

# FLANDERS



## REGIONAL DATA

Country	Belgium
NUTS Level	Level 1
Total Area in km <sup>2</sup> (2015)	13522
Population (Census Data 2019 <sup>**</sup> )	6.589.000
Ratio on Total Country population (%)	57,50
Population Density (Persons/Km <sup>2</sup> ; 2019 <sup>**</sup> )	487

<sup>\*</sup>Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques

<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: Flemish Land Agency

## PROJECT PARTNER

Flemish Land Agency,  
Flanders



## Regional Background

Flanders is a densely populated and very highly urbanized region. Daily, there is an increase of 6 ha urbanized area, for the moment a total of 32,5%. Flanders is facing a fragmented land use, 14% soil sealing and a high percentage of roads - 4,2km/km<sup>2</sup>. All these factors lead to further problems like a lack of water retention, loss of biodiversity etc..

All in all, in Flanders the efficiency of the use of space must increase. The pressure on the open space must decrease considerably and an additional use of space has to be avoided. Functions of PUOS (peri-urban open spaces) that need to be reinforced in this area are agriculture and recreation. A Spatial implementation plan should maintain as much open space as possible, optimizing water retention and capacity. It indicates which zones can be developed in the future.

To address the described challenges, an already existing tool is ready to be used. "Reparcelling by virtue of law with planning exchange" is therefore a very powerful, but often unused by the municipalities in relevant situations. This instrument is difficult to use in trans-municipal context, because the procedure is complex and not completely in line with the planning instruments (land use development plans). There is a certain misalignment between the two procedures. E.g., both procedures require a public inquiry, so it is logical to try to combine them, however, different legal regulations apply.

In the interregional workshop that has already taken place, there were recommendations for further action. An action plan will be developed on the basis of the peer review. The next steps are the discussion of a legislative change in the Flemish Parliament (including a name change), the preparation of a communication plan (including a brochure) and the establishment of a support team at regional (Flemish) level to support local stakeholders.

## Regional Challenges

### Fragmented land use

### Development pressure on open spaces

#### Existing tool:

- often unused
- complex procedure
- deviation from land use plan

## Needs for Good Practices

### Tools for communicating with local governments about land use issues about protection of peri-urban open spaces

### Ways of integrating complex procedures of spatial planning and land use

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