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**First General Info Pack of**  
**Solidalciti Closing Conference**  
*June 18th 2019*  
*“Jacques Brel” Youth Hostel*  
*Rue de la Sablonnière 30, 1000*  
*Bruxelles, Belgium*



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## Welcome!

Dear partners,

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels!

*This pack contains information about CEV, the events, how to get to Brussels and around the city sightseeing places.*

*It is a first general infopack useful for this prior phase, to introduce you a bit more within the events and the city, helpful to program your travel and permanence here in Brussels.*

Warm regards,

[CEV Secretariat team](#)

### **Contact details (you can contact us also via WhatsApp):**

- **Gabriella Civico**, Director  
[director@cev.be](mailto:director@cev.be), Tel: +32 474 06 43 53
- **Giulia Bordin**, Policy and Project Officer  
[giulia.bordin@cev.be](mailto:giulia.bordin@cev.be), Tel: +32 465 23 39 64
- **Paola Ruiz**, Registration support  
[paola@outofthebox-international.org](mailto:paola@outofthebox-international.org), Tel: +34 693 599 898

### **About CEV**

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV) is the European network of over 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support to, volunteers and volunteering in Europe at European, national or regional level. Through our network we work together to promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building & training. In this way we reach out to the many thousands of volunteers and volunteer organisations in Europe as a source of support bringing the European dimension to their work.

CEV channels the collective priorities and concerns of its member organisations to the institutions of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Together with other stakeholders we exchange policy, practice and information in order to ensure effective and coherent follow up to European Year of Volunteering 2011 and ensure its legacy through the implementation of the Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe (PAVE) and the follow-up "Helping Hands – Hope for Europe" report.

CEV's vision is a Europe in which volunteering is central in building a cohesive and inclusive society based on solidarity and active citizenship. Our mission is to contribute to the creation of an enabling political, social and economic environment in Europe where the full potential of volunteering can be realised.

Further information is available on the CEV website: [www.europeanvolunteercentre.org](http://www.europeanvolunteercentre.org).

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**DRAFT Agenda**

**Arrivals 17th June evening or 18th early morning (to arrive airport Brussels Zaventem before 09:00).**

**17th Evening Programme:** Dinner in the Youth Hostel at 19:30 (only for partners) and Optional Night tour of Brussels Historical Centre

**June 18th 2019**

**Solidalciti Closing Conference**

Venue: [Jacques Brel Youth Hostel](#), Rue de la Sablonnière 30, 1000 Bruxelles

8h30 - 10h15 **Tour of the “European Quartier”. Getting to know the European Institutions**

10h30 - 11h00 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

11h00 - 11h15 **Presentation of the Programme and Opening. Presentation of Solidalciti project outcomes and results**

12h15 - 13h15 **Lunch Break**

13h15 - 15h00 **Parallel Sessions**

Room Magritte: Volunteering and Migrants

Room Plat Pays: Volunteering in Times of Crisis

Room Delvaux: Volunteering and Youth

15h00 - 15h30 **Coffee Break**

15h30 - 16h00 **Conclusions, Approval of “Solidalciti Statement” and Closing**

**Partners Registration:** <https://goo.gl/forms/YB9etHJKZmjZBM2j1>

Please, fill in this Google form in order to organise your participation smoothly.

## From the walls to the Centre-ville How to get to Brussels

Depending of the means of transport and route for which you opted, you will arrive in Brussels at:

**A) The main Brussels Airport (BRU), Zaventem**, situated 14 km from the city centre. To get to the city your options are:

- **Bus** ([www.stib.be](http://www.stib.be)): the Airport line number is **12 during weekdays and number 21 during the evenings (after 20:00), weekends and public holidays**. The last stop of the Airport line is Place de Luxembourg, in front of the European Parliament. You can access the complete scheme of the bus line at this link: [http://www.stib.be/irj/go/km/docs/horaires/21/schema/20120416/21\\_1.gif](http://www.stib.be/irj/go/km/docs/horaires/21/schema/20120416/21_1.gif)

Bus tickets from the airport are cheaper when bought at the machine next to the bus stop (i.e. 4,50€ instead of 6€ on the bus). The same ticket can be used if you continue the trip with another bus, the metro or tram, provided that not more than an hour elapsed between validating the ticket on the Airport line bus. Please note that only the followings payment methods can be used to purchase tickets using these machines:

- Bancontact/Mister Cash
- Maestro
- Coins (NO banknotes)
- Visa
- Mastercard
- Visa Electron



- **Train** ([www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)): **The airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level-1)** and there are trains more or less every 15 minutes, to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels South (Midi) stations. Tickets (around 8€) can be bought at the train station and the journey lasts about 20 minutes.
- **Taxi**: significantly more expensive than public transport (around 40€), taxis are available at the airport arrival exit. **N.B.: Uber doesn't reach the Brussels International Airport (in Zaventem)**

**B)The South Brussels Airport (Charleroi)**, situated 68 km from the city centre. To get to the city the best option is the City Shuttle: <https://www.brussels-city-shuttle.com/en/#/>. Tickets prices range from 5 to 14€ if bought online and they cost 17€ if bought outside the airport. The Shuttle will bring you at the Midi Station from where you can take the metro (lines 2 and 6) to the European Quartier.

You can access the complete scheme of the **metro line** here:

[http://www.stib-mivb.be/irj/go/km/docs/WEBSITE\\_RES/Attachments/Network/Plan/Net\\_Reseau/Plan\\_Metro\\_Train\\_20161110.pdf](http://www.stib-mivb.be/irj/go/km/docs/WEBSITE_RES/Attachments/Network/Plan/Net_Reseau/Plan_Metro_Train_20161110.pdf)

and **bus** here: [http://www.stib.be/irj/go/km/docs/horaires/21/schema/20120416/21\\_1.gif](http://www.stib.be/irj/go/km/docs/horaires/21/schema/20120416/21_1.gif)

The full map of Brussels public transport: <http://www.stib.be/netplan-plan-reseau.html?l=en>

You can also download the **STIB Mobile App** on your device, in order to have live updates of all public transport lines' schedules.

**Taxis** are available throughout the city. You can either stop them, find them at taxi stations or order them by telephone, e.g.: Taxi Bleu: +32 (0)22 68 00 00, Taxi Vert: +32 (0)23 49 49 49.

## Resting after the journey Accommodation

### June 17th night: Jacques Brel Youth Hostel

**Address:** Rue de la Sablonnière 30, 1000 Bruxelles

<https://www.lesaubergesdejeunesse.be/bruxelles-jacques-brel>

The *Jacques Brel Youth Hostel* – named after the famous musician who so eloquently captured the spirit of Belgium’s lowlands and its people in his lyrics – is situated right in the heart of Brussels.

The Jacques Brel Youth Hostel is the perfect base to explore Brussels, an international city and the capital of Belgium and Europe. Getting round the city couldn’t be easier. The Hostel is just a few minutes’ walk from Grand Place, and all the city’s cultural attractions are within easy reach.



#### *How to get:*

**By metro :** *Metro 2 or 6 (stops Botanique or Madou)*

**By bus/tram :** *Bus 61, 65 or 66, trams 92, 93 or 94 (stops Botanique or Madou)*

If you will stay longer these are the options (please, remind that CEV can help you with the booking but any additional night will not be covered by the conference budget)

#### **Airbnb**

There are several Airbnb in Brussels, but you must be cautious because sometimes they can cost even more than a hotel room! What we suggest in case you will opt for an Airbnb, to be minimum 4 by apartment.

For any option you’ll take, [please, consult with us before booking it](#). Here some suggestions:

- Our best suggestion as Airbnb (since we have direct contact with the owner) is for a 8 beds apartment located in front of the European Parliament (exactly in Place Luxembourg, one of the most famous plazas in the European Quarter), close to bus stops, metro and railway stations, and close to the venues (far 10 minutes by walk to Mundo b and 3 minutes by walk to Square the Meeus): <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/12962445>
- Six beds apartment close to Schuman roundabout, ideal as well in a Brussels style: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/14723774?location=Brussels%2C%20Belgium&s=UBDlipPW>

#### **Hotels**

Here some suggestion for your hotel nearby the event venue:

- MotelOne: Rue Royale 120, 1000, Brussels  
<https://www.motel-one.com/en/>
- Hotel Sabina: Rue du Nord 78, 1000, Brussels  
<http://www.hotelsabina.eu/>
- Hotel du Congres: Rue Du Congres 42, Brussels, 1000  
<http://www.hotelducongres.be/en/>

## **Bruxelles ma belle** **Sightseeing in Brussels**

The centre of Brussels (le Pentagone) is composed by the Brussels City centre and the European Union quarter where the headquarters of the European Parliament, European Commission, Council of European Union, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions are located.

### **European Union Context**

The **House of European History** is a place to debate, question and reflect on Europe's history!

From myths and discoveries to the chaos and cohesion of the 20th century, the House of European History takes visitors on a journey along the path of Europe's history and challenges them to contemplate its future.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting/en/brussels/house-of-european-history>



The **Parlamentarium** is the Europe's largest parliamentary visitor centre!

Handheld multimedia guides accompany visitors to the heart of the European Parliament, explaining the path towards European integration, how the European Parliament works and what its Members are doing to meet the challenges of today. The Parlamentarium is dynamic and interactive by design and can be experienced in any of the European Union's 24 official languages, making it the perfect place for visitors of all ages to discover European politics.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting/en/brussels/parlamentarium>

### **General Interest**

The **Grand Place** (in Dutch: Grote Markt) is the central square of Brussels and has been proclaimed UNESCO World Heritage Site. The square, which measures 68mx110m, is surrounded by guildhalls and features Brussels Town Hall as one of its finest buildings. The foundation stone of the gothic town hall has been laid in 1402, but the building has been targeted through a bombardment in 1695, with only the tower and the outside walls remaining. The building gains its beauty not only through numerous sculptures, but also through the impressive tower, with its spire topped by archangel Saint-Michael.

**Manneken-Pis:** the little naked boy is also one of Brussels famous sights. The current bronze statue has been created in 1619 by the Jerome Duquesnoy, preceding an older stone version. The statue has been stolen several times in history, for the first time in 1745 by the English and subsequently by the French. Traditionally Manneken-Pis is dressed several times a week and his costumes, which comprise around 760 items, can be seen in the city museum. Visitors should however not be disappointed with the actual size of the tiny naked statue. Other than the Manneken-Pis, similar statues were placed all around the city centre: explore and try to find the Jeanneke-Pis and the Zinneke-Pis!

**Royal Palace:** Although the royal palace serves as the official palace of the King of the Belgians, it is not used as a royal residence. The building started in 1820 after a previous building, the Palace of the Dukes of Brabant had been destroyed in 1731. The Palace had then been modified in 1904 on behalf of Léopold II in the style of Louis XVI. The right wing currently holds the BELvue Museum.

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The **Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium** (Dutch: Koninklijke Musea voor Schone Kunsten van België, French: Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique) are a group of art museums established in 1803 in Brussels. They consist of the Old Masters Museum, the Modern Museum, the Wiertz Museum, the Meunier Museum, the Magritte Museum and the Fin-de-Siècle Museum. Collectively, their collections account for some twenty thousand paintings, sculptures and drawings, among which art pieces by Pierre Bruegel the elder, Peter Paulus Rubens, Rembrandt, Jean-Louis David, Salvador Dali, René Magritte and many other well-known artists.

More information can be found at <https://www.fine-arts-museum.be/en>.

The **Palace of Justice** (French: Palais de Justice): The most important court building in Belgium was built on the site of the former gallows of the city between 1866-1883 by Joseph Poelaert. The Palace, which is bigger than St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, constituted the largest building built in Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Palace is accessible either from the Louise area or from the "Sablon" and the "Marolles" districts. There is a lift that can take you up/down between Marolles and the Palace, giving you the chance to admire the panorama of the city.



The **Atomium** is one of Brussels' most famous sights. It has been modelled on the shape of an iron crystalline molecule, 165 billion times enlarged. The Atomium was built for the Brussels World Fair, the Expo 1958 by André Waterkeyn. Having originally planned to build an upside-down version of the Eiffel tower, Waterkeyn decided for an atomic structure to celebrate scientific progress. The Atomium soon became the symbol of Brussels and with its 102 m

height and accessible interior spheres, it offers great view over the city and is still worldwide attraction.

...and the list can continue with simple strolls around the city, checking what is on the cultural agenda (e.g. through [www.quefaire.be](http://www.quefaire.be) or [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)), or tasting local products: mussels (in French: moules), potato chips (in French: frites), waffles (in French: gauffre), beer and chocolate, to name but a few which give Brussels and Belgium fame.