

# Activity Highlights

Academic year 2021-2022



## UM Campus Brussels your hub in the EU capital

-  Increase your research impact
-  Expand your educational offer
-  Develop your international network

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# 1. Message from the team

Thank you for reading our latest annual report. In it, you will find the highlights of what has been a fantastic academic year. As we leave behind two academic years of intermittent closures due to the pandemic, we have been delighted to see the enthusiasm with which the UM community and our international partners have returned to having face-to-face interactions at Maastricht University Campus Brussels.

We are steadily returning to business as usual. Even as online and hybrid interactions are here to stay, especially during smaller meetings, we have witnessed that regular face-to-face interactions are irreplaceable. Our Brussels trips study for UM students, executive courses, doctoral trainings, research conferences, policy dialogues, and more bear testament to this. We hope that this overview shows the opportunities of organising activities in Brussels and inspires you to organise your own. As always, you can count on Campus Brussels to support you with your activities, whether this entails communications, outreach to the EU policy-makers, or logistics.



 *Stories from Brussels*



# 2. Campus Brussels in short

**Maastricht University (UM) Campus Brussels** is UM's very own representation in the capital of the European Union (EU). It functions as an inter-faculty hub for education, research, knowledge transfer, and networking activities in the framework of UM's internationalisation strategy. Campus Brussels is available to use for all UM staff and students. Non-commercial activities related to education, research and knowledge transfer of UM can make use of Campus Brussels free of charge. To find out more on the possibilities at the Campus please click [here](#).

[Campus Brussels' facilities](#) comprise three **equipped meeting rooms** – one for ca. 60 and two for ca. 25 people each, which are there to be used for events by the UM community. It also provides **staff support** when organising online and on-site activities, from event planning and implementation (e.g. programme design, speaker search, registration management, coordination with local suppliers, promotion, etc.) to monitoring EU policy and funding developments of interest to the UM community.



MAASTRICHT ROOM



BEL-ÉTAGE



BLUE ROOM

# 3. People matters

## The Campus Brussels Team



**Tatiana  
Caftea**  
Events Officer



**Fèlix  
Ruiz Cabré**  
Policy Officer



**Corina  
Costinas**  
Events Officer



**Melissa  
Beltgens**  
Operations &  
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Manager



**Mariolina  
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Director



**Paul  
Stephenson**  
Associate  
Director

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Call us at **+31 43 388 4383**

Visit us at **Avenue de Tervueren 153, 1150, Woluwe Saint Pierre, Belgium**

## The Campus Brussels Board



**Prof. Dr. Christine Neuhold**  
Chair of the Board



**Prof. Dr. Mathieu Segers**  
Representative of Studio Europa



**Prof. Dr. Rianne Letschert**  
Representative of the Executive Board



**Dr. Stefan Straetmans**  
Co-Representative of SBE



**Prof. Dr. Henry Otgaar**  
Representative of FPN



**Dr. Annemarie Koster**  
Representative of FHML



**Prof. Dr. Rachel Pownall**  
Co-Representative of SBE



**Dr. Francesca Colli**  
Representative of FASoS



**Prof. Dr. Jos Welie**  
Representative of FSE

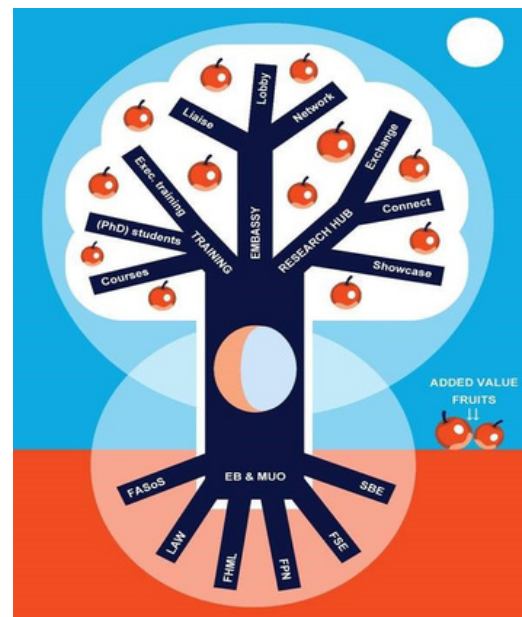


**Prof. Dr. Marjan Peeters**  
Representative of Law

# 4. Campus Brussels Mission

Campus Brussels was founded in 2010 with the mission to add value to Maastricht University (UM)'s three core activities: **Education**, **Research**, and **Knowledge Transfer**. It is a bottom-up success that has grown organically, fostered by the interest of the UM community in exploiting the opportunities created by UM's field station in the heart of Europe.

The Campus creates opportunities that would not be possible without a strong presence in the European capital. This is achieved through the Campus' own **three functions**, which are intimately linked to UM's triple mission: **Teaching and Training**, **Research Community Hub**, and **UM Embassy**.



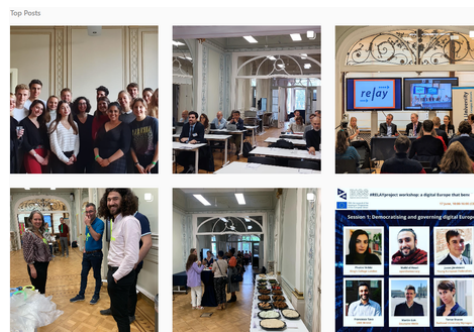
The work of the Campus is illustrated with the “**Campus Brussels tree**”. The Campus is “rooted” in Maastricht and nourished by the Faculties, the Executive Board, and Maastricht University Office. It then flourishes in Brussels and produces “**added-value fruits**” that are directly brought back to UM. As such, this highlights the direct added value of the Campus that feeds into the university’s missions. This added value comes in the form of increasing quality of education and research through discussions and exchanges, supporting network expansion, enhancing visibility in Brussels, and enabling more opportunities for collaboration vis-à-vis international academic and policy-oriented stakeholders.

The tree shows how **Campus Brussels brings together the entire university**. Everyone within the UM community – students, alumni, researchers, educators, support staff, (inter)national partners – across disciplines can benefit from using its facilities, and can contribute to its further development. As the ambitions laid out in the Campus Brussels Strategic Plan 2017-2022 are being realised, preparations are underway to draft the Campus' future strategic programme. The new programme will be presented in the framework of UM's strategy as the European University of the Netherlands. The whole community has been invited to participate in the process, and we encourage you to come to us with your ideas on how you think UM's representation in Brussels can best continue to add value in the years to come. Help us help you!

# 5. Activity overview

## Events hosted and supported by Campus Brussels Academic year 2021-22

Teaching and Training	23
Research Hub	29
Embassy	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>



This academic year was marked by a gradual return to face-to-face activities. Campus Brussels hosted and supported close to 90 events among which executive courses, study trips, research workshops, policy conferences and networking events organised by the UM community.

Though there is room to reach pre-pandemic activity levels in quantitative terms, this academic year's activities have been qualitatively more high-level and resource-intensive than before. This shows an evolving trend: while many smaller, casual meetings are still often held online, face-to-face presence is preferred for larger, critical meetings. Most of these meetings were organised in hybrid format, requiring the provision of additional on-site technical support by Campus Brussels staff.

In addition to these events held at Campus Brussels, we have organised several activities with a focus on showcasing UM's expertise as the European University of the Netherlands, monitored developments in EU science policy, and contributed to advocacy campaigns together with fellow young universities.

The sections below offer some examples and highlights of this year's activities. For regular in-depth updates, on both past and upcoming initiatives, please sign up for the Campus Brussels newsletter.



## As part of our Teaching & Training function...

While some educational activities were still held online, mindful of potential Covid-19 rebounds, some were held at Campus Brussels in a hybrid or entirely face-to-face format. This is the case of the executive courses delivered by the [European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity \(ECPC\)](#) at LAW, which organised three trainings at Campus Brussels: another edition of their Data Protection Officer (DPO) certification course, a Brussels-based module of their Advanced Master in Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Management, and a three-day training in Emerging Issues and Challenges in Privacy and Data Protection.



The [Data Protection Officer Certification](#) course organised by ECPC is already a regular occurrence at UM Campus Brussels. This specialised hands-on training enables you to acquire the must-know knowledge and the do's and don'ts to efficiently perform the role and tasks of Data Protection Officer (DPO) under the GDPR.

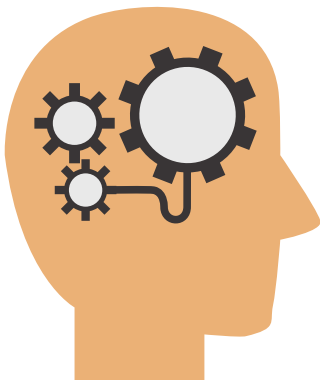
The training covers an in depth insight of the GDPR and all implementation obligations; a step-by-step model to put in place the necessary privacy compliant data protection and information security policies in your organisation; guidance in the most cost-effective and efficient ways to comply with the GDPR.

The experienced trainers in the programme follow Maastricht University's well-known Problem Based Learning methodology: Throughout our training programme you are stimulated to actively work on real-life issues in order to acquire the skills needed to perform most effectively as a DPO in your organisation.



The [Advanced Master in Privacy, cybersecurity and Data Management](#) organised by ECPC, is a new executive master programme aimed at professionals who seek to become tomorrow's privacy and cybersecurity leaders. The two-year part-time programme offers an ambitious curriculum that bridges the intersection between law, technology, ethics, governance and management. This four-day event included lectures on Advanced Cybersecurity and Global Cybersecurity Strategy with a day trip to EUROPOL in the Hague, Netherlands.

The [Emerging Issues and Challenges in Privacy and Data Protection course](#) is a two and a half day training programme, which is a building block of the full Diploma Track on Privacy Management. The training allows participants to learn about current challenges and ongoing developments in the privacy and cybersecurity market



The training sessions from the [FASoS part-time PhD for professionals in European Studies](#) also continued. It offers a unique opportunity to obtain doctorate degree to enhance your professional career. This programme is designed to equip those interested with skills necessary to research and complete a PhD project on a topic within the area of European Studies, and offers trainings in Brussels coupled with individual supervision by Maastricht University professors, which can be tailored around work commitments and according to preferred study schedule. For more details, visit the UM Campus Brussels website and [read these interviews with the programme's recent graduates](#).

The research and writing of a doctoral thesis involves developing and investigating intellectually-stimulating research questions, acquiring an in-depth knowledge of the latest developments in the field, gaining familiarity with political science and public policy theory and its application to empirical analysis, collecting and interpreting data, learning and research methods and design, conducting independent research with the possibility of fieldwork, drawing on existing professional experience, engaging in individual supervision by experienced and qualified professors, contributing to key debates in EU policy-making and integration, informing, and bringing value-added to, academic and practitioner communities.



### **Hogeschool Zuyd European Studies students meet and greet with UM alumni organised by UM Campus Brussels**

UM students returned to Campus Brussels for study trips to complement their academic training with practical insights. These trips, often organised by programme directors with the support of Campus Brussels, allows our student community to meet and learn from professionals -including UM alumni- working in their field of interest, which grows their network and increases their employability prospects. In combination with a social programme, they also help students form stronger bonds and improve group dynamics. In addition to UM students, Campus Brussels also hosted a group of Hogheschool Zuyd students which received a warm welcome by Campus Brussels associate director Dr. Paul Stephenson and presentations by UM alumni, reinforcing the relationship between regional partners.



**11.05.2022. Research trip within the Maastricht Research Based Learning excellence project (MaRBLe). Here, the students presented their research at the Permanent Representation of The Netherlands, in a visit organised by UM Campus Brussels. This Brussels study trip was coordinated by Dr. Johan Adriaensen.**



*'The evening reception at Campus Brussels with programme alumni really made our Brussels trip. After a visit of the institutions it was wonderful to be able to bring current and former students together for an informal gathering. The table set-up enabled students to have conversations with our graduates in small groups and get tips on how to promote themselves when looking for a job'*

**Dr. Hylke Dijkstra**  
**Former Director of Studies**  
**MA European Studies**

All of these educational activities generate value beyond themselves. They increase our global visibility, enhance our reputation, and strengthen networks among senior professionals – a strategic goal that is particularly relevant for a young university such as UM.

## As part of our Research Hub function...

UM's research community has had an active academic year in Brussels. UM researchers have gathered with their international partners in Brussels for workshops to discuss work in progress, kick-off meetings to launch new research initiatives, and valorisation conferences to showcase research results to EU policy-makers and stakeholders. Many of these events are organised in the framework of EU-funded programmes.

### DeLab Consortium FASoS



DeLab is a research project led by Prof. John Parkinson and colleagues at the University of Göttingen.



### PREM STEM Project FHML



PREMSTEM partners from across Europe and Australia came together for the project's annual meeting.



**Deliberation Laboratory (DeLab):** Artificial Intelligence and the Society of the Future is a four-year research that seeks to develop a moderator using artificial intelligence (AI) that can recognise escalating conflict in social media and intervene to de-escalate the situation. The UM team, led by Prof. John Parkinson, is developing and applying cultural script theory to detect the linguistic 'scripts' of conflict, before testing different AI responses in the laboratory and in the wild.

**PREMSTEM** is a collective of world leading clinicians, researchers, stakeholder advocacy groups and industrial partners with well-established experience in neonatology and drug development. It is focused on delivering a novel regenerative therapy to reduce the enormous emotional, health and economic implications of neurodevelopment injury caused by encephalopathy of prematurity – brain damage associated with premature birth. It hopes to push forward the research agenda for neonatal innovation by bringing together a committed interdisciplinary partnership to provide a roadmap optimising medicines.



### CELL Foundation Project UNUMERIT

CELL Foundation is working towards the reduction of divisive stereotypes in primary and secondary school textbooks. This includes developing minimum standards for textbook content and lobbying for a global agreement.



Campus Brussels has provided wide-ranging professional support to UM researchers. The Campus has assisted researchers from the preparatory to the dissemination phase, helping with coordination with local suppliers, managing the registration and attendance of participants, designing promotional materials, reaching out to EU policy-makers and stakeholders, and producing content for research valorisation.

Short videos like the one above, in which Prof. Dr. Cyrus Mody introduces NanoBubbles, his ERC project on correcting wrong scientific records, are an effective and long-lasting dissemination tool. Campus Brussels records and edits these videos for UM researchers that organise events there. For more details, check the [Meet the Researcher webpage](#).



*"I have worked together with Campus Brussels for several times. A core reason is for the organization of an international virtual conference on psychology and law. I have had a lot of positive experience with Campus Brussels because of especially the reliable and extensive support before, during, and after the event.*

*Campus Brussels has the (technical) know-how on how to organize such conference ranging from ways to register to promote the event. Importantly, during the event, Campus Brussels has been very active in making sure presentations were done properly and no technical problems arose. Finally, after the event, Campus Brussels can be asked in terms of evaluating events which can be beneficial for feedback purposes and future events.*

*All in all, I have had a great experience with Campus Brussels to make sure scholars from different disciplines and countries come together to discuss topics of interest."*

**Prof. Dr. Henry Otgaar**  
**Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience**

## As part of our embassy function...

We have had an ear to the ground on behalf of UM, increasing the visibility of the university, contributing the further development of UM's strategic initiatives, monitoring relevant EU policy developments, and joining forces with our networks and partner universities on advocacy campaigns for the benefit of UM.



### YUFE meetings

Campus Brussels regularly hosts (strategic) meetings of the [Young Universities for the Future of Europe \(YUFE\) Alliance](#). For example, it was our pleasure to host a workshop for YUFE's professional service staff. This training aimed to create life-changing learning experiences to strengthen YUFE as a network and to develop its professional identity.

During the four-day training event, participants shared information on the recruitment and selection processes of each university, followed a workshop on career development, and exchanged best practices in assessing merit in academia (Open, Transparent, Merit-based recruitment). Campus Brussels also organised a visit to the European Commission for all attendees, where they learned about their recruitment policy and received valuable insights to foster the employability of YUFE graduates.



### Liaising with Brussels-based stakeholders

A key feature of the Campus' Embassy function is its development as UM's EU liaison office. In this role, Campus Brussels represents UM in the [Young European Research Universities Network \(YERUN\)](#) Policy Platform as well as participates in the [network of Brussels-based university EU liaison offices \(UnLiON\)](#). Since January 2022, the Campus Brussels policy officer is Deputy Chair of the network, and will also be the lead coordinator of the network's 2022 annual event.



From a content perspective, this year's focus has been on monitoring European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda developments, obtaining draft work programmes of the Horizon Europe 2023-24 funding scheme, and playing an active role in shaping the European initiative to reform research assessment, which is of great strategic importance to the UM-led Recognition & Rewards programme.

Campus Brussels has also actively contributed to two YERUN policy papers:

- 23 November 2021: [Reforming Research Assessment in Europe - YERUN's take](#)
- 30 June 2022: [YERUN's contribution to the European Research Area \(ERA\) Policy Agenda](#)



## Nov 2021 - Feb 2022 | 30th Anniversary of Maastricht Treaty

To celebrate the **30th anniversary of the signing of the Maastricht Treaty**, UM Campus Brussels organised a series of Fireplace Talks dedicated to eight policy fields laid out by the treaty. Academics and practitioners took stock since the Maastricht Treaty, reviewed the current state of play of policy initiatives, and looked ahead to open challenges (and potential treaty reforms).

These events are now available as [podcasts here](#).

- ⦿ [Transparency and Accountability: the European Ombudsman](#)
- ⦿ [Social Policy and the Protection of Workers in the Single Market](#)
- ⦿ [Environmental Policy and Regulation](#)
- ⦿ [Economic and Monetary Union, the Euro and the European Central Bank](#)
- ⦿ [Common Foreign and Security Policy](#)
- ⦿ [Subsidiarity and decision-making: promoting multi-level governance](#)
- ⦿ [Justice & Home Affairs and Police Cooperation: European Arrest Warrant](#)
- ⦿ [EU Citizenship and the Rights of Free Movement](#)



Another important element of the Campus' Embassy function is to position UM in Brussels along the lines of the university's strategic programme, which is currently dedicated to UM's development as [the European University of the Netherlands](#). As this academic year encompassed the 30th anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty, Campus Brussels organised a special [Fireplace Talks series](#) of eight events to showcase UM's expertise on European themes established and further developed by the Treaty. The series brought together UM academics, high-level EU policy-makers and other stakeholders to discuss issues of topical importance.





For a second year Campus Brussels has been actively involved in the [RELAY, the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project coordinated by Campus Brussels](#). RELAY builds on UM's cross-faculty expertise and involves several UM initiatives: the [Brightlands Institute for Smart Society \(BISS\)](#), [Studio Europa Maastricht \(SEM\)](#), the [YUFE Alliance](#), the [Centre for European Research in Maastricht \(CERiM\)](#) and the [Maastricht Sustainability Institute \(MSI\)](#). The project aims at discussing the European Commission's political guidelines with a diverse array of stakeholders. In 2021-22, Campus Brussels coordinated the implementation of the second year of the project, during which a workshop on reconciling labour migration and the European social model was organised by Studio Europa Maastricht and Campus Brussels. The event featured a member of the European Parliament, a trade union representative, think tanks, and researchers.

This event aimed to explore how we can utilise the values from Europe's unique social model and strengthen the European Pillar of Social Rights to improve the inclusion of labour migrants in our societies, stop labour exploitation of migrant workers and ultimately provide better labour market outcomes and improve social cohesion for everyone.

Both onsite and online participants found out more about how working and social conditions can be improved for labour migrants in order to encourage them to take entrepreneurial risks, learn new skills, and enrich our societies.

Here you can [read a brief report of the workshop](#).





In 2021-22, Campus Brussels also organised three virtual events of the new What's up, EU? Talk series which is dedicated to learning and discussing about issues that are high on the European Union (EU) agenda.

The aim of the 'What's up, EU?' talk series is to inform UM about developments in and around EU policy, with a focus on issues that closely affect universities, and invite the UM community to reflect about how these developments may impact them.

The events featured speakers from the European University Association and the European Commission:

- **What's up, European University Association?** With Anna-Lena Claeys-Kulik, Policy Coordinator at the European University Association (EUA)
- **What's up with the European Strategy for Universities?** With Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of the Higher Education Unit at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)
- **What's up with the EU's Innovation Initiatives?** With Fabienne Gautier, Acting Head of Department I of Innovation Ecosystems, SMP/Entrepreneurship and Consumers at the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)

You can retrieve the recordings of the meetings at the [What's up, EU? webpage](#).



As an Embassy, Campus Brussels also nurtures UM's Brussels-based community. This is achieved through regular contact with students, staff and alumni but also through dedicated campaigns, such as with the podcast series 'Stories from Brussels'. In 2021-22, Campus Brussels recorded three episodes of the podcast, which featured UM lecturers, researchers, PhD candidates and master students.

The [UM Campus Brussels podcast series 'Stories from Brussels'](#) aims to connect people from different UM communities in order to share personal experiences on what it's like to live and work in Brussels. Listen to UM Campus Brussels as we chat informally with UM researchers, alumni and students about what they are working on and how they see the future.

**Recorded:** 4 October 2021 with Maastricht University lecturers and researchers living in Brussels. Find out about the projects they are currently working on and their paths into academia. [Listen to the episode.](#)

#### **Guests:**

*Hylke Dijkstra*

Associate Professor and Director of the Research Program Politics and Culture in Europe, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Maastricht University

*Francesca Colli*

Assistant Professor in European Politics, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Maastricht University

*Alvaro Oleart*

Postdoctoral researcher, Studio Europa Maastricht and Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University



**Hylke  
Dijkstra**



**Francesca  
Colli**



**Alvaro  
Oleart**



**Podcast**



**Recorded:** 22 February 2022 with Maastricht University PhD candidates living in Brussels. Find out about their research projects and their motivation in pursuing a PhD degree.

[Listen to the episode](#)

**Guests:**

*Pelin Özgül*

PhD candidate, Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA), School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University

*Joey Tang*

PhD candidate, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Maastricht University

*Teresa Vázquez López*

PhD candidate in European Studies, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Maastricht University



Pelin Özgül



Joey Tang



Teresa Vázquez  
López



**Podcast**

**Recorded:** 11 March 2022 with Maastricht University alumni and staff from the Faculty of Law involved in the Maastricht Centre of European Law master thesis project, Greening Europe.

[Listen to the episode](#)

**Guests:**

*Marjan Peeters*

Professor of Environmental Policy and Law, Maastricht Centre of European Law & Institute for Transnational Legal Research (METRO).

*Janique Gommans*

Policy Officer for Public Procurement Policy, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy in The Hague

*Laura Herreras*

Trainee, European Parliament

*Nina Klubert*

Tainee, Strategic Inquiries Unit of the European Ombudsman's Office in Brussels



Marjan  
Peeters



Janique  
Gommans



Laura  
Herreras



Nina  
Klubert



**Podcast**

## Looking ahead...



Campus Brussels concludes an intense and stimulating academic year. UM staff have been keen to return to face-to-face meetings. The Brussels lobbies are buzzing once again. Hybrid ways of working continue to provide global outreach.

We have witnessed the launch of UM's new strategic programme as the European university of the Netherlands. The EU policy agenda remains highly relevant for UM, particularly when it comes to education and science policy, as well as research funding.

It is crucial to monitor policy developments and ensure that new policy addresses those issues most important to UM, in line with its strategic interests and ambitions. The geopolitical context is constantly changing, which requires UM to be well-informed so that it can adapt in a timely and flexible manner.

With these points in mind, in the next academic year Campus Brussels will devise a renewed strategic plan. The new strategy will focus on responding to both internal and external developments to ensure that UM continues to fully exploit the benefits of having a physical presence in the capital of the European Union.

In the meantime, the Campus will remain available to host and support Faculty-led education, research, and networking events while also organising activities for the UM community, and acting as UM's ears and mouth in Brussels.

As always, we strongly encourage you to reach out to us if you'd like to organise an activity in Brussels or want to explore how we can help you organise an event!

The Campus Brussels team