A cosmopolitan city rich in art and history, with a strong industrial and intellectual identity

At the heart of the Meuse-Rhine Euregio (Maastricht, Aachen) and the Greater Region (Luxembourg, Saarbrücken, Metz, Nancy)

Rapid train and road links with major European cities (Brussels, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Cologne)
Belgium, you said Belgium?

1830: foundation of Kingdom of Belgium, after a short revolution against Netherlands. King Philippe (2013) is King of the Belgians, in a constitutional monarchy. 11 millions inhabitants

1970: 3 Regions and 3 Communities, federal government: complementarity, « subsidiarity », expensive model of governance and regular need of re-funding, as communities have no tax policy

1989: All people related matters are in charge of the Communities: FWB, linked by a common French language in Brussels and Wallonia, is in charge of education.

Special rights for minorities: Flemish speaking in Brussels, German speaking in Wallonia, cross border facilities for French speaking people around Brussels

Brussels: NATO, European Commission, capital of Europe, capital of Belgium

A kind of complexity…
Fl: 6M, FWB: 5M, GerC: 70.000
Education historical context at ULg

- 1817: creation of the University of Liège, by King William II of Netherlands (2 public universities, Cockerill factory…)
- Link of the University with the industrial revolution in Liège: strong departments of Engineering and Applied Sciences, besides traditional faculties as Law and Philosophy
- Competition from the beginning between catholic and public networks for basic and higher education
- 1959: definition of the « 4 networks » in education in FWB
- 1989: Empowerment of Communities for Education
- Today, same public funding and programmes for all in FWB, but Boards and projects are still different, reconversion is a key word in industry
- ULg will have 200 years in 2017
ULg: 4 campuses in 3 cities

- Brussels
- Liège
- Gembloux
- Arlon
4 campuses in 3 cities

LIÈGE, CITY CENTER
- The Rector’s Office
- Central Administration
- Faculty of Philosophy and Letters
- HEC-Management School-ULg
- Faculty of Architecture

LIÈGE, SART TILMAN CAMPUS
A campus set in 760 hectares of greenery, the main teaching and research centres, University Hospital and Liège Science Park

GEMBLOUX AGRO-BIO TECH
Faculty of Agronomy and biological engineering

ARLON
Department of environmental Sciences and Management
ULg ... far off installations

**STARESO**
Oceanographic station (Calvi, Corsica)

**JUNGFRAUJOCH OBSERVATORY**
(Bernese Alps, Switzerland), with the Swiss Research Fund
ULg at a glance

- **European medium size university**: 23,000 students, 23% are international students
- About 10,000 jobs, including the University Hospital
- 3,200 lecturers-researchers
- 70,000 alumni (10% abroad)
- In contact with more than 700 institutions worldwide

*international* activity and networks
ULg ... at a glance

- Comprehensive: covering all fields of studies after merger with regional faculties and University colleges

- One of the 3 main universities of FWB: public and pluralistic

- 11 faculties
  - Philosophy and Letters
  - Law, Political Science and Criminology
  - Sciences
  - Medicine
  - Applied Sciences
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, and Education
  - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech
  - Social Sciences
  - Architecture
  - HEC – Management School-ULg

Degree programmes offered

- 38 bachelor’s
- 209 master’s
- 63 advanced master’s
- 9% "full English" courses
- 37 doctoral schools, in all fields of study and the 3 research sectors
Course structure

Bologna Scheme: 3 – 5 – 8

1 credit = 30 hours learning activities
1 year of studies = 60 credits

In Belgian universities, education connected with research

* Except for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine = 180 credits
Research at ULg

- 471 research units, **3 main sectors**: Humanities and Social sciences, Sciences and techniques, Health sciences
- More than 8,000 scientific publications and papers per year
- One of the world leaders in **Open Access** (119,863 publications – 74,156 of which are available in full)
- **High-tech equipment:**
  - Space Center, Oceanographic station, particle accelerator
- Integrated **research-valorisation structures** in growing sectors
  - WSL: space and engineering sciences
  - GIGA: life sciences
  - Aquapôle: water and environmental sciences
- More than **113 spin-offs** created (78 still active)
- High quality personalized assistance for researchers (**Euraxess centre**), many centres of excellence and research centres covering all fields of research
Quality in education and research

Hot topics:

- a culture of quality, assessment of research, education and administration
- External accreditations
- Tech transfer expertise
- Open access
- Management of resources, gender concern, ethics
- Networks
Collaboration is the keyword in Higher Education landscape

**European framework:**

- **Consortia** for building capacities and programmes of excellence
- Agreements for international **joint programmes** and for mobility of students and researchers:
  - 8 Erasmus Mundus master and Ph.D joint programmes of excellence, mainly in Applied sciences, 31 joint degrees; 7 EM partnership programmes
  - Erasmus + funding for **mobility and capacity building**,  
  - **Research projects** in H2020 and others European programmes
  - Bologna expert, **Euraxess and Erasmus** offices
  - Student stay abroad for master graduates at ULg: **23 %**
Regional framework:

A cross border positioning: a kind of « think global, act local », deserving development of the Region and of people

- Cross border collaboration and consortia in
  - **Euregio** (Maastricht, Aachen, Hasselt, Liege): Health sciences hub
  - Greater Region: **UniGR** as common space for education and research
  - With neighbouring universities, under **Interreg** European programme
FWB framework

- 6 universities (3 comprehensive: UCL, ULB, ULg) + a large offer of vocational and art colleges on a reduced territory

- Total students FWB: 220,000, 90,000 in universities, 90,000 in university colleges

- Academic education linked with research, professional education, continued education

- Various challenges existed:
  - Great diversity of the HE “landscape”, including the regulatory frameworks
  - Competition between HEIs on a “reduced” territory
  - Partial implementation of the Bologna Process
  - Need to reinforce the partnership and increase the visibility

Adoption of the 7 November 2013 Act, “landscape” Act: Establishment of the Academy for Research and Higher Education ARES-, for better coordination

Public funding of Education and Research (FNRS): new framework under construction; assessment as guideline
ARES, is the unique « umbrella » organisation:

- **Covers all HEIs** in Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- **Ensures general coordination** while guaranteeing the autonomy and specificities
- **Organises the dialogue and cooperation** between HEIs at national and international level
- **Supports HEIs** in fulfilling their missions
- **Increases the visibility, readability, transparency**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6 Universities</th>
<th>20 University Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Arts Colleges</td>
<td>100 Adult Education HEIs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reform of the HE « Landscape »

**Structure & Landscape**

- Place the student at the centre of the learning process
- Reduce competition and historical/philosophical divisions
- Foster cooperation, les synergies, including joint programmes/degrees
- Maintain institutional specificities, autonomy and academic freedom
- Reinforce the consistency, proximity and excellence
- ARES & academic clusters

**Study Organisation & Student Status**

- Harmonisation of the study organisation: calendar, admission, assessment, bridging, recognition, etc.
  - Unique status for the student
- No more reference to academic year
- Competences reference framework et study programmes
- Support for successful completion
  - Continuing training
- Common tests and admission exams
ARES pursuits missions in **six main fields:**

- **Academic:** coherence of programmes’ offer, admission tests and exams, competences reference frameworks, authorisation of continuing training programmes, etc.
- **Information:** statistics and data, information on programmes’ offer, analysis, studies, etc.
- **Development cooperation:** coordination of HEIs’ participation
- **Institutional:** advice and proposal to Government and other actors, etc.
- **International:** attractivity/promotion, support to internationalisation, etc.
- **Research:** doctoral schools, promotion of research partnerships, etc.
The ULg project: meeting global challenges

- **ULg** is present in **3 Regions**: Liege, Belgian Luxembourg and Namur, and wants to take advantage of this positioning. Strong links with the City of Liege.

- ULg wants to promote the values of a **fair and sustainable society** and to encourage quality research at the service of society. The 3 missions (education, research, service to society) are equally important.

- As public university, ULg has **special duties toward society**: special focus on equal opportunities, pluralism and sense of common good.

- Increase performance in research, determining **key areas**, increase **transdisciplinarity** to stimulate innovation in education and research.

- Trend is narrow public funding and obligation of **good governance**: choices for a sustainable model of university in a global context.
ULg tomorrow?

- **Sustainable**: eco-responsible, management of resources
- Connected with its Belgian and international **partners**
- **Focused on academic and research quality and strengths**
- linked with its regional context for innovation,
- At international level, contribution to implementation of the « sustainable objectives for development » as **stakeholder**
Your presence at ULg for this Spring Staff Mobility Week is part of this \textbf{ambition}

\textbf{Welcome, and thank you for your attention.}
Contacts

Pascal LEROY
Deputy Vice-Rector for International Relations

Patricia PETIT
Head of International Office

international@ulg.ac.be