

Antwerp

Antwerp hosts the **second biggest chemical cluster in the world**. Many big companies have a production facility in Antwerp. But this cluster is renewing itself. **Sustainable chemistry** is a major focuspoint in Antwerp. During the visit the following projects will be visited or presented:

- Pre-incubation University of Antwerp: Blue_App
- Incubation & acceleration: BlueChem
- Testbed Port of Antwerp
- Locations: Blue Gate Antwerp & Churchill Industrial Zone (Port of Antwerp)
- Chemical cluster: company presentations

Ghent

Ghent's harbour and city centre is a hub for circular economy initiatives. Captains of industry, entrepreneurs, city developers and universities are joining forces on **resource recovery projects** on **CO₂, plastics** and **construction material**. These projects form a crucial part of Ghent's industrial symbiosis and urban development. They focus on **implementation** and **upscaling**.

During the tour, the **valorisation potential** will be discussed. We are excited to **exchange ideas and experiences** to improve CE practices even further. To paraphrase Thomas Rau in 'Material Matters', most of the earth's resources are finite, but intelligence, data and science are not. The goal is to make the finite infinite again.

Brussels

Brussels is an urban region with a high density of population and therefore an interesting challenge in the **management of materials flows**. A transition towards circular economy is of prime importance for cities and to achieve that, the economy should be taking into account the fundamental needs of the inhabitants as well as the realities of the territory.

The visit through Brussels will focus on hotspots where **innovation** and **experimentation** on circular economy have led to the creation of new economic activities. In the capital of Europe, we will discover the Brussels pioneers in circular economy in **dedicated incubators** as well as in creative uses of **temporary occupation** in order **to avoid wasted capacity**.

The Province of Hainaut

For almost 60 years, **IDEA**, a multi-sector intermunicipal company, has been promoting the « Heart of Hainaut » region, a competitive, vibrant, cohesive area with more than 540,000 inhabitants, located in the southwest of Belgium, near Brussels, the capital of Europe. Thanks to its reputation and its qualities, the « Heart of Hainaut » has attracted **major international groups** interested in expanding their businesses there.

The 'Heart of Hainaut' area aims to be a place of **experimentation** in order to spark the **transition**. As a privileged partner of companies, IDEA creates awareness among businesses regarding the principles of the **circular economy** and the **opportunities** that it has to offer. In addition, IDEA **supports companies** in their efforts.

The planned visits will be an opportunity to discover best practices put in place by companies specialised in **industrial ecology**, **recycling** and **eco-design**.