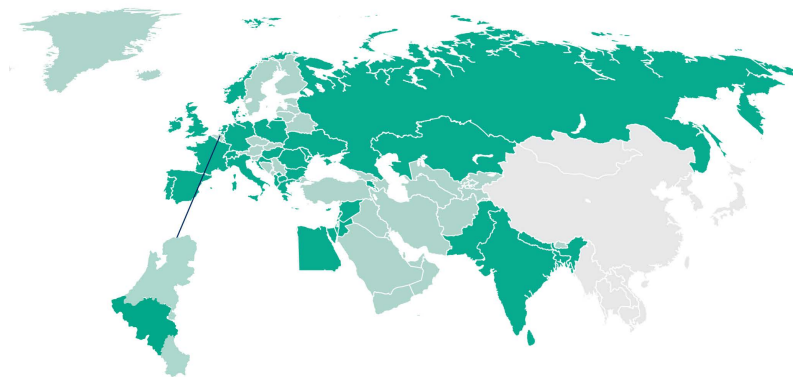


# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

11 June 2025

## Eurasia Region



## Benelux District

The Benelux countries are Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The name “Benelux” is a joining of the first two letters of each country’s name. While there are traces of mutually beneficial connections that date as far back as the 16th and 17th centuries, there have been growing economic and social connections between these countries since the end of World War II. There was a deep sense of need to tie several western European countries closer economically, socially, and politically, to achieve economic growth and military security, and to promote lasting reconciliation to countries deeply divided by the War. Since the early days of the European Economic Community and the European Union, with a sense of openness and tolerance, anyone who has brought a meaningful contribution to the benefit of the whole group has been welcomed. In the 2025 district assembly of the Netherlands, a vote was taken to bring together these three neighboring countries into one new district: the Benelux District. In the spirit of Pentecost, the season of celebrating the movement of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, this new district should be a reminder to us all that God has bigger plans for His people than isolation. The Spirit is calling us to break down barriers, reach across borders, and unite diverse people for the spread of the Gospel, making Christlike disciples in the nations. The Church of the Nazarene began work in the Netherlands in 1967, opened the work in Luxembourg in 2021, and in Belgium in 2024. Today, the Church of the Nazarene in these three nations has come together to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the transformative work of missions in Jesus’ name.



1,960 Members



13 Fully Organized Churches; 3 Not Yet Organized Churches



7 District Licensed and 27 Ordained Ministers on 1 District

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## PRAYER



- Pray for the new Benelux District and its leadership as the three countries of Benelux coalesce into a unified Nazarene presence in Europe.
- Pray that the Lord will bless the efforts of this new district to represent a visible expression of working together with the Holy Spirit to impact diverse communities.

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## PRAISE



- Praise God for His Holy Spirit's inspiration and provision for the development of a unified Benelux District at a time when there is so much division in society.
- Praise the Lord for Nazarene leadership that envisaged a new model for church development, and the approval of the new Benelux District of the Church of the Nazarene.



## Announcing a New District in Northern Europe: The Benelux District



When the church was started in the Netherlands in 1967, it became part of the Middle European District, and soon a separate district was created: the Northwest European District, together with Denmark. In 1976, the Netherlands became a separate district, and in 1995, it became a Phase 3 district. The Netherlands District has had a long history of reaching out with the Gospel and the message of scriptural holiness to those who are transitioning from other world areas in the accepting spaces of Northern Europe.

Over recent years, there has been a growing number of migrant communities settling on the Netherlands District, many of which have become congregations: Portuguese, Farsi, Arabic, and Bulgarian. The district has embraced these developments and intentionally sought to welcome and integrate these diverse congregations into the existing structures.

There has also been an intentional move to focus on planting missional communities in the southern part of the country, which is traditionally Roman Catholic. One fruit of this development was the church plant of Belgium. There has also been a growing Cape Verde and Portuguese congregation in Luxembourg, and an intentional reaching over borders to integrate these works, with pastors, people, and churches developing stronger ties and mutual fellowship.

Antonie Holleman, Netherlands district superintendent and Northern Europe field strategy coordinator, explains: “Last year, it seemed that the time was ripe to connect the Luxembourg church into the Dutch district with its church plant in Belgium. These three countries collaborate governmentally as the Benelux, so we just used this existing name.”

Holleman continues, “This movement toward a culturally diverse and multilingual district means that we want to emphasize certain values more strongly in order to be one in Christ in our diversity. It is clearly understood that ‘we’ need to be intentional about:

- Unity. We will rid ourselves of everything that divides us to be one family of followers of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-15).
- Respect. We will esteem others better than ourselves, that we may learn from one another (Philippians 2:2-8).
- Justice. We will stand up for our brothers and sisters when they are wronged or in need (James 2:14-22).
- Integration. We will encourage and support each other to integrate well into our communities and the society in which we live.”

As district boundaries expanded, there was a deep desire to be more. That desire: *“to be more intentional in becoming a multilingual and culturally diverse district, and with our identified values, make a statement and be a Christian witness in a time of suppression of people groups, discrimination, and racism.”*



On Friday, March 20, the 49th assembly of the Netherlands district began with the first resolution: a vote to become the Benelux district, which was unanimously accepted. The following day, the historic assembly continued, with delegates from Luxembourg welcomed, as the 1st assembly of the Benelux District.

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### Could You Serve?

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17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

