

# ICOS BELGIUM MEDIA KIT



## ICOS BELGIUM IN BRIEF

Six Belgian research institutes (*University of Antwerp, Flanders Marine Institute, University of Liege, Royal Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and Research Institute for Nature and Forest*) have joint forces to host a national network of 10 measurement stations that monitor the greenhouse gas emissions and uptake over land, the sea and in the atmosphere.

These long-term measurement stations belong to the larger European ICOS (*Integrated Carbon Observation System*) research infrastructure that aims to monitor the greenhouse gas balance over Europe and adjacent regions via an integrated network of monitoring stations.

Greenhouse gas monitoring is key to understanding the mechanisms and trends of climate change, the biggest global challenge that humanity is currently facing. Thanks to the collaboration of these six institutes the Belgian monitoring network manages to cover a wide range of ecosystems typical for Belgium ranging from different forest types, agricultural crops, over the North Sea to the vulnerable, but valuable heath land ecosystem.

The data collected at these monitoring stations are freely available so that researchers and other users from outside the ICOS research infrastructure can also benefit from this joint European effort to understand the most complex and urgent environmental issue of our times.

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