



WAB

WAB MAGAZINE 51 | AUTUMN 2026

WALLONIA AND BRUSSELS

BIG PICTURE | Sébastien Millecam: with BattleKart, put the pedal to the metal!

FOCUS | Wallonia International Business Awards

TECHNOLOGY | Iwan Simonis: billiard cloth leader for 3 centuries

editorial



DID YOU SAY 'BOLDNESS'?



© Christophe Ketels

By boldness, we mean that entrepreneurial spirit we envy in those that possess it, that comes to the fore when faced with both successes and setbacks. The keys to success, or at the very least, to inching forward step by step, include an exceptional project, much-welcome funding and a team giving it their all.

Some speak of an upward or downward spiral, although few manage to chart the course that will lead them to success. Is the term too broad perhaps, or too weak? The ideal solution would be to join one end to the other, in order to move forward. Stories such as those of Battlekart or Iwan Simonis are not mere anecdotes, but are examples of career pathways we hold in high regard. The Business Awards we present every two years also demonstrate this. What matters is innovation and resilience. But not just that.

What is most admirable is that spark, that little extra bit of soul that France Gall referred to in her song about Ella Fitzgerald. It is what ensures that everyone's day contains a sense of fulfilment that goes beyond simply having done their job. A sense of having grown, of helping others to grow, and of nurturing other ideas and talents.

Discover them!

Pascale Delcomminette
CEO of Wallonia Export & Investment Agency

Editorial coordination

Bernadette Pâques |
Companywriters.be

Reporters

Angélique Belokopytov
Bernadette Pâques
Régine Kerzmann
Kelly Favart

Contributors

Ojas Chaudhari
Jane French
Thomas French
Elizabeth Mudie

Art director Angélique Belokopytov

Layout Christine Voss

Wallonia Export & Investment Agency

Pascale Delcomminette
Marie-Catherine Duchêne
Place Saintelette 2
B - 1080 Brussels
+32(0)2.421.85.76
mc.duchene@awex.be

work

focus

insights

inspire

04 NEWS

06 BIG PICTURE

Sébastien Millecam: with BattleKart, put the pedal to the metal!

10 BUSINESS

Belgotech: Walloon industrial electricity exported worldwide

12 INVEST

Wallonia: 400 years in the defence industry and counting

14 INNOVATION

Iwan Simonis: billiard cloth leader for 3 centuries, thriving through innovation

16 FOCUS

Wallonia International Business Awards: success that resonates

22 TOURISM

Passerelle de Caster: a vital link between three regions

24 GASTRONOMY

With Virtuose, the Opera is a culinary delight

25 AMBASSADORS

Professor Vincent Geenen
The thymus: a key role in the immune defence system

26 DESIGN

Wallonie-Bruxelles Mode Design is celebrating its 20th anniversary!

28 PANORAMA

La Pause Chocolat-Thé: Walloon chocolate takes a seat at the King's table

30 CULTURE

Emmanuel Macchia: From Gembloux to the Cannes red carpet

31 INSPIRE

Terres du Val: protecting heritage for future generations



© Iwan Simonis SA



© J. Van Belle - AWEX



© CompanyWriters - Bernadette Pâques

Discover the autumn issue through
an interactive experience



Wallonia.be

WAB contact
www.wallonia.be

IBA FOUNDER HONoured AT HARVARD

On 19 September, Yves Jongen received the *Global Health Catalyst Distinguished Industry Leader Award 2026* from the American university, in recognition of his pioneering role in particle accelerators and global access to proton therapy. IBA designs, manufactures and markets innovative solutions for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other serious diseases, as well as for industrial applications such as the sterilisation of medical devices. Forty years after founding the company, Yves Jongen remains Chief Technical Officer of this global leader.



I-CARE IS OPENING THE DOORS TO THE DEFENCE SECTOR

This Mons-based predictive maintenance unicorn has acquired Amiral Technologies, a French company under court liquidation, for €30,000. This represents a strategic acquisition: with Thales and Airbus' preference for an on-premises solution, I-care is gaining access to a whole new market.

COL&MCARTHUR: CÉLINE DION ON YOUR WRIST

Watchmakers Col&McArthur have launched the only official collection marking the singer's return to the stage in Paris. Two models (one quartz and one mechanical, limited to 2,026 pieces) have been on sale since 3 October. This is a major international coup for the Liège-based SME, which already operates in over 70 countries and specialises in commemorative watches (*Normandy 1944*, *Lunar 1969*, and *Leonardo 1519*).



MONS TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT IN BRUGES, LONDON AND NEW YORK

The Domaine du Chant d'Eole has triumphed at the 2026 Best Belgian Wine Competition in Bruges, winning four medals with the four wines they entered. Meanwhile, the Mons-based liqueur *La Collégiale* (from Maison Sicile) has achieved an international double: gold in London and gold in New York.



Sébastien Millecam & BattleKart: put the pedal to the metal!



Ever since childhood, Sébastien Millecam wanted to be an inventor. Not a manager, nor an entrepreneur. Now 36, this founder of BattleKart still defines himself as an inventor, even if he is all three at once.

BattleKart first took shape during his final-year project - while he was still a student at Mons University's Faculty of Engineering - as a combination of an electric kart, a laser game and augmented reality. Sébastien Millecam launched this venture in 2015, with 10,000 euros worth of savings, a lease costing 10,000 euros a month and a purchase order for 100,000 euros for the karts. "My biggest purchase before that was my parents' car, worth 2,500 euros. I weighed up the risks on one side and the benefits on the other, and I went for it."

A visionary idea

The original idea was "to transpose videogame codes to a life-size scale". All the rest was just technical details: 336 sensors, 52 video projectors, location accuracy down to the centimetre at full speed, all of this was developed from scratch...and patented too! "We are focusing on the long term and the international market, making sure that our idea is durable and scalable: in-house development is what allows us to act fast."

Another challenge was to make this complex technology easy to use, anywhere in the world. "We have franchises all over Wallonia that run themselves independently. If a projector breaks down, staff should be able to replace it in less than 10 minutes."



The Covid-19 pandemic nearly ruined it all. With the franchises signed up, sites under construction, and rent to be paid. “Conceding defeat was simply unthinkable.” Cash reserves saved the day.

To scale up further, Sébastien Millecarn, is “a die-hard perfectionist”, but has added another string to his bow:

“Learning to delegate. It involves hiring reliable people, trusting them, and accepting that everything will not be done exactly as one wants.” Today, BattleKart has 77 centres in 12 countries on four continents - from Australia to Mexico - with a goal of 2,500 centres worldwide.



WHY EXACTLY 2,500 CENTRES?

“There are around 10,000 bowling alleys worldwide. BattleKart is similar to bowling in the key aspects: similar space requirements, same target crowd, comparable price per minute and similar operating parameters. When this approach is applied to a global scale, the goal of 2,500 centres starts making more sense. Bowling has been around for 40 years, and I hope that we will be around for a long time too.”



SÉBASTIEN MILLECARN'S TOP TIP

“Find what you are truly passionate about, and try to make a living out of it. You are so much more efficient when you enjoy what you do.”

Belgotech

WALLOON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY EXPORTED WORLDWIDE



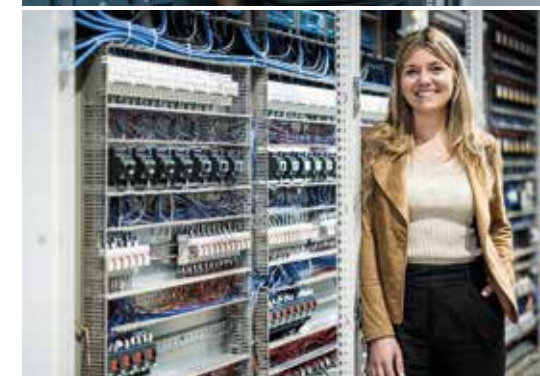
Behind every production line, every mining site, every critical infrastructure site running like clockwork, you will find an electrical panel, often coming from the Liège region. Over the past 20 years, Belgotech has established itself as a global benchmark in an industry where reliability is non-negotiable. Now, the company is gearing up to expand further.



Belgotech, a relatively low-profile company, has acquired its clients almost exclusively through word of mouth. Their core commitment is “reliability, right from the design stage”, as highlighted by Yves Warnant, director. “One electrical failure could quickly translate into a loss of millions of euros.”

“In 2023, the founders passed the baton to me. Taking over a company is like inheriting its DNA”. The seasoned entrepreneur, whose portfolio covers automation, renewable energy and industrial batteries, is supported by Laura Warnant. This 32-year-old civil engineer specialising in electrical engineering, who previously worked at Rolls-Royce, became Belgotech’s CEO with ambitious goals: “The quality of the product deserves an organisation to match. It was time to boost our profile!” The company now has a new ERP, new organisational chart, twice as many senior engineers along with junior staff, and is also developing an engineering and 3D design team.

In less than three years, the entire company structure has been transformed and teams expanded. “We have achieved our goal of 50 employees, whilst retaining our existing loyal staff. Henceforth, we are aiming to double our turnover in seven years, while maintaining our quality and rising to new challenges related to the development of new machines.” All this, whilst leveraging energy transition as a growth opportunity.



FUN FACTS

- 13 metres long: The biggest electrical cabinet ever created. It was exported to Songolong, Guinea, for a water pumping company.
- 20,000 km: the longest distance travelled by one of the electrical cabinets. It was exported to Nauru, an island country located between Australia and Hawaii.



From design to installation, Belgotech manufactures customised electrical cabinets and supplies them wherever they are needed, across all sectors: food storage, industrial use, water treatment and vaccination centres.

Company DNA: “Quality, reliability, innovation and customer focus.” Driven by energy transition, Belgotech is now also positioning itself in the market for electrical cabinets that manage battery storage and renewable energy.



Wallonia

400 YEARS IN THE DEFENCE
INDUSTRY AND COUNTING

It all started with Jean Curtius. Born in Liège in the late 16th century, he was the chief commissioner for ordnance under Archdukes Albert and Isabella, the Hapsburg governors of the southern Netherlands. He marks the beginning of an uninterrupted tradition in Wallonia, which is actively involved in the defence sector: manufacturing, innovating and exporting, with the ambition of shaping the future of European defence.



“Wallonia did not wait for today’s conflicts to get involved in defence. We have a long tradition of innovation,” says the Wallonia Export & Investment Agency Defence work group.

The ecosystem is dense: 200 companies, 3 billion euros in turnover, 9,000 jobs in value chains, and 67% of Belgian defence exports. FN BROWNING GROUP, John Cockerill, SAFRAN AERO BOOSTERS and Sonaca rub shoulders with a network of highly specialised SMEs. “Some technology has yet to be completed or bolstered, relating to areas such as cybersecurity, space defence, and drones.”

The dynamic is driven by political will at several levels. In Wallonia, defence is one of the five strategic innovation areas (Domaine d’Innovation Stratégique, DIS), under the title “Protect”. In June 2026, a Walloon Defence Task Force validated the IN4DEF strategy for 2030, and administrative simplification of export licences is underway. Wallonia Export & Investment Agency will roll out 23 defence-related initiatives in 2027.

Wallonia also has solid structural assets: universities that include defence in their academic programmes, and dedicated

research centres. The Liège-based business accelerator IGNITY completes the mix: as the only global player to be a partner of the DIANA, EUDIS and MAJOR programmes, it acts as a concrete gateway to the defence sector at the European level. Wallonia’s geographical location includes the headquarters for NATO and the European Defence Agency in Brussels, Cyber Valley in the province of Luxembourg, and NATO’s SHAPE in Mons.

Innovation in the defence sector also benefits civil society. “A drone designed for military operations could later be used to transport injured people or put out a fire.”

Next step: meetings in 2027 with AWEX and Walloon companies active in the defence sector at BEDEX, Le Bourget and DSEI Germany.

For any questions : defense@awex.be

Wallonia / Belgium

200 years of industrial firepower

Now Engineering Europe’s defence future... Are you in?

Wallonia / Belgium

- 3.7 million inhabitants
- 5 universities / 11.000 researchers
- 200 defence companies
- 3 billion turnover for defence industry
- 9000 jobs in defence value chains
- Wallonia = 67 % of Belgian exports
- Largest share of Belgian arms export licenses

Why Wallonia?

#1 Full industrial value chain

- Secured supply chain
- Integrated production ecosystem.
- OEMs + Tier-2/3 + MRO
- Dense supplier base

#2 Europe’s military logistics gateway

- Faster delivery cycles
- Reduced transportation costs
- Access to NATO procurement
- Specialized defence supply chain logistics

#3 Institutional stability & strategic support

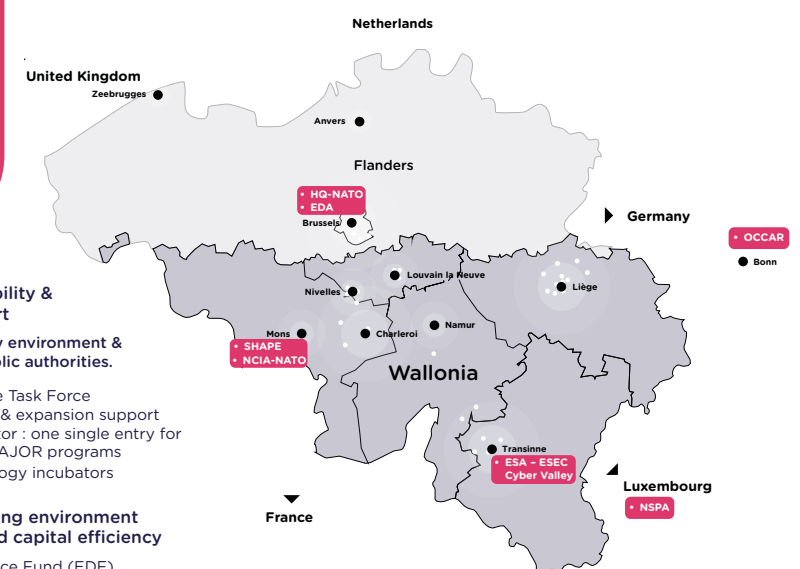
Predictable regulatory environment & direct liaison with public authorities.

- Walloon Defence Task Force
- AWEX — export & expansion support
- IGNITY accelerator : one single entry for DIANA EUDIS MAJOR programs
- Defence technology incubators

#4 Leveraged funding environment - risk-sharing and capital efficiency

- European Defence Fund (EDF)
- Horizon Europe - EUDIS
- Regional loans & state participation (Wallonie Entreprendre)
- Walloon Defence Fund (FNX Ventures)

Global leaders



IN4DEF
WALLONIA
INDUSTRY & INNOVATION FOR DEFENCE

Wallonia.be
EXPORT
INVESTMENT

Iwan Simonis:

BILLIARD CLOTH LEADER FOR 3 CENTURIES, THRIVING THROUGH INNOVATION

Technical daring and innovation are at the core of Iwan Simonis' identity, from the wool industry to dominating the billiard cloth sector.

Despite being the global benchmark for billiard cloth and establishing its presence in over 90 countries, Iwan Simonis has never stopped reinventing itself. "Just because the company has this prestigious history doesn't mean we should rely on the past," says Dimitri Lhoste, CEO since January 2025.

From the billiard table to the workshop. Innovation begins by listening to feedback from professional players (some of whom are directly sponsored by Iwan Simonis), discussions with the federations, and the distributor network. "We always try to be at the forefront in terms of how the game is experienced. To do this, we can count on our distributor network, and

we also listen to our clients, who come from diverse cultures worldwide." This is how the legendary Simonis 300 (a global reference for 45 years) gave way to the 330 Rapide in 2025, becoming the official cloth to the *Union Mondiale de Billard*.

Growing to innovate better. The company merged with Saluc S.A. in 2012 for Aramith balls, and acquired WSP Textiles in 2016 for Strachan cloth and Playne cloth for tennis balls. Every move helped broaden the company's capabilities. "We still have markets to conquer. We aim to remain a benchmark for the global billiards community."

Pictures © Iwan Simonis SA



Moving to new heights

"The 2021 floods prompted us to think long and hard. We moved our stock to higher ground and strengthened our operations to ensure continuity of service for our customers. The fact that they stayed with us says a lot about what we are building together."

Expertise passed down through the generations.

Behind the promise of premium quality lie dedicated staff with decades of experience, heirs to the City of Wool (Verviers), whose textile industry is a living legacy. "Our employees take pride in their work, seeing a purpose in it." Just like the company's

family-run structure. In the face of increasing Chinese competition, price is not the answer. "Consistent quality and reliable service are what set us apart. That is not something you can just improvise."

Verviers has been going strong since 1680!

TIMELINE

Founded in
Verviers.

1680

1797

Acquisition of continental Europe's first spinning machines in partnership with William Cockerill

Focus shifts to
billiard cloth after
merging with
Peltzer & Fils.

1961

Acquisition of WSP Textiles,
manufacturer of Strachan
cloth for snooker and Playne
felt cloth for tennis balls.

2016

2012

Merged with Saluc S.A, world leader in the manufacture of Aramith balls.



Wallonia International Business Awards 2026

Since their inception, the Wallonia International Business Awards, organised by Wallonia Export & Investment Agency, have recognised companies that best exemplify Wallonia's economic dynamism and international ambition. The following five awards were presented on September 17, 2026: the Wallonia Starter Business Award, the Special Jury Prize, the Wallonia International Business Award, the Wallonia Foreign Investment Award and the Wallonia Audience Choice Award. Let's have a look at the winners.

Pictures: © J. Van Belle - AWEX



iTRACEiT

End-to-end supply chain traceability

In 2021, Guy De Smet had a simple hunch: products lose their traceability in transit, not at source. This led him to launch a blockchain-powered platform, delivering end-to-end supply chain traceability in a secure, independent and interoperable manner. "We first started in the Antwerp diamond market by creating the world's first digital diamond passport."

The conflict in Ukraine is speeding everything up: the West's embargo on Russian precious stones has made traceability a geopolitical challenge. Outcome: 150 clients across four continents, with iTraceiT being adopted in the luxury goods, rare resources, agriculture and sustainable food sectors. "We are also aiming for the art and heritage sectors, and are catering to the needs of government programmes." The European Digital Product Passport, which is being developed currently, could put iTraceiT at the forefront.

Wallonia Starter Business Award 2026

"It is a win for our team as well as for our clients, across the world. This kind of recognition motivates us to work even harder." Guy De Smet, iTraceiT Founder and CEO



QUALITY ASSISTANCE

Quality, safety and efficacy of medicines

Founded almost 45 years ago, Quality Assistance employs 280 analytical science experts based out of a unique site in Thuin, and generates two-thirds of its turnover through exports. Its mission is to analyse innovative drugs by testing their quality, safety and effectiveness, from the pre-clinical phase to marketing authorisation and beyond.

After working at the company's different departments over several years, Nathalie Draux took charge of this family business in 2023, with a clear goal: "We must invest while the iron is hot." With this mindset, she and her team successfully completed Project MITOSE, which was started by her father, the company's founder, and which ended up doubling their operational area to 13,500 sq m, including 3,000 sq m dedicated to training and well-being. "All our teams must aim for excellence. We need to develop our skills by listening to and anticipating market needs."

Special Jury Prize 2026

"Is is a tremendous recognition! We think we know our own worth, but the truth lies in the opinions of others. Either it is encouraging, or it makes you challenge yourself. This award has shone a spotlight on the company at a critical juncture."
Nathalie Draux, CEO Quality Assistance.



SYNERGLASS-SOFT

Specialised ERP software for the glass industry

When Jean-François Geys became CEO of Synerglass-Soft in February 2020, the company had 18 employees, and operated mainly in France and southern Europe, and had never looked beyond.

"I quickly realised that there was significant international potential. It was necessary to prioritise innovation, development and international sales to help the company grow. Today, we have 70 employees, and we serve clients across 7 European countries, Canada and Mexico. We also have offices in Madagascar, India and the USA."

Synerglass-Soft develops highly specialised ERP solutions for the glass processing industry, which general purpose tools fail to serve effectively. As glass is a very transparent, heavy and fragile material, each step involved in its processing comes with its own logistical challenges. The aim is clear: "To become the world leader in glass processing software by 2028."

Wallonia International Business Award 2026

"Genuine recognition of our efforts in boosting the company's standing at the international level. There should be no limits to your dreams. You must always tell yourself that you can do it."
Jean-François Geys, CEO Synerglass-Soft.

A double victory for this company led by Jean-François Geys.

Wallonia Audience Choice Award 2026

"I am really happy to have won over the audience vote. This is a second wave of encouragement, as it is exactly what we do on a daily basis with our prospective clients. One must not be afraid to dream big. When we aim for first place, it's possible that we may not get it, but one thing is for sure: if we don't aim for it, we will never achieve it."





KERSIA

Food safety excellence, from farm to fork

From farm to fork, Kersia delivers food safety in 140 countries, generating 665 million euros in turnover and employing over 3,100 staff. This French company decided to establish its Centre for Food Safety Excellence (CFSE) in Seneffe. While unique in Europe, this centre showcases a global outlook, with a 1,400 sq m space bringing together R&D facilities, a semi-industrial workshop, application trials, collaboration between clients and partners, as well as training programmes.

The company's choice of Seneffe is rooted in the heritage of Sopura, a Belgian company founded in Courcelles, which became part of the group in 2020. It was known for its expertise in the field of food safety. "The CFSE is principally a place for work and experimentation. This is where we develop and test our solutions under conditions mimicking industrial reality, we measure the tangible impact of our solutions and also train teams in best practice food safety", says Benoît Duculot, Kersia Belgium's Director of Innovation.

Wallonia Foreign Investment Award

"Receiving this awards means recognising a collective and sustainable investment in Wallonia, as well as our teams' ability to transform local expertise into solutions that help make food safe throughout the world." - Benoît Duculot, Director of Innovation, Kersia Belgium



Pictures © J. Van Belle - AWEX



Wallonia, a land of possibilities

"These companies showcase what Wallonia does best: to innovate, to open up to the world, and to do so with a level of perfection and authenticity that commands respect. What we are seeing here is a reflection of a vibrant, bold and resilient economic fabric, which resonates far beyond our border."

Pascale Delcomminette, CEO Wallonia Export & Investment Agency



Passerelle de Caster

A VITAL LINK BETWEEN THREE REGIONS



The Passerelle de Caster, a suspension footbridge, was inaugurated in Spring. With a length of 195 metres and suspended 50 metres above the Albert canal, the Himalayan-style pedestrian bridge is the highest in Belgium. It is the result of 20 years of cooperation between Wallonia and with their Flemish and Dutch neighbours. This inter-regional initiative is managed by the Geer & Meuse Border Park.

The bridge embodies a cross-border model of eco-tourism. “Every admission ticket contributes to the VIALTA fund, all of which is reinvested into the conservation of the landscape and biodiversity. This project showcases the commitment to developing a form of nature tourism that respects local ecosystems and to which every tourist contributes directly,” says Julien Libert, Project Manager of VISITWallonia’s Produits Nature Project.

www.vialta.info

VISITWallonia.be



Pictures © Julien Libert

With Virtuose

THE OPERA IS A CULINARY DELIGHT

Situated within the majestic Foyer Grétry, Virtuose, the restaurant at the Opéra Royal Wallonie in Liège has become home to Agron Billa, Head Chef at the renowned Traiteur Goose. Drawing inspiration from the productions staged throughout the season, he has created a range of menus, available in three perfect variations. Here, the show begins on your plate. This immersive experience changes every month.

On every performance night, the Chef orchestrates a unique culinary experience linked to the opera. "My research has led me to culinary experiences that tell a story in several acts." Combining creativity with seasonal and locally sourced produce, Agron Billa invites guests on a unique, refined and gourmet culinary journey, inspired by French and Mediterranean traditions.

"With Virtuose, the Opera has become a venue that is full of life and for everyone, in the heart of the city," says director Stefano Pace.

<https://www.operaliege.be/restaurant/>



ENDO2026

Professor Vincent Geenen

The thymus: FROM A VESTIGIAL ORGAN TO THE ARCHITECT OF OUR BIOLOGICAL IDENTITY

Professor Vincent Geenen, Research Director at the Belgian FRS and Secretary General of the Léon Fredericq Foundation, has received a prestigious award from the Endocrine Society. He was also invited to give a lecture in Chicago on 14 June, in which he presented the highlights of 42 years of research. "The thymus was a very little-known and poorly understood organ when I began my research in 1984. Nowadays, it is recognised

as having a key role to play in the immune defence system," explained Professor Geenen, who is a world-renowned specialist in the field.

By generating T lymphocytes (T for thymus-dependent), the thymus helps to define the body's biological identity – the 'Self' – and to establish immune tolerance. This mechanism enables the immune system to distinguish between the body's own components and foreign

elements, thereby preventing it from attacking its own tissues under normal conditions. When it is impaired, it can contribute to the development of autoimmune diseases, notably type 1 diabetes in children and young adults, multiple sclerosis, certain non-cancerous thyroid disorders, myasthenia gravis and rheumatoid arthritis. Thymus dysfunction may represent a major underlying mechanism in autoimmunity.

<https://orbi.uliege.be/profile?uid=p001366&locale=en>



Wallonie-Bruxelles Mode Design

20 YEARS SHAPING BELGIAN DESIGN
AND FASHION



© Eline Willaert



© Nicolas Delaroche



© J. Van Belle, WBI



© Marie Rime



© Jehanne Hupin



© Marie Adam-Leenaardt



© Alessandro Garofalo

WBDM was founded in 2006 with a clear vision: to bring together design and fashion under one umbrella. Despite their distinct ecosystems, rhythms and networks, the two sectors also share many complementary aspects.

Today, the virtually unchanged team proudly offers support and mentoring initiatives, such as the Fashion Programme and the “Belgium is Design” label, which has made a name for itself from Milan to Copenhagen. It has also promoted the careers of, among others, Sarah Levy, Marie Adam-Leenaardt, Abdel El Tayeb, Julien Renault, Mademoiselle Jo and Terrain Vague.

For coordinator Laure Capitani, the overall impact is key: “These aren’t very large industries, but there is genuine, promising creativity, with best practices already achieved in terms of sustainability, traceability and accountability. We hope this may inspire other sectors, such as technology.”

“Over the next 20 years, we aim to keep pace with changing needs, break down barriers between the creative sectors, and influence European regulations through the European Fashion Alliance.”



© Eline Willaert



LA PAUSE CHOCOLAT-THÉ

WALLOON CHOCOLATE TAKES A SEAT
AT THE KING'S TABLE

The chocolate shop La Pause *Chocolat-Thé* has joined the very exclusive circle of royal warrant holders to the Belgian Court. Alain Baggen and Stéphanie Bosch have already been supplying the royal family in confidence for five years. "This royal warrant is certain to bring us international visibility," enthuses Alain Baggen. This recognition is the crowning achievement of fifteen years of Belgian artisanal expertise in the Province of Luxembourg.



Emmanuel Macchia

FROM BELGIUM TO THE CANNES RED CARPET

Emmanuel Macchia caused a sensation at Cannes. At the age of 20, this Walloon won "Best Performance for an Actor" for his role in *Coward*, the new film by Lukas Dhont. He shared the award with his on-screen co-star, Valentin Campagne, for their portrayal of two soldiers forced by war to keep their love a secret.

This accolade took many by surprise: with no formal acting training, this was Emmanuel Macchia's very first film role. Though a film enthusiast since childhood, it was while he was studying landscape architecture at Gembloux that he was spotted by the director. He then undertook intensive preparation, combining military training with learning period-specific mannerisms. "I want to work on films that send a message, with strong characters," says the young actor, who is set to continue along this path. Proof that Walloon talent also has its place on the red carpet.



Terres du Val

PROTECTING HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Regional entrepreneurs Clémentine and Charles-Edouard Jolly have succeeded in transforming the vast estate they inherited – which has now been passed down through 8 generations – into a diverse, sustainable and promising ecosystem. "Everything revolves around the buzzing of the bees, from their dance across the fields to the honey you'll savour at the Pollen restaurant. Simply put, everything is part of the hive, each element plays a part in the functioning of the whole. From farm to table, or from a golf course to a hotel, a spa, a vineyard."

The logo speaks for itself. A flower, with one petal breaking free. For this final project, which has yet to come to fruition and which will form a cohesive unit with the others, surpassing expectations, built on meaning and excellence. Combining the authenticity of a short supply chain with the joy of living, breathing nature. Join us for a refreshing break on the banks of the Meuse.

<https://www.terresduval.be/en/>

Wallonia, your gateway to Europe



“ One must not be afraid to dream big.
When we aim for first place, it's possible
that we may not get it, but one thing is for sure:
if we don't aim for it, we will never achieve it.

Jean-François Geys, CEO of Synerglass-Soft



Contact us to explore
opportunities in Wallonia
contact_wallonia.be@awex.be



Wallonia.be