

# Annual Report

# 2024

YEARBOOK 2024/2025



**Camera di Commercio**  
Belgo-Italiana









An official publication of the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce

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# Table Of Contents

## 01

### WELCOME

President and Director's message  
Board of Directors  
The Team

## 02

### THE CHAMBER

Who we are • Our Partners  
Benefits of Association  
Our services • Other services  
Membership

## 03

### BELGIUM

A key Partner for Italy  
Assets • Economic landscape  
Moving to Belgium • Start an activity in Belgium

## 04

### ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

Events • Trade Fairs & Incoming  
European Projects • Training programmes  
Mobility • Special Projects  
Publications

## 05

### MEMBERS

Our Platinum, Gold, Expand & Develop members  
Members of the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce  
Useful contacts



Welcome







# Message

## from the Chairman and the Director

Dear Members,

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**Fabio Morvilli**

Chairman

Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce

With one eye on the past year and another looking towards the future, we are proud to share that 2024 marked a dynamic phase for our Chamber. It was a year full of significant achievements and a constant commitment to strengthening the ties between Italy, Belgium, and the European Institutions, while actively supporting businesses and initiatives that promote economic and cultural cooperation.

In 2024, within a Europe in recovery and moving towards a green and digital transition, our Chamber reinforced its role in supporting the international growth of companies. Thanks to a well-established network of collaborations with institutional and private partners – including government bodies, European institutions, banks, and leading companies in their respective sectors – we facilitated numerous business exchanges, encouraged economic growth, and created new opportunities for the companies involved.

2024 also marked an important expansion of our membership network, with the addition of new and high-profile members. This growth represents recognition of the value of our activities and confirms the strong interest in the services we provide. We are pleased to welcome these new members, confident that their participation will enrich our network with diverse experiences and stimulating opportunities for collaboration.



**Giorgio De Bin**

Secretary General

Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce

As a bridge between Italy and Belgium, we organized and supported trade missions and Italian delegations at strategic trade fairs, making a tangible contribution to enhancing the value of *Made in Italy* in the Belgian market. The event calendar of the past year – which included sectoral meetings, networking sessions, thematic workshops, and B2B activities – was very well received, with particular emphasis, again in 2024, on the promotional mission of Calabria Region.

We also continued our commitment to training, offering businesses, local authorities, consultants, associations, and young professionals new opportunities for growth in the field of European projects. Our courses, conducted by expert trainers, focused on acquiring practical skills and operational tools to design and manage successful projects.

In 2024, our Chamber further strengthened relations with the European Institutions, taking part in projects and initiatives that increased visibility and fostered new opportunities for growth and development.

These activities reflect our commitment to promoting innovation, internationalisation, and professional growth, thereby contributing to enhancing the competitiveness of companies and stakeholders.

An additional step forward in our Chamber's institutional growth was the expansion of the Board of Directors with the appointment of two new members, Tomas Meyers (KBC) and Francesco Tramontin (Ferrero). Their presence will bring valuable expertise and perspectives to face future challenges.

With renewed enthusiasm, we look ahead, ready to continue our work with dedication, focusing on creating value for our members and building new opportunities.

Thank you for your trust and valuable support!



# Board Of Directors

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**Fabio Morvilli**  
Chairman  
Belgian-Italian Chamber  
of Commerce



**Anna Gibello**  
Vice-Chair  
MVVP



**Luisa Castelli**  
Director  
SG Camera di Commercio  
Italo-Lussemburghese



**Antonio Tresca**  
Director  
Ceramigres 2000



**Francesco Tramontin**  
Director  
Ferrero



**Gian Angelo Bellati**  
Director  
Venetian Cluster



**Antonio Calvisi**  
Director  
Banque de Luxembourg



**Tomas Meyer**  
Director  
KBC





**INTESA SANPAOLO**  
**WEALTH MANAGEMENT**  
Belgium

# We provide perspective

## Private Banking & Wealth Management

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading banking Group in Italy and a leader in Europe. The Private Banking division has a well-established international presence, enabling it to offer a global approach to wealth management.

**Intesa Sanpaolo Wealth Management - Belgium Branch** Succursale de/Succursaal van Intesa Sanpaolo Wealth Management S.A. (Luxembourg)  
Office Brussels Chaussée de la Hulpe/Terhulpesteenweg 166, 1170 Bruxelles/Brussel · Ph +32 (0) 2 233 83 51 · F +32 (0) 2 233 83 50  
Office Ghent Poortakkerstraat 9E, 9051 Gent · Ph +32 (0) 9 321 21 21 · F +32 (0) 9 321 21 20 · No. BCE/Nr. KBO (B): 0563.635.128

Bank of **INTESA**  **SANPAOLO**

# Staff

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**Giorgio De Bin**  
Secretary General



**Nora Serrani**  
Deputy- Secretary General  
Business Development&Membership



**Francesca Rossi**  
Master&Training  
Business Development



**Fatin Boualite**  
EU Projects  
Master&Training



**Giulia Casot**  
EU Projects  
Master&Training



**Valentina Mitterpergher**  
Communication&Events  
Membership



**Oumaima Sader**  
Administration&Accounting



# The Chamber



# Who we are

## The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce

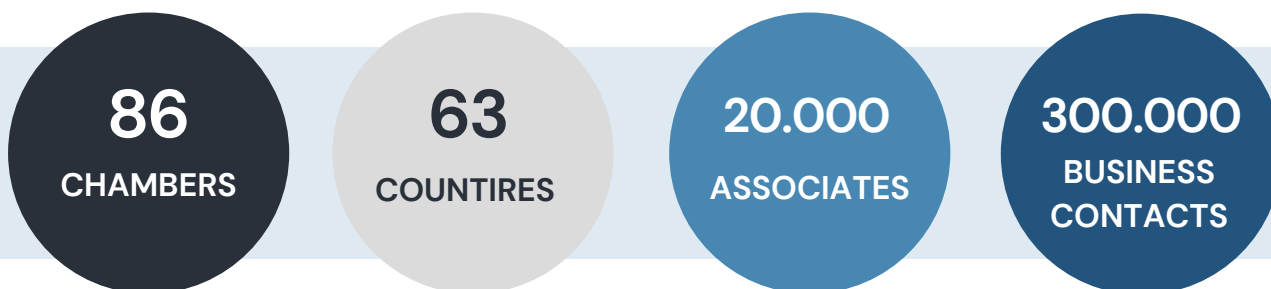
The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce (CCBI) is the only association in Belgium officially recognized by the Italian Government under Law No. 518 of July 1, 1970. Since 1950, it has been committed to promoting and enhancing the value of Made in Italy abroad.



As a bilateral association, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce operates in both the Italian and Belgian markets to foster and strengthen economic relations and cooperation between companies from the two countries. It supports businesses in launching their commercial and professional activities not only in Belgium and Italy but also worldwide, thanks to the network of 86 Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad (CCIE) operating in 63 countries.

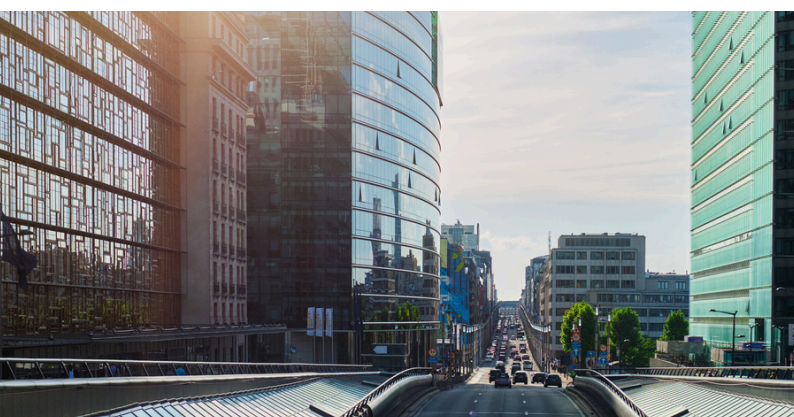
The internationalization of businesses—essential for commercial competitiveness—is also promoted through projects funded by the European Commission.

### Assocamerestero's Network



The CCBI maintains a constant relationship with the European institutions, consolidating its role as a qualified interlocutor in Brussels. The Chamber's institutional activity allows it to effectively represent the interests of Italian and Belgian companies, strengthening their integration within the European context and facilitating access to cooperation programmes and networks.

The CCBI was the first Chamber within the CCIE network to recognize the potential of funding provided directly by the European Commission, acting as a trailblazer for other Chambers and as a key point of reference in the dialogue with European Institutions. The CCBI leads or partners in numerous European projects across various sectors.



The CCBI designs and manages EU-funded projects, primarily in the fields of entrepreneurship, cooperation, training, and tourism. The training courses organized by the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce offer participants the opportunity to work directly on calls for proposals from European Institutions, developing their own project ideas with the support of experienced instructors and trainers.

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce also takes part in a range of initiatives and events aimed at promoting Made in Italy, both in Belgium and in Italy.





## Our main objectives

1

To promote initiatives aimed at developing economic, political, social, and cultural exchanges between Italy and Belgium

2

To assist SMEs in their internationalization process

3

To assist the Italian business community in Belgium

4

To develop synergies among Italian entities in Belgium, such as Institutions, Public Administrations, Trade Associations and confederations, entrepreneurs, non-profit organizations, and other relevant stakeholders

5

To promote initiatives aimed at developing economic, political, social, and cultural exchanges with and for the European Institutions

6

To provide intensive training, in collaboration with universities and training centres, in the fields of business internationalization, European policies, and access to public funding

7

To promote Made in Italy

# Our institutional partners

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce is an integral part of the "Sistema Italia," a network of entities and organizations working together to support Italian companies wishing to operate in Belgium. Within the "Sistema Italia," the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce collaborates closely with several key institutions: the Italian Embassy in Brussels, the Italian National Tourist Board (ENIT), the Italian Cultural Institute, and the Italian Trade Agency (ITA).

This synergy allows us to provide comprehensive and tailored support to all Italian companies looking to expand or establish themselves in Belgium.



**Ministero delle Imprese  
e del Made in Italy**



**Ambasciata d'Italia  
Bruxelles**



**ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY**

ICE - Agenzia per la promozione all'estero e  
l'internazionalizzazione delle imprese italiane



The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce plays a key role in facilitating trade and partnerships between Italian companies and their Belgian counterparts. To this end, it also collaborates with essential Belgian partners such as the investment and trade agencies of the Brussels, Wallonia, and Flanders regions—namely Hub Brussels, AWEX, and FIT—all of which are also members of the Chamber.



**FLANDERS  
INVESTMENT &  
TRADE**



# Our services

## in support of business

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The CCBI provides information to Italian and Belgian SMEs regarding administrative procedures and regulations in both countries. The Commercial Office offers support to Italian entrepreneurs and professionals in starting and developing their activities in Belgium, supplying updated professional contact lists, market research, financial information on Belgian and Italian companies, company registration documents, and financial statements.

## 2 Business services

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce offers comprehensive support for the development of the Italian and Belgian markets, providing assistance to companies and associations at every stage of their journey.

The areas of support include:

- **Legal and Administrative Support:** The CCBI provides legal and administrative assistance to companies, helping them navigate complex regulations and offering advice on legal matters.
- **Commercial Support:** The CCBI assists businesses in their commercial efforts by providing consultancy and facilitating commercial connections between the Italian and Belgian markets.
- **Organization of Incoming and Outgoing Missions:** The CCBI coordinates trade missions in Italy and Belgium, facilitating meetings between Italian and Belgian companies to promote business opportunities.
- **Workshops with B2B Meetings:** The Chamber organizes workshops and business-to-business meetings to encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange among companies.

## 1 Administrative & Commercial Services

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce provides information on the Belgian market, including:

- Country and sector market analysis
- Informative dossiers on regulations (customs, taxation, incentives)
- Information on trade fairs and events
- Legal assistance (contracts, trademark and patent registration, etc.)
- Administrative, fiscal, and tax assistance
- Customs assistance
- Interpretation and translation services
- Support in establishing branches, representative offices, or project offices.

- **Conference and Meeting Room Rental:** The CCBI provides spaces for conferences and meetings, offering suitable environments for corporate events and training activities.
- **Administrative Domiciliation in Brussels:** The CCBI offers the possibility to establish a representative office at its headquarters through administrative domiciliation in Brussels. This service allows public entities, private organizations, and companies to use an official address in Brussels and benefit from associated services.



## 3 Projects & Tenders

Through its European Desk, the CCBI provides continuous updates on European programs managed directly by the EU (calls for tenders and calls for proposals), supporting companies and professionals interested in accessing funding opportunities offered by European Institutions. Additionally, the CCBI writes, manages, and participates—either as lead partner or as a collaborator—in numerous international projects funded by the European Union, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, and other international organizations.

By taking part in these initiatives, the CCBI enables its Italian and Belgian member companies to access a wide range of high-value services related to professional training, business internationalization, and youth entrepreneurship.



## 4 Master, Training & Mobility

Building on years of experience in European projects, the Europe, Master & Training Office also promotes and organizes Master's programs and courses in EU project management with a strong practical approach. Each year, around 180 participants—including recent graduates, freelancers, and employees of public and private organizations—take part in these training activities. Under the guidance of expert instructors and project managers, they acquire technical skills to write and manage high-quality European projects.

Additionally, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce organizes tailor-made training courses for companies and public institutions. These courses are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of businesses and public entities, providing relevant knowledge and skills to enhance performance and productivity.

The CCBI also actively participates in student and professional mobility initiatives, in line with European Union programmes aimed at fostering education and the internationalisation of new generations. In particular, the Chamber promotes and manages Erasmus projects for university students, young entrepreneurs, and emerging professionals, offering them the opportunity to gain practical skills and engage with international contexts. Moreover, through its involvement in PON programmes, the CCBI contributes to strengthening educational and professional pathways, supporting employability, innovation, and the development of the skills required by the European labour market.



## 6 Trade Fairs & Incoming Missions

The CCBI represents several major international Italian trade fairs in Belgium, serving as key economic platforms for companies looking to expand their markets.

The Chamber also organizes delegations of Belgian buyers to visit fairs in Italy and meet local producers according to a pre-arranged matchmaking program. It carries out various promotional activities for these fairs, including institutional efforts to facilitate contacts and share information with Belgian authorities and institutions (regions, business federations, professional associations, local Chambers of Commerce, event organizers, etc.), as well as promoting the event to visitors, potential exhibitors, buyers, and journalists based on the fair organizers' requests.

Additionally, the CCBI supports participants throughout the duration of the fair, assisting with hotel bookings, on-site accompaniment, language support, meeting organization, and more.

## 5 Events

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce (CCBI) regularly organizes conferences, seminars, and workshops on economic, legal, and commercial topics. These events are designed to provide relevant information and promote knowledge sharing among Italian and Belgian professionals from various economic sectors.

Additionally, the CCBI hosts networking events aimed at fostering relationships between professionals from both countries. These gatherings offer valuable opportunities to exchange experiences, ideas, and business contacts.

Another notable initiative is the organization of co-branded events for members. These events involve collaboration between the CCBI and other partners or associations, providing members with an ideal environment to expand their network and strengthen their presence in the Italian and Belgian markets.

The CCBI also collaborates with the European institutions in the organisation of conferences and joint initiatives, helping to give visibility to Italian and Belgian companies and to strengthen the link between the business community and the institutional sphere at the EU level.

## 7 Publications

The CCBI publishes annually, in collaboration with the Italian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, the magazine *Infotalie*. *Infotalie* is distributed to all members, banks, companies, and European institutions located in Belgium and Luxembourg. Through this publication, the two Chambers of Commerce aim to promote Italy in both countries.

The Chamber also publishes a Members' Directory/Activity Report that gathers the contacts of members from both Chambers, along with numerous addresses and useful information for anyone looking to establish commercial relations in Belgium and Italy. Additionally, the Activity Report provides a clear and comprehensive overview of the initiatives, events, and projects undertaken by the Chamber throughout the year.

# Other Services

## 2024

In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce continued the two services launched during the previous year. The **TENDERBLADE** service provides specialized support on European public procurement. This service aims to guide and assist companies in successfully navigating and participating in European tender procedures. The **Be.ItaHub** service is designed to support Italian companies wishing to expand and internationalize their business in Belgium.



### TENDERBLADE

International tenders can open new and important growth opportunities for your business, but you need to be prepared to seize them. European tenders represent a stable market where counterparties provide both political and commercial guarantees, and payments are secure. Additionally, the average size of contracts and procurements to compete for is significant, and calls for tenders are relatively frequent throughout the year.

Thanks to the collaboration launched in 2023 with its member Europartners, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce offers, through the TENDERBLADE service, dedicated support on European public procurement. The service unfolds in three simultaneous phases:

- 1 Tender analysis and technical consultancy to assess the feasibility of participation
- 2 Profiling of the client's target market to discover new opportunities and tenders to participate in
- 3 Analysis of competitors' positioning in the market

For each opportunity shared with the client, the extracted data is compiled into a report with detailed graphics, highlighting the following information:

- Regarding the tender: technical and financial requirements requested, along with information on deadlines, tender amount, and duration.
- Regarding the tender published by that contracting authority: whether the tender is recurring and, if so, the winner(s) of previous editions.
- Regarding the contracting authority: the total number of tenders it publishes annually, and how many fall within the client's specific area of interest, to assess if the authority could become a strategic asset.
- Regarding potential winners: a detailed analysis of all awards won in recent years (as selected by the client) with that authority and/or in that city and/or in other territorial contexts involving all contracting authorities.

tenderblade



Belgian-Italian  
Chamber of Commerce

europartners 





## Be.ItaHub

Be.ItaHub is a service designed to support Italian companies wishing to embark on an internationalization journey in Belgium.

The service aims to help businesses expand their network of contacts, participate in tutoring sessions with specialized professionals, receive advice on accessing funding, and build connections with Italian and European institutions.

In addition to these activities, Be.ItaHub offers administrative domiciliation services, access to a furnished private office, and the rental of a meeting room at our Brussels headquarters (Avenue Henri Jaspar 113 – 1060 Brussels), as well as a conference room located in the heart of the European district (Rue de la Loi 26 – 1000 Brussels).

This offering is part of a broad range of customizable services tailored to meet the diverse needs of companies.

# To start developing an international presence in Belgium



### Basic Domiciliation Service

- A business address
- Metal nameplate for "representative office"
- Reception service + mail handling (postage costs excluded)
- DEVELOP Membership
- 1 meeting /conference room rental, 1X/year

**99€/month**  
+ membership Develop



### Advanced Domiciliation Service

- Basic Domiciliation
- Furnished private office
- Internet connection (Wi-Fi)
- Multifunction printer/copier
- Meeting room access 2X/year
- CCITABEL Conference room access 1X/year
- Support and assistance service
- DEVELOP Membership

**8.000€/year**



### Membership Develop

- Inclusion in the Activity Report
- Invitation to networking events
- Informative newsletter
- Business information
- Contacts with professionals
- Support in organizing 1 networking event
- 1 company registration report or 1 financial statement
- 1 introductory email to members
- 1/2 page in Infotalie
- 1 Facebook/ LinkedIn post
- 10% discount on selected CCBI courses and services

**500€/year**

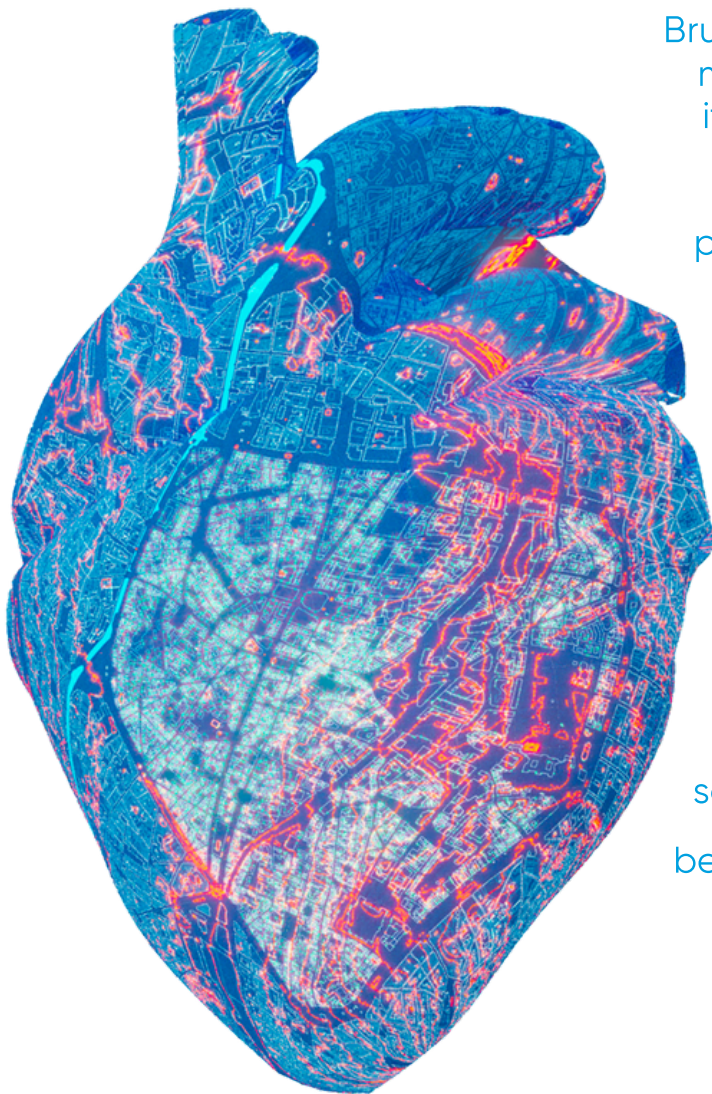


### Rent Conference Room

- Rental of the Meeting Room at Avenue Henri Jaspar 113 – 1060 Brussels for half a day or a full day
- Rental of the Conference Room at Rue de la Loi 26 – 1000 Brussels for half a day or a full day

**starting from 300€**

# Grazie mille for making Belgium your home



Brussels—and Belgium – owes much of its entrepreneurial spirit to its international community. With 180 nationalities shaping the country's unique character, your presence keeps it vibrant. At KBC Brussels, we are proud to be your bank. Whether you need to open an account from abroad, secure a grant for a professional project or rent your first home, our dedicated expat team is here to help. With tailored advice, live chat support even at weekends, and local experts who know Belgium inside out, we make settling in that little bit easier – so you can focus on enjoying the best of your new life.



**Moving forward  
together.**



# Membership

## Categories & Benefits 2024

### Fees & Rates 2024

The Membership Office is the main point of contact for members. In addition to handling administrative management, it assists members with their requests and the delivery of services, as well as sending all association communications. Depending on the membership fee chosen, CCBI members can access the association's services either free of charge or at a discounted rate.

 <b>Start</b> 150€ Natural Person 250€ Small Company	 <b>Sart Pro Restaurant</b> 250€	 <b>Develop &amp; Institutions</b> 500€
 <b>Expand &amp; Chambers of Commerce</b> 800€	 <b>Gold</b> From 1.300€	 <b>Platinum</b> From 2.500 €

### Benefits of Association

FREE SERVICES	PAYING SERVICES*	INDIRECT SERVICES
Initial consultation and orientation meeting	Legal and tax advisory services	Networking
Subscription to the Chamber's magazine Infoltalie	Business contacts and development services (B2B and B2C)	Visibility
Receipt of the online newsletter	Promotion and internationalization services	Involvement of members as privileged partners in the Chamber's event organization
Promotion of members through the Chamber's communication channels	Communication services	Invitation to Chamber events
Participation in member-only events	Support in the co-organization of events	
Invitations to exclusive events with special guests		

\*The cost may vary depending on the membership type.

# Discover the category that best fits your company's needs

	START 150 €	START PRO RESTAURANT 250 €	DEVELOP 500 €	EXPAND 800 €	GOLD 1.300 €	PLATINUM + 2.500 €
Services	individual	+ 10 employees	+100 employees	+250 employees		
PARTICIPATION IN CCBI ACTIVITIES	1°	2°	3°	4°	5°	6°
Joining the "Ecosystem Italy" and inclusion in Annual Report	*	*	*	*	*	*
Invitation to networking events	*	*	*	*	*	*
CCBI informative newsletter	*	*	*	*	*	*
Becoming a priority partner for business opportunities and trade fairs	*	*	*	*	*	*
Inclusion in CCBI professionals' conventions booklet	*	*	*	*	*	*
Discounts on training courses and other CCBI services		5%	10%	10%	15%	15%
Posts on official CCBI social networks		1	1	2	2	2
Advertising in Infotatie magazine			1/2 page	1/2 page	1 page	2 pages
Email presentation of business to members			1	1	1	2
Support in organizing 1 networking event				S	M	L
Free use of CCITABEL CONFERENCE ROOM for an event					1/2 day	1 day
Advertising in the Annual Report					1/2 page	1 page
Display of company roll-up at selected CCBI events (upon approval)						*

# Interested in becoming a member?

Scan the QR code  
and sign up



Contact us at  
[member@ccitabel.com](mailto:member@ccitabel.com)

Discover more on  
[www.ccitabel.com](http://www.ccitabel.com)

Follow us on



Belgium





# A Key Partner For Italy

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Despite its small size, Belgium's geographical location places it among the top 10 global trading nations. Thanks to its direct access to the North Sea, the Belgian economy is open to the world, with exports accounting for 90% of its GDP.

## Among the 6 main markets of interest

The Kingdom of Belgium, located in the heart of Europe, is one of the founding members of the European Union. This multicultural country is characterized by three official languages: French, Dutch, and German. Its capital, Brussels, hosts important European institutions. For foreigners considering relocation, it is noteworthy that the expatriate community in Belgium numbers around 600,000 people.

The Belgian economy is strongly oriented towards international trade and stands out for its high level of openness. In 2024, Belgium remains a key economic partner for Italy, with trade exchange exceeding 45 billion euros. Italy is among Belgium's main suppliers and customers, maintaining strong bilateral ties, also thanks to the complementarity of their respective production systems.

Italian exports to Belgium have exceeded 19 billion euros, showing growth compared to the previous year, while imports from the Belgian economy amount to over 26 billion euros, with a slight decline. The trade balance is negative for Italy, but the volume of exchanges reflects intense collaboration, especially in strategic sectors.

Commercial cooperation mainly focuses on key sectors such as the chemical industry, pharmaceutical products, machinery and equipment, plastics, and transport components.

The chemical industry and life sciences represent about 48% of exports and 40% of imports, significantly contributing to the Belgian economy.

The Flanders region, in particular, stands out as a leader in foreign direct investment, with greenfield and expansion projects concentrated in sectors such as sales and marketing, logistics, production, and research and development.

The Port of Antwerp, located in the Flanders Region, is a strategic logistics platform generating 70% of bilateral trade. It is a key distribution hub in Europe, second only to the Port of Rotterdam in terms of business volume and goods handled. Recently, the port adopted a strategy to become a European crossroads for hydrogen transit and import.

Moreover, Belgium is attracting investments in the information and communication technology sector, thanks to expansion projects by Google and Microsoft, contributing to the creation of a new digital ecosystem.

The Belgian recovery plan continues to offer important opportunities for Italian companies, thanks to European funds and national incentives.

Numerous Italian companies operate successfully in Belgium, including Ferrero, Eni, Enel, Leonardo, CNH Industrial, and Pirelli. In 2024, Leonardo strengthened its presence through Telespazio Belgium, while the Save Group consolidated its stake in Charleroi Airport.





## Key Strengths

### 1 Strategic Location

Located in the heart of Europe, Belgium enjoys a strategic geographical position that places it among the world's top 10 trading nations.

### 2 Global Logistics Hub

The integrated network of highways, railways, waterways, and airports makes Belgium one of the world's leading logistics hubs, with the Port of Antwerp ranking second in Europe.

### 3 Export-Oriented Economy

With 90% of its GDP coming from exports, Belgium has established itself as a strongly export-oriented economy.

### 4 Key Sectors

Key sectors such as chemical-pharmaceutical, heavy industry, automotive, biotechnology, information technology, and renewable energy drive economic growth.

### 5 Favourable Legislative and Tax Conditions

Legislative measures and tax incentives, including those for Research and Development investments, make Belgium one of the most attractive and competitive countries in the Eurozone.

### 6 Science Parks and Innovation

Science parks, located near university centers, promote innovation and host high-tech companies engaged in Research and Development.

### 7 Support for Research and Development

Significant investments in Research and Development demonstrate a strong commitment to technological growth.

### 8 Investment Conditions

Thanks to a tax reform and a business-friendly environment, Belgium offers optimal conditions for investment, with particular focus on high-tech sectors.

### 9 Emerging Sectors

New sectors such as logistics, ICT, biotechnology, and renewable energy are emerging as crucial drivers of the Belgian economy in the 21st century.

### 10 Multiculturalism and Multilingualism

Belgium, with its three official languages (French, Dutch, and German), represents a multicultural environment that facilitates international relations and trade exchanges.

# Economic Landscape



30.688 km<sup>2</sup>



11.735.397

389 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>



Currency

**Official name:** Kingdom of Belgium

**Type of regime:** Federal state - constitutional monarchy

**Head of State:** His Majesty King Philippe I (since July 21, 2013)

**Head of Government:** Alexander De Croo (Open VLD) - 10/01/2020 - 02/03/2025 >> Bart De Wever (N-VA) - 02/03/2025

3 Languages

FR/NL/DE

Brussels

Capital

21 July

National day

## ITALY

6th largest market for Belgium's exports

5.1% market share January–March 2025

## ITALY

7th largest supplier to Belgium

3.8% market share January–March 2025

## BELGIUM

8th largest market for Italy's exports

3.2% market share January–March 2025

## BELGIUM

6th largest supplier to Italy

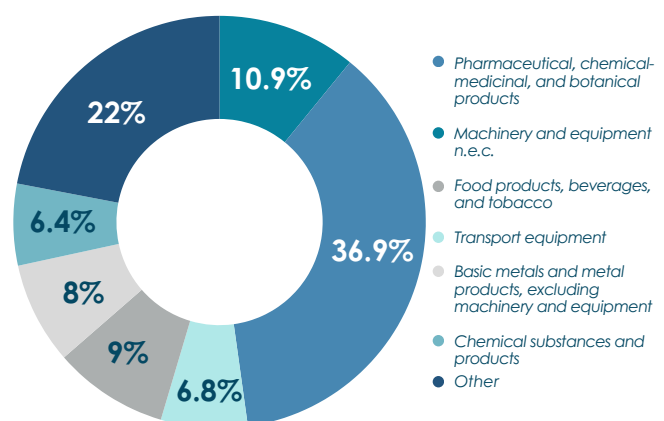
4.6% market share January–March 2025

## MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS 2025

• GDP (billion € at current prices)	631
• GDP growth rate at constant prices (percentage change)	1
• GDP per capita at current prices (US\$)	58.068
• Consumer price index	2,30
• Unemployment rate (%)	5,70
• Population (millions)	11,80
• Net borrowing (% of GDP)	-4,50
• Public debt (% of GDP)	105,10
• Total export volume (billion €)	537,40
• Total import volume (billion €)	507
• Trade balance(3) (billion €)	6
• Exports of goods & services (% of GDP)	77,70
• Imports of goods & services (% of GDP)	80,40
• Current account balance (billion US\$)	-0,50
• World export market share (%)	2,60

Source: MAECI Economic Observatory elaborations based on Economist Intelligence Unit data

## COMMODITY COMPOSITION OF ITALIAN EXPORTS TO BELGIUM



## ITALIAN EXPORTS TO BELGIUM – 2024

Total (mln. €)	19.341	January–December
Change (%)	0,2	January–December



## ITALIAN IMPORTS FROM BELGIUM – 2024

Total (mln. €)	26.080	January–December
Change (%)	- 0,5	January–December





# Moving to Belgium

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Belgium, strategically located between Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and France, is a key federal state within the European Union. With a surface area of 30,328 km<sup>2</sup>, it plays a significant role in the European landscape. The three regions that make up Belgium — the Brussels-Capital Region, the Walloon Region, and the Flemish Region — are home to approximately 12 million people who speak French, German, and Dutch. Brussels, the capital, is also the hub for numerous European institutions, attracting a multicultural community of around 600,000 expatriates.

From a political standpoint, Belgium is a constitutional and parliamentary monarchy with a bicameral Parliament elected every five years. It comprises three communities: French, Flemish, and German-speaking.

Belgium, besides having contributed to the creation of the European Union, is also home to numerous European institutions. Brussels, in particular, has progressively become the de facto capital of the Member States, which operate based on decisions made there. It also hosts key European Union institutions, including the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions (CoR), and the NATO headquarters.

In summary, Belgium offers a unique experience thanks to its cultural diversity and central position within the European Union. The richness of these features makes Belgium a fascinating and welcoming place for anyone deciding to relocate.



## Administrative Formalities

Citizens of the European Union (EU) enjoy the right to work freely in Belgium, in accordance with the principle of free movement between EU member states.

Working conditions are less restrictive compared to non-EU citizens, who may need to obtain work permits. A key requirement is registration with the municipal services of the place of residence in order to obtain a residence permit.

Indeed, it is essential to register with the local municipality within 8 days of arrival in Belgium and apply for the residence permit.

It is advisable to clearly display your name on the doorbell and mailbox for possible residency checks by the local police. After a few months, the local authorities will issue the Belgian residence permit.

Additionally, it is mandatory to register with a health insurance fund (*mutualité/mutualiteit*) to receive reimbursement for medical expenses after a waiting period. The employer is generally responsible for paying social security contributions and Belgian taxes.

For more details on social security rights, it is recommended to visit the Coming2Belgium website or [www.securitesociale.be](http://www.securitesociale.be).





## Working in Belgium

Belgium offers various job opportunities, with employment options available through recruitment agencies, employment centers, or online and newspaper ads. Organizing an intra-company transfer is a good option, especially for those working in international companies with Belgian branches.

The internet is an essential tool for job searching in Belgium, with many dedicated websites. Knowledge of French or Dutch helps when consulting national newspapers, which publish weekly job offers. Sending unsolicited applications is also an option, and public employment services provide additional support:

- [Le Forem in Wallonia](#)
- [VDAB in Flanders](#)
- [Actiris in Brussels](#)
- [ADG for the German-speaking community](#)

## Labour Market Requirements

Citizens of the European Union are entitled to free movement and can work in Belgium, provided they register with the local municipal authorities of their place of residence.

For non-European Union citizens, obtaining a work permit in Belgium requires approval from local authorities. Immigration laws are strict, but if a job is offered, the employer can apply for the hiring permit.

Despite the economic contraction in 2020 due to the pandemic, some sectors offer promising job prospects post-crisis, such as healthcare, education, public services, social services, transportation, and logistics. Conversely, the hospitality and restaurant sectors may face difficulties in securing permanent positions, with a predominance of temporary roles.

The Belgian labor market has experienced significant employment growth over the past two years, with a rapid recovery even in sectors most affected by the pandemic. In 2022, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.6%, while the employment rate rose to 71.9% for people aged 20 to 64.

## Education and Training

The Belgian education system offers diversity and flexibility. There is the possibility to choose among various official networks, such as Catholic or community education, as well as private non-subsidized schools. Different teaching methods are also available, including standard, Freinet, Montessori, and others. Generally, official education is free of charge—except for book purchases—up to the end of secondary education (compulsory education in Belgium lasts until the age of 18).

For those seeking an international education, several schools are linked to institutions in Brussels. Additionally, Belgium hosts numerous high-quality higher education and university institutions offering both academic and extracurricular training.



## Healthcare System in Belgium

Belgium offers one of the best healthcare systems in the world. With 99% of the population accessing the public healthcare system, your family will be well cared for.

Health insurance is mandatory for residents in Belgium and is partly funded through social security contributions. Registration with the local social security office is essential, linking the place of residence to the national insurance number.

Regarding social security contributions, both employees and employers pay their respective shares: employees through personal contributions, and employers through company contributions.

All employees contribute to the National Social Security Office.

Employees contribute 13.7% of their gross salary, while employers contribute between 22.65% and 26.61% of the total remuneration. Self-employed workers contribute between 14.16% and 21.5% of their annual income.

Health insurance automatically covers all family members, including spouses and children under 18 years old.

To benefit from insurance coverage, one must be affiliated for at least six months, except in cases where the person has been covered by another public healthcare system in an EU country in the six months prior. This condition does not apply if coverage has been provided through a family member's healthcare system in an EU country.

For expatriates, there are two scenarios:

### 1 Unemployed expatriates in Belgium

Unemployed expatriates must maintain health insurance coverage in their home country to obtain a residence permit in Belgium, as the Belgian social security system does not cover unemployed foreigners.

### 2 Salaried expatriates in Belgium

The employer's insurance coverage generally covers medical treatments for non-residents who do not contribute to the Belgian social security system.

## Mandatory Registration for Expatriates

Documents required for registration:

- Copy of identity documents
- Copy of an employment contract issued by a Belgian employer (if there are multiple contracts, the oldest one is required)
- Form H012 (or E104): can be requested from your health insurance fund
- Belgian bank account number

Additional documents may be requested depending on the country of origin.

## Public Health Insurance

In Belgium, both employees and self-employed workers are required to register with the local social security system and subscribe to public health insurance. There are various health insurance policies available, and employers can assist employees in choosing the right one. Some policies are specifically designed for certain groups, such as religious, political, or corporate groups.

Preferred rates and reimbursements for medical care in Belgium are generally similar across different health insurance providers. Reimbursements typically range from 50% to 75%, but reimbursement timing may vary, often requiring upfront payment. It is important to note that insurance contributions are usually deducted directly from the monthly salary.

Foreign students in Belgium must obtain health insurance in their home country. EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens on temporary visits can use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to reduce medical costs and, in some cases, may not have to pay anything at all.

## General Practitioner and Specialists

In Belgium, having a general practitioner (GP) is not mandatory but is highly recommended. When medical tests are conducted, the results are automatically sent to the family doctor. Coverage for specialist care typically requires a referral from the GP. Therefore, it is advisable to have a general practitioner to ensure more efficient and coordinated management of medical care.



## GELATOn the ROAD



> Foster **cooperation** between organisations active in the cultural tourism and traditional food sector

> Impact and boost **sustainability** and green solutions in the gastronomy sector, to foster linkages with local communities and local products proposing a replicable model



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# Starting a Business in Belgium

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More and more people turn to the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce for information on how to start a business in Belgium: from restaurants to specialty product shops, from consulting firms to those focused on design. Administrative procedures are not overly complex, but the language barrier on one hand and the limited knowledge of Belgian law on the other suggest exercising some caution before venturing into a business abroad.

In Belgium, an Italian entrepreneur who wishes to start a business will have two main points of contact: the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce and the One-Stop Business Desk (guichet d'entreprises). The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce will guide the entrepreneur through the initial stages of designing and creating a sustainable project and assist with the first administrative formalities: how to register with the business register (Banca Carrefour), how to obtain a business number, how to open a VAT number or a professional bank account, and how to register with the Caisse d'assurances sociales, the social security institution in Belgium (registration is mandatory). Subsequently, the One-Stop Business Desk will take over from the Chamber of Commerce, specifically handling registration with the Belgian business register and obtaining the Belgian VAT number, assisting the entrepreneur throughout the entire process.

For certain sectors, such as the restaurant industry, an additional document certifying professional knowledge (access to the profession) will be required. With this document, the entrepreneur must go to a guichet d'entreprises to complete the registration with the Belgian business register (Banca Carrefour).

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO PRACTICE A PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN BELGIUM

- Be at least eighteen years old
- Enjoy full civil rights
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of business management
- Be an EU citizen or hold a professional card issued by Belgian authorities under certain conditions
- For some professions, it is necessary to prove professional qualifications in the sector (Brussels-Capital Region and Wallonia).

To prove adequate professional experience within a professional practice, it is necessary to demonstrate a certain number of years of practice during the last 15 years, certified through the "CE document." The reference regulation for the "CE document" is Directive 2005/36/EC. From the Ministry of Economic Development's website, you can download the application form for the certification referring to the above-mentioned directive. The completed form, based on a recent company registration extract, along with the required documents listed in the form, must be sent via certified e-mail to the Ministry of Economic Development.

If the entrepreneur does not hold a business management diploma or cannot prove having managed a commercial activity for at least three consecutive years, they must attend accelerated business management courses and then pass an exam at the Jury Central.





## Choosing the Legal Form of the Company

When starting a business, the first consideration is choosing the most suitable legal form. This choice can depend on various factors such as the number of partners, initial capital, or future prospects.

To begin with, a business can be operated either as a sole proprietorship or as a company. This offers considerable flexibility to potential entrepreneurs, allowing them to select the legal structure that best fits their needs and business objectives. The decision to operate as an individual or as a company can affect several aspects, including legal liability, taxation, and organizational structure.



### 1 Natural Person

A natural person does not require drafting statutes or a minimum starting capital. The founding and management costs are relatively low, allowing the entrepreneur to start the business quickly.

The entrepreneur is their own boss and can make decisions independently without consulting partners. Accounting is generally simplified.

However, in a sole proprietorship, the business assets are not separated from the entrepreneur's personal assets, meaning the entrepreneur assumes full responsibility for the company.

This involves risks; for example, in the event of a major client's bankruptcy, debts may be settled using all the entrepreneur's personal assets. Also, the partner's assets could be used to pay company debts unless a marriage contract states otherwise.

### 2 Legal entity

If you choose to establish a company, in most cases you will first need to consult a notary, who will draft the articles of incorporation and register them with the commercial register. Afterwards, the "greffe" will enter this information into the Register of Legal Entities (RPM) and assign you a company identification number.

You can then go to a One-Stop Shop for businesses to complete the other formalities.

If you decide to set up your business as a company, you have several options available:

- Private limited liability company (LTD)
- Public limited company (PLC)
- Cooperative company (CC)
- Simple partnership without legal personality
- General partnership (GP): a variant of the simple partnership with legal personality
- Limited partnership (LP): a variant of the simple partnership with legal personality

	Individual Entrepreneur	Company / Legal Entity
<b>Establishment</b>	No drafting of statutes.	For limited liability companies (SRL, SA, SC), a notarial deed is required.  For unlimited liability companies (SC, SCS, SNC, etc.), a notarial deed can be used, but a private deed is sufficient.
<b>Establishment Costs</b>	Registration with BCE: €101	Notary fees: +/- 1000 € IscrizioRegistration with BCE: €101
<b>Capital</b>	No minimum capital required.	No minimum initial capital required, except for joint-stock companies (SA), which require a minimum capital of €61,500.
<b>Liability</b>	No separation between private and professional assets.	Liability depends on the chosen legal form.

## Opening a Bank Account

Before starting your business and becoming self-employed, you will need to open a new professional bank account with a financial institution established in Belgium. You must indicate the account number and the name of the chosen bank on all your business documents (letters, invoices, etc.). To do this, contact the bank of your choice.

## Registering with Banque-Carrefour des Entreprises

When you start a business, you must register it with the Banque-Carrefour des Entreprises (BCE). The BCE is a secure registry that centralizes all data related to Belgian businesses. This requirement applies to both sole proprietorships and companies.

## Registering for a VAT number

When you register your business with the BCE, you will be assigned a company number, which will form the basis of your VAT number.

## Requesting permits/licenses

You may need a license, authorization, or approval to start your business. This will depend on the type of activity you want to carry out and the location where you intend to operate. For example, a one-stop business office can check whether a license from the AFSCA (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain) or a mobile vendor's license is required for your business.

## Registering with a Social Security Fund

As self-employed individuals, you have your own social status and a specific social security system. A Social Security Fund will calculate your social contributions and pay them to the relevant authorities. This way, you will acquire social rights such as entitlement to a pension, family benefits, and disability allowances.

## Informing the Health Insurance Fund

By joining the Social Insurance Fund and paying social contributions, you are entitled to reimbursements for medical care, maternity allowance, and professional disability benefits. To benefit from these rights, you must register with a health insurance fund (mutualité/mutualiteit). If you are already registered with a health insurance fund, you need to inform them about your new status as self-employed.



Q Trip to Italy...

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2 DAILY FLIGHTS TO ROME-FIUMICINO

AND MANY MORE CONNECTIONS WITHIN  
ITALY AND AROUND THE WORLD



[ita-airways.com](https://www.ita-airways.com)

# Activity Report

## 2024





# Key numbers

2024

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In 2024, the CCBI increased the number of its activities, achieving satisfactory results and confirming the positive trend undertaken by our association, which continues to serve as a key point of reference and a privileged contact hub for the Belgian and Italian business communities.

120

Members

35.202

Followers



245

Students

11

Incoming



# Events

## 2024

Throughout the year, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce organized a series of events aimed at promoting, connecting, and informing its members and industry professionals. These initiatives significantly contributed to fostering a business-friendly environment and facilitating knowledge exchange. The events served as a platform for showcasing innovative products and services, enabling participants to gain visibility within the business community and expand their professional network.

In parallel, the CCBI fostered a dynamic networking atmosphere through the creation of targeted events. These gatherings allowed members of the organization to establish strategic connections with fellow professionals, facilitating the exchange of ideas, business opportunities, and best practices. Networking played a pivotal role in promoting long-term collaborations and partnerships.

In addition, the CCBI organized thematic conferences and webinars throughout the year. These sessions provided a forum for in-depth exploration of topics relevant to the sector, offering detailed information and insightful analysis. Conferences and webinars proved to be a valuable tool for keeping members and industry stakeholders updated on emerging trends, new regulations, and best practices, thereby supporting their ongoing professional development.





# Highlights

07 MARH 2024

## CONFERENCE - ROME

*"Working Together for the Future: Italian Chambers of Commerce Abroad Supporting Enterprises Worldwide"*

On 7 March 2024, the Chamber took part in the event "Working Together for the Future", held in Rome at the Chamber of Deputies. On this occasion, Chairman Fabio Morvilli highlighted the strategic role of the Italian Chambers of Commerce abroad and the importance of attracting foreign investment to Italy.



22 MAY 2024

## CONFERENCE - MILAN

*"Flanders and Italy: A Journey Towards the Future of Innovation"*

The Chamber co-organised the event held at the Cultural Centre of Milan. The evening, promoted in collaboration with SD Worx Italy, KBC Bank NV Italy, and FIT – Italy, brought together numerous professionals to explore perspectives related to artificial intelligence and innovation.

02 JUNE 2024

## PROMOTION – BRUSSELS

Calabria Info point

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Region of Calabria, promoted the Calabrian territory during the celebrations of the 78th Anniversary of the Italian Republic, held at the Residence of the Italian Ambassador, H.E. Federica Favi. Over 700 guests had the opportunity to discover the region's gastronomic excellence through the Calabria Info Point set up by the Chamber.



20 JUNE 2024

## CONFERENCE / DINNER – BRUSSELS

*"Enhancing the Limoncella Apple and Sustainable Apple Growing in the Rural Areas of the Monti Dauni"*

On 20 June 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce organised the presentation of the VALMELA project at the Moxxy Hotel in Brussels. The initiative focused on promoting the Limoncella Apple of the Monti Dauni and attracted significant interest among attendees. The event concluded with a dinner inspired by local flavours, providing a valuable opportunity for networking and exchange.



# Events 2024



27 JUNE 2024

## NETWORKING - BRUSSELS

*"Intesa Sanpaolo Wealth Management: Off to New Perspectives"*

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce co-organised the event "Off to New Perspectives" together with Intesa Sanpaolo Wealth Management and the Italian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce. Held at the Cercle Royal Gaulois, the evening featured institutional addresses and an analysis of 2024 financial outlooks. The event concluded with a walking dinner, fostering networking opportunities among professionals and industry stakeholders.

12 SEPTEMBER 2024

## NETWORKING - BRUSSELS

*"Nutella Surprise Party"*

The Chamber collaborated in the organisation of Ferrero's Nutella Surprise Party in Brussels, together with IT Food Network. The event gathered institutional representatives, food industry professionals, and international partners. It offered a unique opportunity for networking and dialogue on topics such as innovation and the excellence of Made in Italy.



25 SEPTEMBER 2024

## CONFERENCE - BRUSSELS

*"Insieme si va più lontano"*

The Chamber organised the event "Insieme si va più lontano" at the European Parliament, in the presence of Italian and EU institutional representatives. Chairman Fabio Morvili and Secretary General Giorgio De Bin presented the Chamber as a platform supporting the Sistema Italia in Europe, highlighting the strategic role of the Assocamerestero network.

27 SEPTEMBER 2024

## PROMOTION - BRUSSELS

*Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with hub.brussels*

On 27 September 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding with hub.brussels to strengthen cooperation between Italy and Belgium. The agreement aims to promote innovation and foster new opportunities for emerging businesses in both markets.



22 OCTOBER 2024

## CONFERENCE - MILAN

*"Where Innovation and Collaboration Meet: Synergies Between Belgium and Italy"*

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce co-organised an event focused on digitalisation and Belgium-Italy business opportunities, in partnership with Odoo, KBC Bank NV Italy, and Wallonia in Italy. Miriam Bastianello (Odoo) shared insights into the expansion of the Belgian unicorn in the Italian market. Secretary General Giorgio De Bin delivered remarks on behalf of the Chamber.

# Trade fairs & Incoming 2024



Incoming missions play a fundamental role for the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce. A key aspect of these initiatives is the promotion of Made in Italy products in the Belgian market, targeting both importers and end consumers. These journeys—blending business and leisure—offer a unique opportunity to explore and experience Italy, with its enchanting landscapes, authentic flavours, artisanal know-how, and rich socio-cultural heritage.

Throughout 2024, the Chamber organised nine business missions in Italy and two in Belgium, each carefully tailored to meet the expectations and needs of the Belgian delegations. The primary goal of these missions was to create a perfect synergy between Italy's captivating regions and the preferences of Belgian buyers, offering them an immersive experience to discover the authenticity and diversity Italy has to offer. These events not only fostered the promotion of Italian products, but also laid the groundwork for long-term business relationships and strengthened Italy's presence in the Belgian market.

Recognising Italy as a global benchmark of excellence in sectors such as tourism, fashion, agri-food, and wine, the Chamber focused on strategic events aimed at stimulating new partnerships and supporting Italian companies seeking to enter or expand within the Belgian and international markets.

- **25-28 FEBRUARY 2024**  
SELVA DI CADORE  
Inbound in the Dolomites – Educational Tour with CESCOT Veneto
- **26-27 MARCH 2024**  
TURIN  
VTM – Vehicle and Transportation Technology Innovation Meetings
- **10-11 APRIL 2024**  
FLORENCE  
BuyWine Toscana
- **14-17 APRIL 2024**  
VERONA  
Vinitaly and SolAgrifood
- **30 MAY 2024**  
BRUSSELS  
Piemonte Palate Food & Wine
- **18-18 JUNE 2024**  
VENICE-ROVIGO  
Agri-food Transformation with Venice Promex
- **04-05 JULY 2024**  
PESCARA  
Phenomena
- **08 OCTOBER 2024**  
BRUSSELS  
Masterclass Pordenone
- **07-13 OCTOBER 2024**  
OLBIA  
Benvenuto Vermentino
- **14-15 OCTOBER 2024**  
PERUGIA  
Mirabilia Food&Drink
- **26-27 OCTOBER 2024**  
FLORENCE  
BuyFood Toscana





# Highlights

## Trade Fairs&Incoming 2024

26-27 MARCH 2024

### TORINO

#### VTM - Vehicle and Transportation Technology Innovation Meetings

The Chamber took part in the fourth edition of VTM – Vehicle & Transportation Innovation Meetings, an international event focused on innovation in the automotive and transportation sectors.

The Chamber facilitated the participation of three Belgian companies — Audi Brussels, DHL Express, and Fastned — who engaged in high-level B2B meetings, exhibitions, and conferences.



14-17 APRIL 2024

### VERONA - Vinitaly and Sol Agrifood

Once again this year, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce selected 10 Belgian operators to attend the 56th edition of Vinitaly and Sol&Agrifood.

With over 4,000 exhibiting companies, 100,000 m² of net exhibition space, and 17 exhibition halls, Vinitaly successfully reaffirmed its role as the leading international B2B platform for the wine industry.

08 OCTOBER 2024

### BRUSSELS

#### "From the Producer to Your Plate" – Pordenone Masterclass

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Pordenone-Udine, organised a B2B event in Brussels to promote the food and wine excellence of the Pordenone region. Targeted at HoReCa professionals, the event featured a multilingual masterclass led by Italian chefs active in Belgium, including tastings of traditional products and selected local wines.



07-13 OCTOBER 2024

### OLBIA

#### Benvenuto Vermentino

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce took part in the "Benvenuto Vermentino" event, held in Sardinia from 7 to 13 October 2024, with the aim of promoting Italian wine excellence on international markets.

For the occasion, the Chamber accompanied a delegation of Belgian buyers, offering them the opportunity to discover the unique characteristics of Vermentino and meet local producers. The B2B meetings organised during the event fostered direct exchanges and opened up new commercial opportunities for Sardinian wine.

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# EU Projects

## In progress in 2024



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Participating in European projects in collaboration with partners from various regions and countries is a highly valuable component of the Chamber's activities. This value lies in our ability to contribute to the shared European commitment to addressing the most pressing challenges of our time.

Our involvement in such projects offers the opportunity to generate knowledge and design innovative tools to tackle European issues, while also fostering the dissemination of valuable insights and awareness.

Moreover, these initiatives allow us to expand our international network, establishing partnerships with public institutions, research centres, trade associations, SMEs, and other organisations. This activity is therefore a key driver of our growth and development across multiple dimensions. In 2024, the Chamber was actively engaged in the implementation of several European projects funded under the Erasmus+, Single Market Programme, and Creative Europe frameworks.

### EYE2GLOBAL

#### Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs GLOBAL

36 MONTHS - 14/03/21 > 14/03/24



Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs GLOBAL was a project launched by the European Commission following the success of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme. Unlike the original initiative, the GLOBAL programme enabled stays at host companies located in non-European countries, offering young entrepreneurs the opportunity to engage with international business environments. The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce acted as the contact point for Singapore until the conclusion of the project in March 2024.

<https://eyeglobal.eu>

Erasmus for Young  
Entrepreneurs Global



### Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs



### Open EYE13

#### Erasmus for Young Entrepreneur

48 MONTHS - 01/02/23 > 31/01/27

In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce promoted cross-border exchanges through the European Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Programme, which offers new or aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn from experienced business owners managing small enterprises in other participating countries.

The exchange of experiences takes place during a stay with the host entrepreneur, who helps the new entrepreneur acquire the skills needed to successfully run a small business. In return, the host gains fresh perspectives on their own company and has the opportunity to collaborate with foreign partners or explore new markets. Since 2009, the Chamber has served as the local contact point for Belgium.

Local contact points are selected by the European Commission to guide participants throughout the exchange: assisting with the application process, facilitating a successful match with a suitable entrepreneur, and providing support and answers to any questions during the programme.

[www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)

Micr@s

Micro community cooperative @  
school

24 MONTHS - 01/11/22 > 31/10/2024



The MICR@s – Micro Community Cooperative@School project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, addressed educational challenges related to social inclusion, early school leaving prevention, and the promotion of entrepreneurship among students. The project developed innovative teaching tools for both teachers and students, including an e-learning platform featuring 14 “Learning Snacks” and an online game based on the Business Model Canvas.



In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce organised two pilot sessions and a final event in Brussels, engaging groups of Italian students in the testing of the educational materials.

The young participants designed and presented original entrepreneurial projects, demonstrating creativity and initiative. The project concluded with a final partner meeting on 24 October 2024.

<https://micrasatschool.eu/>



SOSUSK

Social and sustainable skills for young  
Neet population

24 MONTHS - 03/01/2022 > 02/01/2024

The SOSUSK project, funded by the Erasmus+ programme and active from January 2022 to January 2024, aimed to strengthen the entrepreneurial, green, and social skills of young NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) across Europe. The partnership, comprising organisations from Greece, Croatia, Belgium, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland, worked to activate this transnational population and support their integration into the labour market.

Throughout the project, three main outputs were developed: a compendium of innovative digital learning methods, a practical e-learning toolkit for the development of entrepreneurial competences, and an interactive online platform functioning as an accelerator programme for emerging entrepreneurs. These resources have contributed to the promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship and the enhancement of digital training opportunities for young people.

<https://sosuskproject.eu/>

GELATOn the ROAD

36 MONTHS - 01/04/23 > 30/03/2026



The “GELATOn the Road” project officially launched in April 2023, with the ambitious goal of creating the very first “Gelato Route”.

This initiative offers a unique opportunity to promote and celebrate the art of gelato through a dedicated itinerary that includes various locations and businesses. The project is built upon key criteria such as energy and environmental sustainability, product and raw material quality, innovation within the artisanal gelato supply chain, and a strong focus on local culture and territorial promotion. The project involves 17 organisations from both Europe and beyond, with Longarone Fiere Dolomiti Srl serving as the coordinating entity.

In 2024, our Chamber of Commerce continued to lead the communication activities of the European project GELATOn the Road, dedicated to sustainable tourism and the promotion of gastronomic heritage.

Key actions included the management of digital channels and promotional materials, the coordination of the international competition “Sustainable Scoops”, and participation in the project's third General Assembly, held in Vienna on 24–25 September.

On that occasion, the preliminary version of the project's mobile app was presented, along with a QR-code voting system for artisanal gelato competitions and a series of pop-up museum activities targeting students in the fields of culinary arts and tourism.

<https://gelatontheroad.eu/>



DIFFABILITY

Empowering Students with different abilities

18 MONTHS - 01/01/22 > 28/02/24

Diffability is an 18-month European project designed to address the needs of students with hearing and visual impairments.

The initiative developed ICT tools and distance learning pathways to promote educational inclusion, strengthen soft skills, and facilitate access to the labour market.

The partnership involved seven organisations from six countries — Lithuania, Slovenia, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, and Turkey — including the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce.

The project was successfully concluded in February 2024.



<https://diffability.eu/>

## RISE

### Rising Innovators for a Sustainable Environment

11 MONTHS - 01/02/2024 > 31/12/2024



RISE is a project developed by WITHUB, in collaboration with the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce and with the support of the European Commission, aimed at raising awareness among secondary school students on the themes of sustainable development and digital citizenship.

Through a training programme inspired by three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), participants engage with environmental start-ups and learn how to present emerging entrepreneurial ideas through pitching techniques. The programme included two online sessions with industry experts and educational materials.

<https://www.withub.it/rise>



## Voices of Change

### Empowering Young Migrant Girls For A More Inclusive Europe

20 MONTHS - 01/09/2024 > 30/04/2026

Voices of Change (VOC) is a project funded by the European Union, aimed at strengthening the representation and civic participation of young migrant women in the development of policies that directly affect them.

The project promotes greater democratic inclusion by creating spaces for dialogue and exchange between migrant girls and their European peers, fostering intercultural respect and active citizenship.

In 2024, the project launched its activities with the kick-off meeting held on 30 September, during which work packages were presented and consortium actions were planned. Among its core objectives, VOC seeks to establish a European advisory body dedicated to enhancing the civic participation of migrant girls, engaging citizens, associations, and local stakeholders in the process.

<https://voc-project.eu>

## I-coach

### Innovative toolbox for internship implementation

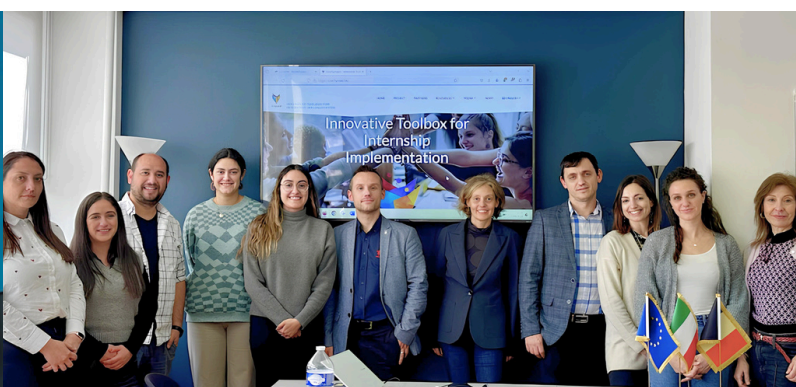
30 MONTHS - 01/11/2021 > 01/05/2024



I-Coach was an Erasmus+ project concluded with its final transnational meeting held in Brussels on 17 April 2024.

The initiative aimed to strengthen the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to implement effective internship programmes, through an innovative methodology and a targeted training course. Key achievements included the definition of the "i-Coach Expert" profile, the development of a Training Toolbox as an Open Educational Resource (OER) featuring theoretical content and practical case studies, and a collaboration model tested through pilot activities. The project, involving seven partners from Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Romania, and Spain, stands as a successful example of European cooperation in support of work-based learning and the enhancement of internships in SMEs.

<https://icoachproject.eu/>



## XRinVET

30 MONTHS - 01/11/2024 > 30/04/2027

VRinVET is a European project that aims to modernise Vocational Education and Training (VET) through the use of VR/AR technologies, fostering both inclusion and digital transformation.

The consortium includes six European partners, among which the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce is responsible for Work Package 2 on digital transformation in VET institutions.

The project foresees the development of a training programme for teachers, VR simulations in three high-employability sectors (vehicle maintenance, IT/electronics technician, and healthcare assistance), and an interactive platform offering learning tools and a repository of best practices.

The training model combines online and in-person learning and targets VET trainers and students aged 16 and over.



<https://xrinvet.eu>



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# Training

## 2024

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce designs and manages European projects funded by the European Commission, primarily in the fields of entrepreneurship, education, and tourism.

In recent years, the Chamber has chosen to share its direct experience in EU project design with Italian companies, associations, local authorities, consultants, and recent graduates, by offering thematic training courses with a strong practical orientation. Using a learning-by-doing approach, the training programmes organised by the Chamber allow participants to work directly on actual calls for proposals issued by EU institutions, developing their own project ideas with the support of expert trainers and professionals.



The funding programmes provided by the European Commission represent an important tool to support companies and local authorities in their processes of innovation and internationalisation.

In fact, the Commission co-finances projects in numerous fields, including research, culture, environment, rural development, SMEs, social policies, sport, and tourism.

To access funding, applicants must submit projects aligned with the Commission's general objectives and demonstrate a high level of quality. The training course on EU project design presents the main European programmes and prepares participants for open calls or those expected to be launched soon.

### 12,19,20 FEBRUARY 2024

#### WEBINAR

Basic EU Project Management  
For the Command General of the  
Arma dei Carabinieri

### 21-23 MARCH 2024

#### WEBINAR

Advanced EU Project Management  
For the Command General of the  
Arma dei Carabinieri

09 APRIL

11 JULY 2024

International Master in  
European Studies

INTERNATIONAL  
**MASTER**  
EUROPEAN  
STUDIES

### 29-30 APRIL 2024

#### BRUSSELS

COURSE ON THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC  
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

### 20-22 MAY 2024

#### WEBINAR

BASIC EU PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### 15-17 OCTOBER 2024

#### BRUSSELS

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY  
REPORTING DIRECTIVE

### 05,06,16 DECEMBER 2024

#### WEBINAR

PROJECT OFFICER

## Webinar

### Basic Training in EU Project Design and Management

The course aims to introduce participants to European project design through practical exercises on open calls and meetings with industry experts.

Over five days of training, participants acquire technical skills to access EU funding and to develop project ideas aligned with European programmes and the specific needs of their company or local authority.



## Webinar

### Advanced Training in EU Project Design and Management

The advanced EU project design course aims to enhance participants' skills in drafting and managing European projects, with a focus on budgeting, success factors, and critical issues during the implementation phase. Through case studies and practical advice, participants will explore both operational and strategic aspects in greater depth.

The course is intended for individuals who already have a basic understanding of EU project design.

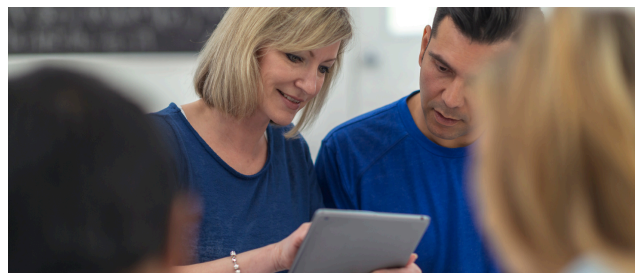
## IMES

### International Master in European Studies

Organised with the support of the Institute for European Studies of the Catholic University of Louvain, the International Master in European Studies – Policy Advisor and Project Consultant is designed for those wishing to engage with European affairs directly in Brussels.

The programme enables young graduates to acquire the skills of a European project expert and policy consultant, profiles increasingly in demand on the international job market.

Students have the opportunity to work on real EU calls for proposals, gaining a solid background in European planning procedures and enhancing their professional competitiveness.



## Project Officer Training Course

This advanced training aims to provide the skills needed to become a project officer, a professional profile with in-depth knowledge of European funding opportunities and the ability to pre-select calls for proposals to be presented to international partners.

## Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

The course offers a practical overview of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), with a focus on environmental, social, and governance sustainability.

Designed for professionals and companies, the programme provides practical tools to integrate sustainability into corporate strategy and to address the regulatory obligations coming into force in 2025.

The lessons include real-life case studies and insights from industry experts, with the aim of making the new European standards accessible and applicable.





# Mobility

## 2024

The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, through its Training Desk, promotes international mobility programmes that bridge the gap between education and the European labour market.

This service is aimed at educational institutions interested in offering their students high-quality training pathways focused on developing professional skills and active citizenship.

The initiatives include educational stays and internships abroad, funded by European programmes such as PON and Erasmus+, with activities ranging from school-to-work experiences to placements in international business environments.

The pathways feature institutional visits, practical workshops, and continuous mentoring, ensuring students a complete and hands-on educational experience.

The Chamber manages every stage of the project – from selecting host companies to providing logistical support – confirming its role as a strategic partner for schools seeking to enrich their educational offer through professional and cultural mobility experiences.



### 03-05 APRIL 2024

EDUCATIONAL TRIP  
FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS  
For the CALABRIA Region

### 09-11 APRIL 2024

EDUCATIONAL TRIP  
FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS  
For the CALABRIA Region

### 17 MAY 2024

EDUCATIONAL TRIP  
FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS  
EUGeneration

### 19-25 MAY 2024

ERASMUS+  
For the Provincial Center for Adult  
Education of Ancona

### 24 MAY - 22 JUNE 2024

ERASMUS+  
For Centro Produttività Veneto

### 17-20 JULY 2024

EDUCATIONAL TRIP  
FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS  
For Confindustria Ancona, Future  
Campus Fabriano

### 01-14 SEPTEMBER 2024

PON  
For ITET Aldo Capitini

### 02-15 SEPTEMBER 2024

PON  
For Istituto Tecnico Economico Statale  
"Alfonso Gallo" of Aversa

### 03-17 SEPTEMBER 2024

PON  
For IIP Einaudi Scarpa de Montebelluna

### 16 SEPTEMBER - 14 DECEMBER 2024

ERASMUS+  
For ISIS Paolo Carcano

### 18 -31 OCTOBER 2024

PON  
For ITET Vittorio Emanuele III de Lucera

03-05 APRIL 2024 | 09-11 APRIL 2024

### EDUCATIONAL VISIT ON THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

For the Calabria Region

In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Calabria Region, organised a citizenship education programme for high school students from Calabria. The initiative involved two distinct groups: the first included 50 students and 5 teachers from 18 schools; the second was composed of 16 students and 3 teachers awarded for their participation in an environmental project. Both groups took part in institutional visits in Brussels to the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, and other EU institutions, complemented by workshops and educational activities. The programme enabled participants to gain a deeper understanding of how the EU works and to strengthen their sense of European citizenship.



17-20 JULY 2024

### EDUCATIONAL VISIT ON THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

For Confindustria Ancona, Future Campus Fabriano

In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce organised a four-day educational visit to Brussels for the young participants of the Future Campus Fabriano project.

Through visits, meetings, and interactive sessions, the participants explored opportunities for study, life, and work at the heart of Europe, while reflecting on the skills required to build a professional path at the European level.

The experience strengthened their sense of belonging to the European Union and contributed to increased awareness and motivation among the group.



18-31 OCTOBER 2024

### PON Programme

For ITET Vittorio Emanuele III de Lucera

In 2024, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce welcomed to Brussels a group of students from ITET "Vittorio Emanuele III" in Lucera (FG), as part of a PON-funded project.

The programme combined activities on European citizenship with experiential workshops aimed at developing transversal and entrepreneurial skills.

The initiative represented an important growth opportunity for the participants and reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to bridging the gap between formal education and hands-on experience, in support of training the professionals of tomorrow.





# Special Projects

## 2024



The Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce is also involved in special projects aimed at promoting *Made in Italy* in Belgium, demonstrating our continued commitment to playing an active role in creating business and cooperation opportunities.

Each project is designed to promote excellence, quality, and the authenticity of commercial relations between Italy and Belgium, further strengthening the ties between our business communities.



### Italian Hospitality Project

Throughout 2024, the Italian Chamber of Commerce Abroad (CCIE) in Brussels took part in the project "Italian Hospitality – Certification of Authentic Italian Restaurants Worldwide", promoted by IS.NA.R.T. in collaboration with Unioncamere and Assocamerestero. This initiative, previously developed in past years, was reactivated with the aim of enhancing authentic Italian cuisine in Belgium by promoting the use of certified Italian agri-food products and encouraging compliance with the quality standards that define Italian hospitality abroad.

#### SELECTION AND EVALUATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS

At the launch of the project, the Chamber updated a database of Italian dining establishments in Belgium, with a focus on the Brussels-Capital area, also including restaurants previously certified. In a second phase, on-site visits were conducted at the participating venues to collect the required documentation, photographic material, and conduct interviews with the managers. The collected data were uploaded to the ISNART platform. By the end of the year, eight establishments had been registered: seven restaurants and one pizzeria.

#### PROMOTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE PROJECT

To support the initiative, the Chamber dedicated the December special issue of *Infoltalie* magazine to promoting the project and highlighting the participating establishments.

The official award ceremony for the Quality Label will be held in 2025 during a closing event organised by the Chamber. The initiative has served as an important tool to increase the visibility of authentic Italian cuisine in Belgium and to strengthen the presence of the international "Italian Hospitality" network.

# Publications

## 2024

This year, the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce published two issues of its biannual magazine, *Infotalie*, in collaboration with the Italian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce. The articles featured in the magazine provide a rich and diverse perspective on the Chamber's activities and on collaboration opportunities among the various economic stakeholders involved. By offering comprehensive and up-to-date information, the magazine gives our members the opportunity to stay informed about market developments, seize new collaboration opportunities, and effectively promote their business.

### 1 JUNE 2024 INFOITALIE 1-2024



The first 2024 issue of *Infotalie* was dedicated to Calabria, featuring tourism and culinary itineraries to showcase the region's excellence. The Chamber highlighted its activities from the first half of the year, including buyer missions to BuyWine and Vinitaly, B2B events focused on mobility and Piedmontese food, networking meetings, and internationalisation projects. Among the training initiatives, the magazine presented the new AI module of the IMES Master programme.

### 2 DECEMBER 2024 INFOITALIE 2-2024



The second 2024 issue of *Infotalie* features the most recent activities of the Belgian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, with a focus on the project "Italian Hospitality in the World", the launch of Nutella Plant-Based, the event at the European Parliament "Together We Go Further", and the conference on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The issue also includes updates on new members, European projects, and training initiatives.



# Members 2024





# Our members

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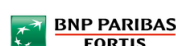
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