

Spin-off from VUB's Business Economics and Strategic Management department and the Solvay Business School.

Established in 2010.

Milestones

- **2010:** Establishment of the company as the valorisation of research on complex project evaluation at the VUB Department of Business, combined with practical expertise in the field of legal and design competences for complex projects and infrastructure developments.
- Since 2010 ongoing support of multidisciplinary studies and stakeholder management for the implementation of a European elite sports performance centre (European Sports Academy) in the Brussels Region.
- Multidisciplinary concept, development and design study for a sustainable logistics flagship project in the port of Antwerp.
- Support for the development of a spatial-economic vision of the knowledge axis Kortrijk-Zuid.
- Groene Singel : Development of an integrated spatial vision and implementation process for the Antwerp Singel.

€SPACE BVBA

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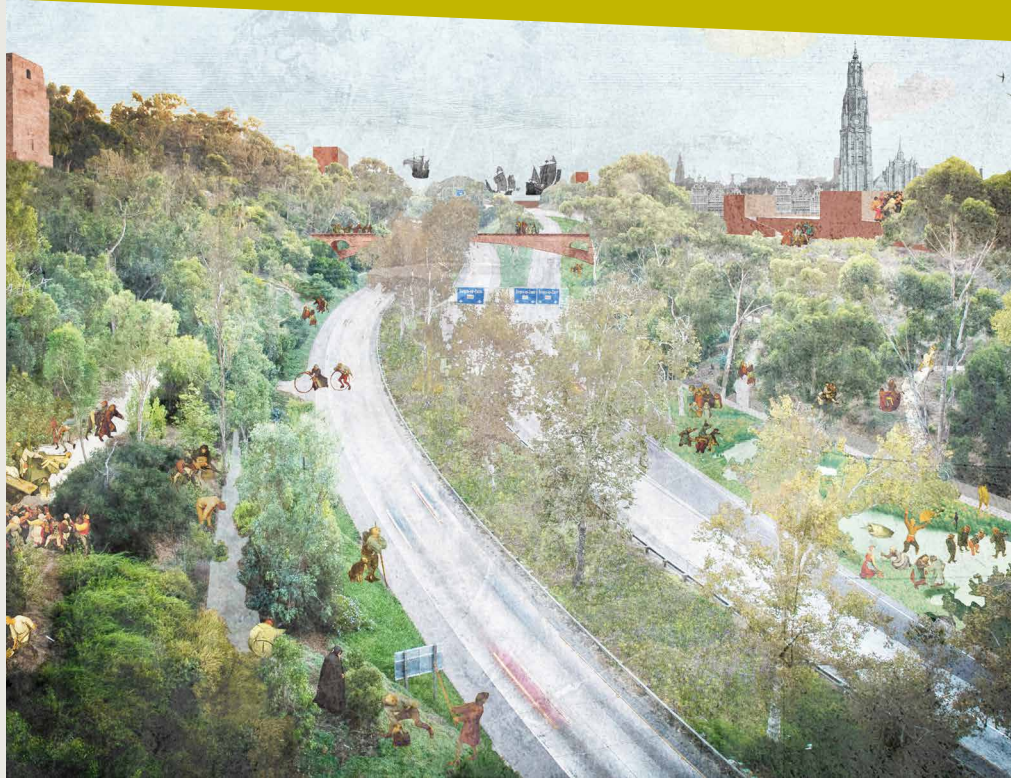
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€uropean Spatial Projects Agency for Complex Environments

At the beginning of 2010, the VUB became the host of a new spin-off, €space. This company is the result of research by the Department for Business Economics and Strategic Management of the Faculty of Economic, Political and Social Sciences at the VUB and the Solvay Business School. In the context of current societal developments, the four founders – Dimitri Meessen, Francis Charlier, Michaël Doods and Alain Verbeke – thought it was time for **a more integrative approach to designing and building large-scale spatial projects.**

New spatial structures

The rise of hub-and-spoke infrastructure and production networks, internationalization, the increasing use of information and communication technologies, more flexible labor markets, ageing and rising migration flows clearly call for new spatial structures and systems. These dynamics also create new relationships: city and countryside are becoming increasingly interwoven and the pressure on spatial resources, infrastructure capacity and the environment in general is increasing.

These changes, combined with the growing awareness of citizens and the ineffective stakeholder management of public and private developers, have led to the non-implementation of many planned infrastructure and multifunctional development projects, even after several years of stakeholder dialogue and procedures. Those problems are mainly caused by the fact that one or more of the stakeholders feel insufficiently involved at a certain point in the implementation process.

Operational bridge

€space functions as an **operational 'bridge'** for making thought leadership on stakeholder inclusion and engagement by its four founding partners actionable. €space bundles their unique expertise in the fields of **spatial design, strategic planning, and triple bottom line performance measurement**, with due attention to legal and regulatory processes, to facilitate complex project implementation.



From left to right: Michael Doods, Alain Verbeke, Dimitri Meessen, Francis Charlier

**'Stakeholder-inclusive
planning and spatial design:
a guarantee for success!'**

Dimitri Meessen, CEO



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