



PRESS RELEASE
Brussels, 24 April 2018

This May, the world's largest and most international science festival comes to Belgium for the first time after a successful launch event in Brussels.

What is better than a science café? Hundreds of science cafés taking place simultaneously around the world in a global celebration and popularization of science! On 14, 15 and 16 May 2018, and for the first time ever, Belgium will take part in the Pint of Science festival, an annual festival that brings brilliant scientists to local pubs and bars in a laid back atmosphere to discuss their latest research with the public. The talks are meant to be accessible to the general public and address all scientific subjects, ranging from psychology and human sciences to technology and astronomy.

In Belgium alone, a total of 39 events will take place in Brussels, Bruges, Antwerp, Ghent, Louvain, Liège and Louvain-La-Neuve over the three days of the festival, in three languages (English, Dutch or French).

Pint of Science was created in the UK in 2014 to make science accessible to anyone interested, including people without a scientific background, and kept growing ever since. Last year, 81.000 participants attended the festival across 10 countries . This year there are 21 countries taking part across the globe, including Belgium, where more than 1.500 participants are expected.

The official programme of Pint of Science Belgium was presented at the launch event on 17 April 2018 at ViaVia Café in Brussels. Belgian comedian, physicist and science communicator Lieven Scheire entertained the 120+ participants hosting a lively night, which offered a first taste of what to expect from the festival. The special guests of the event were:

- Prof. Dieter Deforce from University of Ghent, who showed the potential of DNA analysis to solve crimes;
- Prof. Ann Dooms from VUB, who fascinated the audience with the amazing applications of mathematics to digital images;
- Prof. Emmanuël Jehin from University of Liège, who is part of the “Trappist One” team and concluded the festival on a high note on the discovery of earth-like exoplanets, a true Belgian success.

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Notes to editors

Pint of Science Belgium is a 3-day festival that brings science talks to local pubs in cities across Belgium. May 2018 will be the first edition in Belgium. Pint of Science was founded in 2014 in the UK to meet scientists and researchers in the relaxed atmosphere of a pub, and has not stopped growing since. Today it takes place simultaneously in 21 countries around the world every year in May.

The programme of Pint of Science Belgium can be found here on www.pintofscience.be.

Photos of the launch event can be found on <https://www.pintofscience.be/launchevent2018>

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