

SME Training Provision in the Brussels-Capital Region (BE)

*Training for Growth 4th mobility,
11th November 2009, Coventry (UK)*

Julia Brethenoux
EBN Project Manager



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu - Internet : www.ebn.eu

Who provides training to SMEs in the Brussels-Capital Region?

- Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA)
- Regional incubators
- Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry (BECI)
- Bruxelles export
- Bruxelles Formation
- Centre pour Entreprises en Difficulté (CED)
- Réseau des Centres d'entreprises
- Espace Formation PME (EFP)
- EVOLIRIS
- ICHEC PME



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

Brussels-Capital Region Business Structure

- Jan 2008: 1.048.491 inhabitants
- Regionally established businesses: 75.000 (out of which 1.300 have a foreign origin)
- Proportion of SMEs: 80% +
- Proportion of Belgian SMEs: 8%
- Predominant sectors:
 - trade
 - services
 - industry and crafts



The Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA)

The one stop shop for enterprises in Brussels, the reference public point of contact for business related issues.

- Any promotor of economic projects or existing business can obtain, free of charge, information and access training sessions.
- Sign-posting for tailor-made training requirements from companies.
- Very focused on supporting the innovation capacity of the enterprise.
- Other support services delivered through training focus on the use of ICT by the company in order to grow as well as its management capacity.



The Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA)

Some key training sessions delivered:

- Free of charge training for companies wishing to enhance their innovation capacity, notably through international opportunities as the Belgium NCP: *How to bid for EC FP7 funding?*
- *"The Young International Entrepreneur" Course*
A 24 hour course, free of charge and dedicated to Erasmus students from a Business Management School.
The focus is to foster their management capacity.



Brussels-Capital Region Incubators

- The majority of them are linked to universities and/or managed by the Brussels Regional Development Agency (BRDA) as far as the infrastructure is concerned:
 - Solvay Research & Technology
 - Tweebeeck
 - EEBIC
 - Eurobiotec
 - ICAB
- Focus on:
 - spin-offs and start-ups
 - Innovation capacity of these companies



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

Brussels Commerce and Industry (BECI)

- Provides training support to their members focusing on empowering them in terms of management and human resources skills.
- The membership is fee-based.
- Initiator of the Centre pour Entreprises en Difficulté (CED) providing support to companies going through challenging times (cash flow issues, decrease in sales...) The support provided focuses on management issues.



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

Réseau des centres d'entreprises de la région Bruxelloise

- Network of 8 business support centres.
- Focus on start-ups and growing companies.
- Wide range of services, including training on management and ICT skills.



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

Businesses training focused organisations

- **Bruxelles Formation**

Offers fee-based training to entrepreneurs and companies to support their innovation and ICT use capacity.

- **Espace Formation PME**

Offers fee-based training to entrepreneurs and companies to support their innovation and ICT use capacity.

It is only dedicated to French speaking entrepreneurs.

- **Evoliris**

Promotes the use of ICT in Brussels-based enterprises.

- **ICHEC PME**

15 week Lunch trainings formula

“PME Plus” for business managers



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

Personal conclusions

- Wide range of business support organisations in the region.
- Focus on R&D and innovation – the region holds the national competence for R&D&I and strong collaboration with universities.
- Those who focus on innovation do not focus on management and ICT and vice-versa.
- The offer is not clearly identifiable, the BEA is indeed the one stop shop as far as business support services, including trainings, are concerned.
- Some organisations provide support in both national languages (FR and NL) but the offer in French language is more important.



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu

For further information please contact EBN:

European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN)

Avenue de Tervuren 168,

1150 Brussels

Belgium

Tel.: +32.(0)2.772.89.00

Fax: +32.(0)2.772.95.74

E-mail: jbr@ebn.be

Web site: www.ebn.eu



EBN – European BIC Network

Avenue de Tervuren, 168. B – 1150 Bruxelles
Phone: + 32 2 772 89 00 - Fax: +32 2 772 95 74
E-mail: ebn@ebn.eu – Internet : www.ebn.eu