



**START**



READY FOR  
THE 8th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLING  
EXPERIENCE IN BELGIUM?



**BDC** Belgian Deaf sport  
Committee





## Introduction

On the final Technical meeting after the 7<sup>th</sup> European Deaf Cycling Championships in Togliatti (Russia) Belgium was the only candidate for the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> European Championships Cycling. In this case the Belgian Deaf Sport Committee confirms its candidature in collaboration with the local cycling committee *Sportvrienden Eeklo* and jury members from *UCI & Wielerbond Vlaanderen*, which are connected to the velodrome "Patrick Sercu" in Brugge. This cycling committee has the necessary connections with the *Belgian Cycling Federation* for the jury members of UCI. The cooperation of the club for the deaf includes *KSKD Brugge* and *KSV Surdac Gent* is guaranteed. The City of Brugge, together with the cities of Eeklo and Sint Laureins also assured their cooperation in this great organization.

The main location is the beautiful city of Brugge for the Sprint and Points race with its velodrome "*Patrick Sercu*". The other location with the Time Trial and the Road Race is located in the municipality of the cities of Eeklo and Sint Laureins, situated about 30 km at the east side of Brugge.

Belgium is the perfect setting for organizing such an important cycling event and this country is widely known all over the world with its daily cycling road races from March to September every year. Also the Belgian Deaf Sport Committee has never disappointed the EDSO in the field of sports organizations at any level and has proven to organize many various organizations of World Championships cycling in the years 1960-1990.

The organizing committee like to welcome you in Belgium





## Welcome to the 8th EC Deaf Cycling 2016 in Belgium

Belgium surprises people with its originality. How many countries combine architectural treasures, such as the Grand Place, the largest collection of the Surrealist genius René Magritte, Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings, and the cosmopolitan wonder of the European Commission? Browse the colorful path lined with façades painted with scenes from such legendary comic books as *The Adventures of Tintin*. And remember: when you want it, there is a refreshing artisan beer waiting for you. Or do you feel like a sweet? Then enter the doors of the best chocolate shops.

The organizational cities of the 8th EC Deaf Cycling 2016 are Bruges and Eeklo - Sint Laureins near Ghent. They are approximately 1 hour driving from Brussels.

### ***Bruges, picture perfect***

When one imagine Belgium, they often are thinking of Bruges. Canals loop across the town like a string of pearls, creating the well-earned moniker of 'the Venice of the North'. With cobblestone path, brick archways, stone churches and quaint bridges, it's nearly impossible to take a bad photograph. The addition of swans on the water, horse drawn carriages in the lanes and daffodils in the park make it nearly magical.

Listed on UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Bruges has the best-preserved example of a medieval city centre with its bell tower leaving over the wide open market. With the centre closed off to cars, all the stunning beauty and culture of this unforgettable city can be easily explored on foot, although a boat ride along the quiet canals is something not to be missed.

While a small city, to truly uncover the many pleasures around each corner, from lace boutiques and chocolates shops to architectural and historical treasures, give yourself plenty of time to get happily lost. Bruges is the organizational city for the EC Sprint Cycling and EC Points Race Cycling.

### ***Eeklo - Sint Laureins/Ghent, Europe's Best Kept Secret***

Nearby Eeklo, you find the undiscovered Flemish jewel of a city boasts an opera house, a handful of museums, even more ancient churches, and countless bridges spanning the two rivers that wind themselves through the city. The true joy of the town is to be found whiling away an afternoon in an outdoor café. Whether you're wrapped under blankets sipping a coffee in the winter or sunning yourself in the springtime with a cold Belgian brew, you will fit in with the locals if you simply enjoy the great atmosphere this town offers. If possible, find a seat on the Graslei, a scenic canal spot in the centre of town, with a great view on the many bridges, grand houses and medieval buildings.

Alternatively, hop on a bike and explore the nearby Patersholt district with a small labyrinth of charming cobblestone streets, the towering Gravensteen Castle and Unesco recognised bell tower. The laid back atmosphere of this liveable, lovable city means enjoying the vibrant nightlight of a university town then quaffing cava at the flower market the following Sunday morning.

Eeklo and Sint Laureins is the organizational city for the EC Time Trail Cycling and EC Road Race Cycling.



## Programme

### Saturday 13 August 2016

Race Headquarters (HQ) is open in the Blosco Centre (Nijverheidstraat 112, Bruges)

**08:00 - 20:00** Arrivals teams Blosco Centre

Distribution of accreditations

### Sunday 14 August 2016

Race Office is open in the Blosco Centre (Nijverheidstraat 112, Bruges)

**08:00 - 12:00** Arrivals teams Blosco Centre

Distribution of accreditations

**08:00 - 20:00** Trainingsessions

**20:00 - 21:00** Team managers' meeting

### Monday 15 Augustus 2016

**09:00 - 11:00** Opening Ceremony Town Hall Bruges with reservation

**11:00 - 21:00** Race Office is open in the Blosco Centre (Nijverheidstraat 112, Bruges)

**14:00 - 20:00** EC Sprint

### Tuesday 16 Augustus 2016

**08:00 - 22:00** Race Office is open in the Blosco Centre (Nijverheidstraat 112, Bruges)

**10:00 - 11:00** EC Point Race - Men Semi-finals

**17:00 - 18:00** EC Point Race - Women Finals

**19:00 - 20:00** EC Point Race - Men Finals

### Wednesday 17 Augustus 2016

**13:00 - 20:00** Race Office is open in Provincial Sport Centre De Boerekreek

**10:00 - 17:00** Transferring from Bruges to Eeklo

### Thursday 18 Augustus 2016

**13:00 - 22:00** Race Office is open at start/finish area

**17:00 - 20:00** EC Time Trial

### Friday 19 Augustus 2016

**13:00 - 20:00** Race Office is open in Provincial Sport Centre De Boerekreek

### Saturday 20 Augustus 2016

**08:00 - 18:00** Race Office is open at start/finish area

**10:00 - 12:30** EC Road Race Cycling - Women/Masters

**13:00 - 16:30** EC Road Race Cycling - Men

**18:00 - 20:00** Closing Ceremony in the City Hall of Eeklo

**21:00 - 04:00** Closing Party



### Sunday 21 Augustus 2016

**08:00 - 22:00** Departure teams





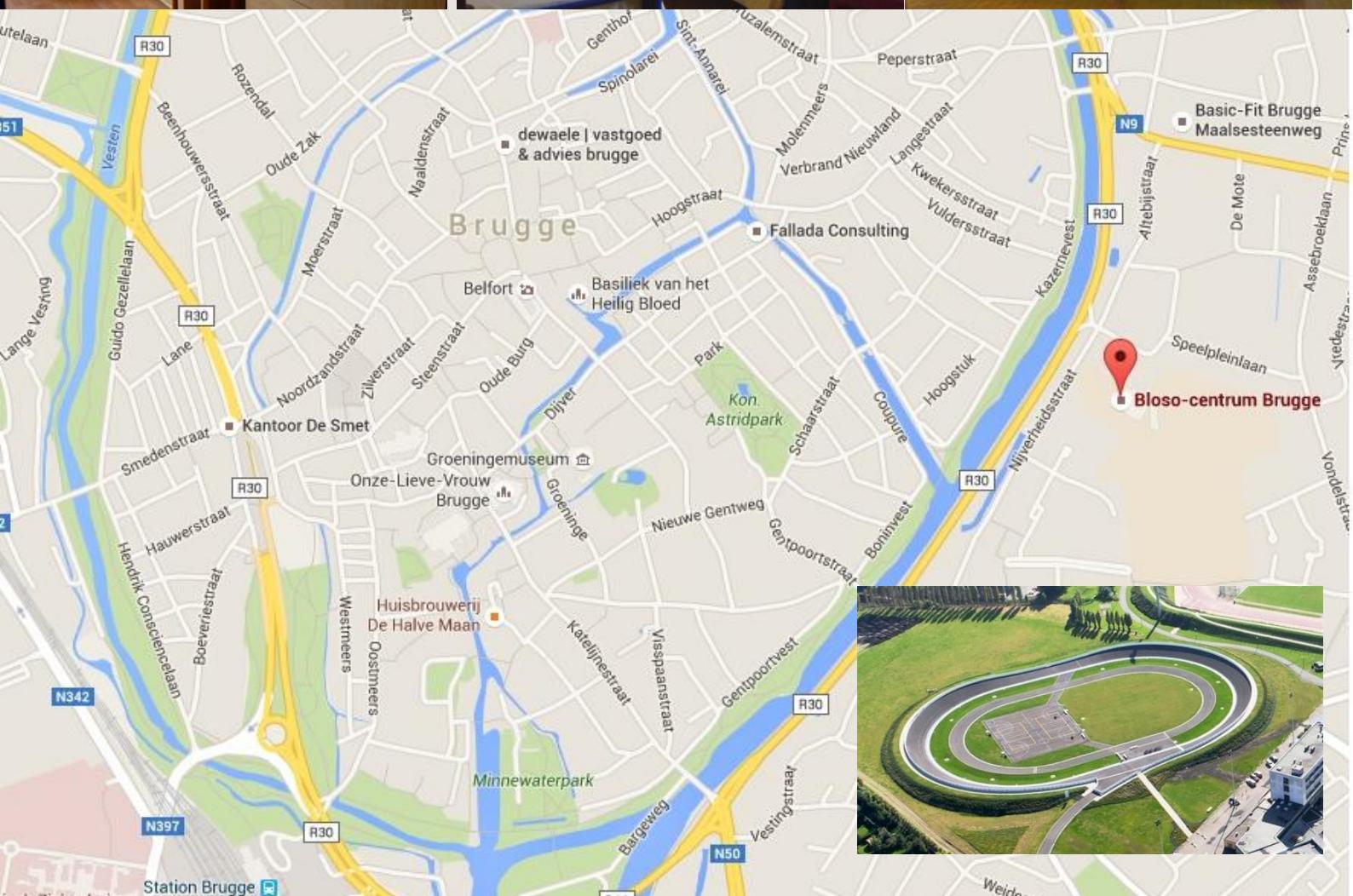
## Accommodation & lodging facilities

### BLOSO sports centre - Bruges

When you arrive on 12 or 13 August 2016, all athletes will be accommodated in the **BLOSO sports centre** located close to the Velodrome "Patrick Sercu" and the city centre of Brugge. This accommodation includes a large sports center, with a bar "Extra Time" and all facilities for your cycling event. There will be no need to use even a bus or a car as everything will be at a walking distance!

The price is moderate and this also depends on the number of participants. Half (no lunch) or Full board is possible (night, breakfast, lunch, dinner). Rooms are available in the following possibilities : 4 x 2-person-rooms, 22 rooms for 3 or 4 persons.

Homepage BLOSO sportcentrum Brugge : <http://www.bioso.be/Centra/Brugge/Pages/default.aspx>  
For the fans and other persons : <http://visitbruges.be/group/hotels#>





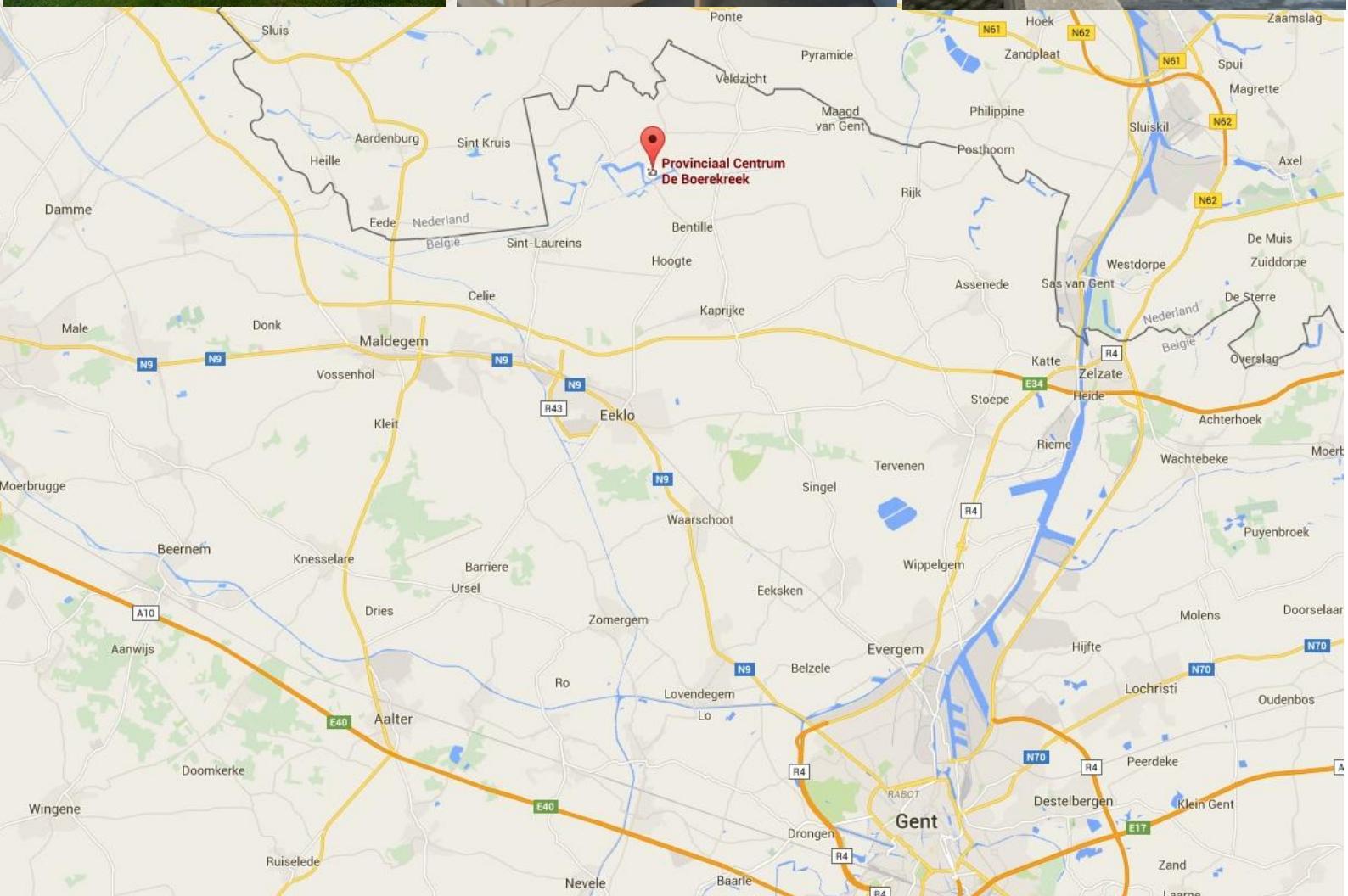
## De Boerekreek - close to Eeklo & St Laureins

On Wednesday 17 August in the morning, all cyclists, officials and staff will be transferred to the accommodation center "De Boerekreek" in Sint Jan in Eremo (city of Sint Laureins) which is located approximately 30 km east from Brugge and 9 km from the city of Eeklo and 25 km from the other big beautiful city of Gent. The frontier with Holland is only 5 km away! Again, there is no need to move all materials & bicycles for the time trial and road race because the starting place is located to this accommodation!

The price is reasonable and varies depending on the number of participants. Half or Full board is possible (night, breakfast, lunch, dinner). Rooms are available in the following possibilities: 2 x 1-person rooms, 14 x 2-persons rooms, 6 x 4-persons rooms and 6 x 6 persons rooms.

Webpage Boerekreek : <http://www.boerekreek.be/index.php?page=locatie&action=accomodatie>

For the fans and other relatives: [http://www.toerismemeetjesland.be/ml/logies\\_results.aspx?taxid=844-404](http://www.toerismemeetjesland.be/ml/logies_results.aspx?taxid=844-404)



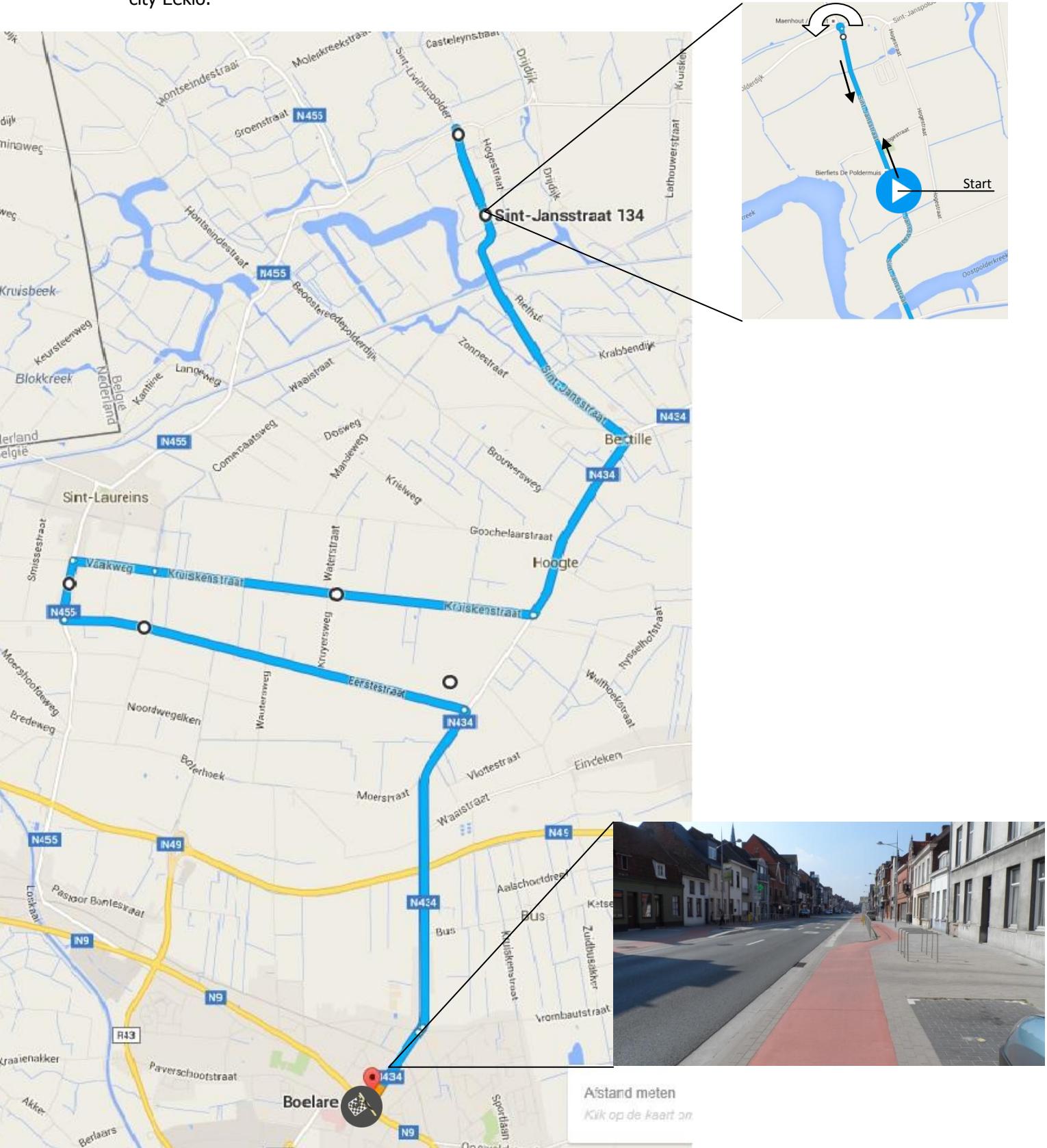


## Race information

### European Championship Time trail

The circuit for the Time Trail is about wide asphalt roads. The profile is flat but the wind can play a big role in the race. The distance for the Men Time trail is 37 kilometers = 1,5 lap. The distance for the Women/Masters is 22 kilometers = 1 lap.

The start is located at Sint-Jansstraat 138, Sint-Laureins and the arrival is located in the centre of the city Eeklo.





## European Championship Road Race

The circuit for the Road Race is a mix of broad and narrow cobblestone paved roads (Casteleynstraat), 1200 meters per round of 10 kilometers. The profile is flat but wind can here play also a big role in the race.

The start and arrival are located at Sint-Jansstraat 138, 9982 Sint-Jan-Eremo/Sint-Laureins. The Road Race distance for Men is 12 rounds = 120 kilometers. The distance for Women/Master is 6 rounds = 60 km.





## A word about the cycling history of Eeklo...

Eeklo is the city and birthplace of many famous cyclists :

- Roger De Vlaeminck (*photo on the left next to Eddy Merckx*) : winner 11 cycling classics including 4x winner of *Paris-Roubaix*, 3x winner *Milan - San Remo*, World Champion Cyclocross ..)
- Eric De Vlaeminck : 7x World Champion Cyclocross
- Noel Fore, Romain De Loof, Berten Ramon, etc....



## Some general information

The organizing committee will announce soon the launch of the website for the 8th EC Cycling in the coming weeks and they will comply with all requirements of the EDSO checklist for organizations of European championships. A Facebook page has been started. See:

<https://www.facebook.com/2016ECDeafCycling/>

The organizing committee has received a positive report after the inspection of the velodrome, the circuits and accommodation on 28 October 2013 by the EDSO TD cycling, Paul Gottfried (*see report from Paul Gottfried in EDSO website 2013*).

The points race for men's elite will go into series. In the morning semifinals (16 km) and in the evening finals (30 km) in accordance with UCI regulations (3.2.117) For women, a direct final (20 km) in the evening. The velodrome "Patrick Sercu" is 400 meters long.

Belgian Deaf Sport Committee hopes that enough women participate.

For example, it's a first real EC for Women place. BDC and EDSO also organize the 1st European Masters Cup for Men (+41 year).



## Location and Accessibility

The city of Bruges and Eeklo is easily accessible by plane and/or train.



By **plane** you have several options:

- ✓ Via **Brussels Airport**: The national airport is located at 100 km from Bruges, it receives flights from over 200 destinations in 66 countries every day. It's easy to travel from Brussels national Airport to Bruges by train, a direct connection is introduced to Bruges that runs every hour.
- ✓ Via **Antwerp Airport**: The Antwerp Airport is also located at 100 km from Bruges, it receives flights from Berlin and Hamburg (Germany), Milan (Italy), Genève (Swiss), Barcelona, Alicante, Mallorca and Malaga (Spain) and from London (UK). The railway station Antwerpen-Berchem is located near Antwerp Airport and provides national train connections and also a direct connection to Bruges.
- ✓ Via **Lille Airport**: The Lille Airport is located in France at 80 km from Bruges, it receives flights from countries like Spain, Italy, Croatia, Portugal and Swiss.
- ✓ Via **Ostend-Bruges Airport**: Ostend-Bruges Airport is in full development and is systematically expanding its range of services. It receives flights from Turkey, Greece and Spain. From the airport there at least three trains per hour to Bruges.

For the above airport the Organizing Committee Transportation Department will provide effective and timely transportation services to all key locations (hotels and sport venue).

- \* Via **Brussels South Charleroi Airport**: The popular regional airport located at 170 km from Bruges, it receives several low-cost flights daily from various other cities and regions across Europe.

For the last mentioned airport the Organizing Committee Transportation Department will **not** provided any transportation. The bus company Flibco.com is offering a direct shuttle bus to and from the station of Bruges with a frequency of 9 trips a day. Using this service, you will travel more comfortable, it's cheaper and often also faster than other transport alternatives (train, combination of train and bus). Booking is cheaper online. You will pay a surcharge on the bus or at the airport.



By **train**

The **Brussels South station** is the Belgian hub for international train traffic, receiving multiple high-speed trains per day from Paris (Thalys and TGV), Lille (Eurostar and TGV), London (Eurostar), Amsterdam (Thalys) and Cologne (Thalys and ICE).

Every hour, there are two trains that leave Brussels South with stops in Bruges.

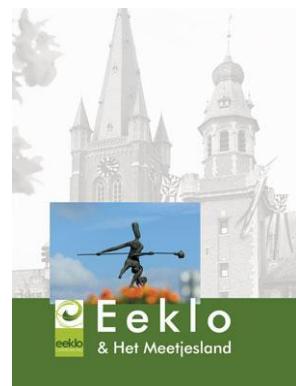
From London St. Pancras International, travel time to Bruges (changing at Brussel South) is about 3 hours.

With support and organization partners



B R U  
G G E

WERELDERFGOEDSTAD



**EUROPEAN DEAF SPORT ORGANISATION**

**8th European Cycling Championship 2016**



Bruges/Eeklo - Belgium

15-20 August 2016



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