

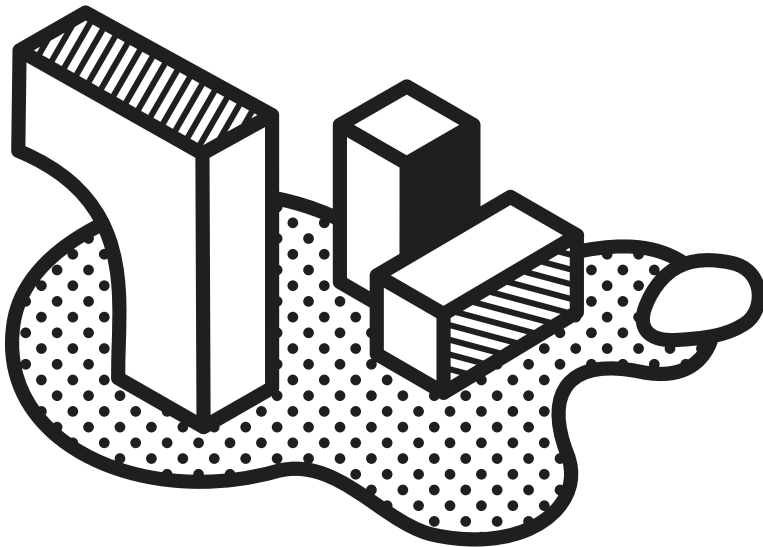
Designing Brussels Ecosystems

MasterClass

Brussels

28.01.2019

08.02.2019



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1. About

The MasterClasses

The Metrolab Brussels' MasterClasses are conceived as two-week intensive pedagogical and practical experimentations on urban situations. Lead by Metrolab, the MasterClasses bring students, researchers, professors, local actors and professionals from different fields to reflect together on a specific theoretical issue, on the basis of selected empirical cases. In return, their work is meant to provide possible contributions for the improvement of these situations.

The observations, analyses and strategies are conducted according to a methodology and targets proposed by Metrolab and other local and international experts. This implies the direct interplay with the projects chosen as cases, and hence with the related local and regional actors. The MasterClasses can include lectures, fieldwork, as well as group work in an international and transdisciplinary environment.

After the 2017 MasterClass which focused on the issues of social inclusion and hospitality of urban environments, Metrolab organises its second MasterClass on urban ecology and more specifically on urban ecosystems called "Designing Brussels Ecosystems". The third MasterClass will take place on 2020 and it will address the issue of urban production.

Brussels Ecosystems: conference and MasterClass

The concept of urban ecosystem emerged in Brussels over forty years ago, in the context of studies conducted by the interdisciplinary teams of Paul Duvigneaud¹. The goal of Duvigneaud's work was to provide a broad perspective of the interdependencies that exist between the human and non-human worlds². While the positivist project of offering a global ecosystem science was eventually abandoned, the same ecosystemic concerns are still at the heart of research and innovation in a number of areas of natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, living space studies and the humanities.

1 DUVIGNEAUD, P. 1974. Études Écologiques de l'Écosystème Urbain Bruxellois : Contribution no 1 à 4: L'écosystème 'Urbs', in Mémoires de La Société Royale de Botanique de Belgique 6, p.5–35 ;

2 DUVIGNEAUD Paul, La synthèse écologique : populations, communautés ; écosystèmes, biosphère, noosphère, Paris, Doin, 1980.

Each of them includes the concept of ecosystem into its field of study, in order to develop specific methods. Beyond the increasing weight of environmental issues, the ubiquity of the notion of ecosystem is contributing to an epistemological transition where more focus is placed on the interconnectedness of all things. Brussels Ecosystems intends to continue in this direction, experimenting with new interdisciplinary tools for critical evaluations and for project support.

This event is centred around a common goal: leveraging various aspects of ecology as a basis for reflection on the interdependence between the components of a city, while taking into account the notions that the world is a finite pool of resources and that humans are an integral part of nature. Brussels Ecosystems also wishes to contribute to the reflection on a future transition of Brussels' ecosystems to a new environmental and territorial model.

Brussels Ecosystems includes two different events: an international conference hold the 18th and 19th of October 2018, and a MasterClass from 28th of January to 8th of February 2019.

The conference and MasterClass aim to complete each other:

- The conference explored various ways in which the concept of ecosystem can be shaped in order to allow the encounter between concepts - which are often metaphorical in nature - and methods derived from them, thus creating an integrated framework for analysis.
- The MasterClass intention is to put this process to test, starting from the realities of Brussels and the intercultural profiles of the participants.

In October, Brussels Ecosystems conference initiated - with public, associative and private stakeholders - an analysis of the problematics linked to those topics. This first analysis went through the description of a few projects and their natural, social and political ecosystems. The discussion helped to identify some paradoxes that emerge from a lack of connections between those dimensions.

- A. Agriculture / Agro-Landscape Clusters
- B. Density – public spaces
- C. Work – third places
- D. Circularity – hotspots

The MasterClass will continue with this multi-level analysis to explore the problematics and paradoxes previously identified with a focus on different cases including projects covered by the ERDF programme for 2014-2020. The aim of this two weeks' workshop is thus to contribute to the elaboration of a

forward-looking atlas of Brussels' urban transformations through:

- the understanding, description and mapping of the spatio-environmental and socio-political patterns acting as resources in these different situations;
- the identification of challenges and opportunities emerging from these situations;
- the elaboration of design scenario and proposals aimed to transform existing situations and ecosystems in order to ensure the ecosystem transition.

Metrolab Brussels

Metrolab Brussels is a transdisciplinary and inter-university laboratory for applied and critical urban research, funded by the Brussels-Capital Region through its ERDF program 2014-2020.

Bridging academic, theoretical critique with more involved, applied and experimental forms of knowledge is an important challenge for universities today. The complexity of urban problems and urban policies is such nowadays, that it does not make sense anymore - in the domain of urban research - to oppose 'academic excellence', 'fundamental research', on one hand, and 'action research', 'policy research', on the other. In the opinion of Metrolab Brussels' promoters, what cities need today is a new kind of urban research that would be both elaborated on a theoretical level and realistic on a pragmatic level.

The action of Metrolab Brussels consists in the design, implementation and coordination of 13 projects of applied and critical urban research. The Metrolab researches focus on a range of 10 to 20 concrete urban projects among the 46 funded by ERDF for the period 2014-2020. Through the scientific support offered to the ERDF program and the reflexive work carried out with the various related projects, MLB's objectives are:

- to foster the quality and relevance of each of the ERDF projects followed;
- to promote synergies and collaborations among the various local ERDF project leaders, and between these projects and scientific/institutional actors;
- to facilitate the embedding of the ERDF projects in Brussels' complex territorial realities.

This scientific support, carried out continuously by 13 doctoral and post-doctoral researches, is punctuated with frequent events (seminars, conferences, and workshops) and biannual activities (thematic MasterClasses and symposiums). The Metrolab Brussels project is conducted by UCLouvain (University of Louvain) and ULB (University of Brussels) and federates four

research centres: CRIDIS-UCL (social science), LOCI-UCL (architecture and urban planning), LOUISE-ULB (urban planning, infrastructure and environment), IGEAT-ULB (geography).

Besides key regional institutions (i.e. Perspective, Bruxelles Environnement and CityDev), Metrolab actively collaborates with a large set of worldwide scientific partners.

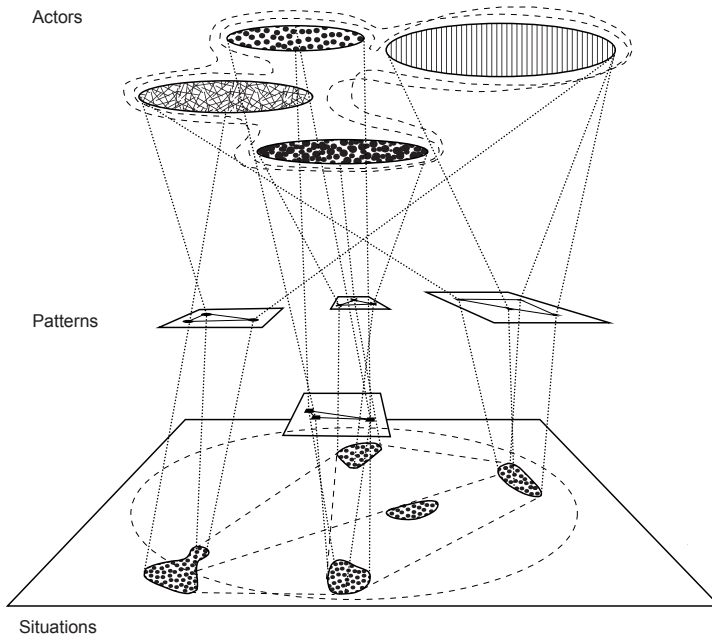
ERDF, European Regional Development Fund

The main objective of the European Regional Development Fund - ERDF is to support, at a regional scale, projects and activities which aim to reduce the economic disparity among member states of the EU. ERDF subsidises projects and activities that stimulate economic development, increase employment and help preserving the nature and environment in order to improve the quality of life, as well as to make EU regions more attractive. On 3 April 2014, the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region approved a new operational program for the implementation of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in Brussels for the 2014-2020 period. This program, according to the targets set at a European level by the EU 2020 strategy, will contribute to the financing of projects intended to strengthen Brussels-Capital Region's economic, social and territorial cohesion.

This program defines 4 priorities:

- to increase research and improve the transfer and promotion of innovation (axis 1);
- to strengthen entrepreneurship and improve the development of SMEs in promising industry (axis 2);
- to support the development of a circular economy through the rational use of resources in promising industries (axis 3);
- to improve the quality of life for deprived neighbourhoods and population (axis 4).

2. Methodology



Schematic diagram of the MasterClass methodology: it combines the analysis of the situations, actors and the resulting recurring patterns in Brussels-Capital Region

Teams: participants will be divided into four thematic groups, each covering a topic that embodies a major dynamic of transition for the Brussels ecosystems:

- Agriculture / Agro-Landscape Clusters,
- Density / Transitory Occupations,
- Work / Third Places,
- Circularity / Hotspots.

Each topic is related to an ecosystem of situations and stakeholders, from which we can observe the ongoing transition of the territory. By situations, we mean the existing physical spaces and their related stakeholders, as well as the potential sites and actors that could play an important role in ecosystem transitions¹.

Week 1 - An atlas of Brussels' ecosystems in transition

The main task during the first week is to carry out an investigation on the spatio-environmental and socio-political patterns that characterise the ecosystems of each proposed situation, as well as the overall ecosystem in which they are embedded. A field trip to collect data and meet with stakeholders will allow participants to explore this socio-spatial description. The teams will have to organise an ongoing back-and-forth between the various scales involved in living together: community, neighbourhood, urban, regional, metropolitan and global. On the one hand, they will describe the ecosystems of actors and their relationships with the socio-political environment. On the other hand, they will describe the 'sites', their relationships with their spatial-environment, and the flows (i.e. metabolism) generated by the activities.

Each team will combine different description and design tools: spatio-environmental mapping, socio-political diagrams, and metrics and typologies of situations. Participants will use the communication system and graphic matrix designed for this workshop in all the representations they produce during the MasterClass.

Teams will discuss and negotiate existing spatio-environmental and socio-political links as well as missing connections between and across the scales mentioned above, and will thereby open the reflection to new possible scenarios of ecosystem development.

The result of this first week will be an atlas describing the existing situations of Brussels ecosystems' transition.

¹ Regarding the concept of ecological transition, see Bourg, D. (2012). Transition écologique, plutôt que développement durable: Entretien avec. *Vraiment durable*, 1(1), 77-96 and the special issue of journal *La Pensée Écologique* 1(1), 2017 dedicated to ecological transitions.

Monday, January 28: introduction to topics and site visits

Introduction to the MasterClass (Bernard Declève, Geoffrey Grulois)

The context of the Brussels-Capital Region, the MasterClass topics, and the sites involved will be presented to participants. They will split into four teams, and members of each team will be assigned specific roles to be carried out through the fieldwork and research process: note taker, photographer, interviewer, etc.

Tuesday, January 29: site visits and mapping of values

The teams will go back in the field to meet with stakeholders.

After an introduction to the MasterClass' graphic metrics, data, and resources, the teams will begin work on the first week's assignment by discussing common values of ecosystem transitions related to the topics they are working on.

Wednesday, January 30: mapping, diagramming, and measuring the ecosystems

Each team will begin to map, diagram, and measure the situations and ecosystem related to their topic. The goal of this step is to identify challenges and opportunities by framing and visualising complex relations discovered during fieldwork, and to characterise the structure of Brussels' ecosystems. Each team will look at spatio-environmental patterns, socio-political relations, and crystallising data (metrics) on the ecosystems dynamic.

Thursday, January 31: mapping, diagramming, and measuring the ecosystems

Teams will formalise the representation of spatio-environmental patterns, socio-political relations, and crystallising data (metrics) on the ecosystems dynamic.

They will then begin to develop operational insights based on their investigation so far. By doing so, participants should express their understanding of specific interdependencies, missing links, and potential relationships in the topic they are investigating, and the related assigned situations.

Friday, February 1: mid-term collaborative presentation and discussion

Although the work is not a fully collaborative process, participants will have the opportunity to present their progress during a mid-term presentation and discussion with the stakeholders encountered during the week. This will let them confront their values, patterns, and metrics and discuss their hypotheses on potential scenarios that could be developed during the second week. The teams should then be ready to move towards developing their own design criteria and scenarios.

Week 2 - Designing the transition of Brussels' ecosystems

During the second week of the MasterClass, participants will design scenarios and proposals to be presented on Friday, February 8.

Scenarios will address interdependencies, missing links, and new relationships between ecosystems and the topics studied, asking the question: what would happen if these missing/new links were to be activated? Based on the scenario, the teams will then be asked to design and propose a plan of action aiming to transform existing situations and ecosystems according to the common values identified during week 1.

Design scenarios are a set of structured visions that aim to catalyse the capabilities of the various actors and agencies involved in the process of framing the ecosystem's transition.

Monday, February 4: design scenarios

Participants will use their initial findings from week 1 to formulate alternative social, economic, and political frameworks that will serve as bases for new design scenarios. The teams will develop a series of scripts and diagrams that represent connections and interfaces that might result in the transition of ecosystems. Most importantly, they will be asked to articulate and negotiate spatio-environmental and socio-political dynamics between and across the initially assigned analytical scales, boundaries, and thresholds, with the idea that what is being designed here are not just physical things, but also the protocols and policies that will ensure the ecosystem's transition.

Tuesday, February 5: design scenarios

Teams continue to develop their design scenarios.

A collective discussion on the ongoing progress will take place at the end of the afternoon.

Wednesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 7: proposals design

The final step in this process will be the design and development of specific projects. Assuming that a team's design scenario proposes multiple artefacts ('things') and systems ('interdependencies') required for the strategy to work, each team member will focus on one such artefact and system. In doing so, we will assume that project, as a heuristic device (logic of invention), defines relations among: practices (of the actors identified in your research, 'the stakeholders'), processes (bring stakeholders together in the form of interactions and possibly collaborations and co-productions), resources (both those that are available and those that are needed for the proposal to work), and outcomes (the desired outcomes of the proposed project as defined by team's design scenario). The common rule is to invent ecosystems that allow all

of these characteristics to work together in a way that promotes local resource renewal. This means that individual projects must result in an ecosystem that is socio-natural-political and geographical at the same time.

To this end, groups will formalise design tools (graphs, diagrams) to reflect on the innovative relationships that might exist between the various elements that make up the ecosystem.

Friday, February 8: final presentation

The teams will prepare a pin-up review as well as a presentation with all the above material projected on the screen. Each team will have a total of 60 minutes, split into a 30-minute presentation and 30 minutes of discussion with, the presentation to be divided according to the materials above. As before, use A3 sheets, laid out vertically, to be pinned up and displayed during the review.

Graphic protocol

- documents format




All the documents presented by the team during the report out, the mid-term presentation and discussion as well as the final presentation have to follow a colour code. In addition, these documents have to be in an editable vector file format (.pdf; .ai; and similar). This is fundamental in order to facilitate the post-production process required for the publication of the results of the MasterClass.

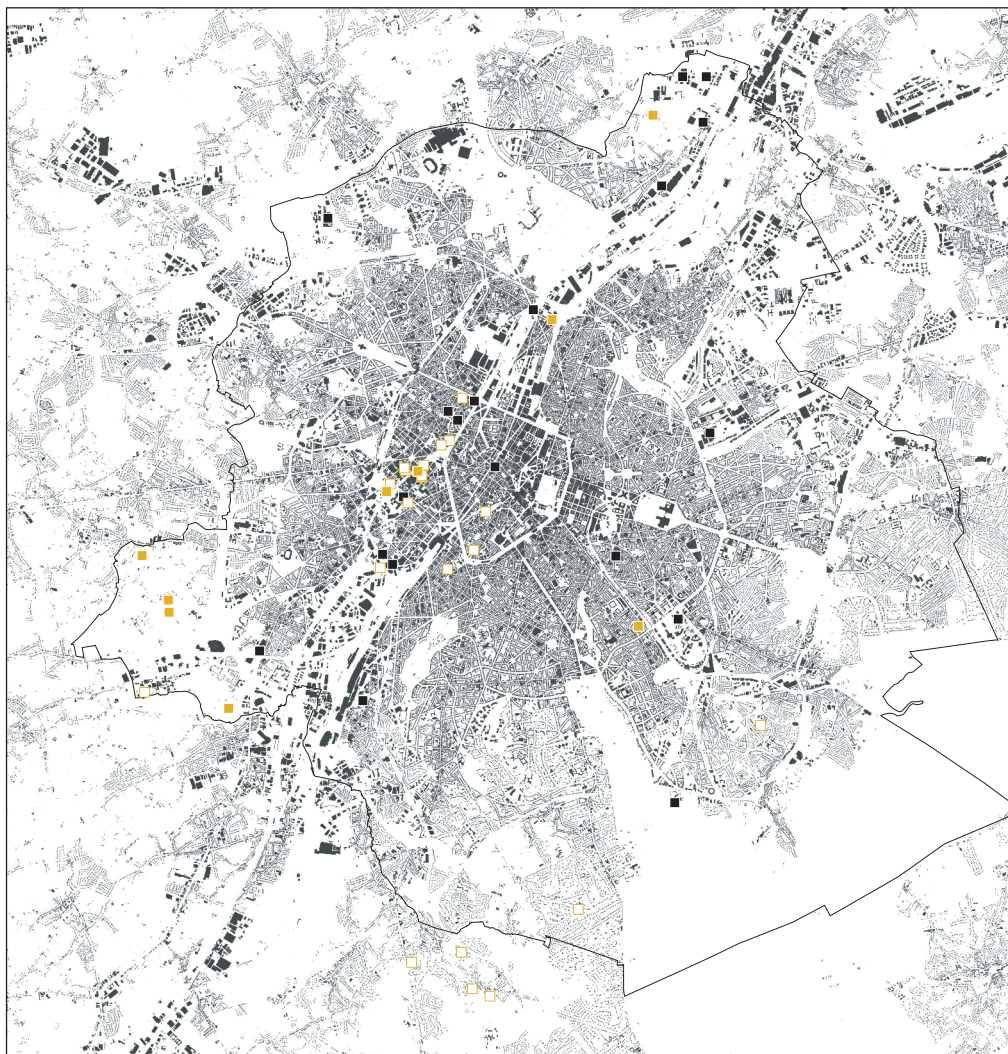
All the documents will be handed-out in A3 portrait layout, as it is close from the final publication format.

- colour code

In order to homogenise the graphical representation, a graphic protocol has been developed. This graphic protocol must be respected at all times, regardless of the material produced (text, graphic, diagram, map, section, etc.). The graphic protocol consists of the systematic use of 3 colours:

- black : existing and background elements
- orange : underlying elements and situations
- blue : potentials to be activated and new elements (participants proposals)

	Existing and background elements	C0/M0/Y0/K100
	Underlying elements and situations	C10/M30/Y100/K0
	Potentials to be activated and new elements (participants proposals)	C100/M0/Y0/K0



3. Topics



- FEDER Project MC 2019
- NON FEDER Project MC 2019
- FEDER Project 2020
- Regional border

(A) Agriculture

a. Agrolandscapes clusters

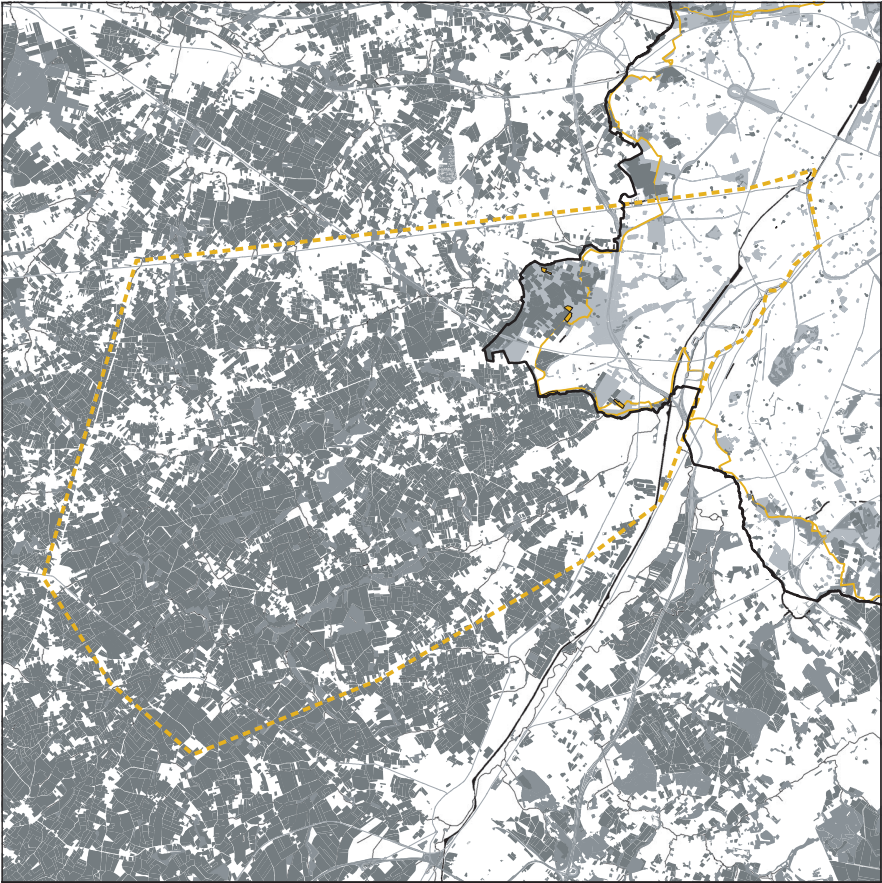
Agroecology is a multifunctional and multisectorial way of taking care of the socio-natural milieu. More than just a project in the city, it is a project for cities and territories: a project for all society. This vision is at the centre of many initiatives in Brussels, in large part supported by or stemming from public authorities, such as BoerenBruxselPaysans, a project of the 2014-2020 ERDF program. Nevertheless, and despite their dynamism and the prospects of sustainability they offer, these projects face paradoxes and socio-technical obstacles—starting with the administrative fragmentation of the Brussels agricultural basin—that slow down their development. How to overcome these constraints and allow this emerging ecosystem to consolidate and structure for the benefit of the territory?

In order to contribute to this urgent reflection, which is in line with several public policies, the workshop will explore the spatial, social, and political potential for developing networks of agro-landscapes in the metropolitan area, drawing from Strategies of Continuous Productive Urban Landscape (CPULs). Combining multiple dimensions—productive and leisure, utilitarian and ornamental, private and public, economic and social—and adding a productive dimension to the traditional ‘blue’ and ‘green’ networks, CPULs are organised according in clusters (circularities and complementarities): they contribute to the spatial structuring of territories, their local economy and resilience, and their environmental and landscape quality.

The workshop aims to contribute to the ongoing discussion about networking urban agroecology initiatives, through a project that will simultaneously test the spatial and governance possibilities of agro-landscape clusters in and around Brussels. Existing projects will be taken into account in the (critical) reflection, as will public policy programmes such as Good Food, the Employment-Environment Alliance, and the PRDD and its axes of interregional landscape collaboration. The MasterClass team will work on two pre-identified interregional perimeters: a rural-urban transect to the south-west including the Neerpede valley, and a cross-border 20th century belt to the south-east. The first week will be dedicated to the analysis of existing and potential agro-landscapes by establishing of a typo-morphology of spaces, a grammar of their landscape specificities, a mind map of technical and economic models, regulatory tools, and stakeholders. This exploration will identify existing or missing connections between situations or between situations and their

context, as well as possible synergies, and levers (whether spatial, social, or political) to strengthen them. The first hypotheses will be discussed with local stakeholders at the end of the week. On this basis, proposals will be developed during the second week (e.g. fostering synergies of production and uses, cross-border landscape strategies such as multifunctional environmental networks, etc.).

This topic is covered by a wide variety of initiatives, among which we have selected the following ones that are particularly representative: BoerenBruxselPaysans, Atelier Groot Eiland, SpinCoop, Les Moutons Bruxellois, La Ferme du Chant des Cailles.



South western Transect

b. Situations

Boeren Brussel Paysans (public ERDF project 2014-2020)

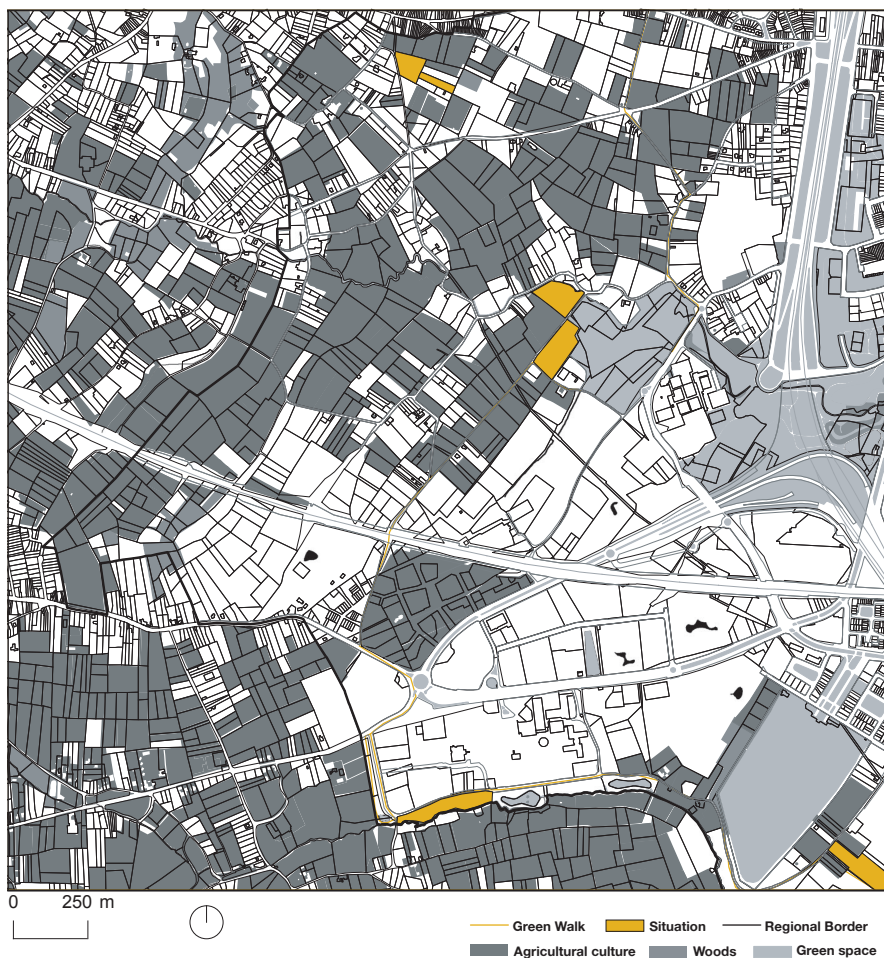
The project aims at setting an “agrobiopole” in the Neerpede valley (Anderlecht) to strengthen short and bio food supply chains while preserving local biodiversity in the area. The project comprises the renovation/development of an existing farm and agricultural land (of 1.5 to 3 ha) to develop, test, and support the professional insertion of new farmers, as well as sustainable urban and peri-urban economic and commercial models to foster and sustain local and biofarming development in Brussels.

Atelier Groot Eiland (non profit organisation)

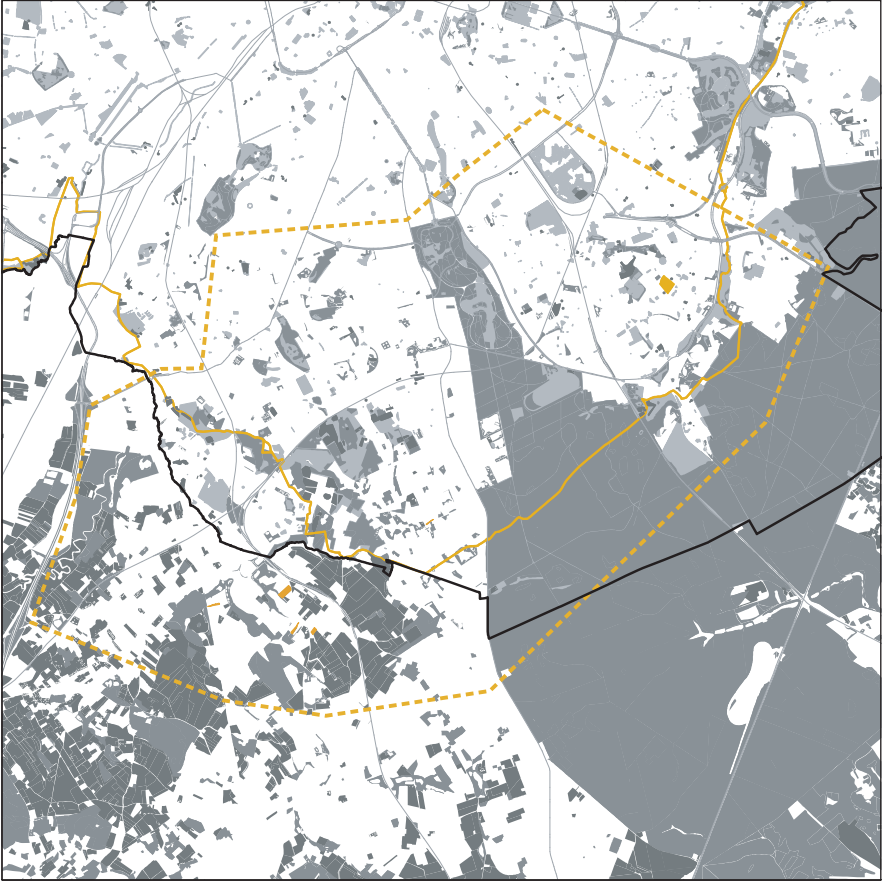
Groot Eiland is a non-profit association committed in helping people distant from the labour market. The mission is fighting poverty by helping people in Brussels to find a job by organising training sessions, tailor-made works and intensive job-coachings, fostering the principles of inclusion, sustainability, solidarity and emancipation. The projects manages several professional vegetable gardens situated in densely populated neighbourhoods, and linked with solidarity businesses.

Les moutons bruxellois (private initiative)

It is a project of sheep herding in Brussels based on a hybrid model of permanent grasslands grazing and temporary transhumance on grasslands within the city, accompanied by a person in what is defined as a form of “agroecological pastoralism”. The project has started with 10 lambs and the goals is to increase up to 40 lambs in 3 to 5 years. The aim is to produce wool (processed by the Spinning Owl) and meat, to create short supply circuit while sensitize people in the city on the issue of biodiversity and meat consumption.



Neerpede / Boeren Brussel Paysans & “Les Moutons Bruxellois”



0 1 km

Project Area Green Walk Situation Regional Border

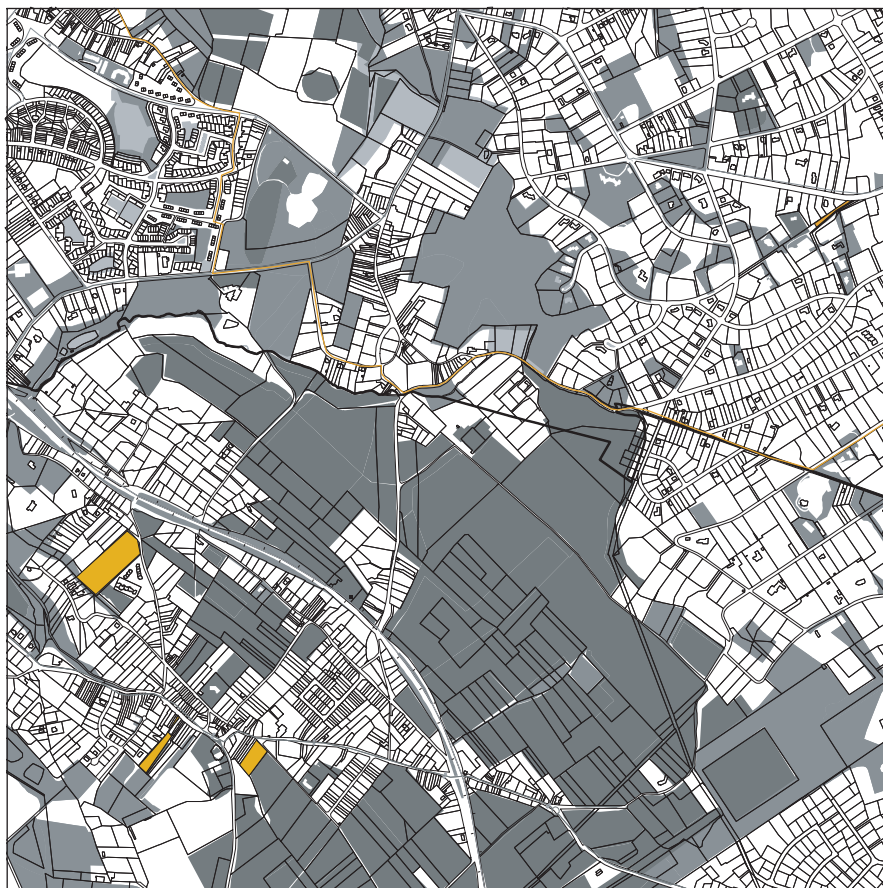
Second belt

SPIN-Coop (co-creation project)

Gathering professional gardeners, consultants and researchers, the SPIN-Coop project aims to demonstrate the viability and facilitate the reappropriation of an urban and cooperative market gardening model in Brussels. The concrete goal is to evaluate the feasibility, resilience and impact on job creation of the SPIN method by mean of a real practical application in the context of Brussels: the Cycle Farm gardeners' cooperative.

La Ferme du Chant des Cailles (citizen initiative)

The Ferme du Chant des Cailles is an ecological and participatory urban agriculture project located in Watermael-Boitsfort's famous garden city. The land is property of its cooperative of social housing. The farm comprises five poles: a collective garden where about seventy gardeners share the management of the space in a convivial and collaborative way, with the desire to cultivate the soil and biodiversity; a professional vegetable garden which feeds up to 300 neighbours; a medicinal herbaceous professional garden; a sheep farm; and a flower production. Gardeners have different levels of experience although they share the desire to cultivate the land without chemical fertilizers or pesticides, and to foster social inclusion and education.



0 200 m



— Green Walk Situation — Regional Border
 Agricultural culture Woods Green space

Uccle & Linkebeek, Cycle Farm network

(B) Density

a. Transitory occupations

The territory of the Brussels-Capital Region is facing the pressure of an increasing population growth. Demography questions three aspects: the number, the social-economic characteristics of that number, and the distribution of that number in space. Densification is a process that essentially answers the third question. According to the statistics of the Federal Planning Bureau and Statistics Belgium, the population of the Region will increase by 10,000 inhabitants per year until 2025 and by up to nearly 9,000 inhabitants per year over the period from 2025 to 2040. The Region promotes, through the PRDD, the development of an inhabited city that fits in the context of the ecological transition. This territorial development is structured according to three specific strategic components: the mobilisation of potential and land resources; the controlled densification of the territory; and the development of public housing in Brussels. Critics of this strategy argue that on the one hand, it does not solve the risk of exhaustion of the rare resource of the ground, and that on the other hand, it conceptualises population growth as a constraint whereas it would be better to look for ways to make it a resource for the transition to another territorial regime.

To respond to these challenges, the Metrolab MasterClass aims to explore a new corpus of practices gathered under the term 'transitory urban planning'. Transitory urban planning includes all initiatives that aim, on unoccupied land or buildings, to foster local initiatives on a temporary basis when the use of the site has not yet been decided or before a project is completed on the site. The opening up to new possibilities on these sites encourages innovation and creativity, often promoting a mix of uses, which are essential conditions for an open and co-constructed city to meet the needs of its active inhabitants (residents, workers, students, etc.) (IAU 2017). Transitory urban planning often succeeds in creating social value in a short period of time, while traditional urban projects only succeed in generating it on the long run. These field initiatives therefore question the modalities of the city-making process. In the discussion on density, transitional urban planning is one of the best weapons that enable civil society to fight for a qualitative densification of the city, structured and regulated by the public space.

The workshop will establish a social and spatial map of the territories of transitional urban planning in Brussels. It will analyse the structuring effect on the long-term process of densification in the canal area. In the second week, the research by design workshop will focus on the integration of transitional

circularities into ongoing urban transformations processes in the canal area. This topic covers a wide range of initiatives, among which we have selected two. The first is located in the dense city where the densification process corresponds to micro-urbanism. The second is located on large plots undergoing redevelopment.

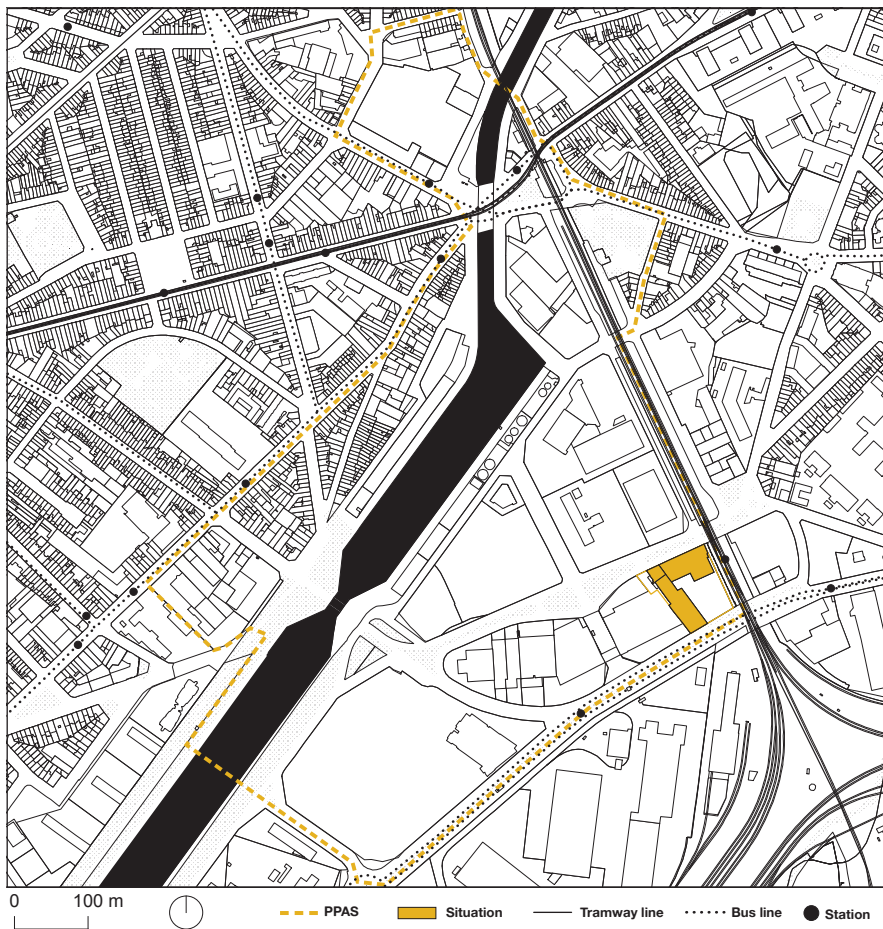


b. Situations

«Pop-Up Canal 2015-2018» (Contrat de Quartier Durable «Petite Senne»)

As part of the CQD “Petite Senne”, a global subsidy of 100,000 euros (30,000 € / year in 2016-17 and 40,000 € for 2018) is made available to local residents and associations by Body of Burgomasters and Deputy-mayors of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean for the realisation of the project “Pop Up Canal” for the period from 2015 to 2018. The objective of the “Pop up Canal” operation is to activate abandoned or unexploited places (public spaces, buildings, warehouses,) and at the same time, to activate the social and relational fabric of the neighbourhood. In concrete terms, the project aims to support projects for temporary occupations of buildings or vacant public spaces and to develop a social dynamic for the neighbourhood. In the case where the chosen site is the subject of a future redevelopment project (by CQD “Petite Senne or by any other public or private operator), the dynamics initiated by the temporary occupation should make it possible to prefigure less partially, the functions planned in the future development.

“L’uZinne” coordinated by the non-profit association DAK-Domus Art Kunst, the project WIM (Wood in Molenbeek) and the 24, rue de Liverpool coordinated by Entrakt are three examples of projects supported by the municipality as part of “Pop Up Canal”. They are located in the same block as the “Halle Libelco” one of the CQD’s flagship project funded by the ERDF. In this same area, Recyclart (13-15 Manchester street) and au Quai (23 Quai du Hainaut) are also precarious occupations in agreement with the Region and the municipality.



Studio CityGate (funded by the public administration)

Studio CityGate is a transitory occupation on the CityGate project site developed by Citydev. This site is located in the Biestebroek basin, one of the priority areas of the regional canal development strategy and is part of the PPAS Biestebroek. Pending the start of the project, Citydev called on Entrakt to manage this transitory occupation project. Entrakt is a corporation whose principal business is to manage unoccupied property by giving it a temporary reallocation. These properties belong to institutional owners from both the public and private sectors. The building is divided into two wings and occupied by artist studios, a cultural, social and economic centre, community facilities and a covered skate park. The outdoor spaces host the Wonderlecht project which aims to bring people together around the production of organic food, biodiversity and climate protection.

(C) Work

a. Third-places of social economy

In Brussels, as in many other cities, there is a new generation of shared spaces (co-workings, fablabs, collaborative workshops, etc.). Referred to as 'third places', these spaces are collective intermediate spaces, neither completely public nor completely private, that promote individuation and characterise specific temporalities and sociabilities.

As a spatial and biodiversity resource, the third place brings together a number of conditions of informality, openness, flexibility, viability, user-friendliness, and accessibility. These conditions make it both an identifiable patch in the urban ecosystem and a hub that can contribute to the structuring of networks and the production of proximities at different socio-spatial scales.

As a socio-political resource, the third place appears as a figure capable of associating three contrasting dimensions of the productive city: the new economy, focused on the development of new technologies, and on the creation and production of intangible goods and services; the craft industry, focused on the creation and manufacture of material goods; the social economy, understood as an economy whose value system is based on the quality and strengthening of social cohesion. The expression 'third place' indeed refers to the idea of a third sector and a political economy structured around notions of common good, open source, solidarity, cooperation, and mutualisation.

During the workshop, the topic of work will be addressed in the light of the production system, the social model and the lifestyles that these third places convey. The workshop will first consist in identifying these third places, describing the forms they take, the social and spatio-temporal ecosystems linked to them, the visions of the city they convey, and the potential they hold as structures or drivers of change of the urban ecosystem. In a second step, the aim is to question through a forward-looking narrative the impact of the third-places on the transformation of spaces dedicated to work in the city and to explore the conditions for defining housing-work circularities at the neighbourhood scale.

This topic covers several situations, among which we have selected the following ones as being particularly representative: Masui4Ever, Recyclart, and SMart.

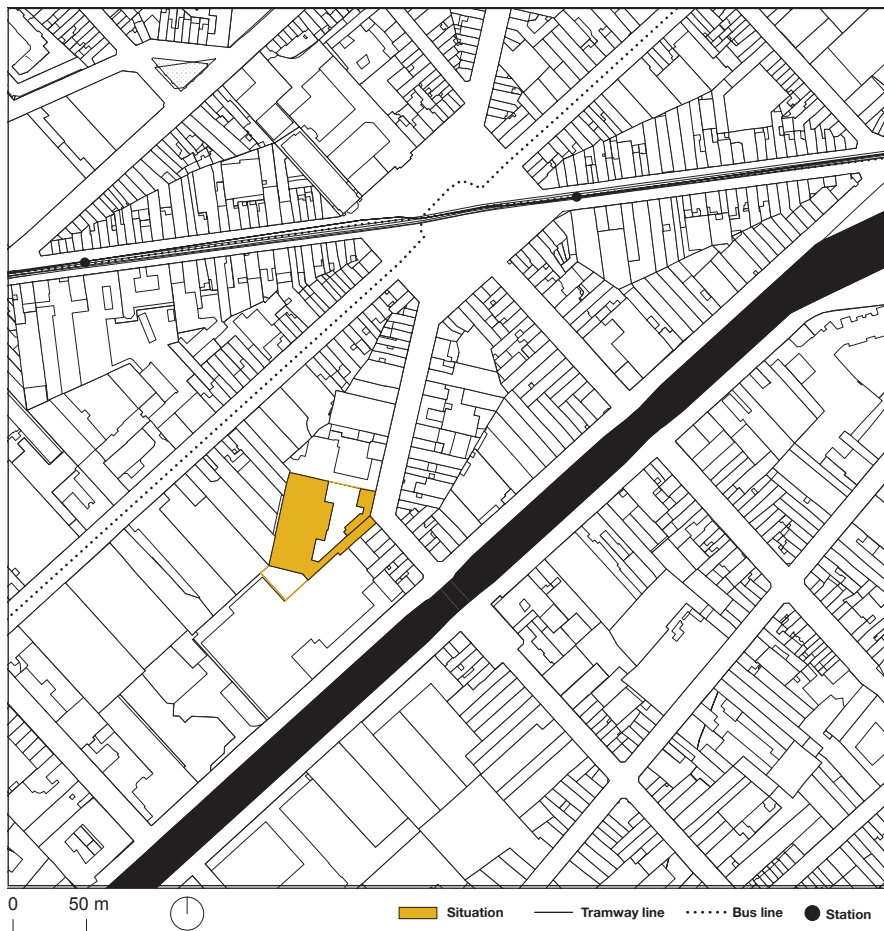


b. Situations

Masui4Ever (ERDF project 2014-2020)

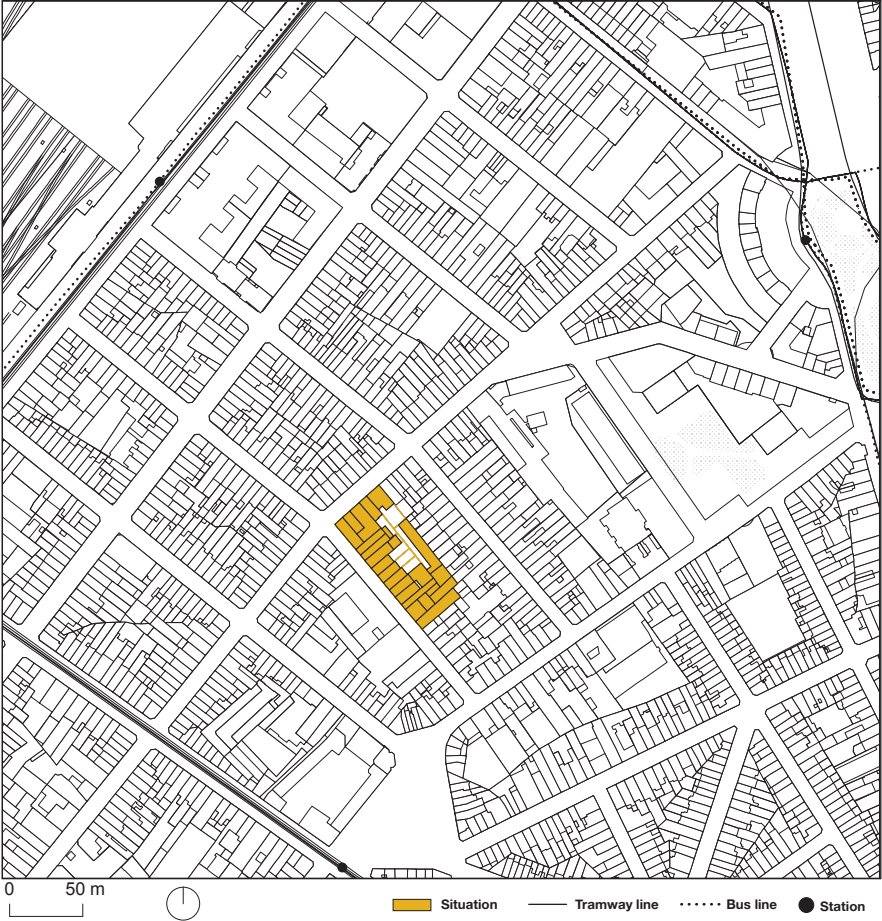
Located in Schaerbeek in the Masui district, the non-profit association Zinneke transforms the former general stamp factory into a vast permanent space for meeting, creation, training and production adapted to the needs of the Zinneke project and more broadly the one of the city and its neighbourhoods. It is a laboratory, a breeding ground for socio-artistic actions that reflects the collaborations that Zinneke is developing with inhabitants, associations, artists and other social, cultural, economic and environmental actors, especially ones whose take part to the Zinneke parade, a biannual cultural event held in Brussels since 2000.

The transformation of the building is a large-scale pilot project for the development of infrastructure through the reuse of building materials, with maximum respect for the existing building. As much as possible, the work is carried out by people trained in the versatile trajectories of artisanal reconstruction work. The project is led by the non-profit associations Zinneke and Rotor, Ouest architecture and the MATRIciel special techniques design office.



Recyclart (ERDF project 1997)

Recyclart is a social economy, urban reflection and artistic creation project created in 1997 as part of an urban pilot project (PPU) for the transformation of the Chapelle station in the Marolles neighbourhood. The project includes an arts centre, a craft production centre (with carpentry, metal construction and infrastructure management workshops) and a bar-restaurant that offers a slow-food menu. The project is supported by the Brussels-Capital Region as part of a professional transition program. Recyclart was formed as a unique experience in Brussels to connect an activity with the context in which it is rooted. The arts centre has recently been relocated near the canal, in the Manchester Street in Molenbeek.



SMart (cooperative)

The headquarters of the SMart work cooperative is located in Saint-Gilles in the Bethlehem Square neighbourhood near the South Station. As the mutual society for artists, SMart has become the largest cooperative in Europe since 2016. Its objective is to relieve artists, creators and technicians (but also a whole series of other new professions) of the administrative management of their professional activities. In Belgium, SMart has created a series of coworking spaces and creative spots, including the Brussels Art Factory (BAF) in Saint-Gilles and LaVallée in Molenbeek. These shared spaces rely on the dynamics of sharing, the proximity effect between occupants and the cross-fertilisation of projects initiated by the cooperative's entrepreneurs.

(D) Circularity

a. Scaling circular economy hotspots

Steering the transition towards a circular economy (CE) is one of the pillars of the EU's regional development policy. In Brussels, the Circular Economy programme (PREC) supports CE projects in order to enhance the competitiveness of regional companies and create new job opportunities. One of the biggest challenges of the Brussels-Capital Region is now to understand how to land and territorialise policies and programmes of the circular economy at the regional level. The Chair in Circular Economy at ULB (Athanassiadis & Kampelmann 2018) proposes reorienting the territorial axis by deploying the concept of “circular economy hotspots”. The concept focuses on the idea that the territorialisation of circular economy policies requires catalyst places (urban blocks, neighbourhoods, etc.) which play a strategic role in the spatial organisation of urban and metropolitan flows and which (eco)systems of projects and actors lead to potential synergies and co-production among stakeholders and productive sectors.

The Metrolab MasterClass aims to explore and develop the notion of the circular economy hotspot in Brussels by focusing on the case of the North station district. A place of concentration of tertiary activities located next to large-scale infrastructures (canal and railway) and a former industrial area (Masui), the district is currently invested by a process of significant transformation of its physical structure and built environment, supported by the pressure of the residential sector. Given its strategic role and importance in the future transformation of the Brussels-Capital Region, this place and its development could benefit from the experience gained by the many actors and projects of circular economy in Brussels. A possible design exploration would focus on the management of the material flows that the important physical transformation of this environment will entail, by relying on and seeking out synergies with the ecosystems of material reuse and recovery projects in Brussels (among others the ERDF projects Bati Bruxellois (BBSM, managed by UCLouvain in collaboration with ROTOR, and Usquare – Casernes d'Ixelles, carried by ULB and VUB in the old barracks).

Several situations relate to this theme; among these, we have selected the following ones as particularly representative: Irisphère; BBSM; Parc à Conteneurs (ABP-Anderlecht); Container Park, RecyK, WIM.



b. Situations

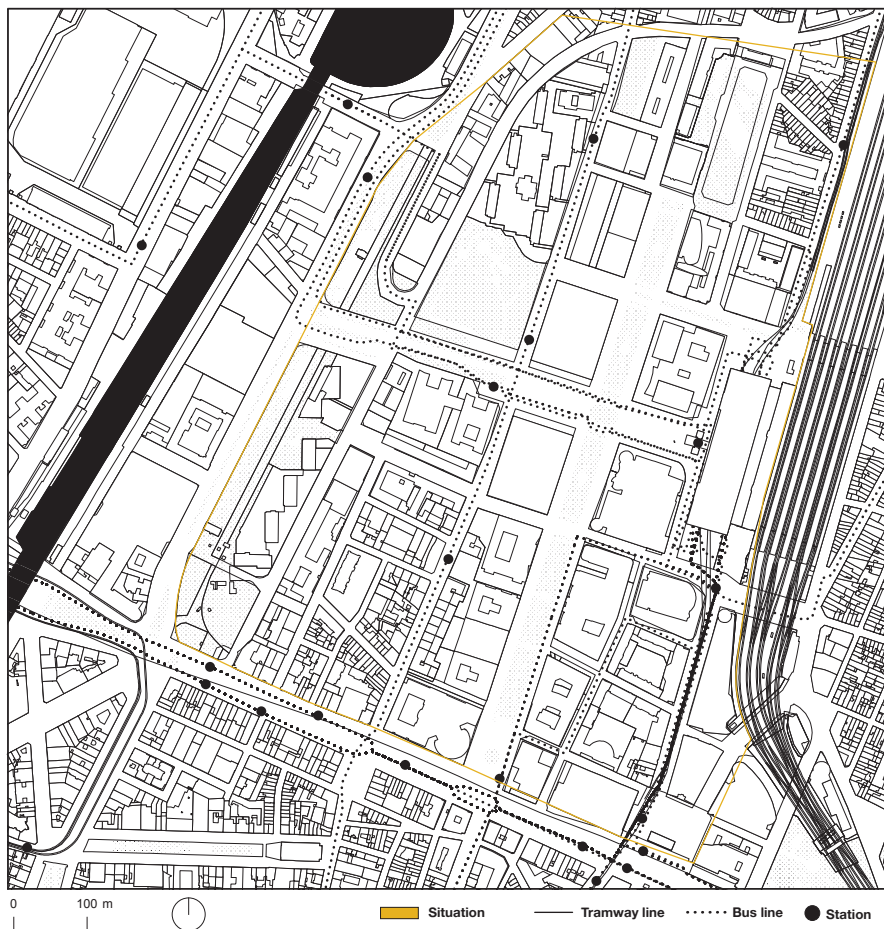
Irisphère (ERDF project 2014-2020)

Irisphère is a project coordinated by citydev.brussels which seeks to foster the industrial symbiosis in Brussels by identifying, assessing and sizing economic opportunities for material reuse and sharing of facilities, resources, and services. The programme aims also to invest in the realisation of a container park for the enterprises located along the canal at Neder-over-Heembeek, implementing in particular the collection and valorisation of organic waste through the collaboration with a local farm (Ferme Nos Pilifs).



U-Square (ERDF project 2014-2020)

The U-Square project stems from the collaboration between the ULB and VUB universiteits and foresees the renovation of an early 20th century military complex in Ixelles and transformation into family and student housing equipped with neighbourhood services and workshops for research and innovation. Following circular economy principles, the renovation process will make use of recycled materials from the demolition of some existing buildings and through the realization of a “bank” for the storage of recycled construction materials coming from other reliable sources.



Northern Quarter

The Northern Quarter comprises a 1960s administrative district made of a series of office towers gathered along a mayor road alley, in-between the North train station and the Canal, the city centre and former industrial neighbourhood of Masui. These surrounding areas have been since some time interested by a number of renovation processes (e.g., place Rogier, the Kanal art centre in the former Citroen garage, etc.) while, since more recently, a coalition of local stakeholders and design firms (the Lab North) has taken over the temporary use of one of the main towers, in view of the radical transformation and re-organisation of the area with the diversification of functions and investments (in residential and commercial activities).

BBSM (ERDF project 2014-2020)

The BBSM project aims to demonstrate that construction materials are resources which recirculation can improve the sustainability of Brussels. The project tackles some major socio-economic challenges of Brussels, such as managing increasing construction and demolition (C&D) waste, reinforcing and implementing local value chains, and create new jobs. It explores potential waste material flows in the construction sector in order to steer waste planning and management and examines the opportunities of the construction sector's value chains, the technical and legal aspects related with material recovery (reuse and recycling), and the role of design. The final objective is to develop a tool for an efficient management and exploitation of local C&D waste in Brussels.

4. People

Brussels Ecosystems organizers

Andrea Bortolotti (LoUIsE - ULB)
Sara Cesari (UCLouvain)
Roselyne de Lestrangé (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Bernard Declève (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Geoffrey Grulois (LoUIsE - ULB)
Louise Prouteau (ULB)
Corentin Sanchez-Trenado (IGEAT - ULB)

Metrolab resource persons

Andrea Bortolotti (LoUIsE - ULB)
Louise Carlier (CriDIS - UCLouvain)
Roselyne de Lestrangé (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Bernard Declève (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Marine Declève (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Christian Dessouroux (IGEAT - ULB)
Geoffrey Grulois (LoUIsE - ULB)
Stephan Kampelmann (LoUIsE - ULB)
Marco Ranzato (LoUIsE - ULB)
Corentin Sanchez-Trenado (IGEAT - ULB)
Anna Ternon (LOCI - UCLouvain)
Baptiste Veroone (CriDIS - UCLouvain)

Project managers

Sara Cesari (UCLouvain)
Louise Prouteau (ULB)

Graphic protocol

Els vande Kerckhove (Something Els)

Graphic support

Thibaut de Quirini (UCLouvain)

Logistic and cartography support

Natasha Fischer (ULB)

Scientific Committee

Elena Cogato-Lanza (EPFL)
Francis Chateauraynaud (EHESS Paris)
Serge Kempeneers (Environment Brussels)
Brian McGrath (Parsons The New School)

Invited tutors & Professors

Eric Corijn (VUB)
Miodrag Mitrasinovic (Parsons The New School)

Topics and site experts

Agriculture

David D'Hondt (Les Moutons Bruxellois)
Marie Detienne (SPRB économie et emploi cellule agriculture)
Sarah Dujardin (La Maison Verte et Bleue)
Laurence Claerhouts (Linked Farm)
Maarten Dierickx (Atelier Groot Eiland | Bouwmeester Maître Architecte)
David Errera (Cycle Farm)
Catherine Fierens (Environment Brussels)
Bengt Hendrinx (Atelier Groot Eiland)
Joséphine Henrion (Environment Brussels)
Fabien Genard (Environment Brussels, Plan Nature)
Laurence Lewalle (GASAP)
François Lohest (CosyFood)
Antoine Sterling (Ferme du Chant des Cailles)

Density

Benjamin Cadranet (Citydev)
Gerd De Wilde (Entrakt)
Nicolas Hemeleers (CityTools)
Ellen Jacobs (Commune de Molenbeek / Pop Up Kanal)
Didier Ledocte (Citydev)
Vincent Schrurs (Commune de Molenbeek)

Work

Stéphane Damsin (Recyclart)
Sandrine Tonnoir (Zinneke)
Chloé Salembier (UCLouvain)
Lieza Dessen (SMart)
Romina Cornejo (Perspective Brussels)

Circularity

Franciso Davila (Worms)
Simon De Muynck (Centre Ecologie Urbaine - CEU)
Mathieu Depoorter (ECORES)
Etienne Duquenne (Nos Pilifs)
Emilie Gobbo (UCLouvain)
Ophélie Goemaere (CIVA)
Michael Gyhoot (Rotor)
Amandine Sellier (Environment Brussels)
Isabelle Subotca (Environment Brussels)
Marc Renson (Environment Brussels Citydev)
Joël Vanbambeke (Goodfood, Environment Brussels)
Clémentine Schouteden (Fondation Ellen McArthur)

Participants

Lucile Ado (Platform-archi et Güller Güller)
Alice Bassan (University of Ferrara - University of Southern Denmark)
Jolein Bergers (KULeuven)
Valentina Bonello (University of Padova)
Rafael Carmago Consolmagno (ULB - VUB)
Stefania D'altiero (University of Naples Federico II)
Marine Declève (UCLouvain)
Mae de Monchy (ULB - VUB)
Géraldine De Neuville (UCLouvain)
Ernesto Diez (A2O architecten)
Elena Ferrari (IUAV)
Johans Figueroa (UniGe)
Ophélie Goemaere (CIVA)
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Maria Leonardi (IUAV)
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Daniel Otero Pena (UCLouvain)
Marine Spor (ULB)
Alberto Squizzato (ULB)
Anna Ternon (UCLouvain)
Erdem Üngür (ULB - Istanbul Technical University)
Natalia Vera Vigaray (OfficeShophouse)
Ivana Vukezic (ULB - VUB)

Metrolab research centres

The four research centres conducting the Metrolab Brussels will actively participate in the MasterClass with their academic staff and students, as well as their affiliated Metrolab researchers.

CriDIS

The CriDIS is a research centre in social sciences of the University of Louvain. Its main objective is to analyse the transformations that contemporary societies are undergoing, from the critical point of view of democracy. It works on the tensions and the links between institutions and subjectivities, from two antagonistic processes, the domination one and the emancipation one (personal engagement to collective mobilizations). The researches focus on different axes economic, political, clinical and urban.

IGEAT

The Institute for Environmental Management and Land-use Planning (Institut de Gestion de l'Environnement et d'Aménagement du Territoire - IGEAT) was funded in 1993 in order to federate research led at the ULB in the areas of urban studies, spatial and regional planning, applied geography, sustainable development and tourism studies. This large, multidisciplinary research institute, counts 5 research units, eleven full time academics and about 50 researchers and PhD students from various backgrounds working together in interdisciplinary teams. Being deeply anchored in fundamental research, at national and European level, the IGEAT is also strongly involved in applied research and decision support for public and private bodies. It has, in particular, a well-established research strength in critical understanding of urban politics and policies and changing geographies of urban social life (housing, culture and art, urban space). True to its interdisciplinary vision and focus on current and emerging societal issues, the institute is a space dedicated to reflection, debates, learning and actions.

LOCI

UCLouvain's Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urban Planning (LOCI) offers courses in architecture, architectural engineering, urban planning and land-use planning. It has the particularity of being distributed in three Belgian localities: Brussels, Tournai and Louvain La Neuve. It has 1,350 students and several research centres: the LAA / laboratory analysis architecture (theoretical architecture); the CREAT / research and study centre for territorial action; Architecture et Climat (sustainable architecture); Uses&Spaces / interdisciplinary research group (anthropology & architecture, social dynamics & inhabited spaces). Research by design is a common and singular approach shared by the research centres. The Loci team of Metrolab.

brussels is pluridisciplinary and undertakes researches within three axes: morphology, productive city and landscape. It is active in Belgium, Africa and South America

LoUIsE

LoUIsE - Laboratory on Urbanism, Infrastructures and Ecologies – is a research centre of the Faculty of Architecture of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The centre studies the metropolitan territories and the dynamics behind their transformations. LoUIsE conducts research beyond the discipline of urbanism and includes environmental, infrastructural, and social issues concerning cities and urban territories. The doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of LoUIsE are supported by the National Scientific Research Fund, the Regional initiative Innoviris and the European Regional Development Fund. LoUIsE research focuses in particular on the Brussels metropolitan region but research is conducted also on other European metropolitan areas (Barcelona, Veneto, etc.) and in sub-Saharan Africa (Ethiopia, Congo, etc.).

Partner Universities

Metrolab Brussels has invited researchers and students from different universities/academic programmes to join the MasterClass:

4CITIES Euromaster in Urban Studies (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Universität Wien, University of Copenhagen, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Madrid)

EPFL - Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Lausanne, Switzerland)

ITU - Istanbul Technical University (Istanbul, Turkey)

IUAV - Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (Venice, Italy)

KU Leuven (Leuven, Belgium)

Master Urban Studies VUB - Vrije Universiteit Brussel and ULB - Université Libre de Bruxelles (Brussels, Belgium)

Nanjing University (Nanjing, Jiangsu, China)

Parsons School for Design - The New School (New York, United States)

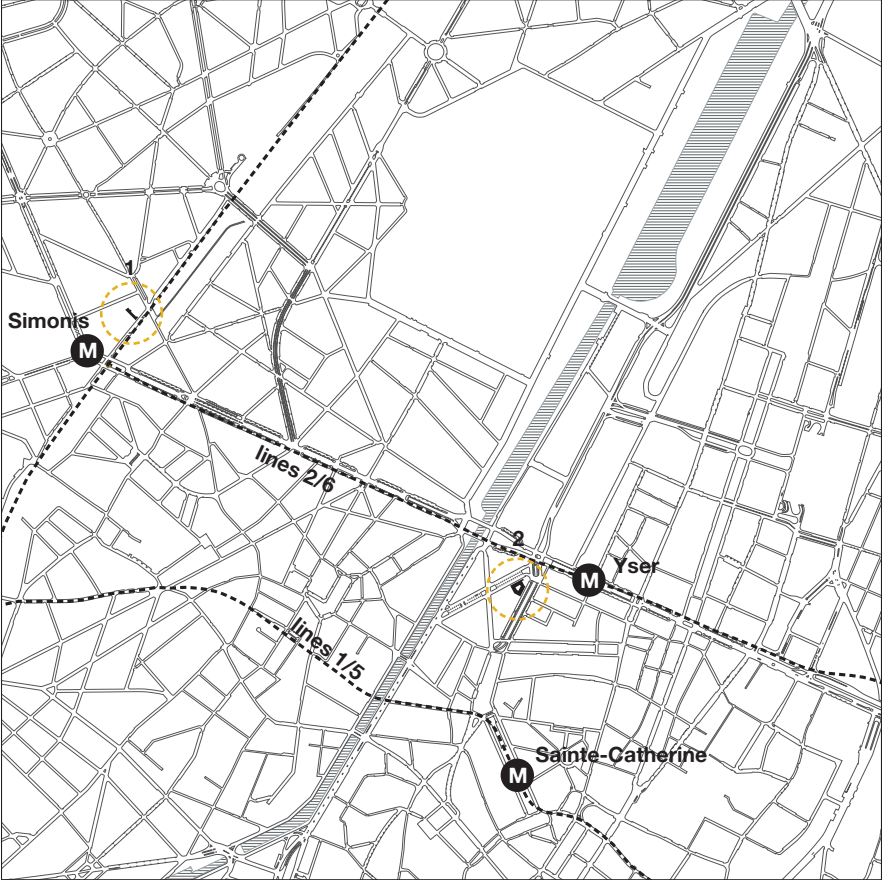
Syddansk Universitet (Denmark)

UNIGE - Université de Genève (Geneva, Switzerland)

Università di Ferrara (Ferrara, Italy)

Università di Padova (Padua, Italy)

Università Federico II di Napoli (Naples, Italy)



5. Practical info

Locations

Accommodations (from 27/01/2019 to 9/02/2019) (1)

Hello Hostel

Rue de l'Armistice 1, 1081 Koekelberg

Phone: + 32 471 93 59 27

Website: <http://www.hello-hostel.eu/index.html>

Metro: Line 2, Stop 'Simonis'

MasterClass workshop (2)

Metrolab, Quai du Commerce 48, 1000 Bruxelles

2nd floor

Contacts

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Metrolab

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Website : <http://www.metrolab.brussels>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/metrolab.brussels/>

Youtube channel: <https://bit.ly/2UjUI9l>

MasterClass Timetable:

Week 1

Monday 28.01

Quai du commerce 48

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Welcoming**

09:30 **Methodology & the-
matics presentation**
Bernard Declève
(UCLouvain) &
Geoffrey Grulois
(ULB)

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:15 **Split-up in thematic
groups & discussion**

12:00 **Presentation on
Brussels-Capital
Region Context**
Eric Corijn (VUB)

13:00 **Lunch**

On site

14:30 **Site visit by group**

Place TBC

18:00 **Welcome drink**

Tuesday 29.01

On site

09:00 **Site visit by group**

Quai du Commerce 48

13:00 **Lunch**

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Presentation of the
graphic matrix**
Els vande Kerckhove
Something Els

14:20 **Presentation of
Cartolab and
resources**
Roselyne
de Lestrangé &
Christian Dessouroux

15:00 **Beginning of the
groupwork**

18:30 **End of the day**

Wednesday 30.01

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 **Lunch**

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

16:00 **Pin up session &
discussion**

18:30 **End of the day**

Thursday 31.01

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 **Lunch**

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

18:30 **End of the day**

Friday 01.02

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**
Mid-term presentation
& discussion
preparation

13:00 **Lunch**

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Mid-term
presentation &
discussion**

18:30 **End of the day**

Week 2

Monday 04.02

Quai du commerce 48

09:00 **Debriefing &
introduction to
week 2**

10:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 Lunch

Quai du commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

Quai du commerce 48

18:00 **Discussion**
Mathieu Berger
(UCLouvain), Brian
McGrath, Miodrag
Mitrasinovic (Parsons
School of Design) &
Benoit Moritz (ULB)

Tuesday 05.02

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 Lunch

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

16:00 **Pin up session &
discussion**

18:30 **End of the day**

Wednesday 06.02

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 Lunch

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

18:30 **End of the day**

Thursday 07.02

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**

13:00 Lunch

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Groupwork**

18:30 **End of the day**

Friday 08.02

Quai du Commerce 48

09:00 **Groupwork**
Final presentation
& discussion
preparation

13:00 **Lunch**

Quai du Commerce 48

14:00 **Final presentation & discussion**

18:00 **Closing Event**

Annex: Glossary

Brussels Main Urban Public Policies

CQD, Contrats de Quartier Durable

The Sustainable Neighbourhood Contracts is an action plan supported by the region and concerning a specific area of a municipality of the Brussels-Capital Region, within the ZRU. Limited in space and time, the action plan includes: building/refurbishing social housing, improving public spaces, providing cultural and sports facilities/equipment for young people, creating green spaces, supporting social and economic integration, organizing the inhabitants' participation. The CQD includes a participation process with the inhabitants.

CRU, Contrat de Rénovation Urbaine

The Urban Renovation Contract is an action plan supported by the region and concerning a specific area within the ZRU. Limited in space and time, it aims to improve areas at the junction of different municipalities and gathering different neighbourhoods. Like Sustainable Neighbourhoods Contract (CQD), Urban Renovation Contract works on different levels: housing, economic, public spaces, environment.

Maillage Vert et Bleu – green and blue network

The Green and Blue Network is a programme carried by the regional administration/operator in charge of environmental questions (Brussels Environment). It aims to implement green areas in the region and to connect all of them in a network. On an ecological level, it should preserve and reinforce the regional biodiversity. On a social level, the green and blue network is meant to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants.

PAD, Plan d'Aménagement Directeur

The Master Development Plans is a new urban planning tool which focused on one of the several strategic areas identified in the PRDD. It is both a strategic plan and a planning tool as it sets the general guidelines of urban development but also the functions permissible in the area. This tool defines: land uses, buildings typology, mobility patterns and the general framework of public spaces.

PC, Plan Canal

The Canal Plan focuses on the area of the Brussels-Capital Region crossed by the Charleroi Brussels Canal. Historically, this area was the main industrial territory of the region and today is undergoing a process of strong transformation. The Canal Plan identifies different strategic actions and specific projects in order to improve public spaces, housing and economic development in this particular area.

PCD, Plan communal de développement

The Municipal Development Plan is a document that defines the main development strategies of the municipality, according to the guidelines of the PRDD. It describes specific objectives for the municipality and sets development priorities. It is an indicative document that includes the municipality's guidelines for all aspects of municipal development.

Plan nature 2016-2020

The Nature Plan is a strategic plan aiming to combine the development of the city with nature and make it accessible to all. It defines a set of objectives in order to foster biodiversity, protect green spaces and develop nature in the city.

PRDD, Plan Régional de Développement Durable

The Regional Plan for Sustainable Development aims points at tackling the major challenges concerning the Brussels-Capital Region. It is a strategic tool for the development of the city. It defines the main guidelines of the urban project, at different levels – social, economic, and environmental.

PG, Plan Guide

The Guide-Plan defines new Regional strategies of urban renovation: strengthening the urban centralities and treating the urban boundaries in the ZRU – margins, fringes – in order to improve the connectivity between neighbourhoods. The overall plan is implemented with different tools (like CQD or CRU).

PPAS, Plan Particulier d'Affectation du Sol

The Particular Land-use Plan is a local tool of urban planning. It defines and prescribes the functions permissible on the different areas and plots of the municipal territory. It is the reference plan for urban planning.

PRAS, Plan Régional d'Affectation du Sol

The Regional Land-Use Plan is a regional tool of urban planning. It defines and prescribes the functions permissible on the different areas and plots of the

regional territory. It is the reference plan for urban planning. The plan is binding and superior to the regulation plans.

PREC, Programme Régional en Économie Circulaire

The Regional Programme for Circular Economy aims to replace the current linear economic model - based on resource consumption and waste production - by a circular one. The PREC has three main objectives : 1) transform environmental objectives into economic opportunities; 2) anchor the economy into Brussels territory by fostering local production, reducing travel distance, optimising land use et generating new added value for Brussels; 3) contribute to create more job opportunities.

Stratégie Good Food - Good Food strategy

The Good Food strategy is a public policy developed by the Brussels-Capital Region which aims to foster and coordinates food related initiatives in order to locally produce and transform food and make these local products available to all. This policy is focusing mostly on increasing the local food production in Brussels, reducing food spillage and raising awareness about this topic.

ZRU, Zone de Rénovation Urbaine

The Urban Renovation Area defines the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region where the actions of public policies are reinforced. This perimeter is defined on the basis of 3 criteria: unemployment rate, median income, and density.

The ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) is a European regional policy tool that aims to create new opportunities for European citizens and to reduce the living standards gap between regions. Between 2007 and 2013, the ERDF programme, through the intervention of the Region and Europe, thus invested 108 million euros in 32 projects in the Brussels Capital Region. These projects concern child care, re-employment measures, training programmes, but also sustainable development, support for economic activities, and reinforcing the infrastructure and the social cohesion in the canal area. The current programme (2014-2020) contains 46 projects pertaining to access to employment, research, circular economy, innovation and improving the living environment. Europe and the Region are investing €200 million in this new programme.

