of Brussels

Citizenne organises a wide array of courses, debates, workshops and excursions. The emphasis is on the people of Brussels and their daily life. In a nutshell: diverse, surprising and always informative. They may suggest a visit to the Magritte Museum or a comic strip walk, as well as a calming walk for the homeless and the monthly book club.

Learning in Brussels

Never too old/young to learn

THE LEISURE OFFERING IN BRUSSELS IS VERY DIVERSE AND VARIED

Almost every commune has academies for music, recitation, dance and the performing arts. Discover the diverse programme of our community centres and not-for-profit associations. And the greatest asset? Everything is nearby or can be reached by public transport.



Find out all there is to know about "Learning in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/learning

Something to suit everyone's taste

Frank and Liesbet live in Koekelberg with their three children, Anaïs (11), Ziggy (8) and James (10 months). Here they take full advantage of the many (Dutch-speaking) amenities the city offers. From piano lessons to playing the traverse flute in a big band, hockey or indoor football, scouts or dance lessons: there is something to suit everyone in the amazing array of leisure activities in Brussels.

Frank was born and raised in Brussels, where he works as an engineer and a documentary film maker.

Most beautiful moment

Liesbet (34): "I always enjoyed working as a midwife in Brussels, because it is such a fulfilling profession. I visited everyone's home, whether they were rich or poor, young or old and assisted people during one of the most beautiful moments in their life. But I was also always on call, which proved very difficult to combine with having a family. That is why I want to become a social worker, when James is a little older. In the meantime, I enjoy all the impulses that Brussels has to offer."

Bitten by the Brussels bug

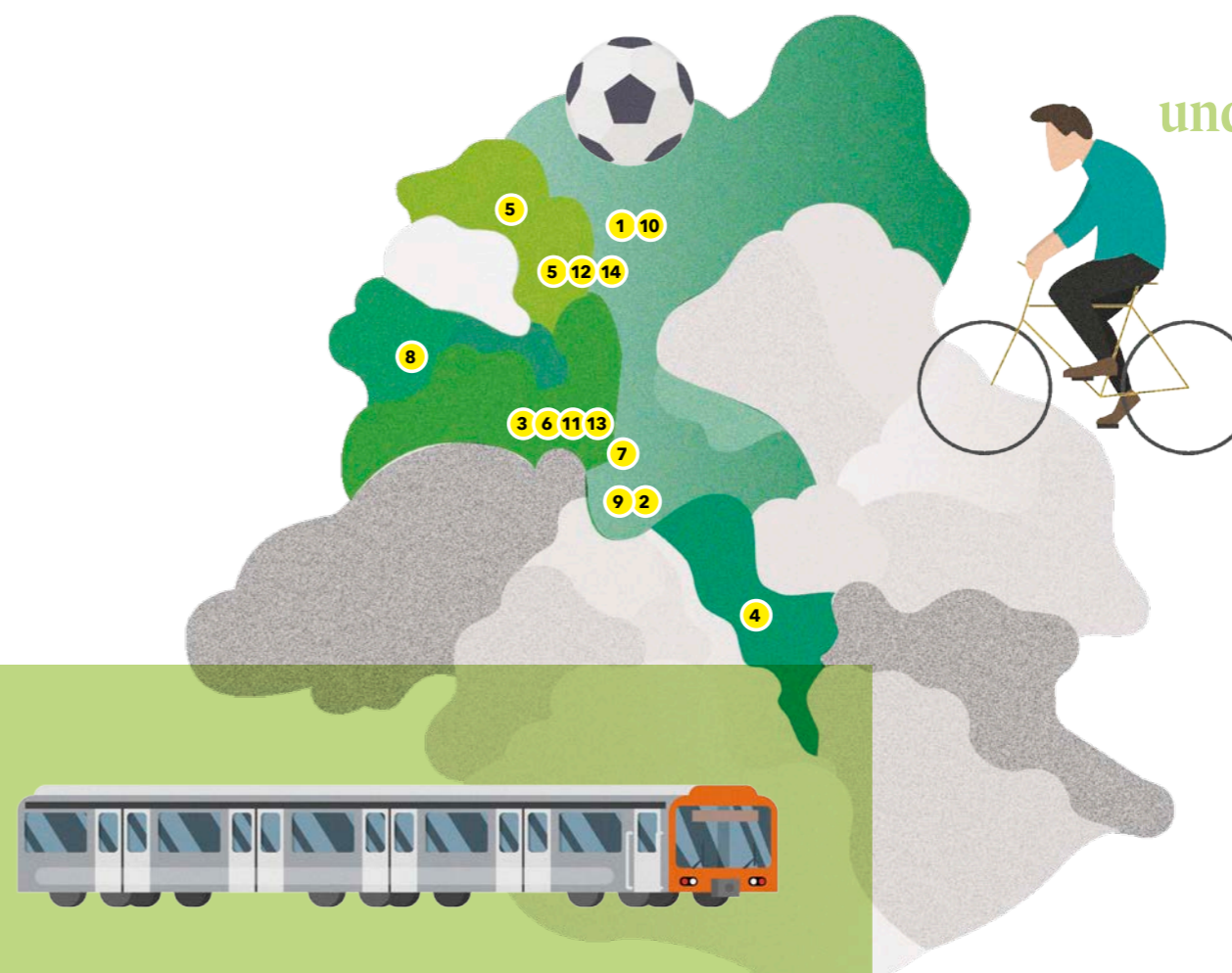
Liesbet and Frank have contaminated their children with the Brussels bug. Every day, Anaïs and Ziggy take the underground and their scooter (!) to get from school to their after-school activities. The family has daily after-school activities. And even so, Frank and Liesbet don't think their life is frantic. So how do they cope?

Frank (47): "I often search for green locations in the city. It's amazing how many there are and they are all nearby. Royal Daring's hockey pitch in Molenbeek is just 500 metres

up the street, among the trees. The scouts clubhouse in Jette is located in the forest and my football club in Jette is also situated in verdant surroundings. At the end of the football season, I usually switch to mountain biking with friends in Laarbeek Forest (Laarbeekbos) or in the Sonian Forest. We do everything on foot, by bike or by public transport. Our car is parked in front of our door all week."

ONDERWIJSINBRUSSEL.BE/VOLWASSENENONDERWIJS

From school to after-school activities by underground and step (!)



Monday

- 1 Anaïs - 5.30 p.m.-7.30 p.m. Solphège and classical ballet Kakebontschool, **Laken**
- 2 Liesbet - 8 p.m.-9.30 p.m. Session of Hot Yoga Yyoga Studio, **Sint-Katelijneplein**

Tuesday:

- 3 Liesbet - 12 noon-2 p.m. 'Mother's milk and sandwiches' Midwife's practice Zwanger, **Molenbeek**
- 4 Liesbet and Anaïs - 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m. Sewing lessons for beginners Elzenhof Community Centre, **Elsene**

Wednesday

- 5 Liesbet - 8.30 a.m.-9.15 a.m. Jogging Boudewijn Park and Laarbeek Forest (Laarbeekbos)
- 6 Ziggy - 1.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m. Hockey training Royal Daring, **Molenbeek**
- 7 Anaïs - 2 p.m.-3.30 p.m. Modern dance class Simonis Dance School, **Laken**
- 8 Frank - 9 p.m.-10 p.m. Indoor football match with team Steaua Simonis Sports centre, **Sint-Agatha-Berchem**

Thursday:

- 9 Liesbet - 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Rehearsal big band Café Marché De Markten community centre, **Brussels-City**

Friday

- 10 Anaïs - 4 p.m.-6.30 p.m. Piano lesson and solfège Kakebontschool, **Laken**
- 11 Ziggy - 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Hockey training Royal Daring, **Molenbeek**
- 12 Frank - 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Football match veterans Ritterklub, **Jette**

Saturday

- 13 Frank and Ziggy - 12 noon-1.30 p.m. Hockey match Royal Daring, **Molenbeek**
- 14 Ziggy - 2 p.m.-5.30 p.m. Scouts Scouts club house De Klauwaert, **Jette**

Relaxing in Brussels

Lost Frequencies

The sky is the limit for Brussels inhabitant Felix De Laet, who is better known to audiences as DJ Lost Frequencies. His “Less is More” tour has taken him through Belgium and Europe, the United States and even South Korea.

On 6 May 2016, Felix De Laet gave his first solo concert as Lost Frequencies in the AB, the main venue for music in Brussels. An unforgettable experience, in the city that he loves above all else. “I live in Brussels and so do my friends. After an international tour, I like to return to my city and chill, get lost in the streets or enjoy a pint with my mates on a terrace.” So far, he hasn’t felt the downside of international fame as the Lost

Frequencies DJ. “Sometimes people will recognise me in the street but for the most part I can still go to the supermarket or enjoy a drink in a pub without people constantly approaching me. And if they do, I always like to make time for my fans. A selfie or a signature? Gladly!” Felix plays DJ sets on the mainstage of Tomorrowland, for a crowd of over 30,000 people. But performing in Brussels still gives him a thrill. “I have to admit that I was quite nervous at the opening of the Brussels Christmas market. Playing music out of the mayor’s window, with a view of the magnificent Grote Markt is quite something. Every performance is still special.”



Find out all there is to know about “Relaxing in Brussels” at buzine.be/en/relaxing



1000+ discoveries every day

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE AND AMAZEMENT

The performing arts in Brussels are flourishing as never before. So making a choice from the overwhelming array of options can be quite difficult. We have selected a couple of fun ideas for a night out on the town.

Kaaitheater invites local and international performing artists from the Eighties to the present, both repertory and experimental companies, in its small and large hall.

The programme of **Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg (KVS)** varies from innovative theatre to dance, literature, exhibitions and even parties. In a nutshell, they have a very diverse, qualitative and accessible offering. KVS works closely with the French-language city theatre, Théâtre National.

De Beursschouwburg is a multidisciplinary arts centre in the centre of Brussels, offering a platform for young and innovative artists.

As a culture fan in Brussels, you can’t afford not to visit **BOZAR, the Centre for Fine Arts**. Whether they are hosting an exhibition, a concert, a theatre performance or screening a film or organise literature or architecture projects, BOZAR always makes sure their offering is original and innovative.

Flagey is the home base of the world-famous orchestra, the **Brussels Philharmonic**, which performed the soundtrack that received the most awards in the history of film music. In fact, the film music of “The Artist” won a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, a César and an Oscar. The **Brussels Jazz Orchestra** also calls Flagey home. The orchestra performs jazz with a dynamic, orchestral sound.

Magical museum night

One of the highlights of the cultural year in our capital is Museum Night Fever. Twenty Brussels museums open their doors wide to the public from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. for this event. (Re)discover some of the biggies such as the Museum of Musical Instruments or explore some lesser-known hidden gems such as the Museum of Fantastic Art. Visitors receive a wristband, which entitles them to hop from museum to museum with the special shuttles.

DISCOVER ALL THE BRUSSELS MUSEUMS AT WWW.BRUSSELSMUSEUMS.BE

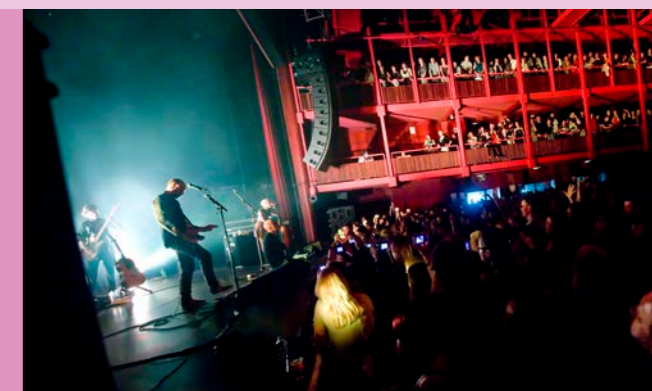
Browsing fun

Unique design, high-quality vintage shops, food from the four corners of the world, famous Belgian clothing brands ... A day of shopping in Brussels is like a voyage of discovery, which ends with a drink or something delicious to eat in a restaurant that serves world cuisine. Why don’t you explore the neighbourhood around Kastelein, where a charming market is held every Wednesday afternoon? Or browse the Brussels Vintage Market in Sint-Gorikshallen every first Sunday of the month?

MORE INFORMATION: SHOPINBRUSSELS.BE



You can enjoy a musical evening in Brussels at **De Munt, Vorst Nationaal, Botanique and the Ancienne Belgique (AB)**. The latter concert hall hosts pop and rock concerts, drawing about 300,000 music lovers every year.



The international and cosmopolitan urban festival **Kunstenfestivaldesarts** focuses on theatre, dance, performance, film and visual arts. Every year, for three weeks in May, in about twenty Brussels theatres, arts centres and in surprising venues and locations throughout the city.

Since its inception in 1986, **Ultima Vez** of Wim Vandekeybus has always had its roots in Brussels and it continues to strengthen its ties with the capital. Ultima Vez is currently developing community activities in Molenbeek together with a number of social-artistic partners.

YOU CAN FIND THE FULL LIST OF WHAT’S ON AT UITINBRUSSEL.BE.

Relaxing in Brussels



De Vaartkapoen will be undergoing a radical transformation from 2019 until 2021. The experimental community centre in Molenbeek will have a brand-new building with a courtyard garden that draws the neighbourhood in, in every sense of the word. In the meantime, De Vaartkapoen is increasing its community work and activities.

Rascal or rebel?

Community centre manager Yannick Bochem: "The new building will have even more space for talent development and co-creation with the neighbourhood. We want to develop Molenbeek's artistic reputation. Our concert hall is already considered an intermediary step, where musicians can grow and move on to the next level. But now we want to further bolster this, by going in search of cross-overs between music cultures and by offering opportunities to home-grown talent."

AN ARTISTIC LAB IN A 200 M² HANGAR

Yannick Bochem: "We are already investing heavily in encounters with the inhabitants in public space, as is the case in Molenbeek's Gemeenteplein (see photo). And we will ramp up our efforts in our new building. We want to develop the garden into a semi-public space for the community. The renovated hangar will become an artistic lab where projects can grow bottom-up. There is so much potential in Molenbeek and our renovation project gives us the opportunity to focus on this even more."



Brussels has 22 community centres

60,745
ACTIVITIES

10,531
"UNIQUE" ACTIVITIES*

23,785
ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE ITSELF

5 TYPES OF ACTIVITIES: EDUCATION, COMMUNITY-BUILDING, STAGE PERFORMANCES (THEATRE, MUSIC, FILM AND DANCE), SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS

36,960
ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THIRD PARTIES

* A 10-CLASS COURSE IS ONE UNIQUE ACTIVITY.

WWW.CULTUURCENTRUMBRUSSEL.BE



Find out all there is to know about "Relaxing in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/relaxing



Happily engrossed in a book

Book lovers are in for a treat in Brussels. Every commune has at least one library, and the city has 22 in all. The largest one is Muntpunt, a contemporary experience library and information centre.

WWW.MUNTPUNT.BE
WWW.BRUSSELESEBIBLIOTHEKEN.BE



Works everywhere

Paspartoe is the Brussels leisure pass. The pass entitles you to a nice discount on the prices for all cultural, youth and sports activities. You can find further information about the Brussels leisure pass at uitinbrussel.be/paspartoe.

DE KROON: A CREATIVE MEETING PLACE IN NORTHWEST BRUSSELS

You can find a more rural part of Brussels in the northwest of the Brussels-Capital Region, called Sint-Agathaberchem. The De Kroon community centre is just a stone's throw from Wilder Forest (Wilderbos, with a lovely café that is conducive to encounters, and the most beautiful outdoor terrace in the wider region). It hosts a wide range of activ-

ities, targeting inhabitants as well as neighbours from the commune: Dutch lessons, photography, interior design, repair café, yoga and so much more. The centre works closely with other cultural stakeholders, such as the music academy, schools and French-speaking partners in the community. Every year, De Kroon organises the Visual Festival, a free street theatre festival in a green setting, together with the Le Fourquet French-language cultural centre.



A bit of heritage

There are plenty of archival documents to be found with various organisations in the Brussels-Capital Region. A lot of associations are also organising activities related to heritage, including historical societies or heritage associations. The Archives And Museum of Flemish Life in Brussels (Archief en Museum voor het Vlaams Leven te Brussel, AMVB) plays an important role in this.

The AMVB wants to (re-)discover the disappearing collective memory of Flemings in Brussels in a metropolitan society. That is why it is organising all kinds of interesting initiatives. An example: "Teachers who are passionate about Brussels" can find out more about the AMVB's archival material during a special day organised for teachers, with interactive workshops about old recipes or during an old-fashioned evening of Brussels jokes.

From Stouterik to Grosse Bertha

BRUSSELS BEERS ARE CONQUERING THE MARKET

Around 1900, there were over 100 breweries in Brussels. Ten years ago, only Cantillon was still in business. Fortunately the situation has changed quite a lot since then. The Brasserie de la Senne, which was established by two real "Brusseleers", originally started out in Gentessteenweg in Molenbeek but will move to Thurn & Taxis in 2018.



The En Stoemelings brewery was established in De Marollen neighbourhood in 2015. In addition to this, there is also the Brussels Beer Project in Dansaertstraat, which brews beers in co-creation with its customers as well as the Beerstorming and No Science microbreweries. And we think many more will soon follow in their footsteps!

Relaxing in Brussels

For active 'ketjes'



The BRONKS, albeit in Brussels

BRONKS's formula for success is quite simple: Dutch-language theatre for and by a young audience in the centre of Brussels. Besides a substantial number of performances, BRONKS also organises own productions and workshops for young people between the ages of 6 and 21 years after school and during the holidays. But BRONKS has also had international successes: the performance titled 'Wij/Zij' was a hit at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world's largest theatre festival.

Just say "JES" to Brussels

Bye bye camps at the seaside or in the forest, hello camps in the city! JES sends young people out in Brussels, encouraging them to explore the city in an interactive manner, with an obstacle course or adventurous cycling routes throughout the city. For thirty years now, the not-for-profit association has been giving young people the time of their life in our capital, where there is always something new to learn or experience.

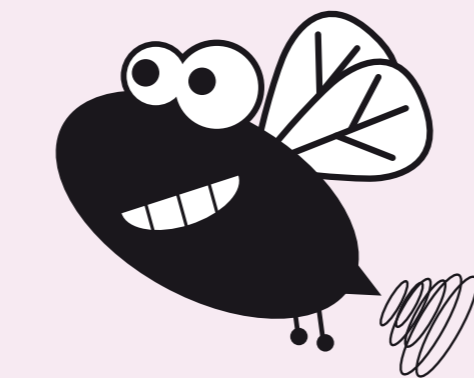
Brussels is jam-packed with fun initiatives for the children and young people in our capital. We take a closer look at some of these on this page.

More tips?

Brusselbazaar.be is the site for children and youngsters in Brussels. Here you can find out the latest news and see what's available in terms of Dutch-language leisure activities for young people in Brussels. Besides this, the website puts several special activities in the spotlight every week. The site is also a great source of information for parents and youth workers. So handy!

Aximax: space for action and culture

Did you know that youngsters in Brussels on average live, go to school and relax in a space that spans less than 170m²? Aximax thinks there is some margin for improvement. The Dutch-speaking youth centre literally creates space for children and young people between the ages of 3 and 18 years, to play, exercise and create.



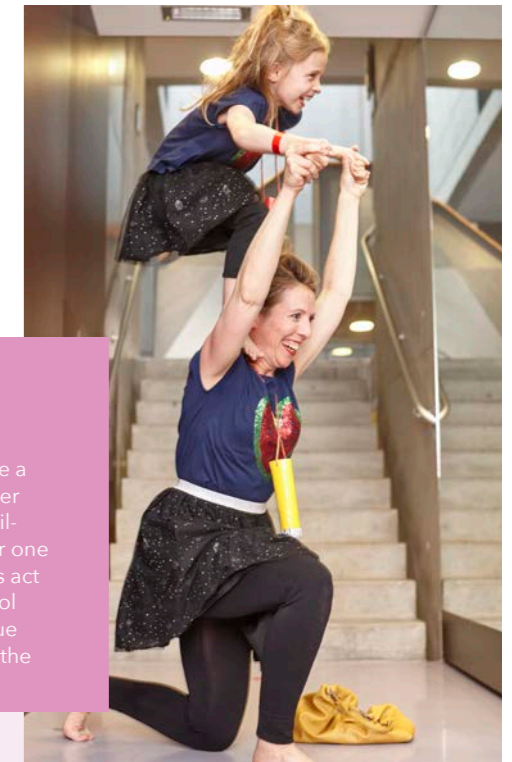
Fly out

Need some ideas for a day trip with your children? UiTmetVlieg.be has an impressive list of leisure activities for children under 12. Don't forget to take a look at De Bende van Vlieg on the website. Families use this community to inspire others. A fun extra: share your opinion and collect points which you can redeem in the future for a fun gift. The most complete list of tips for trips with children can be found at uitinbrussel.be.



Virginie and Anaïs, mother and daughter

"My daughter and I work on our motor skills during a circus class at Circus Zonder Handen on Saturday mornings. You usually end up having to wait for your child to finish at most other activities, so it's really nice that we can practice this hobby together. We learn to work together and trust each other during the rock and acrobatics sessions. We are drawn out of our familiar home environment, which is a very interesting challenge. And because I am a French speaker originally, it is also a boon for my Dutch!"



Adnane, Joren and Mohamed, teachers

"At Circus Zonder Handen, we welcome a mix of cultures. Everyone works together and everyone helps each other. The children learn that they should be there for one another. There is much more to a circus act than tricks. It also requires you to control your body, have mastered the technique and think about safety. I love watching the children grow and develop their skills!"

Look mum, no hands!

BRUSSELS CIRCUS SCHOOL FOCUSES ON TALENTED YOUNGSTERS

Hocus pocus, I wish I was a circus artist! Circus Zonder Handen doesn't believe in sticking to spells only. Here children and young people are taught the tricks of the circus trade.

Including acrobatics and the trapeze, freerunning, rope skipping and teeterboard. The teachers teach all the techniques. Circus Zonder Handen works in ten Brussels neighbourhoods and also organises camps, circus days in Bronks, introductory sessions at Brussels events and an exchange project with a Palestinian circus school. All in the spirit of solidarity between people from different backgrounds.

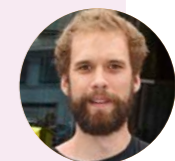
ADNANE LAMARTI

Dancer, actor, trainee director Teaches urban, rope skipping and freerunning to boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 13 years. You may have already spotted him in Luxemburg station, where he regularly holds dance battles with friends.



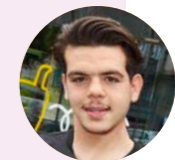
JOREN DE COOMAN

Professional circus artist, graduated from the university college for circus arts in Brussels. His speciality: teeterboard. Often travels for performances. He assists young people who want to have a career in the circus world, preparing them for the rigorous entrance exams.



MOHAMED EL MOKHTAR

Specialises in diabolo. Joined the circus school at the age of 6. Has been teaching kindergarten children since age 12. Says he recognises himself in them. He enjoys teaching the little ones how they can discover their talents.



Find out all there is to know about "Relaxing in Brussels" at buzine.be/en/relaxing

Exploring in Brussels

Out and about with locals



Two homes, one guide: walks through Brussels with an intercultural guide

The Federation of Moroccan and Global Democratic Organisations (Federatie van Marokkaanse and Mondiale Democratische Organisaties, FMDO), encourages the social-cultural emancipation of people of immigrant origin. Their project with intercultural Brussels guides is a good example of this. The guides come from Togo, Morocco, Palestine, Ukraine, Poland and Somalia. And love to share their passion for Brussels with you!



Go walkabout yourself

Do you want to explore the neighbourhoods of Brussels yourself? Then check out uifinbrussel.be/wandelingen where you can download several walking routes for free. The walks on average take about an hour to ninety minutes. The start and finish are always located near a public transport stop. You can also discover a host of interesting walks through *Brukselbinnenstebuiten*, that allow you to explore the city from an original and more critical perspective.

Green and unknown

Most people know Warande Park, Jubel Park and Terkameren Forest well enough. But have they ever heard of Felix Hap Park, Laarbeek Forest or Tournay-Solvay Park? You can find a list of all these parks and many other lovely green areas at WWW.GROENERUIMTEN.BRUSSELS



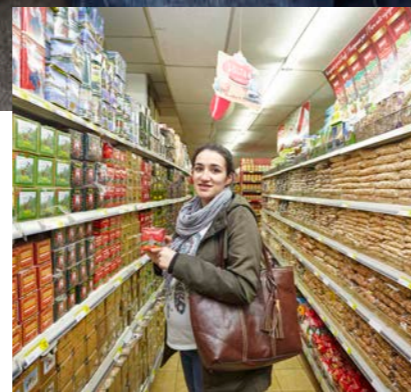
Fadoua (26) takes us on a stroll through “her” Brussels, the city where she arrived about three years ago.

She speaks perfect Dutch. Immediately after arriving in Belgium, she took an intensive language course. “I like to go to the seaside because I originally come from the Moroccan seaside. When I visit Knokke or Oostende, I want to be able to speak with the people there. I also needed to speak Dutch to find a job. I now am a Product Controller in the financial department of a company and continuously switch between languages.”

1 Karreveld castle farm

JEAN DE LA HOESLAAN 32

Our walk starts in Hoog-Molenbeek, near the street where Fadoua first lived when she arrived in Brussels. “I like spending time in this large park in the heart of the city. These 16 acres of land used to be owned by a company. The commune of Molenbeek acquired it, built housing there and also added a public park. The castle farm has a restaurant (remember to book beforehand) and you can also rent the venue for parties.”



2 Moroccan supermarket

GENTSESTEENWEG

As we walk down Gentssteenweg towards the city centre, Fadoua asks: “Can you feel how the ambience is changing?” And she’s right, the street becomes busier and we run into more shops until we find ourselves in the middle of the High Street of Molenbeek. She shows us the amazing array of products in the local supermarket, including dozens of different teas, bottle after bottle of olive oil and shelves groaning under the many spices. We walk on past dozens of little shops with traditional party clothes.

3 Kanaal

VLAAMSEPOORT

We end near the water, along the canal. Fadoua likes to come here, because this place reminds her of her home city. “I calm down when I’m near water. Of course I miss the unspoiled beaches of Al Hoceima, which is a peninsula that is surrounded by the sea. But here, like there, I always like to end my walk by the water.”



From the forest to your plate

An organisation with a name that you can easily take literally: Forest to Plate highlights the culinary options of wild, edible plants during lovely walks. In Laken, for example, they rediscovered the hidden Donderberg estate, which is an abandoned piece of land, covering 3 hectares. The perfect location for a spot of adventurous picking, to find the ingredients to prepare a delicious and tasty meal.



Find out all there is to know about “Exploring Brussels” at bruzine.be/en/exploring

Healthy in Brussels

The Brussels-Capital Region has an amazing sports offering. The Sports Service of the Flemish Community Commission will gladly point you in the right direction of the Dutch-speaking offering. You can find a lot of information on sportinbrussel.be, including the standard sports offering as well as holiday initiatives, from running to cycling and sports for the over-fifties.



BX BRUSSELS

BX Brussels is a football club for all Brussels children and young people, including for children living in a precarious home situation. BX Brussels partners with SOS Kinderdorpen especially for these children. The organisation assists children and their family, searching for structural solutions. But BX Brussels goes one step further. Together with the House of Dutch, the football club regularly organises campaigns about language and multilingualism on and around the pitch. Not just for the players but really for anyone who is involved in one way or another with BX Brussels.

Little bundles of energy

BRUSSELS BRAZILIAN JIJUTSU ACADEMY

The BBJA jujutsu club is well-known in Brussels and far beyond. The club was established twenty years ago and organises courses for boys and girls from the age of three.

Their club house is based in Koekelberg but they organise tournaments and sports camps in Brussels and Flanders. One of the BBJA's popular initiatives is Grappling@School. Florian, the trainer, is the driving force behind this project: "Grappling is a different version of jujutsu, you wear a T-shirt and shorts. First, children aged seven and eight years of age are given a brief introduction to grappling. They then compete against each other during a tournament on about twenty mats, with nine kids on average on each mat. The referees are 12-year olds whom we trained. A whole new world opens for them: they suddenly have much more respect for their teacher!".



© Yves Adams

Run run run as fast as you can

Brussels really is a runners' paradise. Naturally there is the infamous 20 km of Brussels race in May, which attracts tens of thousands of participants from Belgian and abroad each year. There are also several long and short distances, half and whole marathons, urban trails through the city centre, a route through the Sonian Forest ... Or how about an 80-km eco trail, which starts at the Atomium and ends near the hippodrome of Bosvoorde in Terkamerembos Forest?



Mariam (14 years) practices sports six days a week: "The trainers spotted me during taj-jutsu and thought I might also be good at jujutsu. I enjoy it, the trainers teach us a lot and there are a lot of other girls. I also practise karate. I almost have my black belt but I have to wait until I'm 16 years old."



Ali (12 years) has been practising jujutsu for 8 years: "I train here four times a week. Otherwise I just sit around at home and jujutsu calms me down. When I was four years old, I tagged along with my brother and I have been coming here ever since."

Gooooaaaaal!

BRUSSELS SCORES WELL AS A SPORTS CITY

The previous RSC Anderlecht team leader and winner of the Golden Shoe Yuri Tielemans moved from Ganshoren to Monaco. A big step for Yuri who was born and raised in Brussels.

HOW DID YOU END UP AT ANDERLECHT?

My dad always was a true Anderlecht supporter. He enrolled me at RSCA when I was just five years old. The rest is history.

WHO DISCOVERED YOUR TALENT?

RSC Anderlecht has an excellent organisation, providing excellent support. That is why I can't say that I was discovered by a specific person. It was the group of trainers. And because I had been playing for Anderlecht since the age of five, I didn't have to do any tests like football players from other clubs.

HOW ARE CLUB SPORTS USEFUL?

In a club, children are encouraged to exercise and practice a sport. I'm a mentor of the Constant Vanden Stock Foundation that organises trainings every Wednesday for children who might easily fall into the trap of absenteeism from school. The many sports clubs in Brussels really deserve praise for their efforts and achievements. A lot of praise for all the volunteers who keep thousands of children off the streets every day during sports activities.

WHERE DID YOU LIVE AS A CHILD?

I grew up in a working-class neighbourhood in Sint-Pieters-Leeuw. I spent every day in Brussels from primary school onwards because I went to school in Anderlecht. Initially in Neerpede and then in Sint-Guido where I followed a purple talent programme.

WHAT DID YOU DO OUTSIDE SCHOOL?

I was always very athletic. I practised a lot of judo but I also liked to kick a ball around.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BRUSSELS?

The diversity, the mix of people and cultures, it's a big melting pot.

VINCENT KOMPANY LEARNT TO PLAY FOOTBALL IN THE SQUARES OF BRUSSELS. HOW ABOUT YOU?

Yes, like Vincent, I used to play football anywhere and everywhere. I started playing football as soon as I could walk.



Find out all there is to know about "Sports in Brussels" at bruzine.be/en/healthy



Neighbours help their neighbours



One in eight people in Brussels sometimes needs a helping hand. BuurtPensioen puts them in touch with people who like to lend a helping hand.

Giving someone a lift, checking in on someone, having a chat, changing a lamp or taking care of the cat. These are all little things that can make someone's life more pleasant. That is why BuurtPensioen was established in 2013 in Neder-Over-Heembeek. The network now has more than 70 participants. In April 2016, a new branch was established in the neighbourhood around Noord station, together with the local community centre De Harmonie and Buurthuis Millennium. The Brussels-Centrum branch was established later that year in Arteveldestraat.

Marie-Hélène Jouanneaux (85)

VOLUNTEERED TO SLOW DOWN

"I spent twelve years volunteering with a not-for-profit association called Convivial in Vorst, which helps Rwandan refugees. But I had to stop because of heart problems. So I looked for a volunteer organisation nearby and ended up at BuurtPensioen. Every week, I visit people and sometimes someone who has a car gives me a ride. So it works two ways really."

Teresa Kowalik (70)

RECENTLY SIGNED UP AS A VOLUNTEER

"I filled out on the sheet what I had to offer, for example reading a book together, going to the theatre or attending a concert. I don't know whether it's really useful but these are the things I like to do. I don't need anything myself. I live by myself so I would really enjoy doing something together with someone else."



HOW DOES BUURTPENSIOEN WORK?

As a volunteer you save hours that you can use to request assistance. All tasks are equal: keeping someone company, going to the hospital with them, helping someone fill out a form or just calling to check in with someone. The time that people free up for each other counts, not what they do.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The book "Het BuurtPensioen, samen zorgen voor elkaar en later" explains the project in detail and shares the experiences of many of the participants.

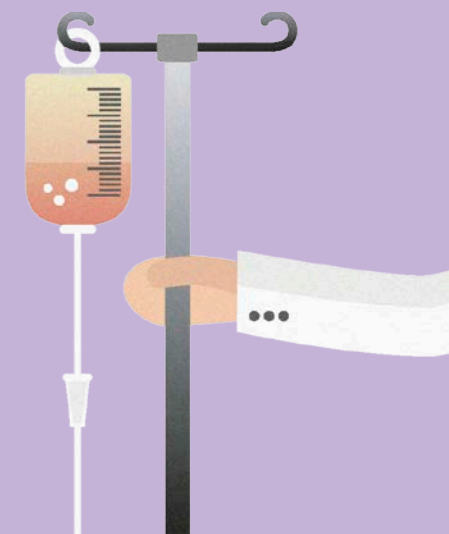
Do check out KENNISCENTRUMWWZ.BE. This website lists and provides support to various welfare and care initiatives in our capital.



House for Health/ Huis voor Gezondheid

A key player on the Brussels care landscape

The House for Health strives to develop a qualitative care offering in Brussels, especially for Dutch-speaking patients. It is a meeting platform for the Brussels health care sector, informing patients about all the places they can go for health care. The House for Health also focuses on providing support to Brussels students and recent graduates in the care sector. All with one goal: to make Dutch-speaking health care in our capital even better.



All the care providers and welfare organisations under one roof

Are you searching for a Dutch-speaking GP, dentist or midwife in Brussels or in the Flemish Periphery? You can find the person you are looking for on Zorgzoeker. Care providers can also use the website to find detailed information about Dutch-speaking colleagues.

WWW.ZORGZOEKER.BE



Find out all there is to know about "Health in Brussels" at buzine.be/en/healthy

Working in Brussels



“I finally dare to speak Dutch”

Jorge Silva (28) hated the Dutch lessons at school but he is quite the chatterbox at the Babelut conversation tables of the House of Dutch. He shares his story.

Jorge Silva has just completed his first day at the police academy in Evere. “I have an MA in Psychology and I really wanted to conduct research but it was very difficult to find a job. At the same time, I had already been mulling over getting a job with the police for some years, because I want to contribute to society. That is why I decided to sign up for the police inspector training programme. The selection procedure took about 1.5 years. In the meantime, I was able to take Dutch lessons during my working hours at my job.”

The House of Dutch helped him find the right course. “I wasn’t interested in strict lessons with exams! So the House of Dutch suggested its Babelut conversation tables to me. I now go twice a week: on Tuesday afternoon in De Pianofabriek and on Thursday afternoon in De Markten. We are subdivided by level and there is a Dutch volunteer at every table who monitors and directs the conversation. I’m no longer afraid to speak Dutch thanks to Babelut.”

Jorge has a Portuguese father and a Hungarian mother, but was born and raised in Belgium. His Dutch was actually quite shabby in the past. “At school I had four hours of Dutch a week from the age of ten and two years later, I even had six hours a week. But I didn’t find it interesting because it was compulsory. Possibly it would be better if they taught certain subjects in Dutch, like history for example. It’s a fun way of learning the language.”

FROM TRAINING TO A JOB

You probably have a lot of questions while searching for a job. Where do you find job listings, how should you tackle an interview and how to choose the right training? Various Brussels organisations provide an answer to all these questions. Why don’t you check with Actiris, VDAB (the Flemish employment and training agency), de Leerwinkel or one of the Brussels Werkwinkels? (The two latter organisations offer services to jobseekers).



PRACTISING YOUR DUTCH ON EVERY STREET CORNER

You can speak Dutch almost everywhere in Brussels. Sign up as a volunteer, follow a training course at Brusselleer, practice sports in Dutch, practice with your children... The possibilities are endless. You can find all these options at nederlandsoefenen.be, which also has some useful tips and links. The House of Dutch offers further information about Dutch courses in Brussels and oversees their quality. Bon, the Brussels reception office, assists people of immigrant origin so they can integrate as quickly as possible.



A HOTBED OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

If you’re looking for a more hands-on day or evening programme, then SYNTRA Brussels is the place for you. The Dutch-speaking training centre gives people with a sense of entrepreneurship some encouragement. Whether you want to become a drone pilot or a herbalist, all the programmes organised by SYNTRA are given by specialists, who do this job every day. More than 200 SYNTRA lecturers teach about 5,000 students on three Brussels campuses. Uccle, Thurn & Taxis and Anderlecht.

Marie

Marie has been living on her own since the age of seventeen. She will soon embark on a three-year training programme as a teacher in special education through ART2WORK. In the meantime she is searching for a job and a new apartment. “This programme made me rethink things. I used to judge people faster in the past. I now realise that after a failure you do not stay down, but you get back up again.”

Ahmed

At ART2WORK, Ahmed meets people who are different, who know what they want and who share their experiences. “When they tell me about their work, I can imagine myself doing this.” His big dream is to open a Manga Café. “But here I learnt that I need to create a clear framework first. That is why I’m completing my auto body mechanic training first, so I can find a job and earn some money. The rest will follow.”



Brewing new opportunities

ART2WORK offers training programmes for young people in the former Belle-Vue building.

It all started in 2007 when an initiative was established to offer unskilled young people work experience in technical support for the performance arts and the events industry. The large-scale, ambitious renovation of the Belle-Vue brewery building along the canal was the perfect opportunity to give the organisation a place of its own. The new spaces on the fourth floor of the Malthouse opened in October 2016. In this stimulating place young people work and laugh together, follow workshops and continue down the road to their new future.

Nicolas

Nicolas joined a programme for work experience in technical and logistical professions. So what did he learn? “Arriving on time, working in a team, self-confidence, and experience of course.” He is very grateful to his coaches that they trusted him. For the first time he was able to demonstrate that he can work like everyone else.

INSPIRING PROJECTS THROUGH GROWFUNDING

Growfunding gathers the people of Brussels around specific projects that can help the city move forward. Do you have a creative, social or enterprising idea but do you lack the cash to fund your project? Growfunding to the rescue! Growfunding works as follows: people who believe in your idea make a contribution to your project through the website and receive a tailor-made reward sometime in the future. If your growfunding project raises 100% of the target, then the amount is transferred in full to your account and you can get started.



Find out all there is to know about “Working in Brussels” at bruzine.be/en/working

Brussels-Capital



The heart of Flanders

Geographically speaking, Brussels is not located in the centre of Flanders of course. But it does play a central role in the lives of Flemings as the capital of Flanders. Many of the administrations are established here and the number of Dutch-speaking amenities is large and diverse.



REGIONS

Since 1970, Belgium is made up of three regions and three communities. They partly overlap, but not completely. On this page and the following page we will put together the puzzle that is Belgium for you. You will also see how all these different structures come together in Brussels.

BELGIUM HAS 3 REGIONS:

-  **Flemish Region:**
Dutch language area
-  **Walloon Region:**
French and German language areas
-  **Brussels-Capital Region:** bilingual area
Brussels-Capital, Dutch and French

The regions have specific competences within an "allocated territory", such as traffic, roads, the environment, urban planning, public works, housing, economy and infrastructure. All the regions have their own government and parliament.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

The Brussels MPs (Members of Parliament) are directly elected by the inhabitants of the Brussels-Capital Region. It has 19 communes.

BRUSSELS GOVERNMENT

5 ministers
1 Minister-President



2 French-speaking ministers



2 Dutch-speaking ministers



3 state secretaries:
2 French speakers and one Dutch speaker



BRUSSELS PARLIAMENT

89 MPS



Brussels-Capital

Communities

The communities have specific areas of competence, within “allocated matters”, such as education, schools, training, culture, sports, welfare and health care.

All the communities have their own government and parliament.

In 1980, Flanders decided to merge the parliaments and governments of the Flemish Community and the Flemish Region. As a result, there is only one Flemish Parliament and one Flemish Government.

Belgium has three communities:

- **German language community:**
German language area
- **French Community:**
French language area + bilingual Brussels-Capital Region
- **Flemish Community:**
Dutch language area + bilingual Brussels-Capital Region



The building of the Flemish Community Commission in Emile Jacqmainlaan



The FLEMISH COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS

The Government of Flanders thus has competences in Brussels for personal matters, such as education. If the Flemish Parliament approves a Flemish Parliament Act on education, then this applies to all Dutch-speaking schools in Flanders and in Brussels. Brussels also plays a role in the composition of the Government of Flanders and the Flemish Parliament.

Sometimes the Flemish Community governs on the local levels, i.e., on the provincial and municipal level. In Brussels, the Flemish Community Commission (Vlaamse

Gemeenschapscommissie, VGC) is the local representative of the Flemish authorities.

Like the municipalities or communes, the VGC has its own executive and council. Their members are Dutch-speaking MPs in the Brussels Parliament.

The VGC:

- Provides support for all Dutch-speaking amenities in Brussels for all allocated matters, i.e., culture, education, and welfare and health care.
- helps ensure that Flemish Parliament Acts are implemented in Brussels.

- can enact “regulations” for the Dutch-speaking institutions in the Brussels-Capital Region.

OPEN TO EVERYONE

The Flemish Community and the Flemish Community Commission have a very intricate network of Dutch-speaking amenities and organisations in Brussels including schools, cultural centres, residential care homes, media, a university hospital, libraries ... This network gives the Dutch-speaking population in Brussels sufficient support to fully commit to Brussels. It is emphatically open to people who speak another language.

EXECUTIVE OF THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY COMMISSION

- 2 Dutch-speaking Brussels ministers
- 1 Dutch-speaking Brussels state secretary

COUNCIL OF THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY COMMISSION

- 17 Dutch-speaking Brussels MPs



THE FRENCH COMMUNITY IN BRUSSELS

The French Community in Brussels has a similar commission in Brussels, called the Commission communautaire française (Cocof). Its composition is similar to that of the Flemish Community Commission, namely the executive is made up of Brussels French-speaking members of government, the council of Brussels French-speaking MPs.

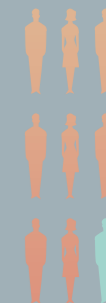
COMMON COMMUNITY COMMISSION

There are a number of topics that are not the specific competence of either community. They include child benefit or welfare, such as the public welfare centres and hospitals. The Common Community Commission (Gemeenschappelijke Gemeenschapscommissie, GGC) was created specifically for this. It also has its own executive and council, made up of Brussels French-speaking and Dutch-speaking members of government and MPs. The state secretaries are not members of the executive.

The buildings of the Government of Flanders and the Flemish Parliament are located in Brussels in **Martelarenplein** and **Leuvenseweg**.

GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

1 of the 9 ministers is competent for Brussels. The minister takes and supports a number of initiatives in Brussels. He also draws the attention of the other Flemish ministers to the specific situation in Brussels when they implement measures in their field.



FLEMISH PARLIAMENT

Six of the 124 Flemish MPs are elected by the people of Brussels.



Find out all there is to know about Brussels-Capital on Bruzine.be/en/capital

BRUZZ



BRUZZ morning radio host Bram Van de Velde/Uptown

“Every working day, from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m., I host a radio programme called Uptown, that informs people about the city and the news of the day or week. This may include announcing works in Nieuwstraat or an interview with Zwangere Guy who is performing in the AB.

My audience consists of people who live in Brussels, people from the neighbouring communes and people who come into the city to attend a concert, see a play or an exhibition.

BRUZZ is a unique media company with its own city magazine, website, TV and radio station. All these platforms are an extension of each other and target different audiences.

Our radio programmes are aimed at a slightly younger audience, between the ages of 16 and 36 years, while the newspaper’s audience is older. Our TV programmes are also very popular with people who speak a different language as they have the option of French or English subtitles.”

“DO CHECK BRUZZ.BE AND EXPERIENCE BRUSSELS TO THE FULLEST. BECAUSE YOU ARE THE CITY.”



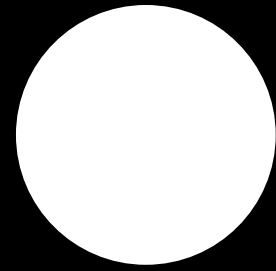
Do you want to learn Dutch? Searching for a course in Brussels? Then visit the House of Dutch. While the House of Dutch does not organise any courses itself, it can help you find the right course for you, after some tests. The House of Dutch encourages you to use Dutch and also informs you about several opportunities to practice your Dutch, including participation in conversation tables or cultural activities.



**Huis van het
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BRUSSEL

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MUNTPUNT

Edimo Tcheufo, front desk Muntpunt

“As an employee in Muntpunt, you really have to be an all-rounder, because we receive different questions from different people every day. Students who borrow books for school work.

Sometimes jobseekers spend entire days in our computer room searching for a job online. We also provide information to people who don’t know Brussels that well, about the city’s amenities and we also answer a lot of tourism-related questions. Our specialised desk helps people to the best of its ability or refers them to another organisation. Everyone is welcome.”

“Muntpunt makes you want to get to know Brussels even better. It is a library, an information centre, a meeting place and your window on Brussels. Find out more here about living, working, studying and experiencing and living in our capital.”



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