

“Brussel Beleven”: a project to meet Brussels and its social reality

Belgium

[Brussel Beleven | Studio Globo](#)

DESCRIPTION

Through the initiative “Brussels Beleven”, first launched in 2015, students **meet for a day with Brussels, its residents, and themselves**. They explore some of Brussels’ **most vibrant and diverse neighbours**, such as Marolles, Matongé, and Cureghem.

In small groups, they independently navigate these districts, completing **challenging assignments and engaging with enthusiastic staff from local community organisations** — people who work daily to strengthen the social fabric of their neighbourhoods. This allows students to discover the city from the inside out.

These encounters help students to **rethink their perceptions of Brussels and its residents, and to reflect on the complexities of a metropolitan context**.

The project day is part of a larger process, in which **teachers’ intercultural competencies are also supported and strengthened**. These competencies are **key for preparing students for the visit and for guiding reflection afterwards on themes such as diversity, poverty, community development, image and representation**.

To support this, within the initiative, teachers are provided with background information, working methods, and in-depth classroom materials.

This process includes:

- A **teacher training day** at *Studio Globo*
- A **teaching module to prepare students** for the project day
- The **project day in Brussels**, with a moment of reflection
- Modules for **post-visit deeper engagement**

The focus of the initiative is on:

- **Reflect on the other and oneself** (multiple identity, personal frames of reference, prejudice, and stereotyping);
- **Acquire skills for an open attitude and open perspective** in a diverse society;
- **Gain a nuanced understanding** of a superdiverse city in change with its strengths and its challenges;
- **Build connections** with neighbourhoods, their residents, organisations, and hotspots;
- **Experience the power of diversity and solidarity**;
- **Acquire insights into inclusive coexistence** in superdiversity;
- **Stimulate dialogue on social and metropolitan issues**, grounded in Brussels reality and experience.

As a way of giving back, **postcards with messages from the students are sent to the neighbourhood organisations**, in which they share **what they learned** and **how they experienced their visit**.