



RESULT R9.7

CIVIS Brussels Office

CIVIS – a European Civic University

Erasmus+: European Universities

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CIVIS Brussels Representation Office

CIVIS set up its Representation Office in Brussels in Usquare.Brussels (F building (Mezzanine), site Usquare, Rue Fritz Toussaint 8, 1050 Bruxelles), an urban and inter-university campus created by Université libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, its Flemish sister university. Usquare's concept is hinged on sustainable development and citizen involvement and very close to the main European Institutions in Brussels. Usquare.brussels is an urban project that aims to create a new mixed neighbourhood and new research and innovation facilities in the heart of the city of Brussels. It seeks to build public and student housing, a new large public park (about 2,000 m²) and accessible, traffic-free open spaces, new public facilities for the neighbourhood and shops, including a 1,500 m² sustainable food hall. Located on the site in the former Ixelles barracks, the project also aims at the exemplary restoration of the buildings.

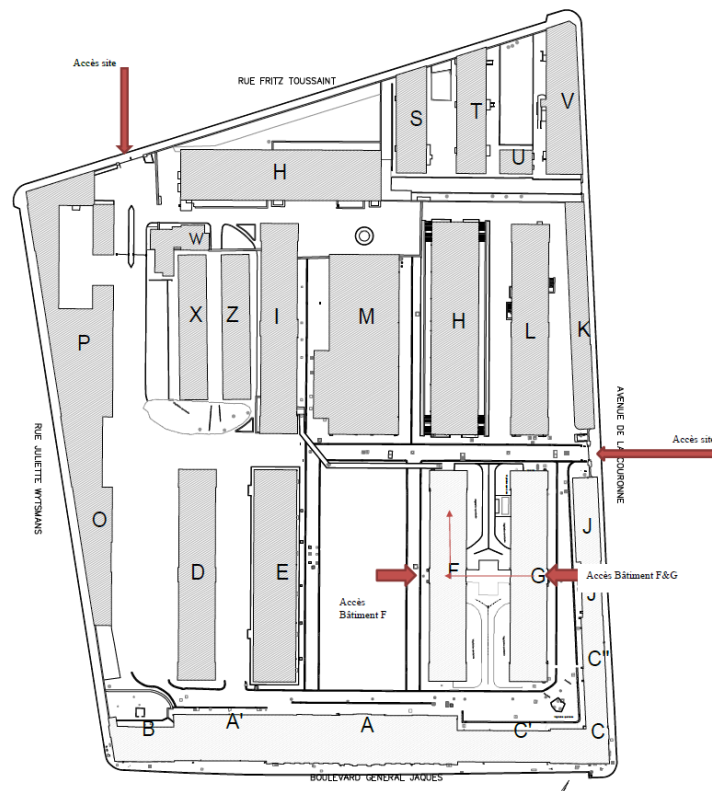


Figure 1.1 Plan of Usquare.Brussels campus and location of the CIVIS Representation Office

The Representation Office was inaugurated on 6 December 2019 during the first CIVIS-branded event: the Mayors' Day. This office will welcome, once the Covid-19 allows it, CIVIS's Communications Officer, WP9 co-leaders, WP2 co-leader, and other Hub, OpenLab and TF members who work at ULB. The office was thought to be a meeting place for all Belgium-based CIVIS stakeholders (coordination group meetings, WP/TF meetings, etc.), as well as international guests. This office will also be a place for interactions with many potential funders for CIVIS activities and is therefore a significant asset of the Alliance's sustainability strategy.

The Representation Office will be a valuable tool to facilitate the sharing of information within CIVIS, for building up a visibility as an essential actor of the “European Universities” landscape and for the coordination of the implementation of the CIVIS dissemination plan.



Figure 1.2 Photo of the CIVIS Representation Office

The Representation Office will also comprise an exhibition space dedicated to public exhibitions and citizen science activities centred on the current building of European Universities (these activities will be designed to be replicable in other CIVIS cities, in particular during the CIVIS Days). Its key location, close to European Institutions, is a tremendous asset in affirming our long-term commitment to the European Universities project and makes clear our desire to be fully involved in the major adaptations of the landscape of European Higher Education that will be necessary in order to make European Universities a reality.

Timeline and deliverables related to the Representation Office

- Step 1: Office fully operational – M4
- Step 2: CIVIS exhibition / citizen science activity number 1 in Usquare, Brussels, then traveling through the 7 universities – M18
- Step 3: CIVIS exhibition / citizen science activity number 2 in Usquare, Brussels, then traveling through the 7 universities – M30

A delay, due to unforeseen infrastructure barriers and the Covid-19 pandemic, is to be noted, as the CIVIS team was only allowed to actually move in on 25 June 2020. These barriers have also caused WP9 to delay the organisation of the first exhibition/citizen science activity to the second half of 2021.