



Joint Annual Meeting: Ecology Across Borders

11 – 14 December 2017

ICC Ghent, Belgium

Delegates' Pre-meeting Information Pack



#EAB2017

www.ecology2017.info

ABOUT GHENT

Ghent, Belgium's fourth-largest and arguably most beautiful city, is home to a quarter of a million people and a flourishing flower export trade. An important port, Ghent's city centre is a pedestrian area that is like a museum to early Flemish architecture and a testament to the city's medieval might. The city both breathes history and is also brimming with culture and modern city life.

Ghent is located in northwest Belgium, at the confluence of the Leie and Scheldt rivers. During the Middle Ages it was a prominent city-state. Today it's a university town and cultural hub. Three towers mark the skyline of Ghent's old town – the 14th-century Belfry, St. Nicholas' Church and Romanesque-Gothic St. Bavo's Cathedral. The cathedral's 15th-century altarpiece was painted by Flemish master Jan van Eyck. The Museum of Fine Arts exhibits Flemish and Dutch art, including works by Hieronymus Bosch and Peter Paul Rubens. Contemporary art gallery SMAK has a permanent collection and hosts temporary exhibitions. Boat trips explore the city's canals, lined with cozy bars, cafes and chocolate shops. Local specialties include waterzooi stew, conical 'neuzen' sweets and jenever, a juniper liqueur.

TRAVELLING TO GHENT

By Train

Ghent is easy to reach by train from all Belgian and European cities and is only half an hour from Brussels South Station. There are also frequent direct trains to Brussels Airport, for those flying into Belgium from further afield.

The two main stations in Ghent are:

Gent-Sint-Pieters Station (10 minute walk to the ICC)

- From here tram no. 1 will take you direct to the city centre, temporary stop 'Korenmarkt'

Dampoort Station (15 minute bus ride to the ICC)

- From here, buses 3, 17, 18, 38 and 39 will also take you direct to the city, stop 'Korenmarkt'.

[The Man in Seat Sixty-One...](#) is a great website for information on train travel in Europe and worldwide.

TIP: Fastest trains in Belgium are indicated on the electronic timetables with 'IC' (Inter City) followed by 'IR' (InterRegio) trains. 'L' trains are slowest and have most intermediate stops at local train stations.

From Mainland Europe

[RailEurope](#) is a good site to begin planning your trip, combining the maps, schedules and fares for over 50 different train companies across Europe. If you are travelling within Belgium you can use the [Belgian Rail website](#).

From the UK/London

From London you can be in Ghent in under 3 hours, with return tickets as low as £100 if you book in advance.

If you are coming from the UK, you can book a ticket to Ghent using the [Eurostar service](#) from London St Pancras. When booking your ticket select that you are travelling to 'Any Belgian station (via Brussels)'. The times provided will show you the 2 hour trip to Brussels South. You will then need

to get a 30 minute train from Brussels South to Gent-Sint-Pieters, which is included in your ticket price.

TIP: The main and busiest station in Brussels can cause some confusion as it is referred to as Bruxelles-Midi, Brussel-Zuid and Brussels South. These are all the same station and this is where you need to be for all Eurostar services.

TIP: The trip from Brussels South to Gent-Sint-Pieters is one to keep an eye out for the 'IC' (Inter City) or 'IR' (InterRegio) trains on the electronic timetable. These take under 30 minutes, but get on the 'L' trains by accident and you'll be looking at an hour (we know, we've done it!). You can also check the times on the [Belgian Rail website](#).

By Coach

A number of companies provide bus journeys to over 500 European destinations on a daily basis, including Ghent. The two main coach services for low cost travel to and within Europe are:

[Eurolines](#) (includes [National Express](#))

[FlixBus](#) (includes [Megabus](#))

As an idea, coaches from London take around 6 – 7 hours to travel to Ghent and cost about £25 each way.

By Air

Ghent is only 45 minutes from the international airport of [Zaventem – Brussel Airport](#), where flights arrive from and depart to more than 70 destinations worldwide.

Brussels Airport-Zaventem station is located on level -1 of the terminal, at a small distance from the arrivals hall (2nd floor) and the departures hall (3rd floor). This is accessible by lift and escalator from the arrivals hall. There are [several connections to Ghent](#).

[Brussels South/Charleroi Airport](#) is 70 minutes from Ghent. There are more than 20 bus connections from the airport to the capital every day. From there frequent train connections to Ghent are available. There are also bus connections from the airport to Charleroi-Sud railway station. Trains for Ghent can also be boarded there. A ticket that combines the bus and train services can be purchased at the Airport Ticket Desk.

The other Belgian airports (Ostend, Antwerp and Liège) receive flights from various European cities and have easy direct connections to Ghent.

By Car

Ghent is located on the intersection of two major European motorways: the E17 connects Northern Europe to the South, and the E40 runs from the North Sea right across to Eastern Europe.

From the E17 you take the 'Gent Centrum' turnoff. On the E40, from the motorway intersection in Zwijnaarde you first follow 'Antwerpen' (E17) and then take the 'Gent Centrum' turnoff.

The centre of the city of Ghent is a pedestrian area. The P-route leads you to the various car parks that give access to the city centre. As soon as you enter the city, the digital signs of the P Route parking guidance system will quickly and conveniently direct you to the parking facility of your choice. If you wish to enter a pedestrian zone with a motorised vehicle between 11am and 6pm you will need a permit to avoid getting a fine. Parking on public property in a pedestrian zone is not permitted.

The hotels in the city centre remain accessible by car. You need a permit to use these hotel car parks. Permits are available from the hotel. When booking, simply inform the hotel that you require a parking space and state your registration number. If you are arriving in a rental car, you will need to let the hotel know.

TIP: During rush hour you can easily double travel times, so try to travel outside of these hours.

The Circulation Plan

The Circulation Plan excludes through traffic from the city centre. Pedestrians, cyclists, buses and trams have more space and motorists who genuinely need to drive in the city are able to reach their destination more quickly.

The city is being divided into seven sectors for the plan. Vehicles can travel between the various sectors using the ring road (R40). It is therefore best to check in advance which approach roads to use to reach your destination, within the sector in question, from the ring road. The centre and centre car parks remain accessible to cars.

By Boat

Ghent is a city of water thus ideal to visit by boat. You can dock in no less than five marinas, the most recent of which is the Portus Ganda. On the navigation chart (available free at the Tourist Office) you will find navigation information.

TRAVELLING WITHIN GHENT

By Bus

The public transport in the city is well organised, with a comprehensive network of trams and buses. From early in the morning until late at night, the buses and trams will take you anywhere in and around Ghent.

Buses and trams are Ghent's basic means of public transportation. They will get you everywhere and it is very cheap to travel. There are single tickets that can be used on the bus or tram within the city limits for an hour since the time you had it validated. You can buy them from the driver or from a vending machine located at several strategic spots in town, such as the railway station and the central market square (you will have to validate the ticket by inserting it in a yellow box when getting in the bus or the tram).

You are also able to buy a day pass or a three-day pass which can be used on trams and buses. The pass can be purchased on the bus, however this is more expensive than getting one at the Korenmarkt. A single ticket is around €2, 3-day passes are around €12 and children younger than 6 travel for free.

For more information about routes, stops and schedules, check out the [public transport system website](#).

Cycling

Ghent is a compact city with a cosy, car-free historic centre and countless monuments and museums within walking distance from one another so it is easy to explore the city by bike. [Bicycle Embassy](#) (or De Fiets Ambassade) rent bikes for €10 a day and the bikes are brought to the point of departure and picked up again at a charge.

Buggypunt Ghent

[Buggypunt Gent](#) allows you to borrow a pushchair free of charge for your visit to the city. The pushchairs are all compact and manoeuvrable. They have a large carry cot and the children sit at eye-level. You can borrow a pushchair free of charge and only need to hand in an identification document as a guarantee.

By Boat

You can choose from various boating companies to discover Ghent along its waterways. The Traditional boat tour is available every day. Your captain will also be your guide and during the boat tour will gladly share knowledge about Ghent in various different languages. Basic price: €7.00.

By Taxi

Taxis are waiting for you at the Gent-Sint-Pieters and Gent-Dampoort train stations, and at many other strategic locations around the city: Korenmarkt, Woodrow Wilsonplein ('de Zuid') and Flanders Expo. Of course you can also phone or preferably even reserve a taxi in advance.

TAXI GENT - is Taxi Company based in Ghent

<http://www.taxigent.be/en/home>

Order your taxi by calling +32 (0)9 333 33 33.

By Car

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THINGS TO DO IN GHEENT

Consider a 'museum pass' for 20 Euros. It includes a three-day pass and entrance to all major museums and monuments. It can be purchased in all museums and the tourist office.

The Ghent Altarpiece

The Ghent Altarpiece is one of the city's most iconic treasures. The Ghent Altarpiece (or the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, Het Lam Gods) is a large and complex 15th-century Early Flemish altarpiece, attributed to the brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck, and considered a masterpiece of European art and one of the world's treasures.

The thorough restoration is being carried out by the 'Koninklijk Instituut voor het Kunstpatrimonium (KIK)' and will span 7 years (2012-2019). The actual restoration is being carried out at Museum of Fine Arts (MSK), where eight restorers, under the supervision of Bart Devolder and Livia Depuydt, work on the panels during the day.

The Gravensteen

Overlooking the city from its battlements high up on the keep, The Gravensteen is a castle in Ghent originating from the Middle Ages. The name means "Castle of the Counts" in Dutch.

The castle is open Monday to Sunday 10am-6pm and is €10 to enter.

Patershol

Patershol is a cosy, picturesque neighbourhood in the shadow of the Castle of the Counts, with a pattern of streets that has been the same since mediaeval times. The neighbourhood is the home of the Caermersklooster, the House of Alijn, specialist shops and art galleries.

For good dining, you can choose from one of the many restaurants which have sprung up in the medieval alleys. From French to Thai, to delicious traditional Flemish cooking, you'll find everything here.

The Belfry

Built in 1313 (but adjusted several times since), the Belfry is part of the "Three Towers of Ghent", together with the St. Bavo Cathedral and the St. Nicolas church. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site. At first important city documents were kept in the Belfry, later the tower also served as a watchtower from where watchmen could keep an eye over the city. They especially watched out for fires. When danger was coming, they'd ring the bells of the Belfry.

PLACES TO EAT IN GHENT

There are a number of restaurants within walking distance to the ICC just outside of the surrounding park. There are also plenty of restaurants located in Central Ghent in the areas surrounding Saint Nicholas' Church.

Tuin van Eten (Garden of Eating) *(Open from 12-8 – Monday to Thursday. 12-2.30 – Friday)*

Organic, vegetarian child-friendly restaurant with a covered and heated terrace, also serving gluten-free dishes. This restaurant is located 5 minutes' walk south of the ICC. **Address:** Kortrijksesteenweg 573, 9000 Gent, Belgium.

't Vosken *(Open every day from 8.30am. Kitchen open from 11.30-10.30)*

Typical Ghent brasserie located in central Ghent, serving Belgian cuisine and Ghent specialities in a striking black-and-white interior. **Address:** Sint-Baafsplein 19, 9000 Gent.

Amélie + Moi *(Open Wednesday to Friday 9.30-5.30, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-3)*

A real paradise for children and parents alike, Amélie + Moi is a combination of a café, a shop and a meeting space. The food and drinks menu is child-friendly and the shop is filled with sustainable children's clothing and toys. **Address:** Steendam 74-76, 9000 Gent.

TRAVELLING TO THE VENUE

Gent ICC - international Convention Centre

Van Rysselbergheplein 2 bus 1

Citadelpark

B - 9000 Gent

Belgium

Location

Gent ICC is located in the Citadelpark, surrounded by greenery that is accented with little ponds, and just a short distance from the city centre. It is easily reached by public transport.



By Train

Gent ICC is a 10-minute walk from the Ghent-Sint-Pieters station. There you have access to all cities in Belgium and to the stations Brussels-South and Antwerp-Central, where high-speed trains leave.

By Bus & Tram

Next line buses stop at Ledeganckstraat, directly opposite the entrance to Ghent ICC:

Lines 9, 28, 34, 35, 36, 55, 57, 58, 70, 71, 72, 76, 77, 94, 95.

All these lines run from the Ledeganckstraat stop to the Ghent-Sint-Pieters station.

Check out [De Lijn's website](#) for more information.

By Plane

Brussels International Airport is less than 45 minutes from the ICC Ghent. Every half hour there is a direct connection between Brussels Airport and Ghent-Sint-Pieters train station.

More info at Brussels Airport.

By Car

From Antwerp / Kortrijk

Drive via the E17 towards Ghent and take the Ghent-Centrum exit.

After the Ghent-Centrum exit, take the far right (next to the viaduct, follow "all directions"). Bear left and cross the Sint-Lievenslaan under the viaduct.

At the 2nd traffic lights, double intersection, follow left, direction Oudenaarde.

Leave the Museum of Fine Arts on your left and the S.M.A.K. On your right.

50 meters after the bend, you will find on the right Ghent ICC International Convention Centre (Hofbouwlaan).

From Brussels / Oostende

Drive via the E 40 towards Ghent. Then E17 Antwerp-Ghent.

After the Ghent-Centrum exit, take the far right (next to the viaduct, follow “all directions”). Bear left and cross the Sint-Lievenslaan under the viaduct.

At the 2nd traffic lights, double intersection, follow left, direction Oudenaarde.

Leave the Museum of Fine Arts on your left and the S.M.A.K. On your right.

A 50 meter further, after the bend, you will find on the right Ghent ICC International Convention Center (Hofbouwlaan).

Parking

There are plenty of parking facilities within and around Gent ICC.

At Gent ICC:

There is Gent ICC's own underground car park with 100 parking spaces during the day and 150 parking spaces during the evening. There are also disabled parking spaces on level -1.

Around Gent ICC:

There is public underground parking beneath Sint-Pietersplein with another 700 underground parking spaces within a 10-minute walk from the ICC Ghent.

REGISTRATION TIMES

Monday 11 December	14:00 – 19:30
Tuesday 12 December	08:00 – 19:00
Wednesday 13 December	08:00 – 19:00
Thursday 14 December	08:00 – 13:30

PRESENTER GUIDELINES

For those of you presenting either a talk or a poster, [please read the guidelines](#) on the conference website carefully before preparing your presentation.

SPEAKER ROOM

The Speakers' Area is located in the centre of the First Floor Foyer at two desk areas and will be open during the following hours:

Monday 11 December	14.00 – 17.00
Tuesday 12 December	08.00 – 17.00
Wednesday 13 December	08.00 – 17.00
Thursday 14 December	08.30 – 13.00

The speaker area is fully equipped for speakers to hand in and review their presentations. To ensure that the presentations are well prepared, speakers should bring their presentations to the area at least 3 hours before their presentations. Technical staff will be on hand to help with any issues.

08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
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*Post Conference Tours

* Extra charge to attend these events
– please select when registering

SOCIAL EVENTS

The welcome mixer takes place in the Exhibition Hall (Artevelde Forum & Pedro de Gante) at the ICC from 19:30 – 21:30 on Monday 13 December.

Poster Session 1 will take place in the Pedro de Gante Hall on Tuesday the 12 December from 17:15 – 18:45. The posters will also be available to view on Monday evening and Tuesday day.

Poster Session 2 will take place in the Pedro de Gante Hall on Wednesday the 13 December from 18:00 – 19:30. The posters will also be available to view on both Wednesday day and Thursday morning.

The Conference Dinner will take place in the Banketzaal & Minneplein at the ICC. This is a ticketed event and is now sold out. All tickets must be purchased in advance of the meeting. If you have any questions, please ask a Helper or member of BES staff on the Registration Desk.

On the last day of the meeting (Thursday 14 December) we invite you to start celebrating the holidays with Christmas Day! We encourage you to come to the meeting in festive attire (jumpers, ties, tinsel, reindeer antlers – whatever takes your fancy) and tweet a photo of yourself to #EAB2017. There is a prize for the best/worst/most creative attire!

DELEGATE INFORMATION

Social Media

All attendees are encouraged to join the discussion via social media, so please use the hashtag [#EAB2017](#) to ensure you are part of the conversation.

We understand that some people will not want their research broadcast. We respect that, so have created a '[do not share](#)' image for people to download on our website and add to their poster, talk or presentation. We hope the fellow attendees will also respect the request and refrain from sharing any talks or posters who show the image. If people do not include this image on their presentation, we will assume they are happy for their research to be shared.

Photography

There will be a photography at the event, Photographs taken may be used for promotional purposes; if you have any concerns or queries regarding this, please come and see us at the Registration Desk.

Internet

Complementary Wi-Fi is provided throughout the ICC. Please log into the EAB2017 network.

Badges

For security purposes, please wear your name badges at all times within the ICC. If your badge is lost, a new badge may be issued for a cost of €10.

Currency

Ghent uses the Euro.

Electricity Voltage

220 - 240 Volts, Type E electrical plug two round pins.

Time Zone

Ghent is currently within CET (Central European Time).

Food & Refreshments

Your registration includes the welcome mixer on Monday evening, tea/coffee and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Poster Sessions.

Tea/coffee and lunches will be served in the main Exhibition Hall (Artevelde Forum & Pedro de Gante) and on the first and second floor mezzanines, during the designated refreshment breaks.

Please only use the catering stations on the mezzanines if you are attending a workshop.

If you have a specific dietary requirement (not vegetarian and vegan) then please ask a waiter for your food and this will be brought out from the kitchen.

We do our best to ensure the meeting producing as little packaging as possible within the constraints of the caterers. Please note, due to health & safety regulations at the venue all Gluten free bread will be served in individual packages.

Plenary Lectures

All Plenary lectures will be delivered in the Auditorium. The Plenary sessions will also be live streamed into the Van Rysselberghezaal, on the first floor. If you arrive late, or the auditorium is particularly full, please use this room – questions can be asked via Twitter.

Families

For those of you with children, we have a family room located by the registration area of the ICC. This room will contain a microwave, fridge and kettle, and will have the blinds down for family use. There will be an area for breastfeeding. Please feel free to bring toys to use in this area. It is your responsibility to ensure children are accompanied by an adult at all times.

Contemplation Room

We have set aside a room, Training House 1, for those that may need a moment to pause and reflect. This room can also be used for prayer. We ask you to please not use this room for working and that all electrical items are switched off/to silence while using this space.

Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates, we ask that all mobile phones and electronic **devices be changed to silent mode before entering into any session.**

Cloakroom

The cloakroom can be found below the escalators at the entrance to the ICC. This will be complementary and will be open for the duration of the meeting, but will close 30 minutes after the last event of the day finishes.

Lost Property

Please hand in lost property to the Registration Desk where it will be made available for collection.

Smoking Policy

Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the venue.

First Aid

Should you require first aid assistance during the meeting, please contact a BES team member who will be able to guide you to an appointed first aider.

Venue Security & Liability

In the event of an emergency the ICC staff will guide you to safety. There will not be any fire alarm tests during the meeting, therefore any fire alarm is the real thing.

If at any point in the meeting you have any questions or require assistance, please contact a member of the EAB staff either in the information stand or the registration area, or any of our helpers – who can be identified by their blue 'Help Is Here' T-shirts.

Insurance & Liability

It is recommended that participants arrange their own personal health, accident and travel insurance. The meeting organisers will not accept liability for personal injury or loss/damage to property/belongings of participants or accompanying persons, before, during or following the meeting, on tours or during your stay in Ghent.

Disclaimer

All the best endeavours will be made to present the programme advertised. However, the BES and its partners reserve the right to alter or cancel, without prior notice, arrangements, timetables, plans or other items relating directly or indirectly to Ecology Across Borders 2017, for any cause beyond its reasonable control. The BES and its partners are not liable for any loss or inconvenience caused as a result of such cancellation. Delegates are advised to take out their own travel insurance and extend their policy to cover personal possessions as the BES and its partners do not cover individuals against cancellation of bookings or theft or damage to belongings. Tours run by third parties may be subject to cancellation should the minimum numbers not be achieved.

TOURS – FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

All tours must be paid for in advance of the meeting, there will be no tickets available at the meeting.

If you are attending the **Highlights of Ghent** tour, you will be meeting at De Dulle Griet (Statue of a Canon) at the corner of the Lange Munt and the Vrijdagsmarkt at

If you are attending the **Highlights of Antwerp or Highlights of Bruges** tour, please meet outside the entrance to the ICC at 09:00 where the tour company will guide you to your coaches. At Antwerp and Bruges the guides will wait for you where the coach arrived. This point will also be the pick up for your return at 16:30. As you will have some free time, we will ensure the ap you are supplied with marks the meeting point for your return back to Ghent.

If you are attending the **Visit LTER Site Gontrode** you should receive emails with details of where to meet Maurice Hoffman at Ghent St Pieter's Train Station.

CONTACT

If you have any questions leading up to the Conference please do not hesitate to get in touch with BES Events Manager, [Amy Everard](#).