



## wifi.brussels attracts growing numbers

**Brussels, 3 March 2021 - wifi.brussels is the free Wi-Fi network of the Brussels Region. It allows Brussels residents, commuters and tourists to surf the net for free anywhere in Brussels. In 2020, nearly one million devices connected to the free network.**

wifi.brussels is the Region's Wi-Fi network. The hotspots are located both outside, in public spaces, and inside certain public buildings, such as town halls, libraries and administrations. A total of 221 places enjoy the wifi.brussels network, with a total of 867 hotspots. STIB metro stations all have free access to the network.

To surf with wifi.brussels on a smartphone, tablet or computer, simply create a free account. The device will then immediately recognise the wifi.brussels network and connect automatically.

The platform migration was completed in November 2019, further improving the user experience. Since then, there have been 659,711 connections to the portal, including 459,963 in 2020, with a total of 254,401 unique users. Between 4 November 2019 and 31 December 2020, users carried out 62,800,006 actions on the wifi.brussels network: consulting web pages, downloading videos, music, downloading emails, etc. Before March 2020 and the start of lockdown, a peak of 220,000 actions/day was recorded. After 16 March, this figure dropped to 140,000, a not insignificant result given the health crisis and lockdown.

The average connection time per session was 2.1 hours. However, 48% of sessions lasted between 0 and 30 minutes, while only 24% lasted more than two hours. On average, the number of connections is higher on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, with approximately 16% of connections per day. The rate is 13% on the other days of the week.

The highest number of connections are in the City of Brussels, and it is in this municipality that the busiest metro stations are located. Then come the municipalities of Saint-Josse and Berchem-Saint-Agathe. The most popular access points are the Arts-Loi, Gare du Midi, Rogier and De Brouckère metro stations.

Some of the equipment will be replaced in 2021 to maintain the network and upgrade it to the new wireless standard, wifi 6, which will allow faster surfing speeds and improve network coverage.

At the same time, new wifi.brussels access sites will appear in several Brussels municipalities. There are two additional accesses in the Scheut and Rossini community centres in Anderlecht, four new sites in Evere, the Germinal, Platon and Picardie community centres, and one site at the Brussels Mill and Food Museum.

*"wifi.brussels is one of the cornerstones of a SmartCity Region, allowing everyone, whether Brussels residents or visitors, to surf the net for free. Because a Smart Region is a Region that uses digital technology for the benefit of its citizens. And today, nobody can manage without the internet,"* concludes Bernard Clerfayt, Brussels Minister for Digital Transition.

wifi.brussels technical support is provided by IRISnet, in collaboration with several other technology providers.

**More information?**

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