

OPEN voor
BUSINESS

SPEED UP City of Antwerp

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Florence, May 12th 2016**



CITY OF ANTWERP

- ✓ **Population:** 513.000
- ✓ **Active enterprises:** 40.000
- ✓ **Unemployment rate:** 16,1 %
- ✓ **Europe's second largest port**
- ✓ **Investor opportunities**
 - Largest city in Flanders
 - Traffic & trade hub
 - Innovative, creative
 - Skilled workforce
 - Low cost of living

Region of **FLANDERS** (2014)

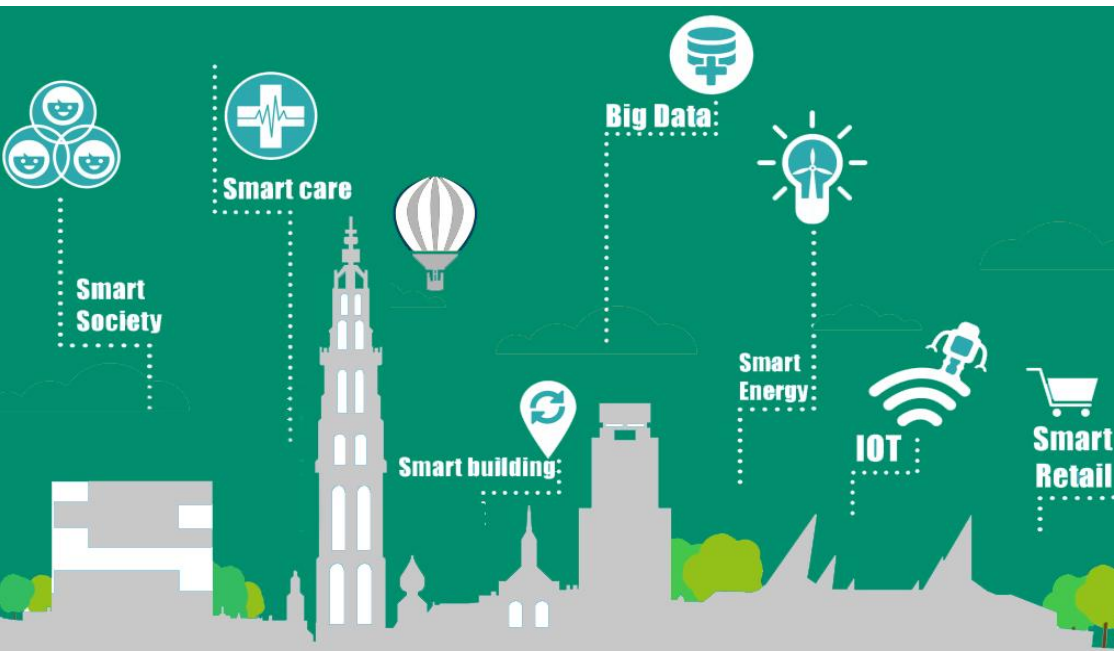
- ✓ **Population:** 6.4 million
- ✓ **Active enterprises:** 498.000
- ✓ **Unemployment rate:** 7,3 %



CITY OF...

...TRADITION

- ✓ Chemical industry
- ✓ Creative industry
- ✓ Diamond
- ✓ Retail
- ✓ Logistics
- ✓ Business services



...INNOVATION

- ✓ Digital & circular economy
- ✓ 'Smart City'
- ✓ Open data, open platforms
- ✓ Lean & Agile Government
- ✓ OASC member
- ✓ Local Policy Leadership Award from Startup Nations

INCUBATION ACTIVITIES

FOUR STAGES

1. STIMULATING ENTREPRENEURSHIP
2. INCUBATION & ACCELERATION
3. 'BUY FROM STARTUPS'
4. GROWTH & INTERNATIONALIZATION

1. STIMULATING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ✓ Student entrepreneurs
- ✓ Startup talks, guidance & referral

2. INCUBATION & ACCELERATION

- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding business partners
 - Startit@KBC
 - Telenet Kickstart
 - Idealabs
 - iMinds/imec (iStart)
 - University of Antwerp
- ✓ Supporting incubators/accelerators
- ✓ Own incubation activities
 - BlueHealth Antwerp
 - BlueChem

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3. 'BUY FROM STARTUPS'

- ✓ Pre-commercial Procurement: innovative procuring procedures
- ✓ Select 4 Cities: € 5.65 mio EUR to develop Internet-of-Everything platform
- ✓ Apps from Antwerp: developers & inhabitants co-create

4. GROWTH & INTERNATIONALIZATION

- ✓ StartupVillage: city-provided growth space
- ✓ Tech Missions
- ✓ Masterclasses

BUSINESS INCUBATORS

Partners: STARTIT@KBC, TELENET KICKSTART, iSTART

- ✓ Pre-incubation, acceleration, growth
- ✓ All sectors (Startit@KBC) or digital tech
- ✓ Co-working/private space, mentoring, fiscal advice, investing

Cronos GROEP – ‘THE COFOUNDRY’

- ✓ IT-Incubator
- ✓ 200+ enterprises founded

BLUEHEALTH

- ✓ Partnership: City of Antwerp, UA, UZA, Cronos, Agfa Healthcare
- ✓ E-Health incubator

LOGIN

- ✓ Logistics incubator

POLICY INSTRUMENT

ERDF OPERATIONAL PROGRAM 2014-2020 FLANDERS

1. Support knowledge economy
2. **Increase competitiveness of SMEs**
3. Transition to a low-carbon economy
4. Improve sustainable urban development

Specific objective 2.1.2 FLANDERS OP:

“Promoting a business-friendly environment through better government policy and provision of services at local and provincial level in response to the needs of businesses”

Objective = facilitate entrepreneurship through concrete actions:

- ✓ Facilitate new businesses in search for an ideal location
- ✓ Provide city managed locations when necessary
- ✓ Facilitate e-business through open data and open platforms
- ✓ Pre-commercial procurement trajectories
- ✓ Be a beta city where new business ideas can be tested freely

In line with ERDF Thematic Objective 3:

“Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)”

POLICY INSTRUMENT

STAKEHOLDERS

- ✓ Local city government
- ✓ Citizens
- ✓ iMinds – Flemish research & business development institute
- ✓ Startit@KBC – largest incubator
- ✓ Telenet Kickstart powered by Idealabs – ‘oldest’ incubator
- ✓ Enterprise Flanders

ROLE & EXPECTED RESULTS

- ✓ Contribute to interregional exchange
- ✓ Benchmark experiences against international peers
- ✓ Identify & analyze good practices
- ✓ Improve services based on good practices
- ✓ Network opportunities

Thank you,

Joris Moorthamers

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