

# **BELGIAN ECONOMIC MISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE BELGIAN ACADEMIC DELEGATION**

Presentation of the Belgian academic delegation

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## **PRESENTATION OF THE BELGIAN ACADEMIC DELEGATION**



## BELGIAN ACADEMIC DELEGATION

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## **UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN**

Founded in 1425, the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) is one of Europe's oldest universities with 40,000 students, nearly 20% of whom are international, and 6,500 staff members, a quarter of which comes from abroad. It has 8 campuses, the main one located in a unique environment a few kilometers south of Brussels and 3 others in the heart of the capital. UCLouvain is ranked among the world's top 200 universities (Shanghai, QS, THE) and is one of the top 200 universities in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (THE Impact). In 2022, it was also ranked in the 50 most international universities in the world (THE).

UCLouvain is part of several international European university networks (The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, EUA, Coimbra, CESAER, etc.) and is part of the Circle U. European University alliance together with Aarhus University, King's College London, Humboldt University in Berlin, Université Paris-Cité, University of Belgrade, University of Pisa, University of Oslo and University of Vienna.

UCLouvain offers high-quality teaching in all disciplines, thanks to its 19 faculties and research activities focused on current societal issues such as climate change, democracy, global health, sustainable development and innovation. UCLouvain was the first French-speaking university in Europe to offer MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses), in French and English, on the edX platform, which has been providing online courses to millions of students worldwide for the past ten years. With 54 ERC (European Research Council) grants and numerous other international awards, teaching at UCLouvain is based on solid research and innovation, with many practical applications for society, as illustrated by the 62 spin-offs and over 250 companies in the university's two science parks. UCLouvain has also two university hospitals one located in Brussels (Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc), the other at the heart of Wallonia (CHU UCL Namur).



**Prof. Dr. Didier LAMBERT**

***Rector***



Didier Lambert is a pharmacist, who has worked as a medicinal chemist in the design of new pharmacological agents. He obtained his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from UCLouvain in 1994. He moved then to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA, for a postdoctoral position. In September 1995, he returned to UCLouvain and obtained an associate professorship position. He is now teaching medicinal chemistry and drug design at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences as well as at the Faculty of Sciences. He is a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium.

He has held a number of successive leadership positions at UCLouvain: President of the School of Pharmacy (2002-2007), Dean of Teaching in the Faculty of Medicine (2007-2009), and Sector Coordinator for Teaching in the Health Sciences Sector (2009-2010). He has served continuously on the Academic Council since 2002 and has been Vice-Chairman since 2017. Since 2010, he has been a member of the Rectors' Council, initially as Vice-Rector for Student Affairs for two terms (2010-2019). In 2019, he became Vice-Rector for Personnel Policy.

Since February 9th, 2024, he is Rector of UCLouvain.

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**Prof. Dr. Dana SAMSON**

***Pro-rector for International Affairs***



Dana Samson is a cognitive neuropsychologist who has worked both as clinician and researcher. She obtained her doctorate from UCLouvain in 2001. She then worked in the UK as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham (2005-2007) and then as a professor at the University of Nottingham (2007-2010). In 2010, she returned to UCLouvain where she now works as a full professor in the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences. She conducts research in cognitive, affective and social neuroscience and teaches clinical neuropsychology. She received the New Investigator Award (Medical Research Council - UK) in 2005, the Elizabeth Warrington Early Career Prize (British Neuropsychological Society) in 2007, and the Francqui Professorship (Fondation Francqui - Belgium) in 2009. She was a visiting researcher at the Centre for Advanced Studies at Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich in 2014 and a visiting professor at the Department of Cognitive Science at Central European University in Budapest in 2015. Since 2016, she has been Pro-rector International at UCLouvain.

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**Prof. Dr. Jean-Christophe RENAULD**

***Pro-rector for Research***



Jean-Christophe Renauld is a specialist in immunology. After completing his medical training at UCLouvain in 1988, he successively held the positions of aspirant, research fellow and qualified researcher at the FNRS. Initially trained as an MD, he became acquainted with basic research at the de Duve Institute in Brussels. He has been teaching immunology at the medical school of UCLouvain since 1999 and his research activity at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research focused on the identification of new cytokines such as Interleukin-9 (IL-9) and IL-22. Jean-Christophe Renauld has also been a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium since 2009.

He is co-author of 200 peer-reviewed articles and 30 patents and received the international Inbev Baillet Latour Health prize in 2000. He has been appointed pro-rector for research at UCL in 2014.

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**Ms. Christel VACELET**

***Director of the International Relations Administration***



Christel Vacelet arrived in Belgium in 1995 to do an internship at the European Commission in Brussels. Her academic career was dedicated to political science and international relations in various universities: the Institut d'Etude Politiques de Lyon (France), Portland State University (USA), the Université Gustave Eiffel (France) and, for a summer, the University of International Relations in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia).

After six years at the European Commission in the first department devoted to digital communication and a spell in the Erasmus, Leonardo and Youth Technical Assistance Office, Christel Vacelet joined the European University Association (EUA) in 2003, where she helped set up the Bologna process and develop the young association until 2008. Since then, issues relating to higher education and research in Europe have been at the heart of her professional career. She also worked at Eurydice (European network on education systems) and European Schoolnet (network of European ministries of education) before returning to the EUA in 2016. Ms Vacelet has also been involved with Amnesty International in French-speaking Belgium, serving as its president from 2017 to 2021.

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**Ir. Xavier LEPOT**

***Director of the Research Administration***



Xavier Lepot has been the Director of the Research Administration (ADRE) of UCLouvain since August 2020. A married father of three, Mr. Lepot says he is driven above all by the passion to link people, tools, approaches, and fields in order to transform ideas into projects.

He graduated from UCLouvain with a master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1986. He completed his training with a specialization in industrial management at KU Leuven in 1987, during which he was a teaching assistant at the Louvain School of Engineering. He completed his training with a master's degree in inventive design at INSA Strasbourg in 2010.

In 1989, he joined Solvay where he held various positions related to research and development, production and business. In 2005, he left the company after serving as a business unit R&D director. In 2007, after spending two years in Germany, he joined the Walloon Region's Agence de Stimulation Technologique (AST). He built a large network of operators in research and technological innovation. He left AST in 2011 to co-found the company xFIVE, which helps research centers, universities, companies and public institutions to carry out innovative projects. Since 2017, he has been teaching the metal technology course to industrial designers at the Ecole nationale supérieure des arts visuels de la Cambre.

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## **UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES**

With one-third of its 38.000 students coming from abroad, the Université libre de Bruxelles is one of the most multicultural Belgian universities. It has a long-held tradition of excellence, thanks to its more than 220 research units, 8 interdisciplinary institutes, over 2,000 PhD candidates and more than 3.600 researchers and members of academic staff in all fields. It received 4 scientific Nobel Prizes out of the 6 awarded to Belgians, among them the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics. Actively involved in the European Research Area, ULB has obtained to this day 49 ERC grants and received European funding (COFUND) to host international post-doctoral researchers. With its 12 faculties, schools and institutes, it trains students in all disciplines, closely combining cutting-edge research and education. ULB also recently spearheaded the creation of a large-scale university hospitals network and a scientific biopark dedicated to technological innovation. Open to the world, ULB has set up many partnerships with some of the world's top universities and is a proud member of the CIVIS European Alliance. The L in ULB stands for “libre” (free). Since its creation, ULB has been cultivating the flame of freedom. It has constantly demonstrated its independence and its commitment to the great struggles for democracy, individual liberties and human rights.

**Prof. Dr. Arnaud MARCHANT**

***Research Director, FNRS Director, European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology***



Arnaud Marchant, MD PhD, is Director of the European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), a joint initiative with the University of Antwerp to accelerate the evaluation of vaccines for pandemic and endemic pathogens. He has more than 20 years' experience in infectious disease and vaccine immunology and worked at the Medical Research Council Laboratories, The Gambia, and at the Weatherall Institute for Molecular Medicine, Oxford. During the pandemic, he led the COVID-19 diagnosis platform at ULB, within the federal initiative to expand diagnosis capacity in Belgium and participated in COVID-19 vaccine studies coordinated by the Belgian Public Health Institute, Sciensano. He is a member of the steering committee of the center of excellence in vaccinology led by the Belgian Agency for Medicines and Health Products. He is teaching vaccinology in national and internal courses. His activities are integrated in research networks in Europe and the US, with support from the European Commission, the CEPI, HERA and the US NIH.

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**Prof. Dr. Pieter PANNUS**

***Program manager, European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology***



Pieter obtained a master's degree in medical cell and gene bioengineering at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) in 2009 and followed this up with one year of pre-doctoral research in the field of parasitology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA. He then decided to widen his scope and pursue a master's degree in international public health within the TropEd network, entailing academic stays at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp (Belgium), the University of Heidelberg (Germany), the University of Bergen (Norway), and the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Basel (Switzerland). In between these stays, Pieter worked for a total of three years with the medical humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières as a laboratory and operational research coordinator in more than ten, mostly African countries. In 2014, he obtained his master's degree in public health defending his thesis based on field research performed whilst on mission in Malawi. From 2015 to 2019, Pieter performed his doctoral research at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and obtained his PhD in biomedical sciences.

He then worked for a brief period at the AIDS reference laboratory of the ITM in Antwerp, and for about a year at the Centre for Medical Genetics of the University Hospital of Jette, Belgium, before joining the Belgian Scientific Institute for Public Health (Sciensano) during the COVID-19 crisis. Here, he conducted and coordinated several COVID-19 vaccination trials under the umbrella of the Belgian COVID vaccination consortium (BelCoVac).

In January 2023, Pieter started as a program manager at the newly created European Plotkin Institute for Vaccinology of the Université libre de Bruxelles where he works in the coordination of international research projects.

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**Prof. Dr. Marius GILBERT**

***Research Director, FNRS, Vice-Rector for Research ULB***



Professor Marius Gilbert is Vice-Rector for Research and Valorization at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He started his research career as a visiting researcher at the University of Oxford, obtained a PhD on the spatial epidemiology of a forest insect pest at ULB, where he was awarded in 2006 a permanent FNRS-FRS academic position. In 2016, he founded the Spatial Epidemiology Lab (SpELL) and lead it until 2023. During the COVID pandemic, he joined the expert group assembled by Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes to advise the government and was at the forefront of the expert communication in the media. In September 2020, he published a book titled “Juste un passage au JT”, which aimed to popularize the science behind the pandemic and to share the experience of a scientist's journey at the nexus of political decision and communication. His research interests include emerging infectious diseases and global changes.

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**Mr. Yvon MOLINGHEN**

***International Relations Officer in charge of Europe and Latin America***



Yvon Molinghen holds a master's degree in Translation (English and Spanish) and joined the ULB in 1993 as a member of the team managing Erasmus student exchanges. At the time of the Bologna reform, he moved to the Education Department of the university and took part in the process of European harmonization of curricula and degrees. He came back to the International Office in 2015 to become the person in charge of relations with European and Latin American universities.

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## **UNIVERSITÉ DE LIÈGE**

The University of Liège (ULiège), founded in 1817, is the largest French-speaking public university in Belgium. It welcomes 28,000 students (25% of whom are international) in 11 faculties representing the humanities, health sciences, sciences, and technology. ULiège is located in 3 towns in Wallonia: Liège, Gembloux and Arlon. It collaborates with more than 1,000 teaching and research institutions around the world. It is strengthening its research centers in areas such as biotechnology, life sciences and medical sciences (human and veterinary), agro-bio tech, space sciences, engineering, and the environment. It plays an active role in social and environmental transition, encouraging responsible citizenship and ethical, transdisciplinary research. ULiège has strong expertise in the exploitation of research through the management of patents and the creation of spin-off companies. It is a major employer: more than 5,600 employees, and 12,000 jobs together with the University Hospital (CHU) of Liège.

ULiège has various teaching and research links with Norwegian partners, mainly the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, in fields as diverse as renewable energies, medical sciences and the circular economy.

**Mr. Robert BAUDINET**

***CEO at Matvision and Research Engineer, GeMMe***



Robert Baudinet is an R&D Engineer from the University of Liège and the CEO of Matvision. As a spin-off from the University, Matvision is on a mission to revolutionize the recycling industry with cutting-edge sorting solutions that leverage sophisticated sensor technologies, artificial intelligence, and robotics. This initiative plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of extracting valuable materials from waste, thereby promoting resource sustainability and minimizing environmental degradation.

In addition to his role at Matvision, Robert is actively involved as a R&D Engineer at the GeMMe research group from ULiège, where he has coordinated several research projects aimed at developing new sorting solutions for waste streams that are currently unsortable and, as a result, challenging to recycle. The commitment of the GeMMe group to identifying, characterizing, and quantifying mineral resources using a comprehensive array of sensors (VNIR-SWIR-3D-XRT-LIBS-XRF, etc.) and developing advanced classification tools is in harmony with Robert's efforts to create intelligent sorting systems for the recycling industry. This synergy underscores his profound engagement in generating precise data and addressing challenges in downstream processing, essential for managing both primary ores and waste streams effectively.

The involvement of the GeMMe group in mineral processing and hydrometallurgy, backed by extensive lab and pilot-scale facilities, further amplifies the team's ability to refine recycling processes. This multidisciplinary approach, which includes programming, automation, robotics, and machine learning, empowers the team to tackle complex challenges in processing a variety of materials, such as plastics, non-ferrous waste or automotive shredder residues (ASR).

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**Dr. Vincent UYTENDAELE**

***CEO at Insilicare and Researcher, GIGA***



Vincent Uyttendaele is specialized in the field of biomedical engineering and healthcare technology. He graduated as a biomedical engineer from the University of Liège, Belgium, in 2015, commencing a journey marked by innovation and commitment to improving healthcare outcomes.

Driven by a passion for research and innovation, Vincent pursued a PhD program at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, focusing on patient-specific metabolic variability and precision glycemic control in critical care. His research contributions have significantly advanced precision medicine for glucose control in critical care settings.

After completing his PhD in 2020, Vincent returned to the University of Liège for a post-doctoral position. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he led the early development of an intelligent facemask for real-time lung condition assessment, demonstrating adaptability and addressing pressing healthcare needs.

In parallel, Vincent founded Insilicare, a spinoff company of the University of Liège, aimed at translating research findings into practical solutions for real-world clinical settings. Through Insilicare, Vincent has developed clinical decision support systems based on AI-powered digital twin technology, contributing to improved healthcare efficiency and patient outcomes.

Vincent is also involved in European projects focused on roadmapping the future of digital twin technology in healthcare, shaping innovation in the field. Vincent Uyttendaele's dedication to advancing healthcare through research and entrepreneurship exemplifies his commitment to making a positive impact in the industry.

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**Ir. Didier MATTIVI**

***Director of Research Innovation Support and Enterprises***



Didier Mattivi owns a diploma of Civil Engineer with a major in physics from Liege University as well as a degree in management from Solvay Business School (Free University of Brussels). Didier started his career in IT for banks and move to a sales position at Cisco. In 2005 he started IP Trade a start up building telephony solution for trading floor, the company reached a position of worldwide n°2 on the market and was purchased by BT in 2017. Didier left BT in 2019 and started a different venture. In 2021 Didier has joined Liege University as director of research and innovation in charge of internal management of research, research financing and knowledge transfer.

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## **UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR**

Founded in 1831, the University of Namur (UNamur) carries on the values of the Jesuit traditions of openness, excellence, freedom, and sustainability in its mission of teaching, research, and service to society. UNamur's priority is to educate students and young researchers to become responsible and active members of the society and encourage them not only to acquire solid knowledge in their chosen fields of study, but also to engage in extra-curricular activities and in social, cultural, and humanitarian projects.

The University is situated in Namur, the capital city of Wallonia. It is home to some 7500 students studying in more than 50 academic programs offered by seven different Faculties. The programs are embedded in strong research capabilities. Researchers collaborate in the framework of eleven transdisciplinary research institutes and nine research platforms. Research activities are clustered around five main transversal topics: Life and Health Sciences, Information and Communication Technologies and Society; Heritages, Cultures and Societies, Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Materials, Energy and Environment.

UNamur is a member of several international networks and collaborates with many international partners. It plays an important role at local, regional, and national level by encouraging a dialogue with economic and political actors. It contributes to the creation and the transmission of knowledge and to high quality education for all students, regardless of their origin. It promotes excellence in research and attaches great importance to the wellbeing of the entire academic community.



**Pr. Dr. Annick CASTIAUX**

***Rector***



Doctor in Physics, Annick Castiaux began her career as an FNRS fellow at the Solid Physics Laboratory of the University of Namur. In 1998, after a post-doctoral experience in France, she left the academia to start a career as a consultant in Information Management at IRIS, an international company active in the field of digital economy.

In 2002, she was appointed as a professor in the Management Department of the UNamur, where she has developed a new curriculum in business engineering. At the same time, she launched a research group in Innovation Management to study technology and innovation, with an approach paying great attention to social responsibility and sustainable development.

Her interest in exploring creative and innovation processes and their impact on society has led her to cofound (in 2014) the TRAKK a creative hub, where actors from different backgrounds can interact and collaborate on a number of projects. In 2015 she cofounded the *Creativity and Innovation Research Centre (CIRCé)*, a research unit operating within the Namur Digital Institute and whose aim is to study innovation ecosystems.

Director of the Management department from 2013 to 2017, she has been serving as academic Director for International Affairs from 2013 to 2017 and as Vice-rector for teaching, quality assurance, communication and digital transition from 2017 to 2021. Since 2018 she is the representative of the Association of French-speaking rectors in the EUA working group on Innovation ecosystems.

From 2020-2021 she was a member of the Strategic committee of *Get Up Wallonia*.

In March 2021, she has been elected as Rector. She has started her mandate in September 2021.

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## HAUTE ÉCOLE EN HAINAUT

The Haute Ecole en Hainaut (HEH) is a Belgian French-speaking university college located in the province of Hainaut, 50 kilometres south of Brussels, the capital of Europe. HEH is organized by Wallonie-Bruxelles-Enseignement (WBE).

Created in 1996 as a result of the reunification of all higher education institutions located in the province of Hainaut and all belonging to WBE, it gathers four former independent institutions in the fields of education, social sciences, economics (law, tourism and administration) and technical engineering (with orientations in informatics, construction, land surveyors and life data technology).

HEH has now 3,600 students and 390 staff members (teaching, administrative and research). It grants 22 bachelor's degrees and 6 master's degrees and has been awarded multiple research grants.

Through its active policy of encouraging international partnerships, HEH enhances learning opportunities by stimulating mobility for students and teachers in all programmes. Moreover, bioinformatics and data sciences are in full evolution, promoting opportunities, developing employment as well as sustaining the emergence of a biotechnology ecosystem in Belgium. HEH is thus targeting to develop collaboration in Norway in various fields in research, more specifically in modern technical engineering and in life data sciences. In this regard, the recent advances in the field of biomedical and pharmaceuticals development in Belgium highlight HEH expertise in bioinformatics and willingness to collaborate internationally.

**Prof. Denis DUFRANE**

***Director-President***



Denis Dufrane is a linguist and philologist specialised in Dutch and English literature. He studied at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and was awarded a master's degree in Germanic philology in 1986. His master's thesis was supervised by Prof. Paul Hadermann in Dutch literature. He has been an English teacher in the teacher training department of the Haute Ecole en Hainaut (HEH.be) for more than 20 years. He then accepted the position of Director of the teacher training department of the HEH from 2006 till 2009. After being re-elected in 2021, he started a third mandate as Director-President of the HEH, a French-speaking university college located in the province of Hainaut, 50 kilometres south of Brussels, the capital of Europe.

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**Mr. Dominique DECKERS**

***Director of the Department of Sciences and Technologies***



Dominique Deckers is an electrical engineer specialising in telecommunications and signal processing. He studied at the Faculté Polytechnique de Mons (FPMS) and obtained a master's degree in electrical engineering in 1992. His master's thesis was supervised by Prof. René Boite in signal processing and digital filtering. For 20 years, he was a lecturer in electrical engineering at the Sciences and Technologies Department of the Haute École en Hainaut (HEH.be). From 2011 to the present, he has been Director of the Sciences and Technologies Department of the HEH. After his re-election in 2021, he began a third term as Director of the Sciences and Technologies Department of the HEH, a French-speaking university located in the province of Hainaut, 50 kilometres south of Brussels, the capital of Europe.

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**Dr. Aline LEONET**

***Coordinator of the master's in industrial engineering: Life Data Technologies***



After completing her master's degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Mons (UMONS), Aline Leonet started a PhD in Marine Biology in September 2005 under the supervision of Professor I. Eeckhaut. The subject of the thesis, entitled "Oocyte maturation in *Holothuria scabra*", was partly carried out with the IHSM in Madagascar and involved more than 6 months of fieldwork in the town of Tuléar in southern Madagascar. The skills acquired during this thesis focused on protein mapping and the study of oocyte maturation mechanisms in marine echinoderms.

Following this thesis, Ms Leonet had the opportunity to become a teaching assistant at UMONS under the supervision of Professor R. Wattiez. This led to an opportunity to teach at the Haute École en Hainaut in a "Biotechnics with Bioinformatics option" section. Since then, Aline Leonet has been involved in HEH.be, in particular by participating in the creation of a Life Data Technology - Bioinformatics industrial engineering course, in research (in particular as director of the ESTISIM research centre) and in her work as teaching coordinator in the Science and Technology department of HEH.be.

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**Ms. Laurence BARAS**

***Institutional Coordinator at the International Relations Commission***



With a master's degree in Translation (English-Spanish) and a master's Degree in Economics from UMONS, specialising in Business Management, Ms Laurence BARAS began her career as an Assistant and Account Manager, responsible for managing and coordinating the operational and commercial activities of credit insurance at TCIC (the consulting arm of Atradius' parent company) and then at Atradius' head office. She was the interface for the sales representatives of the joint ventures and local partners in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America markets. Position based in Brussels (subsidiary) and then in Namur (head office). Position held for 11 years.

She then had the opportunity to join the Haute Ecole en Hainaut University College, mainly based in Mons, where she held three positions simultaneously: Institutional Coordinator of the Student Educational Support Unit for 10 years, Institutional Coordinator of the International Relations Commission and Lecturer in Management at the Engineering School of HEH.be; the last two positions she still holds today.

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## **HAUTE ÉCOLE LIBRE MOSANE**

HELMo University College is an institution of Higher Education, with over 8500 students and 900 staff members, which offers a wide range of bachelor and master study programmes (40) in several departments: EDUCATIONAL - HEALTHCARE - SOCIAL - BUSINESS & LAW - INFORMATICS & TECHNICS.

It is located in Liège, in the South-East of Belgium in very rich and diversified region close to Germany, the Netherlands, France and Luxemburg. Liège has long been described as being one of three sisters, together with Aachen (in Germany) and Maastricht (in the Netherlands).

HELMo's main purpose is to prepare the students for professional careers both in the private and public sector. HELMo focuses on working closely with the local community and with a huge network of companies willing to help the students meet the requirements of the job market.



**Dr. Sandra BELBOOM**

***Lecturer***



In 2008, Sandra graduated in chemical engineering at the University of Liège. She completed her studies with a PhD in Life Cycle Assessment. Her thesis was dedicated to the environmental assessment of the best use of bioethanol. After eight years as a researcher at the University of Liège on several projects related to LCA, she became a lecturer at the HELMo-Gramme University College, where she teaches chemistry, environment and sustainability to industrial engineering students. She is also involved in several research projects with the associated research centre (CRIG) where she applies the LCA methodology to several topics such as photovoltaic panels, the renewable energy community or biotechnology. Her areas of expertise are environmental chemistry, life cycle assessment, circular economy and sustainability.

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## **HAUTE ÉCOLE LOUVAIN EN HAINAUT**

With its 7 study domains (Agronomy, Applied Arts, Business School, Teacher Training, Social Studies, Nursing & Healthcare, Technology and Engineering School) spread over the province of Hainaut, HELHa is the largest University College in the French speaking part of Belgium, providing 60 different bachelor's and master's Degrees to more than 10,000 students.

As a University College, it recruits regional and local students to prepare them for their future jobs in companies or services in the area and in the world. HELHa's ambition and strategy is to progress and move on alongside the world evolution under its various aspects and disciplines. This means a constant adaptation and renewal of our habits, reflexes and trends, so as to get the highest possible added value for our students, the next generation of European and world citizens.

HELHa was created on 15 September 2009 as a merger of the 3 autonomously subsidised higher education institutions in the province of Hainaut. It is at the moment located on 15 sites, of which the 2 most distant ones are at 150 km. With more than 10,000 students it is the largest university college in the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. Around 2,000 students graduate each year at HELHa in one of the 60 degrees.

Its staff is above 1,000 members (875 academic and 125 administrative).

**Prof. Philippe DECLERCQ**

***Director-President***



Philippe DECLERCQ has been President-Director at HELHa since December 2017, after having been Vice-President-Director since March 2012. After his civil service at the NGO ATD Fourth World in London and Brussels in Sept 1991, he started his professional career as a technical sales representative within the Building Company SA RONVEAUX in Ciney (BE) in January 1993. He then started teaching to Bachelor students in Building in Sept 1993, where he progressively became the pedagogical coordinator (Sept 1998) of this bachelor's degree and Head of the Technical bachelor's degrees in Sept 2004.

He was very active in the piloting of the strategic plan of HELHa in 2014, of INTERREG projects with the University of Amiens, internal auditor for the road laboratories of SA LABOTOUR (Tournai, BE), invited guest speaker at KAHO-St-Lieven in Aalst.

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**Ms. Pauline CORNIL**

***Head of International Office***



Pauline Cornil studied translation in English and German at the University of Mons and then worked as a translator and project manager in a translation office for many years. She had the opportunity to join the International Office at HELHa as Outgoing Mobility Coordinator in May 2020. Since September 2023, she has taken over a new function as Coordinator of the International Office. The main tasks of the IO are to promote internationalisation, support students and staff mobility, and create/manage partnerships with other Higher Education Institutions in Europe and all over the world.

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Haute Ecole de la Province de Liège  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE PROVINCE OF LIEGE

## **HAUTE ÉCOLE DE LA PROVINCE DE LIÈGE**

The University college of the Province of Liège awards a wide range of master's and bachelor's Degrees in many subjects.

Whatever the field of study, our institution offers trainings combining theoretical and practical aspects as it allows students to carry out field placements and meet the professionals. It offers more than 60 courses in 12 areas: more than 30 Bachelors (short type), 7 Masters (long type) and 14 Specializations.

Our teaching staff is fully committed to offering students highquality education. The University college of the Province of Liège is today recognized as a competent partner, and as such is involved in the economic development of Liège, and more widely, of the whole Walloon region.

The HEPL has the desire to turn towards Europe and the world and it is now part of UNIGreen Alliance. The Green European University is an Alliance of 8 European Higher Education Institutions (University of Almería, Spain; Agricultural University of Iceland, Iceland; Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Bulgarie ; Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra, Portugal ; Paris Sup'Biotech, France ; Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Italie ; Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Pologne) that share the common vision of promoting excellence in Teaching, Learning, Research and Innovation in field of Sustainable Agriculture, Green Biotechnology and Environmental and Life Sciences.

UNIGreen valorises and builds on a long-lasting collaboration to create an integrated European University supporting the green economy.

**Ms. Annick LAPIERRE**

***Director-President***



From 1990 to 1994, Annick studied Physical Education at the University of Liège. She completed these studies with a licence degree in Physiotherapy from 1994 to 1996, also at the University of Liège. She also obtains a teaching diploma for these two subjects. Before joining HEPL, she worked as an independent physiotherapist from 1996 to 2002. From 1996 to 2013, she became lecturer at HEPL in these two fields. Between 2013 and 2018, she started to work as Director of Pedagogical department. This involved ensuring the strategic and operational direction of the department by participating in various management bodies such as the Board of Directors or Management College. In 2018, she was elected as Director-President at HEPL. Its strategic development objectives are the development of innovative education in a sustainable framework, conducive to collaborative exchanges and mobility while promoting self-fulfillment.

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**Prof. Dr. Ir. Julie REMICHE**

***Head of the “health sciences” department***



Julie Remiche holds a civil engineering physicist degree from the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of Liège (obtained in 1997) and a certificate of aptitude for higher education (CAPAES obtained in 2006).

She was an Assistant at the University of Liège in experimental physics (1997-2004), teaches physics to students in the biomedical field, and is a researcher in protein crystallography. She was a member of the organizing committee of the Imagésanté festival in Liège, and a scientific collaborator within Réjouissances, the science dissemination unit of ULiège (2000-2012).

Then, she became an assistant professor in physics at the HEPL (2004-2021), in the medical imaging technologist, medical laboratory technologist, and dietetics sections. She continues to participate in science dissemination activities as a scientific collaborator within Réjouissances.

She was educational and quality coordinator of the medical laboratory technologist section within the Health Sciences department from 2017 to 2021.

Since December 2021, she has become Head of the health sciences department at the HEPL and continues to teach physics applied to medical imaging.

Since March 2023, she has become a member of the scientific and academic council of Unigreen.

She is an experienced professional committed to promoting science education and higher paramedical training.

She is an experienced professional committed to promoting science education and higher paramedical education.

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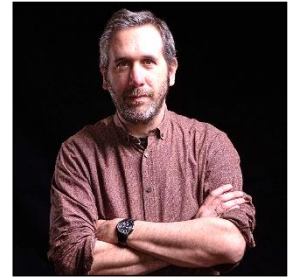
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**Dr. Valéry BROUN**

***Head of the “science and technology” department***



Valéry Broun is a Belgian engineer and researcher, specializing in electronics, with a dense and varied career that spans more than two decades.

During his academic career in HEPL, he collaborated also as a researcher with the Walloon Region, ULiège’s S3L and Intelsig, working on pioneering projects such as the OUFTI-1 satellite.

His commitment to research is evidenced by his participation in more than nine major research projects, including Demeter, Deamon and Antilope, and by his contributions to more than 40 publications between 2004 and 2020. Valéry has been honored for his achievements and impact in his field, receiving distinctions such as Knight of the Walloon Order of Merit and being elected Liégeois of the year in the Manager category.

Beyond his academic and professional achievements, Valéry has also played a key role in the development of innovative technologies and in the promotion of research and education in the field of electronic and space engineering. His biography reflects a career dedicated to the advancement of science and technology, marked by a deep commitment to teaching, research and innovation.

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## CMMI

The CMMI is a technological platform that combines bioimaging expertise of the ULB and the UMONS to provide **integrated (pre)-clinical imaging** solutions for Lifesciences, Biotech or Medtech partners.

Our center offers a wide range of services, ranging from sub-cellular microscopy to in vivo small animal imaging:

- Fluorescence and electronic microscopy,
- In vivo (in small animals) including, radiochemical testing facilities, both ionizing imaging modalities (micro-CT, microPET and microSPECT) and non-ionizing imaging approaches (such as MRI, MSOT and bioluminescence),
- Validation of tissue-based biomarkers using standardized ICH digital pathology investigations, with up to date automates,
- Multimodal image processing (image processing, analysis, and data quantification).

Our facility has been founded by the European Union and the Walloon Region (FEDER Convergence Program)

Virtual visit of our Center: <https://youtu.be/vdQyObAGm-8>

## **Dr. Natacha LOURETTE**

### ***Managing Director of CMMI in Gosselies***



Natacha Lourette is a seasoned professional with extensive experience across various domains, notably in scientific research, business development, and project management. Since March 2020, she is serving as the Director of CMMI at ULB in Gosselies, Belgium. Natacha oversees the operations of an academic preclinical imaging facility. Her responsibilities encompass a wide spectrum, including operational activities, formulation of robust business strategies, and spearheading scientific projects and programs.

Prior to her current role, Natacha held pivotal positions at Koninklijke DSM N.V. in Geleen, Netherlands. As the New Business Development Manager, she managed projects related to non-invasive diagnostic tools, developed effective marketing strategies, oversaw client portfolios, and led sales initiatives. During this time, she followed an extensive strategic marketing management training at ChicagoBooth, United States. Earlier, as a Scientist at DSM, she significantly contributed to grant applications, project implementation, and the development of non-invasive diagnostic platforms.

Before entering the corporate world, Natacha refined her research skills as an Associate Scientist at EMSL, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, United States, in Prof. R. Smith's laboratory. There, she focused on FT-ICR mass spectrometry methodology development applied to biochemistry, particularly in the field of oxidative stress and hibernation. In 2007, she received the Systems Biology Fellows Award for Post-doctoral research in system biology from EMSL.

Natacha holds a Ph.D. in Physico-Chemistry from the University of Lorraine, Metz, France, where her research centered on the study of new photosensitizers' degradation for cancer therapy (December 2004). She also holds a master's degree in the structure and dynamic of Biomolecules.

She has a strong track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and has delivered numerous presentations at international conferences, showcasing her expertise and contributions to the scientific community.

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**Dr. Robert MULLER**

***Director of International Partnerships CMMI***



Robert N. Muller studied at the University of Mons-Hainaut (UMH), Belgium, from which he was graduated with a Lic. Sci. Degree in chemistry in 1969.

He obtained his PhD in 1974 from the same University where he was successively appointed Assistant, Lecturer and full Professor.

He did post-doctoral studies in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Paul C. Lauterbur's\* research group at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1981-82 and was on a sabbatical leave at the Center for Magnetic Resonance (CERM), Florence, Italy. Prof Paul Lauterbur got in 2003 the Nobel prize for the discovery of MRI.

Former head of the Department of General, Organic and Biomedical Chemistry and, from 2005 till 2013, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the University of Mons.

Co-founder of the Center for Microscopy and Molecular Imaging – CMMI, then successively its Scientific Director (2010-2015) and Director of International Partnerships (2015-now).

He has produced more than 200 publications and contributed to 6 books mainly in the context of the development and applications of contrast agents for Molecular Imaging.

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[Profil de robert muller](#)





## **LiEU**

Created in 2003, the LiEU Network, supported by the Walloon Region, brings together the Knowledge Transfer Offices (KTO) of the 5 French-speaking universities. These promote and facilitate relations between the scientific community, businesses, organizations, and public authorities. The experts of the KTO members of the LiEU Network are in the universities, close to the scientific expertise. The LiEU Network relies on a multidisciplinary team, bringing together experts in valorization, business developers, communication specialists, data managers, legal experts, patent managers, investment funds, and more. These teams are supported by a combination of regional, academic, and private funding.

Our missions are:

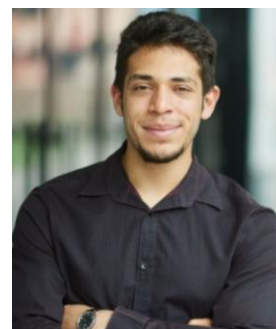
- Monitoring projects and identifying valuable research results, as well as pinpointing business innovation needs.
- Supporting researchers and socio-economic actors in their innovation endeavors and facilitating inter-university projects.
- Organizing inter-university research-industry events centered on specific themes to enhance collaboration between academia and industry.

Every year, the LiEU Network achieves...

- 40 patents filed.
- 1100 research proposals submitted within the framework of Walloon calls.
- 10 spin-offs created.
- 140 licenses concluded for the benefit of companies and other organizations.

**Mr. Joachim RUOL**

***Business Developer KTO ULB/LIEU Network***



Joachim Ruol is a dynamic professional specializing in business development. Having obtained his master's degree in business engineering from the Louvain School of Management in 2019, he subsequently held the position of Business Developer at the ULB Knowledge Transfer Office. During his tenure, Joachim focused on intellectual property rights management, including asset identification, market analysis, patenting, and technology pricing in the life sciences industry. His role extended beyond this; he was also involved in licensing negotiation and post-licensing reporting.

Joachim excelled in networking, representing ULB as well as the Lieu Network at international pharmaceutical conventions such as BIO US, Biofit, Bio-Europe, and Essenscia. He used these platforms to showcase technologies from universities and engage in commercial prospecting. As a key support in spin-off creation, Joachim provided expertise in developing robust business models and financial plans. He also supervised the work of interns, sharing his knowledge and experience with the next generation of professionals.

Additionally, Joachim contributed to promoting technologies on online platforms such as LinkedIn and In-Part, through article writing and creating informative videos to highlight the university's innovations. With an unwavering commitment to innovation and business development, Joachim Ruol is a valuable asset for any organization looking to leverage its intellectual resources and explore new opportunities in the market."

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## **WALLONIA-BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL**

Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI) is the public agency responsible for international relations of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and Wallonia. WBI promotes entities with an international capacity for action (such as universities, clusters or companies) in Wallonia-Brussels and defends the values and interests of each of the parties, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual aid.

In the framework of agreements with 70 countries and regions, WBI supports all stakeholders in Wallonia-Brussels. Actions are carried out in areas such as culture, scientific research and higher education.

Wallonia-Brussels International works among others through a network of scientific liaison offices. The general objective of the network is to promote scientific and technological relations between research and innovation operators in Wallonia-Brussels and partner countries.



## **WALLONIA-BRUSSELS CAMPUS**

Wallonia-Brussels Campus (WB Campus) is the agency for the promotion of higher education of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation on the international stage. Under the auspices of Wallonia-Brussels International and the Ministry of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, the agency serves French-speaking Belgian higher education institutions and international students. It works to enhance the visibility and attractiveness of higher education institutions in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation: 6 universities, 19 colleges, and 16 schools of arts. To achieve its goals, WB Campus has developed several information and promotion tools, including a website [www.studyinbelgium.be](http://www.studyinbelgium.be), which enables international students to access all information related to a study or research project in French-speaking Belgium.



**Ms. Pascale DELCOMMINETTE**

***General Administrator***



From 1986 to 1990, Pascale studied translation (English and Spanish) at the International Interpreters' School (EII) in Mons. She completed these studies first with a European Studies certificate (1989-1990), then with a second certificate in Hispanic American Studies (1990-1991). A 'licence' degree (now the equivalent of an MA) in Social and Economic Sciences (1990-1992), a teaching diploma (1993-1994) and a post-graduate degree in International Commerce (1995-1996) were to follow.

Before joining Awex, the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, in 1995, she worked as a project co-ordinator for the ECC, and then in a research position at the Political and Social Economy department at the University of Liège.

In April 1997, Pascale joined the office of the Minister-President of the Walloon Government as an advisor. In 1999, it was time for a change. Pascale became an advisor to the office of the Vice-President of the Walloon Government, in the "General Policy" cell. She left the ministries in 2002 to become Manager for the General Secretariat of the Wallonia Regional Investment Society. From 2004 to 2013, she worked in a series of managerial positions at the ministerial offices of the Region of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation: Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister-President of the Government of Wallonia (2004-2007); Private Secretary to the minister of Social Action, Health and Equal Opportunities (2007-2009); Private Secretary to the Minister-President for the Government of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (2009-2013).

In parallel to these ministerial posts, Pascale joined the Ducroire Belgian Export Credit Agency in 2006 - she still holds this position - and became the government commissioner for the Economic Stimulation Agency (2007-2009), where she became a board member in 2012, and at the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, Awex (2009-2014).

In January 2014, Pascale became Deputy General Administrator for Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI). In July of the same year, she was named General Administrator for WBI and the Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX). In July 2015, she took up her new role.

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**Ms. Aline FRANCHIMONT**

***Project Manager***



Project Manager at Wallonie-Bruxelles Campus agency, the Wallonia-Brussels International higher education department.

Holding of a master's degree in journalism and communication from IHECS (IHECS Brussels school – Journalism and communication), Aline started her career in 2009 as Communication Officer at Research in Brussels NPO, a public organisation in charge of promoting scientific research and raising the awareness level of youngsters for scientific studies. Since 2016, she has been working for Wallonie-Bruxelles International. Her job consists mainly in developing communication tools, strengthening the opportunities of actions of the agency and managing activities and projects of attractiveness to promote higher education in French-speaking Belgium.

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**Mr. Henri SPRIMONT**

***Scientific and Academic Counsellor***



Henri Sprimont is an experienced scientific diplomat with a rich fifteen-year track record of nurturing international scientific collaboration, particularly in the Nordic region. Henri has orchestrated nearly a hundred missions, linking top-tier firms and eminent scientists, including Nobel laureates, to drive innovation and scientific cooperation.

A Doctor in Veterinary Medicine, Henri also holds a Master's Degree in International Contemporary Politics and Security Studies as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Classics and a Bachelor's Degree in Management Engineering. He complemented this education by multiple trainings in Venture Finance and Technology Forecasting. Through his education and professional experience, Henri has cultivated a deep understanding of science as a multifaceted driver of societal progress. He is notably deeply invested in combating antibiotic resistance and deciphering the societal impacts of individual and collective actions.

In his role with Wallonie Bruxelles International, Henri has cultivated stakeholder engagement and developed strategic partnerships that span academia, industry, and governance. His tenure as a Deputy Industry Liaison Officer at European Spallation Source ERIC demonstrates his commitment to scientific outreach and dialogue.

Henri Sprimont, with his multi-disciplinary insight and international experience, continues to work at being an instrumental figure in fostering scientific excellence and collaborative ventures that respond to global challenges.

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A blank sheet of white paper with horizontal dotted lines for writing.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.



