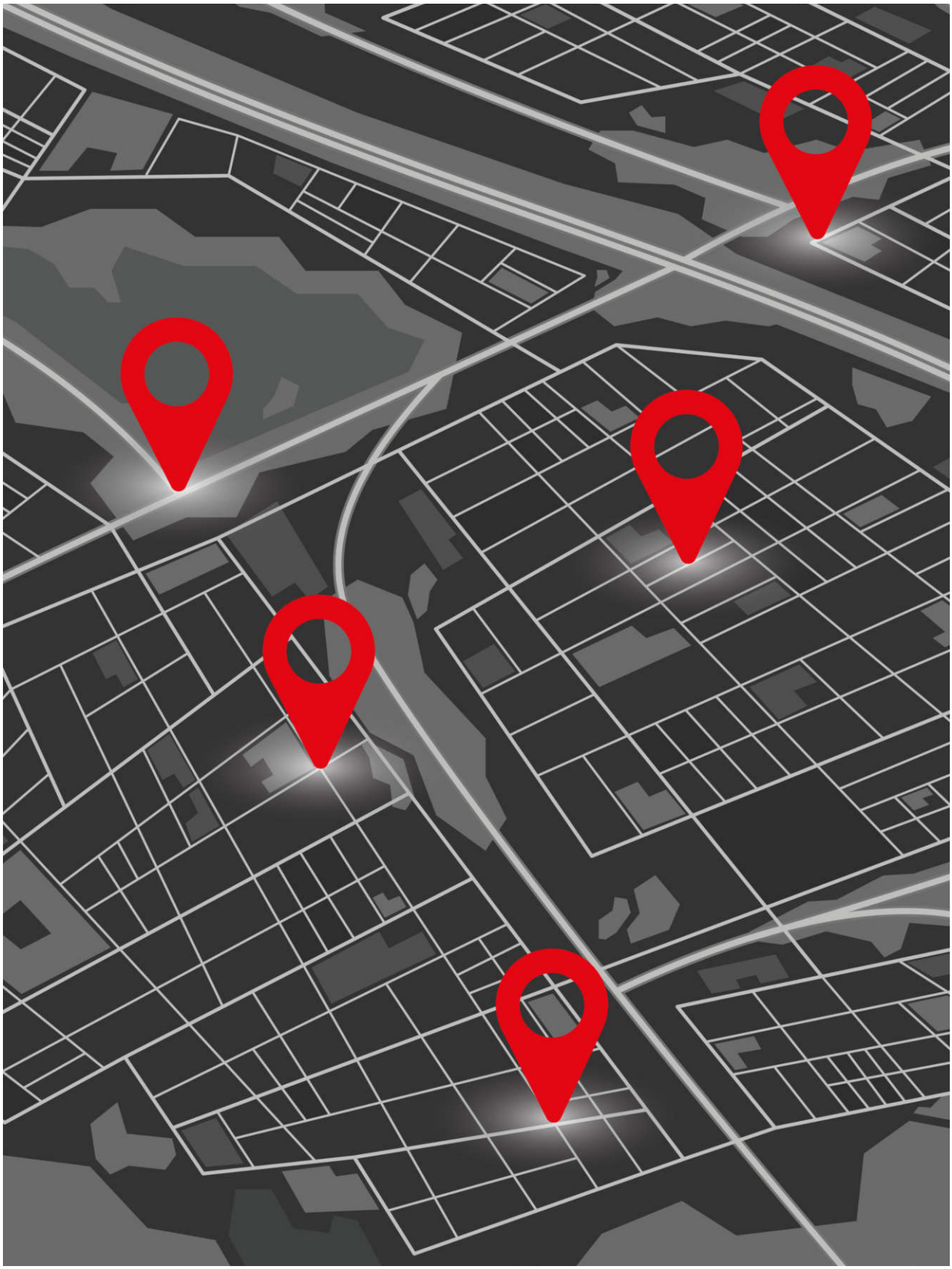
STUDENT AWARDS 2014 - 2025



Quality in parking

LIVING WITHOUT A CAR

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Living without a car: an analysis of the car-sharing landscape in Belgium

This research is in two parts. The first part focuses on understanding the group of households without a car and the advantages and disadvantages they experience as a result of not owning a car.

In the context of this study, a zero-car household was viewed as not owning a car. However, zero-car households may still use a car. To understand the issues concerning not owning a car, a literature review was conducted. This revealed that the group of zero-car households is diverse. The group can be subdivided based on the underlying reasons for not owning a car:

- **car-free** households who do not own a car by choice.
- **car-less** households who do not own a car due to external factors.

In this context, the label was applied according to the disadvantages experienced by the car-free and car-less households. Reasons for a household being car-less are mainly economic, however, depending on the residential location a household may be forced into car ownership to participate in economic, political, and social life of the community.

Car-free households are mainly located in more densely populated areas with better public transport coverage than car-less households. These car-less households therefore tend to experience more mobility disadvantages than car-free households.

The second part of this research focuses on the car-sharing landscape in Belgium as a possible solution for car-free and car-less households. This involved comparing the various organisations regarding general operation, geographical locations, additional facilities, and cost price.

The car-sharing industry is competitive and still developing, while the lack of standardisation makes comparison difficult. The car-sharing providers distinguish themselves mainly by the region in which they operate, the facilities offered and the conditions for users. Car-sharing organisations which specifically target sparsely populated areas may offer a solution for the group of car-less households.

Figure 4: Car-free versus car-less households

