

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



NAMUR
CAPITALE

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

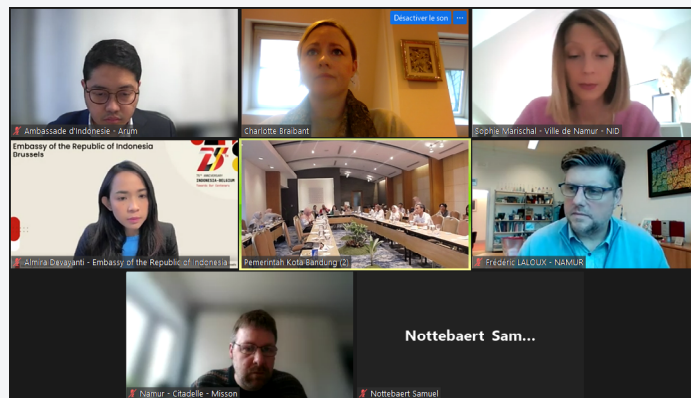
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



Intermunicipal agreements

City of Bandung

As part of our collaboration with the City of Bandung, we have deepened discussions on future cooperation projects between our two cities. This work should form the basis for the renewal of an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding). We have also held discussions with AWEX in this context.



City of Bourg-en-Bresse



City of Cluj-Napoca

As part of our participation in the Culture Next Conference, organized last October in Cluj-Napoca in the context of Namur's bid to become European Capital of Culture 2030, we also had the opportunity to meet Ms. Emilia Botezan, Head of the International Affairs and Foreign Investment Department, during a visit to Cluj-Napoca City Hall.



NAMUR2030
CANDIDATE CAPITALE
EUROPÉENNE DE LA CULTURE

On November 23 and 24, we took part in a mission bringing together the management, students and teachers of the brass sections of the IMEP and the Conservatoire du Grand Bourg Agglomération. This mission, centered around a Masterclass organized in Bourg-en-Bresse, was marked by enriching pedagogical exchanges and contributed to strengthening the links between our two towns.

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

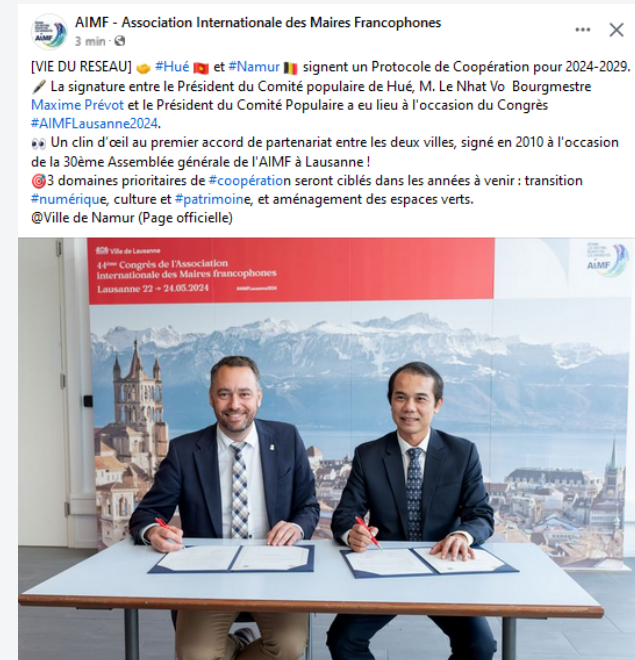
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



Intermunicipal agreements

Huế City

In March, we welcomed a delegation led by the Chairman of the Huế City People's Council, who is also Municipal Secretary of the Huế Party. The visit followed the 2022 trip by the Mayor and Chairman of the Huế People's Committee. The exchanges enabled us to strengthen our collaboration and to continue discussions on the City of Huế's project, which aims to draw inspiration from the Namur, Intelligent and Sustainable (NID) concept, in order to adapt it to their context in Vietnam. In this context, Namur offered its expertise to the City of Huế by producing a project outline entitled HID (Huế Intelligent and Sustainable), to support this approach. At the AIMF Board meeting in Paris in October, we invited the City of Huế to ensure that the HID project was tailored to local realities.



During the AIMF Congress in Lausanne, the cities of Namur and Huế renewed their commitment last May by signing the Protocol of Collaboration for the period 2024-2029. The signing of this Protocol, by Deputy Mayor Maxime Prévot and the Mayor - Chairman of the People's Committee of Huế, was one of the highlights of the AIMF Lausanne 2024 Congress. Three priority areas of cooperation were identified for the coming years: the digital transition, culture and heritage, and the development of green spaces. The first partnership agreement between the two cities was signed in 2010, also in Lausanne, during the 30th AIMF General Assembly..

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Intermunicipal agreements

City of Lafayette



On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the twinning between the cities of Namur and Lafayette, the City of Namur was pleased to welcome a delegation led by Mrs. Monique Boulet, Mayor of Lafayette, from July 19 to 21, 2024. This visit was marked by several significant moments:

The signing of an amendment to the agreement between the Universities of Namur and Louisiana in Lafayette.

Opening of the exhibition Lafayette, the heart of French-speaking Louisiana.



The delegation also visited the new fresco dedicated to the City of Lafayette, located near the Square de la Francophonie.



Participation in the National Day celebrations on July 21.



l'avenir

SUDINFO

During their stay, delegation members attended a presentation on crisis management at the Palais du Gouverneur de la Province de Namur, given by Mr Denis Mathen. They also had the opportunity to discover the Citadelle of Namur and its underground passages, as well as the NID, Namur Intelligente et Durable, located in the Confluence area.

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Intermunicipal agreements

Quebec City

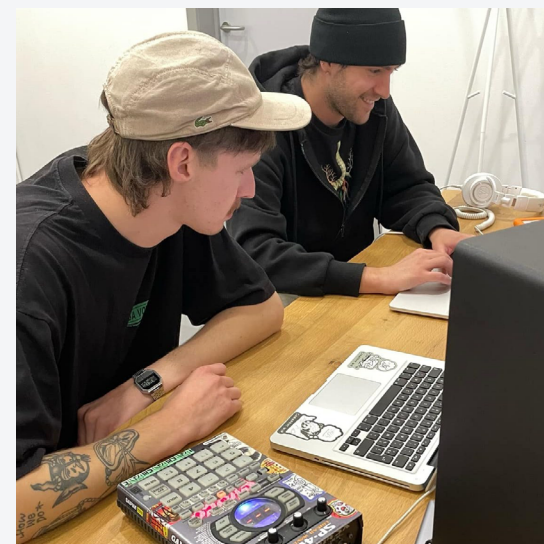
This year marks the 25th anniversary of the twinning between Namur and Quebec, a collaboration rich in cultural and artistic exchanges between two capital cities with many affinities.

Namur en Mai artists at Festival Réverbère in Quebec City



In October 2024, the organizers of the Namur en Mai festival and Les Bonimenteurs took part in the first edition of the street arts festival Réverbère, launched in Quebec City. This first artistic exchange between Namur en Mai and Réverbère represents a significant step in the collaboration between the two events. The next step is to welcome a Quebec delegation to the 2025 edition of Namur en Mai.

A co-creation residency between Ampli de Québec and Le Delta



Quebec City and Namur are both members of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. Quebec City is famous for its identity as a "City of Literature", while Namur stands out for its dynamism and innovation in the field of digital arts. In this context, an artistic residency in electronic music was held in Namur in October 2024, on the occasion of the KIKK Festival. Organized by L'Ampli de Québec, in partnership with Le Delta, this initiative brought together Loup Fre\$h, beatmaker and DJ from Quebec, and Aemone, DJ and producer from Namur. The residency enabled the artists to explore new sounds, co-create and share their visions in an ideal setting for experimentation. Their collaboration culminated in a performance at the KIKK Festival, where the public could discover the results of their work. In 2025, this creative exchange will continue in Quebec City, where Aemone will be welcomed to continue this artistic dynamic and strengthen the cultural ties between the two twin cities.

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Intermunicipal agreements

Quebec City

Visit from Philippe-Edwin Bélanger, Director of the INRS International Office

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming to Namur Mr. Philippe-Edwin Bélanger, Director of the International Office of Quebec's Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS). During the day, we introduced him to the University of Namur and to TRAKK. Mr. Bélanger also had the opportunity to discover some of Namur's emblematic sites, such as the Grand Manège and the Citadelle Visitor Center.



City of Pristina

Following the renewal of equipment within the NAGE rescue zone, the City of Namur wishes to make a symbolic and concrete gesture by donating a ladder truck to the City of Pristina. This initiative is in line with the bonds of friendship consolidated by the intermunicipal agreement signed in 2016 and the commitment of Namur's Kosovar diaspora. We are currently in contact with the City of Pristina to formalize the implementation of this initiative.



Renaud Degueldre, General Manager of BEP, represented Namur at the international conference "Sustainable health, a vector for socio-economic progress" at Université Laval in Quebec City on December 3.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

International networks

AIMF General Meeting in Lausanne



The City of Namur attended the Association's Bureau meeting and 44th Congress in Lausanne in May. At the heart of this meeting: the power of city-to-city cooperation to foster dialogue and international solidarity, and to work together to tackle major global challenges by taking action as close as possible to the citizen.



PROGRAM



AIMF office in Paris



The 102nd meeting of the Association's Board of Directors was held in Paris in October. The meeting highlighted the cooperation and solidarity promoted by local authorities in the French-speaking world, and the determination of local councillors to move forward together in the face of the major challenges of our time.

PROGRAM



DECLARATION ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 102ND BOARD MEETING

Francophonie Day

To mark the Journée Internationale de la Francophonie (International Day of the Francophonie) on March 20, we marked the day with a large-scale flag-display. The video celebrating the event was shown at the Maison des Citoyens in the Town Hall. You can watch it on [Youtube](#).



Since the creation of the Network in 2018, Namur has continued to provide its support in a variety of ways: in addition to hosting the association's headquarters in its offices, we provide the day-to-day management of the Network.



In July 2024, the Lafayette delegation's visit to Namur provided an opportunity to continue discussions on the Vertech City Network. This exchange, bringing together representatives from the University of Namur, the City of Namur and the Lafayette delegation, was an opportunity to strengthen the links between these partners.

DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Specific relationships

City of Adrano

Welcoming the delegation from the Commune of Adrano : a moment of sharing and emotion



As part of the festivities organized by the Town Festivities Department, we played an active role in welcoming a delegation from the Commune of Adrano, Sicily. Led by its Mayor, Mr. Fabio Mancuso, and accompanied by the President and members of the Municipal Council, the visit was initiated by the local Adranite community, the Adranam association. The official events took place at the Halle al'Chair and Place Maurice Servais, where the first families from Adrano, who came to settle in Namur as early as 1946, were honored. One of the most moving moments of the visit was the inauguration of a commemorative plaque, made of lava stone from Etna, a powerful symbol of the roots and ties that unite our two communities. The remainder of the stay was also punctuated by various highlights, encouraging cultural exchanges and strengthening the historical links between Adrano and Namur.



VIDEO REPORTS →



City of Terrebbonne

Exchanges with the city of Terrebbonne continued. A mission from Terrebbonne to Namur is planned for 2025, as part of the cooperation agreement signed in November 2023. The aim of this mission is to promote the sharing of expertise, mutual enrichment and cooperation between the two cities, particularly in the fields of climate change and ecological transition, and will also include economic and social aspects.

AGREEMENT WITH TERREBONNE



City of Ogaki

This year, students from Champion's Institut de la Providence visited Ogaki as part of an exchange with their Japanese counterparts.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Cousin towns

Namur, Quebec

Following the MRC Papineau's mission to the Fêtes de Wallonie 2023, two representatives took part in the Relais des Voyageurs held at the Citadelle of Namur in March. Regular contacts have also been formalized in preparation for the next Fêtes namuroises (Namur Festival), scheduled for July 2025.



Namur, Wisconsin

We continue to play our role in facilitating relations between the two communities. As part of this, we met with the non-profit organization REFORM to discuss a cultural exchange project, and established contacts with the Belgian Heritage Center. Another highlight was the visit of the Namur family, Régine and Tom Parmentier, to our American friends, strengthening the bonds of friendship and collaboration.



Official receptions and consular activities

Ambassadors

This year, the City of Namur was honored to welcome several high-ranking diplomats, highlighting its growing international role. These included H.E. Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Badagoitia, Ambassador of Peru, Mr. Jean-Louis Thill, Ambassador of Luxembourg, and H.E. Mr. Gayrat Fozilov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan. The City was also privileged to welcome H.E. Mr. Tamás Iván Kovács, Ambassador of Hungary, and Mr. Aleksandar Tasi, Ambassador of Serbia, reinforcing its commitment to diplomacy.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Official receptions and consular activities

Fêtes de Wallonie

On the occasion of the Fêtes de Wallonie (Walloon Festival), we were delighted to renew our excellent collaboration with the Communication Department of the City of Namur and the Governor of the Province. This cooperation enabled us to ensure a well-organized official reception during the Bourgmestre's speech at the Hôtel de Ville, as well as the organization of the Ambassadors' Lunch at the Governor's Palace.



Leonardo García Alarcón receives the insignia of Ambassador of Namur

On June 6, 2024, Leonardo García Alarcón, choral conductor and artistic director of the Chœur de Chambre de Namur since 2010, received the insignia of Ambassador at a ceremony in the Cabinet of Maxime Prévot, Mayor of the City of Namur. He had been honored with this title on July 4, 2018. This distinction was awarded



in recognition of his significant contribution to Namur's international reputation. Thanks to his talent and worldwide renown, he contributes to the international reputation of the CAV&MA, strengthening its influence with international concert producers.



The Ambassador insignia was created by Mr. Fernando García ERLANZ Creations.

Philippe Gustin receives the insignia of Ambassador of Namur

In July, Philippe Gustin also received the insignia of Ambassador of Namur during a ceremony at the Palais du Gouverneur of the Province of Namur, in the presence of the Lafayette delegation. He had been honored with this title 10 years ago, on July 3, 2014. This distinction was awarded in recognition of his unwavering dedication in the relationship between Namur and Lafayette, which he cultivated over several decades.

A former director of the Centre International de Lafayette, he worked to promote international cooperation, leading numerous missions and strengthening exchanges between the two cities.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

Ceremonial welcomes

Hosting a Vietnamese delegation

In November, at the request of WBI (Wallonie-Bruxelles International), we welcomed a Vietnamese delegation led by the Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment. The visit included a tour of the Stellar Scape exhibition at the Pavilion and a presentation of the NID (Namur Intelligent and Sustainable hub).



Belgian Presidency of the European Union 2024 - CivCom meeting

As part of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, an event was organized in Namur on June 12 for members of the EU Council's Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom). The day began with a welcome for participants at the cable car, followed by a guided tour of the Visitor Center. The morning continued with an immersion in the underground passages of the Citadel, offering participants a unique insight into Namur's historical heritage. To conclude this moment of exchange and discovery, the 35 participants gathered for a convivial lunch at the Brasserie de la Confluence. Thanks to the coordination provided by our team, the event took place in optimal conditions, reinforcing the cultural and friendly dimension of this European meeting.

International welcomes

HENALLUX welcomes international partners

At the request of the HENALLUX paramedical department, we were delighted to host a presentation of Namur, Capital of Wallonia, at the Halle al'Chair. The event was aimed at international students and partners from Spain, Greece, Italy, France and Quebec, as part of an international educational project.



Academic session: social and technological innovations in mental health

On May 31, 2024, the Centre Neuro Psychiatrique (CNP) St-Martin, in collaboration with the Haute École de la Province de Namur, organized an academic session with an international dimension at the Delta de Namur. The event was held under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The day also marked a significant moment for CNP St-Martin, which is celebrating 15 years of commitment to research and exchange of best practices in mental health on a European scale. We were honored to support and participate in this key moment, which highlights the importance of international collaboration in contemporary mental health challenges.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE



Specific actions

Home of Quebec poet Christian Girard

The Maison de la Poésie asked us to organize a city tour for Christian Girard, the Quebec poet in residence in Namur.



Visit by a delegation from the Rotary Club Fès Mérinides



In December, after meeting the Rotary Club of Namur Confluent, the delegation appreciated the institutional and economic presentation of the city, given at our offices.



Visit by a delegation from the Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises

In September, we welcomed a national and international delegation from the Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises. Their visit included a tour of Namur's emblematic sites, such as the Delta, a presentation of the major projects underway, and a presentation of Namur's bid for the title of European Capital of Culture in 2030, at the NID.



DELEGATED MISSIONS CITY OF NAMUR

MUNICIPAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Namur is continuing its international municipal cooperation (CIC) with the Congolese Commune of Masina as part of a Belgian development cooperation program focusing on civil registry and population services. This program is managed by the Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie (UVCW).

This year, the partnership reached a significant milestone with the replacement of Masina's last «container» office with the construction of a district office in Boba. A mission was carried out in June to mark the completion of work on this office and assess the infrastructure to be rehabilitated as part of the partnership.

Following this mission, a four-lot contract was launched. It covers the refurbishment of the Congo district office, the renovation of the Kasai district office, the refurbishment of the Mandiangu and Pelende district offices, as well as the paving of the floors of the Masina civil registry, population and archive offices. Work is scheduled to start in early 2025.



BEFORE



AFTER



MISSION REPORT



Collaboration with the NGO PASCO

As part of its program to co-finance partnership projects for sustainable development, Wallonie-Bruxelles

International has awarded a major grant to the City of Namur for a project with the NGO Parlons Sida Aux Communautaires (PASCO) in Masina, Democratic Republic of Congo, for the years 2024 and 2025.

During the first year of this partnership, we worked closely with PASCO. During the June 2024 mission, we visited its facilities in Masina and held several meetings with the Coordinator as part of the project's progress.



ARTICLE DE PRESSE



Wallonie - Bruxelles
International.be