



DATA CENTRES choose Wallonia !

digital
wallonia
.be


Wallonia.be
EXPORT
INVESTMENT

They chose Wallonia



“We opened our St. Ghislain data center in October 2010. It was the first Google designed, owned and operated data center outside the US. We chose St. Ghislain because of the **available infrastructure** including land, power, industrial canal water, and **fibre connectivity**. The **central location** in the **heart of Europe**, and the local technical university added to the appeal.

To-date, Google has spent a total of EUR 775 million on the construction and operation of the data center in St. Ghislain.

The vast majority of the construction and operations have taken place in Belgium, and 60% of those employed in the data center are from Belgium. **Wallonia is a good business environment for Google**, and we look forward to being here for many years to come. “

Andrew Hyland

Community Relations Manager, Data Centers, Europe



«ENGIE Cofely has decided to base its first commercial data centre in Gembloux, at the heart of Wallonia. Our objective is to offer our customer a green, agile data centre connected to the main European platforms. This investment of over 32 million euros gives companies all the flexibility they need.

In this period of growing digitalisation, ENGIE Cofely believes in the development potential of Wallonia in the IT sector and is proud to be able to contribute to it.»

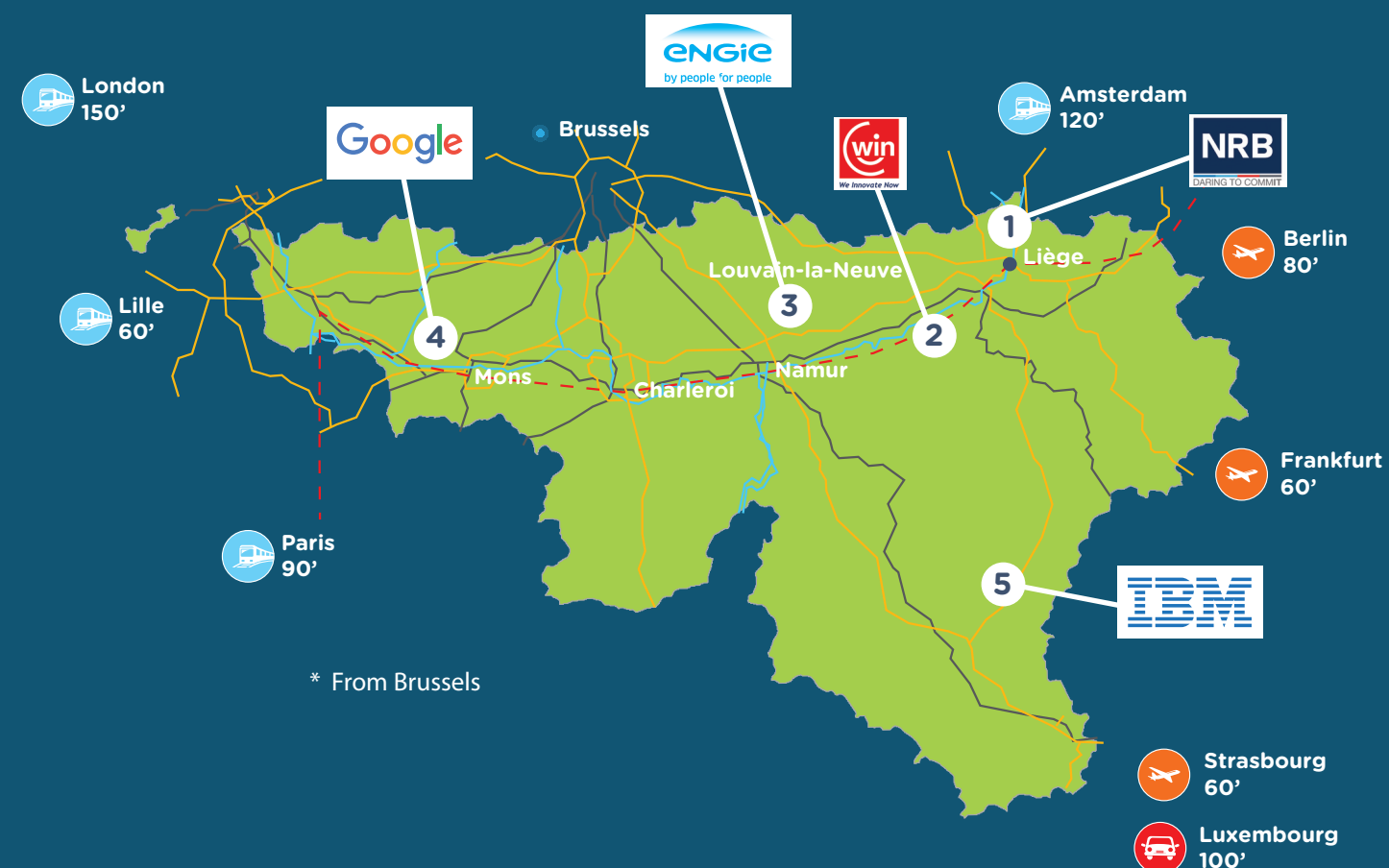
Thibault Meur

Business Development Manager


Our main benefits

6

- Ultra-fast **connection**
- Ideal **weather** condition
Low **earthquake** risk
- Numerous **plots** of land available
- **Low** operating **costs**
- A highly-qualified **workforce**
- Advantageous **taxation**



The 6 main benefits of Wallonia !

**Ideal weather**
conditions, low earthquake risk

- **Average annual temperatures** : between 8 and 10 degrees.
- **High annual rainfall** : between 800 and 1300 mm/year.
- **High hydrological density.**
- **Moderate seismic activity.**
- **No business interruption in the event of a crisis.**


**A highly-qualified workforce**

A skills ecosystem working for the investor.

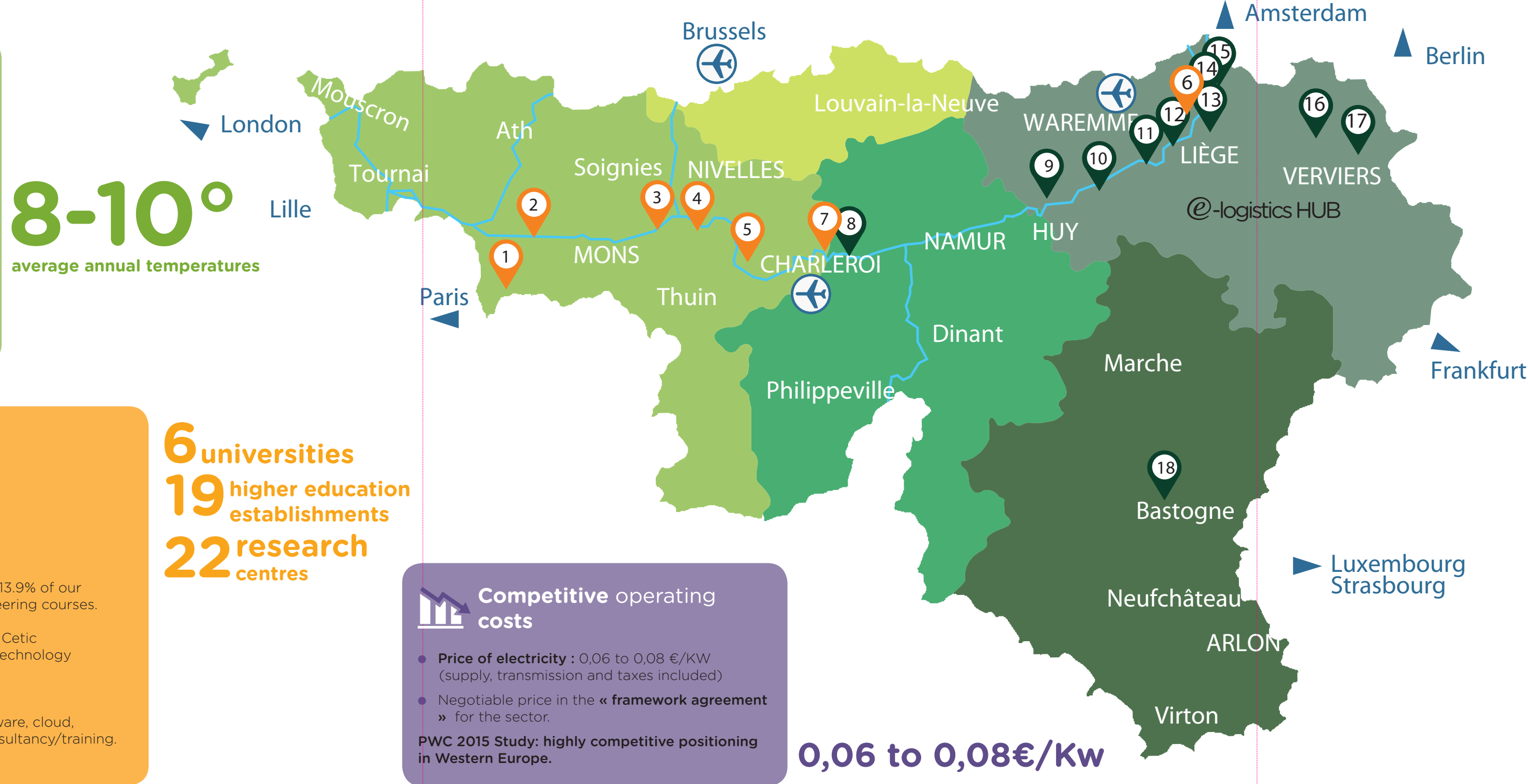
- **Education** : 6 universities and 19 higher education establishments. 13.9% of our graduates come from scientific or engineering courses.
- **Research** : 22 research centres including Cetic (computing), Multitel (ICT) and SIRRIS (technology industry).
- **A breadth of skills available to you** : servers, cooling systems, hardware, software, cloud, security, maintenance infrastructure, consultancy/training.

6 universities
19 higher education establishments
22 research centres

25% taxes
after tax deduction

**Advantageous taxation**

- **Notional interest deduction** : advantageous taxation scheme used to lower corporate tax from 34% to 25%.
- **Work premium** for night work and on team work.
- **Expatriate status**: expatriate allowance, refund of expenses, foreign expenditure refunded.
- Contact us for more information about these subsidies.




**Ultra-fast connection**

- Belgium (Wallonia is in its southern part) is ranked 2nd in the EU for the quality of its connectivity.1
- **Latency between Wallonia and the capitals of neighbouring countries is barely 5 milliseconds at destination!**
- **Latency is 6 times faster than regions in northern Europe.**
- - Due to its proximity to Brussels, Wallonia benefits from the connectivity of the BNIX high-speed hub.

1 According to the European Commission's Digital Economy and Society Index 2016 (DESI)

<5 milliseconds of latency on average

**Numerous plots of land available**

Very modest property investments (see map).

- The main data centres in Wallonia are all **Tier 3** ou **Tier 3+**.

18 sites available

Sites available

>30ha

- ① Dour [70ha]
- ② Saint-Ghislain [75ha]
- ③ La Louvière [100ha]
- ④ Seneffe [72ha]
- ⑤ Charleroi Airport 1 & 2 [30+30ha]
- ⑥ Chertal [191ha]
- ⑦ Ecopole [150ha]

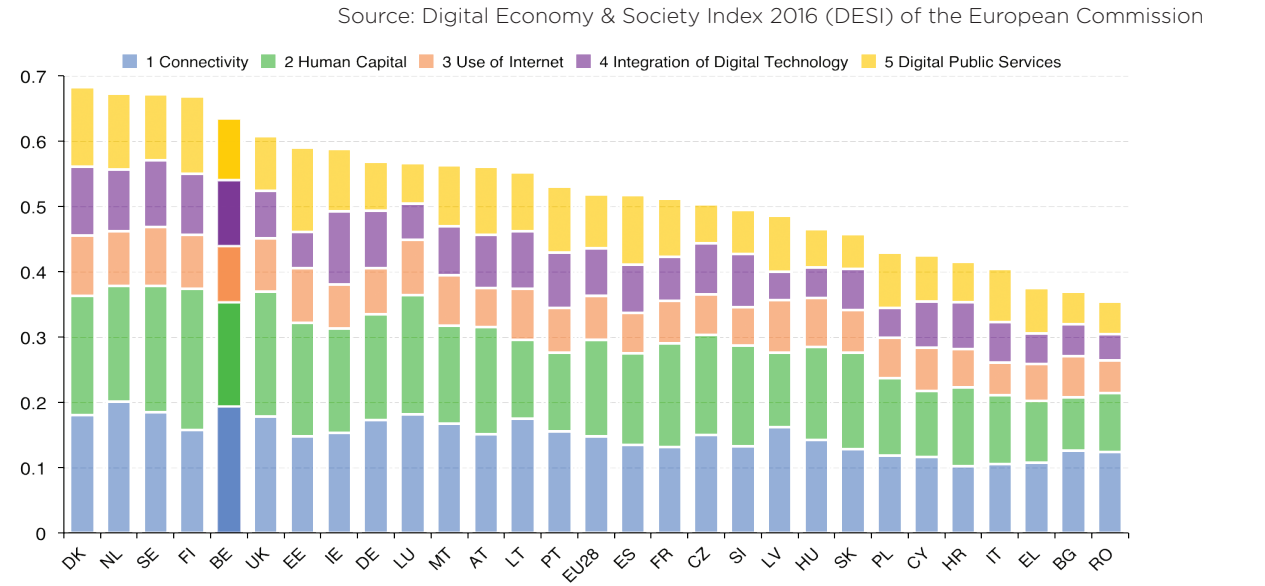
<20ha

- ⑧ Auvelais [20ha]
- ⑨ Villers-le-Bouillet [13ha]
- ⑩ Engis [12+2ha]
- ⑪ Seraing [6ha]
- ⑫ Val-Benoît [1.600m²]
- ⑬ Cheratte [na]
- ⑭ Oupeye [20ha]
- ⑮ Visé [15ha]
- ⑯ Welkenraedt [10ha]
- ⑰ Eupen [20ha]
- ⑱ Bastogne [13,1ha]

Very modest property [Price per m²]

- Luxembourg - 20 to 70€
- Liège - 45 to 90€
- Hainaut - 15 to 60€
- Brabant wallon - 75 to 125€
- Namur - 45 to 90€

Digital competitiveness: Belgium is ranked 5th in the EU



Digital stakeholders in Wallonia

Infopole ICT :
Cluster bringing together 130 members from the IT sector

Mecatech :
Competitiveness cluster bringing together 250 industrial and academic members from mechanical engineering and industry 4.0 : www.mecatech.be

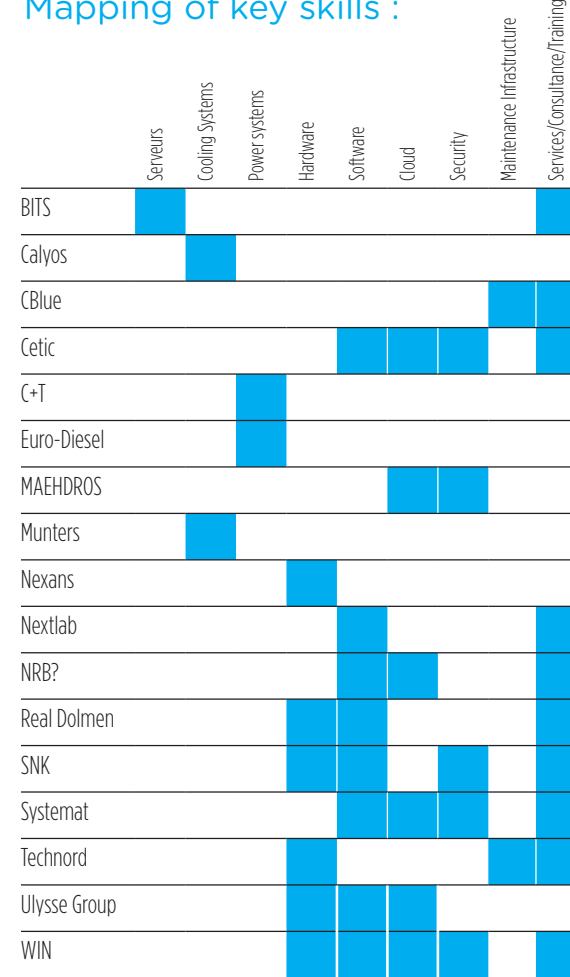
Digital Wallonia :

is the Wallonia digital development plan for the 2015-2019 period.
Measures include :

- Support for Walloon companies to enable them to be competitive on the global stage.
- New Masters qualification (university level) in cybersecurity of infrastructures and data protection.
- «Open data» decree: accessibility of Walloon public service data to all for the creation of innovative applications.
- 5G coverage of the region.
- «Smart Region»: joint consultation by 5 major Walloon cities for the «Smart Cities» project.
- Investment funds (W.I.N.G) for the creation of digital start-ups (subsidy of €50,000 to €200,000).
- Creation of a collaborative platform to promote digital innovation.

more informations : www.digitalwallonia.be

Mapping of key skills :



5 more good reasons to invest in Wallonia

Located at the centre of economic Europe :



Favourable business environment :



6 competitiveness clusters



R&D Culture :



Economy open to the world :



Quality of life :



multicultural/welcoming region



healthcare sector



culture/gastronomy



Nature

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Feel inspired

