



BELGIUM INTERNSHIP

Programme

**BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP
(BELGIUM)**

24-30 SEPTEMBER 2017



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

BELGIUM INTERNSHIP
Draft Programme
BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP (BELGIUM)
24-30 SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY Day of arrival (24 September)
Venue: Holiday Inn Express Antwerp City - North

Internship hotel including breakfast¹

Holiday Inn Express Antwerp City - North
Italielei 2a, 2000 Antwerp
Phone: +32 (0)3 221 49 49

Arrivals

Arrival and meeting by the EduLaw bus at the Airport and transfer to the hotel (for the groups, the *driver*² will meet the participants at the Java coffee shop in the arrival hall holding the sign 'luchthavenvervoer Kevin' or EduLaw; those who arrive individually, will take the *airport shuttle bus to Antwerp central station* and walk to the hotel)

- 23 September, 11:25 - 8 participants from BY at Charleroi Brussels Sud/South airport
- 24 September, 08:50 - 11 participants from ALB at Zaventem Brussels airport
- 24 September, 10:50 - 4 participants MARSU at Zaventem Brussels airport
- 24 September, 17:50 - 1 participant Kovalska at Zaventem Brussels airport (!!! participant takes the *airport shuttle bus to Antwerp central station* and walks to the hotel or wait till 18:40 to go with the PL group)
- 24 September, 18:40 - 4 participants PL at Zaventem Brussels airport
- 24 September, 19:40 - 1 participant Ausrine at Zaventem Brussels airport (!!! participant takes the *airport shuttle bus to Antwerp central station* and walks to the hotel)
- 24 September, 22:25 - 7 participants MCU+ 4 participants MSA + 4 participants at Zaventem Brussels airport NARFU
- 27 September, 19:15 - 2 participants ALB at Zaventem Brussels airport

Departures

Departure by the EduLaw bus to the Airport from the hotel.

Participants who would take the train, have to be careful not to lose their train ticket. They will need the train ticket they used to get to the airport to pass the airport entrance gates from the train station as it requires a scan of the ticket they used to get to the airport (security measures).

- 30 September, 09:00 - 8 participants from BY to Charleroi Brussels Sud/South airport (departure airplane at 12:00) will be taken by the *driver to the Charleroi Brussels Sud/South airport*
- all the other participants will take the *airport shuttle bus from Antwerp central station to the airport*. The hours of the shuttle bus are in annex.³

¹ Accommodation, breakfast and city tax is pre-paid by the organisers. All other costs (or fines) are qualified as private and have to be paid directly by the participants to the hotel.
Please respect the non-smoking signs in the hotel.

² Kevin Van Lierde.

Info@luchthavenvervoer-antwerpen.com

Phone: 0478/27.63.20

³ 26 September Zaventem departure airplane 20:00 (1 ALB)

30 September Zaventem departure airplane 11:50 (5 MCU + 4 MSAL)

30 September Zaventem departure airplane 13:55 (Kovalska)

30 September Zaventem departure airplane 19:30 (4 PL)

30 September Zaventem departure airplane 20:00 (11 ALB)

Sunday 24 September from 10:00 on: informal meetings at the hotel

- Collecting the boarding cards
- Payment of the cash per diems
- Signing of the list of participants
- Exchange of original documents, financial identification form
- Informal exchange of ideas for future cooperation projects in closed working groups

Contact detail of the members of the organising committee in Belgium:

- Gracienne Lauwers +32 476 87 13 96
- Paul Van Caesbroeck +32 479 83 18 66
- Georgia du Plessis +32 498 58 52 92
- Martijn Roelen +32 468 32 56 01
- Charlotte Mbuyi +32 498 28 43 13

MONDAY Day 1 (25 September 2017)**Venue: EUROPEAN COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS**

Participants should ensure that they have their identity cards or passports with them at all times as they will be asked to show them when entering Commission buildings.

- 7:00 departure in group from Antwerp at the hotel. Participants are met by Georgia du Plessis and Charlotte Mbuyi and walk in group to Antwerp Central Station.⁴
- 8:05 departure train from Antwerp Central Station to Brussels Central Station (*participants should be in time and take the train carriage specially reserved for the group only, mentioned on the window of the train and announced in the train station. They are not allowed to enter another train carriage as there will be one ticket for the whole group only*).
- 9:16 arrival train at Brussels Central Station, walking to the European Commission along the Belgian Parliament(s) and arrival and security checks at the European Commission⁵ - Charlemagne (CHAR) Rue de la Loi 170, 1040 - Bruxelles
- 11:00 Start at the Commission**
Topic 1: The European Commission: the political executive of the European Union
Mr Mark CORNER, Member of the speakers' team, Directorate-General for Communication
- 12:30 (With per diem at own expenses) Lunch at the EU Commission
- 13:30 EU initiatives on international cooperation in education**
Ms Kamila PARTYKA, Policy Officer - Eastern partnership countries and Russia
Unit EAC.C.3 - International cooperation, Directorate-General for Education and Culture
- 14:45 Break
- 15:00 EU Agenda on modernisation of higher education and the Bologna Process**
Ms Klara ENGELS-PERENYI, Policy officer, Unit EAC.B.1 - Higher Education
Directorate-General for Education and Culture
- 16:00 The European Qualifications Framework**
Mr Koen NOMDEN, Team Leader - Skills and qualifications recognition tools
DG EMPL.E.2 Skills and qualifications, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
- 17:00 End of the information visit in the European Commission
- 17:30 Participants walk from the European Commission to Brussels Central Station⁶
- 18:54 Departure train from Brussels Central Station to Antwerp Central Station (*participants should be in time and take the train carriage specially reserved for the group only, mentioned on the window of the train and announced in the train station. They are not allowed to enter another train carriage as there will be one ticket for the whole group only*).

⁴ Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

⁵ contact: Liesbeth.DE-BUYSSER@ec.europa.eu

⁶ Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

TUESDAY Day 2 (26 September 2017)
Venue: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT⁷ IN BRUSSELS

Participants should ensure that they have their identity cards or passports with them at all times as they will be asked to show them when entering Parliament buildings.

- 7:00 Departure in group from Antwerp at the hotel. Participants are met by Georgia and André du Plessis and walk in group to Antwerp Central Station.⁸
- 8:05 Departure train from Antwerp Central Station to Brussels Central Station (*participants should be in time and take the train carriage specially reserved for the group only, mentioned on the window of the train and announced in the train station. They are not allowed to enter another train carriage as there will be one ticket for the whole group only*).
- 9:16 Arrival train at Brussels Central Station, walking⁹ to the European Commission along the Belgian Parliament(s) and arrival at the European Parliament¹⁰
- 10:00 European Parliament visit**
- 12:30 Consortium lunch at the visitor's canteen in the EU Parliament¹¹**
- 14:00 Visit of the House of European History of the European Parliament and Brussels
- 18:54 Departure train from Brussels Central Station to Antwerp Central Station¹² (*participants should be in time and take the train carriage specially reserved for the group only, mentioned on the window of the train and announced in the train station. They are not allowed to enter another train carriage as there will be one ticket for the whole group only*).

⁷ Contact persons: Georges STYLIANOU or Despina TSOUNI, EP Visits and Seminars Unit - Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels, Tel. +32 2.28.42477 and +32 2.28.42524, E-mail: georges.stylianou@europarl.europa.eu despina.tsouni@europarl.europa.eu

If you are delayed on the day of your visit, please call: +32 2 284 09 66.

⁸ Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

⁹ Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

¹⁰ contact: European Parliament - Visitors' Service <eurovox@europarl.europa.eu>

¹¹ Contact: Vinciane POISMANS

Téléphone: +32 (0)2 284 63 82 restauration-reservation-bruxelles@ext.ep.europa.eu

¹² Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

WEDNESDAY Day 3 (27 September 2017)**Venue: ANTWERP UNIVERSITY CITYCAMPUS - Lessiuszaal¹³**

8:30 Georgia Du Plessis pick up the participants at the hotel and walk to the internship venue.¹⁴

9.30 Welcome by Gracienne Lauwers (grantholder VUB)

10.00 Morning session presided by Artemiy Rozhkov (vice Rector MCU) and Jan De Groof (ELA)

Module on Law on EU, federal, regional, municipal competences in education

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

09:45 Presentation by the author Ielizavieta Kovalska (ELA)

10:00 Quality control by Anna Budnik and Anastasia Mitrushchenkova

10:10 Case law from Belgium: Gracienne Lauwers (*Const. Court 68/2016 of 11-05-2016*)

10:20 Case law from Lithuania: Ausrine Pasvenskiene

10:30 Case law from Poland: Izabela Krasnicka

10:40 Case law from Albania: Edmond Rapti and Juliana Latifi

10:50 Case law from Belarus: Alexander Grahotsky

11:00 Case law from Russia: Vitaliy Matveev & Alexander Chekalin

11:10 Q&A

11:20 Wrap-up

Break

Module on Law on the status of teachers, employment law relating to teachers

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

11:45 Presentation by the authors Ervin Karamuço & Shqipe Hahihyseni (Dürres)

12:00 Quality control by Anna Budnik & Georgia du Plessis

12:10 Status of teachers and case law in Belgium: Gracienne Lauwers
(*RvSt. 195.584 of 20-08-2009*)

12:20 Status of teachers and case law in Lithuania: Ausrine Pasvenskiene

12:30 Status of teachers and case law in Poland: Izabela Krasnicka

12:40 Status of teachers and case law in Albania: Edmond Rapti

12:50 Status of teachers and case law in Belarus: Liudmila Krasnabayeva & Uladzislau Beizerau

13:00 Status of teachers and case law in Russia: Vitaliy Matveev

13:10 Q&A

13:20 Wrap-up

13.30 CONSORTIUM LUNCH¹⁵

¹³ Key at reception Prinsstraat 13

¹⁴ Participants who would prefer to take the taxi or public transport, can do so making use of their cash per diem. The costs for the taxi or public transport will not be reimbursed separately.

¹⁵ Catering Agora (agora@uantwerpen.be) Eva 03 265 48 55

14:30 Afternoon session presided by Katerina Kabakhidze & Veranika Radyhina

Module on Legislating the quality triangle in education

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

14:30 Presentation by the authors Nikoleta Mita & Livia Nano & Juliana Latifi

14:45 Quality control by Martijn Roelen & Alexander Chekalin & Jan De Groof

14:50 The system of quality control and case law in Belgium: Martijn Roelen (*RvSt nr. 147.579 of 12-07-2005*

vzw Baï's Rachel)

15:00 The system of quality control and case law in Lithuania: Ausrine Pasvenskiene

15:10 The system of quality control and case law in Poland: Anna Budnik

15:20 The system of quality control and case law in Albania: Rovena Sulstarova

15:30 The system of quality control and case law in Belarus: Natallia Kapytkova

15:40 The system of quality control and case law in Russia: Ivan Savelev

15:50 Q&A

16:00 Wrap-up

Afternoon break

Late afternoon session presided by Uladzislau Beizerau & Vera Toktarova

Module on: Regulation on the professional education EQF and level 5 and its implementation

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

16:15 Presentation by the authors Gerda Sula & Rovena Sultarova

16:20 Quality control by Natalia Flotskaya & Svetlana Bulanova & Jan De Groof

16:30 Flemish Qualifications Framework and level 5: Martijn Roelen

16:40 Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and level 5: Ausrine Pasvenskiene

16:50 Polish Qualifications Framework and level 5: Anna Budnik & Wioleta Hryniewicka-Filipkowska

17:00 Albanian Qualifications Framework and level 5: Bardhyl Musaj

17:10 Belarusian Qualifications Framework and level 5: Alexander Grahotsky

17:20 Russian Qualifications Framework and level 5: Anastasiya Mitrushchenkova

17:30 Q&A

17:40 Wrap-up

THURSDAY Day 4 (8 September 2017)
ANTWERP UNIVERSITY CITYCAMPUS - Lessiuszaal

9:30 Morning session presided by Izabela Krasnicka and Alexander Chekalin

Module on Comparative review of administration and governance of schools at central and/or regional level

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

- 09:30 Presentation by the authors Anastasia Mitrushchenkova & Natalia Komissarova & Natalja Golovina
- 09:45 Quality control by Charlotte Mbuyi & Georgia du Plessis
- 09:55 Governance of education and case law in Belgium: Charlotte Mbuyi
- 10:05 Governance of education and case law in Lithuania: Ausrine Pasvenskiene
- 10:15 Governance of education and case law in Poland: Wojciech Zon
- 10:25 Governance of education and case law in Albania: Gerda Sula
- 10:35 Governance of education and case law in Belarus: Ina Karakulka
- 10:45 Governance of education and case law in Russia: Vitaliy Matveev & Dana Bartosh
- 10:55 Q&A
- 11:05 Wrap-up

Break

Morning session presided by Kseanela Sotirofski and Ivan Savelev

Module on: Comparative review of law on school management in Europe

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

- 11:30 Presentation by the authors Vera Toktarova & Marina Mokoseeva & Nikolai Kuzmin
- 11:45 Quality control by Georgia du Plessis
- 11:55 School management and case law in Belgium: Martijn Roelen
- 12:05 School management and case law in Lithuania: Ausrine Pasvenskiene
- 12:15 School management and case law in Poland: Izabela Krasnicka
- 12:25 School management and case law in Albania: Rozeta Biçaku & Shqipe Haxhiyseni
- 12:35 School management and case law in Belarus: Iryna Shastsitka & Katsiaryna Shastsitka
- 12:45 School management and case law in Russia: Sergej Zenin & Alexander Chekalin
- 12:55 Q&A
- 13:05 Wrap-up

13:15 CONSORTIUM LUNCH

14:00 **Glossary** session by Katerina Kabakhidze

14:30 Completing the **internal quality questionnaire** by the participants (WP DEV 5.2) and analysis by GencAlimehmeti

15:30 **CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH INSTITUTIONAL PROJECT MANAGERS, INTERNAL QUALITY CONTROLLERS AND THE VISIBILITY MANAGER**

- Evaluation of the second project internship in Belgium
- Preparing the third project internship in Bialystok (Poland)
- Preparing the first intensive school in Russia (WP DEV 2.1)
- Discuss the visibility brochure
- Financial issues

FRIDAY Day 5 (29 September 2017)
Venue¹⁶: Lokaal D.014 from 10:00 till 15:00

10:00 Morning session presided by Gracienne Lauwers

Preparation of the Bialystok Internship

(WP DEV 3.1 & WP QC 5.2) and draft description of the summary of the module covered/taught in the particular education law course for the course syllabus (WP DEV 2.2)

10:00 Module on Constitutional right to education, religious rights in education by Aleksandr Grahotsky & Vladislav Bejzerov

10:15 Module on Comparative review of law regulating school systems in Europe by MCU

Update on the second draft pdf the Kaunas modules

10:30 Module on Law on teacher training and professional development of teachers by Anastasia Mitrushchenkova & Natalia Komissarova

10:45 Module on Disciplinary procedures in schools and the duty of care and liability by Aleksandr Grahotsky & Vladislav Bejzerov

11:00 Module on Non-discrimination and equality of pupils in education by Veranika Radyhina

Break

11:30 Module on Children with special education needs and the law on inclusive education by Charlotte Mbuyi

11:45 Module on Legal framework on pedagogical and academic and school autonomy by Veranika Radyhina

12:00 Module on Judicial review of evaluation of staff in education by Gracienne Lauwers

12:15 Module on Judicial review of assessment of students disputes by Gracienne Lauwers

12:30 Module on Privacy and data protection, transparency and access to information in education by Alexander Chekalin & Ivan Savelev

12:45 Q&A

13:00 CONSORTIUM LUNCH

17:00 **Public EduLAW lecture** (PhD Defence) by Georgia Du Plessis

Venue: Room B.003 of the University's City Campus, Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerp

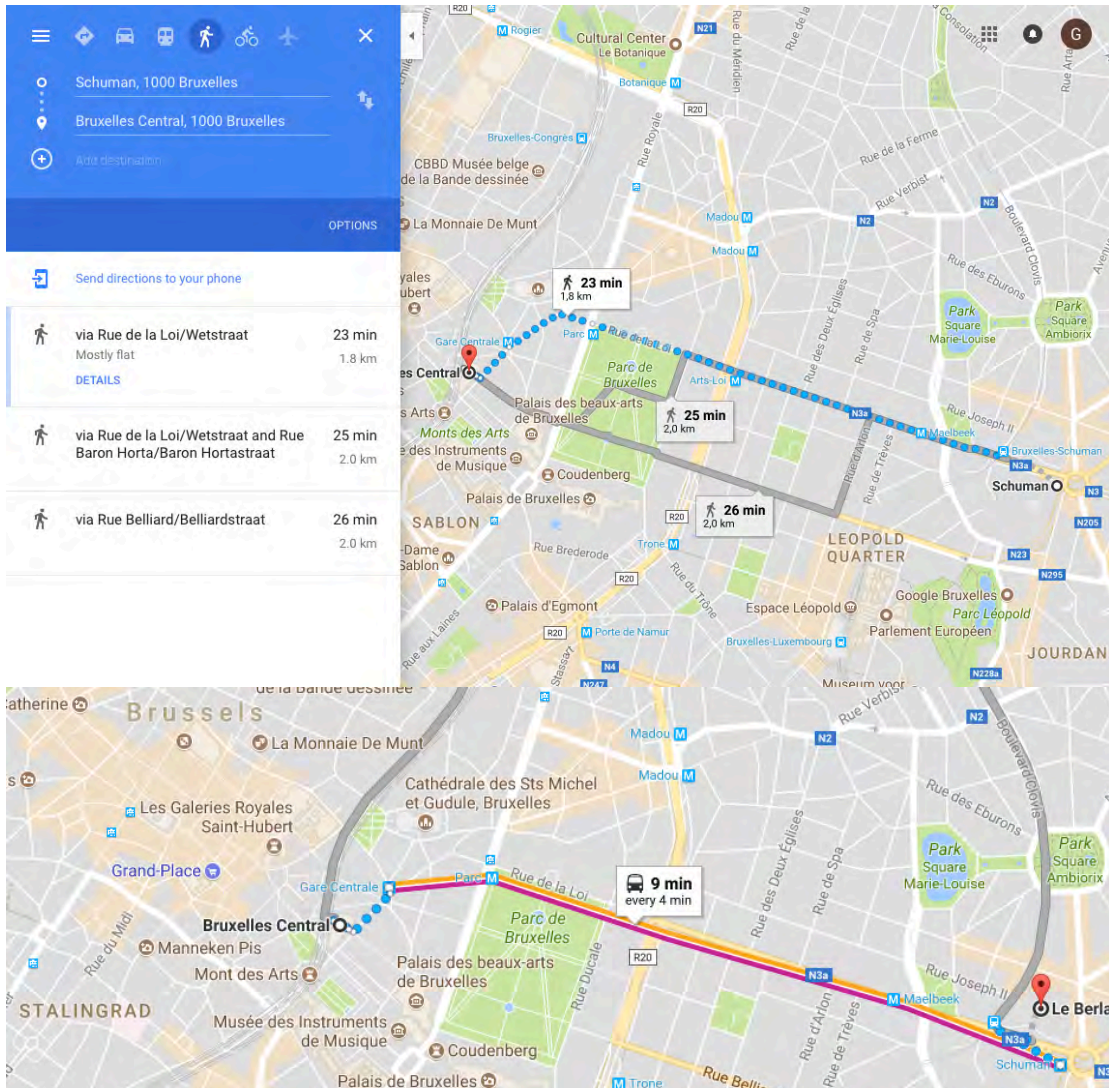
18:30 **INTERNSHIP RECEPTION**

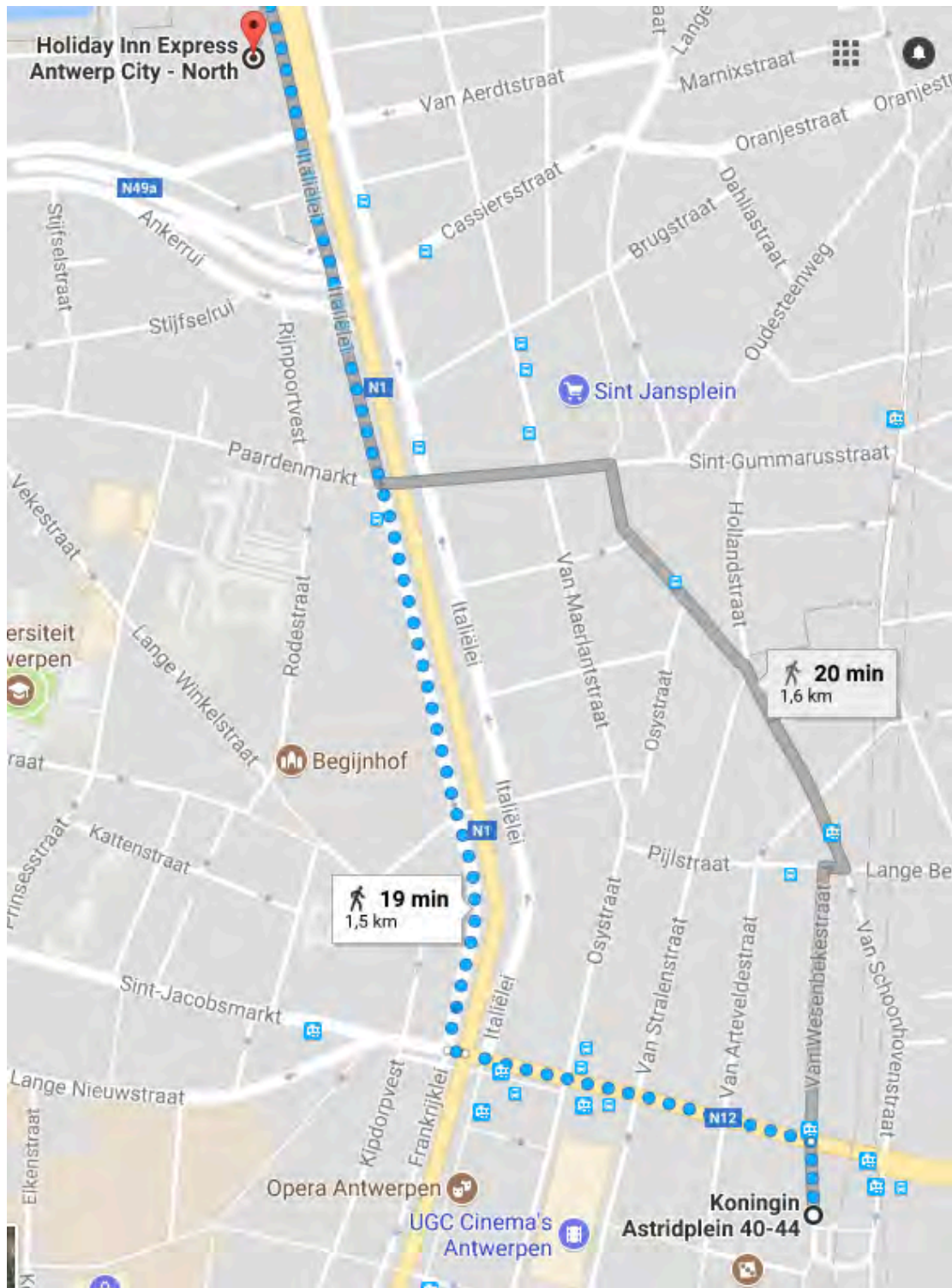
SATURDAY 30 September 2017

Breakfast and brunch working groups on the Bialystok internship

Departures by the participants

¹⁶ Anne Baetens Tel: 03/265.45.51 and GSM: 0474/879824





Arrival: hours of the public shuttle bus for Ausrine and Ielizabeta only (arriving individually)

Brussels Airport → Antwerp					
HIGH SEASON FROM 01/04 TO 30/09 EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS			LOW SEASON FROM 1/10 TO 31/03		
Brussels Airport	Crowne Plaza	Koningin Astridplein	Brussels Airport	Crowne Plaza	Koningin Astridplein
04:00		04:45		NO SERVICE	
05:00		05:45	05:00 *		05:45 *
06:00		06:45	06:00 *		06:45 *
07:00		07:45	07:00		07:45
08:00		08:45	08:00		08:45
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11:00		11:45	11:00		11:45
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01:00			01:45		

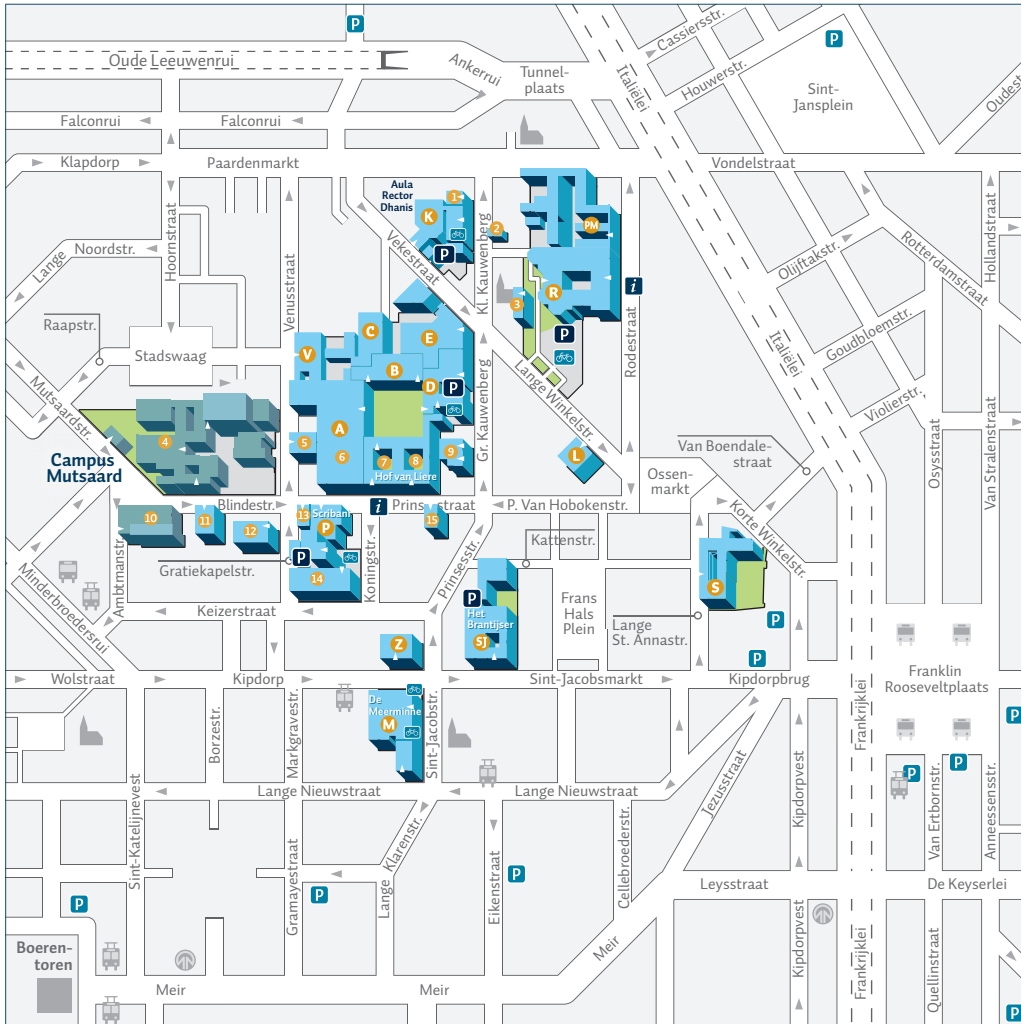
Departure and journey times are approximate and subject to change.

* Except Sundays and public holidays


Departure by the shuttle bus for ALL the participants (except for the BY participants)

Antwerp → Brussels Airport						
HIGH SEASON FROM 01/04 TO 30/09 EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS				LOW SEASON FROM 1/10 TO 31/03		
Koningin Astridplein	Crowne Plaza	Brussels Airport		Koningin Astridplein	Crowne Plaza	Brussels Airport
03:00	03:10	03:45		NO SERVICE		
04:00	04:10	04:45		04:00 *	04:10 *	04:45 *
05:00	05:10	05:45		05:00 *	05:10 *	05:45 *
06:00	06:10	06:45		06:00	06:10	06:45
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Stadscampus - Campus Mutsaard



- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| A | Gebouw S.A - Prinsstraat 13 | 1 | Linguapolis - Kleine Kauwenberg 12 |
| B | Gebouw S.B - Prinsstraat 13 | 2 | Gate 15 - Kleine Kauwenberg 15 |
| C | Gebouw S.A - Prinsstraat 13 | 3 | Annex - Lange Winkelstraat 9 |
| D | Gebouw S.D - Grote Kauwenberg 18 | 4 | CMU Faculteit Ontwerpwetenschappen - Mutsaardstraat 33 |
| E | Agora/Sporthal - Grote Kauwenberg 2 | 5 | Moreel consultant / Preventiedienst - Venusstraat 35 |
| K | Aula Rector Dhanis - Kleine Kauwenberg 14 | 6 | Bibliotheek - Prinsstraat 13 |
| L | Gebouw S.L - Lange Winkelstraat 40-42 | 7 | Hof van Liere - Prinsstraat 13 |
| M | De Meerminne - Sint-Jacobstraat 2 | 8 | Universiteitsclub - Prinsstraat 13b |
| P | Scribani - Prinsstraat 10 | 9 | Ruusbroecgenootschap - Grote Kauwenberg 32-34 |
| PM | Gebouw S.PM - Rodestraat 12 | 10 | CMU Faculteit Ontwerpwetenschappen - Ambtmanstraat 1 |
| R | Gebouw S.R - Rodestraat 14 | 11 | Open Universiteit / Centrum West - Blindestraat 14 |
| S | Grauwzusters - Lange Sint-Annastraat 7 | 12 | Dienst Internationale Samenwerking - Gratiekapelstraat 10 |
| SJ | Het Brantijser - Sint-Jacobsmarkt 13 | 13 | Linguapolis - Prinsstraat 8 |
| V | Gebouw S.V - Venusstraat 23 | 14 | komida@CST / Labotheek - Koningstraat 8 |
| Z | Peter Benoit - Kipdorp 61 | 15 | Zomaar een dak - Prinsstraat 32 |

-  Betaalparking
 Personeelsparking

Emails of the participants:

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2. Izabela Krasnicka izakrasnicka@gmail.com
3. Anna Budnik anna.budnik1@gmail.com
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5. Wojciech Zoń (PL-Bialystok)" zon.wojciech@vip.onet.pl
6. Ielizavieta Kovalska elizabeth.kovalska@gmail.com
7. Mariette REYNEKE ReynekeJ@ufs.ac.za
8. Edmond RAPTI edi_rapti@yahoo.com
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20. Liudmila Krasnabayeva (BY-GSU)" kolos75@tut.by
21. Natalia Kapytkova (BY-GSU)" natacop@rambler.ru
22. Aleksander Grahotsky (BY-GSU)" grahotsky@gsu.by
23. Uladzislau Beizerau (BY-GSU)" bejzerov@gsu.by
24. Veranika Radygina radygina@yandex.ru
25. Ina Karakulka (BY-BSPU)" inbash@mail.ru
26. Shastsitka Iryna shastsitka@bspu.by
27. Shastsitka Katsiaryna shastsitka@bspu.by
28. Ina Karakulka (BY-BSPU)" inbash@mail.ru
29. Anastasia Suvirova (RF-MCU)" SuvirovaAU@mgpu.ru
30. Vitalij Matveev (RF-MCU)" MatveevVU@mgpu.ru
31. Artemiy Rozhkov (RU-MCU)" RozhkovA@mgpu.ru
32. Dana Bartosh (RU-MCU)" bartosch@inbox.ru
33. Katerina Kabakhidze (RF-MCU)" kabakhidze@gmail.com
34. Natalia Golovina (RF-Kutafin)" golovina26@yandex.ru
35. Anastasia Mitrushchenkova (RU-Kutafin)" mitrushchenkova@gmail.com
36. Natalia Komissarova (RU-Kutafin)" natalie_komis@mail.ru
37. Sergei Zenin (RF-Kutafin)" zeninsergei@mail.ru
38. Ekaterina Fliginskikh (RU-MarSU)" katensmile@mail.ru
39. Vera Toktarova (RU-MarSU)" toktarova@yandex.ru
40. Marina Mokoseeva (RF-MARSU)" pvl_mksv@mail.ru
41. Nikolai Kuzmin (RU-Marsu)" paiis@bk.ru
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Some special museums

- MAS (<http://www.mas.be/en>)
- Red Star Line Museum (<http://www.redstarline.be/en>)
- Plantin-Moretus (<http://www.museumplantinmoretus.be/en>)
- Museum Mayer van den Bergh (<http://www.museummayervandenbergh.be/en>)
- Rubens house (<http://www.rubenshuis.be/en>)



MAS | Museum aan de Stroom



Red Star Line Museum



Rubenshuis



Museum Plantin-Moretus



Museum Mayer van den Bergh

ANTWERP IN 1 DAY

Rubens had many talents. Besides being the gifted painter we all know, he was also a diplomat, a devoted family man, an art collector and an architect. Where better to begin this immersion in Rubens's city than the house in which he lived and worked?

Rubens as an architect

When Rubens returned from Italy in 1608, at the age of 31, he came back with a case full of sketches and a head full of ideas. He purchased a plot of land with a house near his grandfather's home (Meir 54) and converted it into his own Palazzetto. Take an hour to visit the **Rubens House** and to breathe in the atmosphere in the master's house before setting off to explore his city.

Rubens's palazzetto on Wapper was not yet complete when the artist was commissioned to work on the Baroque Jesuit church some distance away, at Hendrik Conscienceplein.

Beneath the church tower

On your way to Hendrik Conscienceplein, we would suggest you make a brief stop at another church: **St James's Church** (St Jacobskerk) in Lange Nieuwstraat. This robust building dooms up rather unexpectedly among the houses, but its interior strikes a perfect harmony between Gothic and Baroque: the elegant Middle Ages and the flamboyant style of the 17th century go hand-in-hand here. This was Rubens's parish church. It is clear from the pomp and ceremony of the altars and chapels that this church had quite a few other wealthy parishioners. Rubens would be buried here, as would the rest of his family. The painting above the tomb is by the master himself.



St James's Church

The **St Carolus Borromeus Church** at Hendrik Conscienceplein is the epitome of Italian grandeur. With his knowledge of Italian architecture, Rubens undoubtedly contributed ideas for the façade, but his greatest achievements here are to be seen in the interior. Rubens designed the richly decorated chapel and its impressive marble high altar. Sadly, all that remains of the master's 39 ceiling paintings are the sketches that are preserved in the church. The paintings themselves perished in a huge fire in 1718. The high altar merits particular attention: behind the enormous painting – it measures 4.0 x 5.35 metres – other works are concealed. An ingenious pulley system is used to rotate the works at fixed intervals. The visible painting is detached and stored away vertically, after which the pulley raises and

installs the new one. This unique spectacle has been going on for 400 years! Another feature that deserves attention on the exterior of this remarkable church is the tower, based on a design by Rubens. You will need to go round the block in order to admire it in all its glory.



St Carolus Borromeus Church

Do you have 15 minutes to spare before lunch? Behind the façade adjoining the St Carolus Borromeus Church lies a public secret: the Nottebohm Room, part of the **Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library**. The Nottebohm Room is one of the most beautiful and oldest libraries in Belgium. Besides its one and a half million books, this atmospheric room contains a celestial and terrestrial globe, each one 68 cm in diameter, made by Willem Jansz. Blaeu, a contemporary of Rubens. Access to the Nottebohm Room is restricted, but do try to arrange to look inside, since it is a very fine interior indeed.



The Nottebohm Room, part of the Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library

Time for lunch, at the Hendrik Conscienceplein with its glorious Italian ambience. Especially in the summer months you might easily think that you have arrived in the warm climes of southern Europe. Relax in one of the outdoor cafes and imagine yourself in the

company of Rubens, who used to come to this very spot 400 years ago to look at his work.



Hendrik Conscienceplein, photo: Greet Vlegels.

Good friends

After lunch we shall pay a brief visit to a good friend. Nicolaas Rockox was the burgomaster of Antwerp and the single person who was in a position to keep Rubens in Antwerp for good. After Rubens returned from Italy in 1608, when his mother was on her deathbed, Rockox secured several major commissions for him. For instance, it was thanks to the burgomaster that he painted one of his best-known works, the *Raising of the Cross*. Rubens was a frequent visitor to the burgomaster's home. So if you enter the Rockox House, you will be literally treading in the master's footsteps. But that is not the only reason to include it in your tour. The house also gives an authentic picture of the lives of 17th-century patricians. Rockox was an art connoisseur and collector, and his house is full of items he collected, including works by Anthony van Dyck, Frans Snyders, and of course Rubens.

On your way to the next sight, you must be sure to stop off at the **Cathedral of Our Lady** (Onze Lieve Vrouwekathedraal). Here you can admire four world-famous works by Rubens, who indeed painted the *Raising of the Cross* in this very space.



Cathedral of Our Lady

The district known as ‘Het Eilandje’: ‘The Little Island’

We go further towards the city’s north district. We have already noted that Rubens was also an architect. He had a highly individual vision of architecture, working on numerous architectural projects within the then city walls. Indeed, when plans were made for the expansion of the city, Rubens was eager to play a role. Some of his ideas came from Genoa; he displayed them in detail in his print collection ‘Palazzi di Genova’. But the economic decline that followed the closure of the Scheldt led to the cancellation of the expansion plans. Still, although the plans were not executed in the 16th or 17th century, they were carried out many years later in the same place. The district that we are discussing here, **the Eilandje**, has enjoyed a great revival in recent years. Its residential, recreational and commercial functions are all integrated harmoniously. The most eye-catching sight, without a doubt, is the **Museum aan de Stroom**, or MAS. If you have time you may want to visit its diverse exhibitions, but we would advise you above all to climb right up to the top for a superb view of the city, the Scheldt River, and the marina.



Museum aan de Stroom or MAS, photo: Sarah Blee.

From this high vantage point you will also see the splendid **Red Star Line Museum**, which overlooks the Scheldt. From here two million people departed to seek their fortunes in the United States, pursuing their dreams. The museum that documents the migrants who left at the end of the 19th century does not lie on the Rubens route, but it is certainly worth a visit for anyone staying for an extended period or returning.



Red Star Line Museum, photo: Filip Dujardin.

For dinner we head away from the north towards **the city's southern district**. The Museum of Fine Arts (Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten) is closed for a face lift until 2019, but we have come here for the numerous restaurants in one of Antwerp's trendiest neighbourhoods. If you walk to Vlaamse Kaai you will find the water gate, a monument built after a design by Rubens and once an entrance to the city. Enjoy the atmosphere and the wide range of choices. And enjoy the city.

If you can manage one more stop, we invite you to go for an after-dinner walk – under the water. From St Pietersvliet you descend into **St Anna's pedestrian tunnel** and walk for 572 metres. Then you emerge on the other side of the Scheldt, with the skyline of Rubens's city stretched out before you. Is this not the perfect way to end your tour?



St Anna's pedestrian tunnel

Stops along this route

- **Rubens House** - Wapper 9-11 – Open daily except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and on New Year's Day, 1 May, Ascension Day, 1 November, 25 December. - www.rubenshuis.be - €8 - Combiticket Rubens House and Museum Mayer van den Bergh costs €10.
- **St Jacobskerk** – Lange Nieuwstraat 73/75 – Open every day from 2 to 5 p.m. Closed from 1 Nov. to 31 March. - www.sintjacobantwerpen.be - €4.
- **St Carolus Borromeuskerk** - Hendrik Conscienceplein – Open from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12.30 and from 2 to 5 p.m. On Sundays and public holidays open only for services. - www.mkaweb.be – admission free of charge.
- **Hendrik Conscience Heritage Library / Notebohm Room** – Korte Nieuwstraat - www.consciencebibliotheek.be.
- **Rockox House** – Keizerstraat 10-12 - www.rockoxhuis.be – Open daily except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Closed on Mondays, 1 and 2 Jan., Ascension Day, 25 and 26 Dec. - €8.
- **Onze Lieve Vrouwekathedraal** – Handschoenmarkt – Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sundays and public holidays from 1 to 4 p.m. – www.dekathedraal.be - €6.
- **MAS** - Hanzestedenplaats 1 – expo: Open daily except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and on New Year's Day, 1 May, Ascension Day, 1 November, 25 December – Walking boulevard and panorama: Tuesday to Sunday from 9.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. / midnight. - www.mas.be - expo: €10
- boulevard and panorama: free of charge.
- **Red Star Line Museum** - Montevideostraat 3 - Open daily except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and on New Year's Day, 1 May, Ascension Day, 1 November, 25 December - www.redstarline.be - €8.