

A Guide to Borderless
Living and Working in
youregion

Euregio Meuse-Rhine





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Welcome. Bienvenue. Willkommen. Welkom.

I would like to welcome you to the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) “where diversity connects.” The EGTC EMR is one of the oldest euregios, as the border regions in the European Union are often called. If you are reading this brochure you have probably decided to move to the EMR, have lived here for a short while or are considering moving to our beautiful region.

The EMR is one of the few euregios where three countries – Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany – and three languages – French, German and Dutch – meet. In this cross-border region we consider the linguistic, cultural and economic diversity to be one of our main assets along with an alluring and diversified landscape, a network of historical and modern cities as well as an advantageous geographical location in the heart of Europe.

It is in this international region par excellence that the Interreg V project youRegion wants to improve the cross-border labour market services – represented by the partners of this project – even further and make newcomers feel welcome by showing them the opportunities and the cultural abundance – whether historical, artistic or folkloric – the region has to offer.

This brochure is a welcome to this unique region and will provide you with the information you need to find your way around as a new, or even future resident, of the EMR.

I wish you, dear reader, a lot of success in your future endeavours and I hope you will enjoy discovering youRegion – the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

Luc Gillard
President of the EGTC
Euregio Meuse-Rhine



Welcome to you^rregion – Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Living and working across borders is commonplace in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. Does crossing a border make us ‘foreigners’? What if there literally are no borders to cross between the neighbouring regions in Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands? As we are living and working without borders across three countries and three languages (even more if you count regional languages and dialects), there are no ‘foreigners’. We are all neighbours ‘by heart’ and ‘by foot’: Living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine means being ‘abroad’ is a normality. Just as much as feeling at home and welcome is when you are abroad.

We hope that you can make the Euregio Meuse-Rhine YourRegion, too! Whether you are a newcomer or a local cross-border worker, this is your guide to arriving, living, working in and getting to know (better) the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. The Euregio is a cross-border region that stretches from the city of Aachen and its surrounding region in Germany, over the southern part of the Dutch Province of Limburg, to the Belgian Provinces of Liège and Limburg and the German-speaking Community in Belgium.

YouRegion means living and working without borders in a top international technology region with excellent career opportunities and a high quality of cross-border urban living – the ‘European way’. This guide is your starting point for finding interconnected services that help newcomers and cross-border workers navigate the region and find work irrespective of national borders. May this brochure and the services offered help you in making the Euregio Meuse-Rhine your home:

- **Why youRegion?**
Learn more about the cross-border cooperation in Welcome and Employment Services.
- **Why the Euregio Meuse-Rhine?**
Learn more about this unique cross-border region.
- **Arriving in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine**
Find your way around easily thanks to the regional Welcome Services.
- **Working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine**
Find a job and do business across the border under the right framework conditions: Our Euregional cross-border employment and information services will help you to get prepared and stay informed.
- **Knowing about Cross-Border Cooperation and Mobility**
Meet our knowledge base and network partners.



Why youregion?

This is the place where you shop for groceries in Aachen (D) when you live in Vaals (NL) or in Kelmis (B). Somewhere you can enjoy a family breakfast at the kitchen table in the Selfkant (D), bring your children to school and go on to work in Sittard (NL) then visit a concert in Liège (B) in the evening. It is the only place where you can wander through antiques markets early Sunday morning in Tongeren (B), have some exquisite Belgian frites (or mussels) from a typical 'frituur' for lunch, and have an afternoon stroll through the countryside next to your home near the limestone caves of Maastricht (NL). The youRegion project (2018-2022) and the participating organisations promote **living and working without borders in a top international technology region with a 360° cross-border labour market, the basis for a Euregional culture of welcome**. We provide services to help cross-border workers, newcomers and their families feel at home in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

You know best what borderless living is all about: there are many challenges related to relocation. Having expanded our services for newcomers across borders and in organising joint social and cultural events in all partner regions, **we aim to facilitate and smoothen the process of arrival**. We would like to offer you and your families a warm welcome and help you settle in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. youRegion shows you the cross-border opportunities that life in the Euregio has to offer.



Borderless working in the Euregio means having a joint cross-border labour market which greatly enhances the region's economic development. Linking and complementing the public employment services from each side of the three borders provides a coordinated Euregional service infrastructure. These cross-border employment services, called Servicepunt Grensoverschrijdende Arbeidsbemiddeling – SGAs (Cross-Border Job Placement Service Points) **facilitate successful job placements**. They enhance the cross-border matching of labour supply and demand, allocating it to where it is most needed. In addition, specialised cross-border information services (Grenzinfopunkte or GrensInfoPunten – GIPs) provide **information to residents, workers and entrepreneurs to ensure daily border-crossing under the right framework conditions**. This comprehensive Euregional service infrastructure helps residents and local businesses in the entire region.

The youRegion consortium consists of twelve project partners and is led by the cross-border administration of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR). They have been carefully selected based on their well-established practices of newcomer services and long-standing expertise on the Euregional labour market. All partners will introduce themselves throughout this brochure.

Why Euregio Meuse-Rhine?

Cross-border cooperation makes a difference in the daily lives of the residents of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine: it enables borderless living and working.

There are over 250 000 companies, five universities, 19 graduate schools, 300 research institutes, 110 000 students, strategic harbours, airports and high-speed railway stations.

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is home to three main languages: Dutch, French, German (and a vivid richness in local dialects which, actually, facilitate communication across the border).

At the border triangle "Drielandenpunt" you can be in three countries at the same time and enjoy a magnificent view from the highest point of the Netherlands. A bit further north you can experience real-time "border-hopping" along the two kilometres of Nieuwstraat in Kerkrade (NL), when crossing the street in a zigzag from the Dutch side to the German side, in Herzogenrath.

! Let's Go Cycling – Fietsen – Fahrradfahren - En Vélo !
The Euregio offers unique cycling experiences, such as from 'Cycling through the Heathland' in Hoge Kempen National Park over 'Cycling through Water' in Bokrijk and 'Cycling through the Trees' in Bosland on the Belgian side. For numerous scenic and/or thrilling (mountain) bike adventures, discover the green hills of the NorthEifel and the Rur Reservoir (lake) on the German, the moorlands of Haute Fagne/the Ardennes on the Belgian, and the limestone lands (known as the 'Switzerland of the Netherlands') on the Dutch side.

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine has five Partner Regions: the southern part of the Province of Limburg (the Netherlands) - Regio Aachen (Germany) - Province of Limburg (Belgium)- Province of Liège (Belgium)- German-speaking Community (Belgium).

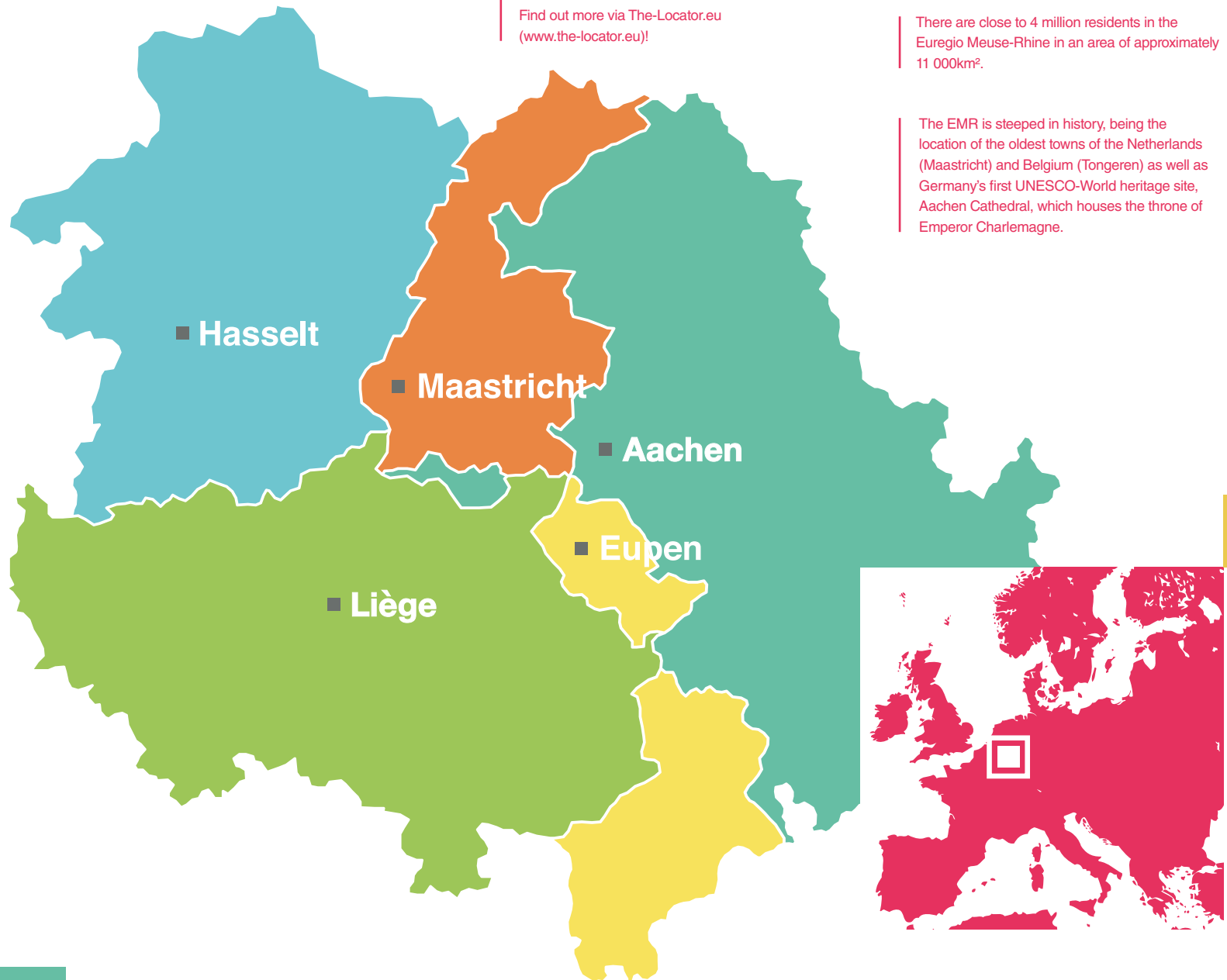
The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is strong in numerable key economic sectors – notably, (bio)chemicals & materials, life sciences and health, logistics, agrofood, high tech systems, automotive, environmental technologies, energy research and industry, creative industries and services – just to name a few.

Find out more via The-Locator.eu (www.the-locator.eu!)

Every day, around 30 000 people in the Euregio commute from their homes to their workplace across the border. In the larger cities, the numbers of border commuters are especially high. Here, almost all residents cross the national borders for shopping and leisure on a regular basis.

There are close to 4 million residents in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine in an area of approximately 11 000km².

The EMR is steeped in history, being the location of the oldest towns of the Netherlands (Maastricht) and Belgium (Tongerlen) as well as Germany's first UNESCO-World heritage site, Aachen Cathedral, which houses the throne of Emperor Charlemagne.



During an official visit to the city of Maastricht in 1974, the future Queen of the Netherlands, Princess Beatrix, suggested that cross-border cooperation between the regions, which had been so lively in the past, should be given priority. The Governors of the Belgian Provinces of Limburg and Liège, the Commissioner of the Queen of the Dutch Province of Limburg and the President of the Government of Cologne then decided to set up a working group to intensify this cooperation. By the end of the decade the Euregio Meuse-Rhine was 'born'.

With a gross regional domestic product of 121.1 billion euros, the Euregio Meuse-Rhine has an immense economic output with astronomic potential. The over 250 000 companies and 300 research institutes in the region provide a solid basis for innovative production possibilities. The small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the dynamic driving force within the EMR. The (cross-border) cooperation of knowledge institutions and their knowledge transfer with SMEs and industry is being heavily promoted.

Good life for gourmets – the Euregio Meuse-Rhine exports a great deal of its cuisine: Gaufres liégeois from Liège, Belgian special beers, sustainable lagers from Gulpen, cheese from Valdieu, fruit syrup from the Mergelland, and gingerbread from Aachen.

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine has a vibrant cross-border economy. Employers located on all sides of the borders are looking for (international) talent to fill (emerging) labour shortages. For example, it hosts several cross-border business ventures: the Eurode Business-Center in the European municipality of Eurode, the AVANTIS business park on the Dutch-German border near the cities of Aachen and Heerlen, and the ALBERTKNOOP business park on the Belgian-Dutch border near Lanaken-Maastricht.



The Euregio Meuse-Rhine champions a large number of tourist destinations contributing to the region's quality of life. The region offers highlights for every taste – from Europe's largest Japanese garden in Hasselt to murals in Heerlen to cave paintings in South Limburg to the famous spa's in Aachen, there is a lot to discover...

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is bursting with innovative capacity. For instance, the audio cassette was invented in Belgium, in Hasselt, by Gilbert Mestdagh and his team. The region is home to a substantial range of well-equipped and sustainable business parks with trimodal access. Also, a large number of high-quality and sector-specific campuses and incubators. On the Euregio's very own Digital Innovation Platform (DIP), you can partner up with local businesses for digital innovation ventures (www.hyperegio-dip.eu).

Culture connects across borders: the Euregio Meuse-Rhine boasts many cultural events and festivals such as Pinkpop in Landgraaf, Pukkelpop in Hasselt, Francofolies in Spa and the Kurpark Classix in Aachen, dance, theatre, museums, the world's largest art fairs and exhibitions.

Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR) Office



"Where diversity connects" is our motto. The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is one of the oldest Euregios in Europe – a joint administrative structure connecting five partner regions, with three official languages (German, French and Dutch) and three countries (Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands). The EMR Office in Eupen (B) supports and coordinates the cross-border cooperation in this region. It acts as a central point of contact for residents, businesses, social organisations, local and regional authorities.

Our continent is so much more than a Single Market, it is a joint living space. In the EMR you can taste Europe on every corner. You can engage, too! Start small projects, join a Euregional summer school, organise major cross-border cultural happenings or partner with digital start-ups across the border for innovative business ventures. The EMR is there to support, initiate and enhance cross-border cooperation and transnational projects: a key broker and facilitator between the institutions of its partner regions, not only as lead partner of the youRegion project. Its recent rebirth as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) gives the EMR a strong basis to advance joint administration and cross-border cooperation even further.

Contact

EGTC Euregio Meuse-Rhine
Gospertstraße 42
B-4700 Eupen
Belgium
www.euregio-mr.eu

Social



Arriving and Living in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

YouRegion stands for a generous culture of welcome. As partners in cross-border cooperation we want to help making newcomers' arrival and settling in the region as smooth as possible. To achieve this, we provide a cross-border network of welcome services that include assistance with administrative matters and relevant local information for newcomers.

To Feel Welcome and Well Informed

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine provides first-hand evidence for the **benefits of a cross-border urban cluster: borderless living and working across countries and cultures.**

Anybody living in a cross-border region knows that diversity can also have its challenges from time to time. In the Euregio Meuse-Rhine you will always find someone who has had this feeling before – and we are there to help find your way.

For instance, when using local transportation, make sure to have the correct ticket with you: otherwise you will find that you can only pay by card on a Dutch bus, and only by cash on a German one. The good news is: Cross-border cooperation makes for innovation – a common Euregional ticketing system is already on the horizon. Meanwhile, you can already enjoy low-cost three-country Euregional travelling all day long with the “Euregoticket”, on weekends and public holidays you can even travel with the whole family (two adults and three children under 12).

Discovering the quirks of living in a cross-border region can always make for popular anecdotes and even create friendships. You can do this while **joining one of our social and cultural welcome events that we organise throughout the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.**

From Hasselt to Aachen, from Maastricht to Eupen we organise regular cross-border get-togethers to provide a taste of what this unique region has to offer, inviting a vibrant international crowd.

For more information on the event organisation and current agenda go to:

youregion.eu



 youRegionEMR

 youregionemr

 youregion-euregio-meuse-rhine

“Since I’ve moved to the Euregio, I experience myself what it means to live in Europe and the European Union.”

— Karla, from Germany, living in Maastricht

“Oh! It’s the best region to live. I love this region, different cultures.”

— Maria from Italy, living in Maastricht

“I think it’s very enriching to be in such a place.”

— Lucia, from Mexico, living in Maastricht



“I’ve got so many beautiful cities, nature, cultures close by. I’m living in three different cultures here. I can go and deal with stuff in three different languages, three different foods, three different lifestyles; I love Aachen for this.”

— John, from the US, living in Aachen

“In a way, you have the feeling that you are living in three countries.”

— Miroslav, from Serbia, living in Aachen



“People are very welcoming, very kind, they care about you. It’s very nice. I made friends right away.”

— Kenan, from Iran, living in Liège

Meet our Partners Specialised in Welcome Services



Newcomer Service Aachen



At the City of Aachen's Newcomer Service, we help newcomers to find their way and get settled in Aachen and its surroundings. We are your first contact point for matters related to relocation and immigration and are happy to answer your questions about arriving and settling in. We invite you to free events where you can get to know the city and meet fellow newcomers and internationals in a relaxed atmosphere. Aachen's proximity to Belgium and the Netherlands is a central part of the city's identity and quality of life. Therefore, we are glad to showcase the cultural and leisure opportunities our neighbours have to offer.

Within the youRegion project, the Newcomer Service of the City of Aachen is responsible for the organisation of Euregional welcome events and the establishment of a Euregional spouse network.

Contact

Newcomer Service, City of Aachen
Department of Economy, Science and Europe
Johannes-Paul-II.-Str. 1
52058 Aachen
Germany
www.aachen.de/newcomerservice

Social



RWTH Aachen University Welcome and Dual Career Service



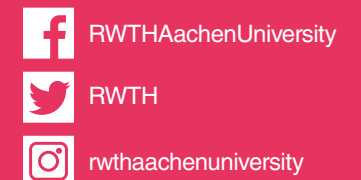
RWTH Aachen University is one of Germany's elite "Universities of Excellence" and one of the leading educational institutions in Europe. The University features 260 institutes in nine faculties and a total of 45,628 enrolled students as of winter semester 2019/2020. RWTH is also the largest employer and training provider in the region. It actively recruits international and highly qualified researchers with the potential to achieve outstanding performance in their disciplines. By guiding and accompanying our international university members we promote their integration into our community and make it possible for them to actively participate in university life. Our Welcome & Dual Career Service assists you and your spouse as newcomers in building up a new social and professional network as well as providing additional knowledge on working and living conditions in the Euregio.

Within the youRegion project, we aim to set up a Dual Career Network. This is not only to strengthen the dual career cooperation between universities in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine but also to win internationally-minded companies to participate within this Euregional Dual Career Network.

Contact

RWTH Aachen University
Abt. 8.5 Welcome & Dual Career Service
Templergraben 86
52062 Aachen
Germany
www.rwth-aachen.de

Social



Expat Centre Maastricht Region

EXPAT CENTRE

MAASTRICHT REGION




Our expert team at the Expat Centre Maastricht Region provides you with a wealth of information regarding every aspect of life in Maastricht and the surrounding region, including personal guidance in one-on-one consultations. In cooperation with other agencies in the region, we assist you in your immigration procedures and offer advice regarding housing, entrepreneurship, cultural and cross-border topics. We do so by organising specialised one-off and regular events that educate, inform and entertain our international residents. Informal meet-ups and cultural happenings like our “Let’s Catch Up” events, give you a chance to feel at home more quickly and to integrate into the Burgundian lifestyle of the Maastricht Region.

The Expat Centre Maastricht Region team specialises in the organisation of social events and information sessions for highly-skilled newcomers in the region – offering a taste of the region’s Burgundian way of life and culture of welcome.

Contact

Expat Centre Maastricht Region
Mosae Forum 10
6211 DW Maastricht
Netherlands
www.expatcentremaastrichtregion.nl

Social

 [ExpatCentreMaastrichtRegion](https://www.facebook.com/ExpatCentreMaastrichtRegion)
 [expat-centre-maastricht-region](https://twitter.com/expat-centre-maastricht-region)
 [expatcentremaastrichtregion](https://www.instagram.com/expatcentremaastrichtregion)

“The concept of MIC is so much more than a mere service or information desk, rather being a centre of expertise, providing specialised advice, information and promoting events and networking that can change lives and careers.”

— Laura, from Australia, living in Maastricht

Maastricht International Centre (MIC)

Maastricht International Centre

Maastricht International Centre aims to bundle the Maastricht Region’s abilities as a hub of international business, a source of highly-skilled knowledge professionals and site of breakthrough research. The aim is to increase the region’s ability to attract and retain highly-skilled professionals, cross-border workers and international students as well as to provide crucial and specialised support to start-ups and established international companies in the area. Located in the centre of Maastricht, between the borders of Belgium and Germany, the mission of the Maastricht International Centre is to be the service and expertise centre for working and living without boundaries.

Maastricht International Centre hosts a range of specialised agencies providing services by appointment: Expat Centre Maastricht Region; Cross-Border Information Point (GIP) Maastricht; Cross-Border Job Placement Service Point (SGA); Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross border cooperation and Mobility; Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND); Team Entrepreneurship Maastricht; StartersCentrum; Dutch Tax and Customs Administration, Team Cross-Border Working and Living (GWO); and ZZP factory Maastricht.

Contact

Maastricht International Centre (MIC)
Gemeente Maastricht
Mosae Forum 10
6211 DW Maastricht
Netherlands
www.maastrichtinternationalcentre.nl



Expat Centre Limburg



The Expat Centre Limburg (ECL) is the welcome desk for international newcomers in the Belgian Province of Limburg. As a direct result of the youRegion project it is a joint initiative of local and Euregional partners. Expat Centre Limburg supports you with regard to immigration and municipal procedures and provides information to help international newcomers and their families to settle into their new living and working environment. ECL is a place where internationals receive information about the region and find out about events that are organised especially for the international community. The main purpose is to help international newcomers feel welcome and at home.



Contact

Expat Centre Limburg
Corda Campus – POM Limburg building 'CORDA 6B'
Kempische Steenweg 303/101
3500 Hasselt
Belgium
www.expatcentrelimburg.com

Social



POM Limburg



POM Limburg is the Provincial Development Agency of the Belgian Province of Limburg. It carries out the socio-economic programme as governed by the Province of Limburg. This ambitious programme aims to accelerate Belgian Limburg economically by organising sectoral and regional stakeholder councils according to the triple helix concept and by carrying out strategic actions and projects to leverage Limburg as attractive for business and innovation.

Contact

Provinciale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij Limburg
(POM Limburg)
Corda Campus – CORDA 6B
Kempische Steenweg 303/101
3500 Hasselt
Belgium
www.pomlimburg.be

Social



Working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

youRegion also stands for an integrated 360° Euregional labour market. In the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, **borderless working is part of everyday life and opportunities await.** The Euregional economy is shaped by strong key economic sectors: (bio)chemicals and materials, life sciences and health, logistics, agrofood, high tech systems, automotive production, customer services, environmental technologies, energy research & industry, creative industries and services – just to name a few.

As partners in cross-border cooperation we want to help matching labour supply where demand is highest, including across the border. Not only is this to **facilitate newcomers' and locals' successful job placements** but also to assist the public employment administrations in jointly identifying common challenges and tackling them together.

Find a Job in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Borderless Science and Knowledge Hub

The Euregio Meuse-Rhines hosts five universities, 19 graduate schools, 300 research institutes, and more than 110 000 students. The region buzzes with scientific knowledge, innovative capabilities and entrepreneurial spirit. It also helps fostering close partnerships between government, knowledge institutes and business. Whether it is through “knowledge crossing borders” (Brightlands), “shaping digitalisation” (digitalHUB) or providing “an inspiring place to work” (Corda campus).



Excellent Universities:

- **RWTH Aachen University (D)** www.rwth-aachen.de
- **Maastricht University (NL)** www.maastrichtuniversity.nl
- **Liège University (BE)** www.uliege.be
- **Hasselt University (BE)** www.uhasselt.be



Innovation Campuses & Incubators:

- **Corda Campus Hasselt (BE)** www.cordacampus.com/en
- **ThorPark Genk (BE)** www.thorpark.be
- **Brightlands Campuses (NL)** www.brightlands.com
- **digitalHUB Aachen (D)** www.aachen.digital
- **RWTH Aachen Collective Incubator (D)** www.rwth-aachen.de

Science and Research Institutions and more...

Expertise abounds. The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is home to numerous universities of applied sciences, such as PXL, FH Aachen, Hogeschool Zuyd; renowned international research centres like Forschungszentrum Jülich (D) and United Nations University-MERIT (NL); university colleges, management schools, academic hospitals as well as possibilities for long-distance learning, such as at the Open University in Heerlen (NL)

Why Look Across the Border for Employment?

A truly 360° cross-border labour market in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine implies that borders are not perceived as obstacles to mobility – however as a **springboard to new employment**. The EMR is home to a number of renowned multinationals and a myriad of internationally-minded small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). As Euregional employers, these companies cherish having a pool of native speakers of several languages nearby and offer working in an international environment.

On a personal level, cross-border working provides many advantages such as:

- **Additional job and business opportunities**
- **New language, profession and interpersonal skills**
- **Cultural enrichment**
- **Broaden both social and professional networks**

Interlinking and complementing the public employment services from each side of the three borders provides a **coordinated and joint service infrastructure for the Euregional labour market**. Not only does this facilitate successful job placements through better matchmaking and use of potentials. It also provides information to residents, cross-border workers and entrepreneurs to ensure daily border-crossing under the right framework conditions.

The Cross-Border Job Placement Service Points (SGAs) together with the EURES-experts on cross-border employment are there to help. The services maintain a joint database on employment opportunities across the border. They mediate **access to Euregional employers, facilitate cross-border job-matching** and also offer job (application) training and coaching where needed.



“I followed my boyfriend here and then as soon as I arrived, I realized...problem, I don't speak Dutch. So, what I'm going to do because I'm a teacher, I'm going to go to Liege, to Belgium, because I knew this was a French-speaking area and that was my first language.”

— Claire, from Canada, living in Maastricht



“Living in Belgium and working in Germany was very easy.”

— Celine, from France, living in Aachen

In the meantime, the Euregional universities are actively cooperating to facilitate newcomers and their spouses in building their professional network involving internationally-minded companies. Within this **Euregional Dual Career Network**, the partners offer tailored advice on working and living conditions in the Euregio and aid in match-making.

When you cross a formal state border within the European Union to work in another Member State, additional rules apply. National social security systems in Europe are merely coordinated, not harmonised. While you will find that healthcare, pensions and family benefits in the Netherlands differ vastly from those in Belgium or Germany, **European rules facilitate that you have access to healthcare and social protection also as a cross-border worker**. Tax systems remain a national competence and are therefore coordinated bilaterally.

Therefore, a truly borderless labour market could not exist without specialised cross-border information desks, the Grenzinfopunkte (D) or GrensInfoPunten (BE & NL), in short GIP. Residents, cross-border workers and entrepreneurs can approach the GIPs for free public expert advice on legal and administrative questions regarding borderless living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.



Meet our Partners Specialised in the Employment Sector

The Euregional infrastructure of employment services actively supports companies, large and small businesses, knowledge institutions and campuses in recruiting and retaining competent workers. They also offer inactive residents, with or without state support, broader opportunities to return to active participation in the labour process.

 Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft (B) // Provincie Limburg (NL) // Region Aachen (D)

Servicepunt Grensoverschrijdende Arbeidsbemiddeling – SGA



Within the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, the Servicepunt Grensoverschrijdende Arbeidsbemiddeling – SGA (Cross-Border Job Placement Service Points) are located in Kerkrade (NL)/Herzogenrath (D), in Maastricht (NL) and Kelmis (B).

The SGA in Maastricht focusses on cross-border job-matching along the Dutch-Belgian (Flemish) border. At this Service Point, the Dutch cities of Maastricht and Sittard-Geleen, local partners Podium24 and Werkgevers Servicepunt Westelijke Mijnstreek, the Dutch public employment agency UWV and the Flemish public employment agency VDAB work together to help jobseekers find a suitable job, including across the border.

The SGA in Kerkrade/ Herzogenrath focusses on job-matching along the Dutch-German border. At this Service Point, advisors from the German and Dutch public employment agencies (Agentur für Arbeit Aachen-Düren and UWV), local partners Podium24 and the Werkgevers Servicepunt Parkstad Limburg join their forces for better job-matching.

The SGA in Kelmis focuses on job-matching across the Belgian-German border. Advisors from the German and East-Belgian public employment agencies (Agentur für Arbeit Aachen-Düren and ADG) and local partners collaborate to align cross-border labour demand and supply.

Our advisors will be happy to guide and support you in the job-matching process with one-on-one consultations, coaching, job fairs and fulfilling necessary procedures. If you are an employer looking for personnel across the border, our team will help you find the right employees for your company, for example through organising information meetings for employers and job speed dates.

Contact

SGA Maastricht (NL – B)

Avenue Céramique 50
6221 KV Maastricht
Netherlands
www.grensarbeid.eu/maastricht



SGA Kerkrade/ Herzogenrath (NL – D)

Eurode Business Center
Eurode-Park 1, unit 2
6461 KB Kerkrade
Netherlands
www.grenzarbeit.eu/ebc



SGA Kelmis (B – D)

Service Grenzüberschreitende Arbeitsvermittlung
Treffpunkt Job Kelmis
Maxstraße 10
4720 Kelmis
Belgium
www.adg.be



Social



[service-grensoverschrijdende-arbeid](https://www.linkedin.com/company/service-grensoverschrijdende-arbeid)

 Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft (B)

Arbeitsamt der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft (ADG)

Ostbelgien 

The German-speaking Community of Belgium's Employment Office – ADG, provides services for jobseekers, employees, school leavers and apprentices. The offer includes job placement, advice and assistance in the search for work, assistance with entering or returning to the work place, career and training advice, as well as information on careers and the labour market. The services provided to employer clients include the search for suitable applicants for vacancies, the provision of training for employees, and consultancy services, notably information, advice and support to businesses seeking public grants as well as administrative and technical assistance. The ADG participates in the youRegion project by developing and establishing a joint Servicepunt Grensoverschrijdende Arbeidsbemiddeling – SGA (Cross-Border Job Placement Service Point) in Kelmis, East Belgium, together with the Aachen-Düren Employment Agency.

Contact

Eupen
Hütte 79
B-4700 Eupen
Belgium

St. Vith
Vennbahnstraße 4/2
B-4780 St. Vith
Belgium

www.adg.be

Social

 [arbeitsamt.der.dg](https://www.facebook.com/arbeitsamt.der.dg)

 Provincie Limburg (NL)

WerkgeversServicepunt Westelijke Mijnstreek

Werkgevers
Servicepunt  Westelijke Mijnstreek

PODIUM
WIJ MAKEN ER WERK VAN!

Podium24

The WerkgeversServicepunt Westelijke Mijnstreek (WSP-WM) is a network organisation in which the municipalities of the Westelijke Mijnstreek region (Sittard-Geleen, Beek, Stein and Beekdaelen), Vixia and UWV work together and constitute a single service point concerning staff issues for employers from the region. Our main task is to match demand and supply on the labour market. We especially target people with a certain distance to the labour market.

Podium24 is a cooperation of six municipalities in the Dutch 'Heuvelland' region in South Limburg (Maastricht, Meerssen, Valkenburg, Eijsden-Margraten, Gulpen-Wittem and Vaals). Podium24 helps companies to find staff. People with a certain distance to the labour market are the main target group. Podium24 stimulates people to cross the Dutch-Flemish border to explore job offers in the neighbouring country.

For the youRegion project, WSP WM and Podium24 – together with Region Aachen Zweckverband – develop event modules for intercultural competence of employees and/or jobseekers as well as mentoring programmes so that people are well informed when they (plan to) cross the border for work

Contact

WerkgeversServicepunt
Westelijke Mijnstreek (WSP-WM)
Millenerweg 4a
6136 KW Sittard
Netherlands
www.wsp-wm.nl

Podium24
Visitation:
Randwycksingel 22
6229 EE Maastricht
Netherlands
www.info@podium24.nl

Postal:
Postbus 1200
6201 BE Maastricht
Netherlands

Social

 [wsp-westelijke-mijnstreek](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wsp-westelijke-mijnstreek)

Further Support for New Employment Opportunities in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine

Public employment services & EURES cross-border employment experts

- **Agentur für Arbeit (Aachen-Düren)**
- **UWV (Limburg NL)**
- **VDAB (Limburg BE)**
- **Le Forem (Liège)**
- **EURES Euregio Meuse-Rhine**

Network events and job fairs

The network partners promoting the Euregional labour market also do so by stimulating cross-border visits of various job fairs in the region.

- **Limburg Leads in the Dutch Province of Limburg**
- **Nacht der Unternehmen in Aachen**
- **Talentevent in the Belgian Province of Limburg**
- **Talentum in the Province of Liège and in Eupen**

Websites and social media (some useful information)

Classified ads in print media continue to be frequently used by local employers to advertise job vacancies. In the Euregio Meuse-Rhine it is becoming more and more common to make use of digital tools and platforms to match labour supply and demand. Local employers, small and big, increasingly rely on the internet and social media platforms to help select and recruit fitting candidates.

Please note: While LinkedIn is a common way for growing your professional network in Belgium and the Netherlands, in Germany it tends to be used much less. XING is a popular platform for staying connected to your professional network in Germany.

Temporary employment agencies

Labour market intermediaries are known and common in all three countries of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine: known in Dutch as **uitzendbureau**, in French as **agence d'interim**, and in German as **Leiharbeitsfirma**. By helping the matching process in labour demand and supply, they also fulfil an important role in facilitating labour market access. However, their presence and role in the labour market differs per region and per sector.

Stay Informed & Prepared When Working Across the Border

Cross-border workers can be faced with some legal and administrative challenges, which should not discourage you from seizing your opportunities across the border. There are services in place to help you cope with the legal and fiscal consequences and procedures of crossing the border for working or living.



**Region Aachen
Zweckverband**

**region
aachen**

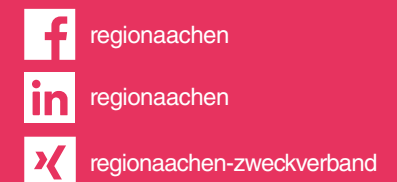
The Region Aachen Zweckverband is an association of the districts of Düren, Euskirchen and Heinsberg as well as the City of Aachen and the StädteRegion Aachen. The Aachen Region is situated on the western edge of Germany, close to Belgium and the Netherlands, nestled in the heart of Europe. This makes Aachen Region an international area that offers interesting prospects for companies, employees and students – with excellent support services like the Cross-Border Information Points (GIPs).

Within the framework of the youRegion project, Region Aachen Zweckverband, together with other partners, organises employment services and advisory networks for cross-border workers and develops modules for intercultural competence for future cross-border commuters and job-seekers.

Contact

Region Aachen Zweckverband
Rotter Bruch 6
D-52068 Aachen
Germany
www.regionaachen.de

Social





Region Aachen (D) // Provincie Limburg (NL) // Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft (B) // Provincie Limburg (B)

Cross-Border Information Points (GIPs)

GRENSINFO.

The GrenzInfoPunkte / GrensInfoPunten (GIPs) act as pivotal signposts to borderless living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. They provide much-needed intelligence on working and doing business across the border under the right framework conditions. The GIPs are helpdesks for residents and companies active in Belgian-Dutch-German cross-border regions.

GIPs can provide answers to questions about social security and insurance matters, healthcare services, taxation, child benefit laws, pension and benefit regulations, issues with unemployment and/or cross-border relocation.

The GIPs cannot only point you in the right direction. They can also help you with asking the right questions, pinpointing the forms required to register or get access to provisions and informing on available safety nets in times of need. In short, the GIPs are there to provide you with all you need to know when working, living, studying and doing business across the border in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is home to two GIPs: one located in Maastricht (servicing BE-NL) and another one in Aachen-Eurode (servicing D-NL). The service provision entails expert independent, advice tailored to your unique situation, at no charge. This advice is given at the various helpdesks by telephone or, by appointment (see contact form at www.grenzinfo.eu), in person or on consultation days.



Check in with one of our GIP-advisors to make living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine a success – irrespective of whether you are working in the neighbouring country as an employee or self-employed person or regularly crossing the border as student or entrepreneur.

Contact

GIP Aachen/Eurode (D-NL):

Johannes-Paul-II Straße 1
DE-52062 Aachen
Germany
www.grenzinfo.eu/emra



GIP Maastricht (BE-NL):

Avenue Ceramique 50
NL- 6221 KV Maastricht
Netherlands
www.grenzinfo.eu/emrm



GIPs also offer services in the Belgian province of Limburg. Additionally to Aachen, Eurode and Maastricht, find your support at the GIPs in Bilzen, Hasselt, Lommel or Maasmechelen.

Social



[grens-z-infopun-k-t-aachen-eurode](https://www.linkedin.com/company/grens-z-infopun-k-t-aachen-eurode)

Doing Business Across Borders – Promoting Euregional Entrepreneurship

The Euregio Meuse-Rhine is home to more than 250 000 individual companies, covering a broad spectrum of business endeavour. Economic actors throughout the region are developing interconnection among the region's economic structures and thus providing synergies in this special market. On both sides of the Belgian, Dutch and German borders, cross-border business and employment are indispensable for prosperous socio-economic development. Each sub-region is encountering the paradox of persistent unemployment and growing skilled-labour shortages. Some parts are undergoing structural change, for example, the phase-out of coal-based power generation). Cross-border approaches, particularly in a cross-border region like the Euregio Meuse-Rhine, can offer more prosperous perspectives and advantages of scale.¹

For many Euregional entrepreneurs, doing business across the border is commonplace – yet, not without its challenges. Innovative initiatives and cross-border alliances, such as the ones listed below, facilitate building connections. Others help to stay informed and to conduct cross-border business with respect for the right framework conditions:

- **The Chambers of Commerce Euregio Meuse-Rhine**
(IHK Aachen, IHK Eupen-Malmedy-St. Vith, CCI Liege-Namur-Verviers, Voka-Kamer van Koophandel Limburg, and partners)
www.euregiochambers.eu
- **The Locator**
www.the-locator.eu
- **Digital Innovation Platform Euregio Meuse-Rhine**
www.hyperegio-dip.eu
- **Cross-border joint-venture Charlemagne Grenzregion**
www.charlemagne-grenzregion.eu
- **Cross-border industrial zones and business parks**, for instance:
 - **Avantis** (on the Dutch-German border near Heerlen/Aachen)
www.avantis.org/en
 - **Albertknoop** (on the Belgian-Dutch border near Heerlen/Aachen)
www.albertknoop.eu

¹For more information on what impact such structural changes have on the cross-border region, see ITEM's Cross-Border Impact Assessment 2020: itemcrossborderportal.maastrichtuniversity.nl/index.html



ZZP fabriek Maastricht



ZZP FABRIEK MAASTRICHT

The ZZP fabriek Maastricht (ZZPfm) specialises in projects that address the needs of self-employed professionals in the Maastricht Region and beyond. ZZPfm partners with the local government in regional consultations on economic issues and also acts as a facilitator for organising dialogue with self-employed professionals. It promotes cross-border entrepreneurship by organising Euregional information and network events for self-employed professionals.

In close collaboration with the local Cross-Border Information Point (GIP) Maastricht (GIP), ZZPfm offers expert advice, free of charge, to self-employed professionals and workers in flexible employment with cross-border activities in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. At the **ZZPfm Information Desk you will get expert personal advice on the right framework conditions for doing business across the border in a sustainable successful manner**. ZZPfm has consultation hours at Maastricht International Centre. Check our website www.zzpfm.nl/infopunt for the timetable and to book an appointment.

Contact

Coöperatie ZZP Fabriek Maastricht U.A.
Boschstraat 45
6211 AT Maastricht
Netherlands
www.zzpfm.nl

Social

 [zzp-fabriek-maastricht](https://www.linkedin.com/company/zzp-fabriek-maastricht)

Info Desk on Cross-Border Entrepreneurship
Maastricht International Centre (MIC)
Mosae Forum 10
6211 DW Maastricht
Netherlands
www.grenzinfo.eu/emrm

 [grensinfopunt-maastricht](https://www.linkedin.com/company/grensinfopunt-maastricht)

Knowing About Cross-Border Cooperation and Mobility



Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility / ITEM



Maastricht University is the youngest and the most international university in the Netherlands. In 2018, the University had a student population of over 18,000 and over 3,700 staff members – half of both were of international origin. In a little over 40 years, Maastricht University has built a reputation for teaching and research, rejuvenating the city and region and translating innovation into economic and civic opportunities. This is mostly owing to its open, innovative approach and teaching talent it attracts from all over the world. Maastricht University's research agenda shows that (Working on) Europe² is more than theory in the city: a city which is the birthplace of the Maastricht Treaty, home to citizens from all over Europe, the work and study location for people commuting across borders on a daily basis.

Based at Maastricht University's Law Faculty, the interdisciplinary expertise centre ITEM operates as pivot for research, counselling, knowledge exchange, and training activities relating to cross-border mobility and cooperation. ITEM aims at removing barriers along the internal borders of the EU. This is achieved through community-engaged research, for instance, in the shape of legal, cultural and (social) economic research, and advocating improvements in collaboration with stakeholders. Our scientific support to living and working without borders in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine takes the form of, for example: **practical guidance to practitioners and residents on the recognition of qualifications for highly demanded professions.**

www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/news/successful-completion-b-solutions-project-%E2%80%99Croadmap-and-factsheet-recognition-qualifications?view=overlay



ITEM is an interdisciplinary institute which was initiated by Maastricht University (UM) in cooperation with Zuyd Hogeschool, NEIMED, the (Dutch) Province of Limburg, the city of Maastricht and the Euregio Meuse-Rhine (EMR). Through youRegion, ITEM specialises in horizontal network support and expert advice to the partners' activities as well as providing empirical research as a basis for service optimisation.

Contact

Institute for Transnational and Euregional cross-border cooperation and Mobility (ITEM)
Faculty of Law, Maastricht University
Kapoenstraat 2
NL-6211 KW Maastricht
Netherlands
www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/item

ITEM Cross-Border Portal

itemcrossborderportal.maastrichtuniversity.nl

Social



²See: www.maastrichteuropa.nl

Your Opinion Matters

Please share with us your views on borderless living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine.

We are interested in finding out more about international newcomers' experiences living and working in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine. In the framework of the youRegion project, ITEM conducted a survey accompanying the project activities (2018-2020 www.tinyurl.com/EMRinternational).

The aim is to help improve the quality of the cross-border welcome services that are provided by the project partners, based on the evaluation of empirical evidence (online survey, interviews and participating observation).

More information on this survey can be found on www.youRegion.eu and www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/research/institutes/item/research/youregion.

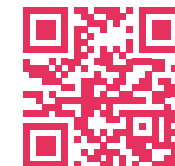


tinyurl.com/EMRinternational

You can further contribute to the improvement of existing services for newcomers and help make the region more attractive for internationals via www.youRegion.eu and our social media channels.



youregion.eu



 youRegionEMR
 youregionemr
 youregion-euregio-meuse-rhine

Meet our Network Partners

UWV

The Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemers Verzekeringen – UWV (Dutch Employee Insurance Agency) – is commissioned by the Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid – SZW (Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment) to implement employee insurances and provide labour market and data services.

www.uwv.nl/particulieren

VDAB

The Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en Beroepsopleiding or VDAB is the employment agency of Flanders.

www.vdab.be

Bundesagentur für Arbeit

The Bundesagentur für Arbeit is the federal employment agency in Germany.

www.arbeitsagentur.de/vor-ort/aachen-dueren/startseite

Universiteit Hasselt

UHasselt is more than its seven faculties, four research institutes, three research centres, 6 500 students and 1,400 researchers and staff. As civic university, we are strongly committed to the region and the world.

www.uhasselt.be/en

Forschungszentrum Jülich

With some 5 900 employees and a unique research infrastructure, Forschungszentrum Jülich is one of the major interdisciplinary research centres in Europe.

www.fz-juelich.de/portal/EN/

Co-financers

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Innovation,
Digitalisierung und Energie
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Land Nordrhein-Westfalen (D)

provincie limburg



Provincie Limburg (NL)



Provincie Limburg (B)

Further information

Project information

- www.youRegion.eu

Social Media Channels

- www.linkedin.com/in/youregion-euregio-meuse-rhine
- www.facebook.com/youRegionEMR
- www.instagram.com/youregionemr



Relevant Links

- www.euregio-mr.eu
official homepage of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine
- www.willkommen-in-aachen.de
Lotsenkreis Aachen, information in German and English
- www.grenzinfo.eu
Cross-Border Information Points / GIP, information in German and Dutch
- www.grenzarbeit.eu
Cross-border Job Placement Service Point / SGA, information in German and Dutch
- www.maastrichtinternationalcentre.nl
Maastricht International Centre – one-stop-shop
- www.grensinfo.nl/gip/nl/index.jsp
(interactive website informing about legal and administrative regulations applying to cross-border working, business and studying – only in Dutch and German)
- www.startpuntgrensarbeid.benelux.int/nl/
(interactive website informing about legal and administrative regulations applying to cross-border working, business and studying – only in Dutch, French and German!)
- www.eures-emr.org (EURES Euregio)
information in German, Dutch and French
- www.euregiochambers.eu
Chambers of Commerce Euregio Meuse-Rhine
- www.the-locator.eu
information system for enterprise locations in the Euregio Meuse-Rhine
- opendata.grensdata.eu/#/InterReg/nl/
database on the labour market, economy and society for the border regions of the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium
- www.maastrichteuropa.nl/
Studio Europa – Maastricht, Working on Europe (MWOE)

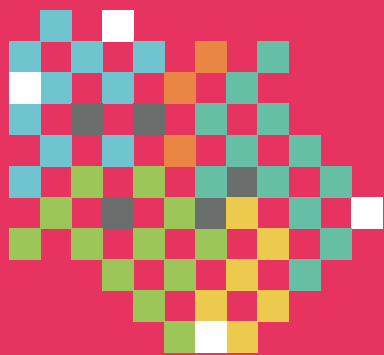


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youregion.eu

