

CEGESOMA - State Archives

NEWSLETTER

No 112 - April 2026



NEWS

INTERVIEW WITH BLANDINE LANDAU

Recipient of an EHRI-ERIC Kristel Fellowship from EHRI-ERIC at CegeSoma and the National Archives, Blandine Landau presents this type of fellowship and the expected results of her research focused on people classified as Jewish in Luxemburg during World War II.

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EUROPEAN HOLOCAUST RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Belgian national node of EHRI met at CegeSoma to discuss, among other things, the TRACE-BE research project and its various objectives, as well as to announce the start of the call for applications for the 2026 Conny Kristel fellowships.

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JBH ARTICLE AWARDED

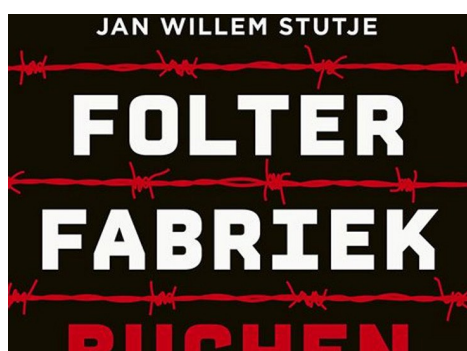
The quinquennial Oscar Delghust Prize has been awarded to Nico Wouters' article on the case of Leo Vindevogel, wartime mayor of Ronse and the only Belgian parliamentarian executed for collaboration after World War II.

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ON THE AGENDA

FOLTERFABRIEK BUCHENWALD

Join us on May 20, 2026, for a Public History Meeting in Dutch. Jan Willem Stutje, interviewed by Widukind De Ridder, will analyze the kapo system through an emblematic case: the German concentration camp of Buchenwald.

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LOOTED ART AND THE ART MARKET

On 11 and 12 June 2026, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium will host the international conference 'Looted Art and the Art Market: Nazi Art Theft in Belgium, Europe, and Its Aftermath'.

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PUBLICATION

DID THE WAR CHANGE THE NAME OF MY STREET?

Discover in the new book 'Les noms des lieux à Bruxelles', soon available online, the influence of occupations and wars on street names. Also explore other online resources dedicated to toponymy in Brussels.

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Interview with Blandine Landau, an EHRI-ERIC Conny Kristel Fellow at the CegeSoma/State Archives



Blandine, you are in Belgium to conduct research for a week as part of EHRI-ERIC's Conny Kristel Fellowship programme. Can you tell us a bit about your background that led you here?

I first completed an undergraduate degree in art history, museology, and cultural mediation at the École du Louvre, before completing a master's degree at Paris IV-Sorbonne University, during which I participated in an Erasmus exchange program at KU Leuven. Subsequently, I passed the exam for heritage curators and served as director of the Musée des Émaux et Faiences de Longwy for eight years. In 2015, I reconnected with a professor at Duke University in the United States whom I had met in 2005 during my second master's degree, which focused on Hieronymus Bosch, and who had suggested that I write a thesis under their supervision. I set out to begin this dissertation on the history of the art market and specifically Bosch's production. Then, in 2020, I was recruited by the University of Luxembourg to write a dissertation on the dispossession of people classified as Jewish in Luxembourg during the Second World War. If someone had told me ten or twenty years ago, when I was studying at KU Leuven, that I would become a heritage curator and then go on to write these dissertations, I wouldn't have believed them. I then went on to complete a first and now a second postdoc. Currently, I am a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Luxembourg at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) and am leading a research project focusing on people considered Jewish and who came from Luxembourg and were active in the resistance in Belgium during the Second World War.

What do you hope to achieve with your current research?

My current postdoctoral research focuses on the digital Holocaust memorial project in Luxembourg, led by the Luxembourg Foundation for the Memory of the Holocaust and the University of Luxembourg. The aim of this project is to compile biographies of people who, during the Second World War, were classified as Jewish under Nazi racial laws, without reducing them to their status as victims of the Holocaust. The idea is to explore who they were as individuals, as citizens and as social actors. In this context, the biographies of the people I am researching are primarily intended for this digital memorial. They will subsequently also be used for an exhibition on the role of 'foreigners' in the resistance during the Second World War, particularly those considered Jewish, which will take place at the National Museum of Resistance and Human Rights in Esch-sur-Alzette from September 2027 to April or May 2028, followed by a conference in Paris in the spring of 2028. The EHRI-ERIC Conny Kristel Fellowship, of which I am a recipient, is therefore part of this broader research project.

The starting point for this research is a list that was drawn up as part of the work carried out by the *Commission spéciale pour l'étude des spoliations des « biens juifs »* (Special Commission for the Study of the Spoliation of 'Jewish Property') in Luxembourg (2001–2009), a list that was subsequently revised and currently contains the names of just over 5,000 people considered to be Jewish who were residing in Luxembourg before 10 May 1940. I have identified individuals in this file who, during the war, found themselves in Belgium and, among all these people, I am trying to identify those who played an active role in the resistance at one time or another.

Why did you choose this topic?

During my first postdoctoral research project, which was entitled 'Living Memory', I collected testimonies from Holocaust survivors with links to Luxembourg. Many people told me about the resistance activities of their fathers, uncles, mothers, and so on. And when I asked them what recognition these deeds had received, in most cases, there had been none. I found this to be an interesting topic to explore, and that is what led me to my current project. The question of the role played by people considered to be Jewish and foreigners (categories that sometimes overlap) in the resistance is one that has attracted relatively little attention in Luxembourg's historiography, particularly from the perspective of recognition. These are people who have rarely been acknowledged, whether through the award of medals, in historiography, or even in the culture of remembrance (monuments, commemorations).

Did you come across any documents in Belgium this week that stood out for you?

Yes, right here in the archives of the Service for War Victims. There is a file of a Belgian man who lived in Luxembourg and was classified as Jewish under Nazi racial laws. In the autumn of 1940 in Luxembourg, he was subjected to forced labour. He returned to Belgium with his wife and joined the resistance. He then organised the escape of people fleeing to France, either people evading forced labour or Jews. He was caught and first interned at Gurs, then at Pithiviers, where the Belgian Red Cross visited and wrote in a report that they had come across this Belgian citizen: 'Mr 'M' would be very happy if we could help him get out of this camp'. What an understatement!

From Pithiviers, he was then transferred to Drancy and subsequently deported to Auschwitz, after which he was sent through a series of camps, at the end of which he died. The last trace of this person alive outside the concentration camp system is therefore this sentence stating that he "would be very happy if we could help him" ... and then his signature registering his arrival at Auschwitz.

Could you explain what a Conny Kristel Fellowship is, how one applies for it, how candidates are selected, and how it is organised in practice?

A fellowship is a research stipend offered by an organisation, a foundation or an institution, the aim of which to support successful candidates for a specific period of time or a project. In my case, I am supported by an EHRI-ERIC fellowship, which offers research stipends, and more specifically the 'Conny Kristel Fellowship' programme.

Once a year, a call for applications is published online. Anyone can apply. Applicants are asked to propose a research project related to the Holocaust for which they would like to receive support from the organisation. A number of projects are selected. The duration of this fellowship is between one and six weeks at participating host institutions as in Belgium, the State Archives/CegeSoma and Kazerne Dossin. These fellowships provide researchers with transnational, in-person access to the collections and offer a fixed weekly stipend towards accommodation and subsistence and the reimbursement of reasonable travel costs. The contact person at the host institution plays a key role in facilitating a fellow's stay (by explaining the administrative procedures for accessing specific files, applying for special permissions where necessary, and booking a place in the archives, etc.). This is invaluable as it ensures that everything runs smoothly on site. The schedule is very detailed and precise.

Research work is a solitary endeavour, but, in reality, it can only be carried out because there are people around to help. People such as Dirk Luyten at the CegeSoma, or others at AGR1, AGR2 or CARCOB, for example, whom I had contacted and who had prepared everything before my arrival. And this is without forgetting the colleague who drew up the lists beforehand that let me know which individuals I needed to track down. It's really a chain where every link is important. We can only do what we do together and for one another.

Thank you, Blandine, for taking the time out of your busy schedule to discuss your project with us and all the best with your research!

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[Home](#) » [News](#) » Belgium's national node of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure meets at CegeSoma

Belgium's national node of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure meets at CegeSoma



On Monday 20 April 2026, CegeSoma hosted a meeting of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure's Belgian node of, EHRI-BE. The meeting was led by EHRI-BE's coordination team, Dirk Luyten of CegeSoma and Veerle Vanden Daelen of Kazerne Dossin, and in attendance were members from across the EHRI-BE consortium, including historians, archivists and digital humanities experts, as well as representatives of the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO). The aim of this meeting was to bring Belgian partners up to speed on a number of EHRI-related developments that had occurred since the consortium last met, including the launch of a new project: TRACE-BE.

After a warm welcome from CegeSoma's director, Nico Wouters, Dirk Luyten provided a brief update on EHRI's establishment as a [European Research Infrastructure Consortium](#) (ERIC) at the beginning of 2025 and the governance structure of this organisation. Laurent Ghys of BELSPO then presented an update on Belgium's membership of this ERIC.

TRACE-BE

With these updates out of the way, it was time to announce the exciting news about the Belgian State Archives (SAB)/CegeSoma's successful application for research project funding through BELSPO's [ESFRI-FED programme](#). After Dirk Luyten explained the scope of the ESFRI-FED programme, with its focus on supporting federal scientific institutions in European research infrastructures, the project's researcher, Matthew Haultain-Gall provided an overview of the project itself. Launched in February, "Training Research Access and Connectivity for EHRI-BE," or

TRACE-BE, is a four-year project coordinated by CegeSoma and includes Kazerne Dossin as a funded partner. The project is a natural extension of the work the SAB/CegeSoma has carried out across [EHRI's five European-funded projects](#) to date. Its overarching aims are to consolidate the SAB's position within EHRI by simulating and facilitating archival-based national and transnational research on the Holocaust and contribute to the further development of EHRI-BE.

TRACE-BE will achieve its overarching aims by improving and enriching SAB's data and data integration; tailoring existing research tools to the needs of EHRI; and by offering transnational access to the SAB's Holocaust-related collections and training for researchers in Belgium to stimulate Holocaust research. Moreover, mobilising the SAB/CegeSoma's expertise in EHRI governance will ensure that EHRI-BE reaches a significant level of maturity to fully contribute to EHRI-ERIC, as well as strengthen this federal scientific institution's position within the Belgian national node, the EHRI-ERIC National Coordinators Committee, and specialised EHRI working groups and regional groupings.

The project's wide-ranging activities will ensure that Belgian State Archives' Holocaust-related collections become more easily accessible for researchers and other user communities (educators, experts, museum staff, citizens); encourage more impactful comparative and transnational research using digital humanities methodologies; and enhance the Belgian State Archives' contribution to EHRI-BE and EHRI-ERIC's wider objectives.

The needs of the members of EHRI-BE

Once the presentation on TRACE-BE was completed, meeting participants were invited by Veerle Vanden Daelen to discuss what they were currently working on, how it overlapped with EHRI-BE's work and what support the national node could potentially provide. What followed was a rich discussion on how smaller heritage institutions could benefit from the know-how of larger institutions, the difficulties of aligning databases with different scopes and the standardisation of data, particularly in relation to biographical data.

The meeting then concluded with a succinct overview of the work being conducted in EHRI beyond Belgium. This not only included work organised centrally by EHRI-ERIC, but also that being undertaken by other national nodes as well. Among the activities discussed was the EHRI's [Conny Kristel Fellowship](#) programme, which aims to facilitate international access to a broad range of archives and collections related to the Holocaust, supporting and stimulating Holocaust research and documentation worldwide. The programme is open to researchers, archivists, librarians, curators and other relevant professionals. The timing of this discussion was particularly apposite as just the following day, EHRI announced that its call for 2026 Conny Kristel Fellows was open!

To find out more about the programme, participating partners and the application process, head to [EHRI's website](#). The call is open until midnight on 7 June 2026.

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Article from the Journal of Belgian History receives award



On Heritage Day (Erfgoeddag, 26 April 2026), the quinquennial Oscar Delghust Prize was awarded in Ronse. The winning entry was Nico Wouter's article on the Leo Vindevogel affair, which was published in the *Journal of Belgian History*.



L. Vindevogel, Mayor of Ronse, 1940-1945, photo no 7266
© CegeSoma/State Archives.

Leo Vindevogel was the wartime mayor of Ronse and the only Belgian member of parliament to be executed after the Second World War for collaboration. After the war, he became one of the main symbols in Flanders of so-called the anti-Flemish repression. In this narrative, his death sentence was regarded as a political settling of scores and a miscarriage of justice. There was strong pressure to have the original trial reviewed, but, ultimately, this never took happened. In the article, Nico Wouters analyses this narrative and compares it with the original court documents. Can we really speak of a miscarriage of justice? How did the courts come to hand down a death sentence?

This award of this prize highlights the importance of the *Journal of Belgian History* as a leading platform for new and innovative historical research. All the articles, debate papers, reviews and summaries of

doctoral theses published in this periodical are open access, that is, they are available free of charge via the journal's website. Some print issues are also available free of charge and can be obtained at events organised by CegeSoma.

[The article “The Vindevogel Case” \(in Dutch\) can be found here.](#)

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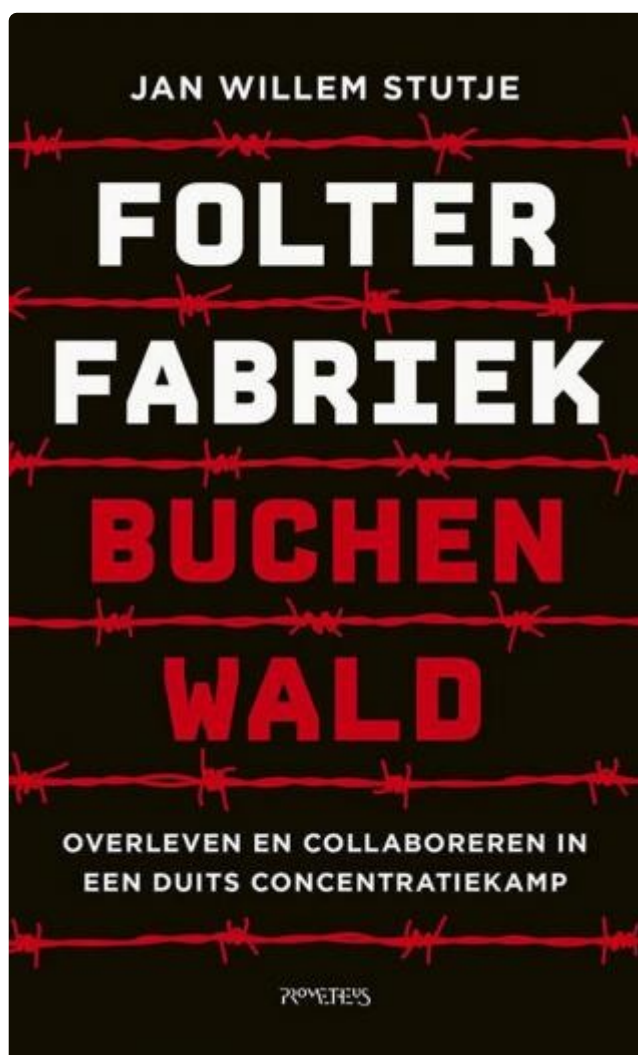
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Folterfabriek Buchenwald. Overleven en collaboreren in een Duits concentratiekamp. (The Buchenwald Torture Factory. Surviving and Collaborating in a German Concentration Camp)

CegeSoma Public History Meeting – 2026-2

World War II [Conference](#)



Lecture and discussion in Dutch with guest speaker Jan Willem Stutje

An interview by Widukind De Ridder

CegeSoma and the non-profit organization Friends of CegeSoma are pleased to invite you on 20 May 2026 to a lecture and discussion (in Dutch) on Jan Willem Stutje's book 'Folterfabriek Buchenwald. Overleven en collaboreren in een Duits concentratiekamp'.

In this book, Jan Willem Stutje explores what Primo Levi referred to as the “gray zone”: that ambiguous space between victims and perpetrators, within which the system of delegated authority established in Nazi concentration and extermination camps operated. Rarely addressed in the Dutch-speaking world since Gie van den Berghe’s pioneering work published in 1987 (*Met de dood voor ogen*), this issue is examined here through an emblematic case: Buchenwald.

Beginning in 1942, in the context of total war and the war economy, the Nazi authorities increasingly prioritized so-called “red” political prisoners at the expense of so-called “green” common-law prisoners. Entrusted with supervisory and administrative responsibilities, some of them were able to directly influence the fate of their fellow prisoners, sometimes even determining their chances of survival.

Through his analysis of the kapo system, Jan Willem Stutje highlights the power dynamics, political divisions, and moral dilemmas within the camp. He also demonstrates how the SS drew upon the political prestige, militant traditions, and organizational discipline of the labor movement to structure and control the concentration camp system. His investigation directly examines the mechanisms of selection, the protection afforded to certain officials, their assignment to less arduous work details, or their admission to the infirmary, while exploring the blurred boundaries between survival, domination, and compromise.

In this Public History Meeting, the author will dialogue with Widukind De Ridder and seek to answer several significant questions. What challenges do research on concentration camps and their public memory face to this day? How should we understand the “gray zone” today? How can we comprehend the role of communist prisoner-officials in the internal organization of Buchenwald? Can these reflections be extrapolated to other camps? To what extent do postwar testimonies allow us to reconstruct the subtleties of power relations within the camp? What do competing memories of Buchenwald reveal about the political uses of the past, from the immediate postwar period to the Cold War?

By placing the history of the labor movement at the heart of his analysis, Stutje brings the history of the concentration camps out of its relative isolation and connects it to much broader debates on the rise of fascism in the 1930s and the emergence of the postwar social and political order.



Jan Willem Stutje is a historian. He has been affiliated with the International Institute of Social History (IISG) in Amsterdam and worked at the universities of Brussels, Groningen, and Ghent. He is the author of biographies of Paul de Groot, Ernest Mandel (translated into English, French, German, Greek, and Italian), Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis (nominated for the Libris History Prize), and Hendrik de Man. His book *'Folterfabriek Buchenwald. Overleven en collaboreren in een Duits Concentratiekamp'* received the 2025 Shoah Literature Prize.



Widukind De Ridder holds a Ph.D. in history (*VUB*). His research focuses on socio-economic history and the history of political thought (19th and 20th centuries). As a researcher with FED-tWIN Belcowar, he divides his time between CegeSoma/State Archives and the *Moderniteit en Samenleving, 1800-2000 (MoSa)* research unit at *KU Leuven*.



20/05/2026 - 14:00 to 15:30

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Where: CegeSoma Conference Room, Aviation Square 29 – 1070 Brussels

When: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 (2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)

Registration required: isabelle.ponteville@arch.be or 02.556.92.11.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase (cash only) at the event: Jan Willem Stutje, Folterfabriek Buchenwald.

Overleven en collaboreren in een Duits concentratiekamp, Prometheus, 2024, 296 p. (€24.99)

Event fee: €5.00 (payable cash on site)

Main language

Dutch

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Looted Art and the Art Market: Nazi Art Theft in Belgium, Europe, and Its Aftermath.

International Conference

World War II [Conference](#)



On 11-12 June 2026, the Royal Museums of Fine Art of Belgium will host an international conference entitled **Looted Art and the Art Market: Nazi Art Theft in Belgium, Europe, and Its Aftermath**. This conference is organized in the context of the Belgian federal research project [ProvEnhance](#) (*Enhancing the provenance data of the collections of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium (RMFAB) since 1933. Scientific study, digital valorisation and narrative in context*), of which the Belgian State Archives/CegeSoma is a partner.

Bringing together provenance research, art market studies, and data science, this conference aims to advance an interdisciplinary framework for analyzing the movements of cultural objects and their connections to actors, institutions and power structures shaped by the Nationalist Socialist era and its aftermath.

[The programme of the conference and all further practical information to attend the conference can be found here.](#)



11/06/2026 - 08:45 to 12/06/2026 - 17:15

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Did the war change the name of my street?



The burden of occupations and wars

The publication of the book on place names in Brussels ([Les noms des lieux à Bruxelles - EUB](#)) gives us an opportunity to revisit this issue and its implications in the context of the two world wars.

Did you know, for example, that the municipality of Evere was the first to rename its Cyriel Verschaeve Street? The decision was made by the municipal council as early as September 21, 1944. At the same time, Ernest Claes Street was also renamed.

The new names were chosen with care: Maquis Street for the former and Resistance Street for the latter. We should also note the decision taken by the Brussels City Council to rename Avenue du Midi as Avenue de Stalingrad in July 1945, and not in 1948 as stated on an explanatory sign installed on-site in 2012. In reality, the City wanted to pay tribute to Marshal Stalin, but the municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert had beaten it to the punch. In fact, in November 1944, the municipality—led by a liberal/socialist majority—decided to rename Place de Finlande, a name dating back to January 1940, and transform it into Place Maréchal Staline. This was by no means an unlikely location but rather the square where the Town Hall stands, now known as Place Tomberg. At the time, Woluwe-Saint-Lambert was not yet as urbanized as it is today, and the surroundings were rather rural. Arriving as a scout, the Soviet ambassador found the location unworthy of the “Little Father of the Peoples” ... Marshal Stalin Square would therefore never come into being, but in the meantime, since the City of Brussels had been unable to pay tribute to the Soviet leader, it settled instead... on the martyred city of Stalingrad!

The avenue was officially inaugurated in the presence of the Soviet ambassador in December 1945. On this occasion, the mayor of Brussels, the liberal Joseph Vandemeulebroeck, praised Stalin in glowing terms: "Our admiration for their brilliant leader knows no bounds, and we will never forget him." To this day, none of the attempts to rename the avenue have been successful.

These two examples remind us that place names are important markers of our landscape. The two world wars played a major role in shaping them. While the number of streets in the capital that directly honor the memory of World War I is far higher than those dedicated to World War II—263 for the former and 182 for the latter— it is simply because these changes occurred mainly in the interwar period, at a time when the capital underwent impressive urban and demographic development requiring the creation of numerous new thoroughfares.

When we examine the changes brought about by the two world wars, it is, of course, primarily the postwar periods that we scrutinize. However, it is undoubtedly worth noting that during the conflicts themselves, this issue was very much present. Thus, during World War I, the municipalities of Brussels once again addressed the sensitive issue of duplicate street names. And during the second occupation, Secretary General Gerard Romsée sought to take advantage of the circumstances to tighten the conditions for name changes, challenge recent renamings, and revert to names steeped in tradition. While his plans certainly did not have time to come to fruition, they left their mark on the legislative front, making the process of name changes more difficult.

Online Resources

The issue of place-name nomenclature in Brussels has been the subject of a series of lectures titled "Nom d'une rue" organized by the Royal Academy of Belgium. These lectures can be viewed on the Academy's YouTube channel ([Académie royale de Belgique - YouTube](#)).

In addition, the database containing 5,099 unique street names is now online ([Odoniris - EBxl](#)). Besides a set of freely downloadable maps, users can also access, via the Zenodo platform, [an Excel file containing the data used to establish the categories and subcategories—and thus also the maps](#) (see file `odoniris_V2.csv`). The tool is subject to improvement and evolution. Through a dedicated tab, each user can submit suggestions for changes by citing the appropriate sources. The database can thereby be improved through a participatory process.

Finally, the publication 'Les noms de lieux à Bruxelles. Enjeux passés et présents' is now available in French and Dutch. The French version will also soon be accessible online on the platform [Les noms des lieux à Bruxelles - EUB](#). The Dutch version is already available on the platform [Brusselse plaatsnamen | Leuven University Press](#).

Other news

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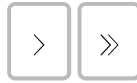
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