



Regional Profile Brussels

Staff member proposed : Sabrina Bijlsma	
Name of organization and Country code	Agence Bruxelloise pour l'Accompagnement Ide 'Entreprise - Brussels Agentschap voor de Ondersteuning van het Bedrijfsleven brand name hub.brussels)
Regional sector profile: data about the sector in the region (list relevant R&D institutions or/and clusters initiatives)	<p>. Brussels key figures¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.198.727 inhabitants in 2018 • Sustained population growth: >1.300.000 expected inhabitants by 2030 • Brussels is both a City with strong urbanisation and a Region with high governmental autonomy. The other two Regions of Belgium are Flanders and Wallonia. • High concentration of highly qualified jobs and high value added activities, high average GDP per inhabitant, but also a high unemployment rate (average 20%) and many youngsters with low qualifications • Official bilingual French / Dutch • Companies including SMEs have a strong internationalisation focus and use English in their dealings • Large amount of European organisations including some very active in Intelligent Energy policies and implementation activities (ex the European Renewable Energy Council EREC and its associations/federations, Eurocities, the European Regions R&I Network ERRIN) <p>Green technologies and sustainable construction are identified as priority sectors in the Regional Innovation Strategy, and include renewable energy (production, usage and management) and energy efficiency (mainly in buildings and urban districts in view of the region's high urbanization level).</p> <p>The Brussels universities (ULB and VUB) have specific competences and expertise in Energy related topics such as electricity storage (ULB dept AeroTechnomechanics), lighting engineering (VUB dept ETEC), wind engineering (ULB unit BEAMS, VUB dept ELEC, power and heat production (VUB dept FTRG), human ecology (VUB dept MEKO), Brussels innovation funding agency (Innoviris) also focuses on Intelligent Energy themes such as the JPI Urban Europe and Brussels Smart City Mobility platform.</p>
Description of the organisation and experience in the sector	hub.brussels is the Brussels Agency for Business Support. hub.brussels is the result of the merger between impulse.brussels (former Brussels Enterprise Agency), atrium.brussels and BrusselsInvest & Export. hub.brussels is the entry point allowing all those doing or starting a business in Brussels to easily access the relevant information and identify, amongst the private and public stakeholders organisations best suited to help with the setting up and long term sustainability of their business. It proposes to Brussels-based innovative

¹ Brussels Institute for Statistics and Analysis, 2018

	<p>companies an ecosystem facilitating their growth, and propose to high potential entrepreneurs ad hoc and extremely focused support.</p> <p>hub.brussels actively contributed to the past SGSC activity (under the 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 contract periods) by attending the meetings called by the Chair, giving input to the newsletters, sharing a best practice on the “loyalty contract”, promoting and participating to the brokerage events endorsed by the SGSC, among which the most important for the Brussels-based companies were “Eco-Build London” and the E²tech4cities brokerage and pitching events which were organized in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels in the past 4 years and with Pas coming from the SG activities.</p> <p>hub.brussels hosts amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Europe Brussels (and its predecessors) since 1993 • NCP Brussels for European Research programmes since 2004 • The Brussels Green Tech network (ca. 350 companies) • The Brussels Ecobuild cluster (ca. 250 companies), bronze label of the European Cluster Excellence Initiative • The Software in Brussels cluster providing smart (energy) solutions (ca. 125 companies), bronze label of the European Cluster Excellence Initiative <p>hub.brussels is also connected with other key players such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Belgian Association for the promotion of renewable energy Apère, the federation of renewable energy producers EDORA, the federation for the technology industry Agoria and its Renewable Energy Business Club, the Scientific and Technological Centre for Construction WTCB-CSTC <p>Public bodies such as the Brussels-Capital Region’s environment and energy public service IBGE-BIM and the energy regulator for the Brussels-Capital Region Brugel</p>
<p>Individual capacities & interests of the representative elected to contribute to the group</p>	<p>Sabrina Bijlsma holds a Master Degree in Human Ecology and Sustainable Development. In the past nine years she worked for the INTERREG North-West Europe (NWE) Programme as project officer in charge of low carbon projects and has advised several stakeholders such as public authorities, research organizations as well as enterprises, especially SMEs. She has actively assisted with the development and monitoring of innovative projects in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency in buildings, smart grids, as well as resource efficiency, sustainable construction, mobility and transport. Previous positions at the Flemish Ministry of Environment & Energy and the World Health Organization (WHO) have made her familiar with several European policies and processes in the field of environment(al) health and climate change. In addition Sabrina has proven skills in events organization as she was in charge of the organization of several international workshops, high-level conferences and foreign trade missions for entrepreneurs. Sabrina joined hub.brussels on 25 March 2019 in the position as EEN advisor and Horizon 2020 NCP Energy.</p>

	<p>Sabrina would like to contribute to the SGSC by sharing with the group members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • her policy experience and expertise in energy and environmental policies • her project management and legal/financial/administrative background in European Territorial Cooperation projects (INTERREG North-West Europe programme) <p>She will also be appointed as H2020 National Contact Point for Energy in Brussels and would also be the contact point to key Regional stakeholders (including Brussels Green Tech network, Brussels Ecobuild cluster) to exchange relevant information in both directions and to identify collaboration opportunities that will be mutually beneficial for Brussels, other Regions and their SMEs.</p>
Inputs expected to provide to the Sector Group	<p>Active participation to SG meetings, items for newsletters and other communication materials, dissemination of profiles to/from Brussels SMEs/other organisations, the suggestion of company missions and brokerage events to the SG members, the promotion of events on the SG rolling plan, sharing of good practices from Enterprise Europe Brussels.</p>