

# le nid

EXPLORER  
CO-CONSTRUIRE  
MONTRER



NAMUR  
CAPITALE

## The NID, a space to reflect on the city of tomorrow



THE NID © PH. PIRAUX

Cities today face many societal challenges (health, climate, economic, social, environmental, etc.).

The NID (Namur Intelligente et Durable [Intelligent and Sustainable Namur]) aims to contribute to finding local solutions to these problems. It mobilises human intelligence and digital tools to shape the new city and achieve the transitions necessary for its emergence. It informs and involves the citizens and stakeholders of the city around this ambition.

Co-funded by Europe, Wallonia and the City of Namur, the NID is part of the ERDF 2014-2020 programme and more specifically of the «Namur Innovative City Lab» project portfolio.

NID stands for «Namur Intelligente et Durable» and is intended to be the crucible of an urban renaissance rooted in sustainability and the best that human intelligence in all its forms can produce. The name also refers to the identity of the Grognon site on which it is located: reference to the architectural form of the building (rounded shape, vertical linear elements that look like twigs), the configuration of the site (hollow of the branches formed by the Meuse and the Sambre), as well as the historical cradle of Namur, where men settled 10,000 years ago and where the first embryo of urban Namur developed.

### 3 LETTERS FOR ONE AMBITION

**NAMUR** must build and implement local solutions to the challenges and upheavals (climate and environmental, social, health, economic, etc.) of our society. These challenges are numerous and often intersect, forcing us to question our lifestyles and shape the contours of a new city.

**INTELLIGENT**, is one of the characteristics towards which this (r)evolution of our city and our territory must lean. It is a question of relying on intelligence, whether digital or human. In this way, digital resources are put at the service of the city's future: 3D media, virtual reality, mixed reality, open data exploitation, intelligent transport system. All these tools fuel the debates and reflections, facilitating the understanding of sometimes abstract and complex concepts by the public. Human and collective intelligence are at the heart of the NID's operation: a permanent exhibition, temporary exhibitions, guests, debates, forums, field visits, activities for schoolchildren and families, co-building processes, and collaborations with other institutions or associations enable us to sketch out the city of tomorrow, together.

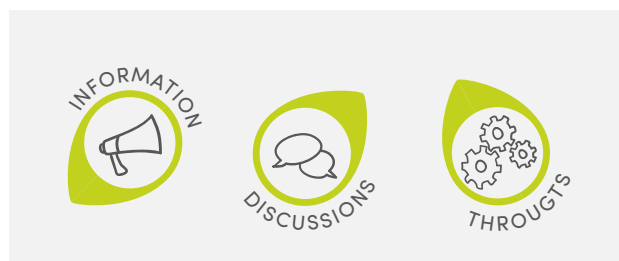
**SUSTAINABLE**, this urban renaissance must enable Namur to accelerate and succeed in the necessary transitions, particularly ecological ones, which must make it more resilient, i.e. increase its capacity to withstand «shocks».

### DID YOU KNOW?

The **Grognon** is the oldest district in Namur. It takes its name from the "pig's snout" shape of the strip of land on which it is located. It is also called the «Confluence Site» because of its location at the convergence of the Sambre and Meuse rivers.

In order to shape the city of tomorrow, the NID's mission is to increase communication and consultation between all the stakeholders in the city: public, political, economic, social, associative, citizen.

### A PLACE FOR DIALOGUE

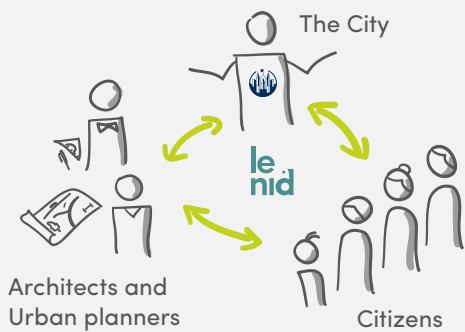


As an independent and permanent space for debate and exchange, detached from any political and electoral agenda or interference, **the NID's mission is to provide food for thought and to create links between the interests of citizens and the city project.** In concrete terms, this mission consists of:

- **Informing the public and all local stakeholders about the challenges of the city of tomorrow**, through exhibitions, conferences, field trips, family or school events. This information role will sometimes lead it to act as a «decoder» in the face of the complexity of certain political, administrative or economic realities.
- **Bringing out and collecting the expectations, ideas and proposals of the people, and forwarding them to the political and administrative leaders.** Collective intelligence and interest are thus able to enrich the reflection and be integrated into the decision-making process.



CREATE DYNAMIC COMMUNICATION



MAKE THESE COMPLEX MATTERS ACCESSIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE



### A PLACE OF EXPERTISE

Comprising a scientific centre and an educational centre, the NID team draws on its contacts with its Namur partners (Trakk, UNamur, BEP, NEW, neighbourhood committees, etc.) to build up its expertise and rethink trades, methods, habits, political and economic action within a long-term vision, in line with the challenges of sustainability.

The aerial thermography and Namur 3D tools illustrate the expertise that the NID can provide. These technologies have made it possible, for example, to calculate the photovoltaic potential of all of Namur's roofs and, in so doing, to assess what the share of solar energy could be to achieve the carbon emission reduction targets.



AERIAL THERMOGRAPHY - SOUTH OF LA CORBEILLE AND RUE NOTRE DAME

### A TOOL FOR DECISION-MAKING AND CHANGE

Understanding the need for change is one thing. Implementing them is another. There are many obstacles to implementing long-term visions. In everyday life, it can be difficult to give up certain habits or immediate interests. For elected representatives, emergency situations or electoral deadlines can get in the way of long-term objectives and actions. Companies may not invest in change, not out of disinterest, but to achieve their profitability targets.

**However, there is a real urgency! The role of the NID is to make everyone aware of their responsibilities and to weave convergences so that the responses to the challenges are carried by all and for all.**



THE NID, A TOOL TO SUPPORT CHANGE © S. ROBERTY



### FROM THE PAVILLON DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT URBAIN TO THE NID

In view of the NID's ambitions and future activities, it was only natural - in view of the tasks it used to perform - that the Pavillon de l'Aménagement Urbain (Urban Development Pavilion) was asked to participate in this large-scale project.

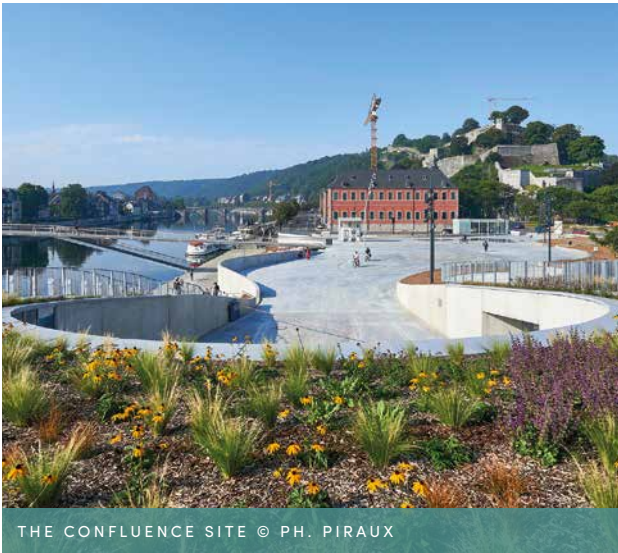
For more than 10 years, the City of Namur has been resolutely committed to the sustainable development of its territory with, in particular, the adoption of the "Municipal Development Plan" (drawn up using a participatory approach) and the implementation of a whole series of ambitious and coherent projects. This reorientation of territorial policy towards sustainable development and this new governance has put urban issues back at the heart of the Namur debate.

It was therefore essential to have a place for information, exchange and reflection for citizens, elected officials and the administration: following the «Sustainable Development Weeks», the Pavillon de l'Aménagement Urbain [Urban Development Pavilion] was created within the Maison des Citoyens (Town Hall).

Inaugurated in March 2015, the Pavilion has held nearly one hundred activities between 2015 and 2019 (exhibitions, conferences, public meetings, educational events, hosting of delegations, external performances, etc.). Its work continues today at the NID since November 2021.



THE NID SEEN FROM THE TIP OF THE GROGNON © PH. LAVANDY



THE CONFLUENCE SITE © PH. PIRAUX

## KEY DATES

- 2015** Launch of the competition for the development of the Confluence site.
- 20 April 2018** Granting of the permit for the creation of the new esplanade and construction of the NID.
- March 2019** Start of the work.
- 17 November 2021** Inauguration of the NID.

## TO VISIT

City of Namur  
The NID  
Esplanade de la Confluence 1  
5000 Namur

### Timings:

Open Wednesday to Friday  
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Duration of the visit:** 1 hour

**Public :** 12 years and above  
(under 12 must be accompanied).

### Languages:

English - French - Dutch - German

Accessible to PRM

Free entry.

Booking required on [www.le-nid.be](http://www.le-nid.be)

## KEY FIGURES

**€9.5 million** Development of the esplanade and construction of the NID building, including €7.7 million of ERDF co-financing.

**€700,000** Development, scenography and awareness-raising tools for the NID, including €500,000 of ERDF co-financing.



THE CONFLUENCE: THE TERRACES OF THE ESPLANADE  
© PH. PIRAUX



LE FONDS EUROPÉEN DE DÉVELOPPEMENT RÉGIONAL  
ET LA WALLONIE INVESTISSENT DANS VOTRE AVENIR

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## KNOW MORE

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The NID  
Esplanade de la Confluence 1  
5000 Namur

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Registration is also possible on site or by phone,  
subject to availability.