

PROSPERA regional report – City of Ghent

An analysis of the peri-urban area that surrounds the city of Ghent

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Objective and outline of this report

This regional analysis report was developed within the Interreg Europe project [**PROSPERA**](#), **PROMoting Sustainable development and regional attractiveness through PERi-urban Areas**. The project's overall objective is to improve regional policies on protection and promotion of natural heritage by tackling loss of ecosystem services and to improve sustainable development in peri-urban areas threatened by urban sprawl. The ultimate aim of PROSPERA is to prevent biodiversity loss, soil consumption and further degradation of natural assets, by in parallel leveraging on those challenge as a way to favor regional attractiveness and economic sustainable development. To that extent, PROSPERA sets up a process of interregional learning that includes study visits and knowledge exchange sessions.

To provide sufficient and adequate background throughout the interregional learning process, each region that is involved in PROSPERA, developed a regional analysis report. In other words, each regional analysis report aims to inform the own stakeholders as well as stakeholders from other partners about the characteristics of and the challenges in their local peri-urban area. As such, **the present report is a guide for all PROSPERA partners and their local stakeholders when visiting or interacting with the city of Ghent**. The information in the regional analysis report is not exhaustive but specific to the objective and rationale of the PROSPERA project. The regional analysis reports were developed in the first year of PROSPERA via a step-by-step process, including surveys and a workshop on the regional analysis report.

The report consists of different parts. **In the first part** of this report the city of Ghent **sketches its general context**. This part includes information on the geographical location of the PROSPERA region, the local demography and the built environment.

The second part of this report **analyses the economic development** of the local peri-urban area, whereas a **third part focuses on the natural heritage**, both PROSPERA core themes.

The fourth part of this report **describes the policy instrument "Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent"**. In accordance with the project's outline, the city of Ghent selected a specific policy instrument to be subject of PROSPERA. The underlying idea is that PROSPERA could provide support to improve this policy instrument. More specifically, the City of Gent will focus within PROSPERA on policy instruments related to the **preservation and sustainable management of open space** in the (peri-urban) City of Ghent. This is one of the goals formulated in the vision "Space for Ghent", but currently only limited instruments are available to assure the implementation of this goal.

Finally, **the last part** of this regional analysis report **identifies local good practices already in place**. These good practices are as a source of inspiration for other peri-urban regions dealing with similar challenges.

Setting the scene

Within PROSPERA, the City of Ghent focuses on policy instruments related to the preservation and sustainable management of open space. Given this focus, food production, natural heritage, the environment and climate change are the most important themes (Figure 1). Of course, the other themes are also important and are often linked to these themes. For example, the population and the built environment obviously influence the pressure on open space; and at the same time increase the importance of open space. As such, solutions for preservation and sustainable management of open space can also be linked to the policy instruments related to these “other themes”.

The relative importance of these themes has been discussed with the stakeholders (see Table 1). All stakeholders agreed on this importance, even though they also all agree that the themes are interlinked.

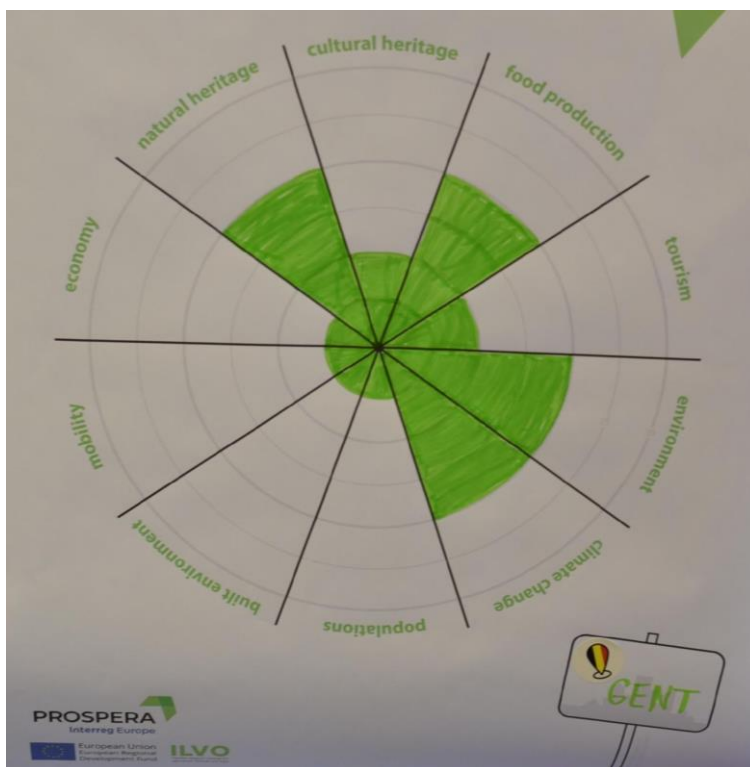


Figure 1. The relative importance of themes and challenges in the peri-urban of Ghent

Table 1: Overview of stakeholders involved in the PROSPERA project

City of Ghent	Citizen movements related to food
Province of East-Flanders	Spatial planners
(Different types of) farmers	Scientists
Farmers' union representatives	Flemish Land Agency (Flemish Government)
Nature organization representatives	Advice council related to environment, nature, ...
NGO's related to food, nature, social work, ...	

1. General information on the City of Ghent and its surrounding peri-urban area

The following paragraphs provide some general information on the territory of the City of Ghent, case study in the PROSPERA project, with a focus on the peri-urban area. This information isn't exhaustive but aims to provide sufficient background in order to enable a learning process together with local stakeholders as well as a transnational learning throughout the PROSPERA project.

1.1. Geographical location

Ghent is a city in Flanders, the northern region of Belgium, with a total area of 157,96 km² (see Fig 2).



Figure 2. The City of Ghent within Belgium and Europe

1.2. Identification of the peri-urban area

The maps in Figure 3 below show the peri-urban area of Ghent. Depending on the definition used for peri-urban area and rural area, Ghent is entirely urban and there is no strict rural or peri-urban area of large scale in and around Ghent, nor in Flanders. However, small scale open spaces with very different characteristics are detectable up to the city limits: the so called 'rural area', the growing city, the green hubs and the canal villages. Therefore, all space outside the core and inner city of Ghent is indicated in this research context as peri-urban area. It is important to recognize the very different development perspectives in the Spatial Structural Vision 2030 and city policy for these areas and to take them as a starting point.

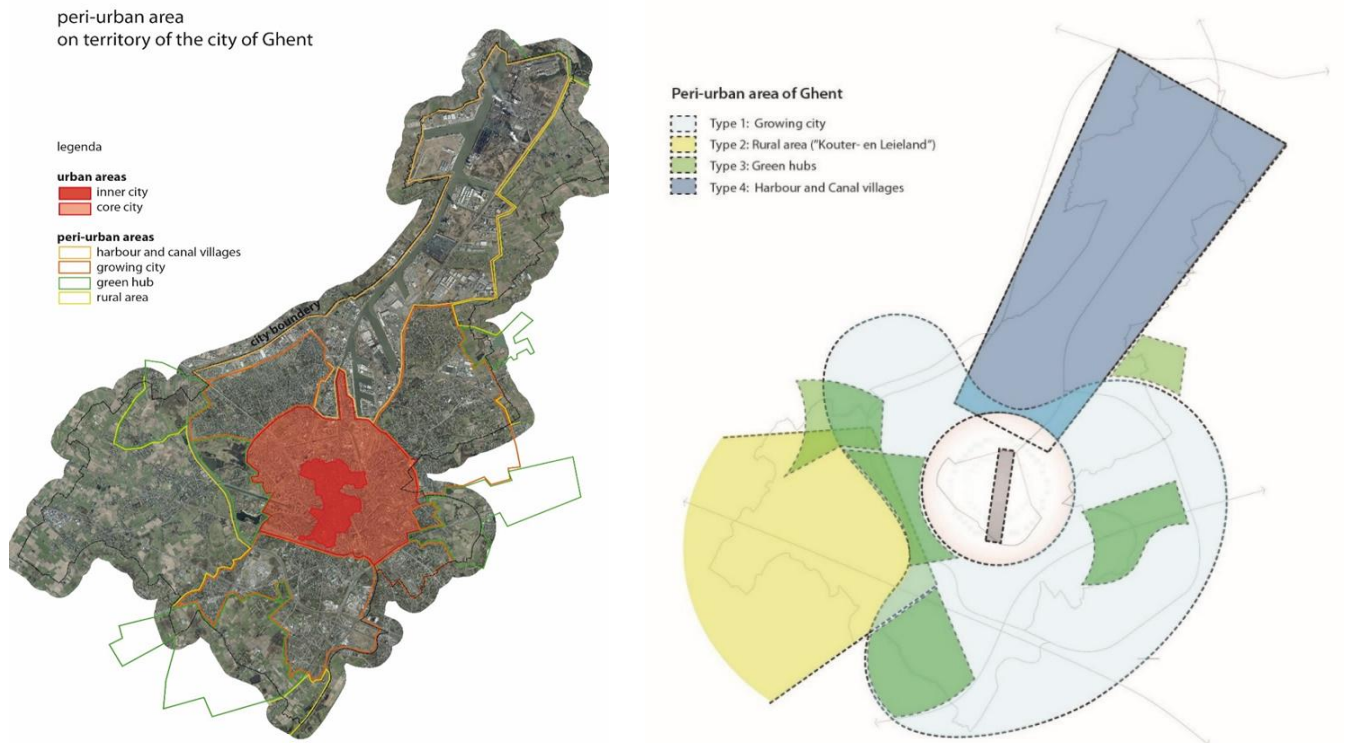


Figure 3. Indication of the peri-urban area of Ghent

1.3. The demographic context

The City of Ghent has a growing population, with currently around 261 483 inhabitants. Hence, the average population density is 1655 inh/km². This density is even higher in the city center, and a bit lower in the "peri-urban area". It is expected that by 2030 the amount of inhabitants will have grown to around 277 000 and even 282 293 in 2035. There are also 76 510 students in Ghent from which a lot are boarding in Ghent.

Before 2000, the number of inhabitants in Ghent was decreasing. This urban exodus stopped in 2000, then the population increased gradually. Today we can only talk about selective urban exodus of certain groups, but data are not easy to interpret. On the one hand we see that thirtysomethings with young children move to the suburb or neighbouring municipalities, on the other, there is an inflow of twentysomethings. This inflow is due to the fact that Ghent is a student city. After their studies, many students stay in Ghent and contribute to new family formation. The number of elderly people is growing, but compared with the overall growth of the city's population it is slower. As such, the share of elderly people within the population as a whole does not increase. Therefore, an ageing population is not (yet) a major demographic challenge. The population of the Flemish Region is ageing.

One out of three inhabitants in Ghent has a background in migration. This proportion is gradually increasing. About 53% of the children has its roots in migration and hasn't Dutch as their mother tongue. There are more than 150 different nationalities in Ghent.

The average income of people living in Ghent is lower than the Flemish average.

1.4. The built environment

Given the growing population, sufficient and affordable housing is a major challenge in Ghent. Specifically for social housing, a long waiting list occurs. Other challenges are the need for renovation of housing (energy,...), an outdated housing patrimony (quality of housing, not for new houses) and the change of housing demands (different family composition). Concerning the built environment, the most important challenges are **urban sprawl** (=fragmented built environment), **illegal reuse of existing buildings in the agriculturally destined zones of the peri-urban area** and **a lack of services in specific boroughs such as education, employment, green areas, ...**

In 2017, 118 605 households were living in Ghent from which 50 000 private renters, 15 350 social renters, 34 350 not domiciled students (dorms) and 50 000 owners residents. In the same period, Ghent counted 93 639 buildings, with in total 140 717 housing units. Of these, 38% were apartments and 58% were single family houses from which 85% inhabited by owner and 15% by renters. The percentage of renters compared to owners is much higher in the city center compared to the more rural areas: In the city center, 23% is owner and 77% renters, whereas in rural areas 77% is owner and 23% renter.

Figure 4a shows the increase of buildings from 2001 until 2017. The green line are the single family houses, the blue line are apartments. Over this 16 years, we see a net growth of 2 600 family houses and 14 500 apartments. The number of apartments has grown much stronger, particularly in the city centre. This difference is also very clear in Figure 4b, that shows the percentage of growth according to housing type in between 2012 and 2017, with a growth of 0,9% single family houses and 13,4% apartments.

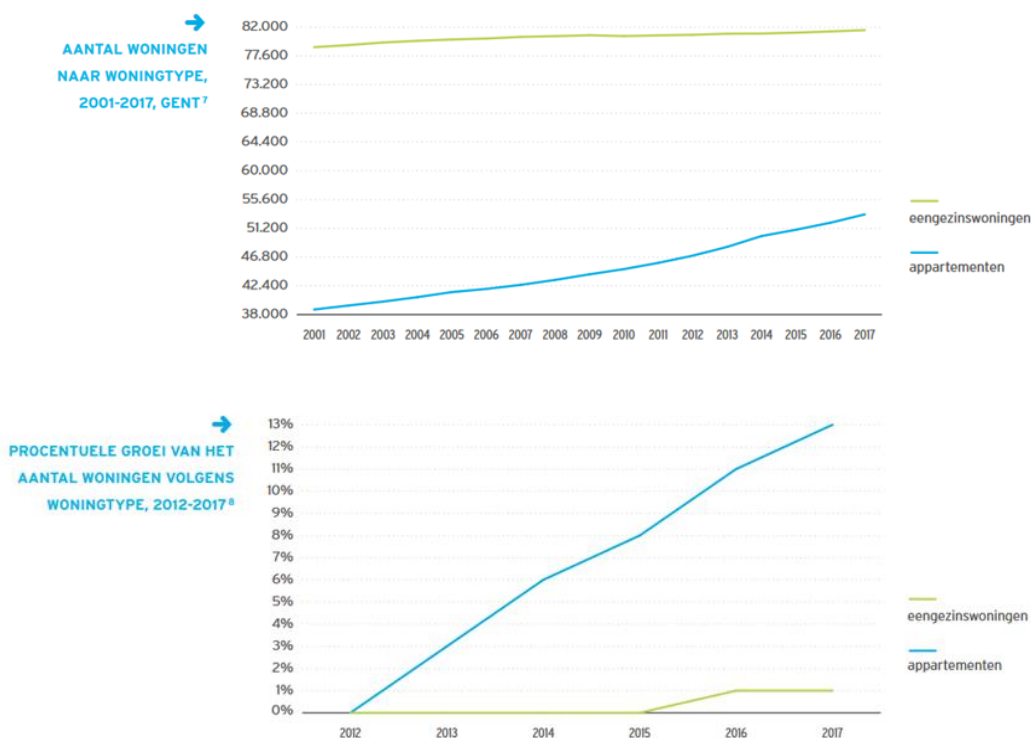


Figure 4. (a) Number of houses in Ghent between 2001 – 2017 (b) percentage of growth between 2012-2017 (green line = single family houses; blue line = apartments)

2. Economic development of the peri-urban region

The following paragraphs focus on economic developments and challenges within the peri-urban area of the City of Ghent. The information provided in this part of the report is specific to the PROSPERA project, and as a consequence not exhaustive.

2.1 Economy (industry, offices, retail, etcetera)

The main economic activities in the City of Ghent are industrial activities and offices. Specifically in the peri-urban area, the most important economic activities are industrial activities in the harbour of Ghent, offices, retail and also agriculture. Ghent's economy – certainly in comparison to that of most other Flemish cities – is relatively diverse: industry still plays a significant role and Ghent has a relatively low level of specialisation in its economic activities. The lower the level of specialisation, the less vulnerable the economy. There is an abundance of highly reputed knowledge and educational bodies, the labour pool is qualified, the local consumer market is attractive and demanding and there is a well-connected, high-performing port. In 2018, the fabric of our business sector can be described as resilient, but the growth in productivity is limited. Ghent creates jobs, but there is a mismatch in content between the many job vacancies and the many job seekers. The jobs in the lower and middle segments are disappearing, whereas the vacancies mainly require highly educated people, particularly in technical areas. Simultaneously, if Ghent continues to retain its role as a regional centre of growth, there will be a need for 30,000 extra jobs and 2,500 starters per year by 2030. Currently, the level of unemployment in Ghent is higher than the national average (11,4% compared to 7,8% in 2017). However it is difficult to predict future demands for economic space. In the "Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent", the City of Ghent aims for "space neutrality", which means no more net loss of open space. To prevent the intake of open space for the growth of economy, companies are stimulated to build as efficient as possible, re-use existing buildings, clear buildings in order to get a permission to build a new one etc. Nevertheless, new open space is sometimes still being built upon, as such reducing the available open space in the city. Given that one of the main challenges for businesses is finding a suitable place to establish a business, the City of Ghent tries to keep an overview of available locations and offers help to entrepreneurs for finding a suitable location.

A growing residential and professional city yields additional differentiated and appropriate employment opportunities. It continues to cleverly diversify and innovate the economy by creating enough space for existing businesses and for businesses in growth sectors. In this context, innovation is strategically embedded within the fabric of the city through support for innovation, focus on (future) strengths, close cooperation between government, education, businesses, and external users and positioning within an international context. Specifically for PROSPERA, the cities objective to stimulate a city oriented, sustainable agricultural sector is relevant.

2.2 Food production

In 2012, within the city 154 professional farmers (excl. those with farms smaller than 2000 m² - often greenhouses) and some 40 intra-urban agriculture initiatives were active (i.e. alternative types of agriculture in buildings in the city). In 2018, this amount had decreased to 134 farmers. Together, these farms use around 20% of the area of Ghent. This is lower than the average in Flanders, which is around 50%. The main farming activities in Ghent are cattle farming (both dairy and meat) and horticulture such as ornamental cultivation. Farmland is mainly used for meadow and mais. The average farm is 18 ha.

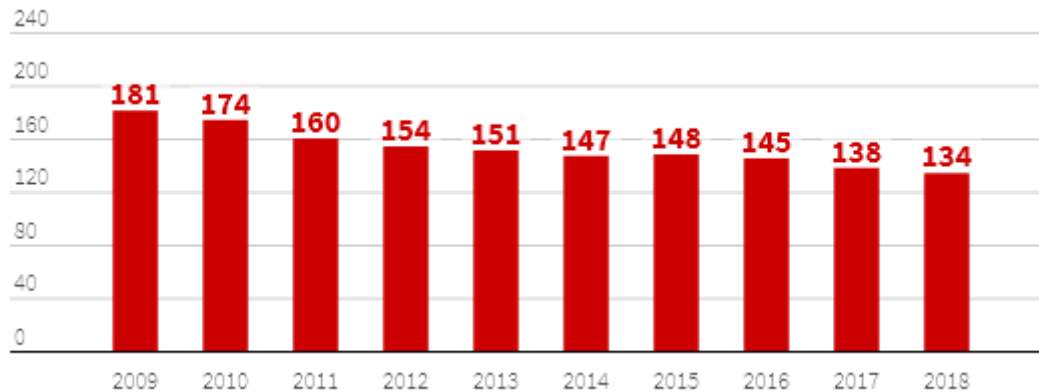


Figure 5. Number of farms in the City of Ghent (data source: Statbel | provincie.incijfers.be)

The major challenges concerning agriculture and food production are:

- Agriculture in the urban environment of Ghent is confronted with an ever increasing number of non-agricultural users of the farmland. Moreover, land destined for agriculture is actively being converted to other functions such as industry, roads or nature and forest. The rural urbanization means for the farmers loss of farmland and rising prices for land and farms and transition from leasehold contracts to less sustainable use contracts for agricultural land. All farmers face difficulties with access to land, both when they try to maintain their farm area and when they want to increase the area of their farm. The group of young, agro-ecological farmers that wants to start a new farm and that does not have farmland yet in their family, faces difficulties to access farmland.
- Decreasing number of farms. Ageing, traditional farming population struggling to maintain their farmland, growing number of young, agro-ecological farmers without land. Many farms face financial difficulties. Moreover, they face stricter environmental rules. **The City of Ghent aims to stimulate the transition towards city-oriented sustainable farms.** This includes for example more short chain supply of food, better environmental impact and positive contribution of farms to nature management. To reach this goal, both the start-up of new city-oriented sustainable farms and the transition of existing farms towards more city-oriented and sustainable practices will be supported.
- Globalization of the market for agricultural products with its advantages and disadvantages
- Agriculture is no longer the only player in open space, but must take a place together with nature, ecology, recreation, living, climate adaptation: renewed interest in agriculture and local sustainable food need a green landscape to relax or unwind.
- **In the near future, people will increasingly have to rely on this open space** because of climate change. Space is needed for water, for CO2 storage, biodiversity, for cooling the urban space etc. One must go to a serving function for the 250,000 inhabitants of Ghent. If the farmer wants to ensure his license to produce and future in this "new" environment, he will have to give a new meaning to his economic and social role. Current agriculture in Ghent cannot feed the city population. However, the City of Ghent aims 1) to maximise local consumption of available

agricultural products 2) to improve citizens' awareness and the link between citizens and food production; and 3) to also let farmland contribute to open space related objectives

2.3 Tourism

Ghent has a lot of tourists, mainly for culture and shopping. Ghent also has the reputation of a sustainable city with good food. In 2018, almost 1 161 000 tourists visited Ghent, mainly for leisure, but also for congresses and business (see Table 2). The main tourist attractions are in the city center. The peri-urban area is only limitedly used for tourism. The green areas in the outskirts are important for local recreation. Given their current "over-use" by locals, the aim is not to make these area attractive for tourism.

Table 2. Number of tourist nights in Ghent (2018)

Tourism 2018 Ghent	number of nights
leisure	832 969
congress	208 765
business	119 130
TOTAL	1 160 864

See also promotion video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRd6PVK6E9k>

2.4 Mobility

Daily, more than 650,000 trips take place in Ghent. The majority of these trips remain below 5 to 10 kilometres. Both cars, public transport, bikes and foot are used. For the first time, over 50 % of trips in Ghent take place on foot, by bicycle, or using public transportation. Bicycle usage has grown from 22 % to 30 % in 3 years. A large amount of these trips is linked to commuting. Ghent counts 104 191 incoming commuters; 38 405 outgoing commuters and also 56 131 people not commuting (see Table 4).

Connection of the peri-urban areas to the city centre depends on the type of area (see city areas on Figure 3):

- Growing city: good with private transport, too little with public transport
- Green hubs, rural area and green climate axes: good with private transport, not good with public transport and, thanks to the developing GCAs, also for cyclists and pedestrians
- Harbour and canal villages: rather good with private transport, bad with public transport

The main challenge is to be a mobile city providing smooth selective throughput of the growing number of residents, students, and commuters. The City needs to address the immediate traffic intensity from the city region and searches for creative solutions to the public transportation network. The use of bicycles is promoted and supported, and reachability and accessibility for pedestrians is guaranteed. Throughout the previous decades, Ghent has pioneered sustainable urban mobility. We are now reaping the first benefits thereof. Guaranteeing selective accessibility of the city (region) remains our number one challenge. The green climate axes are part of this story, stimulating soft mobility from and towards the city (see "Good practices"). Not a major, but still interesting challenge: water as a carrier of transport. This also has a link with green climate axes.

Table 3. Percentage of modal split in Ghent (2018)

Modal split 2018 - Ghent	%
With car, as driver	33,2%
With car, as passenger	5,2%
With motorcycle/ moped	0,8%
By train	5,0%
By bus & tram	8,7%
By bike	34,6%
On foot	12,7%

Table 4. Amount of commuters in Ghent 2016 (source: Steunpunt Werk Gent)

Amount of commuters 2016	number	%
Incoming commuters	104 191	65,00%
Outgoing commuters	38 405	40,60%
Not commuting	56 131	
Commuting balance	65 785	

3. Natural heritage of the peri-urban region

The following paragraphs focus on natural heritage and challenges within the peri-urban area of the City of Ghent. The information provided in this part of the report is specific to the PROSPERA project, and as a consequence not exhaustive.

3.1 Natural heritage

The City of Ghent doesn't have large protected nature areas. However, scattered in the peri-urban area, still valuable natural heritage is present (see Figure 6). The landscape around Ghent is determined by the valleys of Leie, Schelde, Moervaart and Kale which are 4 landscape subdivisions of each other separating: the eastern street village area (greenhouse area), the Leie-Oude Kale interfluvium, the Schelde-Leie interfluvium and the Maldegem-Stekene cover sand ridge. These larger landscape entities have characteristic manifestations; the river and brook valleys consist mainly of lakes and donks. The interfluvia consist, depending on their location, of small kouters, bulks, forests, street villages, farm clusters and massive castle parks.

Nature areas on city territory generally have sectoral and planning protection. With the thematic RUP Green, the city is catching up for the protection of existing and to be developed, non-protected nature areas. However, agricultural areas have limited sectoral and planning protection against urbanization, cf. *City research into non-zone activities and conflicting use in agricultural areas 2017*. The protection of landscape values in the agricultural area is limited on the territory of Ghent.

The major challenges are a **loss of unbuilt space (nature, green, agriculture) due to urbanization, spatial fragmentation and loss of quality of open space**, low afforestation, agriculture oppressed by high land prices. Moreover, the city wants to reinforce the green climate axes as a link with the city centre, realization of missing links and afforestation.

Biologische waarderingskaart Gent

BWK_ACTUEEL_waardering

Waardering

-  Biologisch minder waardevol
-  Biologisch minder waardevol met waardevolle elementen
-  Biologisch minder waardevol met waardevolle en zeer waardevolle elementen
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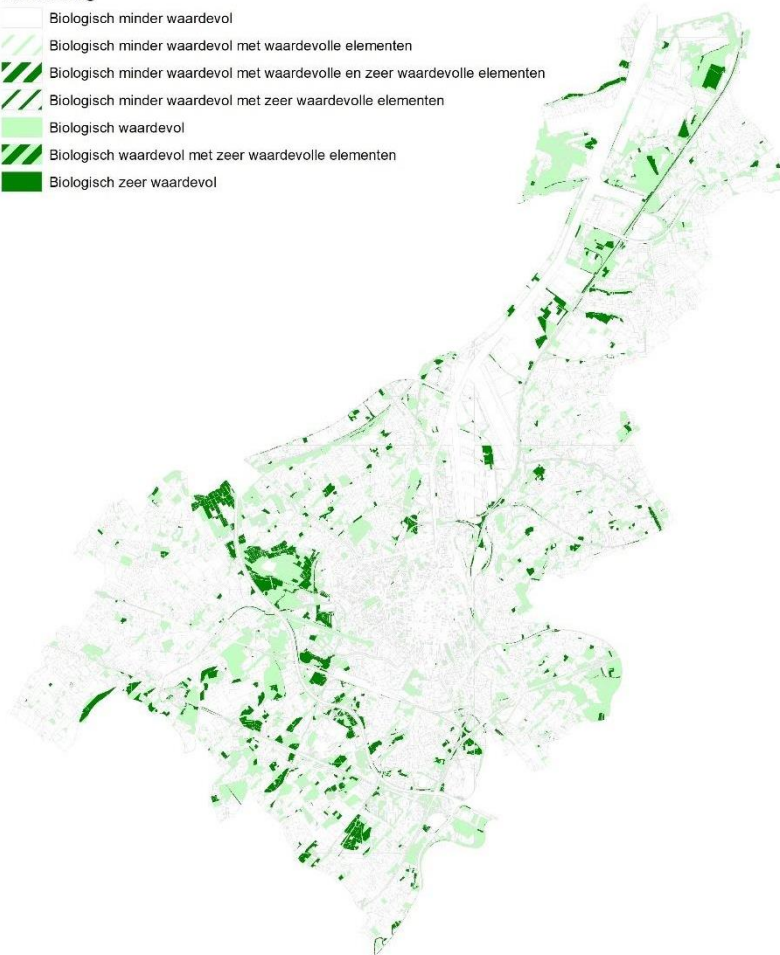


Figure 6. Open space in Ghent and its ecological value (light green is little value – dark green is very valuable) – Data source: Biological valuation map – Biologische waarderingskaart



Figure 7. Nature types in Ghent, with focus on the central and southern part (dark green = forest, light green = grass, blue green = marshes, blue = water, brown green = parks, orange = other vegetation, yellow = arable land, grey = urban)

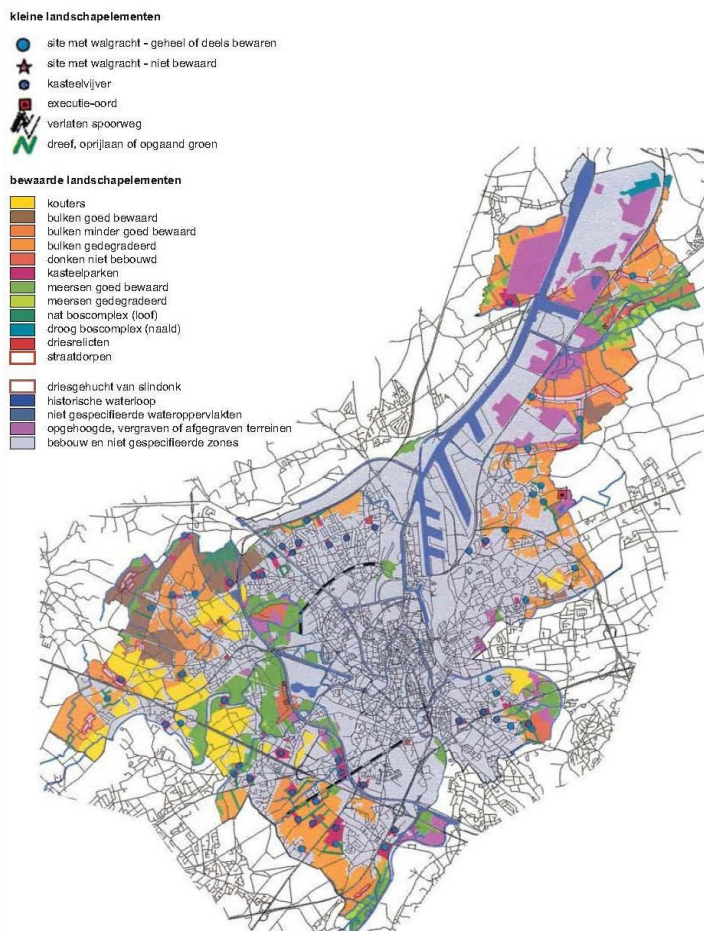


Figure 8. Cultural historical landscapes of Ghent (Source: Ruimtelijk Structuurplan Gent – Omgeving Esher)

3.2 Cultural heritage

The City of Ghent has a lot of cultural heritage, such as monuments and archeological sites (see Figure 9). The concentration of protected heritage is located in the city center. In the peri-urban area, a number of castles and their surrounding parks are important as cultural heritage. Moreover, some of the open (agricultural) landscapes in the peri-urban area are still preserved and also have a cultural heritage value. The main challenge for the castles and their surrounding parks is the maintenance (both for private and public owners). This is very expensive, while on the other hand the rules for the use of these buildings and parks are strict in order to preserve their cultural heritage value. The open landscapes are under pressure of urbanisation. This reduces and scatters the open landscape and declines the natural value within the remaining landscape.

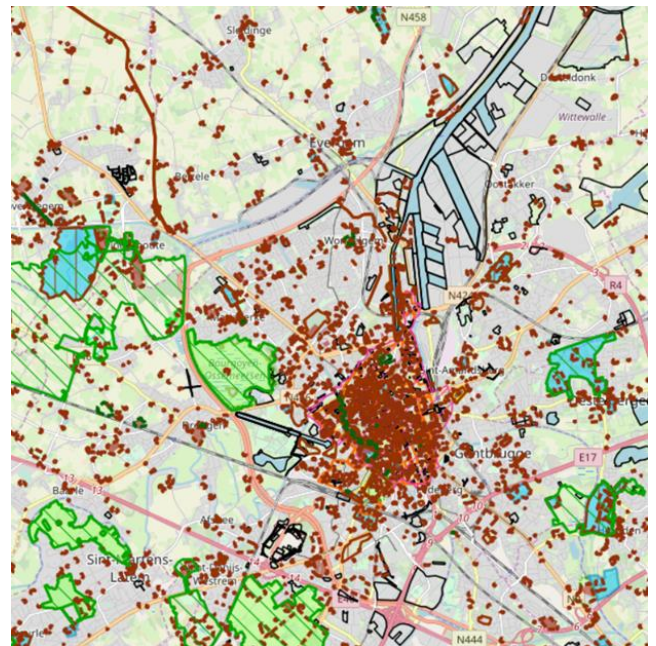
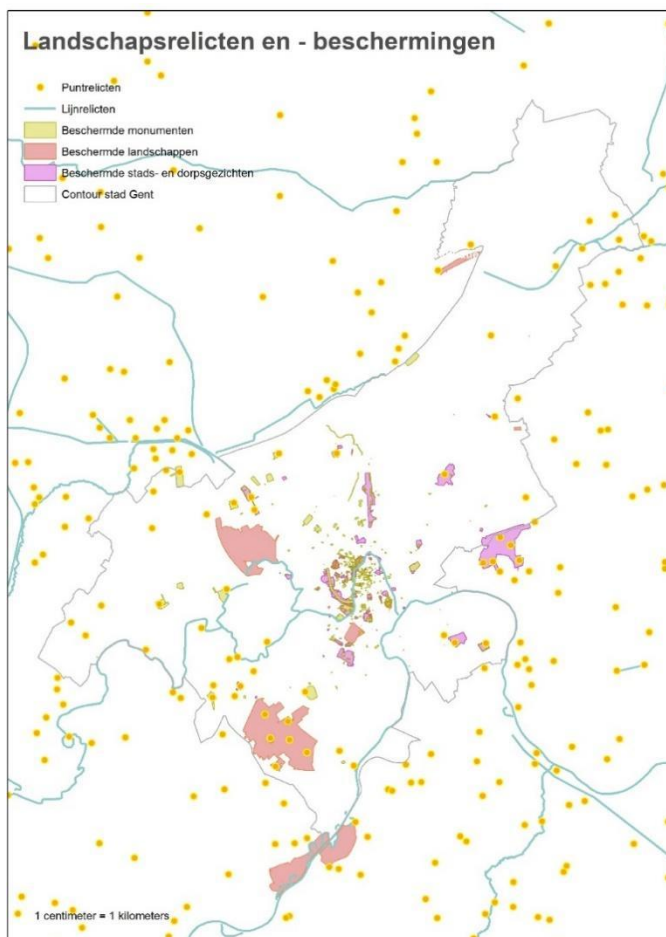


Figure 9. (a) Protected heritage in Ghent (line relics, protected monuments, protected landscapes, protected city views) (b) zoom city center

For more information: www.geo.onroerendergoed.be is the portal site for immovable heritage in Flanders. On the zoom in you find a complete list of the inventoried, adopted and protected heritage in Ghent, with a distinction between protected and purely protected. Not yet indicated on the site, but relevant for the peri-urban area: 'De Campagne and Leeuwenhof' in the Vinderhoutse Bossen.

3.3 Environment

Together with preservation and good management of the natural heritage and open space in general, a healthy environment is important for the liveability of the City of Ghent. This theme is also very closely linked to the **climate**, which is described in the next paragraph; and **natural heritage**, which is described in the previous paragraph.

More green open space Open space is crucial for a healthy city environment. The Green Structure Plan shows where we want parks, a natural environment, woodlands and open landscapes in Ghent. In the meantime Ghent has also adopted the ambition of becoming a climate-neutral city. The green aspect also plays a part here. The Green Structure Plan has been developed in 2012 and sets out a long-term vision up to 2030. It also included an action plan to be carried out over the coming six years (2012 to 2018). The Green Structure Plan is an important tool for developing a coherent network of green areas across Ghent.

Pollution – improve air quality The Flemish Land agency made a [report](#) with the results of the measurements in Ghent and the region around Ghent for air quality (in Dutch, yearly report 2018). Since 2012, the City of Ghent achieves the European standards for air pollution. Nevertheless, certain streets suffer a high CO₂ emission. Hence, better air quality in the city is an important goal. To reach this goal, a low emission zone for cars is for example implemented in the city center. Other topics related to pollution are **reduction of noise** (the aim to reduce nuisance and to create more silent places) and the **reduction and good management of garbage** (both from households and from industry).

3.4 Climate change

The City of Ghent developed a Climate Adaptation Plan 2016-2019 containing a climate adaptation strategy and action plan, with local measures for the adaptation of the urban environment to climate change. In doing so, the City of Ghent is working on the development of a climate-robust city, and contributing to the European objectives for the creation of a climate-resistant Europe (see [SEAP](#) and [climate adaptation plan](#)).

Challenge: we need sustainable and climate-robust spatial development

A climate-friendly city is organized in such a way that people only need to travel short distances. Renovating homes in a sustainable manner reduces the requirement for energy and thus the emission of CO₂. Green and water provide cooling. An open structure reduces the urban heat island effect. Open spaces catch water in case of heavy rainfall, and retain water to bridge periods of drought.

In a climate-friendly city, we go for energy reduction. The residual energy requirements are met by means of renewable energy. This is done at various levels: from micro (home/business) to meso (neighbourhood) all the way to macro (city).



Figure 10. Overview of the challenges and goals related to climate (01 Energy (e.g. more renewable energy) – 02 sustainable food production and consumption (e.g. more local food consumption) – 03 livability (e.g. countering urban heat island effect, drought and water surplus, less cars, good environmental quality) – 04 participation (e.g. public private climate council)– 05 innovation (e.g. clean industry, the City sets an example through its own behaviour)

Climate adaptation in Ghent takes place by focusing on:

- more green through green belts, parks, street and square trees, green roofs, green walls and facade gardens
- more space for water and green through clever exposure of waterways and canals, renovation of ditches, integration of floodable space, creating a truly green-blue network
- prevention of soil sealing, by limiting the hardening of the public domain and the building footprint
- maximization of the city's sponge effect, allowing water to infiltrate back into the soil
- cooling and shadow infrastructure on the public domain

4. Policy instrument "Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent"

The fourth part of this regional analysis report describes the policy instrument "**Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent**". The City of Ghent chose to review, improve and implement this particular policy instrument throughout the PROSPERA project. In accordance with the ambitions of PROSPERA, the focus lies on the protection and promotion of natural heritage by enhancing the sustainable development of peri-urban areas. More specifically, the City of Ghent will focus within

PROSPERA on policy instruments related to the **preservation and sustainable management of open space** in the (peri-urban) City of Ghent. This is one of the goals formulated in the vision “Space for Ghent”, but currently only limited instruments are available to assure the implementation of this goal. It will be specified throughout the PROSPERA process, which specific instrument will be developed/tested.

In the next paragraphs attention is given to what extent the selected policy instrument is currently responding to the challenges identified in the region, as described in part 2 and 3 of this report. Furthermore attention is given to the governmental context and the analysis has been then extended, taking also into consideration other policy instruments that are relevant for the PROSPERA themes.

Furthermore, a window of opportunity is identified to improve this particular policy instrument supported by the PROSPERA project.

4.1. General information

The City of Ghent focuses on the policy instrument “Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent” (Structuurvisie 2030 - Ruimte voor Gent - <https://stad.gent/en/city-policy/room-ghent>). This policy instrument has been developed at micro-level (the City of Ghent), more specifically by the Department of Spatial Planning. Given the broadness of the vision, many other departments are involved. Specifically for the policy instruments on open space that are the focus in PROSPERA, the following departments will be involved (subject to change according to specific instrument that will be developed/tested):

- Economic Department (theme agriculture)
- Department for Environment and Climate
- Green Department
- Department of Spatial planning
- Department of City Development (theme public land)

The policy instrument “Space for Ghent”, which is the framework within which we will develop new policy instruments related to open space, already exists. It has been approved in May 2018, with a framework of implementation until 2030. Several instruments related to the preservation of open space already exist (see 4.4). However, this seems to be insufficient. Therefore, the City of Ghent wants to investigate within PROSPERA which city level instruments related to the preservation of open space can be developed in order to assure the implementation of City’s vision. No official procedure has started yet to develop such new policy instruments. The City of Ghent did take initiatives related to this theme though. For example, the Open Call Afsnee (see description Good Practices Ghent) is a newly developed local policy instrument that allowed to assign a specific open space function (production of local food) to an area. Up till now, it has been implemented only once. The City currently also started developing a broader vision on the use of their publicly owned open space area. However, all of this is in a very premature state. The aim is to develop this type of initiatives further within PROSPERA. No deadline has been fixed for this yet. The overall goal for implementation of “Space for Ghent” is 2030, with further ambitions towards 2050.

Another relevant research that has been performed in preparation of the policy instrument “Space for Ghent” is an inventory of the non-agricultural use of agricultural zones (demarcated according to the spatial zoning plans). The figure below (Fig. 11) shows that a significant area dedicated for agricultural activities is used for other functions such as non-agricultural economic activities, pasture

for hobby-related animals such as horses and sheep, and gardens. The question arises to what extent these functions fit into the goals for open space preservation and management formulated in “Space for Ghent” and in what way they can be steered in order to fit maximally into these goals.

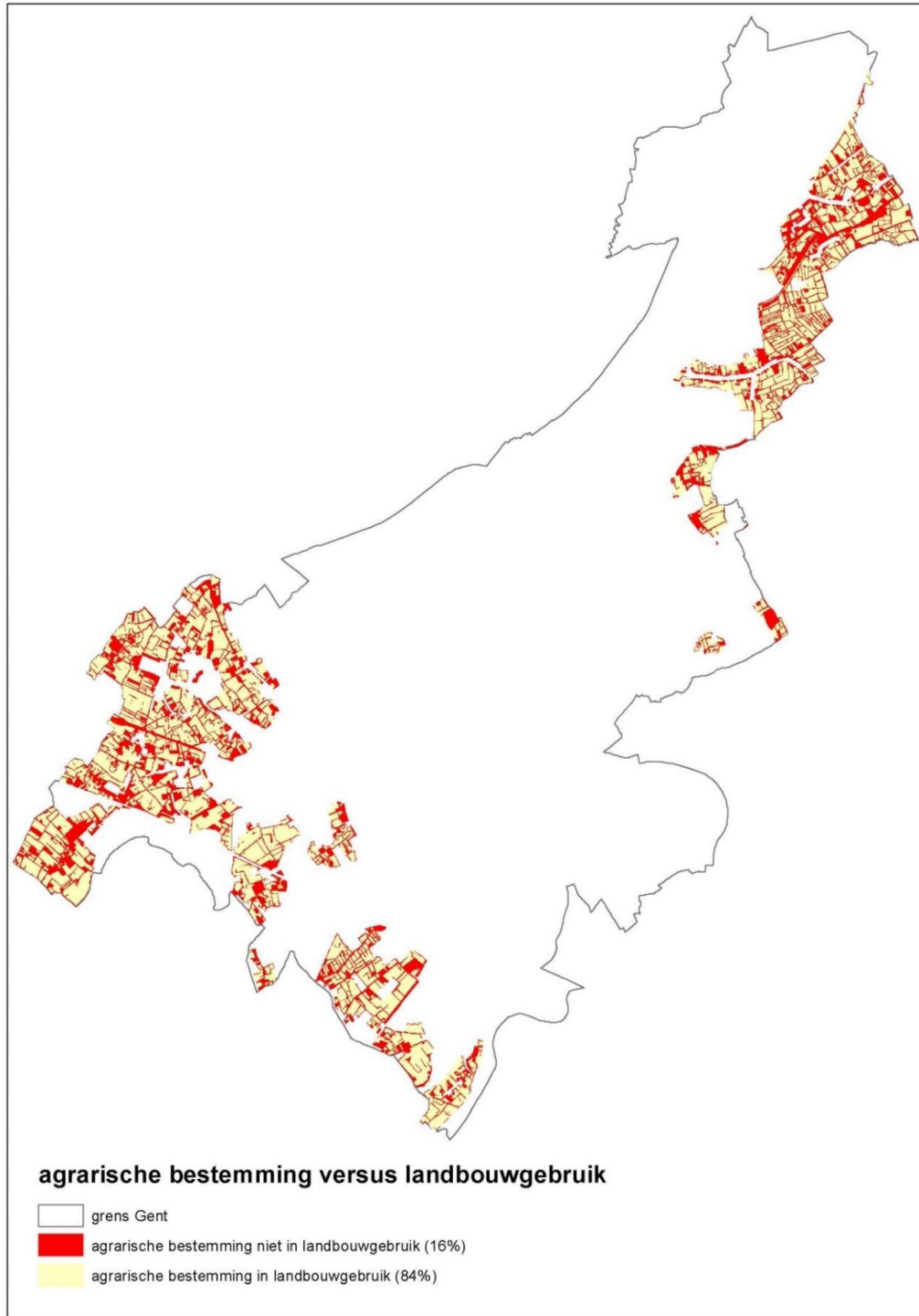


Figure 11. Agricultural use compared to agricultural zones in spatial zoning plan (yellow = agricultural zone used for agricultural activity; red = agricultural zone used for non-agricultural activities)
(Source: Visie op landbouw in de stedelijke omgeving van Gent, 2015)

4.2. Governmental context of policy instrument “Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent”

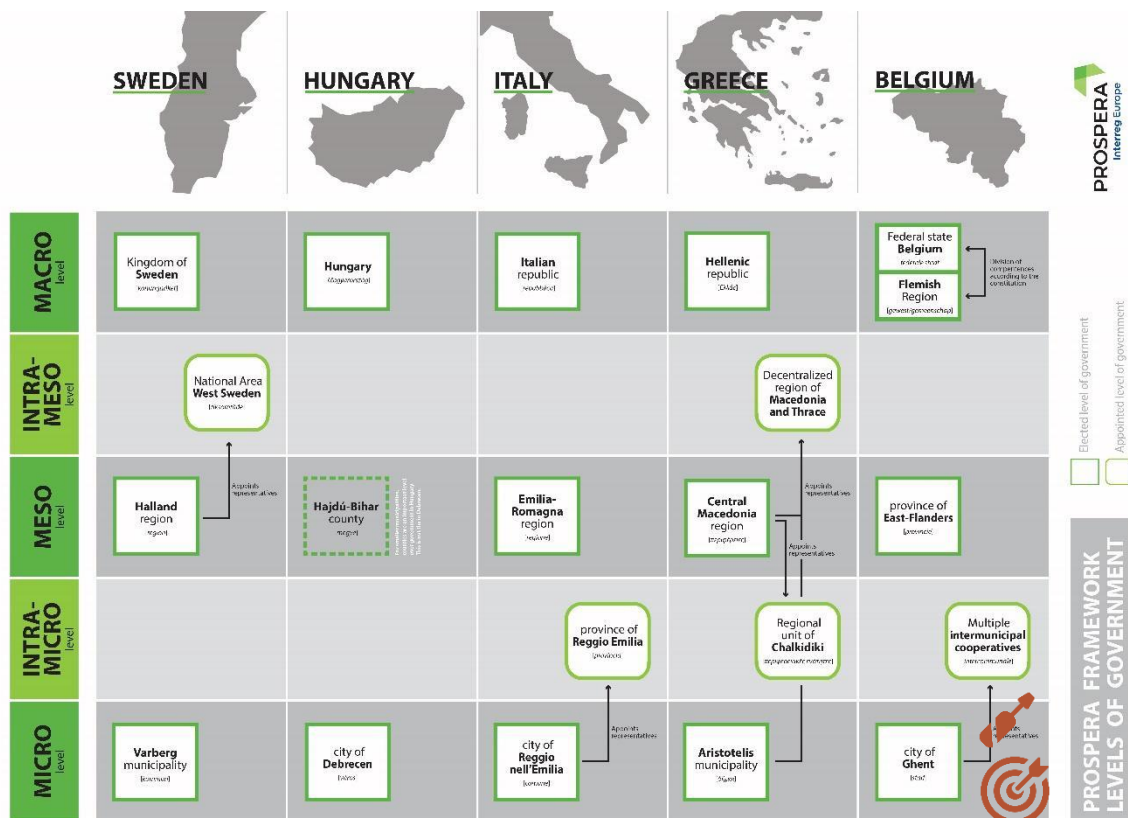


The policy instrument that we focus on is on the decision making level of the MICRO level, i.e. the City of Ghent. The financial resources will also mainly come from the MICRO level, even though ideally these will be complemented with means from other levels.



The instrument will focus on the peri-urban areas within the boundaries of the City of Ghent (=MICRO level). More specifically, the focus will be on open space within this peri-urban area (including all non-built areas such as agriculture, forest and other nature, water bodies, gardens, etc). Given the link with open space of neighbouring municipalities, the policy instrument will also be relevant for a broader area. For example the area “Kouter-Leieland”, one of the open space areas in the peri-urban area of Ghent, crosses municipal borders. In the strategic project for this area, cooperation with the neighbouring municipalities is desirable. It will be investigated whether this INTRA-MICRO level can already be included from the beginning or rather in a next step.

This means the core of the instrument is both for decision making and implementation at the MICRO level, with the City of Ghent. The central idea is to investigate which instruments a local government such as a city can use to reach objectives related to preservation and management of open space. Currently available instruments for this goal are usually at MACRO level or EU level.



4.3. The challenges addressed by policy instrument “Spatial Structural Vision 2030 – Space for Ghent”

The central themes that we will focus on for the policy instrument are the same as the ones we want to focus on within PROSPERA: food production, natural heritage, climate change and environment. All other themes (population, built environment, mobility, economy, cultural heritage and tourism) are also addressed, but to a lesser extent.

Theme 1 ‘Food production’ – the PROSPERA policy instrument address the following challenges:

Ghent is growing and must continue to address the needs of its people: affordable housing in a pleasant area with enough green, options for relaxation, employment, accessibility and open spaces for agriculture and nature development.

Given the high pressure on open space in Ghent, it is a challenge to develop policy instruments that allow to preserve open space and steer its management in the desired direction. For example, sustainable local food production is a key issue in the local food strategy of Ghent. In order to provide sustainable local food, preservation of local farmland is crucial.

Theme 2 ‘Natural heritage’ – the PROSPERA policy instrument address the following challenges:

Providing enough green, both for biodiversity, recreation and its contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation, is another key goal for the City of Ghent. This also implies policy instruments that allow to preserve, develop and manage green open spaces in a sustainable way.

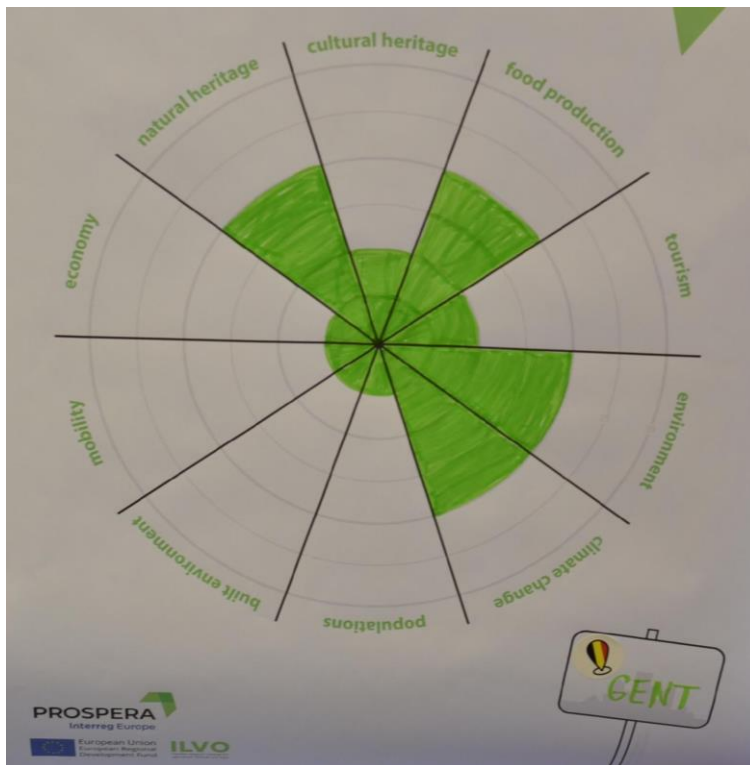
Theme 3 ‘Climate change’ – the PROSPERA policy instrument address the following challenges:

Space for Ghent – 2030 Structural vision describes the way in which we wish to live, work, relax, get around, and prepare the city for climate change. The preservation and suitable management of open space is a crucial asset for dealing with climate change. Open space contributes to tempering the heat island effect in cities, provides space for storing excess water and allows infiltration of water to replenish the groundwater table. It also contributes to carbon storage (e.g. in trees, crops, soil).

The City of Ghent aims for agricultural activities to have as little as possible negative impact on the climate. Hence the focus on local food and sustainable agricultural practices (see also Theme Food Production).

Theme 4 ‘Environment’ – the PROSPERA policy instrument address the following challenges:

The theme environment is to a large extent linked to the above topics of natural heritage and climate change. It also covers the challenge of assuring sustainable agricultural activities.



Picture 3 -- The focus of the selected policy instrument of the City of Ghent

Worldwide, a loss of open space is encountered. Spatial planning is the main policy instrument used to preserve open space. Indeed, this can to a certain extent assure the preservation of open space. However, this instrument alone is not sufficient to prevent conversion of open space to residential areas, industrial zones, roads, etc. Therefore, scholars, public authorities, NGO's and citizens are searching for governance mechanisms to support preservation of open space.

Within PROSPERA, we want to investigate which levers a city can use to assure preservation of open space. Such instruments are innovative, and certainly at the level of a city.

4.4. Related local policy instruments

Existing policy instruments related to natural heritage

* **Spatial planning** with spatial structure plans (ruimtelijke structuurplannen), spatial implementation plans (ruimtelijke uitvoeringsplannen) and urban planning regulation (stedenbouwkundige verordeningen) at different levels (MACRO, MESO and MICRO).

Zoning plans (gewestplannen) and spatial implementation plans assign a specific function to specific areas. By assigning open space functions such as nature, forest and agriculture to specific areas, they are able to protect open space from built-up development. In addition urban planning regulation can for example restrict the different functions that existing agricultural buildings can obtain.

However, in practice this is not sufficient. The plans can be adapted to allow more built-up area, other functions are scattered into the open space, farmland prices are very high due to the many other options for use of agricultural buildings and farmland, ...

* **Nature policy** also protects natural heritage. Such policy exists at different levels:

- EU policy such as Natura 2000 Directive

- MACRO Flemish nature policy (including rules that protect existing forest and other nature, but also funds to stimulate the development of new forest and nature, for example “forest compensation fund” (boscompensatiefonds) which states that when you get permission to deforest a piece of land you either have to afforest another piece of land or contribute to the forest compensation fund in order to support afforestation; nature organisations can also get subsidies for buying land for nature development)

* **agri-environmental schemes** (beheerovereenkomsten - BO) (EU policy translated to MACRO level – similar, complementary subsidies are sometimes provided at MESO and MICRO level): these schemes a.o. provide subsidies to stimulate planting and maintenance of small scale landscape elements ([BO kleine landschapselementen](#)). This contributes to the sustainable development and management of open spaces.

* **“Regionale landschappen”** (regional landscape organisations): these INTRA MICRO LEVEL organisations have been founded by the government to stimulate a sustainable development of the open space in a specific region. At first, this was focused on the most valuable landscapes in Flanders. Later, this was broadened to all areas outside the cities. This means no such organisation is active in the City of Ghent. It might be interesting to learn from their approach in contacting all stakeholders related to open space.

* **Land re-allotment/Land improvement systems** (Landinrichting) MACRO level – This implementation oriented instrument allows to reorganise a specific area in order to better meet goals related to nature development, agricultural activities, mobility, recreation, etc. This is a very important instrument to develop and steer the use of open spaces. However, a land re-allotment process takes a lot of time, is very expensive and is steered at the MACRO level. As such, it is currently not within reach for cities to implement themselves. Nevertheless, cities are involved when such projects are implemented on their territory, so in cooperation with the MACRO level, it is still an important instrument.

* **Green Structure Plan** (Groenstructuurplan) MICRO level – Similar to other “structure plans” that set out the vision for spatial planning, the Green Structure Plan sets out the City of Ghent’s goals for nature and green in Ghent. It combines a long term vision on the green structure in Ghent (e.g. different levels of green, from small parks near everyone’s house up to larger nature parks) and short term actions (e.g. planting new forest, stimulating citizens to create green walls and facade gardens for their house).

Existing policy instruments related to food production

* **Spatial planning** – see above. This also impacts the preservation of land for agricultural activities.

* **Agricultural policy** at different levels. Many policies exist with impact at agricultural activities, but not all of them are relevant for the instrument we will develop within PROSPERA (e.g. related to nitrates, pesticides, ...)

- EU level: common agricultural policy (CAP)
- MACRO – **Flemish agricultural policy** (Vlaams landbouwbeleid) Flemish government's implementation of CAP: the subsidies provided by CAP have a major impact on the income of farmers. The greening measures try to stimulate farmers towards sustainable agricultural activities.
- MICRO – **local food strategy of the City of Ghent** – Within this strategy five goals are formulated: 1) A shorter, more visible food chain; 2) Sustainable food production & consumption; 3) A higher social value concerning the food initiatives; 4) To push back food waste; 5) To optimally re-use food waste as a resource (see description Good Practices Ghent)

In order to stimulate local food production, preservation of farmland is a key issue. Access to land is named as one of the most important difficulties that farmers face. This holds both for existing farmers and for people who want to start a new farming initiative.

* **Leasehold act** (pachtwetgeving) – MACRO level (Flemish government)

This policy determines the rules for lease of farmland. It has been developed to protect farmers who lease land (e.g. minimum term of lease, maximum lease prices, compensation when lease is ended before end of term, freedom of crop choice for leasing farmer). On average, 70% of farmland is leased in Flanders, compared to 30% of owned farmland. Hence, the Leasehold Act has a large impact on the access to land for farmers and the opportunities to steer the use of open space. Cities have to comply with this law and cannot change it. Proposals for adaptation can be formulated and communicated to the responsible policy levels.

Existing policy instruments related to environment

Policy linked to environment and open space is mainly related to decreasing the negative impact of agriculture. This is organised at MACRO level (see above under Food production):

- EU Nitrates Directive – translated at MACRO level in **Flemish manure action plan** (MAP6)
- rules on market access and use of **pesticides** (EU translated to MACRO level)
- **agri-environmental schemes** (beheerovereenkomsten) – see above: some of these schemes aim at reducing the environmental impact of agriculture e.g. the scheme for improving water quality in specific vulnerable areas (BO [Waterkwaliteit](#))

Existing policy instruments related to climate change

* **Climate policy Ghent** (Klimaatplan Gent) MICRO level – 2014-2019, currently being renewed for 2020-2025

This policy aims at reducing the amount of CO² produced in the City of Ghent with a broad range of measures. Related to PROSPERA, the Local Food Strategy of Ghent is the most relevant measure (see above and description in Good Practices Ghent). However, currently, the local food policy only has limited links with strategies to preserve open space. The Open Call Afsnee is one example of how this link can be created (see description Good Practices Ghent).

4.5. The PROSPERA window of opportunity

For Ghent, we see a window of opportunity in the local approach of the project. The policy instrument “Structure vision 2030 – Space for Ghent” is both developed and implemented at MICRO level, within the City of Ghent. Given this “fit”, we do not depend on higher government levels for the development and implementation of this policy instrument. Moreover, the challenges that are addressed by the policy instrument “Structure vision 2030 – Space for Ghent” are in line with the themes and challenges in the peri-urban of Gent that we want to focus on within PROSPERA. The central idea is to investigate which instruments a local government such as a city can use to reach objectives related to preservation and management of open space. PROSPERA creates the opportunity to freely develop and test ideas on this topic at city level.

However, currently available instruments for preservation and management of open space are usually at MACRO level or EU level. Moreover, other legislation – not always directly focussed on open space – also defines the framework within which new instruments and actions can be developed. Hence, the city of Ghent is not entirely free to develop and implement policy instruments at MICRO level. By focussing on the city level (e.g. farmland owned by local public authorities; cooperation with local private stakeholders), we will try to make a difference within the edges of our possibilities. Moreover, we will involve higher policy levels (provinces, Flanders) within the PROSPERA project in order to align our actions with their goals. The other way around, we hope actions at the city level will also inspire higher policy levels.

5. The Good Practices of the City of Ghent

5.1 Open call Afsnee

PART ONE - Characterize the selected Good Practice

What - Short summary of the practice

Open call for a city-oriented agricultural project on land from the city with social employment

We seized an opportunity:

- **The leasehold contract for about 10 hectares of fertile agricultural land in Afsnee ended**



- **Cooperation between OCMW (social welfare department) and city of Ghent to realize public benefits in the field of social welfare and other objectives of the City and OCMW**
- **⇒ OPEN CALL: looking for partners with a suitable project to close a contract for the free use of the agricultural plot for a period of 9 years (2x extendable for 9 year)**

RESULT: The project that was rewarded was the proposal of „Farmerscollective”: Collective of 2 organic farmers, 1 traditional dairy farm, social organisations *vzw De Moester* and *Los Companeros*, the agricultural school, nature organisation *Natuurpunt*, scouts;

agro-ecological model with the start of an economic viable CSA-company De Goedinge, that grows vegetables and sells them directly to customers in Ghent (through CSA approach or vegetable boxes) and local restaurants. They also grow flowers for direct picking by customers or „flower buckets” + lots of attention for education and social employment at the farm

The dairy farmer also uses part of the land, he lends out his machinery, he edges his farming land with natural flowers, he uses the clover of De Goedinge for the cows, De goedinge can use the manure of the cows on their land,

Which PROSPERA leverages are core of this GOOD PRACTICE? : (1) **From smart to wise governance** – (2) **Eco-Lo(gi)cal Value Chains** – (3) **Sustainable Public-Private Partnership**

Why - Origin and aim of the practice

We want space for local sustainable food production, but...

- Access to land for farmers is difficult
- Large demand for space in the edge of the city
- Agricultural policy is managed on a European level
- OCMW Gent is an important land owner, including agricultural land. On many of these plots rests a leasehold contract for a long time and you cannot steer towards sustainability in terms of operational management

⇒

- By facilitating the short food supply and local smallholders we decrease the impact of the Ghent food system on climate
- The project is a learning curve for the city : what role can we play to realize further upscaling of the short- range supply and sales ?
- Educate socially vulnerable people within an agricultural project

Where is the practices implemented

Afsnee, a peri-urban part of Ghent at 6 km of the city centre

When – duration op the practice

Open call is launched in 2017

The contract between the city and the farmers was closed in 2018 for a first period of 9 years

Who is involved in the coordination and the implementation

The city of Ghent (environment and climate service, city planning, service of greenery, economic service, reals estate service, ocmw, SoGent);

How – What are the resources (staff – costs)

Staff: 1 coördinator + available land

PART TWO - Evaluate the selected Good Practice

Evidence of success (result achieved)

The contract between the city and the farmers was closed in 2018 for a first period of 9 years.

Which are the **core** elements /**key** elements of succes?

availability of farming land

The application period should be longer on a subsequent open call

period of the contract should be long enough (9 years is an absolute minimum)

The combination between farming and social employment is not easy it takes a firm engagement and a lot of work

Potential for **learning** or transfer (already some communication material available?)

As this is a learning project both for the city and the farmers, we have an evaluation meeting once a year

The first meeting was in February 2019.

Challenges encountered (optional)

If other calls for city-oriented agricultural project on land from the city would be launched it is better to take into account when the planting season starts for a farmer, this is particularly important for a starting farmer.

The main issue still is the duration of the contract

Farmers propose now a switch of land between them, they use the land in another way than was initially foreseen and they prefer that this switch is formalised. This takes both time and money from the city.

In case a similar project would be launched for another area, a challenge will be how to deal with the conflict of land use between the existing farmers who use this farmland (or would use if this project is not being implemented) and the new farmers who are allowed to use this land thanks to the open call. In the current project, the leasehold contract for the 10 ha of farmland ended, so the land was free to be used by other farmers. However, the traditional farmers in the neighbourhood had been expecting they would be able to use this land (farmers tend to have a complex system of who is entitled to use a piece of land and this action of the City of Ghent disturbed the farmers' agreements). More general, the challenge is how to transcend the opposition between different farming models in a way they enforce each other.

Further information on this Good Practice <https://www.goedinge.be/>

5.2 Ghent Food Strategy

PART ONE - Characterize the selected Good Practice

What - Short summary of the practice

With its own food strategy 'Ghent en Garde' Ghent strives for tasty, local and sustainable food. The Belgian city joins its forces to turn Ghent into a climate neutral city.

5 OBJECTIVES:

- A shorter, more visible food chain
- Sustainable food production & consumption
- A higher social value concerning the food initiatives
- To push back food waste
- To optimally re-use food waste as a resource

Organisation:

Food policy council

Actions

- **THURSDAY VEGGIE DAY:** eat vegetarian food once a week! Ghent: the veggie capital of Europe
- **LEFTOVER BOX:** a doggy bag for leftovers in restaurants
- Guidance for the local vegetable gardens & school kitchen gardens
- Bringing the tasty, local products directly from producer to consumer
- **'MOESTDAZO?'** First aid for Ghent cultivation: a rescue line for all questions concerning vegetable gardens
- Recover & socially redistribute food surpluses

Ghent's urban food policy, Ghent en Garde, has been honoured with the United Nations Global Climate Action Awards 2019, in the category planetary health

Which PROSPERA leverages are core of this GOOD PRACTICE? : **(1) From smart to wise governance** – (2) Eco-Lo(gi)cal Value Chains – (3) Sustainable Public-Private Partnership

Why - Origin and aim of the practice

The current food system is facing several complex challenges. 80% of the world's poor are rural, many of them working in the food sector; 800 million people worldwide are hungry while an estimated 30% of food is wasted. 2 billion people are overweight or obese with dietary patterns having a heavy impact on our food's footprint. Crops and livestock account for 70% of all water withdrawals and food systems use 30% of global energy resources. Our food system is a major contributor to climate change, including the impact on the oceans' biodiversity with 29% of commercially important assessed marine fish stocks being overfished and 61% being fully fished. Equally a third of land is degraded with up to 75% of crop diversity being lost. Cities become increasingly important in making sure their population has secure access to sustainable, healthy and affordable food. The population in cities is booming with already 54 percent of the world's population living in urban areas, expected to increase to 66 percent by 2050.

Where is the practice implemented

Ghent

When – duration of the practice

Started in 2013

Who is involved in the coordination and the implementation

Food policy council

1 coordinator within the city administration

PART TWO - Evaluate the selected Good Practice

Evidence of success (result achieved)

Ghent en Garde has brought significant change to the local food system. Through participative governance models, including a food policy council, Ghent's food policy has moved from launching smallscale initiatives to bringing structural change to the food system. It is decreasing food waste, making food procurement more sustainable, scaling up short food supply chains and improving access to food.

Our food council brings together 30 stakeholders from the food system, bringing together different agricultural and food industry sectors, as well as innovative, small-scale actors and civil society. Together they form a participative governance body for our policy work.

Ghent en Garde has strong communication tools. Its online platform has already reached 53000 individuals and serves as an online meeting point on sustainable food. The map on the platform lists over a 1000 local initiatives. The Facebook group has 2241 members that actively interact through the group. Networking on short food supply chains annually brings together over 50 farmers, retailers, caterers, researchers and policy makers. Since 2014 over 42 school gardens have received coaching and 13 workshops have been organized for parents, teachers and directors. This amounts up to 240 participants. In the same period 25 community gardens equally received coaching. 11 community garden cafes took place and united 250 participants. Thursday Veggie Day has had significant impact. 7% of the citizens are vegetarian. 28% of the people who once participated, have become vegetarian. We organized 110 workshops on Thursday Veggie Day in schools between 2012 and 2016. Additionally, 81 workshops have been organized for vulnerable groups of society, reaching 918 participants. Through our sustainable school meals we reach 4500 students and serve 775,883 meals annually. Our educational campaign on sustainable food targeted many schools, children and parents. 43 schools were decorated with a campaign on sustainable food. Educational materials were distributed to 5667 children and 2572 teachers. Foodsavers has had significant impact. After 2 years of operation, 40,000 people in need received products or food baskets. Those were distributed through 106 local poverty organizations and social restaurants based in Ghent.

Which are the **core** elements /**key** elements of success?

Key in our success has been flexibility in our approach. Every initiative is being evaluated on a regular basis and modified when relevant. For example, our coaching program for school and community gardens has been renewed along the years but the specifics have been modified based on large-scale interviews of all beneficiaries. Similarly our governance model is open for discussion. Through master class sessions and webinars, we exchange a lot with other cities and have critical evaluations of our own model. Our food council has invested a lot of time in developing clearer roles and strengthening its mandate by requiring budget authority. We consider everything we do as work in progress. Everything is subject to improvement. That is why we keep listening to other cities and stakeholders.

Further information on this Good Practice (URL) : <https://stad.gent/en/city-structure/food-strategy-ghent-gent-en-garde> (in English) & <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/planetary-health/ghent-en-garde>

5.3 Gentbrugse Meersen

PART ONE - Characterize the selected Good Practice

What - Short summary of the practice

Gentbrugse Meersen, a green area in the peri-urban zone in the east of Ghent, combines nature development and recreation with agriculture.

The City of Ghent has an agreement with two farmers to let cows graze in this area for nature management goals. The cows are from an organic farm (De Zwaluw), located in the countryside on the western side of Ghent. The farmers from the local CSA farm (Oogstgoed – community supported agriculture), located next to the Gentbrugse meersen, take care of the cows while grazing in the Gentbrugse Meersen. The farmers also provide education about this initiative.

People can hike in the area, also in between the cows, which results in an added value from recreational point of view.

Which PROSPERA leverages are core of this GOOD PRACTICE? : (1) From smart to wise governance – (2) Eco-Lo(gi)cal Value Chains – (3) Sustainable Public-Private Partnership



Why - Origin and aim of the practice

In the Gentbrugse meersen, the city of Ghent aims to create a diverse nature zone. It consists of wet grasslands, but also of existing and newly created forests. These newly created forests are developing spontaneously out of former arable land and intensive grasslands. After a few years of doing nothing in these zones (apart from mowing extensively), cows were brought into the area, as their grazing behaviour contributes to the creation of a structurally diverse area. This practice is based on ancient farming methods in forests in Flanders and is now being tested in the area for 4 years (with a possibility of prolongation for 2 more years), in order to determine whether this practice contributes to achieving the desired goal, i.e. creating structurally diverse forests and enhancing the biodiversity by providing different types of microhabitats for plants and animals.

The cows are also being used to maintain one zone of wet grassland: after June 15, this zone is mowed once, and afterwards cows can graze here until November 15.

When launching the call, more than 10 farmers from around the city were found willing to participate in the management of this area, hence the agreement between the City and the farmers for cooperation.

Where is the practices implemented

Gent

Gentbrugse Meersen is a nature development area in the peri-urban fringe of Gent. The current total area is 270 ha (still expanding). The cows are grazing in two parts of the area. The southern area (in between Koningsdonkstraat and the river Schelde) is 35 hectare. The central area consists of 15 hectare in between the highway E17 and Rietgracht.



When – duration of the practice

This grazing project started in 2017. It is now being tested in the area for 4 years (with a possibility of prolongation for 2 more years).

The southern part is managed through seasonal grazing with cows. The animals stay here from May 15 until November 15.

The central part is subjected to hay meadow management. It is mowed once after June 15. Afterwards cows graze on this grassland until November 15.

Who is involved in the coordination and the implementation

City of Ghent

Farmers of the organic farm (De Zwaluw) and the CSA farm Oogstgoed, that lies within the Gentbrugse Meersen.

How – What are the resources (staff – costs)

Resources consists 100% out of staff: 1 person was responsible for writing the call and selecting the farmers, and does the follow up. The farmers are not being paid for their work. It is a win-win situation: young cows (1 to 2 years old) can graze in the area for almost an entire year, which saves them the cost of having to buy hay for their animals. In return the city doesn't have to manage these parts of the nature area, which saves them staff.

Apart from the grazing project, the development of the Gentbrugse Meersen area of course needed more resources. The land is mainly owned by the City of Ghent. For part of the area, the City cooperates with Natuurpunt, a nature organisation, who also owns a part of the land and still expands by buying new land. Moreover, staff resources and budget have been spent to develop this area (e.g. walking and biking roads, play garden, afforestation of specific parts, ...).

PART TWO - Evaluate the selected Good Practice

Evidence of success (result achieved)

A large nature area has been developed (and is still expanding). In search of extensive management methods while trying to achieve the desired nature goals, a cooperation with farmers has been started. Up to now, the project seems to be going well. The practice is being evaluated regularly to see whether the goals are achieved.

Which are the **core** elements /**key** elements of succes?

Through cooperating with local farmers, the city hopes to achieve its nature management goals with a minimum of overhead costs. The farmer that owns the cows is happy to be able to use a large area to let its young cows graze. The other farmer, the CSA, is happy to have some locally produced meat every year to sell to his customers.

Potential for **learning** or transfer (already some communication material available?)

The development of such an extended green area in the peri-urban area of Ghent is a success in itself. The positive cooperation with farmers for the nature management contributes to the ecological, recreational and educational value. Moreover, it increases the support of the agricultural community for nature development in the peri-urban area.

At this moment, the City of Ghent is making up the integrated nature management plan for the Gentbrugse Meersen. In this case the nature development in the area will be studied and the used grazing method will be evaluated and if necessary adjusted for future cooperation with farmers.

Challenges encountered (optional)

Regulations (nitrate directive and agricultural legislation vs nature legislation): the many rules make it hard to put in place this type of initiative.

Citizen concerns about the welfare of the cows (because they don't have a stable nearby) + the presence of loose dogs in the area

Further information on this Good Practice (URL) :

<https://stad.gent/nl/gentbrugse-meersen>

<https://www.natuurpunt.be/natuurgebied/gentbrugse-meersen>

5.4 Green climate axes

PART ONE - Characterize the selected Good Practice

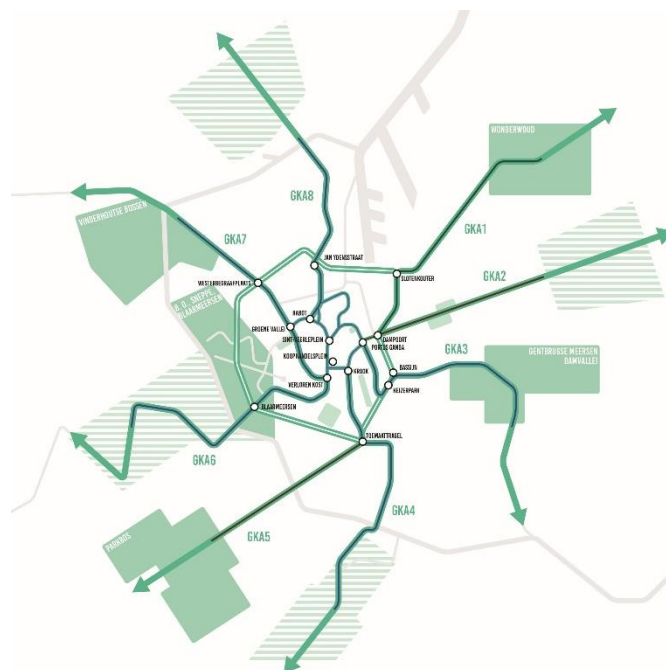
What - Short summary of the practice

Development of 8 „green climate axes” between the city centre and its peri-urban area

In Space for Ghent 2030, the spatial structure plan of Ghent, one of the goals is to develop 8 green climate axes that bring green and nature in the city centre, within reach for the citizens. These green climate axes also contribute to the climate adaptivity of the city. Moreover, they can be combined with soft mobility axes, stimulating people to come to the city by bike or by foot.



Which PROSPERA leverages are core of this GOOD PRACTICE? : **(1) From smart to wise governance** – **(2) Eco-Lo(gi)cal Value Chains** – (3) Sustainable Public-Private Partnership



When – duration of the practice

The development of the green climate axes is ongoing. Some of the green climate axes are planned in specific land use plans, parts of other axes are already realized on the field through specific green development and management projects or as an addition to infrastructural projects. Some of the green climate axes are visible today, such as GKA3 and GKA5. Some green climate axes, however, remain a real challenge. For GKA1, GKA2 and GKA8, the search for a qualitative trajectory is still open... GKA7, on the other hand, runs through a very built-up area.

Who is involved in the coordination and the implementation

City of Ghent – Department Parks and Public Gardens in cooperation with other City Departments

Given the City's idea that spatial planning is best done for and with all residents and users of the city, this is how the structural vision Space for Ghent arose; it was co-created with a broad range of target groups. Schools, businesses, residents, ... helped develop a shared vision for a high-quality residential, professional, and living climate in Ghent.

PART TWO - Evaluate the selected Good Practice

Evidence of success (result achieved)

Two of the green climate axes (GKA3 and GKA5) have been developed.

Further information on this Good Practice (URL) :

The first minute of this video about the [Green climate axes](#). gives a good idea of the goal of the green climate axes and a glimpse of what they look like.

<https://stad.gent/nl/over-gent-en-het-stadsbestuur/stadsbestuur/wat-doet-het-bestuur/beleidsnotas-2014-2019/beleidsplannen-milieu-groen-en-klimaat/klimaatverandering-gent-past-zich-aan> (check the movie about climate adaptation of Ghent)