



Participant Booklet:

Brussels Visit 3-5 April 2024



futurEU

futurEU Brussels Visit 2024

Booklet Purpose

Dear participants,

This booklet informs participants in futurEU's Brussels visit of necessary information. We ask you take the time to read through the booklet in its entirety so as to be well-prepared when you join us on the trip.

Find a list of topics that this booklet covers in the table of contents. We hope that you will enjoy and benefit from this trip as much as possible. It is something that we have worked on organizing for you since September and are proud to have pulled together.

Sincerely,

Jonatan von Moltke and Floris Vissering

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Visit Purpose

The purpose of this visit is to **familiarize participants with the EU's institutions through a personal and interactive visit**. The clear focus lies on connecting students with professionals in Brussels. We want to go beyond bringing students to brick-and-mortar buildings and "simply" telling them about legislative procedures.

We aim at putting students in contact with the people that shape the Brussels bubble. Participants will hear from these people firsthand about their work and be able to put a face on the actors that collectively forge European politics. We hope participants take away a good notion of the **dynamics in EU politics** and become more confident in thinking and talking about these topics moving forward. For some, this trip may even inspire a professional path in EU policy.

Overall, we hope that futurEU's trip to Brussels makes **the Hertie School Community more knowledgeable about and engaged with European policy-making**.

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Finances

As students, many of us are limited in our financial abilities. We have tried to be mindful of this and reduce the costs of this visit for participants. We successfully raised funds with **3 donors: Hertie Student Representatives (HSR), the Jacques Delors Centre (JDC) and an Erasmus+ grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**. We thank these organizations warmly for their generous support, as we're sure you do as well.

As part of their guidelines and just the expenses, we will report about our visit to these organizations including pictures. We invite you to also share pictures and stories online, in print, and on social media as well while referring to these organizations' support (e.g. by tagging them on instagram).

In practice, these donors' support enables futurEU to cover the costs of participants' hotel stay as well as part of the transportation costs for the participants traveling collectively. We are unable to cover any of your meals or any other expenses you decide to make while in Brussels. Please make a personal budget accordingly.

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Transport - ES

Fifteen of the nineteen participants will travel as a group between Berlin and Brussels. They will do so by night train with the company called **European Sleeper**. The train tickets cost 160€ p.p. The fifteen participants will be refunded the 20€ they paid extra initially. In addition, as mentioned above, futurEU will reimburse participants' train tickets partially. This will bring down the costs per participant by approximately 70€. **The reimbursement will happen after the visit to Brussels has finished.** Please find the group's train schedule below. Obviously the train will not wait for latecomers. We encourage all participants to arrive **20 minutes before the time of the train's departure.**

From futurEU's side, **Federico Campatelli** will be your person of contact for **logistics questions** during the train journey. For participants who are traveling one or both legs individually, make sure to arrive in the **European Quarters at 9am latest on 3rd April.** Feel free to book your continuing journey from 6pm onwards on 5th April.

	2nd-3rd April	5th-6th April
Departure	22h56 (2nd April) - Berlin Gesundbrunnen	19h22 (5th April) - Bruxelles Midi
Arrival	09h27 (3rd April) - Bruxelles Midi	06h18 (6th April) - Berlin Gesundbrunnen

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Accommodation

We will stay in Hotel du Parlement for our two nights in Brussels.

Address: Rue du Parnasse 24, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium.

Note the convenience of this hotel, located just around the corner from the European Parliament. As explained above, your stay is covered by futurEU thanks to generous donations and grants. Note also that breakfast in the hotel was outside the scope of our budget, but will likely be available at 12€ per person per breakfast.

You will stay in a double or triple room, for which we are coordinating room buddies now.



Itinerary Overview

	April 3rd (See Transport Info Above)	April 4th	April 5th
Morning	09h27 Arrival, 09h45 Bag Drop at the Hotel, 10h30 Romanian Permanent Representation	09h00 American Express @APCO Offices, 11h00 Bruegel	0845 Check-out, 09h30 FGS, 11h15 DG NEAR
Afternoon	12h00 Lunch, 13h30 EEAS, 16h30 Hydrogen Europe	13h Lunch at EP and Discussion with MEP Damian Boeselager, 16h House of European History (Museum)	12h30 Lunch, 14h00 DG ECHO, 16h00 Time for Yourself!
Evening	18h Group Dinner TBD	18h Student-Alumni Mixer	19h00 Meeting at Bruxelles Midi, 19h22 Departure

Program April 3rd

Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU (10h30-12h)

Topics: Representing MS interests in the EU, Diplomacy, StratComm

Host: Olimpia Parje, Hertie Alumna

Role: Diplomat & Spokesperson / Strategic Communication.

Contact: [Email](#), [Linkedin](#)

Address: Av. de Cortenbergh 107, 1000 Bruxelles.

European External Action Service (EEAS) (13h30-16h)

Topics: EU Diplomacy, CFSP, Coordination of MS interests

Host: TBD

Address: Building 9A Rond Point Schuman 1046 Brussels.

Hydrogen Europe (16h30-18h)

Topics: Energy Policy, Energy Transition, Hydrogen in Transport Policy, Public Affairs / Lobbying

Host: TBD

Address: Av. Marnix 23, 1000 Bruxelles.



Program April 4th

American Express (09h-10h30)

Topics: Financial Policy, Public Affairs, Simulation Game

Host: Hendrik Frank, Hertie Alumni

Role: Director of Government Affairs @AMEX

Contact: [Email](#), [Linkedin](#)

Address (APCO Worldwide Offices): Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels.

Bruegel (11h-12h30)

Topics: Climate Policy, ThinkTanks in Brussels, (futurEU)

Host: Cecilia Trasi, Hertie Alumna (& futurEU co-founder!)

Role: Climate and Energy Policy Researcher

Contact: [Email](#), [Linkedin](#)

Address: Rue de la Charité 33, 1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode.

Damian Boeselager MEP (13h-15h30, incl. lunch)

Topics: Migration, Institutional Reform, AI, EU talent pool, pan-European Politics

Host: Damian Boeselager & Rina Hajdari, EU Alumni

Contact: [Email](#), [Linkedin](#)

Address: Altiero-Spinelli Building, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Ixelles.

House of European History Visit (16h-17h30)

Address: Rue Belliard 135, 1040 Bruxelles.

Student-Alumni Mixer (18h-20h30)

Address: Goethe Institut, Rue Belliard 58, 1040 Bruxelles.



Program April 5th

FGS Global (09h30-11h)

Topics: Consultancy Work

Host: Juri Wiedemann, Hertie Alumni

Role: Associate EU Policy & Public Affairs

Contact: [Linkedin](#)

Address: Av. des Arts 47/49, 1000 Bruxelles

DG NEAR (Commission) (11h15-12h30)

Topics: EU Enlargement, Ukraine Accession Policy

Host: Harmke Kruithof, Hertie Alumna

Role: EU Enlargement Coordinator on Ukraine

Contact: [Email](#)

Address: Rue Joseph II 54, 1000 Bruxelles.

DG ECHO (Commission) (14h-16h), incl. Tour

Topics: EU policy on humanitarian aid, JPP, Blue Book, Afghanistan, EU crisis response

Host: Ilan Masson, Hertie Alumni

Role: Humanitarian Aid Desk for Afghanistan, International Aid and Cooperation Officer

Contact: [Email](#), [Linkedin](#)

Address: Rue de la Loi 861000 Bruxelles.

Protocol

In short:

- Dress appropriately (business formal/casual)
- Be 20 minutes early at every organization we visit and have your ID/passport ready for security checks
- Be informed about and engaged with our hosts

As the pages above show, the program for this trip is intensive. We hope you also find it interesting. Every visit on this program represents an EU professional with an important career and busy schedule. Still, they have agreed to hosting us. This is an incredibly generous thing for them to do. We should treat it as such. This involves a number of things.

First, it is important we all dress appropriately. We will meet with people in their workplaces. Therefore you are all expected to **wear business formal or business casual attire**. The former includes a suit or a dress. The latter can include skirts and trousers with a shirt/blouse and sweater or vest. Sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts and t-shirts are not appropriate.

Second, we need to **be punctual and arrive on time**. Security checks are a high priority for EU institutions. We have already registered you at every workplace we'll visit with the details of your passport or ID card. Still, every participant will have to show that same passport or ID when we enter. Note that it has to be the same ID/passport as you sent us the information. We've been warned by some of our hosts: the security checks are often time-consuming. We will therefore arrive at every organization we will visit 15-20 minutes before our appointment. We know it can be easy to lose track of time e.g. during lunch, but we need you to be mindful of the time and cooperate in this matter.

Third, we need to all be **actively involved in the discussion with our host**. This means that we're all mentally present (and not hungover). Also, it is important everyone has researched the organization we'll visit, the person who will host us, and the projects they have worked on. We encourage you to cooperate as you research our hosts. This will enable us to engage with the host in a way that directly concerns their work and its subject matter. To that end, we also ask that you prepare a few questions for every host before we visit. Overall, we all have the best experience if we're present, informed and engaged.

Miscellaneous

Packing list

- ID Card/Passport (same as submitted to us)
- Business formal/casual attire
- Shoes comfortable to walk through the city in (for up to 30 minutes at a time)
- A cell phone + charger (same phone number as you submitted to us)
- Toiletries and medications
- A laptop or notebook with pens to make notes if you like

Class Exemption

We unfortunately did not succeed in receiving a general class exemption for all participants. However, we have discussed this with the co-director of the JDC Mark Dawson who has signed a letter to your professors which outlines our trip's purpose and will hopefully convince your professors to grant you exemptions for the classes you will have to miss. You will receive this letter in due time and we urge you to coordinate your absence with your professors as soon as possible to have the highest chances of receiving exemptions.

List of phone numbers

- Belgian Emergency Number: 112 (police, ambulance, fire brigade).
- Floris Vissering: +31 6 29 38 74 52
- Federico Campatelli: +39 345 970 2801
- Hotel Du Parlement: +32 2 512 07 13
- European Sleeper Emergency Service: +31302035833.
- Your own debit/credit card company in case you lose the card.



By the futurEU Club Board

Floris Vissering, Jonatan van Moltke, Federico
Campatelli, Christine Cepelak, Architha Menon,
Arianna Avallone

Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to
info@futureu-initiative.org !



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