

Place Standard Tool –
Euregio Maas Rhein
(PST – EMR)

Results from tri-country festival and EU day

June 2025

Recruitment of participants

- We attended the Eudag in Vaals (9 May 2025) and the three-country festival in Landgraaf (24 May 2025)
- Attendees were asked what they think about their living environment on various topics. They wrote these opinions on a post-it



How do I rate the availability of free drinking water in my surroundings?

- There is a need for more clean water (n=3)



How do I rate the shading and cooling options in my neighbourhood?



- Parks are green throughout Limburg and are already very pleasant (n=1)
- There are enough trees and shaded areas during the summer (n=1)

How do I assess the availability of cool indoor space in my neighbourhood?

- This needs improved (n=1)
- There are too few public spaces available on hot days (n=1)



How do I assess the safety of my surroundings in the event of heavy rain, flooding and storms?



- We feel protected from both rain and sun in Brussels (n=1)
- In the Netherlands, the infrastructure is excellent; in Germany, it is virtually non-existent (n=1)

How do I rate the possibility of walking or cycling?



- The cycling infrastructure in the Netherlands is a good example for Belgium and Germany (n=1)
- Both cycling and walking infrastructures are well-developed (n=1)
- It is generally safe to ride a bike (n=1)
- Fat bikes can be problematic (n=1)
- The sidewalks are adequate, but pedestrians with a walker need to be cautious (n=1)

How do I rate the public transport in my area?



- Buses and trains in Germany should adhere more strictly to their timetables (n=5)
- The train connection between Aachen and Liège (the three-country train) is a good initiative, but it should be faster and more reliable. Additionally, the train does not operate in the late evening or at night (n=3)
- Public transport is considered too expensive; there is a clear need for cheaper tickets (n=2)
- Cross-border bus transport from Aachen to Vaals works very well. The German public transport ticket is valid all the way to Vaals (n=1)
- Public transport should be free for people under the age of 18 (n=1)
- More public transport options are needed to meet demand (n=1)
- The public transport payment system in the Netherlands is considered too complicated (n=1)
- The public transport should be nationalized (n=1)

How do I rate the traffic and parking situation in my neighbourhood?



- The streets in Aachen are considered not very clean (n=1)
- The streets in the Netherlands are much cleaner (n=1)
- In Belgium, the streets are cleaner than in Aachen but not as clean as in the Netherlands (n=1)

How do I rate the natural space in my area?



- The natural environment is very beautiful overall (n=5)
- Green spaces are missing in my area (n=2)
- The nature in the Euregion offers many beautiful hiking paths, lovely places, and numerous nice cafés (n=1)
- There are enough natural spaces in my area (n=1)
- The park is currently being improved (n=1)

How do I rate buildings, streets and places in my area?



- The streets are suitable for inline scooter riding (n=1)
- Vaals is too crowded (n=1)

How do I assess the state of care and maintenance of my surroundings?



- The situation is very good (n=1)
- There should be a stronger focus on cleanliness in the cities (n=1)

How do I assess the perceived safety of my surroundings?



- There are many drug labs (n=1)
- There are no troubles caused by youngsters despite the attractive location (n=1)

How do I assess the everyday supplies in my neighbourhood?



- There are many supermarkets (n=1)
- Dutch supermarkets offer more vegetarian options compared to Germany and Belgium (n=1)
- The cost of living is too high (n=1)

How do I rate healthcare and social services in my neighbourhood?



- There should be cross-border collaboration in healthcare (n=2)
- Healthcare in Germany is better than in the Netherlands (n=1)
- There are several hospitals in the region, and prevention measures are good (n=1)
- The hospital in Heerlen should remain as it is (n=1)
- Better care is needed for autistic people in the Euregio (n=1)
- There is no access to a general practitioner (n=1)
- In the Netherlands, patients must always go through a general practitioner before seeing a specialist (n=1)
- Healthcare in the Netherlands is expensive despite insurance coverage (n=1)

How do I rate the housing options in my neighbourhood?



- It is unexpected that Aachen is more expensive than Vaals (n=1)
- Housing is too expensive, and there should be more regulations on rent control (n=1)
- There are enough houses available (n=1)

How do I rate education, economy and job opportunities in my neighbourhood?



- Education needs some improvement, and the Scandinavian countries could serve as an example (n=1)
- There should be more funding for universities (n=1)
- Museums should be free to enter (n=1)
- Schools in Mönchengladbach receive too little funding (n=1)

How do I rate the leisure facilities in my neighbourhood?*



- Horseback riding across borders is currently illegal; it should be legalized and made easier (n=1)
- More playgrounds should be built in Beek (n=1)
- There are very nice playgrounds (n=1)
- There are opportunities to play, but not enough officially designated playgrounds (n=1)
- The playgrounds are nice and provide enough shade (n=1)
- There are no swimming pools in Vaals, but there is a nice swimming pool in Aachen for hot summer days (n=1)

How do I assess the opportunities to meet people in my neighbourhood?



- There are enough meeting opportunities in the German-speaking community in Belgium (n=1)

How do I assess my identity and belonging in relation to my neighbourhood?

- No answers to this question



How do I assess the influence and sense of control in relation to my neighbourhood?



- Taxation issues in cross-border regions should be resolved, especially for people who work from home (n=1)
- In general, there should be more collaboration (n=1)

At the end of the day....



General reflection

Project groups' perspective

- Nice setting to engage in conversation with people:
 - People of all ages (including children) and backgrounds came along
 - Many lively stories with surprising depth
 - Difficult to really include all the stories in the analysis