EURASIAN BRAVE SPACE FORUM

Belgium Delegation

Itinerary

ICO organises this exchange so students from Belgium, The Netherlands, India and Taiwan can meet after their online work. The residential Forum uses the Brave Space method to compare perspectives, discuss global issues and develop a practical action.

DATES	**2 - 4 October 2026**
PLACES	**Stayokay Soest • Stayokay Utrecht**

Brave Space method

The Forum asks students to speak from experience, examine assumptions, listen across differences and take responsibility for how the group works. Times are provisional and the group leader confirms practical details each morning.

Programme overview

This itinerary covers the Belgian delegation's participation in the residential Brave Space Forum. The Belgian group stays overnight at Stayokay Utrecht and travels to and from the shared programme at Stayokay Soest. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are shared with the whole group in Soest.

Date	Place	Main programme
Fri 2 Oct	Leuven / Soest / Utrecht	Travel from Belgium, join the Forum opening and return to Utrecht
Sat 3 Oct	Utrecht / Soest	Intercultural communication and Global Dialogue Labs
Sun 4 Oct	Utrecht / Soest / Leuven	Action plans, presentations, evaluation and return home

How we will work

- Meet as equal partners: nobody speaks for an entire country or culture.
- Speak from your own experience, listen to understand and challenge ideas without attacking people.
- Compare local examples, ask genuine questions and leave room for quieter voices.
- Turn dialogue into one realistic action and say how you will know whether it helped.

How the programme connects

Students bring local examples from their own communities into mixed groups. Dialogue themes include climate justice, technology, inequality, identity, gender and participation. On Sunday, each group turns one issue into a realistic action for their school or community.

Bring

- Comfortable walking shoes, warm layers and a waterproof jacket.
- A daypack, refillable bottle, notebook, pen and charged phone (preferably with data plan).
- Sports clothes for optional activities.
- Medication, travel documents and everything needed for the overnight stay in Utrecht.
- For Friday evening: one small object or photo connected to your life or identity.
- A board game, favourite music or small group activity for the international social evening.

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

Travel from Belgium and Forum opening

Students travel from Belgium to Stayokay Soest, meet the other participants and agree how the Brave Space will work.

Daypart	Programme	Extra information
Morning	Travel from Belgium. Keep your overnight bag, personal object or image and travel documents together.	Your teacher confirms the meeting point and group arrangements. Bring your own lunch or eat during the journey; the shared meals in Soest begin with dinner.
Afternoon	Arrive at Stayokay Soest and join the official welcome. Meet the international group and help build the Brave Space agreements.	Speak from experience, listen to understand, challenge ideas rather than people and make room for quieter voices.
Evening	Dinner, Stories Across Cultures and an informal game night. Afterwards, travel to Stayokay Utrecht and check in.	Share your object or image as one personal story, not as a rule for everyone from Belgium. Follow your teacher's instructions for the evening commute.

Link to the Forum: Sleeping elsewhere makes the time we do have together extra important. A genuine question and one concrete story help the group move quickly beyond national labels. What will you ask to get to know others quickly?

Reflection question: Whose experience surprised you, and what question could help you understand it without turning it into a stereotype?

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026

Brave Space Forum dialogue day

Students practise intercultural communication and discuss climate, technology, inequality, gender and participation in mixed groups.

Daypart	Programme	Extra information
Morning	Travel from Stayokay Utrecht to Soest and aim to join breakfast and check-in. If practical, join the optional run. In the Intercultural Communication Lab, try exercises on hierarchy, politeness, directness and non-verbal communication. Global Dialogue Lab I follows.	In mixed groups, compare local examples of climate justice, energy, technology, AI, education and opportunity. Explain what shapes your view and listen for a perspective that complicates it.
Afternoon	Lunch and a nature walk. Global Dialogue Lab II explores power, privilege, identity, gender and inclusion. In From Tension to Common Ground, respond to a challenging statement, compare positions and name both agreement and unresolved tension. Sports follow.	Expect small-group discussion and a visible position exercise. Common ground does not mean hiding disagreement. Notice who speaks easily, who is interrupted and how a group can create fairer space.
Evening	Dinner reflection and an international social evening shaped by the participating students. Afterwards, return to Stayokay Utrecht.	Bring music, a game, a question or a small activity that helps others join in. The aim is connection, not a polished cultural performance. Follow the agreed travel arrangements.

Link to the Forum: This is the heart of the Brave Space mission: practise disagreement without disrespect, compare local realities and recognise how power affects who is heard. Success does not require consensus.

Reflection question: Listen for the strongest argument against your current view. What could make your view change, become more precise or remain unresolved?

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2026

Forum action day and return

Mixed groups turn one issue from the dialogue sessions into a realistic action, evaluate the Forum and then the Belgian delegation returns home.

Daypart	Programme	Extra information
Morning	Check out in Utrecht and travel to Soest with luggage. Aim to join breakfast and check-in; optional yoga or movement is possible if travel allows. In From Dialogue to Action, mixed groups complete an action canvas and Shared Future Statement.	Store luggage in the place indicated by the organisers. The canvas identifies affected voices, a realistic first step, a partner, a timeline and a simple sign of progress.
Afternoon	Lunch and Live Stratego, then presentations and a gallery walk. Give feedback, complete a personal reflection and evaluation, and join the closing circle. Afterwards, the Belgian delegation travels home.	Use the gallery walk to test whether each action is realistic and inclusive. Name what challenged you, what changed or became more complicated and what you will take back to school. Check your luggage before departure.
Evening	Continue the journey to Belgium, arrive home, rest and unpack.	Keep your notes and action-plan material so the Forum can continue at Heilig Hart Heverlee.

Link to the Forum: Returning home is the first test of the action plan. The Forum matters when insights become a realistic change in school or community life.

Reflection question: What is the first step at Heilig Hart Heverlee, who needs to join it and when will you check whether anything changed?

Final reflection and useful links

Use one encounter from the programme to identify a remaining question and a practical next step.

Your final reflection

Choose one encounter that changed or complicated your thinking. Write one question you still have, one person or group you want to involve, and one small action you can try at school or at home.

Useful links

- Project page: www.connectforglobalchange.eu/projects/the-netherlands/global-citizenship-in-action-the-eurasian-brave-space-forum
- Sustainable Development Goals: sdgs.un.org/goals

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