



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Second Expert Meeting of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

incorporating the workshop on Authoritative fit-for-purpose geospatial data for crisis

Leuven, Belgium

20 - 22 February 2024

Logistical and Information Note

Preamble

In this logistical and information note, you will find relevant information about the logistics and arrangements for the Second Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, including information on the venue, visa, accommodation, and general information about Leuven, Belgium.

Administrative arrangements for the meeting

The Second Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management will be held from 20 – 22 February 2024 at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Psychologisch Instituut (110-01), Tiensestraat 102, 3000 Leuven, Belgium. The meeting will generally be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Venue

The Second Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks will be held at the oldest and largest university of Belgium:



Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Psychologisch Instituut (110-01)
Tiensestraat 102, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

<https://www.kuleuven.be/english/about-kuleuven/history?project=TL&pagina=About&thema=Banner&onderwerp=History>

Located 25 Km (16 miles) east of Brussels, the city of Leuven is the capital city of the province of Flemish Brabant. Is a rather small city and everything is at walking distance or reachable by public transport.

Language

The working language of the Second Expert Meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management is English.

Participants

Participants are expected to be members of the Working Group, EuroGeographics POLKEN, invited expert representatives of Member States and regional committees, functional groups, and thematic networks of the Committee of Experts.

Travel Information

If travelling by plane, there are different options to reach Leuven:

- Flying to Brussels Airport (BRU) → is the main airport of Brussels, and from there you can travel to Leuven either via regional train (10,5€ per person, one way) or pre-book a taxi service. Cost of the taxi service states around 60 – 80€. The time to reach the destination is around 20-30 minutes. The train station is located right under the airport.
- Flying to Brussels South – Charleroi (CRL) → located around 45 km (28 miles) south of Brussels, is the main hub of low-cost airlines, such as Ryanair and Wizz. To reach Leuven you can rent a car, and be at the location within an hour drive, otherwise you can opt for a shuttle service offered by FLIBCO, that will drive you to Brussels Midi/Zuid Station (20€ per person, one way) and then take a regional train (6,10€ per person, one way).

Transportation:

Regional train (SNCB/NMBS): <https://www.belgiantrain.be/en>

Public transport (DeLijn): <https://www.delijn.be/en/>

FLIBCO: <https://www.flibco.com/en>

Taxi services:

<https://www.taxileader.net/brussels-airport-taxi.html>

<https://leuven-taxi.be/en/taxi-brussels-airport/>

<https://www.prestigedriver.be/en/airport-transfer/taxi-leuven-shuttle/>

Passports:

The Belgian government requires a passport valid for at least three months after the departure date from Belgium. Passports should have at least two blank passport pages for entry stamp.

Visa:

Please consult all the necessary travel requirements on the following website:

https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/travel/entry-exit/non-eu-nationals/index_en.htm

Please also consult the website of the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/travel-belgium>

Please consult the Immigration Office website:

<https://dofi.ibz.be/en>

Accommodation and Rates

Prices calculated on a stay from the 19th February until the 22nd February (total for three nights)

- Hotel La Royale → Martelarenplein 6 - 232€
- Hotel Mille Colonne → Martelarenplein 5 - 250€
- IBIS Budget → Martelarenlaan 10 - 206€
- IBIS Leuven Centrum → Brusselsestraat 52 - 285€
- Hotel Ladeuze → Bogaardenstraat 27 - 272€
- Park Inn → Martelarenlaan 36 - 510€
- Novotel → Vuurkruisenlaan 4 - 367€

Weather

February represents one of the coldest months in Belgium. Temperatures can range between a high of 7°C (44° F) and a low of 0°C (32° F). Rainy days or sporadic snowfall, accompanied by cold winds, cannot be ruled out. It is advised to carry sufficiently warm clothing and a windproof/rainproof jacket with you at all times.

Electricity

In Belgium there are two associated plug types, types C and E. The standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 50 Hz.

Currency

The currency is Euro (EUR; €).

Banks and ATMs

Most of the transactions within shops, restaurants and hotels can be done via credit/debit card. In case you need cash, you might withdraw from the following banks/ATMs:

KBC; ING; Belfius; Bancontact CASH; BNP Paribas

Taxes:

Prices shown are already inclusive of tax. Regarding the tourist tax, the tax should be about 3.5€ per person, per night.

Tips:

The culture of tipping is not present. However, one is free, at one's discretion, to leave a couple of euros as a tip for good service.

Time Zone

The time zone for Leuven is Central European Time (CET) which is UTC +01:00.

Additional Information

Dutch is the main language spoken both at the administrative level and by locals. However, large part of the population has strong commands of English. Due to historical reasons, it is advisable to not speak French.

Enquiries

For local logistical information or related questions, please contact:

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