

Practical Information Package

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15–16 October in Brussels, Belgium

We're delighted to welcome you to the Democracy R&D Annual Conference 2025. This annual gathering brings together a vibrant international community of practitioners, researchers, and organizers dedicated to deliberative democracy and citizen engagement.

Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning to reconnect, this guide will help you feel prepared and supported — from travel logistics to programme highlights.

Together, we'll explore the conference theme "Crossroads": a reflection of the complex political landscapes we face and an invitation to chart new directions for democratic innovation.

Democracy R&D

At a Glance

Dates

15–16 October 2025 – Main Programme

14, 17 October 2025 – Optional pre- and post-programme

Main Venue: [Flagey](#), Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

Theme: Crossroads – Deliberation in a time of global challenge and transformation

Hosts: FIDE, G1000, Democratic Society, and Missions Publiques

More info: drd2025.org

About the Venue

The 2025 Democracy R&D Conference will be held at [Flagey](#), a former radio broadcasting building and iconic Art Deco landmark, now a vibrant hub for culture, music, and the arts. It is easily accessible by public transport, with **Tram Line 81 (stop Flagey)** and **Bus Lines 38, 59, 60, 71**. You can find more information about transportation in Brussels below.

[Conference Map](#): All key locations across the full 4-day programme.

Getting to Brussels

Brussels is well-connected and easy to access via multiple routes:

By air

- Brussels Airport (BRU) – 20 min train to the city centre
- Charleroi Airport (CRL) – [Shuttle](#) to Brussels Midi station operated by Flibco (approx. 1 hour), every 20 min.

By train

Train services in Belgium are operated by SNCB/NMBS (the Belgian national railway company), and Brussels is well connected both nationally and internationally.

Train Stations in Brussels:

**Brussels,
Belgium** **October
15-16**

Democracy R&D

- [Bruxelles-Central / Brussel-Centraal](#) – located in the heart of the city, often the most convenient for conference participants
- [Bruxelles-Midi / Brussel-Zuid](#) – the main station for international trains (Eurostar, Thalys, ICE)
- [Bruxelles-Nord / Brussel-Noord](#) – another major station for regional and national connections

You can check schedules and fares or purchase tickets on the official website: belgiantrain.be

International Connections

If you are arriving or departing by train from another country, Brussels is directly connected to:

- London via [Eurostar](#)
- Paris, Amsterdam, Cologne via [Thalys](#)
- Frankfurt, Cologne via [ICE \(Deutsche Bahn\)](#)

Moving Around Brussels

Brussels' public transportation system is operated by [STIB/MIVB](#), which includes metro, trams, and buses throughout the city.

Below is an overview of ticket types and prices:

Ticket Options and Prices

- **Single journey (valid for 1 hour):** €2.30 (via app or MOBIB card) / €2.60 (paper ticket)
- **24-hour unlimited pass:** €9.50
- **10-journey pass:** €18.80 (valid for 10 separate 1-hour trips; transferable between users)

All single journey tickets allow unlimited transfers between metro, tram, and bus within 60 minutes from first validation. Tickets can be purchased via vending machines, mobile apps, or contactless payment.

Where to Buy Tickets

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- Via the STIB/MIVB mobile app
- Ticket machines in metro stations or at major tram stops
- On board (only limited options available and often at a higher price)
- By tapping a contactless bank card or mobile device directly at metro gates and onboard validators (same price as a standard single fare)

Tip: If you plan to use public transport multiple times per day, consider buying a 10-journey pass or a 24-hour unlimited pass. These options are often more convenient and cost-effective than purchasing individual tickets.

Plan your route: stib-mivb.be

Where to Stay

We recommend booking accommodation early. Below is a list of budget-friendly options easily connected by public transport.

Budget-Friendly Options - City Centre:

- Ibis Brussels City Centre, Rue Joseph Plateau 2
- Motel One Brussels, Rue Royale 120
- Novotel Brussels off Grand Place, Rue du Marché Aux Herbes 120
- EasyHotel, Rue d'Argent 1
- The Usual Brussels, Bd Adolphe Max 107

Note: We are not affiliated with any accommodation providers.

Accessibility & Inclusion

We're committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

The main conference venue, Flagey, offers accessibility for persons with reduced mobility in most of its spaces. While there are no dedicated PRM parking spaces, a nearby drop-off point allows for convenient access close to the entrance.

Additionally, there is a section in the [registration form](#) to indicate any additional needs.

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Our team will review all requests with care and work to provide accommodations.

Visa Information

Depending on your nationality, you may need a Schengen Visa (Type C) for entry to Belgium.

Check visa requirements: [Schengen Area Visa Information](#)

We're happy to provide an **official invitation letter** upon request to support your application — just reach out to contact@drd2025.org.

Need Help? Reach Out!

General enquiries: contact@drd2025.org

Programme & workshops: programme@drd2025.org