

Assessment CCC - Application by Belgium (BE) - Brussels		
GENERAL INFORMATION	INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THE APPLICATION	COMMISSION ASSESSMENT
Member State (applicant)	BELGIUM	
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INFORMATION ABOUT THE FULFILMENT OF CRITERIA		
<p><b>Criterion 1: The date on which the Centre can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns in particular the availability of appropriate office premises as well as the ability to redeploy and host the relevant staff, in time for the Centre to become operational. This should include the necessary logistics and sufficient space for offices, meeting rooms and off-site archiving, high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks as well as appropriate physical and IT security standards.'</i></p>	<p>The Belgian government has identified two available buildings in close proximity to one another, which are both excellent options to house the Centre. The two locations offer a secure, cost-efficient and flexible working environment for the Centre's staff. They are provided at very interesting conditions and allow for further expansion in the near or distant future, if the need arises. Both premises are described below as option 1 and 2 for criterion 1. The elements for all other criteria (2 to 7) apply to the two proposed premises.</p> <p><b>Option 1:</b> The Belgian government will put a building on the Da Vinci site (Avenue Jules Bordet n°11) in Evere (Brussels Capital Region) at the disposal of the Centre. These premises are available for immediate occupation for a staffing level of 30 persons after the entry into force of this regulation, subject to minimal alterations requested.</p> <p>The Da Vinci building is owned by Citydev.brussels, the leading regional public operator in the real estate sector. The building, which can be fully made available as a stand-alone building (2,190 m<sup>2</sup>) to the Centre, offers a multi-purpose space on the ground floor (of 859 m<sup>2</sup> net), which can be freely adapted to the Centre's needs in terms of meeting rooms and equipment, as well as offices on the first floor (of 1,331 m<sup>2</sup>). The building, as well as the car parks and land surrounding it, will be made available free of charge for 12 years (renewable in the future) and this in a gradual way to support the growth and development of the new Centre. The Da Vinci site is fully equipped with fibre optics. It profits from a highly developed technological and international ecosystem (NATO, security sector, aviation sector, IT sector, etc.). Given the high standards in terms of security and specific needs, a customised interior design will be carried out in advance, taking into account the needs and wishes of the Centre</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> The Belgian federal government provides a building at Avenue Jules Bordet n° 160 in Evere (Brussels Capital Region). "BORDET 160" currently offers a surface area of 3.900 m<sup>2</sup> for immediate use by the Centre. Since the Belgian government will purchase the entire property, further extensions are possible to a total of 6.600 m<sup>2</sup>, based upon prior arrangements with the current occupants. 59 indoor and 17 outdoor parking spaces are available on site.</p> <p>The Belgian federal government offers "Bordet 160" to the Centre for an indefinite period of time (open-ended contract).</p>	
<p><b>1.1 Availability of appropriate office premises, including the proposed options of premises and estimated timeline of availability for each option (e.g. premises 1 to be finished in Q ....)</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1:</b> Once a decision has been made, adaption works will be implemented on the basis of precise, tailor-made specifications. Availability will depend on the requirements of the Centre's detailed specifications. Once these specifications have been submitted and validated, the site will be made available within the minimum public procurement period. The expected works are limited to the customised interior design and security adaptations. A retroplanning will be jointly decided upon with the Centre, taking into account its needs.</p> <p>The ground floor is immediately available (subject to alterations requested). This would allow the Centre to start up its activities with up to 30 staff members as stipulated in the technical annex. Full availability of the equipped site (meaning ground and first floor) is expected by 2024 at the latest.</p> <p>In the event a transitional solution is preferred before final installation in the above premises, the real office estate market in Brussels offers many possibilities for fast, flexible and high quality occupation, in accordance with the needs and technical specifications of the Center. In this context, citydev.brussels has already identified several additional options on the private market, which fully conform to the needs and requirements of the Centre, with an immediate availability both in the European Quarter or in the vicinity of DG CONNECT, and whose owners are willing to make every effort to meet the needs of the Centre as early as 2021).</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> The premises offered by the Belgian government will be available immediately after the entry into force of the regulation (subject to any necessary adjustments requested by the Centre) and thus allow the Centre to start up its activities with the first group of up to 30 staff members as stipulated in the technical annex.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>'The Brussels Capital Region has identified a choice of suitable premises, ready for immediate occupation, to host the Cybersecurity Centre. Three office buildings are in the heart of the European Quarter; two are in the Beaulieu area, in the immediate vicinity of DG Connect. All of these locations are easily accessible by public transport (metro, tram, bus) and transport sharing platforms.</p> <p>1. Arts56 (Avenue des Arts 56) 2. Rue Montoyer 47 3. Monteco Building (Rue Montoyer 14) 4. Omega Court (Rue Jules Cockx, 8-10) 5. Crown Avenue (Avenue de la Couronne 145)' (Bid brochure, p. 5)</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of 2 premises: on Avenue Jules Bordet n°11 (premises 1) and on Avenue Jules Bordet n° 160 (premises 2). Besides a general reference to other available premises as transitional solutions, the bid brochure indicates the availability of 5 other potential premises, which are not described in detail in the application.</p> <p>The application indicates that, subject to alteration requests, premises 1 are partially available for immediate use (ground floor); full availability of premises 1 being expected by 2024 at the latest, whereas premises 2 are immediately available.</p>
<p><b>1.1.1 Necessary logistics and adequate office space (indicatively, around 2000 m2 gross floor area above ground), corresponding to the scenario of up to 60 staff members (additional parking space for staff and visitors according to relevant local legislation)</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1:</b> The Da Vinci/Bordet 11 building is a stand-alone building of 2,190 m<sup>2</sup> situated on a large plot of land with a green environment. It consists of a ground floor of 859 m<sup>2</sup> net (+ sanitary facilities) + 1,331 m<sup>2</sup> on the first floor. The site is part of a large private property and has +- 70 private parking spaces. In addition, the site is ideally located in the immediate vicinity of NATO, the airport, the ring road and motorways, public transport and the railway station (Bordet).</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> A total office area of 3900m<sup>2</sup> will be available for immediate use and will thus be ready to house first 30 and in the subsequent years 60 of the Centre's staff members. The premises will be adapted according to the Centre's needs. Further extensions are possible.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See text concerning criterion 1</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of premises 1, consisting of 2 190 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 859 m<sup>2</sup> are immediately available to house 30 staff members and with full availability by 2024; and of premises 2, consisting of 3 900 m<sup>2</sup>, with further extensions possible and ready to house first 30 and subsequently 60 staff members.</p> <p>The application indicates the availability for premises 1 of 70 parkings spaces, and for premises 2 of 59 indoor and 17 outdoor parking spaces.</p>
<p><b>1.1.2 Common infrastructure and rooms to accommodate for meetings (space and logistics for meeting rooms, including the number and size of offered meeting rooms)</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1:</b> To be determined in the specifications book. Customised layouts of fully flexible spaces are available on the ground floor, which can be easily acomodated into one large meeting room (minimum 65 persons) and three smaller meeting rooms, as well as offices on the first floor.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> The building currently has 6 meeting rooms of different sizes on the ground floor, including small meeting rooms for +/- 5 to 10 persons and several medium-sized meeting rooms for +/- 10 to 20 persons. A large conference room of approximately 300m<sup>2</sup> for +/- 100 persons is available for use on the 4th floor. Except for the ground floor, mezzanine and 4th floor which are fitted out, all other floors are provided "casco", which means the office floor can be easily adapted to the Centre's needs by creating closed or open office spaces, meeting rooms, private kitchens, etc</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of premises 1 with space for 4 meeting rooms, including 1 for at least 65 persons; and of premises 2 with 6 meeting rooms, including meeting rooms for around 5 to 10 persons and meeting rooms for around 10 to 20 persons as well as a conference room of around 300m<sup>2</sup> for around 100 persons.</p>

1.1.3 Off-site archiving capacities	<p><b>Option 1:</b> A professional self-storage centre in the immediate vicinity and on the same site (&lt; 500 metres) offers off-site archiving facilities for no less than 8,520 m<sup>2</sup>. Address : Avenue de Bale n°8 1140 Brussels</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> There is a large archive space of approximately 300 m<sup>2</sup> on level - 1 in the building as well as off-site self-storage capacity in the area near the premises.</p>	The application indicates the availability of off-site archiving capacities, as regards premises 1 of 8 520 m <sup>2</sup> ; and as regards premises 2, of an off-site self-storage capacity near the premises, without specifying the size.
1.1.4 Security and safety standards of the offered premises, in particular cybersecurity standards, equivalent to those of the EU Institutions	<p><b>Option 1:</b> To be determined in the specifications book. Tailor-made fittings. As the Da Vinci site is isolated (stand-alone) and fully available to the Centre, it can offer maximum guarantees in terms of safety. Belgium shall take the necessary steps to ensure the protection of the Centre's premises, in accordance with the Provisions of the Arrangement on Security between the Belgian Government, the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, signed in Brussels on 31 December 2004.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> Belgium shall take the necessary steps to ensure the protection of the Centre's premises, in accordance with the Provisions of the Arrangement on Security between the Belgian Government, the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, signed in Brussels on 31 December 2004.</p>	<p>The application indicates that for premises 1, standards are to be determined in the specifications book, and that for both premises, BE will ensure the protection of the premises, in accordance with the Provisions of the Arrangement on Security between the BE Government, the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank, signed in Brussels on 31 December 2004.</p> <p>The application does not provide information on particular cybersecurity standards as regards the 2 premises.</p>
1.1.5 The financial terms for the Centre's use of the premises (whether the Member State would pay the rent for a given period of time or indefinitely)	<p><b>Option 1:</b> The Brussels-Capital Region will cover the rent of the Centre for a period of 12 years, renewable in the future.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> The Belgian federal government puts "Bordet 160" at the Centre's disposal for an indefinite period of time (open-ended contract).</p>	The application indicates that for premises 1, the Brussels-Capital Region will cover the rent for a period of 12 years, renewable in the future; for premises 2, the Belgian government will put the premises at disposal free of charge for an indefinite period of time.
1.1.6 The terms concerning maintenance of the building including upgrading and future extensions if needed	<p><b>Option 1: The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.</b> Expected maintenance costs are estimated at 25€/m<sup>2</sup> per year in addition to consumption charges (heating, energy, water)</p> <p><b>Option 2: The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.</b> Expected maintenance costs and fees are estimated at 22€/m<sup>2</sup> per year (all in).</p>	<p>The application indicates that for premises 1, the expected maintenance costs are estimated at 25 €/m<sup>2</sup> per year in addition to consumption charges (heating, energy, water); for premises 2, the expected maintenance costs and fees are estimated at 22 €/m<sup>2</sup> per year (all inclusive).</p> <p>The application indicates that for premises 1 and 2, BE will cover the costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the buildings' capacities for up to €600 000.</p>
1.1.7 Any special conditions offered with regard to all costs and dedicated infrastructures	<p><b>Option 1:</b> See 1.1.5 and 1.1.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rent of the building will be covered for a first period of 12 years, which may be extended in accordance with arrangements to be agreed between the Belgian authorities and the Centre.</li> <li>The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.</li> </ul> <p><b>Option 2:</b> See 1.1.5 and 1.1.6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Belgian government will provide the premises for an indefinite period of time (open-ended contract).</li> <li>The costs for the upgrade and/or future extension of the building's capacities will be covered by the Belgian government for a total sum of up to 600.000 euros.</li> </ul>	The application does not indicate that any special conditions will be offered other than those concerning rent, maintenance, upgrade and/or future extensions as referred to in 1.1.5. and 1.1.6.
1.1.8 Estimated timeline for setting up an operational Centre on site after the entry into force of the Regulation, on the basis of the availability of appropriate office premises and the ability to redeploy and host the relevant staff	<p><b>Option 1:</b> Belgium's offer and its real estate market provide all the guarantees for the installation and operation of the Centre within the timeline it will set itself and adapted to its concrete needs over time :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- from 2021 with partial occupation of the Da Vinci building or another private building if necessary</li> <li>- complete availability of the Da Vinci site (2,190 m<sup>2</sup>) by 2024 at the latest.</li> </ul> <p>Once a final decision has been confirmed, adaptation works will be implemented on the basis of precise, tailor-made specifications. Availability will depend on the requirements of the Centre's detailed specifications. Once these specifications have been submitted and validated, the site will be made available within the minimum public procurement period. The expected works are limited to the customised interior design and security adaptations. A retroplanning will be jointly decided upon with the Centre.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> See 1.1: The premises offered by the Belgian government will be available immediately after the entry into force of the regulation (subject to any necessary adjustments requested by the Centre).</p>	The application indicates that the Centre could be installed and operational, in premises 1 from 2021 with partial occupation, the availability depending on the detailed specifications (expected to be limited to the interior design and security adaptations), and completely available by 2024 at the latest, and that premises 2 will be available immediately, subject to adjustments requested by the Centre.
1.1.9 The total estimated cost for set up and the expected annual average thereafter	<p><b>Option 1:</b> To be formulated in the specifications book. Tailor-made adaptation works will be carried out. Extension and installation costs are covered for an amount of up to 600.000 EUR. The rent will be covered for a 12 year period (renewable).</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> Rent will be free of charge for an indefinite period of time. Extension and installation costs are covered for an amount of up to 600.000 EUR.</p>	The application does not provide information on the estimated cost for set-up and the expected annual average thereafter.
1.2 General compliance with the requirements set out in the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specifications	<p><b>Option 1:</b> Citydev offers its services to provide all the necessary support for the installation of the Centre within the set deadlines. In particular, it can provide free assistance and project management for any works to be planned.</p> <p><b>Option 2:</b> The compliance will be ensured.</p>	The application indicates that for premises 2, compliance with requirements would be ensured. The application does not provide information on the compliance by premises 1.
1.3 Other		
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 1		<p>The application indicates the availability of 2 premises, Avenue Jules Bordet n°11 (premises 1) and Avenue Jules Bordet n° 160 (premises 2). The bid brochure indicates the availability of 5 other potential premises, which are not described in detail in the application. The application indicates that premises 1 consist of 2 190 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 859 m<sup>2</sup> are immediately available to host 30 staff members and with full availability by 2024; premises 2, consisting of 3 900 m<sup>2</sup>, with further extensions possible and ready to host first 30 and subsequently 60 staff members. The application indicates the availability, on premises 1 of space for 4 meeting rooms, including one for at least 65 persons; and on premises 2 of 6 meeting rooms, including meeting rooms for 5 to 10 persons and meeting rooms for 10 to 20 persons, and a conference room of around 300m<sup>2</sup> for around 100 persons. The application indicates the availability on premises 1 of 70 parking spaces, and on premises 2 of 76 parking spaces. The application provides information on compliance with security and safety standards, without providing information as to cybersecurity standards. The application indicates that for premises 1 the Brussels-Capital Region will cover the rent for a period of 12 years, renewable in the future; for premises 2 Belgium will put the premises at disposal free of charge for an indefinite period of time. The application indicates that Belgium is ready to cover extension and installation costs for up to €600 000 for both premises. The application indicates that for premises 2, compliance with the Commission's Manual of Standard Building Specification would be ensured, without providing information on such compliance for premises 1.</p>

<p><b>Criterion 2: Accessibility of the location</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the availability, frequency and duration of public transport connections from the closest airport to the location, as well as the quality and quantity of accommodation facilities. In particular, this criterion implies the capacity to allow for the expected meeting activities of the Centre.'</i></p>	<p>Brussels is by far one of the most accessible capitals on the continent, thanks to its dense, high-quality transportation infrastructure. It offers fast connections to dozens of locations all over Europe (by air, sea of land) and the rest of the world.</p> <p>Extensive public transport, cycling infrastructure and bicycle hire stations throughout the city make Brussels an attractive city in terms of eco-friendly transportation for its residents and visitors.</p>	
<p><b>2.1 Public transport connections from the closest airport to the location</b></p>	<p>Brussels Airport is located 12 km Northeast of Brussels' city centre and the European Quarter. Brussels Airport is a large intermodal hub where different means of transport come together and is easily accessible via direct train connection, taxi or bus in just 20 minutes. The Centre will be located just 6.7 km from the airport and can be reached through the aforementioned ways of transportation.</p>	
<p><b>2.1.1 Availability</b></p>	<p>By train: direct trains from Brussels city Centre to the airport By bus: numerous bus services at the airport, including long distance busses from neighbouring countries, airport shuttles, hotel shuttles and public bus transport. By car: taxi, shared, rental or private cars get you anywhere via the ring road around Brussels, which passes by the airport.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b> See 2.1.1.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of public transport connections from the closest airport to the premises by bus.</p>
<p><b>2.1.2 Frequency</b></p>	<p>By train: up to 6 trains per hour to join the airport By Bus: both public airport lines to/from Brussels (STIB &amp; De Lijn) operate continuously both on weekdays and during the weekend</p>	<p>The application does not provide information on the frequency of public transport connections from the airport to the premises, but indicates the availability of 6 trains per hour from Brussels Central Station to the airport and public bus lines running continuously both on weekdays and during the weekend.</p>
<p><b>2.1.3 Duration</b></p>	<p>By train: 17 min from Brussels Central Station with easy transfer to trains, busses and metro. By bus: a 30 minutes bus ride to the airport, via the Brussels European district By car: it takes approximately 20 minutes to drive from the centre of Brussels to the airport</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b> See 2.1.1.</p>	<p>The application indicates that the duration of the public transport connections (bus) from the airport to the premises, is 20 minutes.</p>
<p><b>2.2 Accommodation facilities</b></p>	<p>Brussels has close to 200 world class hotels with around 20.000 hotels rooms. Easy access to 3.000 additional hotels rooms close the the EU institutions and NATO available in the immediate vicinity of Brussels airport (less than 30 minutes). Hotels range from international branded hotels to unique family owned boutique hotels, offering prices which are generally much lower than in comparable European capitals. Thanks to preferential corporate agreements, all major hotels apply favourable rates for EU institutions, their staff and their visitors.</p> <p>In addition to its hotel accommodation, Brussels offers very affordable cost of living and housing. The Centre's staff could choose from a wide range of housing possibilities, from spacious apartments in the city centre close to shops and the cultural scene to detached houses in the capital's green suburbs, in the vicinity of European and international schools.</p>	
<p><b>2.2.1 Quality (indication of type of hotels with available rooms, e.g. 3, 4, 5-star hotels)</b></p>	<p><b>Five star hotels:</b> The Brussels region houses a total of 11 five star hotels. All these hotels are within reasonable distance of each other and within reasonable distance of major venues and institutions. They count all together 2.082 rooms. <b>Four star hotels:</b> The Brussels region houses a total of 53 four star hotels. All these hotels are within reasonable distance of each other and of major venues and institutions. All together they count up to 10.039 rooms. <b>Three star hotels:</b> in the brochure 'Let's meet in Brussels 2020' we made a selection of 27 three star hotels with a total of 3.655 rooms. For a total overview of the number of three star hotels we can refer to statistics of The Brussels Institute for Statistics (BISA) for 2018. The institute counted a total of 63 three star hotels with all together 5.590 rooms.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of accommodation facilities, ranging from 3- to 5-star hotels.</p>
<p><b>2.2.2 Quantity (number of rooms/hotel beds available)</b></p>	<p>20.000 hotel rooms are available across Brussels and its close periphery. 3.000 additional rooms can be found in the immediate vicinity of Brussels and its airport. They are ranked as follow: Five stars: 2.082 rooms. Four stars: 10.039 rooms. Three stars: 5.590 rooms.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of 20 000 hotel rooms in Brussels and further 3 000 in the immediate vicinity of Brussels and its airport, with 5 590 3-star rooms, 10 039 4-star rooms, and 2 082 5-star rooms.</p>
<p><b>2.3 Other</b></p>	<p>The last Mercer Survey on the cost of living ranked Brussels 78th, making Brussels less expensive than comparable European capitals.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b> See 2.1.1., 2.1.2. and 2.1.3. The bid brochure provides a list of existing direct flights/trains in Europe and in the world as well as on the frequency (p. 12).</p>	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 2</b></p>		<p>The application indicates the availability of public transport connections (bus) from the closest airport to the premises. The duration of the public transport is 20 minutes from the premises to the airport. The application provides information on the frequency and duration of public transport from Brussels airport to its central station. The application indicates the availability of 23 000 hotel rooms in and around Brussels, ranging from 3- to 5-star hotels.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 3: Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of the Centre's staff.</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the staff of the Centre.'</i></p>	<p>Essential facilities : 4 European schools accomodating nearly 13.000 pupils and a 5th European school opening in 2021 for another 1.500 pupils, provide children of EU-staff with a multilingual broad education of high quality from early education to secondary school, leading to the European Baccalaureate. They are tuition free for staff of the Centre. Brussels also boasts more than 30 international schools of whom several offer a national curriculum of one of the Member States, as well as excellent, tuition free, local French and Dutch speaking schools.</p>	

<p><b>3.1 Detailed information about existing educational facilities and availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling</b></p>	<p><b>In Brussels:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four European Schools in close proximity to European institutions. <b>The 5th European school will open in 2021, very near to the proposed sites for the Centre.</b></li> <li>- Lycée français Jean Monnet</li> <li>- International School of Brussels (ISB)</li> <li>- Brussels International Catholic School (BICS)</li> <li>- Agnes School</li> <li>- Bogaerts International School</li> <li>- Japanese School of Brussels</li> <li>- Brussels (American) Elementary High School</li> <li>- Brussels English Primary School (BEPS)</li> <li>- International Montessori School 'Hof ten Berg'</li> <li>- Nederlandstalige School Prinses Juliana</li> <li>- British Junior Academy of Brussels</li> <li>- British International School of Brussels (BISB)</li> <li>- École Internationale Montgomery</li> <li>- Montessori House Brussels</li> <li>- École Internationale Ace of Brussels</li> <li>- Ecole Française Internationale de Bruxelles (EFI Bruxelles)</li> <li>- Roots and Wings School</li> </ul> <p><b>Around Brussels:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The British School of Brussels (Tervuren)</li> <li>- Internationale Deutsche Schule Brüssel (Wezenbeek-Oppem)</li> <li>- St. John's International School (Waterloo)</li> <li>- International Montessori Schools (St. Stevens Woluwe,</li> <li>- Tervuren, Sterrebeek, Wezenbeek-Oppem)</li> <li>- ISF Waterloo International School (Waterloo)</li> <li>- Scandinavian School of Brussels (Waterloo)</li> <li>- European School of Bruxelles-Argenteuil (Waterloo)</li> <li>- Montessori Kids (Lasne)</li> <li>- ISF Tervuren International School (Tervuren)</li> <li>- Montessori House Belgium Int. School (Braine-l'Alleud)</li> <li>- The Courtyard International School (Tervuren)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.1.1 Nursery</b></p>	<p>Availability of European crèches (day care centers) of the European Commission as well as after-school childcare for European Union staff members' children in European schools. Apart from international and European schools, local Belgian pre-school services and kindergartens are available to expat families at reasonable prices. In most Belgian primary schools kindergarten is included in the school system. As from the age of 2.5 parents can register their children for kindergarten. This is until the age of six when required school attendance begins.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of European crèches (day care centres) as well as after-school childcare for European Union staff members' children in European schools, without specifying the number or linguistic offer. It also indicates that kindergartens are included in most Belgian primary school systems, without specifying the number of facilities or linguistic offer.</p>
<p><b>3.1.2 Primary education</b></p>	<p>Many of the above-mentioned European and international schools offer primary level education. Local Belgian schools are free.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See 3.1.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of 4 European schools and provides information on one European school to open in 2021 and a range of international and Belgian schools in and around Brussels. It indicates that many of the European and international schools offer primary level education, without specifying the linguistic offer.</p>
<p><b>3.1.3 Secondary education</b></p>	<p>Four European schools, offering tuition in the EU's official languages, are already established in Brussels and a fifth school will open in 2021, very close to the proposed sites for the Centre. International schools provide a quality education and develop high standards both in the mother tongue and foreign languages. They follow several national curricula and offer inter alia the International Baccalaureate, British A Levels, the French Baccalaureat, the German Abitur as well as vocational courses. Belgian Dutch and French speaking schools' standards are recognized internationally. The OECD rank Belgium's education among the top 10.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See text for criterion 3.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of 4 European schools, offering tuition in EU's official languages, and provides information on a 5th European school to open in 2021. It also indicates the existence of international schools providing education in mother tongue and foreign languages, without providing detailed information on the linguistic offer, and the existence of Belgian, Dutch- and French-speaking schools.</p>
<p><b>3.1.4 Higher education</b></p>	<p>With 5 universities, more than 25 colleges, and tuition fees of less than EUR 1,000 per academic year, Brussels is an attractive location for foreign students. One of the major assets is the variety of languages: courses are offered in Dutch, French and English, making higher education very accessible for international students, thus providing numerous possibilities for the centre's staff and their families to continue their education.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence in Brussels of 5 universities, more than 25 colleges, with courses offered in Dutch, French and English.</p>
<p><b>3.2 Other</b></p>	<p>Family members of the Centre's staff can enroll in numerous evening and weekend courses, both in and around Brussels.</p>	<p>The application indicates the possibility for family members of the Centre's staff to participate in evening and weekend courses.</p>
<p><b>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 3</b></p>		<p>The application indicates the existence of European crèches (day care centres) and after-school childcare for EU staff members' children in European schools, without specifying the number or linguistic offer. The application indicates the existence of 4 European schools providing education at primary and secondary levels and provides information on 1 European school to open in 2021. The application indicates that many of the European and international schools also offer primary level education, without indicating the number of these. The application also provides information on a range of international and Belgian schools in and around Brussels, offering education in several languages, without specifying the number or linguistic offer. The application indicates the existence in Brussels of 5 universities, more than 25 colleges, with courses offered in Dutch, French and English.</p>

<p><b>Criterion 4: Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of staff for social security and medical care as well as the availability to offer job opportunities for them.'</i></p>	<p>Families of staff members will live in an open and international labour market in which expats and their skills are considered a strength. The Brussels private sector has very much grown accustomed to and integrated the international and European workforce, which is why Belgium consistently ranks as one of the best places to work abroad. While staff will be covered by the Joint Rules on sickness insurance for officials of the European Communities, working spouses and partners can benefit from Belgium's extensive social security system and are entitled to certain predetermined allowances and social services. Social security will notably give the families access to one of the best healthcare systems in the EU and the world, staffed by outstanding healthcare professionals. Brussels' centrality and accessibility represent a significant asset in terms of time and cost savings for journeys from abroad, be they work related or private, to be regarded as a long-term benefit for the overall headquarters' costs. Buying and renting is very affordable in Brussels, with moderate increase in prices in the recent years compared to other international cities and availability of suitable housing.</p>	
<p>4.1. Social security</p>	<p>Registering with a mutual insurance fund entitles you to specific insurances and services, including compulsory insurance (designed to reimburse your health costs), complementary insurance, a hospital and medical expenses insurance and social services. The mutual insurance funds have a large network of agencies, mail facilities, internet sites and online shops.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See criterion 4.</p>	<p>The application indicates access for the family members of the Centre' staff to Belgium social security systems, through mutual insurance funds giving access to specific insurances and services.</p>
<p>4.2 Medical care</p>	<p>Belgium is ranked Europe's fourth best healthcare system which provides easy access to a wide range of medication and boasts a large number of multilingual doctors speaking English, French and Dutch as well as occasionally other EU languages.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See criterion 4.</p>	<p>The application indicates that the Belgian healthcare system provides access to medication and to doctors speaking English, French and Dutch as well as occasionally other EU languages.</p>
<p>4.3 Information on the national job market and job opportunities</p>	<p>Being one of the most internationally oriented economies in Europe with international staff making up more than 10% of the workforce, Belgium and Brussels increasingly appeal to foreigners as working destinations. Brussels is therefore without any doubt able to attract and retain the required key staff for the centre, even in a very competitive and technical segment of the employment market, and as such avoid possible high staff turnover due to a less international location of headquarters. With more than 140.000 EU nationals working in Brussels of whom nearly 50.000 work in the European and international organisations, Brussels also hosts numerous international associations and NGOs, advocacy groups, lobbying groups, law firms and others which represent interesting employment opportunities for the families of the Centre's staff. Living conditions in Belgium as well are excellent and less expensive in comparison with other locations. Brussels has the fifth highest Gross Domestic Product at regional level per inhabitant in EU, it is the first congress city in Europe and ranked second in terms of language skills.</p>	<p>The application indicates that Brussels provides a range of job opportunities, as it hosts numerous international bodies and firms, representing employment opportunities for the families of the Centre' staff.</p>
<p>4.4. Other</p>	<p>Furthermore, the Brussels Region provides international staff and their families with a public service called the "Expat Welcome Desk" which serves as a single point of contact for all international organisations. It provides free personalised and multilingual administrative assistance to mobile workers who reside in Brussels as part of their professional activities in and around European and international organisations. The desk hosts various services; most notably support in the areas of housing, residence formalities, taxes, transport, employment, social security and healthcare, education and more.</p> <p>In addition to this public service, Brussels has a thriving expat community and hosts an ecosystem of associative support structures, formal and informal clubs as well as a vibrant cultural offer initiated by and addressed to its international community.</p>	<p>The application indicates the existence of a public service called the 'Expat Welcome Desk', for international staff and their families providing multilingual administrative assistance to mobile workers residing in Brussels.</p>
<p><b>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 4</b></p>		<p>The application indicates access, for the family members of the Centre' staff, to social security systems, through mutual insurance funds giving access to specific insurances and services. The Belgian healthcare system provides access to medication and to doctors speaking many EU languages. Brussels provides a range of job opportunities as it hosts numerous international bodies and firms, representing employment opportunities for the Centre staff's families. In addition, a public service, the 'Expat Welcome Desk', for international staff and their families provides multilingual administrative assistance to mobile workers.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 5: Excellent connectivity, security and interoperability with IT facilities for handling EU funding</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the possibility of seamlessly take over relevant IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to the TESTA network. It also concerns solid capacities in terms of cybersecurity resilience of communication networks.'</i></p>	<p>Belgium has long-running experience in ensuring fast, secure and reliable mobile connectivity. Belgium boasts a fast, secure and reliable IT infrastructure providing the ideal backbone for the operations of the Centre. Broadband fibre-optic internet and secure servers are widely available, offering secure cloud solutions and collaborative computing. In the European Commission's 2020 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), Belgium is one of the top performers in the overall index. The country performs especially well in deploying fast and very high capacity networks and in integrating technology into the activities of businesses. In terms of fast broadband (NGA) coverage, Belgium ranks 3rd in the EU28 benchmark with 99% coverage and 6th in terms of take-up of very fast fixed broadband (at least 100 Mbps). Belgium has also the 2nd best 4G coverage in the EU28 with nearly 100% coverage. Belgium is still the world leader with a substantial lead in terms of IPv6 adoption. The resilience of networks in Belgium has recently been tested with the COVID19 crisis which led to a massive concomitant usage of networks while the population was working mainly from home (distant school, homeworking etc.). During this crisis networks have performed as usual despite a temporary exponential usage increase and no outage was measured thereby demonstrating the outstanding network capacity and resilience in Belgium. Operators are also investing a lot to keep those networks in line with standards of the future (see below).</p>	

<p><b>5.1 High-speed connectivity</b></p>	<p>As underlined above, Telecom operators invest a lot in keeping up with the connectivity of the future. In Belgium, 1 Gbps connectivity was launched commercially in September 2019 by Telenet. At the end of March 2020, Proximus launched its 1 Gbps offer for customers connected to the fiber optic network. Proximus has launched several initiatives for the rollout of high quality fiber coverage, aiming at covering 4.2M homes and business locations by 2028 in fiber. At regional level, discussions are also ongoing between Telenet (cable operator in Flanders and part of Brussels) and Fluvius (utility operator in Flanders) with the ambition to deploy FTTH through a joint venture. Regarding point-to-point fiber coverage for high-quality business connectivity, Proximus has a national coverage. Several smaller business operators are also active in this market, especially in urban areas and in areas of economic interest. In areas such as Brussels, Antwerp or Ghent several operators have deployed their own fiber, allowing for infrastructure competition in these areas.</p> <p>In mobile, Belgium also excels both in terms of quality and geographical coverage (4G covers the quasi totality of the Belgian territory) and is working hard to ensure premium quality mobile connectivity in the future.</p> <p>In April 2020 Belgian telecom provider Proximus launched a "5G-light" commercial offer whereby 5G connectivity was offered in more than 30 cities or municipalities in Belgium. More than thirty 5G test licenses have been issued by the BIPT to operators and companies willing to perform live-tests on important sites.</p> <p>In June 2020, the Brussel-Capital Regional Government initiated specific discussions with the National Telecommunications Regulator (BIPT) and the telecom operators, in order to deploy 5G connectivity within a short timeframe, notably in order to be able to host international institutions in a site that is 5G-ready. In this context, fruitful discussions with various telecom operators in July 2020 have confirmed an imminent readiness as well as the necessary technical capacity to deploy and ensure reliable 5G network coverage wherever the cybersecurity center would be installed – and this on a timely basis and in compliance with the applicable emission norms.</p> <p>On 15 July 2020, the national regulator granted a temporary licensing regime for 3.5 GHz to five operators (Cegeka, Entropia, Orange, Proximus and Telenet). They will develop the first 5G services in Belgium within this frequency band. The operator, IRIS.net, will provide the Centre with a fast, secure and reliable IT infrastructure through the means of broadband fiber optic internet and secure servers. IRIS.net is committed to offer the Centre tailor-made solutions for a fast and efficient access to data, while paying attention to the performance and security of the network as well as the flexibility of its service.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>1) "5th most innovative economy in the EU according to the EU's 2020 European Innovation Scoreboard " (bid brochure, p. 8).</p> <p>2) "IRISnet offers VIP services for public authorities." (bid brochure, p. 8).</p> <p>3) "Embracing the future: The Belgian authorities, operators and businesses are committed to ensuring 5G connectivity. Also, the Brussels-Capital Regional Government is fully committed towards next generation mobile technologies. It has made becoming a smart city, benefitting both citizens and public authorities, one of its main policy objectives. Within this framework, the government sees introducing modern technologies in the various security professions as a priority. It is on course to make Brussels 5G-ready." (bid brochure, p. 9).</p> <p>4) "On 15 July 2020, the national regulator granted a temporary licensing regime for the 3.5 GHz band, allowing for the roll-out of 5G connectivity in the whole territory of Belgium, while awaiting the adoption of the legal framework for the definitive 5G auctions both in the 700 MHz and the 3.5 GHz band." (bid brochure, p. 9).</p>	<p>The application provides information on the availability of a high-speed connectivity infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>5.2 High-performing telecommunications and data storage networks in line with physical and IT security standards (including the possibility of supporting document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level)</b></p>	<p>Pre-selected premises are equipped with high-performing telecommunication networks, as elsewhere in Brussels where EU institutions are located. Multiple operators will be able to offer the Centre advanced, tailor-made and secure solutions.</p> <p>Security of telecommunication networks, which are considered critical infrastructures, is taken very seriously by the Belgian authorities. A national strategy has been enforced since 2016 and is constantly monitored (in line with the ENISA methodology for technical measures). Participation in regular international exercises (ENISA, NATO, ITU) is a plus in that respect. Also, the Belgian regulator works in close collaboration with the national CSIRT.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability in the 2 premises of high-performing telecommunication networks and provides information on the security of such networks in BE, without providing specific information on physical and IT security standards nor availability of data storage networks, including the possibility of supporting document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level.</p>
<p><b>5.3 Security of the connectivity infrastructure of the Centre in line with the principles agreed by MS such as in the 5G cybersecurity toolbox</b></p>	<p>The Belgian federal government takes its responsibility as a host nation very seriously. Given the importance of 5G-technology for future connectivity and activities of international entities, including the Centre, adequate security measures, in line with the EU's 5G toolbox, have been adopted to manage potential risks.</p> <p>In June 2020, the Belgian National Security Council decided to ban High Risk Vendors in the critical parts of the 5G network as well as less-critical parts in highly sensitive geographical zones (e.g. military sites, international organizations, etc.). The legal framework implementing this decision will soon be adopted. It is fully in line with the strategic measures recommended in the EU 5G security toolbox.</p> <p>The diversity of national and international operators operating their own independent networks will ensure effective high-quality redundancy for the Centre at access and core level.</p>	<p>The application indicates that security measures, in line with the EU's 5G cybersecurity toolbox, have been adopted to ensure the security of the connectivity infrastructure of the the premises. It also provides information on national measures adopted (or to be adopted) in line with the strategic measures recommended in the toolbox.</p>
<p><b>5.4 Compliance of the security of premises and IT infrastructure for handling information up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET with the relevant rules for classified information</b></p>	<p>Pre-selected premises provide satisfying security and IT infrastructure standards for handling confidential information, just like other sites in Brussels where EU institutions and international organisations are located.</p>	<p>The application indicates that the 2 premises provide security and IT infrastructure standards for handling confidential information, similar to other sites of EU institutions and international organisations in Brussels.</p>
<p><b>5.5 Ability to seamlessly take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding, including access to TESTA network where possible</b></p>	<p>High quality access to the TESTA network (a private network) is possible in Brussels, as shown by the experience of the EU Council and the EU Commission. IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding can be easily rolled out.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability in the premises to take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding including access via the TESTA network.</p>
<p><b>5.6 Regarding the meeting rooms, high-quality fixed and wireless (4G or higher) connectivity, as well as audio and video conference facilities</b></p>	<p>Regarding the connectivity in general, please refer to point 5.1 on the current status in Belgium.</p> <p>Regarding point-to-point fiber coverage for high quality business connectivity, data of the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications show that in the Brussels area several operators have deployed their own fiber. Concerning the specific locations for the establishment of the Centre, available data confirm that high quality fiber infrastructure is readily present in the direct neighborhood of these locations.</p> <p>The Centre will be able to rely on the network and services of telecommunications of several national and international operators. Multiple operators and integrators are able to provide the Centre with a fast, secure and reliable IT infrastructure through the means of broadband fiber optic internet and secure servers. They are committed to offer the Centre tailor-made solutions for a fast and efficient access to data and IT conferencing services, while paying attention to the performance and security of the network as well as the flexibility of its service.</p> <p>BE was ranked third in the DESI index in terms of integration of digital technology in businesses with more than :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 26000 ICT companies accross BE, including 2000 solely in Brussels</li> <li>- a labour markets of 300000 experts employed in the tech sector</li> </ul>	<p>The application indicates the availability of high-quality connectivity in the direct neighborhood of the location of the premises, as well as the availability of IT conferencing facilities. It provides information on the availability of relevant services offered by national and international operators in BE.</p>
<p><b>5.7 Other</b></p>		

<p>SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 5</p>		<p>The application provides information on the availability of a high-speed connectivity infrastructure. It indicates the availability in the 2 premises of high-performing telecommunication networks and provides information on security, without providing specific information on physical and IT security standards nor availability of data storage networks, including the possibility of supporting document management up to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level. The application indicates that security measures, in line with the EU's 5G cybersecurity toolbox, have been adopted. The application indicates that the 2 premises provide security and IT infrastructure standards for handling confidential information, similar to other sites of EU institutions and international organisations in Brussels. It indicates the availability in the premises to take over IT processes relating to management of relevant EU funding including access via the TESTA network. The application indicates the availability of high-quality connectivity in the direct neighborhood of the location of the premises, as well as the availability of IT conferencing facilities.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 6: Existence of a cybersecurity ecosystem</b></p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the existence of a relevant ecosystem of organisations active in the field of cybersecurity in the host city, such as other cybersecurity (research) institutions, knowledge institutions or relevant companies and/or communities.'</i></p>	<p>Brussels is home to a large and diverse set of key stakeholders and advocacy groups important to the European cybersecurity community. We host the European Commission, the Council, EU parliament, the European Space agency, CERT-EU, NATO. All are important public stakeholders with regards to cyber. The European Cybersecurity Organization (ECSO) is also part of the ecosystem in Brussels. One of the core tasks of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre will be to coordinate and administrate the Cybersecurity Competence Community, which will serve as the successor of the cPPP community managed by ECSO. Animating this network so as to make sure that the invaluable work by ECSO would not be lost, will require close proximity and a continuous interplay with the cybersecurity ecosystem. Of the members of ECSO, more than 60% of large suppliers and users of cybersecurity solutions have their seat or a satellite office in and around Brussels. In addition to that, almost 45% of ECSO member associations have a physical presence as well. The continuation and expansion of the cPPP community will therefore be effectively ensured. Members of the Cyber Security contractual Public-Private Partnership (cPPP) include a wide variety of stakeholders such as large companies, SMEs and Start-ups, research centers, universities, end-users, operators, clusters and association as well as European Member State's local, regional and national administrations, countries part of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and H2020 associated countries. Moreover, the new office of ENISA, the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security will also be hosted in Brussels. Brussels is thus the ideal environment to connect EU-wide cybersecurity organizations and stakeholders. EOS has his offices in Brussels. The European Organization for Security (EOS) represents the European security industry and research community. They operate in 15 countries and the members provide security research, solutions and services across many security domains, including cyber. To ensure that new insights about cyber security reach companies more quickly, Sirris, the knowledge centre of the technology industry set up the Brussels Initiative on Cybersecurity Innovation. BICI brings together the know-how of the research centres of the universities UCL, ULB and VUB, the EhB university college, Sirris, and other key players in research and innovation in the Brussels region. Our country has a very good reputation for research on cyber security and cryptography. The global strategic platform SecurIT, an Innoviris initiative that has been running since 2015, launched five projects on cyber security: BruFence, C-CURE, SCAUT, SeCloud and SPICES. They focused respectively on automatic fraud detection, flexible authentication, side channel resistance of authenticated encryption, security issues in cloud computing and complex event processing for security monitoring. The platform brought together 15 research groups from three universities (UCL, ULB and VUB), a university college (EhB) a collective research centre (Sirris), and promoted interaction between the industrial and academic worlds. As such, it created a unique opportunity for innovation in cyber security in the Brussels-Capital Region. The SeCloud project brings together 11 research teams on high-technology advances in certain cyber security issues; it aims to accelerate acceptance of cloud technologies and address specific cyber security issues: development of new cryptography schemes, security models and automatic security analysis of programming languages, research on current and future privacy legislation, knowledge and documentation of best practices and patterns in the SaaS (Software as a Service) model and related API technologies, and study of the risk framework around the cloud technologies. As part of the European Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, the EU Cyber Direct project joined forces with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and numerous research institutions to organize an international conference that contributes to closing the gap between scholars and practitioners working on cyber-related issues. The EU Cyber Direct – is implemented jointly by the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and Stiftung Neue Verantwortung (SNV) again shows the well embedded cyber security ecosystem in Belgium. Advocacy groups as the Digital SME Alliance, AGORIA (the sectoral employers' organization focused on technological innovation), as well as CEPS (Centre for European Policy studies) need to be mentioned as well. All regularly organize events that strongly foster cooperation, knowledge exchange, networking and innovation in the area of cybersecurity on all levels. Belgium is also an important ICT Hub for the private sector. Many important companies active in the cybersecurity sector, such as IBM, Cegeka and Mastercard, have chosen Brussels as a location for their offices. The My Innovation Centre in Brussels, supported by Microsoft, is a private-public partnership aimed at sustaining the development of the IT sector focusing on SaaS and Cloud technologies.</p>	

<p><b>6.1 Description of the existence of a relevant cybersecurity ecosystem in the host city (such as other cybersecurity (research) institutions, knowledge institutions or relevant companies and/or communities)</b></p>	<p>Belgium is home to a dense cyber security ecosystem that unites private, public and academic sectors in long-term proactive collaboration. Belgium strives for close cooperation between government, industry and academia at national and international level as a key vector of effective cybersecurity. According to the Bitsight index, we are in fourth place within the EU and according to the National Cyber Security Index, we are in sixth place worldwide (<a href="https://ncsi.ega.ee/">https://ncsi.ega.ee/</a>) with regards to cyber security. By 2024, Belgium should become one of the least vulnerable countries in Europe in the cyber domain. The government will work towards this goal by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthening the digital environment and confidence in the digital environment</li> <li>- Better arming users and administrators of computers and networks</li> <li>- Protecting Organizations of Vital Interest against Emerging Cyber Threats</li> <li>- Strengthening the CCB to respond to the cyber threat and incidents</li> <li>- Public, private and academic partnerships</li> </ul> <p>- A clear international commitment, including closer cooperation with the supranational organizations and helping to protect the international institutions in our country. In terms of dedicated governmental services, Brussels hosts the national Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium (CCB), the Data Protection Authority as well as many sectoral authorities (the Belgian association of Digital Technology Leaders and the Belgian Internet Service Provider Association) and many other closely-linked initiatives, allowing decisions to be implemented swiftly. In Belgium the 8 national intelligence, security, and law enforcement agencies have a close cooperation on cyber in policy (Statutory Coordination Committee) and operations (through the Cyber emergency plan). Together they protect our country against cybercrime. The CCB and 9 sectoral authorities closely work together in protecting the Belgian Organizations of Vital Interest in the Cybersecurity Sectoral Authority Platform. Moreover, the CCB and the 4 largest Internet Service Providers (ISP) in Belgium work together through the Belgian ISP thinktank on concrete projects, including Spear-Warning.</p> <p>The hands-on knowhow of Belgian government experts and research from Belgian universities is well known and appreciated. It was, for example, the Belgian defense that developed the first versions of the internationally used MISP (malware information sharing program). Staff from COSIC has created the global AES standard for encryption. The Computer Security and Industrial Cryptography (COSIC) research group was founded in 1979 and currently has 7 professors, 6 members of support staff, 8 research experts/managers and over 60 researchers. COSIC is part of the Department of Electrical Engineering at KU Leuven. During the last 15 years, COSIC obtained more than 1200 international reviewed publications in journals and conferences, 13 edited books, 10 patents and has graduated over 60 PhD students.</p> <p>With regards to the public, private and academic stakeholders in Belgium, the Cyber Security Coalition is a perfect example; Currently, more than 82 key organizations from all sectors are active members and contribute to the mission and objectives of the coalition through 9 focus groups. They work on awareness raising and policy, but also on operational cooperation and experience sharing. They have organized 20 events on topical issues for our members that allowed them to integrate new information and best practices into their daily professional activities; and they have sponsored 3 editions of the Belgian Cyber Security Convention in Malines and 2 editions of the Security Forum in Wallonia. During the containment period, they have converted the planned in-person events into a set of 19 webinars/ digital meetings attracting over 600 participations by our members.</p> <p>Since 2019 the CCB brings private and public stakeholders in Belgium together every quarter to present its cyberthreat report, discuss pertinent current and future threats, and allow for networking. It continued to do so virtually during the COVID crisis. In July 2020 more than 337 participants attended this meeting. For the October 2020 meeting more than 500 participants registered. In 2020 alone the CCB reached a total of 697 unique registrants with these quarterly report sessions. The support for the ESA Cyber Security Operations Centre in Redu is a clear sign of Belgium support to the industry. Belgium will also be joining the Quantum Communication Initiative.</p> <p>To tackle cyberthreats in the Health Sector during the Covid pandemic the CCB set up a cooperation with private partners who together offer reactive and preventive services to the health sector in Belgium. In total 20 organizations and 30 volunteers from the Belgian cybersecurity community have come together to help protect our country, and the numbers are still increasing.</p> <p>Last but not least, the Belgian population is a key player in the Cyber security ecosystem. The CCB protects citizens and organizations in Belgium against Phishing. All constituents may forward suspicious emails to <a href="mailto:suspect@safeonweb.be">suspect@safeonweb.be</a>. Communication by the CCB and Safeonweb is done in 4 major European languages (English, German, French, and Dutch) We are committed to and experienced in multilingual communication, making our cyber information available to the many and diverse partners in (and outside) our country. The CCB parses all incoming mails from the population and extracts URLs and attachments. The URLs are analyzed. Once tagged as malicious the URLs are sent to Microsoft Smartscreen and Google Safebrowsing so that they can get blocked in the browser. All the potentially malicious attachments are extracted and pushed to our sandbox(es). - In 2020 already 2.238.172 emails were sent; from which 422.854 malicious URL's were sent to browsers for blocking.</p>	<p>The application provides information on the relevant cybersecurity ecosystem in Brussels, including the existence of cybersecurity research institutions, knowledge institutions, relevant companies and communities.</p>
<p><b>6.2 Other</b></p>	<p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>'3th in terms of the integration of digital technology in businesses in the European Commission's Digital Economy &amp; Society Index. 26,000 ICT companies in Belgium, including 2,000 in Brussels. A labour market of 300,000 experts employed in the tech sector.' and "Top 5 of European countries regarding patents and publications on cybersecurity. KU Leuven considered to be a world leader in cryptography." (bid brochure, p. 10 and 11).</p> <p>The CCB engages with important international organizations as part of a special category of stakeholders, to which it offers privileged security services free of charge and voluntarily: Organizations of Special Interest (OSI). This OSI category includes: International Public Institutions located on Belgian soil ; Belgian government services; and the national Scientific and Economic Potential. Because of their importance, OSIs can rely on the CCB's Early Warning System as well as to other Spear Warning-, and incident mitigation services. In 2019, the CCB in close cooperation with the ISP's, warned more than 2500 users about a particular vulnerability; 74% of these users had solved this vulnerability in less than one month. Interested organizations or their Computer Emergency Response Team (CERTs), Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), or Security Operation Centre (SOCs) may contact <a href="mailto:relations@ccb.belgium.be">relations@ccb.belgium.be</a> and <a href="mailto:ews@cert.be">ews@cert.be</a>. These instances answer any further questions and give explanations on the different services that are on offer.</p> <p>If the Competence Centre would be located in Belgium, it would, like any other European Institution located on Belgian territory, fall in the Organizations of Special Interest (OSI) category and, therefore could enjoy the EWS and incident response services.</p> <p>Specific CCB services to OSIs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Incident Response: The CCB offers support during incidents to OSI constituents. When an OSI witnesses a cyber incident, they may contact the CCB at <a href="mailto:cert@cert.be">cert@cert.be</a> or if more urgently at +32 (0)2 501 05 60. CCB will assist OSIs via advisories and Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI-packages), and it can also assist OSIs, where appropriate, in liaising with other national partners, such as law enforcement. This support and advise to OSIs is offered remotely, on voluntary basis, free of charge, is available 24/7, and happens in close cooperation with the National Crisis Centre, which supports the permanent availability and liaising with hierarchy and other services. For more details, such as options for encrypted contact, please visit <a href="https://www.cert.be/en/report-incident">https://www.cert.be/en/report-incident</a>.</li> <li>2. The CCB helps important organizations with incident management: In 2019 the CCB received 4484 notifications of malicious incidents</li> <li>3. The EWS-Portal is an online broadcast platform, where OSIs can freely consult a repository containing strategic and operational reports and notifications relevant for their sector. A general threat landscape report is also published daily on the Portal, and notifications of newly available information are sent to onboarded constituents via email. This can be in real time or in a digest-form. Constituents who have been fully onboarded can log in to the portal, via 2-Factor Authentication, and they need to respect the information sharing rules. The Competence Centre, being part of the OSI constituents, would have access to this online platform. Reports relevant for them will be made available to them in the Portal via a special OSI-tag.</li> <li>4. Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP): after onboarding on the EWS-portal OSIs will be invited to connect to a MISP hosted by the CCB, which will automatically push relevant technical Indicators of Compromise (IoC's) to the systems of connected constituents. A special OSI sharing group is available in MISP.</li> </ol>	<p>The application provides information on security services that the Centre for Cybersecurity of BE (CCB) offers to international organisations and indicates that some of these services (Early Warning System and incident response services) would be also offered to the Centre.</p>

	<p>5. Spear Warning: Based on the technical information that organizations provide to the CCB during their onboarding to the EWS Portal (specifically IP ranges), the CCB can also perform tailored screening of the web for particular vulnerabilities and infections, according to its legal missions and powers. With the help of several private partners the CCB has a wide-range of other web-monitoring services, for instance concerning leaked credential, domain squatting, or discussions on the dark web about our constituents. When relevant, the CCB can then send out tailored email-warnings to OSI's, either through an automated system or via direct contact with a CCB-analyst for urgent communications. CCB-experts can always offer individual advice to the OSI.</p> <p>6. Anti-Phishing: All constituents may forward suspicious emails to <a href="mailto:suspect@safeonweb.be">suspect@safeonweb.be</a>. The CCB parses all incoming mails and extracts URLs and attachments. The URLs are analyzed. Once tagged as malicious the URLs are sent to Microsoft Smartscreen and Google Safebrowsing so that they can get blocked in the browser. All the potentially malicious attachments are extracted and pushed to our sandbox(es). This project, developed within the CCB, is named BeFish. The CCB analyses about 7-8000 emails per day. In 2019 the CCB received in total 1,7million such emails resulting in 4000 blocked malicious sites. For more information see, <a href="https://safeonweb.be/">https://safeonweb.be/</a>.</p> <p>7. Bad Domains identified through the BeFish project are also shared with stakeholders via their MISP connection.</p> <p>8. Quarterly Cyber Threat Report: Once every three months, the CCB invites its EWS-constituents to attend the presentation and discussion of its Cyber Threat Report. The report addresses the main threats to Belgium and to entities located here, noticed during the preceding quarter. During the event, these threats are discussed, experiences shared, and experts debate what can be expected in the upcoming months. The event also features specialist guest speakers, feedback on the workings of the EWS and networking opportunities.</p> <p>In addition to the above-mentioned elements, it is important to note that the Centre could benefit from the presence and close proximity of the EU's counter-terrorism coordinator established in Brussels.</p> <p>Belgium is a federal country with different levels of government that can also focus on cyber security. The Flemish government, which also has its main seat in Brussels, launched a policy action plan on cybersecurity in March 2018. It contains three pillars: one focused on strategic research, one focused on aiding companies (mainly SME's) and finally one focused on accompanying measures such as outreach and the creation of training activities. The whole plan represents an amount of 20 million euros yearly of which around 8 million goes to research and 9 million euros goes to aiding companies. A website has been created to inform stakeholders about relevant developments: <a href="https://www.digitaletekomst.be/nl/cyber-security">https://www.digitaletekomst.be/nl/cyber-security</a></p> <p>In Wallonia, the cybersecurity ecosystem covers the whole territory and can be identified as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two research centers : CETIC and Multitel</li> <li>- Several dedicated research departments in universities : CRIDS and PReCISE in UNamur, ICTEAM Cloud and Large Scale Computing, ICTEAM Crypto Group, ICTEAM Security and Performance of Networked Systems, ICTEAM Security, Testing and Verfication Lab in UCLouvain, Cybersecurity and Computer Systems in the Montefiore Institute of Uliège; other higher education organizations are also involved such as the ICT Department of Hennalux</li> <li>- One cluster : Infopole Cluster TIC that has a dedicated work group for IT companies specialized in cybersecurity</li> <li>- 45 companies are already active in providing cybersecurity solutions, in particular to SMEs that are in need to secure their systems; some are already providing services in other EU countries.</li> <li>- Actors involved in cybersecurity training : besides the Master in Cybersecurity launched in 2016 provided by four universities and two university colleges, ee-campus also works to favour the inclusion of cybersecurity in higher or lifelong learning education. Centers for vocational training Technofutur and Technobel also deal with this topic.</li> </ul> <p>Through these actors, Wallonia has been involved in several Horizon 2020 projects (Cyberwiser.eu, ATENA, CyberKit4SME, REASSURE, DataVaults, ECHO, SPARTA) for €5,9 million.</p> <p>Beyond research and innovation, the commitment of the Region (through its digital Agency) to ensure that SMEs active in the cyber sector or SMEs in need of cyber solutions could be supported, has been materialized by its involvement in the Interreg Europe Cyber project that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the European cyber security SMEs by creating synergies among European cyber security valleys (a finetuned mapping of the regional ecosystem specifying profiles of companies will be integrated in the mapping of valleys of the European Cyber Security Organisation ).</p> <p>Since December 2018, the regional Keep It Secure (KIS) mechanism dedicated to cybersecurity for SMEs has been based on 5 structuring axes : 1) the labelling of service providers able to support Walloon SMEs in their security management, in the framework of the cybersecurity vouchers available to SMEs which enters in axis 2) related to incentives and aid for investment in IT security (105 beneficiaries a-have already been supported by 29 experts for a total amount of €630.000 €), 3) raising awareness among businesses, public services and citizens of the importance of computer security through regular events, 4) education, computer security training: besides actions supported by universities and Centre for vocational training, a new tool has just been launched in September 2020 to create pedagogical content adapted to Walloon SMEs in order to train cybersecurity referents within them and 5) International influence by participating in EU project (see e.g. Interreg Europe CYBER project).</p>	
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 6		The application provides information on the relevant cybersecurity ecosystem in Brussels, including the existence of cybersecurity research institutions, knowledge institutions, relevant companies and communities. The application provides information on security services that the Centre for Cybersecurity of Belgium (CCB) offers to international organisations and indicates that some of these services would be also offered to the Centre.
<p>Criterion 7: Geographical balance</p> <p><i>'This criterion concerns the geographical balance in the distribution of seats of Union bodies and agencies; having due regard to the conclusions of the Representatives of the Member States, meeting at Head of State or Government level in Brussels on 13 December 2003, reiterated in the conclusions of the European Council of 19/20 June 2008, while taking into account the specific status of the Centre.'</i></p>		

7.1 Agencies and EU bodies currently hosted in the Member State	<p>Apart from some of the main EU institutions, Belgium hosts several agencies and bodies listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Single Resolution Board (SRB)</li> <li>- European Defence Agency (EDA)</li> <li>- Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)</li> <li>- Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (EASME)</li> <li>- European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)</li> <li>- Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)</li> <li>- ECSEL Joint Undertaking</li> <li>- Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking</li> <li>- IMI 2 Joint Undertaking (IMI 2 JU)</li> <li>- SESAR Joint Undertaking</li> <li>- Clean Sky Joint Undertaking</li> <li>- BBI Joint Undertaking</li> <li>- Research Executive Agency (REA)</li> </ul>	The application indicates that BE hosts 2 EU agencies (the Single Resolution Board and the European Defence agency), 5 EU executive agencies and 6 EU joint undertakings.
SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 7		Belgium hosts 2 EU agencies (the Single Resolution Board and the European Defence agencies), 5 EU executive agencies and 6 EU joint undertakings
GENERAL RULE for submitting an application:		
Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the offer in a headquarters agreement with the Centre	<p>Belgium commits itself to confirming the conditions in a headquarters agreement.</p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>'Although signing a new "headquarters agreement" is not strictly necessary, Belgium is prepared to sign a text in which the PPI application is confirmed and the Centre's external security is guaranteed by the host nation' (bid brochure, p.15).</p>	The application indicates the commitment of BE to confirm the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with the Centre
SPECIFIC ISSUES to be addressed in the application		
Any benefits that would be granted to the Centre and/or its staff in addition to those following from Protocol No 7 on the Privileges and Immunities of the EU	<p>In application of the provision included in Protocol n°7, the Centre and its staff will be granted the same benefits as the EU institutions located in Belgium and its officials employed and residing in Belgium, including inter alia:</p> <p><u>For the Centre (for its official use):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full legal personality under Belgian law</li> <li>- Inviolability of buildings, premises and archives</li> <li>- Exemption from direct and indirect taxes for substantial purchases (art. 3 Protocol n°7)</li> </ul> <p><u>For the staff (for their private use):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immunity from legal proceedings in respect of acts performed by them in their official capacity</li> <li>- Exemption from Belgian taxes on their income paid by The Center and Belgian social security contribution</li> <li>- In addition, staff members will have the right, provided they are not Belgians, to buy , free of VAT, a car and a number of goods during one year that falls within a period of 2 years following the start of their function within the Centre in Belgium. If coming from a non-EU country, the right to import free of import duties and VAT their used personal belongings, at the moment of taking up their functions in Belgium.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>See 1.2.</p>	The application does not provide information on benefits that would be granted to the Centre and/or its staff in addition to those following from Protocol No 7 on the privileges and immunities of the European Union.