

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018

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1. OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE.

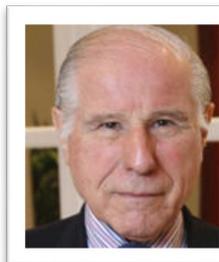
The Foundation for the Urban Environment Pierre Laconte (FFUE) aims at promoting the urban environment through conferences and debates, publications and newsletters, occasional briefings and “think tank” activities (as opposed to commercial consultancy).

It focuses on the interface and synergy between:

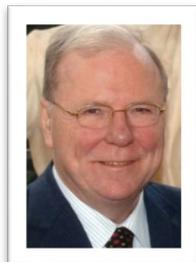
1. Land use and planning, including cultural heritage conservation and improvement.
2. Transport and mobility.
3. Environment, at global and local level (climate/energy/resources/policies & measures).

The FFUE is a permanent “Institution of public interest” authorised by Royal Decree of August 8th, 1999 (Belgian Official Journal 1 October 1999, updated 2013).

Its board is composed of the President P. Laconte and members A. Michielsens, C. van den Hove, E. Gessler, B. Laconte. C. Lasserre is honorary member.



Pierre Laconte
Former Vice-Chair,
Scientific Council,
European
Environment
Agency – EEA
Hon. Secr. General,
Internat.
Association of
Public Transport -
UITP
Co-designer of the
Louvain-la-Neuve
new university town



Aloïs Michielsens
Honorary Chairman
of the Board of Solvay



Claude van den Hove
d'Ertsenryck
Chef du Service de
Recherche et Projets de la
Promotion des Transports
urbains du Ministère des
Communications
Secr. Commission
régionale de la Mobilité



Evelyn Gessler
Managing Director
Decider's/Decitime
s.a.
Conseil stratégique
aux dirigeants
Présidente du Club
L-Benelux



Bernard Laconte
Notaire à Rixensart



Christian Lasserre
Membre d'honneur
Professeur (UCL –
LOCI URBA, ULB –
La Cambre Horta,
ISURU, Institut du
Patrimoine Wallon),
Fondateur
Executive Master
Immobilier
Université Saint-
Louis, Bruxelles

Its founding scientific advisors are Nobel Prize Prof. Ilya Prigogine (who passed away in 2003), Prof. H. Bourdeau (ULB) and A. Berger (UCL).

In 2016 FFUE has welcomed the following additional scientific advisers: Prof. E. De Keuleneer, Managing Director of the University Foundation, Spatial Planner and Arch/Town-planner B. Clerbaux (ACP, Former SG of the European Council of Spatial Planners), M. van der Stichele, formerly DG, Ministry of Brussels-Capital, A. Michielsen, honorary Chairman of the Board of Solvay , C. du Monceau, 1 st Alderman of Ottignies-LLN, Prof. P. Lombaerde (UA), Prof. M. Hubert (U. St-Louis), A. Camu (Flora) and H. Demets (Computer Software Consultancy Bvba). In 2017 Jacques de Gerlache (Greenfacts) and Philippe Joye (ACP &Tractebel) have been added to the list.

This informal advisory group could be expanded in line with the FFUE’s further development. Inviting international personalities as part of an international advisory board is considered.

The Foundation’s initial capital was a grant by its founder Pierre Laconte, put in a blocked bank account in line with the requirements for obtaining permanent “institution of public interest” status.

Neither the President-founder nor the board members get any remuneration. All sums accruing from contracts with public authorities for its publications and from other activities are added to the initial grant.

Development-related expenses are covered by the founder in addition to the initial grant.

The FFUE is eligible to receive outside support for setting up new projects in line with its objectives.

2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 1999-2009.

From its inception in 1999, the FFUE has organised conferences and events related to the application of the three themes. These activities are reflected in its ten book publications, its articles in peer-review journals and its conference contributions (1).

1 <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FFUE-other-publications-2003-2016-20p.pdf>

From 1999 until 2014 it organised some 150 lunch time debates (with 250 guest speakers in total) at the Brussels Cercle Royal Gaulois artistique et littéraire (2).

Since 2015 the FFUE has worked in partnership with the Brussels University Foundation and with the Association Demeures historiques/Woonsteden to present a programme of lectures and visits related to urban themes” (3).

Partnership started in 2017 with the EURAC Research Centre, Bolzano (4), at the occasion of its conference on Smart and Sustainable Cities (22-24 March 2017), at which P. Laconte was the keynote speaker on the subject “Smart and Sustainable Cities: what is smart? – what is sustainable?” and co-editor of the proceedings, published by Springer” (5).

The FFUE circulates regular newsletters (6) (to 2515 subscribers on a Belgian list and 719 on an international list). It uses the social media LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook for messages to its subscribers. Its Academia account (7) includes all its publications and those of its board and scientific committee members. This communication activity is to be intensified, e.g. through additional newsletters by subject (including information about both FFUE’s activities and publications and activities by outside associations with related interests).

The FFUE President has an on-going teaching assignment on Planning and Transport at the Lille University. He has been the opening keynote speaker of its 2017-2018 academic year on 11 Sept. 2017 (8).

He is a full member of the German Academy of Arts, Berlin, Sektion Baukunst, since 1995, and a corresponding member of the German Academy of urban and regional planning since 1999.

2 Minutes are available on <http://www.ffue.org>

3 For 2015 on: <http://www.ffue.org/2015/04/a-world-of-cities-brussels-02102015/>

For 2016 on: <http://www.ffue.org/2016/04/a-world-of-cities-2016i-bilan-de-quatre-debats/>

For 2017 on: <http://www.ffue.org/2017/03/fu-usffue-a-world-of-cities-20171-3-dejeuners-debatslunchdebatten/>

4 <http://www.eurac.edu/en/Pages/default.aspx>

5 <http://www.ffue.org/2016/12/smart-and-sustainable-planning-for-cities-and-regions-sspcr-2017/> (Proceedings published by Springer).

6 <http://www.ffue.org/links/archives-des-newsletters-depuis-012015/>

7 <http://www.academia.edu/>

8 <https://www.ffue.org/2017/06/conference-debat-profession-urbaniste-lille-11092017/>

He was elected member and later the vice-chair of the European Environment Agency's Scientific Committee.

He is also a council member of Europa Nostra, the voice of European Heritage, and chair of its Industrial and Engineering Heritage Committee (IEHC) and expert member of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites – ICOMOS.

3. ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVES.

3.1. Land use and planning, including cultural heritage conservation and improvement.

A contribution to the 17th International Planning History Society Conference (Delft, July 2016) on “The Founding and Development of Louvain-la-Neuve, the only new town in Belgium” has been published in the peer-reviewed proceedings of the Conference, Vol. 5 pp. 213-221 (9).

Regular contacts have been maintained with BOZAR, the main Belgian cultural institution, over developing synergies in the fields of urban planning and society. Following the University Foundation's lunchtime debate of December 2015 with Paul Dujardin, chief executive officer of BOZAR, a joint Forum on land use and mobility was held at BOZAR on 10-11 May 2017 (10). This Forum was held again in 2018 and 2019, under the umbrella of the Association “For Urban Passion”, with international speakers (11). This partnership will be expanded from 2020 jointly with the Urban Land Institute Belgium.

FFUE was participating in the AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) Congress on 10-14 July 2017, hosted by the University of Lisbon. This included co-chairing the conference stream on “Healthy Cities” and making a presentation on the Airbnb platform's impact on housing in Brussels (12).

9 http://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/IPHS_160718-Book-Historical-perspectives-article-Laconte.pdf

10 <http://www.ffue.org/2017/03/new-use-new-move-new-move-new-use-land-use-mobility-11052017-bozar-bruxelles/>

11 Its proceedings and recommendations are available on <https://www.ffue.org/2017/03/new-use-new-move-new-move-new-use-land-use-mobility-11052017-bozar-bruxelles/>

12 <http://www.ffue.org/2017/06/fostering-the-european-dimension-of-planning-lisbon-11-14-july-2017/>

At the invitation of UCLouvain P. Laconte has been writing, with the collaboration with J. Remy, a book about the achievements of Groupe urbanisme Architecture founded in 1968 and R. Lemaire, to come out in October 2019 (Editions L’Harmattan-Academia). Events are considered at this occasion.

3.2. Transport and mobility.

The FFUE president contributed to the EU “SINTROPHER” project (“mobility and land use”) led by Prof. Sir Peter Hall of University College London– Bartlett School of Planning (13). The results of the project have been published in six volumes by the UCL Bartlett School, including FFUE’s contributions (14)

The books “Accéder à Bruxelles”, “Bereikbaar Brussel” (2015) (15) and “Le rail, clé de la mobilité urbaine à Bruxelles” (2016) (16) and the 2018 University Foundation lecture (17) may have contributed to the on-going debate about land-use and transport policies for Brussels between the Brussels government and the members of civil society concerned. FFUE’s update reports were publicised through the FFUE Newsletter (18).

The Government’s decision to enter building commitments just before the 2019 elections has led to court challenges by several associations, including the FFUE. The FFUE will update & expand its own proposals for rail priorities in Brussels, later in 2019.

13 <http://www.ffue.org/2014/02/supporting-growth-through-regional-connectivity>

14 <https://www.ffue.org/2014/02/ingenuity-at-the-service-of-sustainable-regional-development-four-cases-in-point-26022014/> and <https://www.ffue.org/2013/06/indirect-effects-of-public-transport-land-use-two-legal-and-innovations-in-belgium/>

15 <http://www.ffue.org/2014/04/acceder-a-bruxelles/>

16 <http://www.ffue.org/2014/11/le-rail-cle-de-la-mobilite-a-bruxelles/>

17 <https://www.ffue.org/2018/12/mobility-transportation-policy-and-urban-development-institutional-aspects-keynote-paper-13-12-2018>

18 https://www.ffue.org/newsletters/newsletterFFUE_16122018.html

3.3. Environment (global climate/energy/resources policies).

FFUE sponsored three publications specifically covering global/local environmental issues:

- *Climate Change, Energy Shortage, Biodiversity Loss* by P. Laconte (Club of Rome-EU, 2011 (19).
- *Sustainable Cities: Assessing the performance of urban environments*, co-edited by P. Laconte and C. Gossop (London/New York: I.B. Tauris. 2016 (20).
- *Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions* (21).

The contribution of the FFUE to the EU “MILESECURE” project (focusing on energy, including its future availability) recommended focusing research on transdisciplinary issues related to the human environment, adaptation to climate change being one of them.

As to climate change itself, fossil energy use was found a more useful indicator for decision makers than greenhouse gas emissions, because of lacking internationally agreed definitions and because of emissions border issues (22).

The University Foundation lunchtime debate of 7 November 2017

focused on energy transition. Jacques de Gerlache, member of FFUE’s Scientific committee, made the opening contribution (23). An expanded version

19 <https://www.ffue.org/2013/06/climate-change-energy-shortage-biodiversity-loss-overview-of-global-european-and-local-policies-and-practices>

20 <https://www.ffue.org/2015/12/sustainable-urban-environments-in-europe-evaluation-criteria-and-practices>

21 <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/smart-sustainable-for-cities-regions-springer-FLYER.pdf>

22 <http://www.ffue.org/2015/03/the-human-factor-in-energy-transition-security-towards-2050-brussels-15122015/>

23 <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vjvwby15rtr1eek/ENERGY-TRANSITION-171108-GERLACHE-ppt-version-FR.pdf?dl=0>

of it was published in 2019 by Editions Dunod (Paris), with a preface by FFUE President (24).

As a next step the FFUE intends to focus on fossil energy and natural resources policies to address global overshooting issues.

Global overshooting (wording taken from the book “Overshoot” by William Catton 1982) investigates the systemic interactions between population growth, industrial production, food production, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity and pollutions affecting human health.

Energy policies cover resources, production, stocking, transport networks and their protection, impacts on global climate and on local land use and policies concerning regulation and subsidies.

Its primary geographical focus will be on EU and member states’ policies.

24 <https://www.dunod.com/sciences-techniques/mettre-en-oeuvre-transitions-energetiques-strategie-integrative-et-gestion>