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Geolocation service

Service documentation

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1. General overview

1.1 Information on the drafting of service documentation

Title of service documentation: Geolocation service – BeSt Address
Reference date: 24/02/2026
Contact: Paradigm
Place Saint-Lazare 2
1210 Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode
Website: https://datastore.brussels/web/contact
Languages of product specifications: French, Dutch
Distribution format: PDF
Writing standard: the service documentation is written according to the ISO 19131 standard.

1.2 Terminology and definitions

In the context of this documentation, the following definitions apply.

Object and object type
An object is an abstraction of real-world phenomena represented in the dataset.
An object type is a set **of objects** characterised by identical **attributes**.

Regional address register
The Brussels Region **Address Register** is maintained by Paradigm and established by the cooperation agreement of 17 July 2019 between the Federal State and the Regions, as published on 18 September 2022 in the Belgian Official Gazette.

1.3 Useful abbreviations

BeSt Address: Belgian Street Addresses
API: Application Programming Interface
BOG: Belgian Official Gazette

1.4 Informal description of the service

The geolocation service enables you to find an address, street or municipality listed in the regional address register, or to find the nearest address to a pair of map coordinates. Responses are sent according to the BeSt Address model.

1.5 Namespaces used

xmlns:geo="https://databrussels.be/namespaces/geocodingService/1.0/GeocodageResponse.xsd"
xmlns:best="http://fsb.belgium.be/data/common"
xmlns:urbis="https://databrussels.be/namespaces/UrbIS/1.0/UrbIS.xsd"
xmlns:ext="https://databrussels.be/namespaces/extendedBeSt/1.0/extendedBeSt.xsd"
xmlns:gml="http://www.opengis.net/gml"

2. Service identification

2.1 Title

Geolocation service – BeSt Address

2.2 Version

Service version identifier: 1.0

A new version is released every time there is a change that is not backwards-compatible, both in terms of the data model returned and in terms of the API methods described here.

In addition, a new, transparent version can be released on an ad hoc basis, even in the absence of any changes that are not backwards-compatible.

2.3 Description

The geolocation service enables you to find an address, street or municipality listed in the regional address register, or to find the nearest address to a pair of map coordinates. Responses are sent according to the BeSt Address model.

3. Request content and structure

The service described in this document supports three types of request: structured textual search, structured geometric search and free search.

Structured textual searches are as follows:

- Structured search for street names;
- Structured search for place names;
- Structured search for municipalities;

- Generic structured search;
- Structured search for addresses.

The structured geometric search is as follows:

- Reverse address search.

The free search is as follows:

- Common free search.

3.1 Structured search for addresses

Method	searchAddress
API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/searchAddress
Method description	Method for identifying one or more addresses based on clearly specified parameters.
Response	Returns an address conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.1.1.6.

3.1.1 *Parameters*

3.1.1.1 Search language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.1.1.2 Municipality name

Parameter name	municipality
Parameter description	Municipality name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.1.1.3 Postal code

Parameter name	postalCode
Parameter description	Postal code

Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Whole number

3.1.1.4 Street name

Parameter name	streetName
Parameter description	Street name
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	Text

3.1.1.5 Police number

Parameter name	policeNumber
Parameter description	Police number
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	Text

3.1.1.6 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of type ext:Address
BeSt	Returns an object of type best:Address

3.2 Structured search for street name

Method name	Structured search for street name
Method URL	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/searchStreetName
Method definition	Method for identifying a street name based on clearly specified parameters.
Response	Returns a street name conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.2.1.5.

3.2.1 *Parameters*

3.2.1.1 Search language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.2.1.2 Street name

Parameter name	streetName
Parameter description	Street name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.2.1.3 Municipality name

Parameter name	municipality
Parameter description	Municipality name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.2.1.4 Postal code

Parameter name	postalCode
Parameter description	Postal code
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Whole number

3.2.1.5 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of type ext:StreetName
BeSt	Returns an object of type best:StreetName

3.3 Structured search for place name

Method	searchPlaceName

API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/searchPlaceName
Method description	Method for searching for one or more place names based on clearly specified parameters.
Response	Returns a place name conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.3.1.4.

3.3.1 *Parameters*

3.3.1.1 Search language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.3.1.2 Place name

Parameter name	placeName
Parameter description	Place name
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	Text

3.3.1.3 Municipality name

Parameter name	municipality
Parameter description	Municipality name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.3.1.4 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of type urbis:PlaceName
BeSt	Returns an object of type urbis:PlaceName

3.4Structured search for a municipality

Method	searchMunicipality
API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/searchMunicipality
Method description	Method for searching for one or more municipalities based on clearly specified parameters.
Response	Returns a municipality conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.4.1.4.

3.4.1 *Parameters*

3.4.1.1 Search language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.4.1.2 Municipality name

Parameter name	municipality
Parameter description	Municipality name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.4.1.3 Postal code

Parameter name	postalCode
Parameter description	Postal code
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Whole number

3.4.1.4 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes

Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of type ext:Municipality
BeSt	Returns an object of type best:Municipality

3.5 Reverse address search

Method	searchAddress
API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/geometricalSearch/searchAddress
Method description	Method for identifying one or more addresses based on a pair of geographic coordinates.
Response	Returns an address conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.5.1.3.

3.5.1 *Parameters*

3.5.1.1 X coordinate

Parameter name	X
Parameter description	X coordinate
Compulsory	Yes
Projection system	EPSG:31370
Accepted value range	Positive number

3.5.1.2 Y coordinate

Parameter name	Y
Parameter description	Y coordinate
Compulsory	Yes
Projection system	EPSG:31370
Accepted value range	Positive number

3.5.1.3 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of type ext:Address

BeSt	Returns an object of type best:Address

3.6 Common free search

Method	searchAnyObject
API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/freeSearch/searchAnyObject
Method description	Method for identifying objects of unspecified type based on unspecified parameters.
Response	Returns a relevant object conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.6.1.3

3.6.1 *Parameters*

3.6.1.1 Search language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.6.1.2 Free text

Parameter name	freeText
Parameter description	Free text
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	Text

3.6.1.3 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of relevant type
BeSt	Returns an object of relevant type

3.7 Generic structured search

Method	searchAnyObject
API	/api/v1/brussels/geocoding/searchAnyObject
Method description	Method for searching for one or more objects of unspecified type based on clearly specified parameters.
Response	Returns a relevant object conforming to the model selected using the parameter referred to in point 3.7.1.7.

3.7.1 *Parameters*

3.7.1.1 Response language

Parameter name	searchLanguage
Parameter description	Search language
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Name
fr	French
nl	Dutch

3.7.1.2 Municipality name

Parameter name	municipality
Parameter description	Municipality name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.7.1.3 Postal code

Parameter name	postalCode
Parameter description	Postal code
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Whole number

3.7.1.4 Street name

Parameter name	streetName
Parameter description	Street name

Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.7.1.5 Place name

Parameter name	placeName
Parameter description	Place name
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.7.1.6 Police number

Parameter name	policeNumber
Parameter description	Police number
Compulsory	No
Accepted value range	Text

3.7.1.7 Response model

Parameter name	model
Parameter description	Response model
Compulsory	Yes
Accepted value range	
Value	Description
BeStPlus	Returns an object of relevant type
BeSt	Returns an object of relevant type

4. Response models

The geolocation service returns responses conforming to the BeSt Address model. It also allows responses to be returned in BeStPlus format, an extended version of the BeSt Address model. By default, responses are returned in the BeStPlus format.

4.1 BeSt response model

The technical specifications of the BeSt Address model are as follows: BeSt Address – Brussels Region.

4.2 BeStPlus response model

The technical specifications of the BeSt Address model are as follows: BeSt Address – Brussels Region.

4.3 Response encoding

The characters are encoded in UTF-8.

5. Metadata

Metadata are available to view in full at the following address:
https://datastore.brussels/web/data/service/ddec077a-3285-11f1-afcf-00090ffe0001#details.

6. Product updates

The service is updated whenever necessary.