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# Ghent Sustainability Report 2020

## Voluntary Local Review

## Foreword by the Mayor

Sustainability is called “volhoudbaarheid” in Afrikaans: literally the ability to carry on. It perfectly expresses how we interpret sustainability in Ghent: we make choices which our city can carry on for a long time, for our citizens and for our planet.

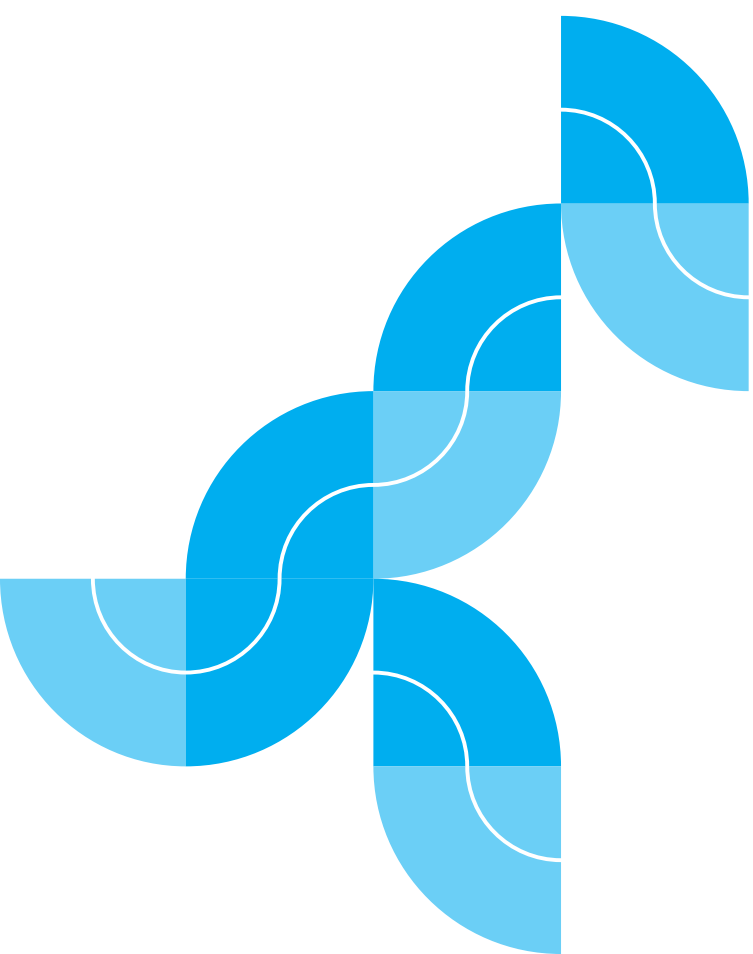
That is why the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations are high on the City of Ghent’s agenda; they are the guiding principles of our policy. These 17 goals tell us what we need to achieve by 2030 in order to extend our planet’s life. The cities are the place where we can make a difference and address the numerous practical challenges.

That is the city’s strength: being close to the people, it is also close to the solutions that make a difference. Together with our many partners, we create more green spaces in the city, ensure high-quality education, provide support to vulnerable children and offer affordable renewable energy. We are a pioneer in terms of local food strategy. We promote short-chain agriculture and have stepped up efforts to combat food wastage. There are plenty of examples of how we try to make Ghent more sustainable. We want to make Ghent a better place to live in, not just for ourselves but especially for the next generations.

**Mathias De Clercq**







## Introduction

The 2020 Ghent Sustainability Report is a launch report centred around exhaustiveness and figures, giving an overview of where Ghent currently stands in terms of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This Sustainability Report starts up a dialogue on sustainability and how we can step up a gear to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals over the coming six years. We are looking forward to shaping this process together and have set ambitious targets.

The report shows the figures at our disposal and provides the necessary context. It goes without saying that choices had to be made. We tried to ensure that our overview of the Sustainable Development Goals is as exhaustive as possible. The figures included in this report are always based on the most recently available data. The present report and future reports are aimed at underpinning and preparing the policy as well as facilitating debates. The first report (2020) is therefore conceived as a starting point for engaging in dialogue. It enables us to determine for each Sustainable Development Goal what has and what has not been successful.

From next year (2021) onwards, we will publish an annual sustainability report highlighting approximately six Sustainable Development Goals. Each time, we will focus on the policies adopted, the figures and inspiring sustainable projects implemented in Ghent.

It is up to you to determine which projects will be put in the spotlight. In other words, we will consult with various stakeholders in the city to select the most innovative, creative and inspiring sustainable projects. Sustainability can only be achieved if government authorities, private businesses, civil society, educational and research establishments and citizens work together. We use this report as a basis for discussion in our consultations with stakeholders.

# Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This global development framework is aimed at freeing humanity from poverty and at putting the planet back on track to a sustainable future.

The deadline is 2030, so we have 10 years left to achieve as many of the goals as possible. In this first Ghent Sustainability Report, we present the 17 SDGs, each with its own focus.

These 17 goals reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and ecological aspects. They have been formulated for all countries around the world and not just for the Global South. Anyone can participate: companies, government authorities, civil society, active citizens and ... municipalities.

The year 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the SDGs, which provides us with an opportunity to assess how much progress we've made in Ghent. What has been successful? What are our strengths? Where is there room for improvement? And how can we ensure that we stay on course and achieve the SDGs as best we can?

## The role played by cities

The Sustainable Development Goals are a global call to action. However, this does not mean we cannot do our bit as a local administration. On the contrary, the local level is the level of government which is closest to the population, and cities play a crucial role.

We therefore want to make a local contribution to these global goals. The City of Ghent wants to go even one step further and try to inspire other cities as well. This report will be submitted to the United Nations as a so-called Voluntary Local Review. We will thus take the report to a supra-local level.

As a local administration, we cannot achieve the SDGs on our own.

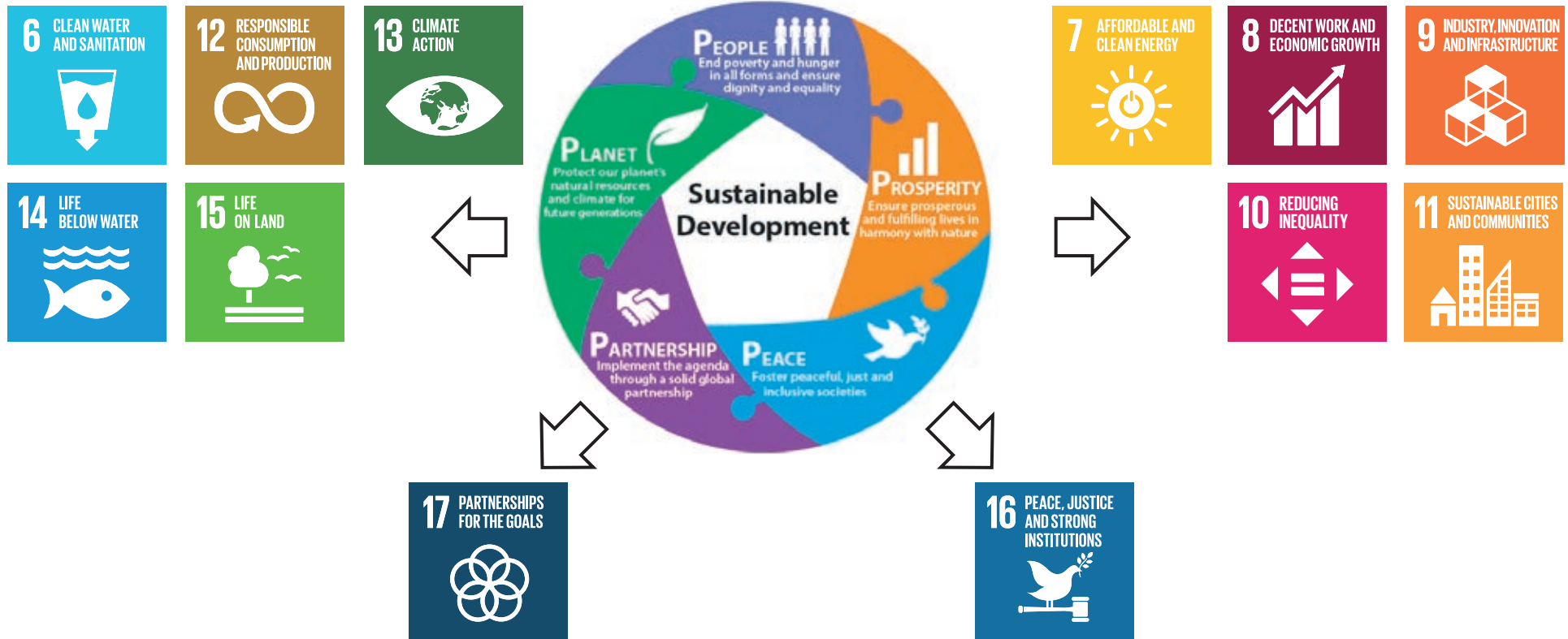
The elimination of poverty, water management, a resilient infrastructure, transparent institutions, etc. are challenges we need to address with different government levels or organisations. Cooperation and consultation are necessary, as is a clear outlook on the entire (local) policy. Local authorities do not control all the levers, but our proximity to citizens, businesses and knowledge institutions is one of our biggest assets. This is an advantage shared by local administrations all over the world. That is why we are a crucial element in the achievement of the SDGs.

## Annual sustainability report

It is the City of Ghent's ambition to publish one sustainability report a year over the course of this term (2019-2025). After this launch report, we will provide some explanation of the SDGs on an annual basis. To do so, we will base ourselves on the following five major SDG topics: People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships and Peace<sup>1</sup>. They are sometimes referred to as the '5 Ps' as shown in the illustration. People will be highlighted in 2021, the spotlight will be on Prosperity in 2022 and the report will focus on Planet in 2023. The topics Partnerships and Peace will be discussed every year since they are central to the achievement of the goals. This report and the ambition to highlight relevant projects bring stakeholders together (and we can connect this to our ambitions with regard to strong public services). We continue to invest in partnerships on a local, national and international level, as we are convinced that a sustainable transition cannot be achieved by the government alone, but will be the result of the combined efforts of all those who shape our city.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2015, 21 October). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Consulted via <https://www.sdgs.be/nl/bronnen/publicaties>



## A launch report and a final report

In this first sustainability report, we will start by presenting all SDGs. Each SDG has its own particular focus and sub-objectives. The official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. For each SDG, we provide an introduction and figures, show the evolutions and share our insights. We monitor the figures annually so as to publish a final report at the end of the term and assess the evolution of the figures.

## Methodology

As a basis for this report, we used the 2018 environmental analysis, which provides an overview of the different policy topics, including figures, insights and evolutions that characterise Ghent in environmental terms. This reference work for Ghent reflects the current situation and is updated every 6 years.

A lot of figures are available for some SDGs, fewer figures are available for other SDGs. Quantification is not always easy for every topic, and monitoring has not yet been generally adopted everywhere. As a result, only figures from 2017 are available for some topics (if that is the case, it usually concerns survey indicators that will be updated in 2021). More recent figures are available for other topics.

In this respect, it can be useful to consult [gent.buurtmonitor.be](http://gent.buurtmonitor.be), the platform for figures concerning Ghent which has recently been expanded with a user-friendly dashboard ([gent.buurtmonitor.be/dashboard](http://gent.buurtmonitor.be/dashboard)). There has been a growing trend towards digitisation, attractive visualisation and disclosure of urban (environmental) data. Similar initiatives have been set up by other cities as well as the Flemish and Belgian governments.

## The importance of the SDGs for Ghent

The City of Ghent has embraced the SDGs since their formulation in 2015. We were one of the SDG pioneers in the Flemish Association of Towns and Cities (VVSG) and were an SDG voice.<sup>2</sup>

The City of Ghent continues to act as an SDG ambassador during this term. The SDGs were an important source of inspiration for the preparation of the 2020-2025 multi-annual plan and helped shape the objectives. They have also provided guidance for the evaluation of our policy. The respective policy documents explicitly refer to the SDGs for the policy areas of international solidarity and international cooperation.

Over the past few years, the City of Ghent has also collaborated on international publications regarding local efforts for the SDGs (e.g. OECD, Eurocities, Austrian Städtenbund, Barillo Food Centre) and participated as a speaker in Belgian and international fora (e.g. VVSG study days, UN conference in New York (2018), Kanazawa (2019)). This enables us to expand our knowhow and make local practices more effective.

The City of Ghent has signed various statements about the SDGs drawn up by international networks and organisations. Examples include the VVSG charter (2017), the Belgian charter (2016) and the Basque Declaration – ICLEI (2018).

The City of Ghent monitors policy developments with regard to the role and importance of the SDGs in European policy making (e.g. the European Commission's reflection paper on a sustainable Europe (June 2019) and the new European Commission's Green Deal (2020-2027)) and implements them in its own policy development.

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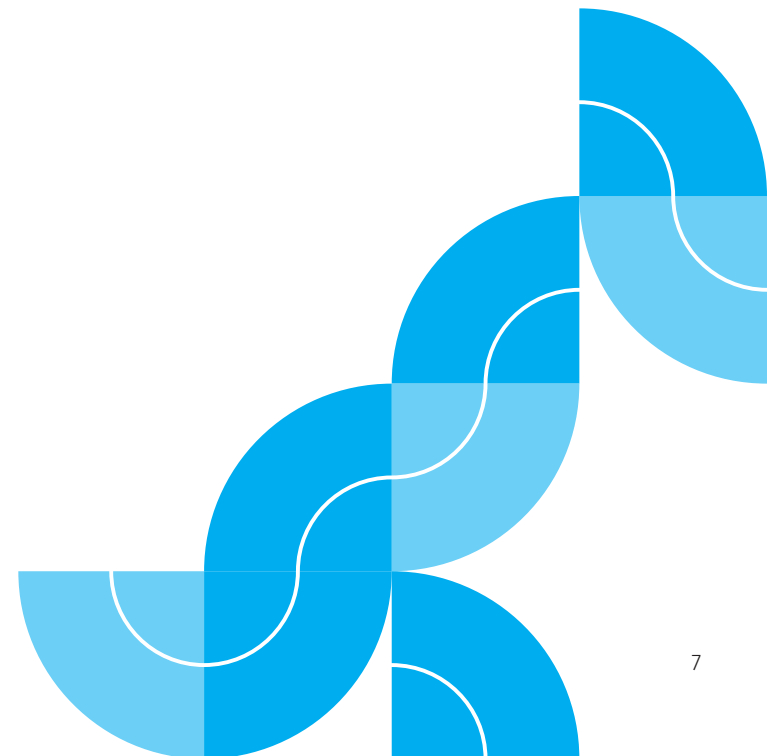
<sup>2</sup> Since 2017, the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO/IFDD) and The Shift have selected 6 to 8 Belgian SDG voices a year. SDG Voices are ambassadors who promote the SDGs in Belgium, provide information about SDGs, translate them into concrete inspiring actions and initiatives, and thus encourage citizens to become actively engaged.

## The importance of the SDGs in turbulent times

Nowadays we cannot ignore the impact of the coronavirus crisis on our city and its inhabitants, companies, associations, educational establishments, etc. This bizarre period puts a strain on our infrastructure and urban fabric, making it clear that the different (social, ecological and economic) dimensions of sustainability are highly interconnected. It exposes urban problem areas, and the most vulnerable groups in our city require particular attention in this context. The cornerstone of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs is more relevant now than ever before: “to leave no one behind”. At the same time, we are astonished by the extraordinary solidarity and creativity of numerous citizens, organisations, businesses and healthcare facilities.

We do not have any simple solutions, but it is partly up to the towns and cities to ensure that the current challenges are resolved satisfactorily and that no-one is left behind in the world and city of tomorrow.

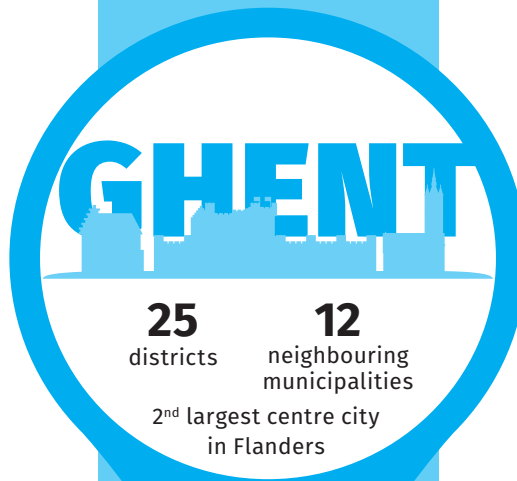
The current crisis forces us to make choices in the short and long term. Within this scope, the SDGs can serve as a powerful compass.





## Education

University city, student city and educational centre



## Culture and tourism

City of culture, music, festivities, 'Ghent is Europe's best kept secret' (Lonely Planet)



## Mobility Plan

Cycling city and low-emission zone in 2020

**264.000**

inhabitants



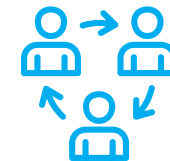
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nationalities



## Demographic growth

impacting spatial organisation



## Pioneer in policy participation



## Welfare

Ghent functions as a centre for healthcare (hospitals and psychiatric care centres)

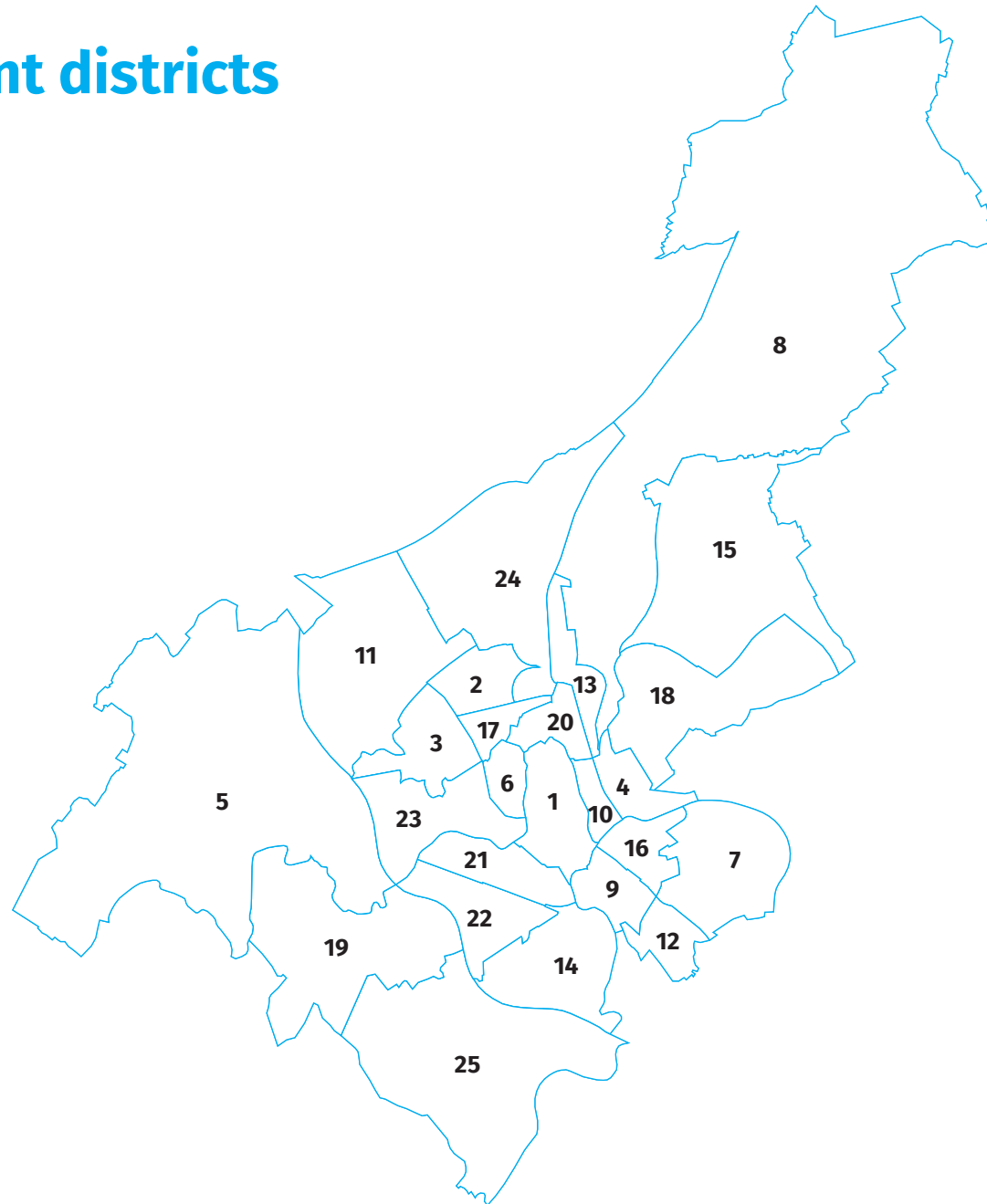


## Growing economy

A local consumer market and a high-performance port



# Ghent districts



- 1 Binnenstad
- 2 Bloemekenswijk
- 3 Brugse Poort - Rooigem
- 4 Dampoort
- 5 Drongen
- 6 Elisabethbegijnhof - Prinsenhof - Papegaai - Sint-Michiels
- 7 Gentbrugge
- 8 Kanaaldorpen en -zone
- 9 Ledeborg
- 10 Macharius - Heirnis
- 11 Mariakerke
- 12 Moscou - Vogelhoek
- 13 Muide - Meulestede - Afrikalaan
- 14 Nieuw Gent - UZ
- 15 Oostakker
- 16 Oud Gentbrugge
- 17 Rabot - Blaisantvest
- 18 Sint-Amandsberg
- 19 Sint-Denijs-Westrem - Afsnee
- 20 Sluizeken - Tolhuis - Ham
- 21 Stationsbuurt-Noord
- 22 Stationsbuurt-Zuid
- 23 Watersportbaan - Ekkergem
- 24 Wondelgem
- 25 Zwijnaarde

# The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan

The multi-annual strategic plan is based on the coalition agreement concluded by the four majority parties (OpenVLD, Groen, sp.a and CD&V) in late 2018. The agreement specifies that the new coalition wishes to govern Ghent with ambition and courage. As a city, it is our ambition to do pioneering work in various policy areas. In addition, we want to make courageous decisions to address the challenges ahead.

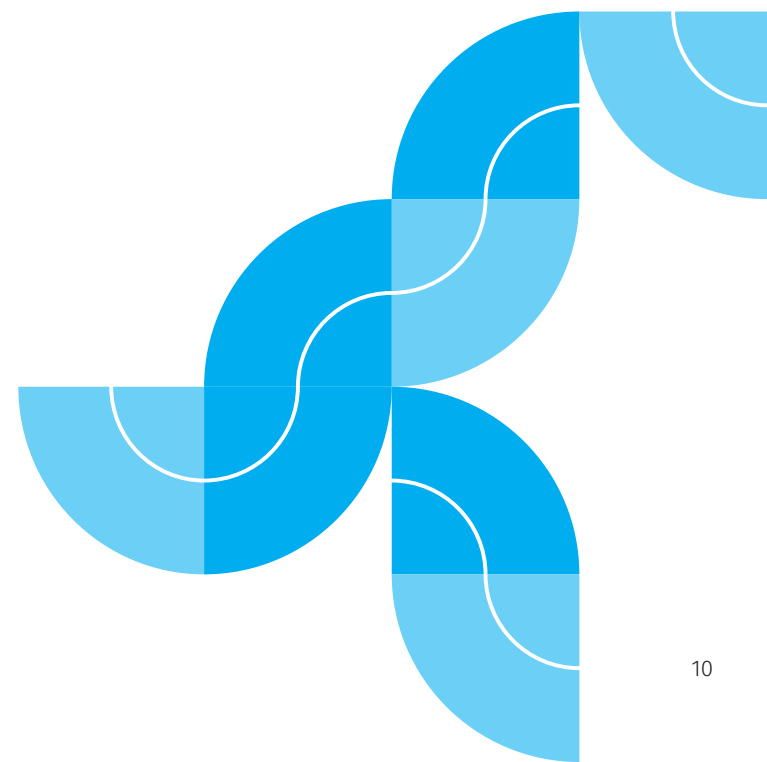
This document is based on an in-depth debate and a well-considered project. On the basis of the coalition agreement, the municipal executive drew up a mission for the city in February 2019:

*Ghent is a proud city where people like living, working and relaxing. A city that breathes and allows people to breathe. Everyone is equally different and equally a Ghent resident. Children are given room to grow. People get the opportunity to develop their talents. Ghent is a city of entrepreneurship and experimentation that is open to the world, and we share the ambition to create a city where future generations can lead a happy life as well.*

This mission has resulted in 20 strategic objectives to prepare Ghent for the future. These objectives can be categorised into 4 topics:

- > A future-proof city
- > A city of opportunities
- > A city where we live together
- > A city governed for and by its inhabitants

The City of Ghent's multi-annual strategic plan contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. In this report, we will link each SDG to the City of Ghent's strategic objective(s).



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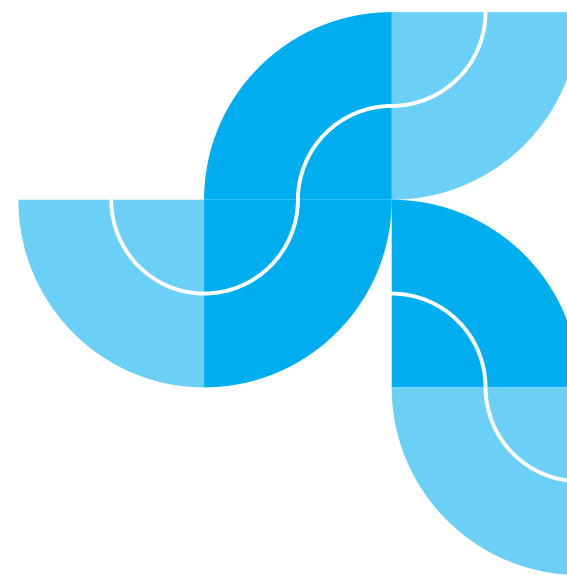
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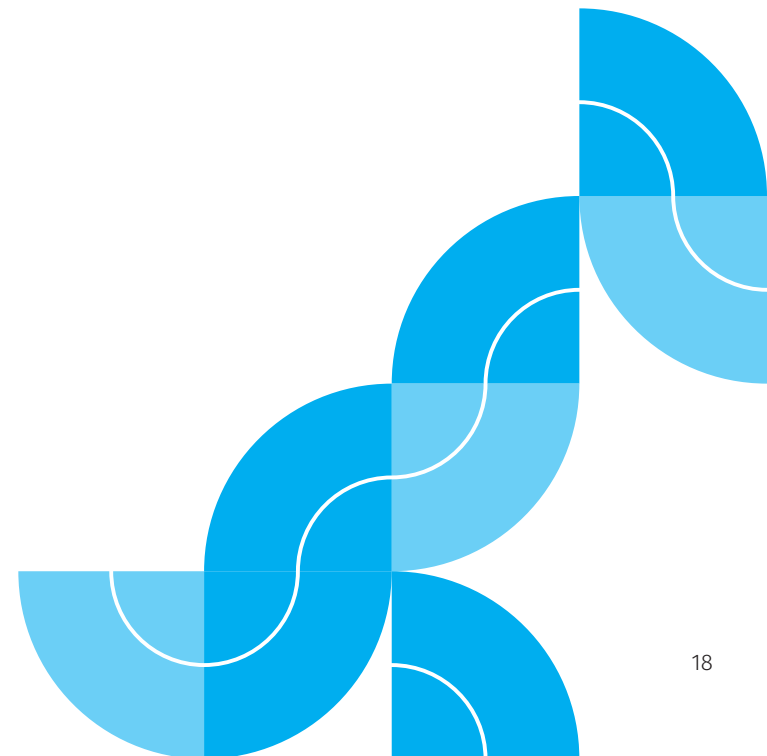
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# The Ghent context for each sustainable development goal

Below, we will take a close look at each sustainable development goal (SDG).

- > For each SDG, we will give a brief outline of the underlying topics.
- > We will establish a link with the City of Ghent's multi-annual strategic plan for 2020-2025: which objectives from this plan have contributed to the achievement of the SDG?
- > This is followed by the available figures and context for Ghent per topic. In this context, we focus primarily on the environmental indicators and less on the policies.
- > Where appropriate, we will establish a link with other SDGs. Every SDG is connected to one or several other SDGs. The achievement of SDG 1 (eradicating poverty) also contributes to various other SDGs (food, health, housing, inequality, etc.). It is important to keep this interconnection of the SDGs in mind.
- > The integral text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. The sub-objectives are stated for each SDG.





1 NO POVERTY



# SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## Topics of SDG 1

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Extreme poverty (1.1)**

**Risk of poverty (1.2)**

**Social protection systems (1.3)**

**Equal rights (1.4)**

**Resilience (1.5)**

**Unequal impact of extreme events (1.5)**

## SDG 1 in short

*This SDG is primarily aimed at eradicating all forms of extreme poverty. The poverty rate should be halved by 2030. We therefore discuss the risk of poverty in this chapter. This involves the development of strong social protection systems and access to basic services and economic resources. Reducing poverty goes hand in hand with ensuring equal rights and covers every aspect of life. In addition, we focus on increasing the resilience of people in vulnerable situations and on limiting the impact of economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters, especially for those in vulnerable situations.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**‘Reducing poverty in Ghent by pursuing a proactive and integral anti-poverty policy’ through:**

- > Assisting homeless people with a view to re-integration
- > Reinforcing and aligning the anti-poverty policy across all policy areas and raising awareness about poverty
- > Providing appropriate assistance to all families with underage children as well as all young people living in poverty
- > Providing integral personalised assistance to people in vulnerable situations and with growing problems
- > Ensuring that people can meet their basic needs and assert their essential rights

## Status of the city

### Extreme poverty (1.1)

This objective is less relevant to Ghent (the poverty threshold is 1.25 US dollar a day).

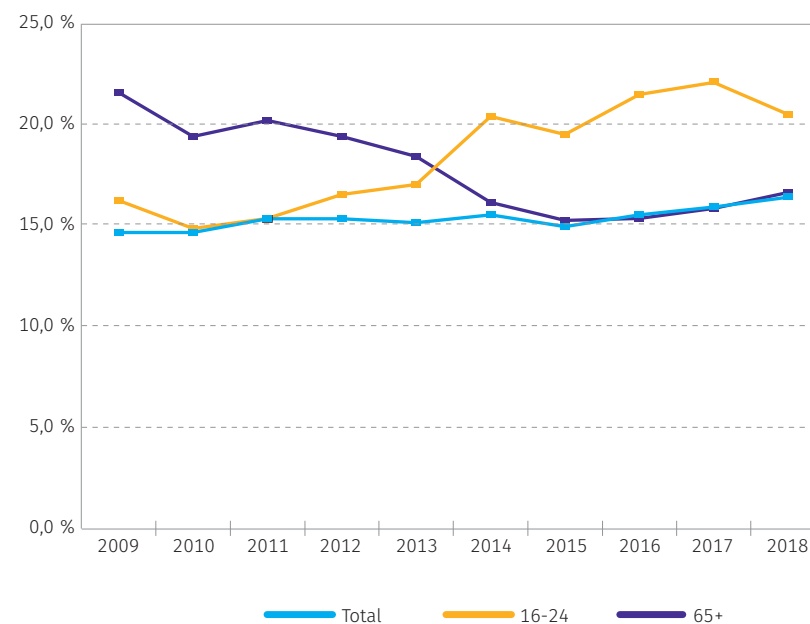
### Risk of poverty (1.2)

According to the European poverty threshold, people who earn less than 60% of the national median income have an increased poverty risk. This is called ‘monetary or financial poverty’. However, poverty is not just a question of income. *“People living in poverty are unable to bridge this gap on their own. Poverty and social exclusion can be both the cause and the outcome of insufficient access to income, employment, education, healthcare, housing and participation in society.”*<sup>3</sup> The number of Ghentians living in financial poverty is calculated on the basis of the poverty risk.

To do so, we apply the Belgian indicators to the situation in Ghent. In an urban context, any Belgian figures are always an underestimation of the real situation. The risk of poverty among the Belgian population is 16.4%:<sup>4</sup> this means that 16.4% of Belgians have an income which is less than 60% of the national median income. If we apply this percentage to Ghent, the total number of people at risk of poverty amounts to 42,500. In the context of Belgium, the risk of poverty and social exclusion is estimated at 20%, which corresponds to approximately 52,000 Ghentians.

Although these two percentages have remained relatively stable over the past few years, the risk of poverty was at its highest level in the final year of the monitoring period (2018). We have also observed another evolution: the risk of poverty is increasing among young people and decreasing among older people.

**Diagram 1** Financial poverty: total and per age group, 2018, Belgium



At the Belgian level, the risk of financial poverty is higher for children and young people than for adults: 17.8% versus 15.5%. It may be inferred that 8,823 children are living in financial poverty in Ghent and that 10,706 children (21.6% of all 0-17 year olds) are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Poverty and social exclusion (2020) via Kenniscentrum WWZ, <http://www.kenniscentrumwwz.be/armoede-en-sociale-uitsluiting>

<sup>4</sup> Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

<sup>5</sup> Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium (ADS) (2016). SILC (Statistics on income and living conditions): Statistical data on income and living conditions.

The family characteristics are relevant in this respect:<sup>6</sup>

17% of the children live in a family where at least one parent does not work; this can be broken down into:

- > 39% living in a single-parent family where the parent does not work
- > 9% living in a two-parent family where both parents do not work

The risk of poverty differs depending on the individual's age, background and type of family as well as their employment status and ownership situation. In this report, we only describe the differences based on demographic characteristics.

The risk of poverty is one and a half times higher for single people. The risk of poverty is two to three times higher for single parents.

The risk of poverty is three times higher for people born outside Belgium than for people born in Belgium. The risk of poverty can be broken down further by groups of the population:

- > The risk of poverty for people born outside the EU-28: 46.3%
- > The risk of poverty for people born in the EU (excluding Belgium): 19.4%
- > The risk of poverty for people born in Belgium: 11.5%<sup>7</sup>

The risk of poverty increases for older people as well: 16.6%. An estimated total of 7,200 Ghentians over 65 years of age are at risk of poverty.

## Child poverty

Child poverty is measured on the basis of the social deprivation index of the Belgian Child and Family Agency. This indicator takes into account the complexity of poverty and the multitude of interconnected forms of exclusion in various areas of individual and social life. It monitors the birth rate in vulnerable households. In 2019, this rate was 22.0%,<sup>8</sup> which is higher than the Flemish average. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 of the 50,486 Ghent children (i.e. 19.9%) are living in poverty.



6 Stuyck K. & Jacques, A., et al. (2014). Katern Stadsmonitor 2014 - Gezinnen in de stad: de gezins- en kindvriendelijkheid van onze centrumsteden in kaart (2014 city monitor section – Urban households: overview of family and child-friendliness of centre cities).

7 Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium (ADS) (2016). SILC (Statistics on income and living conditions): Statistical data on income and living conditions.

8 Kind en Gezin (2020) via <https://www.kindengezin.be/cijfers-en-rapporten/cijfers/kansarmoede/gemeentelijk-niveau/>

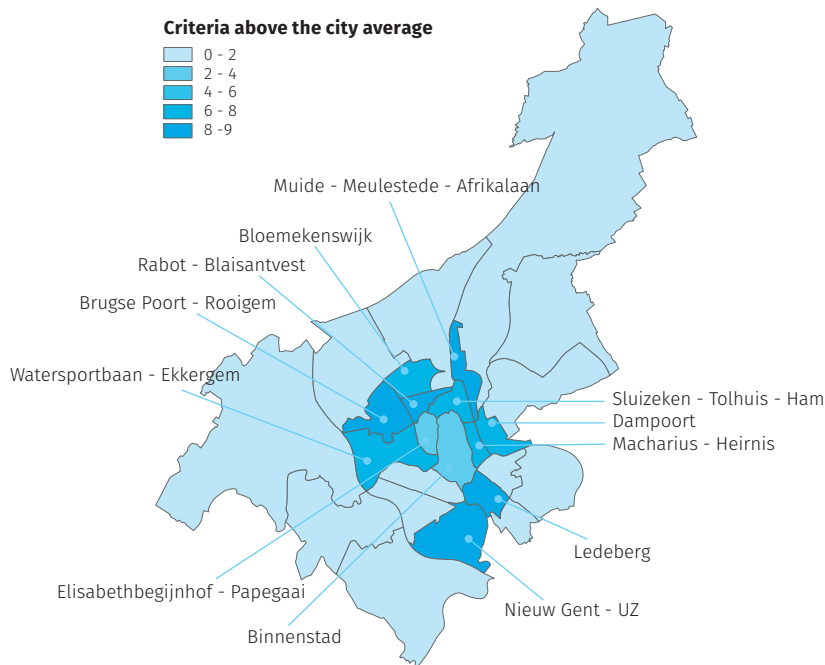


## Differences between Ghent neighbourhoods

There are major differences in terms of poverty between the Ghent neighbourhoods:

- > The level of social deprivation is highest in the neighbourhoods Nieuw Gent-UZ, Muide-Meulestede-Afrikalaan and Rabot-Blaisantvest.
- > They are followed by Brugse Poort-Rooigem and Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham.
- > The neighbourhoods Bloemekenswijk, Ledeborg and Watersportbaan-Ekkerghem also rank above the city's average.

**Diagram 2** Social deprivation accumulation criteria, 2016, Ghent



Sources: Statbel, IMA Atlas, VDAB, Ghent PCSW, City of Ghent, Kind en Gezin, processed by City of Ghent

All figures point in the same direction: one in five Ghentians lives in a situation of poverty and social exclusion.

In addition, about 13% of Ghentians experience financial difficulties.<sup>9</sup>

## Homeless people and people with inadequate or insecure accommodation

Homelessness and inadequate or insecure accommodation are extreme forms of poverty and social exclusion.

Official figures on the number of homeless people and people with inadequate or insecure accommodation in Ghent are not available. Every year, the Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW) assists about 500 long-term (>3 months) Ghent homeless people in finding a permanent residence. The majority (78%) are men, and 75% of them are facing multiple issues. The PCSW does not have any figures on short-term/acute homelessness. There is a certain degree of mobility between cities and between a city and the surrounding rural municipalities. The City of Ghent and various partners are currently (May 2020) preparing an official point-in-time count.

In 2019, the centre for general welfare work CAW (*Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk*) of East Flanders provided assistance to 1,180 homeless people and people with inadequate or insecure accommodation (some without legal residence and others with legal residence). Of these, 872 stayed in one of the Ghent shelters: 51.2% men and 48.8% women, including 280 accompanying children. The CAW assisted 631 homeless people and people with inadequate or insecure accommodation, 52% of whom were men and 48% of whom were women, in finding a home.

<sup>9</sup> Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.



## Social protection (1.3)

People in need are entitled to additional social protection. In this report, we will discuss a few measures within the scope of poverty reduction.

Ghentians with insufficient or no income can receive a guaranteed minimum income, which is called “living wage” or “equivalent living wage”. 3% of all Ghentians, i.e. 7,774 people in total, receive an (equivalent) “living wage”.<sup>10</sup> Living wage recipients are also assisted in completing training and/or finding employment.

Their right to increased health insurance reimbursement ensures they have access to healthcare. We also use this indicator for mapping the risk of poverty (not calculated at a local level). In 2009, 16.4% of the Ghent population was entitled to increased health insurance reimbursement. This percentage increased to 18.5%<sup>11</sup> in 2014 and reached 20.2% in 2017.

We have observed that more than 1 in 4 inhabitants of Ghent over the age of 65 are entitled to increased health insurance reimbursement. 6.5% of people over 65 receive a guaranteed income for the elderly (social welfare benefits for old-age pensioners with insufficient financial means). Both figures have remained stable over the past few years. Financial vulnerability continues to be an important area of attention for the elderly as well.<sup>12</sup>

One in five Ghentians lives in a situation of poverty and social exclusion, and the current “living wage” does not suffice to help people out of poverty.<sup>13 14</sup>

**Table 1** Poverty line (2018), living wage (2020) and additional financial aid (2020) on the basis of family composition, Ghent, 2020<sup>11 12</sup>

	Poverty line	Living wage	Additional financial aid (incl. living wage)	Additional financial aid
Single	1184,3 €	958,9 €	1073,9 €	115 €
Cohabiting	592,2 €	639,3 €	743,3 €	104 €
Cohabiting with at least one dependent child	-	1295,9 €	1357,9 €	62 €
2 adults and 1 child	1776,4 €	-	-	-

Source: Poverty line: EU-SILC 2018, Living wage: amounts for 2020, Source: Public Planning Service (PPS) Social Integration

## Equal rights (1.4)

Please refer to SDG 5 ‘gender equality’ and SDG 10 ‘reduced inequalities’ for more information on this topic.

<sup>10</sup> The “equivalent living wage” is financial assistance to individuals who are not entitled to a living wage, yet find themselves in a comparable situation.

<sup>11</sup> InterMutualistisch Agentschap/Agence InterMutualiste (IMA/AIM) (2020). Policy-relevant statistics and indicators, consulted via <http://atlas.aim-ima.be/databanken>

<sup>12</sup> City of Ghent (2020d). Gent, leeftijdsvriendelijke stad (Ghent, age-friendly city). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/BN%20Leeftijdsvriendelijke%20stad.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> The Additional Financial Aid represented in this diagram is an example of the possible amount of AFA paid to a household (i.e. the median of calculated AFA with a result > 0). AFA is not paid to every household. The calculation of Additional Financial Aid is based on the specific circumstances of a household. If the house rent paid by a household is low, the amount of AFA will be lower or no AFA will be paid at all. Conversely, if the household incurs high costs because several children go to secondary school, for instance, and the house rent is high, the amount of AFA will be higher.

<sup>14</sup> In addition to AFA, the City of Ghent also provides other forms of aid to people living in poverty. These often serve to cover specific costs such as high medical bills, the rental deposit, etc...

## Resilience (1.5)

### Help provided by the PCSW

Every town or city in Belgium has a Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW) which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all citizens. The PCSW is open to all inhabitants of Ghent. Everyone is entitled to adequate housing, healthcare, sufficient financial means, etc. The PCSW provides assistance in each one of these aspects and therefore focuses on increasing the resilience of vulnerable Ghentians.

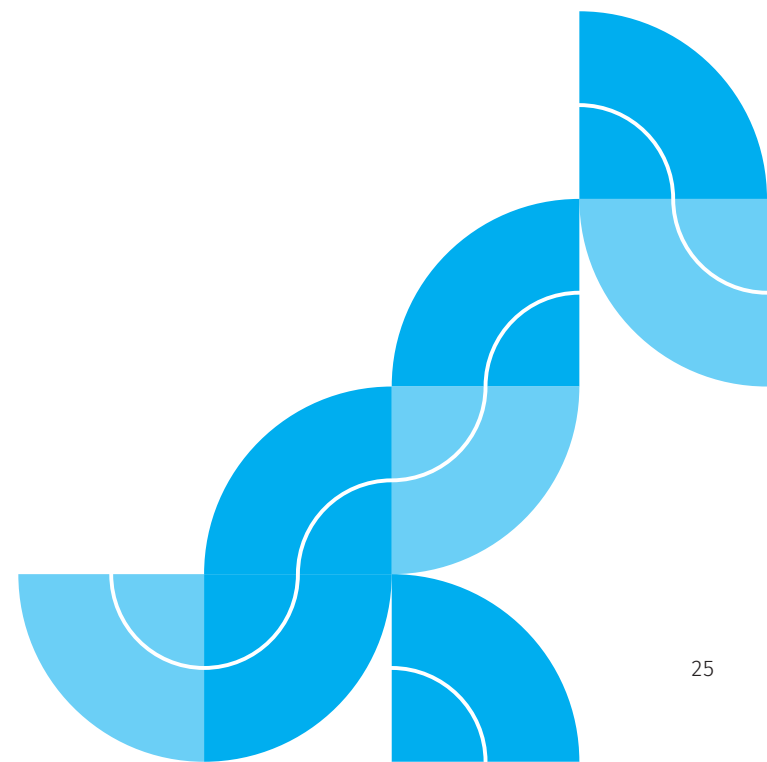
In 2019, the Ghent PCSW supported a total of 28,997 unique persons, i.e. 10.9% of the Ghent population or 14,105 households. These persons / households could count on financial, administrative, psychological and legal assistance. In doing so, the PCSW reached out to approximately seven in ten people in financial poverty.

### Unequal impact of extreme events (1.5)

Some people have less access to the social safety net because they are not officially recognised as citizens (residing in Belgium). These are people without legal residence, for instance refugees who did not come to Belgium through the regular system. Due to their vulnerable position, they require additional help, yet have no equivalent access to healthcare.

### People without legal residence

Ghent accommodates a significant number of people without legal residence, but exact figures are not available. The City of Ghent estimates that some 3,250 people without legal residence were present within its administrative boundaries on 1 January 2019. (This figure is based on a study which combined medical data, a local general survey and international literature research). Migrants in transit and people with an uncertain residence status have not been included in this figure. We estimate the number of minors without legal residence to be 1,000. Overall, about half are EU citizens and about half are non-EU citizens.



2 ZERO HUNGER



# SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

## Topics of SDG 2

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**End hunger (2.1)**

**Safe, nutritious and sufficient food (2.1) and Sustainable food production (2.4)**

**Malnutrition (2.2)**

**Fair remuneration (2.3)**

**Genetic diversity (2.5)**

## SDG 2 in short

*This SDG is aimed at ending hunger for everyone. This means that everyone should have access to affordable and healthy food, which is sometimes called food security. Healthy food, which is discussed under the topic 'Malnutrition', has to do with reducing malnutrition as well as mitigating the effects of unhealthy eating patterns. By making use of new farming techniques, we can grow healthy and high-quality food in a sustainable manner. Fair remuneration for small-scale food production is a topic which is more relevant at the national and international level. At the same time, this SDG is aimed at maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Reducing poverty in Ghent by pursuing a proactive and integral anti-poverty policy through:**

- > Ensuring that people can meet their basic needs and assert their essential rights

**Ghent continues to lead the way in pursuing a bold and social climate policy, through:**

- > Reducing the climate footprint of food



## Status of the city

### End hunger (2.1)

Hunger has not yet been ended in Ghent.

In 2018, the various poverty relief organisations of KRAS vzw provided food aid 98,168 times, including 5,000 hot meals at De Sloep-Onze Thuis. Last year, the demand for food aid increased by 20% and it continues to rise.<sup>15</sup>

Various poverty relief organisations have indicated that some children go to school with an empty lunchbox in Ghent. In 2018, KRAS vzw paid over 500 bills of families and school groups, equivalent to about 6,000 school meals.<sup>16</sup>

The Foodsavers project redistributes food surpluses to social restaurants and social grocers. In 2019, two years after the project's launch, Foodsavers had redistributed 1,000 tons of food surpluses, equivalent to 530,821 meals or food packages. So far, this Ghent project has reached approximately 57,000 Ghentians living in poverty. At the same time, Foodsavers trains people in the logistics sector, which is linked to SDG 1 (poverty).

### Safe, nutritious and sufficient food (2.1) and sustainable food production (2.4)

It is estimated that 3,900,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in Ghent result from consumption. Food plays an important part in the carbon footprint of each inhabitant, amounting to 2.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. Approximately 40% of this footprint is attributable to meat, dairy and fish.

The City of Ghent has invested in various projects that structurally increase the food system's sustainability within the scope of its sustainable food strategy 'Gent en Garde', which won the UN Global Climate Action Award in 2019. Ghent is the first Belgian city to win this international award.

### Malnutrition (2.2)

There are two sides to malnutrition or inadequate nutrition: undernutrition and overnutrition (obesity). Malnutrition occurs in people whose BMI is too low, normal or too high. It usually results from an unbalanced diet (e.g. junk food), but vegetarians can also suffer from malnutrition.

No figures are available on malnutrition in Ghent, but this does not mean it is non-existent.

Flemish people generally consume not enough fruit, vegetables and water, and too much soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, sugars and fats. 60% of youngsters aged between 12 and 18 consume energy drinks.<sup>17</sup>

Figures on obesity are only available for Belgium. On average, children who grow up in an urban environment have a higher BMI than other Flemish children. As a result, applying the Belgian figures to the Ghent situation is an underestimation of the reality in Ghent.

The average inhabitant of Flanders is overweight and increasingly so. According to the latest results of the Health Survey (2013), the average BMI in Flanders 25.3. 48% of Flemish people are overweight. There is a significant difference between men and women: 54% of the former and 42% of the latter are overweight. 13% of Flemish people are obese. Overweight and obesity are a growing phenomenon.

<sup>15</sup> Kras Gent (2019). Activiteitenverslag 2018 (2018 activity report). Consulted via [https://www.krasgent.be/assets/files/kras\\_jaarverslag-2018.pdf](https://www.krasgent.be/assets/files/kras_jaarverslag-2018.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> De Ridder K, Bel S, Brocatus L, Lebacqz T, Ost C & Teppers E., (2016), Samenvatting van de resultaten (Summary of results). In: Tafforeau J. (ed.) Voedselconsumptiepeiling 2014-2015. WIV-ISP, Brussels, 2016.

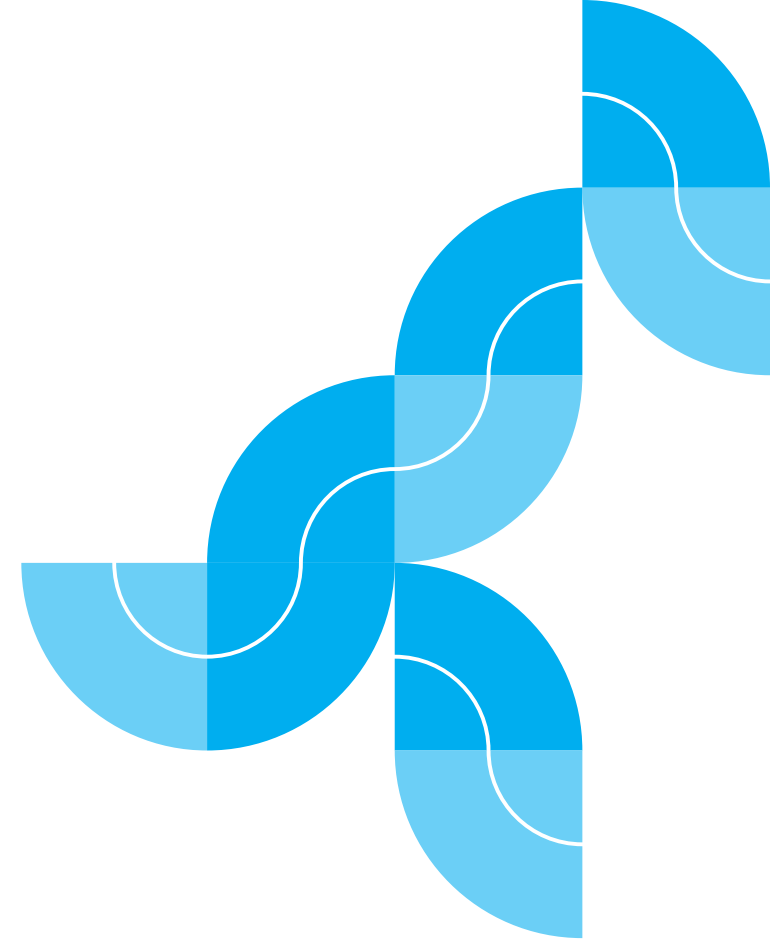


### **Fair remuneration (2.3)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

### **Genetic diversity (2.5)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.



**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



# SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

## Topics of SDG 3

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Child mortality and maternal mortality (3.1 & 3.2)**

**Prevention and epidemics (3.3)**

**Mental health and well-being (3.4)**

**Substance abuse (3.5)**

**Traffic accidents (3.6)**

**Sexual and reproductive healthcare services (3.7)**

**Access to healthcare (3.8)**

**Deaths from pollution (3.9)**

## SDG 3 in short

*SDG 3 states that the global child and maternal mortality rate has to be significantly reduced. The same is true for alcohol and drug abuse. The provision of information on infectious diseases is deemed necessary to prevent them from spreading. This statement has gained relevance due to the coronavirus pandemic. The number of deaths from pollution and from traffic accidents also needs to be substantially reduced. The United Nations wish to raise awareness of mental health and well-being. We need to ensure universal health insurance which provides protection against financial risks and access to high-quality essential healthcare services.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Ghent shows its inhabitants the way to improved well-being, health and healthcare through:**

- > Improving the access to high-quality healthcare and welfare facilities
- > Maximising the opportunities of a healthy life and well-being for all Ghentians
- > Increasing personalised assistance for specific welfare needs of vulnerable Ghentians
- > Reducing social inequality in healthcare by paying more attention to mental well-being

**The City of Ghent is working on a healthy and clean living environment through:**

- > Preventing and eliminating environmental pollution which poses a (health) risk
- > Improving the air quality in the city

**Ghent ensures that everyone can travel sustainably, easily and safely through the city by:**

- > Restricting access for motorised vehicles

## Status of the city

### Child mortality and maternal mortality (3.1 & 3.2)

As no figures are available for Ghent, we base ourselves on the Belgian and Flemish figures.

In 2016, the rate of child mortality (or infant mortality: deaths within the first year of life) was 3.2 per 1,000 live births in Belgium, which corresponds to the EU15 average. The child mortality rate in Belgium has decreased significantly over the past decades.<sup>18</sup>

Flemish figures are available for the perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths of premature infants within the first week of birth). In 2017, the perinatal mortality rate increased slightly in Flanders to 6.3 per 1,000 births. This increase may be the result of better registration of (late) terminations of pregnancy for medical reasons. The neonatal mortality rate remains very low (1.2 per 1,000 births).<sup>19</sup>

In 2016, the maternal mortality rate was 3.7 per 100,000 live births.<sup>20</sup> In 2017, only 4 cases of maternal mortality were registered, which is a very low number. This is probably the result of good monitoring of mothers during their pregnancy and childbirth.<sup>21</sup>

## Prevention and epidemics (3.3)

### Vaccination rate

Below you will find the Flemish figures.

Belgium recommends several vaccinations for young children and offers them free of charge: the polio, DTP, Hib, Hepatitis B, meningococcal C and measles-mumps-rubella vaccines. As far as the recommended free vaccines were concerned, the vaccination rate for young children was stable and quite high in 2016: 92.9–96.2%. For the first dose of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, the target of 95% vaccination to eliminate measles has been reached in Belgium. It is recommended to administer the second dose (MBR2) to children around 10 years of age. The target of 95% vaccination set by the WHO has not been reached in Belgium.<sup>22</sup> As rotavirus vaccination is recommended but not free, the vaccination rate is lower (89.7%).<sup>23</sup>

In addition, Flanders pursues a prevention policy for colon, breast and cervical cancer, and it pays off: for the first time, the number of advanced colorectal cancers in Flanders is below the number at the start of the population study in 2013. There has also been a decrease in the number of advanced breast cancers in women who are regularly screened compared to women who are not. However, the decreasing participation of young women (aged 25-29) in the Cervical Cancer Population Study is an area of concern.<sup>24</sup>

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18 Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (2019, 19 December). Infant mortality. Consulted on 15 April 2020, via <https://www.gezondbelgie.be/nl/gezondheidstoestand/sterfte-en-doodsoorzaken/zuigelingensterfte>

19 R. Devlieger, E. Martens, R. Goemaes, H. Cammu (2018). Perinatale activiteiten in Vlaanderen 2017 (Perinatal activities in Flanders in 2017), Studiecentrum voor Perinatale Epidemiologie (SPE), Brussels

20 Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium (ADS) (2019). Maternal mortality [Dataset]. Consulted via <https://statbel.fgov.be/nl/themas/bevolking/sterfte-en-levensverwachting/moedersterfte#news>

21 R. Devlieger, E. Martens, R. Goemaes, H. Cammu (2018). Perinatale activiteiten in Vlaanderen 2017 (Perinatal activities in Flanders in 2017), Studiecentrum voor Perinatale Epidemiologie (SPE), Brussels

22 Flemish Agency for Care and Health, Public Health Monitoring Division, Infectious Diseases Team. (2017). Studie van de vaccinatiegraad in Vlaanderen 2016 (Study of the vaccination rate in Flanders in 2016). Consulted via <https://www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Vaccinatiegraadstudie%202016.pdf>

23 *Ibid.*

24 Jaarrapport Bevolkingsonderzoeken naar kanker 2019 (2019 Annual Report on Cancer Surveys). Centrum voor Kankeropsporing – Belgian Cancer Registry, Bruges 2019

Prevention is important, as is the extent to which the population is able to read and understand health information (health literacy). Research has shown that 1 in 3 inhabitants of Flanders has insufficient health skills. This means that they have more difficulty processing health information, complying with medication schedules, deciding when to consult a physician or providing preventive care for their own health or that of others.<sup>25</sup>

## Mental health and well-being (3.4)

It's not just physical health that matters, psychological well-being is important as well.

The 2018 health survey indicated that 12% of Belgians are very dissatisfied with their life, 33% experience some form of psychological problem and 14% have optimum life energy.<sup>26</sup>

For the assessment of the situation in Ghent, we consider the degree to which Ghentians seek professional help for their mental well-being, use psychotropics and attempt or commit suicide.<sup>27</sup>

## Professional help and use of psychotropics

In 2019, a total of 1,403 Ghentians consulted a primary-care psychologist, or 5 per thousand inhabitants,<sup>28</sup> an increase from 4 per thousand Ghentians in 2013.

In 2016, approximately 6,500 Ghentians were committed to a psychiatric institution.<sup>29</sup>

About 11% of Ghentians use antidepressants.<sup>30</sup> This figure has remained stable since 2008, although there has been a development in the duration of use: more and more patients use antidepressants for over one year.

## Suicides and suicide attempts

Belgium has one of the highest suicide rates in Europe. In 2016, a total of 430 Ghentians made one or several suicide attempts, which totalled 452.<sup>31</sup>

Young people are most at risk of attempting suicide.<sup>32</sup> Another risk group includes single divorcees and people who live alone.<sup>33</sup> Flemish lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are also vulnerable:<sup>34</sup> one in five LGB people in Flanders has attempted suicide, and two out of five transgenders.

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25 Avalosse e. a. (2016). Health Literacy: Gezondheidsvaardigheden en informatiebronnen [online publication consulted on 20 March 2018, [https://www.cm.be/media/CM-267-Gezondheidsvaardigheden\\_tcm47-29109.PDF](https://www.cm.be/media/CM-267-Gezondheidsvaardigheden_tcm47-29109.PDF)

26 Gislé L, Drieskens S, Demarest S, Van der Heyden J. Geestelijke gezondheid: gezondheidsenquête 2018 (2018 Mental Health Survey). Brussels, Belgium: Sciensano; Report number: D/2020/14. 440/4. Available at: [www.gezondheidsenquête.be](http://www.gezondheidsenquête.be)

27 We do not wish to link suicide solely to mental disorders or depression. The reasons behind every suicide are unique and complex. Due to the strong link between mental disorders and suicide, we have chosen to discuss this here.

28 Like any other psychologist, a primary-care psychologist works together with general practitioners or neighbourhood health centres and provides advice and short-term help. In the course of one or two sessions, the primary-care psychologist clearly assesses the complaints and/or problems and discusses possible solutions to these problems with the patient. If further assistance is required, the patient is referred to another medical care provider.

29 Health Belgium (2018), customised data file: MPG 2008-2016: Number of psychiatric admissions of Ghentians in Belgian psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric wards of general hospitals, Brussels.

30 *InterMutualistisch Agentschap/Agence InterMutualiste (IMA/AIM) (2020). Policy-relevant statistics and indicators, consulted via <http://atlas.aim-ima.be/databanken>*

31 Ghent University – Unit for Suicide Research (2017). De epidemiologie van suïcidepogingen in Gent: Jaarverslag 2016 (Epidemiology of suicide attempts in Ghent: 2016 annual report), [online publication], <https://www.eenheidzelfmoordonderzoek.be/pdf/17112017-143418-Jaarverslag%20Groot%20Gent%202016.pdf>

32 Flemish Centre of Expertise for Suicide Prevention (Vlesp) (2015). *Communicatiefiche Zelfmoord bij jongeren* (Communication file on suicide by young people)

33 Flemish Centre of Expertise for Suicide Prevention (Vlesp) (2017). Epidemiologisch Rapport: 2017. De Vlaamse suïcidecijfers in een nationale en internationale context (2017 epidemiological report on Flemish suicide figures in a national and international context). Ghent University, Ghent

34 Missiaen J. & Seynaeve H. (2016). Onderzoek naar het psychisch welzijn van Vlaamse holiëbi's en/of transgender personen, Risico- en beschermende factoren in kaart gebracht voor lifetimeprevalentie van suïcidepogingen (Study of the psychological well-being of LGB and transgender people in Flanders with an overview of risk and protective factors for lifetime prevalence of suicide attempts), Ghent University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Master's thesis for academic year 2015-2016 ; supervisor: Prof. Dr. Gwendolyn Portzky

## Substance abuse (3.5)

### Tobacco

The Belgian and Flemish figures indicate a decrease in the number of smokers: while one in four people smoked on a daily basis in 2013, only one in five did so in 2017. Of all smokers, 17% smoke on a daily basis, 73% regret having taken up the habit and 65% want to quit.<sup>35</sup>

### Alcohol<sup>36</sup>

Just like caffeine and nicotine, alcohol is a socially accepted addictive substance in Belgium.

At Belgian level, we have observed a decrease in the proportion of the population who sometimes drink alcohol (77%) and those who drink alcohol on a daily basis (10%). The drinking habits of 6% of the population are problematic.

The profile of alcohol consumption varies according to age. Young people (aged 15-24) who consume alcohol tend to concentrate their consumption during one or two days in the week, presumably when they go out. On such occasions, they tend to drink nearly as much as older people, but the latter spread their alcohol consumption over the entire week with more moderate consumption per day or per occasion. 45% of young consumers (aged 15-24) began drinking alcohol at an early age (before they were 16 years old).

A survey from 2017 among (Ghent) students indicated that half of them present an increased risk or problem use. Binge drinking is practiced by 11% of respondents on a weekly basis or more frequently, 15% state they consume alcohol prior to going out on a weekly basis or more frequently, and 10% play drinking games on a weekly basis or more frequently.<sup>37</sup>

### Drugs<sup>38</sup>

The level of drug abuse in Belgium is low, yet the use of cannabis and other psychoactive substances increased considerably between 2013 and 2018.

Over one fifth of the Belgian population (22.6%) aged between 15 and 64 has tried out cannabis (compared to 15% in 2013).

Three percent of the population (aged between 15 and 64) exhibited problematic cannabis use in 2018.<sup>39</sup>

9% of respondents (aged 15-64) stated they have never used any other drug than cannabis (compared to 3.6% in 2013).

Cocaine (1.5%) and MDMA or ecstasy (1.2%) are the most frequently used drugs after cannabis.

Drug abuse is more widespread among young people aged between 15 and 24, and in men (aged 15-34) from all walks of life.

35 Stichting Kanker/Fondation contre le Cancer (2017). Rookgedrag in België (smoking behaviour in Belgium in 2017), GfK commissioned by Stichting Kanker/Fondation contre le Cancer.

36 L. Gislé, S. Demarest, S. Drieskens. Gezondheidsenquête 2018. Gebruik van alcohol (2018 Health Survey. Alcohol Consumption). Brussels, Belgium: Sciensano; Report number: D/2019/14. 440/56. Available at: [www.gezondheidsenquête.be](http://www.gezondheidsenquête.be)

37 Van Damme J., et al. (2017). In hogere sferen?, volume 4: een onderzoek naar het middelengebruik bij Vlaamse studenten (Study of substance abuse among Flemish students), Vereniging voor Alcohol en andere Drugproblemen (VAD), Brussels, 2018

38 L. Gislé, S. Drieskens. Gezondheidsenquête 2018. Druggebruik. (2018 Health Survey. Drug Use) Brussels, Belgium: Sciensano; Report number: D/2019/14. 440/59. Available at: [www.gezondheidsenquête.be](http://www.gezondheidsenquête.be)

39 Problematic cannabis use = using in the morning, using on one's own, use giving rise to problems, inability to reduce one's use or stop using despite remarks by friends and relatives.

## Traffic accidents (3.6)

The number of road fatalities in the Flemish Region is just below the European average. Traffic accidents and suicide are the main causes of mortality young people (men aged between 15 and 34; women aged between 15 and 24).

### Road safety and urban liveability

By introducing a circulation plan in April 2017, the City of Ghent aimed at making the urban centre more liveable, ensuring less through traffic and positively impacting the liveability in the inner city:

- > On average, motorised traffic decreased by 36% in the centre's residential streets
- > Motorised traffic decreased by 17% on the main arteries to/from the R40 ring road

### Accidents

The number of accidents resulting in injuries and the number of people injured on the roads decreased between 2017 and 2019. However, more people died in traffic in 2019 than in 2017 and 2018.<sup>40</sup>

**Table 2** Traffic accidents, 2017-2019, Ghent

	2017	2018	2019
Number of accidents with only material damage	3378*	3853	3646
Number of accidents with non-fatal injuries	1259	1227	1221
Number of fatal accidents	2	3	7
Number of injuries	1515	1484	1439

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

## Sexual and reproductive healthcare services (3.7)

Research has shown that 25% of all pregnancies in Belgium are unplanned. Termination of pregnancy is subject to registration in Belgium and usually takes place in an abortion centre (approximately 84%) or otherwise in hospital. In absolute figures, the number of abortions has decreased over the years. 9% of women having an abortion is younger than 20. Belgium ranks among the European countries with the lowest abortion rates for teenagers. 1% of abortions among teenagers was performed for girls aged between 10 and 15.<sup>41</sup>

In 2.7% of births, the mothers were still in their teens: for Ghent, the number of teenage mothers is estimated at 90 a year.<sup>42</sup> Lejo vzw's mobile teenage mothers' organisation supports teenage mothers from Ghent and the surrounding area at their request. In 2017, Lejo vzw provided assistance to 71 girls.

40 Two sources: \*: database of Police Zone Ghent

Other figures: registrations of the federal police/DRI 2020-2017 = registrations excluding motorways

41 Buysse, A. et al. (ed.). (2013). Sexpert: seksuele gezondheid in Vlaanderen (Sexpert: sexual health in Flanders). Ghent: Academia and <https://www.sensoa.be/abortus-en-ongepaalde-zwangerschap-belgie-feiten-en-cijfers>;

42 Kind en Gezin (2017) via 'Oost-Vlaanderen in cijfers' (East Flanders in figures), consulted via <https://oostvlaanderen.incijfers.be/>



## Access to healthcare (3.8)

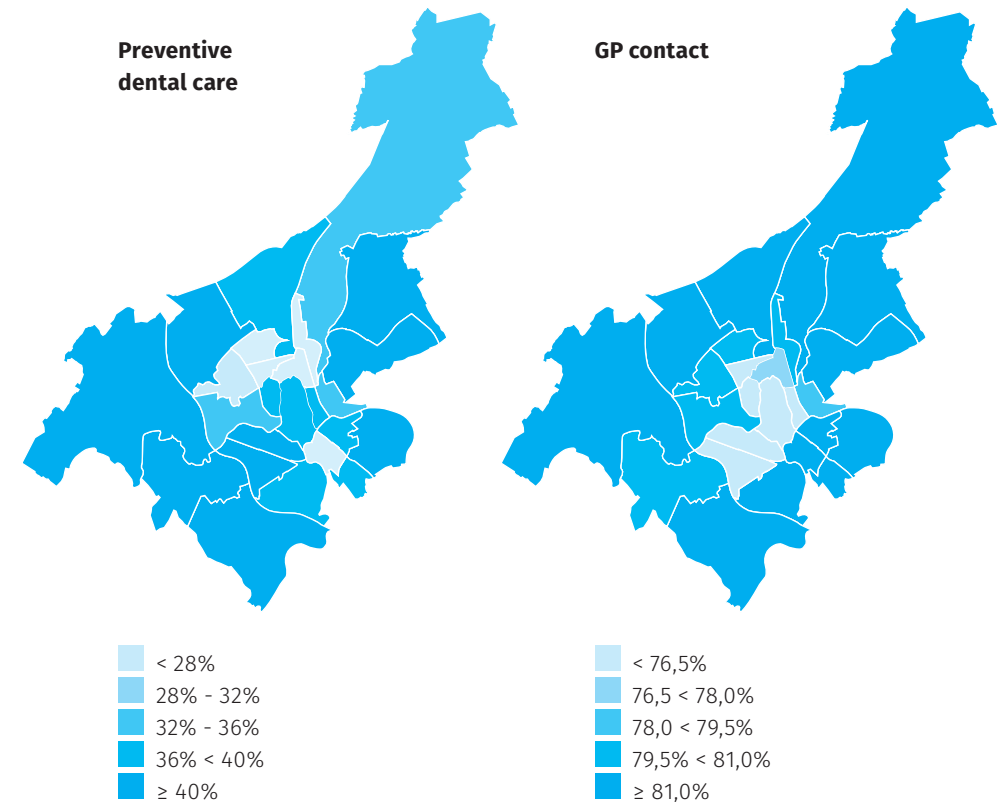
In this report, we only discuss primary healthcare: This is directly accessible care provided by general practitioners, dentists, etc. The general practitioner (GP) is the central figure in primary healthcare.

### Dentists and GPs

72% of Ghentians have a designated treating doctor (and a general medical file), and this percentage has increased over the past few years.<sup>43</sup> Compared to the standard set by the National Institute for Sickness and Disability Insurance (RIZIV/INAMI) of one GP per 1,100 inhabitants, there is a lack of GPs in nine Ghent neighbourhoods.

Although a yearly preventive dental check-up is almost entirely refunded, just 55.8% of Ghentians go to the dentist at least once a year.<sup>44</sup>

**Diagram 3** Percentage in preventive dental care and GP contact, 2017, Ghent, district level



Source: for both maps: IMA atlas

<sup>43</sup> InterMutualistisch Agentschap/Agence InterMutualiste (IMA/AIM) (2020). Policy-relevant statistics and indicators, consulted via <http://atlas.aim-ima.be/databanken>

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

## **Primary-care psychologists and outpatient care**

Primary-care psychologists (for short-term treatment) have a considerable added value for patients and healthcare providers. In 2017, the psychological service of the Ghent PCSW provided 595 short-term treatments to 220 patients in three hospitals. However, the offer is too limited and too fragmented.

The MOBIL teams (Mobile Support and Treatment in the Living Environment) which provide long-term home-based care cannot meet the demand. They have insufficient resources to address the high demand for care.

The outpatient services in the mental healthcare system are also faced with long waiting times.

## **Deaths from pollution (3.9)**

No figures are available, see SDG 11 – Sustainable towns and cities, air quality (11.7).

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



# SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

## Topics of SDG 4

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Completion of quality primary and secondary education (4.1)**

**Access to quality childcare (4.2)**

**Access to affordable and quality education, including tertiary education (4.3)**

**Technical and vocational skills, relevant for the labour market (4.4)**

**Elimination of gender and ethnic disparities in education, including for persons with disabilities (4.5)**

**Functional literacy (4.6)**

**Acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable development (4.7)**

## SDG 4 in short

*This SDG is aimed at ensuring access to training and education for all. This begins in early childhood with access to quality development, care and pre-primary education. The objective is to create equal opportunities in primary, secondary and tertiary education irrespective of gender, background or disability. The education offered should match the needs of the labour market. Over time, attention is paid to functional literacy as well as the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable development.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Every Ghentian is able to develop their talents through childcare and education, by:**

- > Reinforcing high-quality and accessible day care for children up to 3 years old
- > Reinforcing Ghent's Municipal Education
- > Developing the city as a broad learning and living environment
- > Strengthening actors involved in children's development, learning and education
- > Focusing more strongly on the opportunities and challenges that students and tertiary education institutions are faced with

**Getting more people into work through a Ghent labour pact by:**

- > Improving the match between labour market supply and demand now and in the future
- > Reaching more people and aiming for the highest possible level of work

## Status of the city

### Completion of quality primary and secondary education (4.1)

#### Pre-primary participation

A Flemish study from 2016 showed that participation in education at an early age decreases the likelihood of a learning deficit and increases the chance of obtaining a degree. Going to school from an early age also has a positive effect on social behaviour, self-regulation and learning skills.<sup>45</sup>

With a pre-primary participation rate of 97%, Flanders ranks first in Europe (2018). Five-year-olds need to have gone to school for at least 250 half days during the previous school year so as to enter ordinary primary education directly at the age of six. In Ghent, the proportion of pre-schoolers who went to school for an insufficient number of half days increased from 5% in 2010-2011 to 6% in 2018-2019. In Flanders, this proportion was 5.1% for the school year 2018-2019.

#### Truancy and grade retention in primary and secondary education

Truancy increases the likelihood of grade retention (repetition of school years) and of dropping out of school.

In Ghent, we have observed a slight yet constant rise in the percentage of pupils in compulsory primary education with at least ten problematic absences: from 6.5% in 2013-2014 to 8.8% in 2018-2019.<sup>46</sup>

In ordinary secondary education, truancy increased overall in the same period, with significant differences between distinct forms of education: the truancy rate is 3.5% in the second level of general secondary education and approximately 50% in vocational secondary education.

**Table 3** Truancy rate (%) in the second level of secondary education, school year 2018-2019, Ghent

general	technical	art	vocational
3,5%	17,9%	11,8%	54,8%

Source: AgoDi, Flanders Education and Training

In Ghent, the grade retention rate in ordinary primary education decreased from 24.9% in 2012-2013 to 20.1% in 2018-2019 (repetition of one or several school years). The grade retention rate (repetition of one or several school years) in secondary education was 14% for general, 54% for technical, 42% for art and 61% for vocational education in 2018-2019. Nearly half of all students in Ghent secondary schools do not live in the city. Remarkably, the grade retention rate among Ghent students is considerably higher than among students from outside Ghent.

#### Early school leaving

Early school leavers or dropouts are students from secondary education who quit school without having obtained a degree. This puts them at a disadvantage in the labour market. In Ghent, 669 students left secondary education without a degree in the school year 2018-2019, which amounts to 16.2% of all school leavers. This figure is higher than the Flemish average.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>45</sup> Flanders (2016). Actieplan kleuterparticipatie: Elke dag kleuteronderwijs telt (Action plan for participation of pre-schoolers: each day of pre-primary education counts), Vlaanderen is onderwijs & vorming, Brussels. Flanders (2017). Voortgangstoets Vlaanderen (Flanders progress test).

<sup>46</sup> Data & Analysis Services of the 5 Flemish Provinces (2020). Provincies in Cijfers (provincial data). Consulted via <https://provincies.incijfers.be/dashboard>;

<sup>47</sup> Flanders Education. (2020b). Municipal reports on early school leaving for secondary education. Consulted via <http://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/gemeenterapporten-over-vroegtijdig-schoolverlaten-voor-het-secundair-onderwijs>

## Quality of education (relevant and effective learning outcomes)

One of the indicators for educational quality is the level of proficiency in Dutch in primary school. In Flanders, 97% of 10-year-olds have basic-level proficiency. Compared to ten years ago, the average level has decreased among both high and low performers. There is a clear correlation between the home language as well as the socio-economic home situation of pupils on the one hand and their reading comprehension skills on the other hand. Those who do not or rarely speak Dutch at home or come from a vulnerable home situation perform less well at school. Research has also shown that Flemish schools clearly spend less time on reading and writing than schools in other countries. This is not in line with the test results for the attainment level for 'reading' in the sixth year of primary education: 91% of all pupils achieve the attainment level expected.

Although Flemish 15-year-olds continue to score well on international tests for reading, mathematics and science, their scores have declined steadily. In addition, the three-yearly PISA Survey (2018) showed that nearly 1 in 5 students does not achieve the level required to function properly in society.

The relatively large divergence between the test results of Flemish students is an area of concern. The gap between the highest and lowest test scores is nowhere larger than in Flanders. More so than in other countries, the divergence between scores is attributable to the socio-economic home situation and home language: underprivileged students and students who do not speak Dutch at home score significantly lower.

A school's socio-economic composition impacts the performance of students: the larger the proportion of underprivileged students in a school, the lower the average performance. Students influence each other: for instance, students from immigrant backgrounds who have friends without an immigrant background are more likely to go to tertiary education.

We will discuss the non-Dutch home language of Ghent students and pupils together with other educational opportunity indicators (EOI) under item 4.5.

## Access to quality childcare (4.2)

The childcare coverage rate is indicative of the availability. The Ghent childcare centres and childminders accommodate 4,609 children, which is an increase by 148 compared to 2014. This upward trend was especially pronounced between 2006 and 2011. In 2006, the coverage rate was 38% compared to 45% in 2013 and 51% in 2018. The number of births is projected to increase until 2021 and the number of 0-2-year-olds is expected to increase until 2023.<sup>48</sup> 23% of households with low socio-economic status make use of childcare facilities versus 68% of households with high socio-economic status. Availability is one aspect, affordability is another. 3% of Ghentians have had problems making timely payment for childcare.<sup>49</sup>

## Access to affordable and quality education, including tertiary education (4.3)

### Affordable education

Enrolling children in primary school is free of charge in Belgium. For any other expenses, schools may require parents to pay a contribution. In case of Flemish primary schools, this contribution is subject to maximum billing rules. Enrolling children in secondary school is also free of charge in Belgium. For any other expenses, parents are required to pay a contribution. The maximum billing rules do not apply in this case. As a result, there are considerable differences between schools and forms of education.

Belgian tertiary education is very affordable and accessible from an international perspective.

<sup>48</sup> City of Ghent (2020). Ghent In figures. Consulted via <https://gent.buurtmonitor.be/>

<sup>49</sup> Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

## Education allowance (new) and scholarships

Since the school year 2019-2020, an education allowance for children in preschool, primary and secondary education has been integrated in the child benefit package (“Growth Package”). The education allowance is automatically calculated and paid as part of the Growth Package. Parents are therefore no longer required to submit an application.

A scholarship is financial aid awarded by the Flemish government to students so as to help fund their studies (subject to a number of conditions).

## “Living wage” students

10% of 18 and 19-year-olds and over 7% of 20-24-year-olds receive a guaranteed minimum income or “living wage”.<sup>50</sup> In 2017, there were 815 “living wage” students of 18 years and older in Ghent. They study, do not have any income and do not receive any financial support from their parents. Half of them are in secondary education and half are in higher or adult education. 11% of all “living wage” recipients are students.

## Tertiary education

Nearly a third of all Flemish students study in Ghent. The number of students at the Ghent university colleges and university increased from 66,714 in 2010 to 77,470 in the academic year 2018-2019.<sup>51</sup> The number of enrolments rose as well: from 62,323 in 2008-2009 to 90,777 in 2018-2019. The number of enrolments exceeds the number of students because one person may enrol for various programmes.

It is striking that more women (54%) than men (46%) enrol in tertiary education. Female school leavers fare better than their male counterparts:

- > 61% of unqualified and low-skilled school leavers in Ghent are men
- > 60% of highly skilled school leavers are women

On average, women obtain a degree of tertiary education more often and find employment more easily.<sup>52</sup>

## Technical and vocational skills, relevant for the labour market (4.4)

11% of 3,706 school leavers from secondary education were still unemployed after one year in 2018. The unemployment rate differs considerably between low-skilled (34%), medium-skilled (13%) and high-skilled school leavers (4%).

One third of all early school leavers (dropouts) in Ghent still have not found employment after one year.

In 2019, the percentage of 15-24-year-old Belgians not in education, employment or training (NEET) was 9.3%. The percentage is estimated at 12.1% for Ghent.<sup>53</sup>

## Elimination of gender and ethnic disparities in education, including for persons with disabilities (4.5)

Educational inequality in Flanders is determined by the educational deprivation indicators and by whether the home language is not Dutch.

<sup>50</sup> Ghent PCSW (2018). 2017 annual overview.

<sup>51</sup> Flanders Department of Education: DHO data file requested by the City of Ghent.

<sup>52</sup> VDAB, 2019

<sup>53</sup> Proportion of youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) on the basis of gender in the European Union, 2000-2016 – Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium EAK, Eurostat LFS (edited by Steunpunt Werk/Department of Employment of Social Economy)



## Educational deprivation

The number of underprivileged students is assessed on the basis of the educational deprivation indicators. There are four determining factors in educational deprivation:

- > The student's mother has a low educational level (not higher than lower secondary education)
- > The home language is not Dutch, in other words: the language spoken in the household is not the language of instruction
- > The student receives an education allowance
- > The student lives in a neighbourhood where many 15-year-olds have repeated at least two school years

Over the past few years, the average level of educational deprivation in nursery and primary schools has been on the rise and increased from 1.47 in school year 2011-2012 to 1.56 in 2018-2019.

The rising trend is especially significant in the education allowance (received by 34.5% of students in 2018-2019) and non-Dutch home language (34% in 2018-2019).

In secondary education, we also see an increase in the percentage of students who receive an education allowance and whose home language is not Dutch: the latter rose from 16% in school year 2011-2012 to 24% in 2018-2019.

The level of educational deprivation varies significantly across different forms of education. It is much higher than average in vocational secondary education. Over the past few years, there has been a slight upward trend in all forms of education, but it is more pronounced in vocational secondary education. The level of educational deprivation is even higher and continues to rise in part-time vocational secondary education.

**Table 4** Educational deprivation indicator (EDI) for primary and secondary education, on the basis of domicile, school years 2010-2011 to 2018-2019, Ghent

primary education	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average EDI	1,47	1,51	1,48	1,51	1,53	1,54	1,56	1,54	1,56
secondary education	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
general	0,58	0,6	0,59	0,59	0,61	0,63	0,65	0,63	0,65
vocational	1,92	1,95	2	2,07	2,09	2,17	2,21	2,17	2,21
art	0,76	0,76	0,69	0,67	0,67	0,77	0,75	0,77	0,75
technical	1,1	1,17	1,13	1,18	1,22	1,27	1,33	1,27	1,33
part-time vocational secondary education	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
PVSE	1,92	2,01	1,96	1,9	1,91	1,95	2,04	1,95	2,04

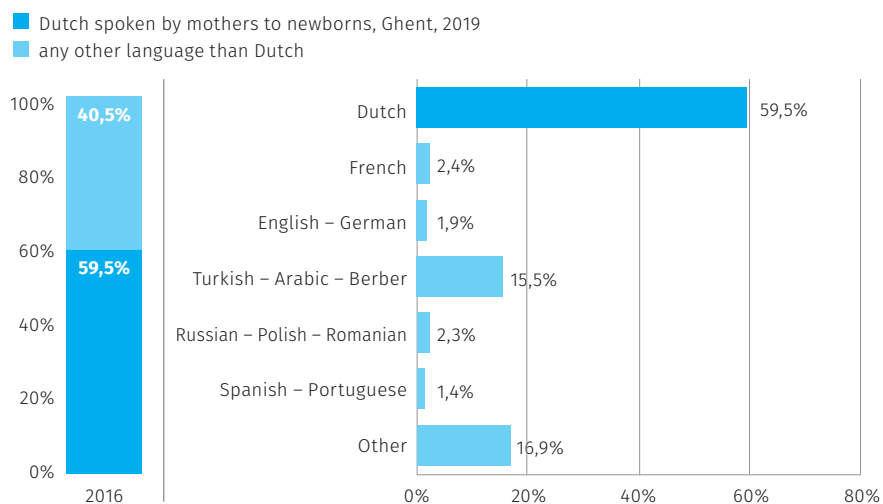
Source: AgoDi, Flanders Education and Training

## Non-Dutch home language

The home language is one of the principal educational deprivation indicators. If the home language is not Dutch, this impacts the educational career: students whose home language is not Dutch are underrepresented in general secondary education, have a higher grade retention rate (both in primary and in secondary school) and a higher truancy rate. In addition, the figures show that truancy is more common among boys than among girls. These factors contribute to the educational attainment gap. More detailed figures can be found under SDG 10 – Reduce inequality.

In 2019, 41.2% of all newborns in Ghent had a mother who did not speak Dutch.

**Diagram 4** Language spoken by mothers to newborns, Ghent, 2019



Source: Kind&Gezin

Percentages of underage children who do not speak Dutch at home:<sup>54</sup>

- > 35% of children in Ghent nursery schools
- > 31% of pupils in primary education
- > 31% of students in secondary education residing in Ghent

Young people of foreign nationality leave secondary education without obtaining a degree much more frequently.<sup>55</sup>

- > 10% of Belgian nationals leave school early
- > 24% of EU nationals leave school early
- > 38% of non-EU nationals leave school early

Young people who do not speak Dutch at home are much more likely to drop out of secondary school:

- > 7% of dropouts speak Dutch at home
- > 22% of dropouts do not speak Dutch at home

## Functional literacy (4.6)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

## Acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable development (4.7)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

54 Stuyck, K., Doyen, G., Feys, Y., Noppe, J., Jacques, A., Buysschaert, P. (2018), Survey Samenleven in Diversiteit 2017 (2017 societal diversity survey). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency

55 Flanders Education (2020). Dataloep: aan de slag met cijfers over onderwijs [Dataset]. Consulted via <https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/dataloep-aan-de-slag-met-cijfers-over-onderwijs>;

5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



# SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## Topics of SDG 5

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Discrimination against women (5.1)**

**Violence against women (including trafficking and (sexual) exploitation) (5.2)**

**Harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (5.3)**

**Recognition of unpaid care and domestic work (5.4)**

**Full participation of women in society (5.5)**

**Access to sexual and reproductive health care (5.6)**

## SDG 5 in short

*SDG 5 focuses on gender. The core objective of this SDG is achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The SDG is primarily aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls worldwide. In addition, the SDG is aimed at ensuring women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life. This goes hand in hand with the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work. This goal can only be achieved if women have equal access to healthcare, education and economic resources.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Super-diversity has become the new normal in Ghent through:**

- > Ensuring equal opportunities for target groups at increased risk of social deprivation

**Ghent is a safe city thanks to an alert police force that is close to the people, through:**

- > Expanding a balanced and widely supported three-prong policy: prevention, reparation and enforcement
- > Reinforcing and rejuvenating an alert police force that is close to the people



## Status of the city

The gender equality figures are based on the gender equality index (provided by Eurostat). Differences between men and women are indicated on a scale from 1 (complete inequality) to 100 (complete equality) for the following core domains: work, money, knowledge, time, power and health.<sup>56</sup>

In the 2019 gender equality index, Belgium scored 71.1 points out of 100, which is above the EU-28 average. Belgium is ranked 8<sup>th</sup>, but has moved down in the index ranking since 2005. The figures for Ghent are provided whenever possible.

## Discrimination against women (5.1)

No figures.

## Violence against women (including trafficking and (sexual) exploitation) (5.2)

Only figures from police reports are available. They concern registered offences committed in the Ghent area (not necessarily by inhabitants of Ghent) and we do not know to what extent these official figures underrepresent the actual situation.

The 2019 police reports include 544 cases of physical domestic violence, 12 cases of sexual violence by intimate partners, 4 cases of child sexual abuse and 1 case of sexual violence against other family members.<sup>57</sup>

The nature of domestic violence is principally physical (49%) and psychological (38%) abuse. These registered cases of domestic violence are only a fraction of a much more extensive problem. On average, victims are thought to report abuse after being hit for the 7<sup>th</sup> time, which usually results in a domestic disturbance report. An official report is only filed for the fourth domestic disturbance.<sup>58</sup>

The 2018 Security Monitor provides us with the following data:

The general feeling of unsafety is significantly higher in women than in men: 8% of women often or always feel unsafe (compared to 4% of men), 18% of women never feel unsafe (compared to 39% of men). 3.5% of surveyed Ghentians have been the victim of a sexual offence in the last 12 months. Proportionally more women than men report being the victim of a sexual offence. This is not true for other offences against persons such as physical violence.<sup>59</sup>

## Harmful practices such as child and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (5.3)

Where violence is concerned, Belgium scores 29.7, which is slightly higher than the EU average.

In Belgium, 44% of women aged 15 and over have been faced with physical or sexual violence. This rate is higher than the EU28 average of 37%.<sup>60</sup>

Child marriage and forced marriage are illegal in Belgium, no figures are available on forced marriages. A study from 2013 about forced marriages in the Brussels Capital Region showed that it is very difficult to generate reliable figures.<sup>61</sup>

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56 European Institute for Equality (2019): 2019 Gender Equality Index: Belgium, Vilnius, Lithuania

57 Federal Police (2020): Clarification Barometer, location where the offences took place: Police Zone of Ghent

58 City of Ghent – Data and Information Department (2018). 2018 environmental analysis – technical version

59 Federal Police (2019): 2018 Security Report, Table Report, Final Report – Police Zone Ghent, Brussels

60 European Institute for Equality (2019): 2019 Gender Equality Index: Belgium, Vilnius, Lithuania

61 Institute for the Equality of Women and Men. (2012). Forced marriages. Consulted via [https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/nl/publicaties/gedwongen\\_huwelijken\\_in\\_het\\_brussels\\_hoofdstedelijk\\_gewest](https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/nl/publicaties/gedwongen_huwelijken_in_het_brussels_hoofdstedelijk_gewest);

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practised by a minority group, but is on the rise in Belgium and Ghent due to incoming migration from areas with a high prevalence of FGM: Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Eritrea. The prevalence of FGM in this group is 4%.<sup>62</sup>

Migration has an impact on FGM, both in terms of attitudes towards this practice and in terms of its implementation. Numerous countries, including Belgium, have a specific criminal provision prohibiting FGM.

## Recognition of unpaid care and domestic work (5.4)

The biggest challenges are in the domain “time”, in which the score decreased by 9 points. This is largely due to the uneven distribution of time for care and social activities between women and men.

Women still bear the greatest burden when it comes to providing care for the family: 43% of women and 29% of men spend at least 1 hour a day on care responsibilities. The difference are larger in couples with children (87% of women and 68% of men) and in the age group between 25 and 49 (68% of women and 46% of men).<sup>63</sup> Women tend to give care more often not only in their own family but also for others / other families. The 2017 City Monitor includes figures for the 13 Flemish centre cities, showing that women provide more informal care than men.

About 41% of women work part-time, compared to 11% of men. On average, women work 33 hours a week and men 40 hours a week.<sup>64</sup>

The uneven distribution of time for domestic work also applies to social activities. Men take part in sports, cultural and recreational activities outside the home slightly more than women. Participation in voluntary or charitable activities is generally higher among men and lower among men with low levels of education.<sup>65</sup>

## Full participation of women in society (5.5)

Progress in the gender equality domains of work and knowledge has been slightly faster in Belgium than the EU28 average, although Belgium does not meet the EU objective for participation of women and men in the labour market. In the domain of knowledge, the gender equality level in Belgium is very high thanks to a relatively low degree of segregation across fields of study. Belgium scores 71.3 points in this domain.<sup>66</sup>

### Education

Gender segregation across fields of study remains challenging. In tertiary education, the gender gap increased in the fields of education, health and welfare, humanities and arts. The share of female students in these fields, which have been traditionally considered as “female”, is 56%, compared to 31% for male students.<sup>67</sup>

This gender gap also exists in Ghent’s tertiary education institutions, whose population consists of 57% female students in the academic year 2019-2020. The majority are concentrated in the fields of education, health and welfare, humanities and arts, which have a share of female students of 72%.<sup>68</sup>

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62 Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (2018). Schatting van de prevalentie van in België wonende meisjes en vrouwen die vrouwelijke genitale verminking ondergingen of het risico lopen om verminkt te worden, 2018 (2018 estimate of the prevalence of girls and women living in Belgium having undergone or at risk of genital mutilation). Consulted via [https://gams.be/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/VGV\\_Prevalentiestudie-04-02-19.pdf](https://gams.be/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/VGV_Prevalentiestudie-04-02-19.pdf)

63 European Institute for Equality (2019): 2019 Gender Equality Index: Belgium, Vilnius, Lithuania

64 *Ibid.*

65 *Ibid.*

66 *Ibid.*

67 *Ibid.*

68 Flanders Education. (2020). Dataloep: aan de slag met cijfers over onderwijs [Dataset]. Consulted via <https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/dataloep-aan-de-slag-met-cijfers-over-onderwijs>;



## Income

In the domain of money, Belgium has achieved a high score (88.3 points), the second highest score in the EU28, and is making progress towards gender equality. Gender equality has increased in terms of wage and income as well as, to a lesser extent, in terms of the distribution of wealth and risk of poverty.<sup>69</sup>

The average monthly salary of both women and men has risen, but women's average monthly wage is over 6% lower than that of men. This gap is getting smaller. On average, women earn 94 cents for every euro earned by a man. The gender gap is wider in case of couples with children.<sup>70</sup> Flemish figures have shown the wage gap to be wider in the private sector than in the public sector.<sup>71</sup>

Women appear to work less frequently in sectors with higher wage levels (energy, the chemical industry, IT and metallurgy), while they are overrepresented in low-paying sectors (social work, other personal services and retail).<sup>72</sup>

Women are also overrepresented in lower positions and men in higher ones. The proportion of women in the more practical and elementary professions (such as cleaners and unskilled labourers), administrative jobs and service occupations exceeds 60%. Nearly 7 out of 10 executives (managers) in Flanders are men, and 3 out of 4 are men in case of executives over the age of 50. The proportion of female and male managers has changed little over the past decade.<sup>73</sup>

## Participation in the labour market

- > The labour participation rate is 66% among women (aged 2064) compared to 74% among men. With a total labour participation rate of 70%, Belgium has not met the national Europe 2020 strategy target (EU2020) of 73%.<sup>74</sup>
- > Between 2005 and 2017, the percentage of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees increased from 35% to 38% for women and decreased from 55% to 53% for men, thus narrowing the gender gap. The gender gap narrows as the level of education increases.<sup>75</sup>
- > Gender segregation in the labour market is a reality for women and men. Approximately 40% of women are employed in education, healthcare and social work compared to 11% of men. About six times as many men (34%) as women (6%) hold positions related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.<sup>76</sup>
- > The most recent figures (2017) provided by the knowledge centre Steunpunt Werk indicate that the activity rate, employment rate and unemployment rate are all lower for women than for men in Ghent. In other words, they participate less in the labour market.
  - o The overall activity rate in Ghent is 73.7%, with a lower rate for women (70%) and a higher rate for men (77%).<sup>77</sup>
  - o The overall employment rate in Ghent is 65%, with a lower rate for women (62.4%) and a higher rate for men (68%).
  - o The overall unemployment rate in Ghent is 11.4%, with a lower rate for women (10.7%) and a higher rate for men (12%).

69 European Institute for Equality (2019): 2019 Gender Equality Index: Belgium, Vilnius, Lithuania

70 *Ibid.*

71 Flemish Government (2017): Flemish gender monitor 2016, Brussels, Belgium

72 *Ibid.*

73 *Ibid.*

74 European Institute for Equality (2019): 2019 Gender Equality Index: Belgium, Vilnius, Lithuania

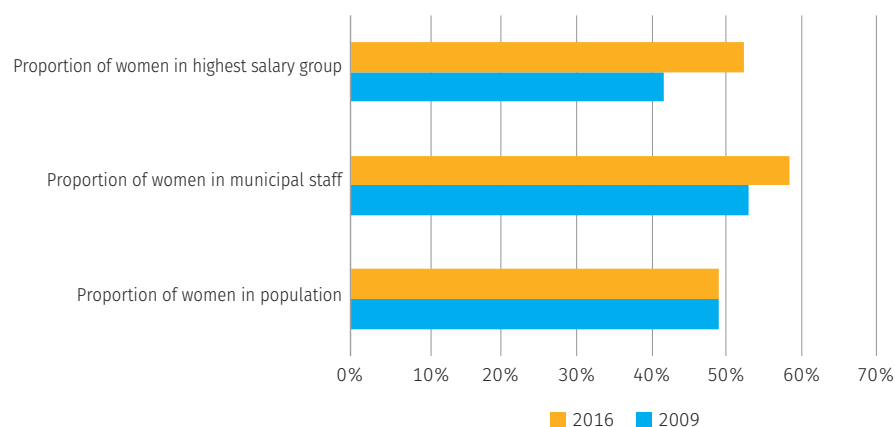
75 *Ibid.*

76 *Ibid.*

77 Sels, L., Vansteenkiste, S., & Knipprath, H. (2017). Toekomstverkenningen arbeidsmarkt 2050 (Werk.Rapport 2017 nr.1). Leuven: Steunpunt Werk, HIVA - KU Leuven.

The gender gap in labour participation widens if we consider the number of hours worked. The FTE labour participation rate is approximately 37% for women compared to 52% for men.

**Diagram 5** Diversity of municipal staff (gender), 2009, 2016, Ghent



Source: 2017 City Monitor

## Power

The greatest progress has been made in the domain of power, principally because more women now occupy decision-making positions in the economic sector. However, Belgium continues to score lowest in this domain.

Belgium's score in the domain of power is 55.2, an increase by 15.4 points since 2005. This progress is attributable to the significant improvement in the sub-domains of economic and social power.

- > In the sub-domain of political power, Belgium introduced a 50% legal quota for candidates in 2002. As a result, the proportion of female members of parliament increased from 23% in 1999 to 39% in 2014.<sup>78</sup>
- > The percentage of female members of parliament rose from 35% in 2005 to 40% in 2018, while the proportion of female ministers decreased from 26% to 22%. Women make up 40% of the regional assemblies.
- > For the City of Ghent, the gender distribution was proportional in the previous term and continues to be so in the current one: there are an equal number of male and female municipal councillors (26 men and 27 women for the period from 2019 to 2024). Women and men are also proportionally represented in the Municipal Executive in the current term: 5 men and 6 women. The gender distribution in the Municipal Executive has been proportional since 2001, while the proportion of women was much lower before 2001 (between 0% and 18%).<sup>79</sup> We have seen the greatest improvement in the sub-domain of economic power. Belgium has introduced a 33% legal quota for women in the boards of directors of companies. As a result, the proportion of women in the boards of directors of the largest listed companies rose from 6% to 31%.
- > In the sub-domain of social power, Belgium has significantly outpaced the progress made in the EU as a whole. 32% of the board members of public broadcasters and half of the board members of research funding organisations are women.

<sup>78</sup> Translated to the Ghent situation, this concerns the following bodies: the municipal executive, the municipal council and the management team.

<sup>79</sup> City of Ghent (2020). Cijfers bestuursondersteuning (management support figures)

## Access to sexual and reproductive health (5.6)

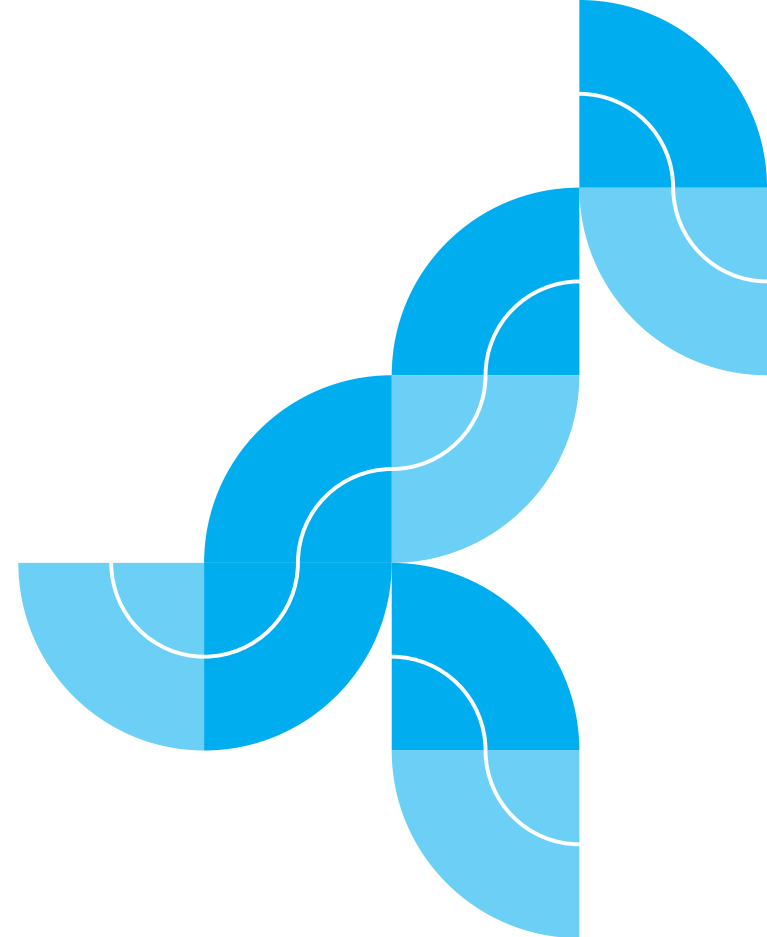
The situation in the domain of health has remained stable (86.3 points).

Life expectancy has increased for both women and men. On average, women live five years longer than men, yet both groups have the same number of healthy life years. In 2018, life expectancy was 84 years for Ghent women and 80 years for Ghent men.<sup>80</sup>

The 2017 City Monitor reveals that 73% of Ghentians feels healthy and that men feel slightly healthier than women (73% versus 70%).<sup>81</sup> The gender gap in self-perceived health diminishes with higher educational levels. The gender gap in self-perceived health is wider among single women and men than among other household types.<sup>82</sup>

Health-related behaviour varies depending on gender. Half of all men consume too much alcohol and/or smoke compared to about a third of all women. On the other hand, slightly more men than women have a healthy lifestyle (physical exercise and/or consumption of fruits and vegetables).<sup>83</sup>

For figures concerning sexual and reproductive health, see SDG 3.7 'Sexual and reproductive healthcare services'.



80 Flanders Statistics (2018). Vlaamse gemeentelijke demografische vooruitzichten 2018-2035 (Flemish municipal demographic forecasts for 2018-2035). Consulted via <https://www.statistiekvlaanderen.be/vlaamse-gemeentelijke-demografische-vooruitzichten--2018-2035>;

81 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

82 J. Tafforeau, S. Drieskens, R. Charafeddine, J. Van der Heyden. Gezondheidsenquête 2018: Subjectieve gezondheid (2018 Health Survey: Subjective Health). Brussels, Belgium: Sciensano. Report number: D/2019/14.440/35.

83 *Ibid.*

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



# SDG 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

## Topics of SDG 6

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Access to drinking water (6.1)**

**Access to sanitation and hygiene (6.2)**

**Water quality, water pollution and wastewater reuse (6.3)**

**Water use efficiency, sustainable water withdrawal and water scarcity reduction (6.4)**

**Supra-local (transboundary) water resources management (6.5)**

**Protection / restoration of water-related ecosystems (6.6)**

## SDG 6 in short

*The sixth SDG deals with clean drinking water for everyone, a topic which is relevant at an international level, and the availability of adequate and equitable sanitation. Too much of our waste still ends up in bodies of water. To improve the water quality, we need to put an end to this pollution and increase the proportion of treated wastewater. In addition, all countries need to have a well-functioning water management system by 2030 and invest in sustainable water withdrawal to reduce water scarcity.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**The City of Ghent is working on a healthy and clean living environment through:**

- > Enhancing the water system's environmental quality
- > Public sanitary facilities

**More green spaces, nature and water make Ghent a more pleasant and climate-proof city through:**

- > Water policy optimisation



## Access to drinking water (6.1)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

## Access to sanitation and hygiene (6.2)

The comfort of homes is improving year by year. 89% of Ghentians have a medium level of comfort with hot running water, central heating and a (hip) bath or shower.<sup>84</sup>

On average, 9% of residents of Flemish centre cities belonged to a household experiencing difficulties paying their energy and water bills in 2017. For Ghent, this proportion of the population was 7%.<sup>85</sup>

## Water quality, water pollution and wastewater reuse (6.3)

### Quality of the Ghent watercourses

The freshwater quality in Ghent has improved considerably over the past years. This is largely thanks to the connection of wastewater discharges to the public sewerage network and water treatment plants. The freshwater quality in Ghent is nevertheless still rather poor. Overflows, untreated wastewater discharges and historical waterbed pollution are the principal sources of surface water pollution in Ghent.<sup>86</sup>

More information on the Ghent watercourses can be found under SDG 15 ‘Life on land’.

### Treatment level

Ghent continues to invest in reducing the residual wastewater discharges into the surface waters, e.g. by expanding and renovating the sewerage system. Ghent is also working on the elimination of wastewater discharge points. A considerable part of the discharge points have already been connected to the public sewerage network (95% within the City of Ghent), with a treatment level of 89% (Flemish Environmental Association – VMM 2016). However, a limited number of collective and numerous individual discharge points remain present in the watercourses of the inner city.<sup>87</sup>

### Waterbed quality

In general, Ghent’s waterbeds have been affected, sometimes heavily, by historical pollution.<sup>88</sup> Ghent aims to achieve a basic level of quality for all waterbeds: maximum prevention of waterbed pollution and minimum concentrations of suspended solids.

84 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

85 *Ibid.*

86 De Vlaamse Waterweg NV and the City of Ghent. (2018). Beleidsvisie “Water in de stad” (“Water in the city” policy vision). Consulted via [https://www.vlaamsewaterweg.be/sites/default/files/download/15061\\_tk\\_010\\_gezamenlijke\\_visienota\\_layout\\_2019.pdf](https://www.vlaamsewaterweg.be/sites/default/files/download/15061_tk_010_gezamenlijke_visienota_layout_2019.pdf)

87 *Ibid.*

88 VMM. (2016). Geoloket waterkwaliteit (water quality geo-office). Consulted via <https://www.vmm.be/data/waterkwaliteit>



## Water use efficiency, sustainable water withdrawal and water scarcity reduction (6.4)

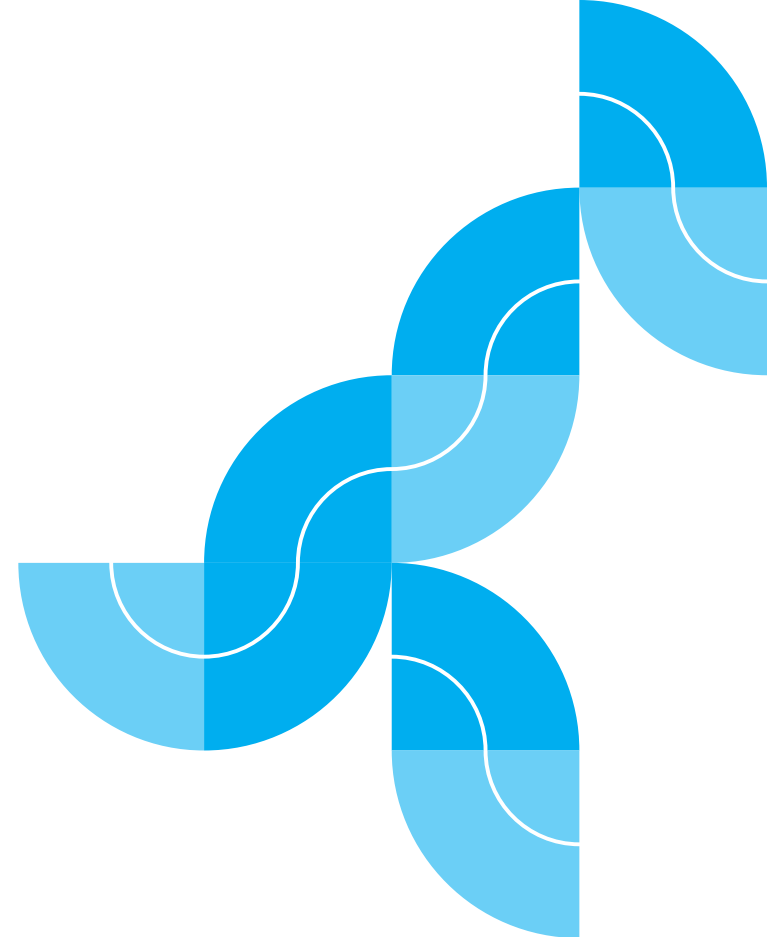
In 2019, the amount of water used in Ghent (including its submunicipalities) totalled 15,166,862.89 m<sup>3</sup>.<sup>89</sup> This is equivalent to 57,536 litres per inhabitant, which is lower than the average water consumption in Belgium of 59,478 litres per inhabitant.<sup>90</sup>

## Supra-local (transboundary) water resources management (6.5)

Ghent's waterways are managed by Vlaamse Waterweg nv which, together with the City of Ghent, performs work on waterways at several levels: safety, water management, functional and recreational use, commercial exploitation and shared use by citizens, amenity value, their role in climate-proofing the city and the scenic value of waterways.<sup>91</sup>

## Protection / restoration of water-related ecosystems (6.6)

See SDG 15 'Life on land'.

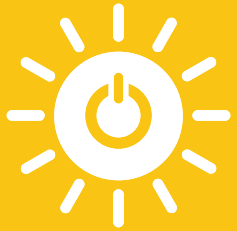


<sup>89</sup> Farys, 2020

<sup>90</sup> Federal Planning Bureau. (2019, 8 November). Water consumption. Consulted via [https://www.indicators.be/nl/i/G06\\_WAT/Waterverbruik](https://www.indicators.be/nl/i/G06_WAT/Waterverbruik)

<sup>91</sup> De Vlaamse Waterweg NV and the City of Ghent. (2018). Beleidsvisie "Water in de stad" ("Water in the city" policy vision). Consulted via [https://www.vlaamsewaterweg.be/sites/default/files/download/15061\\_tk\\_010\\_gezamenlijke\\_visienota\\_layout\\_2019.pdf](https://www.vlaamsewaterweg.be/sites/default/files/download/15061_tk_010_gezamenlijke_visienota_layout_2019.pdf)

**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



# SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

## Topics of SDG 7

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Access to energy services (7.1)**

**Renewable energy (7.2)**

**Energy efficiency (7.3)**

## SDG 7 in short

*Everyone should have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy by 2030. Sustainable energy can be generated from renewable resources such as water, wind and sunlight. To achieve this objective, we need to examine these resources and the technologies for generating sustainable energy in greater detail. The rate of improvement in energy efficiency must be doubled by 2030.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Ghent is expanding the housing supply and enhancing the quality and energy efficiency of existing homes by:**

> Improving the housing quality and energy efficiency of Ghent homes

**Ghent continues to lead the way in pursuing a bold and social climate policy, through:**

> Increasing the local production of renewable energy

## Status of the city

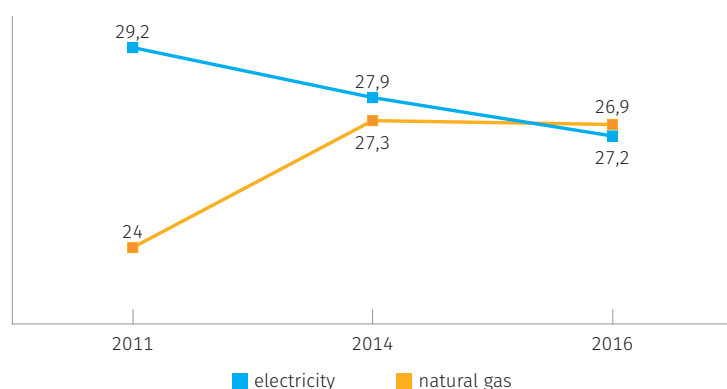
### Access to energy services (7.1)

Also refer to 'SDG 1 - Poverty'

In 2017, 14.5% of households in Gent had an energy bill which was too high compared to the disposable income (after deducting the cost of living).<sup>92</sup> Two energy poverty indicators provide an insight into the Ghent situation. The first indicator is an increase in the number of gas and electricity disconnections:

- > Natural gas: increase from 11.6 disconnections per 1,000 households in 2011 to 15.3 in 2016.
- > Electricity: increase from 4.3 disconnections per 1,000 households in 2011 to 6.8 in 2016.

**Diagram 6** Energy poverty among households: budget meters – 2011, 2014, 2016, Ghent number per 1,000 housing units



Source: 2017 City Monitor

92 Delbeke, B., Meyer, S., Coene, J. (2017). Barometer Energiearmoede (Energy Poverty Barometer), third edition 2017, Brussels: King Baudouin Foundation.

93 A budget meter enables people to pay for their electricity or natural gas consumption in advance. The system works with a stored-value card, just like a prepaid calling card. When the card has been inserted into the budget meter, the prepaid amount for electricity or natural gas can be used. Each meter requires a separate stored-value card.

94 Vranken, J., Huybrechs, F., Meyer, S. (2011). Energiearmoede in België (Energy Poverty in Belgium), Antwerp and Brussels: Oases & CEESE.

95 Brał, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

96 Goedemé, T., Coene, J. & Hubeau, B. (2017). "Energie en armoede" (Energy and poverty), in: *Armoede, energie en wonen: creatieve ideeën voor een toekomst zonder energiearmoede*, p. 7-12, Antwerp: University of Antwerp.

The second indicator is the number of budget meters<sup>93</sup> per thousand households. This percentage has remained relatively stable over the past three years. Although it is decreasing for electricity, the total number of budget meters continues to rise in Ghent. On 31 December 2016, the number of activated budget meters was 3,136 for electricity and 2,439 for gas.

Tenants, both in the private and in the social rental market, are hit harder by energy poverty than home owners. They have limited options when it comes to choosing energy sources or improving the energy performance of their home or principal installations.<sup>94</sup>

It is also striking that households with children have difficulties with paying electricity, gas, water and heating oil bills more often than with paying the costs of their home.<sup>95</sup>

Although people living in poverty consume relatively little energy, they would benefit most from more energy-efficient (heating) installations and better insulation (which reduce energy costs). Some measures aimed at increasing the energy efficiency, such as higher energy prices, have a serious impact on people living in poverty. Measures such as subsidies and tax benefits contribute to the so-called Matthew effect: they benefit people living in poverty to a very limited extent (see SDG 1 – Poverty).<sup>96</sup>

## Renewable energy (7.2)

The figures relating to renewable energy have been provided by the Flemish research organisation VITO and include the generation of electricity from wind turbines, photovoltaic panels and waste (biomass) incineration as well as the generation of heat from solar boilers and heat pumps. We compare these figures to the total energy demand of households (electricity and heating). The ambition set by the Ghent climate plan is a self-sufficiency rate of 15%. In 2017, the self-sufficiency

rate increased significantly to 16.5% thanks to the commissioning of 14 wind turbines in the harbour (Darsen 2, Arcelor and Stora Enso). There has also been an increase in terms of photovoltaic panels and solar boilers.<sup>97</sup>

The amount of energy produced from renewable sources, especially sunlight and wind, has risen sharply over the past few years. After a period of fast growth in 2011-2012 on account of subsidisation, the number of photovoltaic panels installed has increased steadily in recent years. The installation of new wind turbines has

**Table 5** Production of renewable energy and energy demand, 2007-2019, Ghent

	2007	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh	MWh
Onshore wind energy	60.901	62.507	69.626	69.778	82.539	79.801	105.037	102.572	178.644
PV <10kW (private individuals)	101	1.767	8.735	14.662	16.527	17.640	18.294	20.154	22.789
PV >10kW (large installations)	0	1.251	18.303	28.609	32.877	35.504	37.065	35.667	35.254
Energy from waste incineration	10.018	10.471	10.490	8.447	10.536	11.049	10.914	11.138	9.707
<b>Total renewable energy – electricity</b>	<b>71.020</b>	<b>75.996</b>	<b>107.154</b>	<b>121.496</b>	<b>142.479</b>	<b>143.994</b>	<b>171.310</b>	<b>169.531</b>	246.394
Solar boilers			780	902	1.390	1.709	2.109	2.464	3.475
Heat pumps			1.030	1.678	2.479	3.279	5.034	7.112	6.180
<b>Total renewable energy – heat</b>			<b>1.810</b>	<b>2.580</b>	<b>3.868</b>	<b>4.988</b>	<b>7.143</b>	<b>9.576</b>	<b>9.655</b>
<b>TOTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	<b>71.020</b>	<b>75.996</b>	<b>108.964</b>	<b>124.076</b>	<b>146.347</b>	<b>148.982</b>	<b>178.453</b>	<b>179.107</b>	<b>256.049</b>
<b>Total energy demand from households</b>	<b>1.844.569</b>	<b>1.806.860</b>	<b>1.621.218</b>	<b>1.701.423</b>	<b>1.748.679</b>	<b>1.477.920</b>	<b>1.538.302</b>	<b>1.608.747</b>	<b>1.549.884</b>
<i>Self-sufficiency rate of households</i>	<b>3,85%</b>	<b>4,21%</b>	<b>6,61%</b>	<b>7,14%</b>	<b>8,37%</b>	<b>10,08%</b>	<b>11,60%</b>	<b>11,13%</b>	<b>16,52%</b>

Source: Vito & Ivago

97 City of Ghent – Department of Environment and Climate (2019): CO2 monitor 2017

been less gradual: no new wind turbines were commissioned in the period from 2011 to 2014, while their number rose exponentially in 2015 thanks to wind energy development in the harbour. Due to their relative importance, we have also brought solar boilers and heat pumps into the equation since 2013.

In spite of the upward trend, renewable energy systems have limited a presence in Ghent homes: 10% have photovoltaic panels (compared to a Flemish average of 17%) and 4% have solar thermal collectors (compared to a Flemish average of 6%).<sup>98</sup>

## Energy efficiency (7.3)

A service or product is energy efficient if its production and use require no more energy than absolutely necessary. As a process requires less energy to achieve the same objective, it is considered to be more efficient. With regard to this topic, we will discuss one aspect of energy efficiency: energy-saving measures to reduce domestic heating energy consumption.

**Table 6** Analysis of basic criteria for energy-saving measures in Ghent homes – 2017

	HOUSING UNITS PERCENTAGE	HOUSING UNITS NUMBER
None of the criteria are met	16,50%	20.918
1 out of 3 criteria is met	33,10%	41.963
2 out of 3 criteria are met	31,70%	40.188
3 out of 3 criteria are met	18,80%	23.834
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>126.776</b>

Source: E20

<sup>98</sup> Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

<sup>99</sup> E20 (2017), Energetische staat woningen stad Gent (Energy performance of homes in Ghent), final report, p. 52

Many homes in Ghent have a poor energy performance rating<sup>99</sup> (also see SDG 11 – 11.1) as they do not have insulated roofs, floors or façades, double glazing and/or a condensing boiler. Despite the relatively large reduction in CO2 emissions per household, there is still a long way to go. In 2016, the City of Ghent commissioned a study on the energy performance of Ghent homes. A total of 1,298 homes were screened on site for three basic criteria: the presence of a condensing boiler, at least 15 centimetres of roof insulation and high-efficiency glazing.

Ghent's social housing units were not screened as their energy performance rating was already known. The social housing association WoninGent had inventoried its portfolio by the end of 2013. The inventory showed that one third of homes were in need of a thorough renovation and another third required a thorough partial renovation within ten years.

The energy performance of Ghent offices, hotels, bars and restaurants, commercial buildings, schools and hospital is less clear.





# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



# SDG 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

## Topics of SDG 8

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Economic growth (GDP) (8.1)**

**Economic productivity (diversification, technological upgrading and innovation) (8.2)**

**Supporting productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (8.3)**

**Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and improving resource efficiency (8.4)**

**Productive employment, decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (8.5)**

**Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (8.6)**

## SDG 8 in short

*SDG 8 is centred around decent work for everyone. This means that anyone who is able to work should have the opportunity to work in good and safe working conditions. In this context, particular attention is paid to young people and persons with disabilities. Employment should promote economic growth without adversely affecting the environment. Sustainable tourism is part and parcel of healthy economic growth.*

*Within this scope, countries need to focus their policies on entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. Domestic financial institutions should be strengthened in order to ensure everyone has access to banks, insurance and other financial services.*

*In addition, countries should take action to eliminate modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour, including child labour and recruitment and use of child soldiers.*

The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:

**A diverse and sustainable economic fabric through:**

- > Facilitating entrepreneurship in the start-up and growth phase
- > Scaling up the economy of the future
- > Promoting a dynamic and diverse retail and catering network

**Eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, child labour and child soldiers (8.7)**

**Labour rights, safe and secure working environments (in particular for women, migrants and those in precarious employment) (8.8)**

**Policies to promote sustainable tourism (job creation and promotion of local culture & products) (8.9)**

**Strengthening domestic financial institutions (8.10)**

**Getting more people into work through a Ghent labour pact by:**

- > Improving the match between labour market supply and demand now and in the future
- > Reaching more people and aiming for the highest possible level of work
- > Achieving job growth and high-quality careers in the social economy

**Synchronising the rhythm of the city and its inhabitants through:**

- > Improving the balance between the unique tourist attractions and Ghent's capacity / the Ghentians' support

## Status of the city

### Economic growth (GDP) (8.1)

### Economic productivity (diversification, technological upgrading and innovation) (8.2)

Ghent is a city where people live and work. As the population grows, the demand for employment is increasing in parallel. We expect that some 30,000 new jobs will have to be created by 2030. If this trend continues, space needs to be created for 2,500 new starters every year. By 2035, between 150 and 200 hectares outside the sea port will require an economic purpose. The amount of available land has been roughly estimated at 168 hectares: 129 hectares within industrial parks, 30 hectares within science / knowledge parks and 9 hectares within office parks.

After the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the European debt crisis of 2012-2013, there was a steady economic recovery at the international level, in the eurozone and in Belgium. In 2017, global GDP growth<sup>100</sup> was at its highest since 2011, peaking at 3.7%. This GDP growth was 2.3% for the group of advanced economies, 2.2% for the eurozone and 1.7% for Belgium. Profitability has also improved considerably over the past few years, and in early 2018 business confidence reached its highest level in seven years.<sup>101</sup>

Throughout 2019, the Ghent economy was characterised by solid growth and a resilient business fabric. The city boasts a relatively diversified economic structure with an important industrial sector, a wide range of well-reputed knowledge and educational institutions, a qualified labour pool, an attractive and demanding local consumer market and a well-connected and well-performing harbour.

Since March 2020, the coronavirus crisis has negatively impacted the projections and analyses. On 8 April 2020, it was estimated that the Belgian economy would shrink by 8% over the year.<sup>102</sup>

### Significant job creation in Ghent, limited productivity gains

Between 2005 and 2015, the Ghent economy saw a robust annual economic growth of 3.71%, which was consistently higher than growth in Belgium and Flanders (3.04%) as well as the average in the 13 Flemish centre cities (2.99%) and other major cities such as Antwerp (2.22%) and Brussels (2.22%).<sup>103</sup>

Between 2009 and 2015, significant net job creation took place in Ghent, resulting in a relatively high job ratio. Although the short and long-term unemployment rate is still relatively high, the proportion of low-skilled job seekers is lower than the average in the Flemish centre cities and Antwerp.

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100 Volume growth compared to the previous year

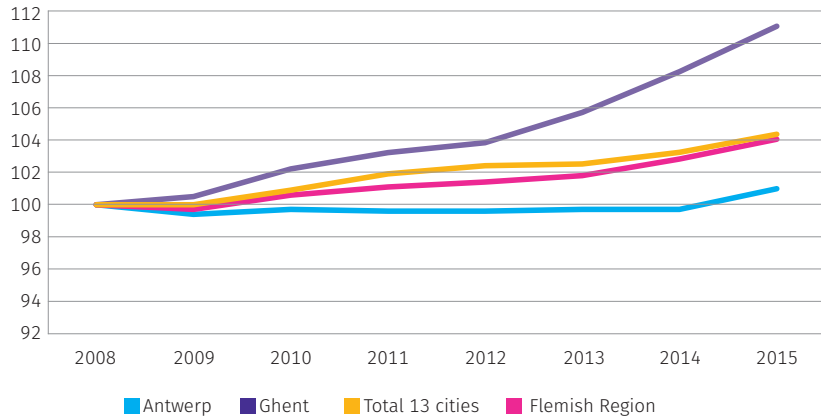
101 Federal Planning Bureau (2018b). 2018 Economic Budget, Brussels, 8 February 2018

102 Decock, S. (2020, 8 April). "Belgische economie krimpt met 8 procent in 2020" (Belgian economy contracts by 8 percent in 2020). De Standaard.

Consulted via [https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20200408\\_04916751](https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20200408_04916751)

103 Growth in terms of Gross Value Added expressed in current prices

**Diagram 7** Net job creation, 2008-2015 (2008=100), Ghent, with benchmark



Source: 2017 City Monitor

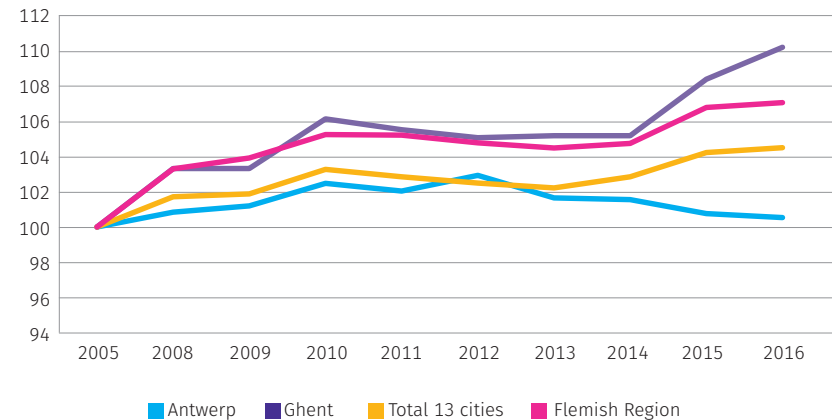
Ghent's economy is quite labour intensive:<sup>104</sup> a relatively high input of labour is required for each euro of added value. This is largely because some sectors are concentrated more in Ghent than elsewhere in Flanders: textiles and clothing, food, metallurgy and automobile production. Ghent is less specialised in capital-intensive sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors and computer manufacturing.<sup>105</sup>

## Support of productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, innovation, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (8.3)

### Entrepreneurship

The Ghent economy is characterised by healthy entrepreneurial dynamics. The number of business units employing staff in Ghent grew robustly to 8,056 in 2018, an increase by approximately 10% compared to 2005. The survival rate of Ghent business start-ups after five years is in line with the average in the Flemish centre cities and has remained stable since 2013, indicating a dynamic and resilient business fabric.

**Diagram 8** Evolution of the number of business units, 2005-2016, Ghent, with benchmark

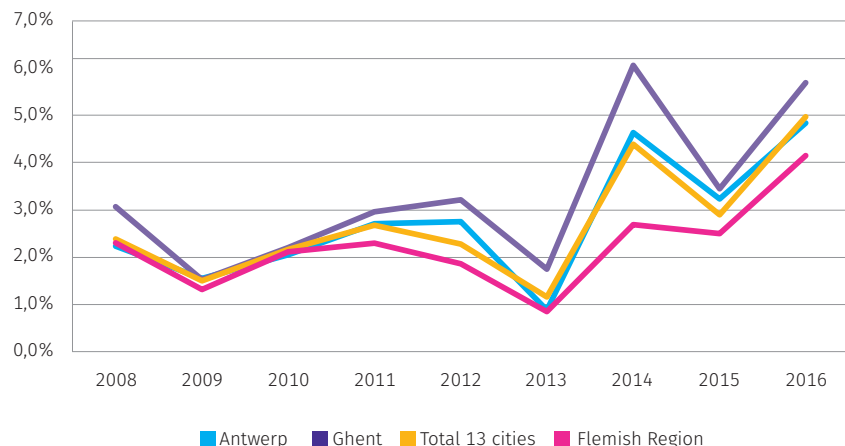


Source: 2017 City Monitor

<sup>104</sup> Labour intensive sectors require a relatively high input of labour to create one euro of added value. In other words, these sectors have a relatively low capital-labour ratio. The textile and clothing industry, the food industry and the metal and automobile industry are typical examples of sectors with a relatively high concentration in Ghent and East Flanders compared to the rest of Flanders. Conversely, Ghent and East Flanders are less specialised in more capital intensive sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors, manufacture of computer products, etc. (cf. Province of East Flanders, 2017a).

<sup>105</sup> Province of East Flanders (2017a). Sociaal-economische situatieschets van Oost-Vlaanderen (socio-economic situation report for East Flanders), Gent, 19 May 2017

**Diagram 9** Net growth of enterprises compared to the total number of enterprises, 2008-2016, Ghent, with benchmark



Source: 2017 City Monitor

The Centre for Entrepreneurial Support (*Ondersteuningspunt Ondernemers Gent* – OOG) is the central point of contact for entrepreneurs in Ghent. It's a digital and physical one-stop shop that provides services to (pre)starters, established Ghent companies and potential investors.

Founded in early 2010, the OOG had registered a total of 24,006 cases on 31 December 2019. Over the past 3 years, the OOG has seen a strong upward trend, mainly thanks to the centralisation of the one-stop shops and the steady development of the OOG into a unique point of contact for Ghent entrepreneurs. The OOG deals with approximately 13 cases per working day. About half of all enquires are received by email and via the website, a quarter by phone and another quarter via the physical one-stop shop. In the 2018 customer satisfaction survey, the OOG scored 95% for customer satisfaction and 92.5% for services provided.<sup>106</sup>

Among Flemish cities, Ghent leads the way in fostering entrepreneurship among young people and students. The City of Ghent is a founding member of *Gentpreneur*, a project providing over 1,000 coaching talks a year, organising over 20 events annually and which registered 300 student-entrepreneurs in the academic year 2018/2019.<sup>107</sup>

## Creative sectors and innovation<sup>108</sup>

Creativity is a driving force for innovation. The share of the creative sectors is often used as an indicator for a country or region's creative capacity. The creative sector (according to the core definition) employs 4.25% of Ghent's workforce. Ghent performs remarkably well in terms of the proportion of self-employed people in the creative sector (13.52% compared to 8.71% for the 13 Flemish centre cities). The average rate in the Flemish region is 8.83%.

Ghent performs less well in terms of the proportion of salaried employees in the creative sector (2.90% compared to 3.54% in Antwerp).<sup>109</sup>

<sup>106</sup> City of Ghent (2020). Voor een sterk ondernemersklimaat en een economie van de toekomst - Beleidsnota Economie (voortontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> The creative sectors include creative business services (advertising, architecture, design), the media and entertainment industry (music, audiovisual, gaming, written media and new media) and the arts (performing arts, visual arts and cultural heritage).

<sup>109</sup> Vlaio, Flemish Agency, Department of Economy, Science and Innovation, Flanders D.C. (2019): "De Creatieve Sector in Vlaanderen" (The Creative Sector in Flanders), consultable online via: <https://creatievesector.be/>.



## Gazelles, HGEs<sup>110</sup> and Deloitte

The monthly magazine Trends gives the honorary titles of ‘gazelles’ to companies experiencing strong growth in the number of employees, turnover and added value. In 2019<sup>111</sup> and 2020<sup>112</sup>, Ghent accounted for 52 out of a total of 225 ‘gazelles’ or more than a fifth of the ‘gazelles’ in the province of East Flanders.

Compared to several other Flemish centre cities, Ghent boasts a relatively large number of High Growth Enterprises (HGEs) in terms of employment and added value, but less in terms of turnover growth.

Every year and per country, consultancy firm Deloitte ranks fifty technology companies (hardware, communication, clean tech and life sciences) which realised strong turnover growth. No less than eight Ghent tech companies were included in the Belgian list of 2019.<sup>113</sup>

## Scale-ups and start-ups

Figures concerning the injection of venture capital confirm Ghent’s strong position in the scale-up landscape. The Ghent scale-up technology companies raised € 78 million in venture capital in 2016 and € 93 million in 2017, which is more than in any other Belgian city.<sup>114</sup> The number of deals was also higher in Ghent than anywhere else in Belgium.

In addition, Ghent start-ups find their way slightly more easily to acquisitions than those of other Belgian regions. The high rate of founder exits, acquisitions and flotations indicates a healthy ecosystem in which technology companies develop into mature (and usually international) businesses after the scale-up phase.

In 2018, the City of Ghent and Datascouts launched a data analysis project relating to the development of start-ups into scale-ups. The project identified 57 scale-ups which had raised over € 1 million in venture capital over the years. This puts Ghent on a par with Brussels in the Belgian context and just behind the best at a European level.<sup>115</sup>

## Pioneering companies

Over the years, Ghent has done well in various rankings, e.g. the *FDI European Cities and Regions of the Future Ranking* in 2018<sup>116</sup> and the *Innovation Cities Index 2016–2017*.<sup>117</sup> Both rankings indicate that Ghent boasts an entrepreneurial ecosystem of international standing, thanks to its pool of talent, central location, policies and supporting measures. Ghent continues to be the Flemish leader in terms of the number of starting (digital) technology companies.<sup>118</sup> In September 2016, American technology website *Venture Beat* acclaimed Ghent as the Belgian epicentre for start-ups. Ghent also has the highest concentration of growth companies in Belgium. In addition, Ghent has attracted a great deal of investments in the expansion of the major companies located in the port. The biotech cluster continues to attract foreign investments as well.<sup>119</sup>

## Social economy

In Ghent, 1,557 people are employed in sheltered workshops, employment care initiatives or the local services economy. In early 2018, no employment was available for 746 people who complied with all criteria for working in the social economy. This implies there is a demand for more jobs in the social economy.

110 High Growth Enterprise = a company with an average annual growth of at least 20% over a three-year period. The company must have at least ten employees at the beginning of this period.

111 Trends (2019). Trends Gazellen 2019, consulted via <https://trends.knack.be/economie/ondernemen/gazellen-oost-vlaanderen-categorie-kleine-bedrijven/game-normal-1440447.html>

112 Trends (2020). Trends Gazellen 2020, consulted via <https://trends.knack.be/economie/bedrijven/rangschikking-oost-vlaamse-gazellen-categorie-kleine-bedrijven/game-normal-1578511.html>

113 Deloitte (2020). Deloitte’s Technology Fast 50: connected companies, global growth, consulted via <https://www2.deloitte.com/be/en/pages/technology/topics/fast50.html>

114 Author’s calculations based on data provided by SIRRIIS and startups.be.

115 City of Ghent – Department of Economy

116 fDi Intelligence | A service from The Financial Times (2018), FDI European Cities and Regions of the Future 2018/2019, February/march, <https://www.fdiintelligence.com/content/download/70984/2026095/file/fDi%20European%20Cities%20and%20Regions%20of%20the%20Future%202018:19>

117 Ghent is ranked 101st. 2ThinkNow, 2017.

118 According to a presentation by startups.be; on the basis of the database <https://data.startups.be/>; there were more start-ups Ghent than in Antwerp and Brussels on 8 March 2018 (Tech Startup Day).

119 Flanders Investment and Trade. (2020). Investment results. Consulted via <https://www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com/>

## Hotels, bars and restaurants

Shops and catering businesses create a lot of economic activity in any city. With over 5,000 businesses, they constitute the principal economic sector in Ghent, employing over 11,000 people.<sup>120</sup>

## Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and improving resource efficiency (8.4)

See SDG 12 ‘sustainable consumption and production’ for further information on this topic.

## Productive employment, decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (8.5)

Productive employment in Ghent is assessed on the basis of three indicators: job ratio, job creation and incoming commuters. With respect to this topic, we provide an insight into the different groups, but not from the perspective of decent work and equal pay for work of equal value. Fair trade is not discussed either. Please refer to SDG 5 and SDG 17 for these topics.

## Job ratio<sup>121</sup>

The figures for 2017 are as follows:<sup>122</sup>

- > Ghent: 111.5 jobs per 100 inhabitants
- > The 13 Flemish centre cities: on average 98.3 jobs per 100 inhabitants
- > Flemish Region: 71.1 jobs per 100 inhabitants (aged between 15 and 64)<sup>123</sup>

Although Ghent’s number of inhabitants of working age is rising, the job ratio remains positive thanks to the creation of new jobs.

## Job creation

The figures for 2017 are as follows:<sup>124</sup>

- > Ghent: +2.7%
- > The 13 Flemish centre cities: +2.2% (Ghent ranks fifth)
- > Flemish Region: +2.3%

## Incoming commuters

Compared to 2010, the number of employees living outside Ghent who commute to the city increased by 9.7% in 2016. The number of Ghentians who live and work in Ghent also increased by 14.8%. The number of outgoing commuters (Ghentians working outside Ghent) decreased by 2.2%.

120 City of Ghent (2020f). Voor een sterk ondernemersklimaat en een economie van de toekomst - Beleidsnota Economie (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

121 Jobratio = het aantal jobs per 100 inwoners op arbeidsleeftijd (20-64 jaar)

122 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

123 Arvastat (2020). Job Ratio of the Flemish Region, 2020

124 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

## The Ghent labour reserve

Ghent has a relatively low employment rate combined with a relatively high unemployment rate.

The employment rates for 2017 were as follows:<sup>125</sup>

- > Ghent: 69.7%
- > The 13 Flemish centre cities: 67.8%
- > Flemish Region: 73.5%

## The unemployment rates<sup>126</sup> for 2019 were as follows (annual average)<sup>127</sup>

- > Ghent: 12,559 unemployed job seekers = an unemployment rate of 9.67%
- > Antwerp: 12.86%
- > Flemish Region: 5.95%

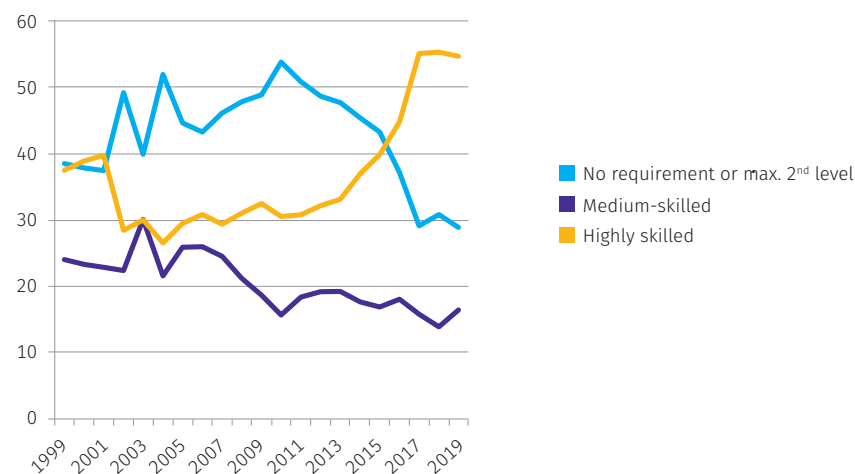
In early 2020, the unemployment indicators for Gent were at their lowest level in 15 years.<sup>128</sup>

## Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)<sup>129</sup> (8.6)

School leavers who enter the labour market without any qualification have more difficulty finding their first job. Over 40% of early school leavers from Ghent are still looking for work one year after leaving school, compared to 34% for Flanders.

Currently employed people are faced with the problem of outdated qualifications. Men and women over 50, who are nowadays labelled ‘older employees’, will be considered ‘mid-career’ in the future. A career-long focus on re-training and upskilling is one of the principal tools to remediate outdated qualifications.<sup>130</sup>

**Diagram 10** Educational level required in vacancies (VDAB), 1999-2019, Ghent



Source: VDAB Studiedienst

<sup>125</sup> Arvastat (2020). Arvastat. Consulted via <https://arvastat.vdab.be/>

<sup>126</sup> Unemployment rate = percentage of unemployed job seekers in relation to the total number of employed people and unemployed job seekers

<sup>127</sup> VAR

<sup>128</sup> City of Ghent (2020g). Werk en sociale economie - Beleidsnota (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Werk%20en%20Sociale%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

<sup>129</sup> Young people aged between 15 and 24 who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

<sup>130</sup> Sels, L., Vansteenkiste, S., & Knipprath, H. (2017). Toekomstverkenningen arbeidsmarkt 2050 (Werk.Rapport 2017 nr.1). Leuven: Steunpunt Werk, HIVA - KU Leuven

In addition, the demand for low- and medium-skilled employees is decreasing. 51% of Ghent unemployed job seekers were low-skilled in 2011, compared to 48.09% in 2018.<sup>131</sup> What is striking in Ghent is that the proportion of low-skilled people is highest among unemployed job seekers under 25, namely 59.38%.<sup>132</sup>

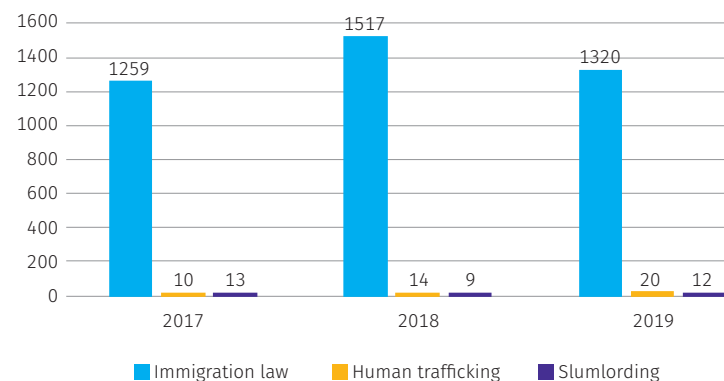
This indicates a mismatch in the labour market, mainly between available and demanded skills. Half of all Ghent job seekers are low-skilled, and half them have been trying to find a good job for over a year.

## Eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, child labour and child soldiers (8.7)

On the basis of the criminality barometer<sup>133</sup> we have gained an insight into the number of registered immigration law infringements and cases of human trafficking and slumlording.

The immigration law infringements mainly concern illegal transmigration (96% or 1,363 cases in 2018). As far as human trafficking is concerned, 14 police reports were drawn up in 2019 (5 more than in 2018), for the most part in connection with the exploitation of workers and sexual exploitation.<sup>134</sup> The police also registers the employment of children, but no relevant police reports were drawn up in 2018 and 2019.

**Diagram 11** Recorded criminality – immigration law infringements, human trafficking and slumlording, 2017-2019, Ghent



Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

Social workers suspect that the most vulnerable people end up first in the unofficial housing circuit, with their accommodation being arranged by an informal network. Because of their unofficial nature, these housing situations are not recorded in the survey results and statistics, and remain undetected by the government authorities.<sup>135</sup> The housing inspection annual report (2015) states the country of origin of residents. In 29% of inspected housing entities, the residents were non-EU citizens, in 34% of the cases they were EU citizens, and 60% of the latter were Bulgarians, Poles and Rumanians. Social workers have observed that some fraudulent landlords rely on tenants to sublet the property and thus transfer their liability to the tenant. Housing inspectors often encounter the same people repeatedly, an indication of how difficult it is to break the vicious circle at the bottom of the housing market.

<sup>131</sup> Arvastat (2020). Arvastat. Consulted via <https://arvastat.vdab.be/>

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>133</sup> Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

<sup>134</sup> ISLP registrations – Police Zone Ghent

<sup>135</sup> Vlaamse Woonraad (2017): Advies onderste segment private huurmarkt, Brussel, Belgium

Although subdividing existing housing units into smaller ones is not allowed in Ghent, it happens frequently in practice. Subdivision means that several households each occupy a room in the same housing unit. Exceptional excesses include rental of beds or rooms in shifts (per day or per night). Housing inspections show that the vulnerability (and position of dependence) of those involved appears to grow (with foreigners being a particularly vulnerable target group).<sup>136</sup>

## Labour rights, safe and secure working environments (in particular for women, migrants and those in precarious employment) (8.8)

In 2019, a total of 64 police reports were drawn up for undeclared and illegal work in Ghent. No cases of endangering the health and safety of employees as a result of carrying out illegal works or not taking appropriate measures were registered.<sup>137</sup>

## Policies to promote sustainable tourism (job creation and promotion of local culture & products) (8.9)

The fact that Ghent is becoming more widely known among foreign tourists appears from a large-scale reputation survey commissioned by the Flemish tourism board Toerisme Vlaanderen<sup>138</sup> and conducted in 11 European countries, Japan and the United States. Flanders is particularly well known in the

neighbouring countries as a tourist destination. This greater awareness is reflected in a growing number of visitors and therefore more revenues for Ghent. This local increase is in line with a continuous worldwide growth of tourist flows.<sup>139</sup>

Overall, Ghentians are positive towards tourism in their city:<sup>140</sup>

- > 84% think that Ghent should remain a tourist destination.
- > 71% state that tourism may remain important in Ghent.
- > 67% believe that the advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages.

The number of overnight stays by tourists in Ghent has increased almost continuously since 1990. The number of annual overnight stays by tourists was 1,160,864 in 2018, almost double that of 2005 (600,000).<sup>141</sup>

The intensity of tourism (the number of tourists per inhabitant) is 4.5 in Ghent, which equals more or less the intensity in other Belgian cities of art, except for Bruges where the intensity of tourism is four times greater.

The number of jobs in hotels doubled between 2000 and 2017 to 996, with 1 FTE employed for every 3 hotel rooms. Overnight tourists spend an average of € 163 per 24 hours in Ghent, and the city tax (tax on overnight stays in hotels) brings in € 1,253 per hotel room and per year.<sup>142</sup> In other words, tourism creates a great deal of employment and revenues for Ghent and its inhabitants.

## Strengthening domestic financial institutions (8.10)

This objective is less relevant for Ghent.

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136 *Ibid.*

137 Federal Police (2020) Nationaal Veiligheidsplan 2016-2019: Prioritaire gerechtelijke fenomenen, Politiezone Ghent, Brussels

138 Toerisme Vlaanderen (2017b). Reputation Study Flanders 2017. Mature Markets – Europe + US & Japan, <https://www.toerismevlaanderen.be/reputatieonderzoek>

139 World Tourism Organization. (2017). Tourism Highlights. Consulted via <https://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284419029>

140 Toerisme Vlaanderen (2017a), Bewonersonderzoek Vlaanderen (Flanders residents survey): Antwerpen, Brugge, Gent en Mechelen: onderzoek naar de draagkracht voor toerisme, Brussels.

141 Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium (ADS) (2019): 2018 tourism data

142 National Social Security Office (RSZ/ONSS) (2019) and Hotel Report (2017)

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE





# SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

## Topics of SDG 9

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Infrastructure (quality, reliable, sustainable, resilient, regional and transborder, affordable and equitable) (9.1)**

**Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation (raise industry's share of employment and GDP) (9.2)**

**Access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, value chains and markets (9.3)**

**Modern infrastructure and sustainable industries (resource-use efficiency and environmentally sound technologies) (9.4)**

**Innovation and scientific research to upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors (in developing countries) (9.5)**

## SDG 9 in short

*SDG 9 deals with the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, which generally needs to be upgraded by increasing its resource-use efficiency and adopting sustainable technologies. This can be achieved through intensive scientific research and investments in innovation. In addition, access to the Internet plays a key role in the elaboration of this objective.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**A diverse and sustainable economic fabric through:**

- > Scaling up the economy of the future

**We develop Ghent in collaboration with its citizens and partners through:**

- > An enhanced image, more space and freedom for experimentation and innovation, reinforcement of Ghent's regional and international position and ensuring that Ghent can realise its ambitions as a unifying force

**Ghent continues to be a pleasant city thanks to smart land use through:**

- > High-quality (re)design, maintenance and operation of urban infrastructure such as roads, bridges and waterways

## Status of the city

### Infrastructure (quality, reliable, sustainable, resilient, regional and transborder, affordable and equitable) (9.1)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

### Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation (raise industry's share of employment and GDP) (9.2)

Ghent's economy is more diversified than that of other Flemish centre cities, with the industrial sector still playing an important role thanks to North Sea Port.

### Rising productivity in the industrial sector

The industrial sector's share in employment decreased in Ghent from 21% in 2006 to 19% in 2010 and 18% in 2018. This is not the result of a production decrease, but of a productivity increase. Productivity has increased by 45.9% over the past 20 years.<sup>143</sup> Digitisation and automation have resulted in a shift in the sectoral distribution of employment. Repetitive, low-skilled jobs have been automated to a large extent and the remaining jobs are becoming increasingly complex. Consequently, the industrial sector is increasingly looking for higher-skilled technical profiles, yet they are hard to find.

### The tertiary and quaternary sector are the driving force behind employment creation.

In case of commercial services (tertiary sector), growth is mainly concentrated in labour-intensive services such as cleaning jobs in service voucher companies. On the other hand, employment in the banking and insurance sectors has decreased due to automation and digitisation. The number of salaried employees in the healthcare and social services sector (quaternary sector) in Flanders increased by an average of 3.3% a year between 1995 and 2016, doubling from approximately 157,000 to approximately 310,000. A growth rate of 2.7% a year is predicted for the period 2017-2022 on account of a growing and ageing population as well as an increase in healthcare consumption. As the capacity to increase productivity is limited in this sector, additional employment will be created.<sup>144</sup>

### A diversified economic structure with a solid industrial base

Ghent distinguishes itself from other Flemish cities through a relatively diversified economic structure. It has a higher concentration of economic activities than the average for the Flemish Region.

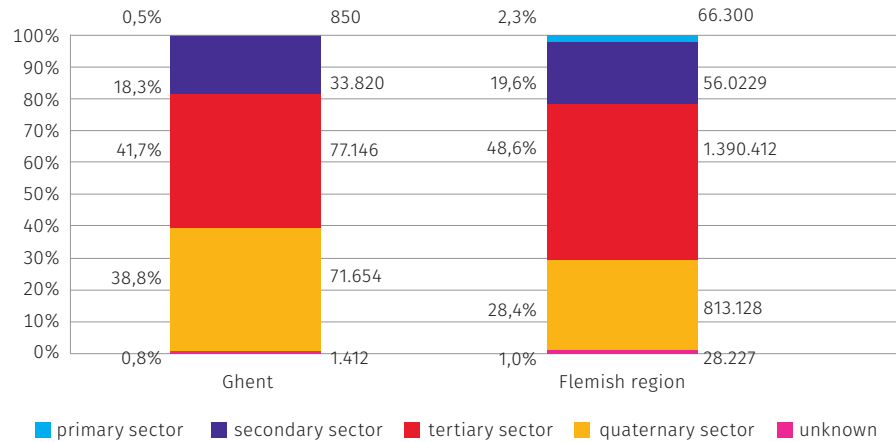
Ghent's economic activities are characterised by a relatively low degree of specialisation:<sup>145</sup> the lower the level of specialisation, the lower the economy's vulnerability.

143 Flemish Government, Department of Employment of Social Economy (2016). De Vlaamse arbeidsmarkt na 2020. Analyses door de studiedienst van het departement WSE (March 2016). Consulted via <https://www.Flanders.be/publicaties/de-vlaamse-arbeidsmarkt-na-2020-analyse-door-de-studiedienst-van-het-departement-wse>

144 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency

145 Economic specialisation = an indicator from the City Monitor expressing the ratio between paid employment in the ten principal economic sectors of each city on the one hand and total paid employment in each city on the other hand. It indicates which sectors have the highest concentration of employment.

**Diagram 12** Number of jobs per principal sector, wage earners and self-employed persons, 2015, Ghent



Source: Steunpunt Werk

The importance of the primary sector in Ghent is diminishing in line with the Flemish trend.<sup>146</sup> The number of farms in Ghent decreased from 282 in 2000 to 154 in 2012, including 94 professional farmers (61%) and 60 hobby farmers (39%). Despite the drop in the number of farms, the average amount of farmland per farm increased from approximately 11 ha in 2000 to 13 ha in 2005 and 18 ha in 2012.<sup>147</sup> A specific characteristic of the Ghent economy is the relatively high importance of the industrial sector. The secondary sector accounts for 18% of the total number of jobs in Ghent. Together with Antwerp, Ghent is responsible for nearly half the number of industrial jobs in the Flemish cities. By way of comparison, Antwerp

(286,730) and Ghent (184,882) jointly account for about one sixth of all jobs in the Flemish Region (2,858,295).

An important factor in Ghent's industrial activity is the presence of the port. The industrial sector is closely connected with other sectors and therefore has a relatively large multiplier effect: an increase in industrial activity results in a more than proportional growth of the total economy.<sup>148</sup>

### North Sea Port, a sustainable port<sup>149</sup>

North Sea Port is the cross-border harbour area stretching for 60 kilometres from the Dutch town of Vlissingen by the North Sea to Ghent in Belgium, which is 32 kilometres inland. A major player on the European market, North Sea Port creates over € 14 billion in added value and employment for nearly 100,000 people. The port aims to play a proactive role in energy transition and industrial symbiosis.

North Sea Port boasts a strongly developed industrial fabric with goods not just passing through the port but also being processed into (semi-)finished products. In combination with the logistical links within North Sea Port, this industrial cluster with its wide diversity of companies creates added value in the region, but this goes hand in hand with a considerable CO2 footprint of 22 million tons (divided equally between Flanders and the Netherlands). From the perspective of sustainable consolidation and growth of added value and in line with the Paris Agreement objectives, the CO2 emissions need to be reduced almost to zero by 2050. In the Ghent region, the industry has translated this target into concrete actions and projects such as the Smart Delta Resources (SDR) Roadmap.

<sup>146</sup> Lierman S.; Vandekerckhove B.; Huyghebaert B.; Wellens C.; De Pau J.; de Graaf P.; Rogge E.; Dessein J.; Kerselaers E. & Prové Ch., (2015), Visie op landbouw in de stedelijke omgeving van Ghent 2030 en de ruimtelijke vertaling ervan, SumResearch, ILVO & Paul de Graaf Ontwerp & Onderzoek i.o. van Stad Ghent, Ghent, January 2015

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>148</sup> Ronsse, Stijn & Van de Cloot, Ivan (2017), De maakindustrie van de toekomst in België, Itinera Institute, Brussel, 7 September 2017 Rosiers J. (2015), Uitgaansonderzoek 2015, Vereniging voor Alcohol- en andere Drugproblemen (VAD), Brussels, 2016

<sup>149</sup> North Sea Port (2020): text supplied by North Sea Port

North Sea Port has also invested in making the different modes of transport more sustainable (e.g. by installing quayside power points and giving a discount on port dues to cleaner ships). In addition, North Sea Port facilitates bunkering and fuelling infrastructure for new alternative fuels (LNG) wherever possible. To confirm its commitment, North Sea Port signed the Dutch Green Deal document ‘Maritime and inland navigation and ports’ in 2019. Finally, North Sea Port has made considerable investments in pipeline infrastructure as a sustainable mode of transport.

### **Access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services, value chains and markets (9.3)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

### **Modern infrastructure and sustainable industries (resource-use efficiency and environmentally sound technologies) (9.4)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

### **Innovation and scientific research to upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors (in developing countries) (9.5)**

#### **Innovation and sustainability**

Ghent’s economic ambitions are linked to the societal challenges concerning sustainability as defined by the SDGs of the UN and to the strategic perspectives that have inspired the European and Flemish policies. Connections are actively established between various sectors (agriculture, industry, retail, market services, healthcare, etc.), various technologies (IT, biotech, clean tech, etc.) and various actors (public sector, private sector, civil society, educational and knowledge institutions, etc.).<sup>150</sup>

Examples include:

- > As early as 2005, Ghent University, the City of Ghent, the Ghent Port Authority and the provincial development agency of East Flanders founded ‘Ghent Bio-Energy Valley’, later renamed ‘Flanders Biobased Valley’.
- > In 2014, the City of Ghent, university college HoGent and the Province of East Flanders launched the design platform ‘Ministry of Makers’ to promote innovation through design thinking and crossovers between the creative and ‘traditional’ sectors. Ghent University joined the platform in 2019.
- > In the same spirit, the Ghent Regional Cleantech Cluster was established in 2016 by the City of Ghent, the Ghent Port Authority, Ghent University, the Province of East Flanders, the provincial development agency of East Flanders and i-Cleantech Flanders. Its objective is to establish structural cooperation for a cross-sectoral approach to energy, materials, water and mobility. Examples include the CCU hub<sup>151</sup> (an upcoming partnership with the Netherlands).

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<sup>150</sup> City of Ghent (2020f). Voor een sterk ondernemersklimaat en een economie van de toekomst - Beleidsnota Economie (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

<sup>151</sup> Carbon Capture & Utilization Hub

- > Capture (a partnership with Ghent University focused on water, CO2 and plastics)<sup>152</sup> and several international projects such as Plasticity, Urbcon and Stapsteen<sup>153 154 155</sup>
- > In 2019, the City of Ghent and several key actors from the Ghent healthcare and health tech ecosystem joined the BlueHealth Innovation Center (BHIC) and the Medical Device Technology Ghent (MeDTeG) partnership. The City of Ghent thus cooperates structurally with the Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC), Ghent University, Ghent University Hospital, MedTech Flanders and BHIC to consolidate and strengthen the health tech sector in Ghent. The cities of Antwerp and Genk as well as Antwerp and Limburg knowledge and healthcare institutions are also partners of BHIC, as are several major companies in the healthcare and technology sectors. 15% of all start-ups and scale-ups in the Ghent ecosystem offer a HealthTech product and/or service. 60% of Health Tech companies in Ghent are already a scale-up.<sup>156</sup>
- > The economic zone of south Gent belongs to the top regions in Europe when it comes to knowledge-based and high-tech economic activities. Tech Lane Ghent, as this zone is called, boasts over 100 start-ups and scale-ups active in life sciences, Med Tech, AI, etc. For instance, the Ardoyen technology park (also known as Campus A) accommodates some of the world leaders in the field of biotech. Eiland Zwijsaarde will be the site of the headquarters of VIB and a clean tech accelerator. With 3,400 employees, Tech Lane Ghent (Campus Ardoyen + Eiland Zwijsaarde) now ranks 11th in the European list of Deep Tech Science Parks (on the basis of the number of employees). After the planned expansions, Tech Lane Ghent is expected to rise in the ranking to 4th place.<sup>157</sup>

- > In 2019, the City of Ghent became a founding member of AI4Growth, a Flemish community of stakeholders in the field of Artificial intelligence. Other members of AI4growth are companies developing or implementing AI technologies as well as experts and talents from the academic and corporate sectors.

## Scientific research

Innovation is dependent on the presence of knowledge and talent. The proportion of foreign PhD students is often used as an indicator for the attractiveness of regional research systems. In the academic year 2015-2016, the number of PhD students in Ghent totalled 4,815, including 1,960 foreigners, which is more than double the number of 2010-2011 (when there were 971 foreign PhD students). The proportion of foreign PhD students in Ghent amounts to 41%.

## No shortage of brains

Ghent is well known as a major university city: the total number of students at its university and university colleges was 77,470 in 2018-2019. This means that Ghent has 28 students per 100 inhabitants.<sup>158</sup> Ghent's academic institutes have an excellent international reputation: in 2017, Ghent University was ranked highest among Belgian universities at number 69 in the Academic Ranking of World Universities<sup>159</sup>, better known as the "Shanghai ranking".

152 Launched in 2015, Capture is an interdisciplinary partnership between different professors from Ghent University.

153 The project "Stapsteen naar een circulaire stad" is aimed at demonstrating the use in Ghent of Carbstone products made from local raw materials.

154 PlastiCity looks for new solutions for the collection, sorting and processing of plastic waste.

155 The URBCON project focuses on concrete as it is the most widely used building material. Its aim is to utilise by-products and waste products.

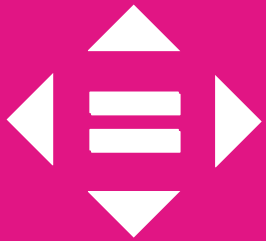
156 City of Ghent (2020f). Voor een sterk ondernemersklimaat en een economie van de toekomst - Beleidsnota Economie (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

157 *Ibid.*

158 By way of comparison: Leuven has fewer students than Ghent, but the proportion is different: 62 students per 100 inhabitants.

159 Academic Ranking of World Universities 2017. In this ranking, KU Leuven is at number 90, while UIA and VUB are at number 201 and 300 respectively.

**10** REDUCING  
INEQUALITY





# SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

## Topics of SDG 10

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Income growth of the bottom 40% of the population (10.1)**

**Social, economic and political inclusion (10.2)**

**Equal opportunity and reduction of inequalities of discrimination (through laws, policies and practices) (10.3)**

**Fiscal, wage and social protection policies for greater equality (10.4)**

**Regulation and monitoring of global financial markets (10.5)**

**Representation of developing countries in global decision-making in order to deliver more effective institutions (10.6)**

**Orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, planned and well-managed migration policies (10.7)**

## SDG 10 in short

*SDG 10 is aimed at motivating countries to pay greater attention to the income growth of poor people. The income of the bottom 40% of the national population should have risen more quickly than the national average by 2030. Regulation and monitoring of global financial institutions should be improved.*

*Within the scope of this target, migration and mobility of people should be organised better and more safely. In addition, discriminatory laws and practices that deepen inequalities should be eliminated. Everyone should have equal opportunities and be involved in all social, economic and political aspects of society.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Super-diversity has become the new normal in Ghent through:**

- > Ensuring equal opportunities for target groups at increased risk of social deprivation
- > Increasing the city's integral accessibility for all its users

## Status of the city

### Income growth of the bottom 40% of the population (10.1)

Over the past few years, the number of Ghentians living in poverty has increased to more than 40,000.<sup>160</sup>

Employment is often considered as the best protection against poverty. At the same time, an estimated 4.7% of working people have a household income (including child benefits) which is below the poverty line.<sup>161</sup> It is estimated that there are about 5,000 working poor in Ghent.

An income above the poverty line is essential to a decent life: it is estimated that one in six Ghentians live below the poverty level.

Additional financial aid (also refer to SDG 1) has brought the budget of 1,790 Ghent households closer to the poverty line. Their income always remains under the net minimum wage, so that it is financially worthwhile for them to work.<sup>162</sup>

### Social, economic and political inclusion (10.2)

#### Unity in diversity

The World Health Organisation estimates that 10% of the population has a disability. This means that Ghent has about 26,000 disabled inhabitants. According to the Belgian statistical office (Statbel), 9% of Belgians aged between 15 and 64 have a disability or health problem which considerably limits their everyday

activities. This means that Ghent has more than 15,700 disabled people aged between 15 and 64.

Flemish Sign Language is the mother tongue or principal language of one for every thousand Flemish people.

The older people are, the less mobile they tend to be. The city's ageing population also poses new challenges in terms of accessibility. Over a quarter of Ghentians are over 55, about one in six inhabitants is older than 65 and 5.5% are aged 80 or over.

In addition, people of more than 150 different nationalities reside in Ghent. 34.3% of all Ghentians and 51.8% of Ghent minors have a migration background.

As a result of this language diversity, a considerable number of people are not very proficient in Dutch. Scientific research has shown that 15% of adults in Flanders have low proficiency in Dutch.

A Ghent needs assessment among transsexuals from 2017 revealed that the number of transgenders in Ghent can be estimated at 6,750. The implementation of gender-inclusive measures, procedures and services has eliminated some significant barriers in their daily lives.

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<sup>160</sup> Estimate on the basis of Belgian percentage of people 'At risk of Poverty' (EU-SILC) in relation to the population. In 2015, an estimated 37,500 Ghentians lived in poverty (14.9%). The most recent figure (for 2018) is 42,500 (16.4%).

<sup>161</sup> Public Planning Service (PPS) Social Integration (2017): Inter-federal Poverty Monitor, figures for 2016

<sup>162</sup> City of Ghent – Data and Information Department (2018). 2018 environmental analysis. Consulted via [https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3\\_1-08091d.pdf](https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3_1-08091d.pdf);

## Social deprivation: inequality from birth

In 2019, 22.0% of newborns in Ghent came from underprivileged families (also refer to SDG 1 – 1.2). In Ghent, there is a considerable discrepancy based on the mother's background. The rate of children born in deprivation is 8% in families where the mother is Belgian, and up to 41% in families where the mother is not Belgian. The rate of deprivation rose significantly between 2010 and 2015, and this trend is also evident in the group with a non-Belgian mother: from 12% in 2010 to 18% in 2013. In Belgian households, the deprivation rate rose from 3.5% to 4.5%.

The principal causes of precarity among Ghent families are the following:<sup>163</sup>

- > inadequate income (87%)
- > inadequate employment (82%)
- > low level of education (83%)
- > inadequate housing (55%)
- > child's development (25%)
- > bad health (29%)

## Inclusion in education

Refer to SDG 4: Completion of quality primary and secondary education (4.1) and elimination of gender and ethnic disparities in education, including for persons with disabilities (4.5).

## Proportional labour participation: employment rates according to age and origin

Please refer to 'SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all'

Proportional labour participation of people aged between 50 and 64 can be measured on the basis of their employment rate and by comparing this rate to that of a reference group (in this case: 20-49-year-olds). The (age) gap in employment provides an insight into the extent to which self-employed or salaried 50-64-year-olds are represented in the economically active population. The narrower the gap, the smaller the difference in labour participation between people aged between 20 and 49 and those aged between 50 and 64. A positive gap indicates that the employment rate of 20-49-year-olds is higher than that of 50-64-year-olds. The employment rate gap between age groups decreased in Ghent from 22.8 in 2006 to 11.9 in 2016 and a similar trend is visible in Flanders, although the age gap is narrower in Ghent.<sup>164</sup>

The employment rate of people of foreign origin aged between 20 and 64 indicates the percentage of this group that has a job. A high employment rate of people of foreign origin is positive from a labour-market perspective and indicates a good match between labour supply and demand. There is a clear difference in employment rate between people of Belgian origin and those of foreign origin. In early 2016, 75% of people aged between 20 and 64 had a job in the Flemish Region. The employment rate of people of EU origin was 60%, that of people of non-EU origin was 51%, and that of people of Belgian origin was more than 70%. In Ghent, the employment rate of people of non-EU origin was 50%, which was slightly higher than the average for the Flemish centre cities. The employment gap between people of Belgian origin and those of non-EU origin in Ghent was 25 percentage points in 2016 and had remained stable since 2006.<sup>165</sup> This is in line with the average for the 13 Flemish centre cities and is slightly higher than the Flemish average. This means that the employment gap is slightly wider in Ghent than the average in the Flemish Region.

In conclusion, there is still a disparity in labour participation between age groups and groups of different origins. The disparity is more important between groups of different origins than between age groups.

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163 Kind en Gezin (2018). Consulted via <https://www.kindengezin.be/>

164 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency

165 *Ibid.*

## Match between labour supply and demand among underprivileged groups

To what extent are Ghent's inhabitants of foreign origin (aged between 15 and 64) unemployed and is there a difference with inhabitants of Belgian origin?

The unemployment gap between groups of different origins is the difference, expressed in percentage points, between the unemployment rate of people of Belgian origin and that of people of non-EU origin.<sup>166</sup>

In early 2016, 4% of people aged between 15 and 64 were unemployed in the Flemish Region. The unemployment rate was 7% among people of EU origin and 14% among people of non-EU origin. The unemployment gap between people of Belgian origin and those of non-EU origin in Ghent was 9.2 percentage points in 2016 and was wider than the Flemish average.<sup>167</sup> In absolute figures, the gap was widest in 2010 (12 percentage points) and decreased in the following years to the level of 2009 in Ghent. This trend was also visible in other Flemish centre cities and in the Flemish Region.

In conclusion, there is a clear difference in unemployment rate between people of Belgian origin and those of foreign origin, including in Ghent.

## Inclusion in the labour market: social economy

The social economy supplements the supply on the regular labour market. Social economy enterprises provide services and simultaneously help those who are most vulnerable, such as people with a mental or physical disability or chronic health problems, develop a career. This way, the social economy reminds us of the bigger picture: employment policies are not just about economic activity and job creation,

but also about people and their right to personal development. A good job is a means of facilitating integration into society.

In Ghent, a growing group of people are left behind in the labour market or are not reached by coaching programmes. Social economy vacancies currently meet only 20% to 25% of demand from qualifying job seekers. However, many people are active as volunteers, thus becoming part of a network and performing useful daytime activities.<sup>168</sup>

The Ghent social economy currently provides opportunities to approximately 1,500 people. However, demand for work in the social economy exceeds supply. About 300 people who have been recommended by the Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (VDAB) to work in the social economy cannot find a place.<sup>169</sup>

## Inclusion and leisure participation

People living in poverty participate systematically less in the voluntary sector and in leisure activities such as sports, culture and youth work. Younger and older people who live in poverty experience loneliness more because they have a smaller network or no network at all.<sup>170</sup> UiTPAS is a Flemish discount card for leisure activities with a loyalty and rewards programme. The card provides residents, organisations and local authorities with various opportunities.<sup>171</sup>

A total of 46,794 UiTPAS cards had been sold to Ghentians on 01/03/2019. 34% of card holders are people living in poverty, whose participation in UiTPAS activities continues to increase: so far, 62% of holders of an UiTPAS card at a reduced rate have made use of the reduced rate at least once, compared to only 38% in 2017.

166 *Ibid.*

167 *Ibid.*

168 City of Ghent – Data and Information Department. (2018). 2018 environmental analysis. Consulted via [https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3\\_1-08091d.pdf](https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3_1-08091d.pdf)

169 City of Ghent (2020g). Werk en sociale economie - Beleidsnota (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Werk%20en%20Sociale%20Economie%202020-2025.pdf>

170 Vettenburg, N., Elchardus, M., & Put, J., Pleysier, S., (Eds.) (2013). Jong in Antwerpen en Gent. Bevindingen uit de JOPmonitor Antwerpen-Gent. Leuven/The Hague: Acco.

171 Flemish Government (2015): Vlaams Actieplan Armoedebestrijding 2015-2019 – policy document, Brussels, Belgium

## Equal opportunity and reduction of inequalities of discrimination (through laws, policies and practices) (10.3)

### Discrimination in the rental housing market: towards equal access to housing for all Ghentians

Also refer to SDG 11.

At the end of 2014 and in early 2015, the City of Ghent conducted a baseline measurement of discrimination in the private rental housing market in Ghent. The measurement revealed that people with a different ethnic origin, people with a disability, non-Dutch speakers and people with a replacement income experience discrimination in their search for a suitable home.<sup>172</sup>

A second measurement covering 1,666 Ghent rental homes was conducted between March and June 2015. Real estate agents and rental property owners were aware of the fact that they were tested. The measurement revealed that the number of cases of discrimination against people with a migration background by major real estate players declined from 26% to 10%.<sup>173</sup>

It also showed that the risk of discrimination is lower if real estate agencies rent out a property than if private landlords rent out their property themselves.

### Equal employment opportunities: the workplace should reflect the city's diversity.

With its diversity action plan<sup>174</sup> the City of Ghent aims to make its workforce reflect the diversity of society.

At the moment, only 17.7% of city staff are of foreign origin, compared to 34.3% of the Ghent population.

The City of Ghent strives to increase this proportion to 30% by the end of 2024. Particular attention is paid to the inflow of workers of foreign origin into leadership positions.

Diversity also means proportional labour participation of people with occupational disabilities. At least 2% of all city staff should be disabled people. No targets have been set for other underprivileged groups. There is a good balance between men and women, low and high-skilled staff as well as younger and older employees. However, actions are required to continue the recruitment and retention of various groups.

## Fiscal, wage and social protection policies for greater equality (10.4)

This objective is less relevant for Gent.

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172 Verhaeghe, P. P. (2017). Juridische praktijktesten naar discriminatie op de private huurwoningmarkt in Gent: De proactieve fase

173 *Ibid.*

174 City of Ghent (2017). Diversiteitsactieplan Stad Gent - OCMW Gent 2017-2020 (2017-2020 diversity action plan of the City of Ghent & Ghent PCSW), Human Resources of City of Ghent & Ghent PCSW

## **Regulation and monitoring of global financial markets (10.5)**

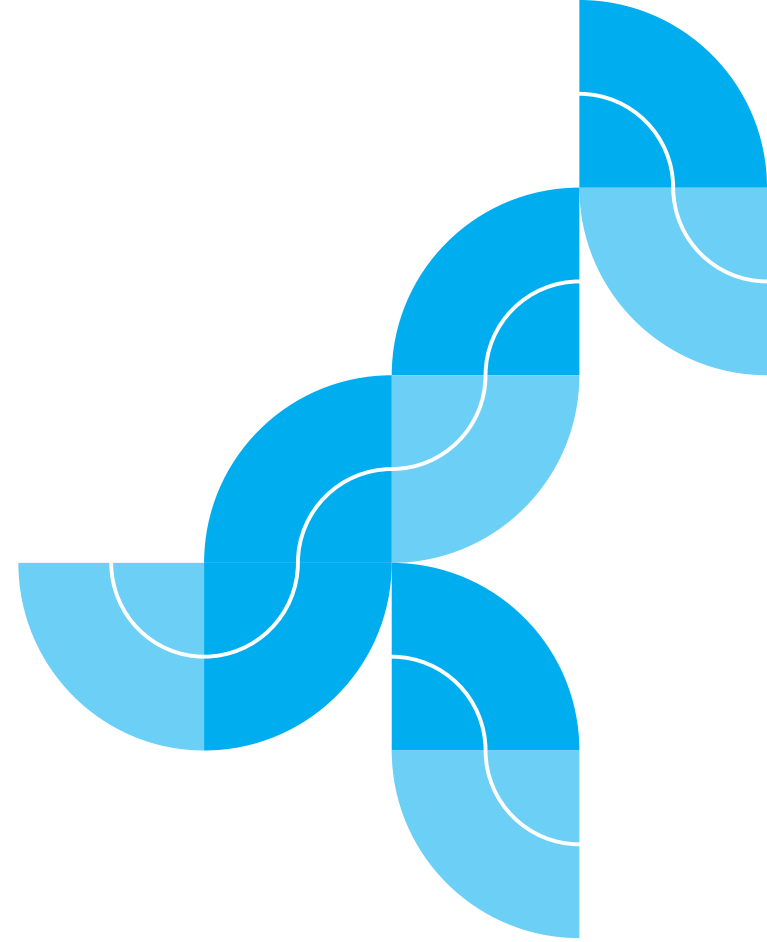
This objective is less relevant for Gent.

## **Representation of developing countries in global decision-making in order to deliver more effective institutions (10.6)**

This objective is less relevant for Gent.

## **Orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, planned and well-managed migration policies (10.7)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Gent.





**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



# SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

## Topics of SDG 11

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

### **Access to housing and basic services (11.1)**

**Access to transport systems, public transport (with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons), road safety (11.2)**

**Inclusive and sustainable urbanization (planning and management) (11.3)**

**Protection of cultural and natural heritage (11.4)**

**Reduction of the number of people affected and the economic losses caused by disasters (with a focus on protection of the poor and people in vulnerable situations) (11.5)**

**Reduction of the environmental impact of cities, with special attention to air quality and waste management (11.6)**

**Access to safe, inclusive and green public spaces (in particular for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities) (11.7)**

## SDG 11 in short

*SDG 11 deals explicitly with cities since half of the world's population, about 3.5 billion people, live in cities. This number is expected to keep on rising. This is an extensive objective which encompasses numerous topics, including: housing, basic facilities, urbanisation, public transport and road safety, culture, disasters, air quality and waste management. We will discuss all these topics in this chapter. Sustainable growth is the principal challenge which cities will face in the future.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Ghent is expanding the housing supply and enhancing the quality and energy efficiency of existing homes by:**

- > Improving the housing quality and energy efficiency of Ghent homes
- > Increasing the supply of affordable housing units with a strong focus on Ghentians with a low income, large families and the rental market
- > Increasing the accessibility and housing security in the housing market

**Ghent ensures that everyone can travel sustainably, easily and safely through the city by:**

**Ensuring pedestrian safety**

- > Developing bicycle infrastructure throughout the city
- > Increasing the importance of accessible public transport
- > Restricting access for motorised vehicles
- > Ensuring urban liveability by means of a selective and high-quality range of parking options

**Ghent continues to be a pleasant city thanks to smart land use through:**

**Strengthening the city's uniqueness and authenticity**

- > Enhancing people-centred urban planning
- > Increasing the quality of life and the efficient use of space
- > High-quality (re)design, maintenance and operation of urban infrastructure such as roads, bridges and waterways
- > Reinforcing efficient authorisation, inspection and enforcement policies for works and other occupations of public space in line with the nuisance reduction principles
- > Collective development of spatial and architectural quality in the city through design and consultation

**The City of Ghent is working on a healthy and clean living environment through:**

- > Preventing and eliminating environmental pollution which poses a (health) risk
- > Improving the air quality in the city
- > Reducing noise pollution in a liveable and lively city
- > Increasing cleanliness and focusing on a waste recycling policy for all of the city's users

**More green spaces, nature and water make Ghent a more pleasant and climate-proof city through:**

- > Water policy optimisation
- > Making public spaces greener and removing asphalt

**Ghent is a dynamic and authentic city with a wide range of leisure, sports and cultural activities**

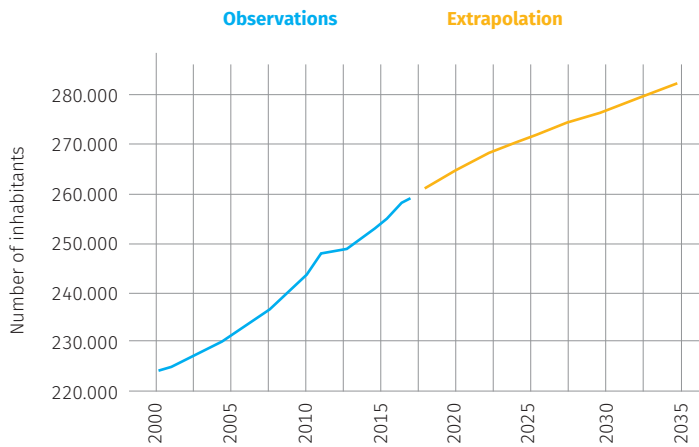
**Synchronising the rhythm of the city and its inhabitants through:**

- > Enhancing the balance between the unique tourist attractions and Ghent's capacity / the Ghentians' support

## Status of the city

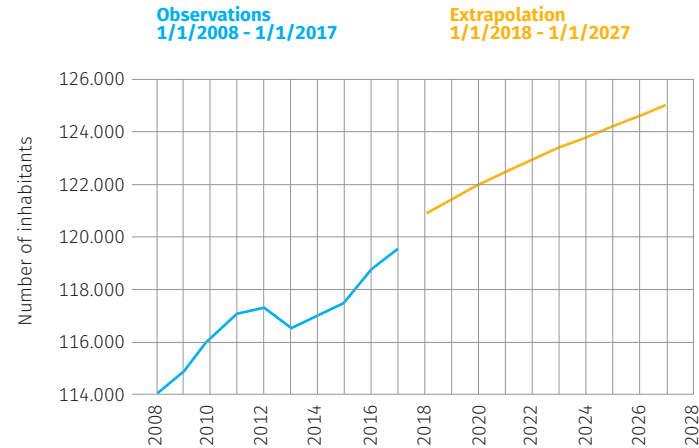
**Ghent is growing.** In 2020, Ghent has 263,608<sup>175</sup> registered inhabitants (including those registered in the waiting register) forming approximately 119,816<sup>176</sup> households. Population projections indicate that Ghent will continue to grow in the coming years.<sup>177</sup>

**Diagram 13** Demographic forecasts, population growth, 2000-2035, Ghent<sup>179</sup>



Source: Flanders Statistics

**Diagram 14** Demographic forecasts, population growth, 2000-2028, Ghent<sup>179</sup>



Source: Flanders Statistics

Ghent saw a steady decline in population from the 1970s to the turn of the century, but this urban exodus (suburbanisation) came to an end and Ghent's population has grown by about 40,000 people since then.<sup>179</sup>

However, some groups continue to leave the city. The data indicate that young families (people in their thirties with young children) often move to the Ghent suburbs or the neighbouring municipalities. The official Flemish statistics confirm this suburbanisation is taking place in all the major centre cities: people look for a home in the city's periphery because spaces are greener and more affordable there.

<sup>175</sup> City of Ghent (2020). Ghent In figures. Consulted via <https://gent.buurtmonitor.be/>

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*

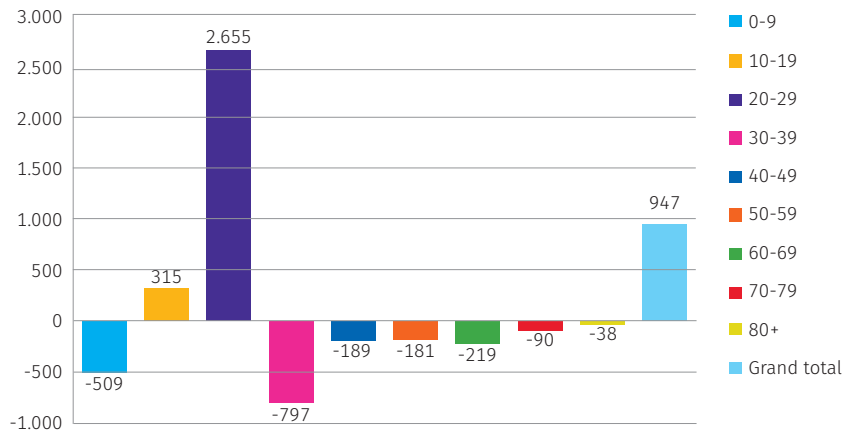
<sup>178</sup> Flanders Statistics (2018). Vlaamse gemeentelijke demografische vooruitzichten 2018-2035 (Flemish municipal demographic forecasts for 2018-2035). Consulted via <https://www.statistiekvlaanderen.be/vlaamse-gemeentelijke-demografische-vooruitzichten--2018-2035>

<sup>179</sup> City of Ghent – Data and Information Department (2018). 2018 environmental analysis. Consulted via [https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3\\_1-08091d.pdf](https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3_1-08091d.pdf)

In addition to this exodus of people in their thirties and young children, Ghent sees a significant influx of people in their twenties, both Belgian and foreign nationals. One of the reasons for this trend is the presence of a university and college universities in Ghent. During their studies, students usually cannot move their legal residence to Ghent. They only appear in the statistics when they start living independently after graduation. Nearly half of all new inhabitants of Ghent had lived in lodgings in Ghent during their studies.

We have also observed that the proportion of couples with children living at home has remained stable over the past fifteen years. In other words: the exodus of people in their thirties and young children does not have a significant effect on the total share of families with children, as the number of births and the rate of family formation are high.

**Diagram 15** Migration balance according to age, 2018, Ghent



Source: City of Ghent's population register

## Access to housing and basic services (11.1)

### Housing in Ghent

Since Ghent continues to grow, the housing market in the city (and elsewhere) is under pressure. The relative share of students, older people and large families continues to increase, and sales prices and rents continue to rise. People who want to move to the city have difficulty finding a home that matches their requirements, family size and income. An additional threat is selective migration from cities: families with a limited budget find a bigger home (with more outdoor space) for the same amount of money in the suburbs or beyond. This increases the risk of a negative impact on the urban social fabric.

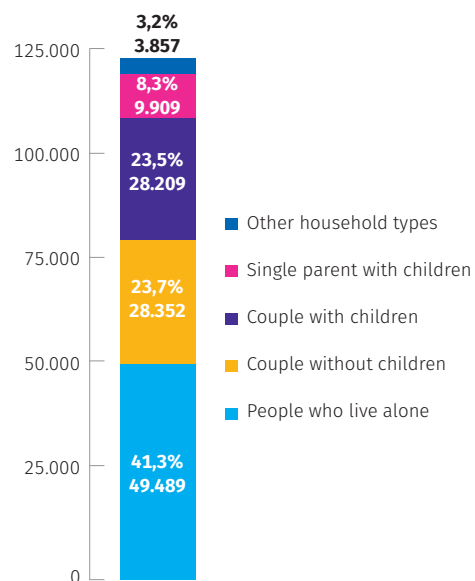
The affordability of housing poses a problem for an increasing number of people. Households with lower incomes are not only 'trapped' in poor-quality homes, but middleclass households also find limited opportunities in the Ghent rental and property market. Although the overall figures concerning the evolution of the number of households and planned residential developments appear to be in balance, there is a mismatch between what people need and can afford (demand) and what the market has to offer (supply).

## Demand

Demographic projections make it clear that all household types are growing in number (image 4). Families are not getting smaller.

The increase is strongest in households consisting of 4 or 5 people.

**Diagram 16** Demographic forecasts, Percentage growth of household types 2016 compared to 2009, Ghent



Source: Flanders Statistics

**Table 7** Demographic forecasts, households according to size, 2017-2027, Ghent

	Number		%	
	2017	2027	2017	2027
Average size	2,13	2,16		
<b>Total</b>	<b>119.546</b>	<b>125.053</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>100,0%</b>
1 person	50.356	52.226	42,1%	41,8%
2 persons	35.111	36.571	29,4%	29,2%
3 persons	13.883	14.215	11,6%	11,4%
4 persons	12.312	13.275	10,3%	10,6%
5 persons or more	7.884	8.766	6,6%	7,0%

Source: Flanders Statistics

With approximately 75,000 students<sup>180</sup> Ghent is an important university city. Ghent conducted a survey of students in 2012 which revealed that about 43.5% (or over 32,000 students) lived in lodgings in the city. Contrary to other Flemish towns and cities, Ghent does not have an ageing population thanks to the large influx of young people. However, we are at a tipping point. The ageing of Ghent's population is projected to begin in 2020 and will be inevitable in the next fifteen years. After a steady increase over the previous years, the number of people over 65 living in Ghent was 43,342 on 1 January 2019.<sup>181</sup>

180 Flanders Education. (2020). Dataloep: aan de slag met cijfers over onderwijs [Dataset]. Consulted via <https://onderwijs.vlaanderen.be/nl/dataloep-aan-de-slag-met-cijfers-over-onderwijs>

181 City of Ghent (2020). Ghent In figures. Consulted via <https://gent.buurtmonitor.be/>

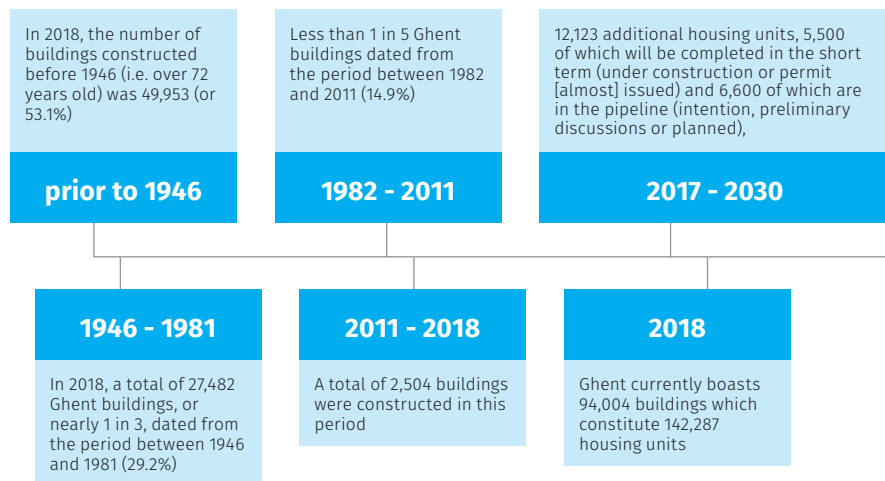


## Supply

In 2018, the city boasted 142,287 housing units<sup>182</sup> in 94,004 buildings, over half of which were single-family homes (57.7%) and the remainder being flats (38.4%). Over the past 17 years, the number of flats has increased considerably more than the number of single-family homes: buildings are converted into flats especially in the city centre.

The current trend is to build smaller homes with less bedrooms. The proportion of single and double bedroom homes is increasing, while that of homes with four or more bedrooms is decreasing. The analysis of Ghent environmental permit applications confirms that there are relatively few plans for the construction of homes for larger households, while households consisting of four or more people have seen the strongest growth.

**Table 8** Age of Ghent’s real estate, 2018, Ghent



Source: Land Registry & Urban and Spatial Planning department – 2017

182 City of Ghent (2020). Ghent In figures. Consulted via <https://gent.buurtmonitor.be/>;

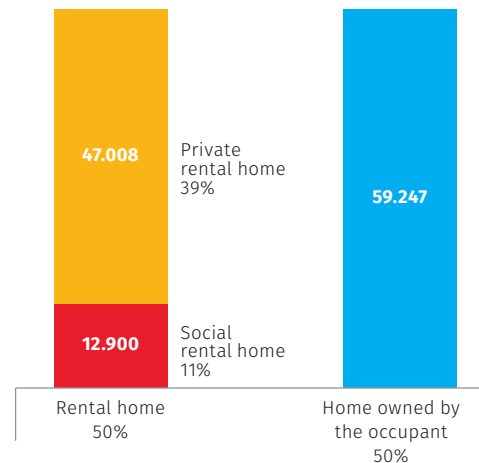
183 Vlaanderen Vlaamse Maatschappij voor Sociaal Wonen (VMSW). (2020). Dwellings and plots. Consulted via <https://www.vmsw.be/Home/Footer/Over-sociale-huisvesting/Statistieken/Woningen-en-gronden>

The majority of Ghent’s residential buildings are old, especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century districts.

Ghent has a large rental market. Approximately 50% of all housing units are rented. In Ghent, 11% of households rent a social rental unit, placing the city in the top three of Flemish cities with the best developed social housing sector (together with Genk and Antwerp).

In 2018, the city boasted 14,674 social rental units<sup>183</sup> (let out by social housing companies, social lettings agencies and social housing association Vlaams Woningfonds), but the number of rentable social housing units is slightly lower. Part of the social rental infrastructure is empty for a shorter (between two rentals) or longer period of time (e.g. in case of major renovations).

**Diagram 17** Ghent housing market: distribution of households among (social) tenants and home owners, 2018, Ghent



Source: Land Registry, national registry and VMSW

The social housing supply does not meet the strongly increasing demand. In 2018, no less than 11,582 unique households<sup>184</sup> were registered in the waiting register for a social rental unit in Ghent. 9,301 households who had their legal residence in Ghent or 9.1% of Ghent households had submitted an application with one of the five social housing companies active in Gent.

Ghent households accounted for 30.5% of those registered in the East Flemish waiting register for a social rental unit. In 2018, the average waiting period for a social rental unit was 1,219 days or 3.4 years. Large households had to wait even longer due to the scarcity of social rental units for this family type. Those who are waiting for a social rental unit have no other option than to look for housing in the private rental market. Nearly one in four tenants (23.2%) in the private rental market are waiting for a social rental unit.

The basic quality requirements which Flemish housing units must comply with are listed in the Flemish Housing Code (1997). The 2018 housing survey revealed that nearly 28% of private rental units in Flanders do not comply with the minimum quality and safety requirements.<sup>185</sup> Non-compliant housing units, which number about 13,000 in Ghent, may not be let out in Flanders. In practice, however, many non-compliant housing units are rented and occupied. Some of them are in such a dilapidated state that they are condemned or declared unfit for use. On 31 December 2018, the register included 1,182 housing units<sup>186</sup> that had been condemned or declared unfit for use, including single-family homes and studios, flats or rooms.

In Ghent, a distinction is made between four categories of student lodgings. The majority of students live in traditional lodgings: private small-scale rented rooms or studios, occupied by a single student.

In addition, the higher education institutions provide some 3,000 housing units for students. To meet the demand for student accommodation, private developers have been able to construct large-scale, collective student residences since 2010, creating an additional 3,000 units in total.

The City aims to reserve single-family homes or flats in the private rental market for families. If a house or flat has more than 1 bedroom, letting it to students is not allowed.<sup>187</sup> In reality, it often occurs that several students rent a single-family home together.

Many parents will also buy a single-family home or flat for their student children. A non-representative survey<sup>188</sup> revealed that 41% of dwellings occupied by cohabiting students are owned by the students themselves or by their families. Both trends put pressure on the rental market for single-family homes.

## Diminishing affordability

We can calculate the affordability of housing by comparing the amount paid by occupants for their home with their disposable income.

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184 Vlaanderen Vlaamse Maatschappij voor Sociaal Wonen (VMSW). Consulted via <https://www.vmsw.be/Home/Footer/Over-sociale-huisvesting/Statistieken/Kandidaat-huurders-en-kopers>

185 Steunpunt Wonen (2019). Wonen in Vlaanderen anno 2018

186 City of Ghent – Inspection Department (2020): Register of unoccupied buildings

187 City of Ghent (2012). Nota samenhuizen; decision of the Municipal Executive of 5 July 2012

188 City of Ghent (2017). Maak Gent negenduust keer wijzer, results of the 2017 student survey, City of Ghent in cooperation with Arteveldehogeschool

Since 2006, the purchase price of a Ghent home has risen by more than half, regardless of the type (single-family home or flat). In 2018<sup>189</sup> the median purchase price of a terraced or semi-detached house (2 or 3 façades) was € 262,000, that of a detached house was € 415,000 and that of a flat was € 225,000.

In 2018<sup>190</sup> the average rental price for a Ghent flat was € 762 (new tenancy agreement via a real estate agency). The rental price of a newly built flat<sup>191</sup> averaged between € 750 and € 1,100 while that of a terraced house and a semi-detached house averaged € 789 and € 919 respectively.

People with a limited income who do not own a property can be assigned a social rental unit under certain conditions (in accordance with the Social Rental Decree). The rent they have to pay is calculated on the basis of their income. A new calculation method was introduced on 1 January 2020. All social tenancy agreements are now fixed-term contracts.

## Housing shortage

The ratio between the number of housing units in the city and the number of (registered) households appears to indicate that there is no housing shortage in Ghent. However, there is a mismatch between supply and demand from the perspective of affordability.

Several remarkable conclusions can be drawn from an analysis of the taxable income groups in Ghent. For the most part, Ghent's private rental market is aligned with the demand for housing from a small part of the population. In principle, the social rental market (which is only a small part of the total market) meets the demand for housing from the majority of the population. However, the supply of social rental

units remains insufficient due to a structural housing shortage and a lack of suitable units (for large households).

For these reasons, families who are waiting for a social rental unit have no other option than to look for housing in the private rental market. Due to their limited financial means, they then run the risk of paying a high price for a dwelling of poor quality (little value for money). This will often result in payment difficulties and strained relations between tenants and landlords.

In practice, tenants with a low income will have to spend more than the acceptable housing expenses and/or make do with poor-quality housing in the bottom segments of the private rental market. Private rental units of poor quality are common throughout Ghent.

People from the highest income group can find a suitable home in the private housing market without much difficulty.

## Access to transport systems, public transport (with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons), road safety (11.2)

The following figures<sup>192</sup> concern the principal mode of transport for commuting or going to school, unless otherwise stated. Most of these data come from the mobility survey conducted after the introduction of the circulation plan. Additional information has been obtained from the City Monitor. We will first look at how Ghentians travel through the city and secondly at the road safety situation in Ghent.

189 City of Ghent (2020). Ghent In figures. Consulted via <https://gent.buurtmonitor.be/>

190 CIB Vlaanderen (2020). CIB-Huurbarometer. Consulted via <https://www.cib.be/actua>

191 City of Ghent – Data and Information Department (2018). 2018 environmental analysis. Consulted via [https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3\\_1-08091d.pdf](https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3_1-08091d.pdf);

192 An important part of the figures below come from the mobility survey conducted at the end of 2018. If no information was available in the mobility survey, the City Monitor was used. The survey for this study was conducted between May and June 2017, so just after the introduction of the Circulation Plan.

## How do Ghentians travel through the city?

### On foot

4% of Ghentians mainly walk to/from their workplace and 11% walk to/from school. People who live in the city centre go on foot most often.<sup>193</sup>

### By public transport

Approximately 18% of Ghentians make use of public transport for commuting.<sup>194</sup>

- > 8% of Ghentians take the bus or tram to go shopping. This percentage is considerably higher (23%) for shopping in the city centre.<sup>195</sup>
- > After the introduction of the circulation plan, the number of passengers (including people from outside Ghent) transported to and from the area inside the ring road (R40) by Flemish public transport company De Lijn increased by 8%.
- > Half of all Ghent households have at least one public transport season ticket.
- > After the introduction of the circulation plan, the average commercial speed of buses and trams (at peak times and in the inner city) increased by 6% and 5% respectively.

### By bike

- > The bicycle is used by 33% of Ghentians as their principal mode of transport, by 34% to commute and by 54% to go to school.<sup>196</sup>
- > 84% of Ghent households own one or several bikes.<sup>197</sup>
- > Two out of three students travel through the city by bicycle.

- > Cycling is an increasingly popular leisure activity: 32% of Ghentians use their bike to reach service providers (e.g. doctor, bank,...) and 31% use it for shopping.<sup>198</sup>
- > The number of cyclists has increased over the years, with an additional growth of 25% after the introduction of the circulation plan.
- > The cycling infrastructure was further expanded from 407 km in 2011 to 487 km in 2019.
- > Between 2013 and 2019, the number of places in public bicycle sheds increased by more than 145% to approximately 21,000. The bicycle shed occupation rate is nearly 100% in the inner city.
- > Overall, 3 out of 4 Ghentians state that the city centre can be easily accessed by bike.

### By car

- > With a share of 42%, the car continues to be the dominant mode of transport for commuting. 11% of pupils and students go to school by car.<sup>199</sup>
- > 21% of Ghent households do not own a car, yet the average household owns 1.1 cars.<sup>200</sup>
- > At the beginning of 2020, 12,982 Ghentians shared a car with other users.<sup>201</sup> 5% of Ghentians are members of a car-sharing initiative, compared to 2% of all people in Flanders. In addition, 13% of Ghentians share or pool a car, and 22% are prepared to do so in the future.
- > In 2019, there were about 39,000 parking spaces within the paid parking area. 53% of Ghentians are satisfied with this quantity, and this percentage has remained unchanged since 2011. However, there are significant differences between neighbourhoods.

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193 City of Ghent – Mobiliteitsbedrijf (Mobility Company). (2019). *Mobiliteits- en verplaatsingsonderzoek bij de Gentenaren*. Ghent, Belgium.

194 *Ibid.*

195 *Ibid.*

196 *Ibid.*

197 *Ibid.*

198 *Ibid.*

199 *Ibid.*

200 *Ibid.*

201 <https://autodelen.gent/>

- > Ghent boasts 13 underground car parks with a total of nearly 9,000 parking spaces. The average occupation rate for the Reep, Ramen, Savaanstraat, Sint-Pietersplein, Sint-Michiels and Vrijdagmarkt car parks is 49% by day and 43% by night.
- > In 2020, the park-and-ride sites provide space to 2,240 vehicles.

## Road safety

### Traffic congestion<sup>202</sup>

No significant increase or decrease of traffic congestion has been observed over the years.

- > Two thirds of Ghentians are negatively affected by the excessive speed of traffic in their neighbourhood.
- > Nearly half of all Ghentians consider obstructive parking (e.g. on the pavement) as a problem in their neighbourhood.
- > A little over a third of all Ghentians find noise pollution caused by traffic problematic in their neighbourhood.
- > 4 out of 10 Ghentians believe that aggressive behaviour in traffic is a problem in their neighbourhood.

These figures have been obtained from the 2017 City Monitor, and a survey providing input to these indicators was conducted just before and during the introduction of the circulation plan. This plan primarily covers the area within the Ghent ring road and is aimed at enhancing the liveability in the inner city.

## Traffic offences

The total number of traffic offences has increased slightly over the past two years. The number of registered traffic offences (excluding speeding offences) decreased slightly between 2017 and 2019.

The number of speeding offences increased by 8%.

**Table 9** Traffic offences, 2017-2019, Ghent

	2017	2018	2019	2017 VS, 2019 NUMBER %	
<b>Total excl. speeding (Police zone of Ghent)</b>	57.815	59.043	53.195	-4.620	-8%
Parking	29.924	31.846	29.268	-656	-2%
<b>Total speeding (Police zone of Ghent + GVC)</b>	83.461	73.924	90.387	6.926	8%
Manned cameras	18.770	24.974	49.310	30.540	163%
Unmanned cameras	64.691	48.950	41.077	-23.614	-37%
<b>Total number of traffic offences (Police zone of Ghent + GVC)</b>	141.276	132.967	143.582	2.306	2%

GVC is short for Centrum Groen Dreef, whose core task is to process automated enforcement by digital unmanned cameras

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

202 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

## Inclusive and sustainable urbanization (planning and management) (11.3)

Within the scope of horizon 2050, Flanders has two benchmarks for spatial planning. The “Spatial Planning Policy Green Paper” (2012) is intended as a source of inspiration and reflection. The “Flanders Spatial Planning Policy White Paper” (2016) is a policy statement by the Flemish Government establishing the strategic outlines for spatial development over the coming decades. In this policy plan, Flanders focuses on the promotion of local initiatives.

Ghent has its own benchmarks with the “Ghent Regional Zoning Plan” (2003) and the “2030 Zoning Vision – Space for Ghent” (2018).

The following challenges are the guiding principles:

- > The challenge of proximity to citizens: spatial planning is a process taking place for and with all inhabitants and all users of a city.
- > The challenge of liveability: cities are the living environment for people of all ages with sufficient and evenly distributed green spaces.
- > The climate challenge: sustainable and climate-proof spatial development.
- > The demographic challenge: address the growth and changing composition of the population.
- > The mobility challenge: restrict access to the city and region for motorised vehicles.
- > The economic challenge: address the spatial consequences of a growing and changing economy.

## Protection of cultural and natural heritage (11.4)

Ghent has an extensive, diverse and trend-setting cultural landscape. For instance, 29% of all recognised Flemish music organisations, 33% of all Flemish social-artistic associations and 21% of all recognised Flemish theatre companies are established in Ghent.<sup>203</sup>

Ghent is one of the Flemish leaders in terms of the number of cultural events: in 2017, there were 3,750 on-stage performances, 580 exhibitions and 116 festivals, amounting to an average of 336 events per 10,000 inhabitants.<sup>204</sup> It is not so easy to quantify the diversity aspect of the cultural activities on offer. In addition, some new initiatives cannot be quantified as part of a specific category.

Ghent’s cultural life is of an internationally renowned quality. Ghent achieved a high score in the ‘Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor – 2019 Edition’ of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC). The city ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the list of 40 European cities with 250,000 to 500,000 inhabitants. In 2009, Ghent received the prestigious title ‘UNESCO Creative City of Music’.

### Cultural vibrancy<sup>205</sup>

Ghent ranks first in the ‘Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor – 2019 Edition’ for the number of theatres, performances and concerts.<sup>206</sup>

This wide range of cultural activities is also reflected in terms of employment statistics: in 2016, Ghent had 146 jobs in the cultural and creative sector per 10,000 inhabitants, compared to an average of 139 jobs in the 13 Flemish centre cities and 73 jobs in Flanders.<sup>207</sup>

203 CAMPO, Compagnie Cecilia, Les ballets C de la B, NTGent, Vooruit. (2015). Kunstenlandschapschets 2015 Gent. Consulted via <https://overlegkunsten.org/media/7509c8a0b82f8c1b135488cb52d3921a/Landschapstekening%20Gent.pdf>

204 Flemish Government (2020). Uit Database. Consulted via <https://www.uitdatabank.be/>

205 Cultural Vibrancy: a city’s cultural wealth is assessed on the basis of its cultural infrastructure and capacity to attract a local, national and international audience for / through its cultural offer.

206 Montalto V., Jorge Tacao Moura C., Langedijk S., Saisana M. (2017). The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor – 2017, European Commission, Edition. doi: 10.2760/031627

207 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.



Ghent is a university city and also accommodates three out of four postgraduate programmes in arts (Hoger Instituut voor Schone Kunsten (HISK), the International Opera Academy and Orpheus Instituut). 10% of approximately 78,000 higher education students opt for a cultural or creative course.

## Library

Ghent boasts 15 branch libraries across its districts and neighbourhoods. The Municipal Public Library is the city's most highly visited cultural institution. While the number of library visitors has been in decline in Flanders over the last ten years, it has been on the rise in Ghent.

Ghent's main library was moved to a new location (De Krook) in 2017. This has had a positive impact on the number of visitors, which has increased from 2,400 visitors a day to 8,000 visitors a day. In its first year, the De Krook library was visited about 1,750,000 times.

A unique aspect of De Krook is the fact that it has three partners: the municipal library, the Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC) and Ghent University. New partners reinforce the unique combination of meeting place, technology, knowledge, science, culture and innovation.

## Heritage, museums and exhibitions

Ghent boasts 7 nationally recognised museums, out of a total of 21 in Flanders. Ghent's impressive historical heritage contributes to its image of one of the principal cities of culture in Flanders.

The number of visitors to the Ghent museums and historic buildings is increasing, yet varies considerably on an annual basis for each institution on account of temporary exhibitions. Ghent's most popular tourist attractions are the Castle of the Counts and the Ghent Altarpiece.

## Cinemas

Ghent boasts three cinemas and a film theatre of Ghent University. Contrary to the rest of Flanders, the number of cinema visitors is not in decline in Ghent.

## Art and culture in public space

Theatres and concert halls are not the only venues for art and culture in Ghent. Ghent literally brings art and culture to the streets through the programme 'Art in public space' and initiatives such as 123 Piano, the Light Festival and the Sorry Not Sorry festival.

## International network

Ghent also has international cultural connections. The city has been a member of EUROCITIES for many years and is active in its Culture Forum. As a city of music, Ghent is a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. And as the place where Holy Roman Emperor Charles V was born, Ghent is part of the Council of Europe's Cultural Route of Emperor Charles V. In 2011, Ghent was one of the co-creators of the AVIAMA (Association des Villes Internationales Amies de la Marionette) network which unites cities from around the world with a tradition in puppet theatre. In addition, the Ghent museums and numerous other cultural actors are individual members of international networks in their discipline.

## Impact of the coronavirus

The COVID-19 crisis has hit the cultural sector hard. Museums, historical monuments and tourist attractions, concert halls and theatres, festivals and cinemas all had to close their doors in March 2020, which resulted in a considerable loss of revenue for organisers and artists that is difficult to quantify. Ghent's cultural stakeholders have had to adapt to the circumstances. The library soon organised a non-contact service. The Van Eyck year was extended until the spring of 2021, and numerous digital initiatives were launched. Since Easter, UitinGentTV has broadcast a varied range of cultural performances by Ghent's cultural establishments, theatre companies and artists on TV in five Ghent nursing homes. The consultation platform Gents Kunstenoverleg has launched "#5 voor 12", a project where a Ghent establishment or artist posts a bit of culture on Facebook every day at 11.55 am. And people get creative with chalk drawings and balcony or street concerts in every district and neighbourhood.

## Reduction of the number of people affected and the economic losses caused by disasters (with a focus on protection of the poor and people in vulnerable situations) (11.5)

In this report, drawn up amid the COVID-19 crisis of 2020, we draw a number of conclusions concerning the City of Ghent's approach.

The City of Ghent has adopted a twin-track strategy during the COVID-19 crisis: short-term measures to address the most pressing needs and structural measures to revive the city after the crisis. Within this scope, Ghent has allocated a budget of € 25 million. A coronavirus taskforce coordinates the different actions and makes it possible to take swift action. Ghent has increased its financial and material support to the most vulnerable inhabitants. Childcare and youth work initiatives have been given extra funds. Businesses are supported by means of several targeted actions centred around employment. Civil society organisations are given some breathing space to bridge this difficult period.

The city has been given a makeover with highly visible communication in all streets and squares: panels, road markings, temporary graffiti and posters. This communication raises awareness, enhances safety and cheers people up. The city's internal organisation has adapted to the situation by expanding or reducing its services. Ghent's municipal employees have continued to work to the extent possible and with the necessary flexibility: in other more urgent jobs or from home.

Countless initiatives have been taken by citizens during the current crisis. The City of Ghent has played a part by matching supply and demand and by giving all initiatives as much visibility as possible via the digital volunteering platform.

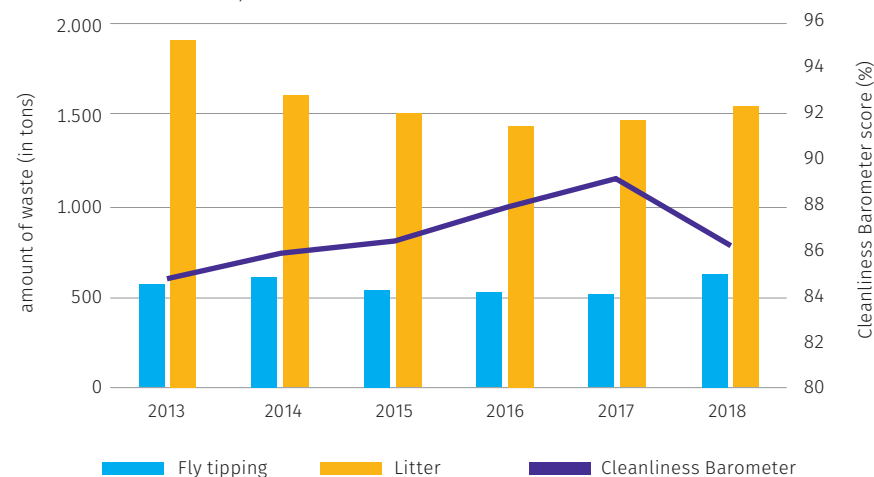
## Reduction of the environmental impact of cities, with special attention to air quality and waste management (11.6)

### Cleanliness<sup>208</sup>

More information about waste and waste management can be found under SDG 12 'sustainable consumption and production'.

The Cleanliness Barometer enables us to monitor the street's cleanliness on a monthly basis. This measuring instrument scores streets on the basis of the amount of litter and fly tipping found, how full the rubbish bins are and the prevalence of graffiti, unoccupied buildings and illegally posted bills. The higher the score, the cleaner the street. The average score was slightly lower in 2018 than in 2017 (Figure 1 – axis on the right). The fly tipping and littering figures are comparable. The amount of waste collected was higher for both fractions (Figure 1 – axis on the left).

**Diagram 18** Weight (in tons) of fly tipping and litter collected by IVAGO and DBSE, 2013-2018, Ghent. The Cleanliness Barometer score is also shown.



Source: IVAGO

According to the 2017 City Monitor, 58% of Ghentians find that the streets and pavement in their neighbourhood are generally clean, which is a lower score than the average for the 13 Flemish centre cities. Major differences exist between the various neighbourhoods in Ghent, amounting to up to 40 percentage points. 83% of Ghentians are satisfied with cleanliness in the city centre, compared to 80% of all inhabitants of the 13 Flemish centre cities.

A survey conducted at the start of the 2020-2025 term revealed that Ghentians give their city an average score of 5/10 for cleanliness.

All this indicates that, despite the efforts made over the previous years, littering and fly tipping continue to be a problem.

## Noise pollution

Noise pollution is the most common form of environmental nuisance:<sup>209</sup>

- > 37% of Ghentians have been confronted with traffic-based noise pollution over the past month (compared to 33% in 2014).
- > 14% have been confronted with noise from neighbours (equal to 2014).
- > 6% have been confronted with noise from businesses (equal to 2014).
- > 4% have been confronted with noise from hotels, bars and restaurants.

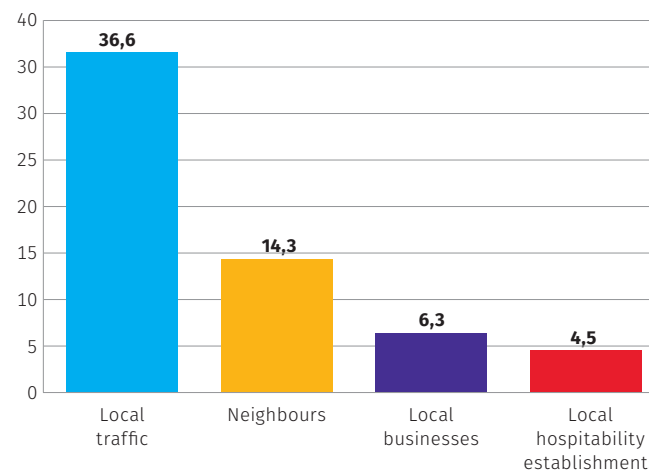
An increase in the number of complaints related to noise has been observed, mainly within the context of events.<sup>210</sup>

## Complex nuisance

Noise pollution is often the first signal of a more complex conflict situation. Two examples:

- > If many people share the same home, this sometimes results in noise, a squalid building and littering.
- > Complaints related to the noise of playing children usually have to do with busy playgrounds in the densely populated 19th century districts.

**Diagram 19** Proportion of Ghentians (in %) who state they are exposed to noise on a monthly basis, 2017



Source: 2017 City Monitor

209 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

210 Figures of the City of Ghent – Housing, Construction and Environmental Inspection Department

In 2014, the Flemish Government approved the Flemish noise maps.<sup>211</sup> By linking these noise maps to demographic data, we know that approximately 15% of Ghentians are exposed to road traffic noise of over 70 decibels, which is the nuisance threshold.

## Clean air

In March 2014, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported that in 2012 about seven million people worldwide had died prematurely due to exposure to air pollution. This makes air pollution the environmental problem with the biggest health impact.<sup>212</sup> Also refer to SDG 3 – health and well-being.

The Flemish Environmental Association (VMM) continuously monitors the concentrations of harmful substances in the air, and five of its measuring stations are in the Ghent area. The number of days with exceedance of the particulate matter limit has decreased over the years and the limit has not been exceeded in Ghent since 2012.

The annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentration must not exceed 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This limit has not been exceeded since 2004, but local concentrations vary significantly.<sup>213</sup> During a six-month monitoring campaign at fifty locations, the annual average NO<sub>2</sub> concentration varied between 21 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 68 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and exceedances were registered at eight locations, with the highest NO<sub>2</sub> concentration being measured in Sint-Jacobsnieuwstraat. The indicative annual average for NO<sub>2</sub> also exceeded the European limit in Begijnhoflaan, Steendam, Seghersplein, New-Orleansstraat, Antwerpsesteenweg, Land van Waaslaan and Dok Zuid.

Soot constitutes the most harmful substance in the air for human health, but no limit has been set. Soot concentrations have been measured at three locations in Ghent since 2012. The annual average concentration appears to decrease, but it is still too early to draw conclusions.

The number of complaints about air quality increased from 31 in 2013 to 47 in 2017 and 76 in 2018.<sup>214</sup>

## Access to safe, inclusive and green public spaces (in particular for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities) (11.7)

Safe public space (also refer to SDG 16 'peaceful and inclusive societies and effective institutions')

### Ghentians feel safe

The feeling of insecurity in the city is gradually diminishing. In 2019, nearly 6% of Ghentians stated they always or often feel unsafe in their neighbourhood. The rate of avoidance is higher: slightly more than 12% of Ghentians always or often avoid certain spots in the city because they feel unsafe there. 18% avoid leaving their home after dark.<sup>215</sup>

This feeling of (in)security is confirmed by another study.<sup>216</sup>

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211 AIB-Vinçotte (2014), Strategic sound pollution maps Antwerp & Ghent 2<sup>nd</sup> round, commissioned by the Flemish Government – dep. LNE. Directorate-General for Statistics – Statistics Belgium (ADS) (2011), Census, Brussels

212 Knack; 08/12/17

213 IRCEL (2018), <http://www.irceline.be/nl/luchtkwaliteit/metingen/stikstofdioxide/overschrijdingen>

214 Figures of the City of Ghent – Housing, Construction and Environmental Inspection Department

215 Federal Police (2019). Veiligheidsmonitor 2018 (2018 security monitor)

216 Dormaels, A., De Pauw, E. & Easton, M. (2016) Onderzoek naar de behoeften en verwachtingen van de burger in geval van stroomonderbrekingen. The Hague: Boom Juridische Uitgevers

On the basis of reports by victims (both individual victims and victimised families) of various crimes, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- > 1 in 5 states that a family member has been the victim of bicycle theft in the past 12 months.
- > Almost 1 in 4 states that a family member has been the victim of theft of or damage to the outside of the car in the past 12 months. Nearly 6% state that a family member has been the victim of theft from the car in the past 12 months.
- > 4% state that a family member has been the victim of burglary with theft in the past 12 months.
- > 2.6% state that they have individually been the victim of physical violence in the past 12 months.
- > 1.3% state that they have been the victim of robbery in the past 12 months.

### Impact of the living environment on the feeling of security

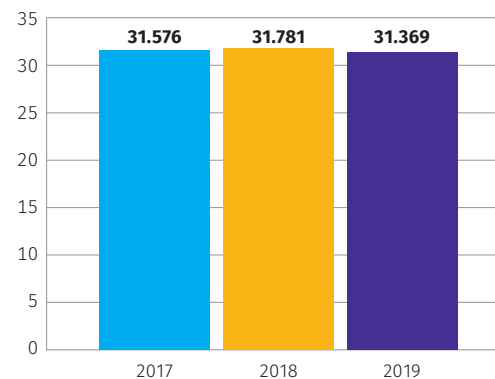
Feelings of insecurity are often linked to the quality of the physical environment. Various visible (and audible) signs of urban degradation such as littering, urinating in public, illegally posted bills, graffiti, vandalism, dilapidation and different forms of noise pollution create a sense of insecurity.

### Recorded crime

Between 2017 and 2019, recorded crime decreased by 1% in Ghent to a total of 31,369 offences. This downward trend applies to all categories except drug-related offences, as a proactive approach has resulted in a significant increase of recorded cases. Since drug-related offences mostly come to light through active tracing, the figures primarily reflect anti-drugs actions by the police and not the evolution of drug abuse.

These figures should be interpreted with caution: they reflect reported and recorded offences, but these depend on the willingness to report offences and the police priorities.

**Diagram 20** Total number of recorded criminal offences, 2017-2019, Ghent



Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

**Table 10** Most frequent offences, 2017-2019, Ghent

	2017	2018	2019	2019 VS, 2017 Bicycle theft	
Theft and extortion	12.252	11.793	11.386	-866	-7%
Drugs	3.100	3.549	3.824	724	23%
Damage to property	2.842	2.264	2.346	-496	-17%
Offences against the physical integrity of persons	2.786	2.569	2.427	-359	-13%
Offences against other moral and societal values	1.403	1.275	1.247	-156	-11%

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

## Offences against property

Bicycle thefts account for more than a quarter (28%) of all recorded offences against property. However, the number of recorded offences decreased by approximately 9% between 2017 and 2019.

In 2019, breaking into buildings accounted for 17% of recorded offences, followed by breaking into homes (13%), shoplifting (13%), theft from vehicles (12%) and pickpocketing (10%).

Breaking into buildings and homes, shoplifting and moped or motorcycle theft are in decline. On the other hand, pickpocketing, car theft and theft from vehicles were on the rise between 2017 and 2019.

**Table 11** Most frequent offences against property, 2017-2019, Ghent

	2017	2018	2019	2019 VS, 2017 NUMBER	
Bicycle theft	2.785	2.769	2.522	-263	-9%
Breaking and entering (total)	1.711	1.681	1.571	-140	-8%
Domestic burglary (part of buildings)	1.219	1.161	1.187	-32	-3%
Shoplifting	1.265	1.338	1.243	-22	-2%
Theft from vehicles	1.131	1.057	1.152	21	2%
Pickpocketing	835	859	959	124	15%
Moped & motorcycle theft	270	135	206	-64	-24%
Car theft	94	112	120	26	28%

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

## Damage to property

In 2019, damage to property (including vandalism, damage to vehicles and graffiti) declined by 17% compared to 2017. Graffiti is currently also recorded on the basis on so-called municipal administrative sanctions.

**Table 12** Vandalism, 2017-2019, Ghent

	2017	2018	2019	2019 VS, 2017 NUMBER	
Total vandalism	2.485	2.006	2.105	-380	-15%
Damage to vehicles	1.141	922	911	-230	-20%
Graffiti	136	88	119	-17	-13%

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent



## Offences against persons

Between 2017 and 2019, the number of offences against the physical integrity of persons declined by 13% while the number of offences against the moral integrity of persons decreased by 11%. The former category principally concerns assault and battery.

**Table 13** *Offences against the physical integrity of persons, 2017-2019, Ghent*

	2017	2018	2019	2019 VS, 2017 NUMBER	
Total	2.786	2.569	2.427	-359	-13%
Assault and battery	2.379	2.188	2.104	-275	-12%

Source: Federal Police – Police Zone of Ghent

The number of recorded cases of domestic violence remained stable at 1,777 in 2017 (compared to 1,761 in 2013). 27.78% of all cases concern violence by intimate partners, mainly physical (49%) and psychological violence (38%). This problem is probably much more extensive: on average, victims only report abuse after being hit for the 7<sup>th</sup> time. A police report is usually drawn up in the fourth instance.

## Accessible public space

Accessible public space is one of the guiding principles of 'Space for Ghent', the city of Ghent's spatial planning framework. In accordance with the 'ageing-in-place principle', new neighbourhoods are designed in such a way that they enable people from different household forms and generations to find their place in the community. If we translate this to public space and the provision of services and facilities, accessibility is prioritised and aligned with the needs of all residents, regardless of age and disability. This includes topics such as wide pavements without any obstacles, appropriate crossings, sufficient lighting and benches, a sufficiently varied range of local shops and services, sufficient parking spaces for people with reduced mobility, local leisure facilities and easy access to frequent public transport.

The 2030 Zoning Vision has not yet become reality. Not much information is available on this issue. According to a survey into the needs of the elderly, nearly 1 in 4 senior Ghentians states that there is a lack of benches and public toilets. Numerous older people point out the many stairs in public buildings. The general opinion is that the lack of public toilets is greatest outside the city centre.

The City of Ghent recognises this need; nuisance caused by faulty pavements and other problems can be reported to the internal and external services via the official responsible for accessibility.<sup>217</sup>

217 City of Ghent (2020b). *Gent, leeftijdsvriendelijke stad (Ghent, age-friendly city)*. Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/BN%20Leeftijdsvriendelijke%20stad.pdf>

**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



# SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

## Topics of SDG 12

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Sustainable consumption and production patterns (12.1)**

**Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2)**

**Reduction of food waste at the retail and consumer levels and of food losses along production and supply chains (12.3)**

**Environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, and significant reduction of their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment (12.4)**

**Reduction of waste generation through prevention, recycling and reuse (12.5)**

**Adoption of sustainable practices by companies (12.6)**

**Promotion of sustainable public procurement practices (12.7)**

**Awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles (12.8)**

## SDG 12 in short

*SDG 12 is aimed at taking action in terms of sustainable consumption and production, primarily through the efficient use of natural resources and the reduction of food waste. We also need to reduce the amount of waste, in particular chemical waste, generated. Finally, we need to focus on sustainable procurement policies and practices, both in the public and private sectors, and raise awareness of sustainable development. This report is an excellent example. We realise that too little attention is paid to the social dimension of climate in this publication. This will be a focal point for the next publication.*

The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:

**The City of Ghent is working on a healthy and clean living environment through:**

- > Increasing the cleanliness and focusing on a waste recycling policy for all of the city's users

**Ghent continues to lead the way in pursuing a bold and social climate policy, through:**

- > Reducing the climate footprint of food
- > Reducing the carbon footprint of the industry, SMEs and service sector

**Groep Gent is a flexible and result-oriented organisation through:**

- > Providing integral facilities services

## Status of the city

### Sustainable consumption and production patterns (12.1)

Together with the partners of the Ghent Regional Cleantech Cluster, which was founded in 2016, the City of Ghent invests in a set of actions to develop the circular economy in the region. The analysis of plastic and building material flows is an important step in this context. The focus is simultaneously on projects concerning new materials and innovative forms of collecting and processing, involving companies from the Ghent area that show strong interest as well as Flemish and European actors. Another area of attention is the use of recycled materials in buildings and infrastructure in Ghent.<sup>218</sup>

### Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2)

This objective is less relevant for Gent.

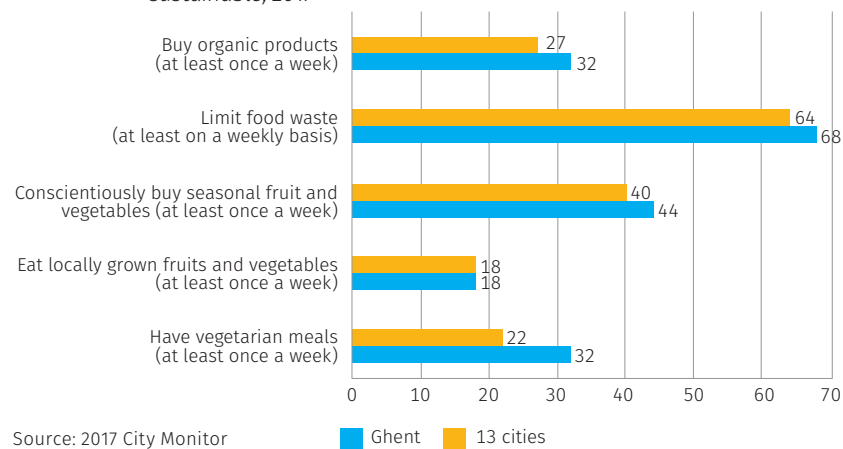
### Reduction of food waste at the retail and consumer levels and of food losses along production and supply chains (12.3)

Our eating and purchasing habits, construction methods, etc. impact our consumption of energy and raw materials.<sup>219</sup> Food plays an important part in our

consumption patterns with a carbon footprint of 2.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per inhabitant a year.

Data with regard to the situation in Ghent are scarce. The food survey in the City Monitor included 5 questions. It is striking that, compared to the average for the 13 Flemish centre cities, Ghent scores much better in terms of the consumption of vegetarian food, the purchase of seasonal products, the prevention of food waste and the purchase of organic products. Ghent's score for the purchase of locally produced vegetables is average.

**Diagram 21** Proportion of Gheentians (in %) whose food consumption patterns are sustainable, 2017



<sup>218</sup> VITO (2019). Gent kiest voor een circulaire stadseconomie (Ghent opts for circular urban economy). Consulted via <https://vito.be/nl/nieuws/gent-kiest-voor-een-circulaire-stadseconomie>

<sup>219</sup> It is important to mention that the study conducted by VITO attributes a considerable amount of emissions to the production and distribution chain of fuels and electricity. This means that energy-saving measures and the use of renewable electricity have a relatively large effect. This is also true for mobility.

## Environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, and significant reduction of their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment (12.4)

This objective is less relevant for Gent.

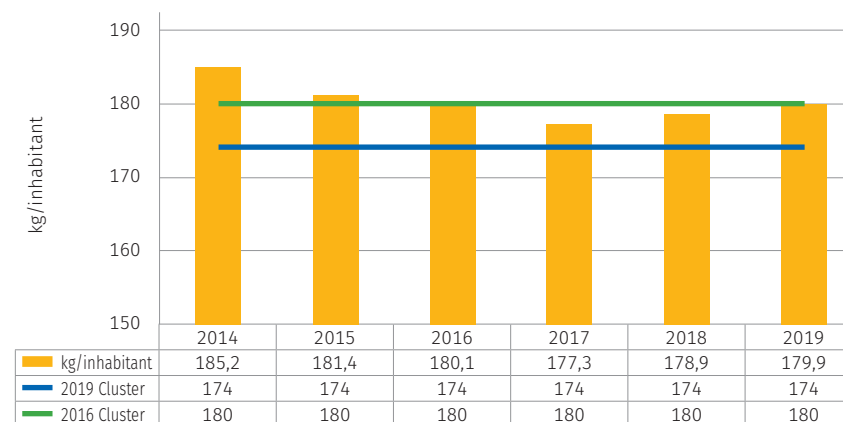
## Reduction of waste generation through prevention, recycling and reuse (12.5)

### Waste management

The new 'Implementation plan for household waste and similar industrial waste' sets standards for towns and cities for the period from 2016 to 2022.<sup>220</sup> Between 2016 and 2018, the amount of residual waste per inhabitant decreased in Ghent to well below the initial target of 197 kg. It was still below the target in 2018, although the amount of residual waste per inhabitant increased to 178,9 kg and continued to increase in 2019. However, Ghent scores much better than other cities such as Antwerp and Bruges.

The amount of residual waste per inhabitant decreased by 9 kg or nearly 5% between 2013 and 2018. As the target set for 2022 is 174 kg per inhabitant, Ghent needs to keep on reducing the amount of residual waste. The total amount of waste produced should remain stable, even as the population grows. In practice, this means that the average amount of household waste per inhabitant (522 kg in 2014) should decrease to 502 kg per inhabitant by 2022.<sup>221</sup>

**Diagram 22** Residual waste in kg/inhabitant, 2014-2019, Ghent



Source: Ivago

### Recorded offences with regard to waste

The number of recorded offences with regard to waste was 845 in 2017, approximately the same number as in 2013, but the problem is not yet under control. The figures provided by local authority association for waste management IVAGO indicate that fly tipping remains persistent in Ghent. The total amount of illegally dumped waste decreased from 623 tons in 2014 to 522 tons in 2017. The number of recorded offences also declined at first, but picked up again to 19,973 in 2017, possibly as a result of the introduction of the reporting app in September 2017.

A few other data:

- > Over the past month, 47% of Ghentians (versus 42% in 2014) have come across litter and 32% of Ghentians (unchanged compared to 2014) have seen fly tipping.
- > Over the past month, 8% of Ghentians have seen someone urinating in public.
- > The number of illegally posted bills has declined by 90% over the past five years. This phenomenon has all but disappeared in the past decade.
- > The dog dirt problem appears to be under control and no longer ranks in the top 10 of municipal administrative sanctions.

<sup>220</sup> City of Ghent (2019). Evaluatie beleidsnota 2014-2019 van IVAGO (Evaluation of IVAGO policy note for 2014-2019)

<sup>221</sup> City of Ghent (2020b). Beleidsnota IVAGO (IVAGO policy note). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Ivago%202020-2025.pdf>



## Waste recycling

Recycling is an important factor in reducing the rate of material consumption. It requires appropriate processing techniques to close the loop on specific material flows. Technical developments are constantly taking place, engendering new forms of processing.

The collection of more materials from existing or new flows depends to a considerable extent on legislative fine-tuning, e.g. modifying the rules for waste separation. The definition of green waste<sup>222</sup> was expanded in January 2019 and Ghent began to collect more types of plastic and metal waste in January 2020.<sup>223</sup>

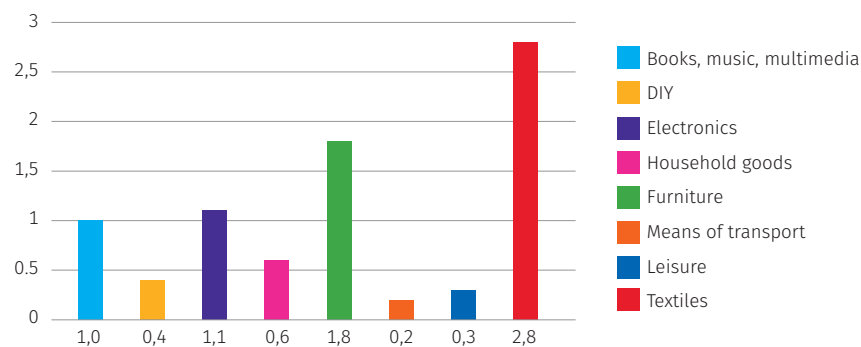
## Waste reuse

Ghent launched an initiative to promote the repairing and reuse of products. About 50 so-called Repair Cafés were organised in 2019, each drawing an average of about 40 visitors, 70% of whom were helped. The majority of repaired products were electronics (56%), followed by bicycles (16%) and textiles (14%).<sup>224</sup>

In addition to repairing products, sharing them is also a method of ensuring that fewer products and materials are needed to fulfil the same function. Ghent plans to investigate the feasibility of local sharing centres in addition to the sharing initiatives taken in the private market.

The Ghent reuse results have been encouraging: 8.4 kg per inhabitant were collected by Ateljee, while Open Plaats collected 3.2 kg per inhabitant in 2018, with a reuse percentage van 50%. Of the remaining 50%, only 3.4% were not recycled.<sup>225</sup>

**Diagram 23** Collected recycling materials (Ateljee), in kg/inhabitant, 2018, Ghent



Source: Ateljee

## Adoption of sustainable practices by companies (12.6)

Businesses are important partners in turning Ghent into a climate-neutral city. Small, medium-sized and large companies are all provided with assistance by the City to reduce their energy consumption. A coach performs an energy scan and assists companies for a year in drawing up and implementing an energy action plan.

222 Garden, vegetable and fruit waste.

223 Plastic and metal waste includes plastic packaging, plastic bottles and flasks, metal packaging and drink cartons.

224 City of Ghent (2020b). Beleidsnota IVAGO (IVAGO policy note). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Ivago%202020-2025.pdf>

225 *Ibid.*



## Promotion of sustainable public procurement practices (12.7)

The City of Ghent has developed a sustainable concept for public procurements and introduced a sustainable procurement strategy which includes 5 objectives:

1. If a new need emerges, what is already available within the organisation is first used to the full, and products and services are actively shared by all departments.
2. Unnecessary procurements are actively prevented, e.g. by examining whether products can be repaired or repurposed.
3. If a procurement is required, every effort is made to ensure that it is both professional ...
4. ... and sustainable.
5. Products or services which have completed their life-cycle are reused whenever possible, either as a whole or as components, through reuse, recycling, upcycling and downcycling.

Sustainability criteria concerning the environment, social justice, local involvement and fairness have been included in specifications in line with public procurement legislation. Public contracts are also made more accessible for smaller local suppliers so as to develop and strengthen the Ghent economy.

As a municipal organisation, we have focused our sustainable procurement efforts on food (product segments such as fair-trade wine, coffee, juice and bananas) and textiles over the past few years. We strive for fairly-traded raw materials (with a fair-trade label) and enter into a dialogue with our suppliers (e.g. of work clothes) about the transparency of the production process.

In 2017, the City of Ghent became a member of the 'Green Deal – Circular Procurement', which calls for organisations to put the circular procurement concept into practice. Within this context, two circular procurement projects were set up between June 2017 and June 2019. With an eye to the future, processes involving waste / materials within the organisation are examined so as to develop new forms of material management in line with the circular economy principles.

## Awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles (12.8)

The City of Ghent has carried out communication campaigns on different topics: the low-emission zone, Ghent as a climate-proof city, parks, nature and woodlands, and of course the role played by sustainable development goals.

The City of Ghent communicates both online (website, social media) and offline (brochures, flyers, city magazine) to its citizens about topics related to sustainability.

The City of Ghent therefore focuses on global citizenship, linking global events to the local level. The City undertakes actions to promote knowledge, attitudes and behaviours corresponding to the joint responsibility to implement changes, both in Ghent and elsewhere in the world, that contribute to international equity and sustainability.

### International solidarity

Taking place every year in March, Belmundo is an activity festival centred around international solidarity where numerous associations present a wide range of activities to thousands of visitors from Ghent and beyond.

Through a diverse range of educational activities, pupils and students are moulded into critical and responsible citizens who are aware of the importance of international solidarity and sustainability. The City of Ghent therefore provides a free educational programme to inform children and youngsters and make them aware of global issues, encourage them to consider alternatives and have them implement the desired changes to improve sustainability. Within this context, the focus is not solely on the acquisition of knowledge, but also on the development of cognitive and social-emotional skills. Thousands of children and youngsters take part in this educational programme annually.

## **Decolonisation**

On 30 June 1960, Congo joined the group of African nations who had recently gained their independence. Sixty years later, the discussion about the legacy of colonialism is still ongoing. The vivid public debate on decolonisation that has taken place in Gent in 2019-2020 has resulted in a report with recommendations and thus contributes to continued attention to international solidarity and equity.

## **Peace and remembrance**

Peace is much more than the absence of war. Looking back on our recent history in its totality and complexity enables us to reflect on the present and draw collective conclusions on the impact of intolerance, racism and xenophobia in their most extreme forms.

The end of the Second World War brought a period of prolonged peace to our region, but unfortunately did not eliminate war and conflict other parts of the world. The historical legacy in our city can be used as a basis for continued reflection and contribute to lasting peace in the rest of the world, because things that have become history in our country are still a day-to-day reality for communities worldwide. We wish to foster sustainable peace in other regions not by contrasting foreign wars to our context of peace, but by entering into a dialogue with our citizens about what we can do to achieve this objective.

**13** CLIMATE ACTION



# SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## Thema's SDG 13

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (13.1)**

**Integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.2)**

**Improvement of education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction (13.3)**

## SDG 13 in short

*Since climate change and natural disasters involve risks for human beings and the environment, we need to enhance our resilience and adaptive capacity to these hazards SDG 13 states that this requires the full integration of the climate focus into national policies, strategies and planning. In addition, there is a general need for improved awareness-raising through education and for improved human and institutional capacity on climate change information, mitigation and adaptation.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Ghent continues to lead the way in pursuing a bold and social climate policy, through:**

- > Reducing the climate footprint of food
- > Reducing the carbon footprint of the industry, SMEs and service sector
- > Increasing the local production of renewable energy

**More green spaces, nature and water make Ghent a more pleasant and climate-proof city through:**

- > Water policy optimisation
- > Making public spaces greener and removing asphalt

## Status of the city

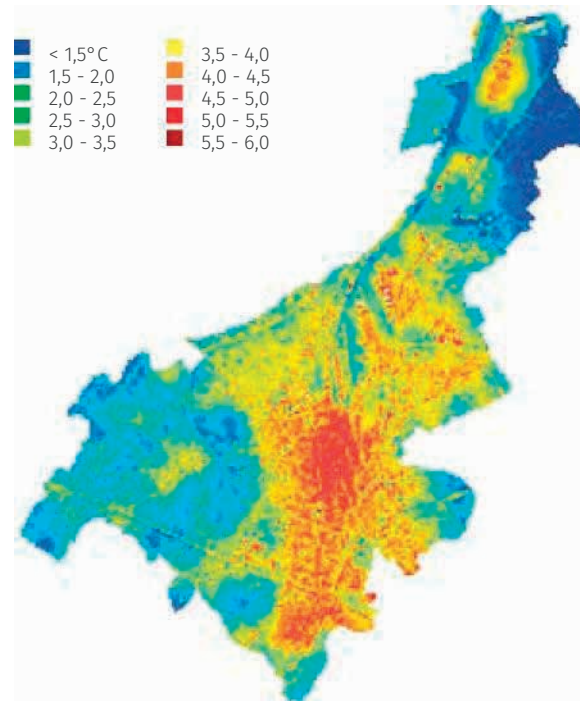
### Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (13.1)

The most devastating climate effects are extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe storms and flooding. Not only will they become more frequent and more intense, these effects are also reinforced in an urban environment due to the ubiquity of paved surfaces, the rapid runoff of rainwater and the lack of green spaces and wetlands.<sup>226</sup>

#### Heat waves

The average summer temperature has risen significantly in Europe over the past two decades. The frequency of tropical days (maximum temperature >35°C), tropical nights (minimum temperature >20°C) and heat waves has increased as well.<sup>227</sup> This increase is more pronounced in cities due to the urban heat island effect.

Diagram 24 Heat map of Ghent, 2012



Source: City of Ghent

226 Brouwers J., et al. (2015) MIRA Klimaatrapport 2015, over waargenomen en toekomstige klimaatveranderingen. Flemish Environmental Association (VMM) in partnership with KU Leuven, VITO and Royal Meteorological Institute (KMI/IRM). Aalst, Belgium, 147 p

227 *Ibid.*



In summer, the city centrum is on average 3°C hotter, with a peak difference of 8°C during hot nights.<sup>228</sup> The five Ghent districts most vulnerable to heat stress are the inner city, Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham, Muide-Meulestede, Dampoort and Ledeborg. The city centre and districts such as Oostakker, Sint-Amandsberg and Gentbrugge are also at risk of storm water flooding the streets due to the drains being overwhelmed. At the same time, Ghent's soil is drying out due to increasingly lower groundwater and river levels as a result of increasingly longer periods without rain. This has particularly impacted the urban green spaces and natural environment as well as the Ghent harbour.

Several initiatives have been taken to combat the urban heat island effect in Ghent:

- > The number of street trees in Ghent increased from 6,662 in 2012 to 8,690 in 2017.
- > Approximately 1,400 new front gardens were planted between 2015 and 2017.
- > 15,854 m<sup>2</sup> of pavement was removed from public spaces between 2014 and 2016.

A drought study will be conducted during the current term. In addition, the heat study from 2013 will be expanded with new heat maps that not only show the surface and air temperatures, but also the perceived temperature, thus visualising heat stress and detecting heat and cold islands.

## Extreme precipitation and flooding

Annual rainfall has increased slowly yet significantly<sup>229</sup> in Belgium by 0.5 mm a year or 0.5 cm per decade. The frequency of recorded floods in Belgium has also risen substantially since 1970.

36% of Ghent's surface had been paved or built up by 2015, making it virtually impervious (= hard surfaces). The areas along the river Lys and the Upper Scheldt are the parts of Ghent with the highest risk of flooding. On the basis of data from 2015, it is estimated that 16% of the total surface of Flanders is covered in buildings, roads and car parks, compared to 15.9% in 2012. The proportion of hard surfaces is highest in the peripheral areas of Brussels and Antwerp as well as in Antwerp and Ghent.

## Climate adaptation

Ghent's climate adaptation strategy focuses on the prevention and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change. However, climate adaptation does not suffice to cope with all climatic extremes. Exceptional weather events can occur at any time and cause short or long-term disruption, requiring the city to develop contingency plans. It is the mayor's responsibility to coordinate the contingency plan and crisis communication. Two examples of such a contingency plan are the heat plan which pays particular attention to the (socially isolated) elderly, children, the chronically ill and people living on their own, and the heat plan for events (e.g. the Ghent Festivities). Vulnerability analyses for heat, flooding and drought help keep these contingency plans up to date.<sup>230</sup>

## Integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (13.2)

195 countries, including Belgium, signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in December 2015, pledging to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 °C. The focus is on limiting the consumption of fossil fuels, an important cause of excessive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. To achieve this objective, measures need to be taken on all levels, from the European level to that of individual citizens.

On 9 December 2019, the Flemish government approved the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, aimed at reducing the Flemish greenhouse gas emissions by 35% (in comparison with 2005) by 2030.

228 Maiheu, 2013. Hittekaart (heat map): CLUHI 19 August 2012, 0:00 LT.

229 VMM (2020). Annual precipitation, consulted via <https://www.milieurapport.be/milieuthemas/klimaatverandering/neerslag-verdamping/jaarlijkse-neerslag>;

230 City of Ghent (2020e). Ontwerp Klimaatplan (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20klimaatplan%202020-2025.pdf>



## Improvement of education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction (13.3)

### Covenant of Mayors

In 2009, Ghent was the first city in Belgium to sign the Covenant of Mayors, a European initiative to mobilise local authorities against climate change. Over the past decade, numerous measures have been taken and actions have been carried out to ensure that the target of a 20% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020 compared to 2007 can be achieved. In addition to this Covenant of Mayors for climate mitigation and greenhouse gas emission reduction, the City of Ghent also signed a Covenant of Mayors for climate change adaptation (the response to global warming) in 2014. This formal commitment has resulted in the preparation of a strategy and action plan.

In line with the Paris Agreement, the European Union launched the new, integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in 2015. Signed by the Ghent municipal council on 23 November 2015, this new covenant is aimed at a 40% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 and combines climate change adaptation and mitigation in a single action plan. The commitment towards Europe also includes the long-term objective of becoming a climate-neutral city by 2050.

The most recent insights into global warming are not very encouraging. The target of the Paris Agreement, limiting global warming to maximum 1.5°C, will probably require a greater effort than previously assumed. The European Union and its member states consider increasing the ambition to a 50% or even 55% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030. The question is whether this will have an impact on the Covenant of Mayors. As one of the leading cities in the field of climate policy, Ghent is of course following the discussion, but is also doing more. The city does not confine its climate efforts to the direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in its territory, but also takes into account its indirect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and opts for sustainable food and a circular economy, fields where important gains can be made with regard to combating climate change.

The measures we are currently taking to climate-proof our cities and address precipitation extremes, groundwater depletion and heat are not our final objective. Several effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, are not yet within our scope since they will not be felt until after 2030. When it comes to adaptation, we keep our finger on the pulse and will make adjustments to the action plan if required.<sup>231</sup>

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231 City of Ghent (2020e). Ontwerp Klimaatplan (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20klimaatplan%202020-2025.pdf>

## Evolution of CO2 emissions<sup>232</sup>

The updated figures for 2017 are as follows:

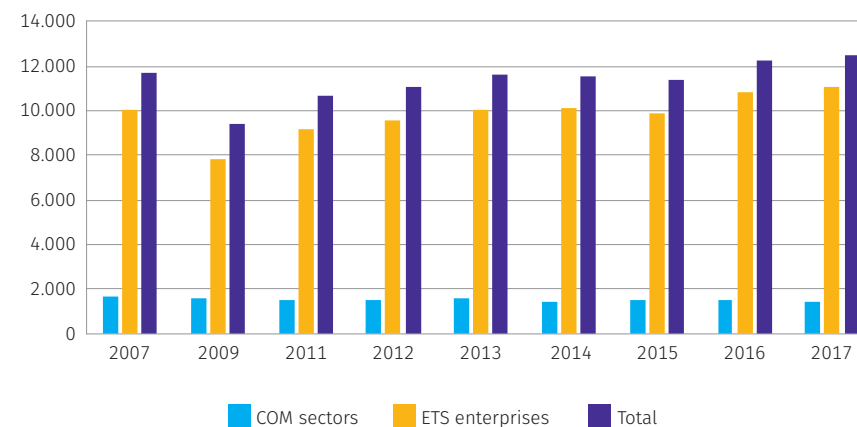
**Table 14** CO2 monitoring (ktons of CO2), according to emission source, 2007-2017, Ghent

	2007	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Industry excl. ETS	196	147	178	182	212	182	176	170	160
Tertiary sector	460	473	437	441	436	387	428	419	402
Municipal buildings	22	23	22	24	26	20	19	19	19
Households	395	382	338	345	353	303	311	323	307
Agriculture	8	7	5	5	5	4	6	6	5
Transport	598	554	543	540	548	556	545	527	524
local road traffic	nb	nb	262	261	263	275	254	238	237
motorway traffic	nb	nb	266	264	271	267	278	276	274
bus and tram	11	11	13	13	12	12	12	12	11
municipal fleet	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Public lighting	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Not attributed	21	21	23	20	27	23	25	26	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.682</b>	<b>1.590</b>	<b>1.529</b>	<b>1.537</b>	<b>1.584</b>	<b>1.457</b>	<b>1.493</b>	<b>1.475</b>	<b>1.426</b>
Evolution compared to 2007	100%	94,50%	90,90%	91,30%	94,20%	86,60%	88,80%	87,60%	84,80%

Source: VITO

To clarify, the Covenant Of Mayors stipulates that companies falling under the European Emission Trading System (ETS) should not be included in the CO2 monitor. We therefore only consider non-ETS companies under “industry”. ETS is the system of tradable emission permits applying to the most energy-intensive companies. The reasoning behind it is the idea that the revenues from the ETS go to the member states (in our case: Flanders) and that limiting the CO2 emissions of ETS companies is not the responsibility of local authorities. Indeed, the City of Ghent hardly has any tools for ETS companies. In 2017, 20 ETS companies (including 5 electricity producers) were established on the Ghent territory, generating 10,805 kilotons of CO2. 95% of these emissions result from steel and electricity production.

**Diagram 25** CO2-monitoring (ktons of CO2), Emission Trading System (ETS) enterprises and sectors, Covenant of Mayors, 2007-2017, Ghent



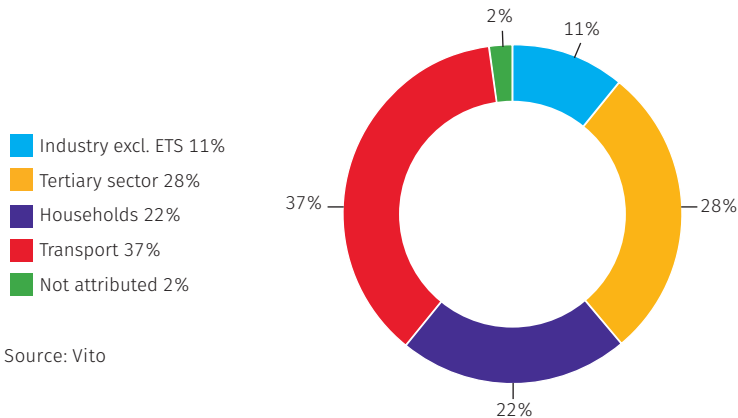
Source: Vito

232 City of Ghent (2019). CO2 monitor 2017.

Conclusions:

- > In 2017, CO2 emissions declined by 47 kilotons compared to 2016. If we apply degree-day correction to these figures, we see a more limited decrease (-10 kilotons).
- > In terms of renewable energy, we made progress in 2017. The self-sufficiency rate amounted to 16.5%, partly thanks to the installation of new wind turbines in the harbour.
- > In the longer term, we saw a decline by 15.6% since 2007, or -18.5% with degree-day correction.
- > The graph below provides an overview of CO2 emission sources. Transport accounted for the largest share (37%), followed by the tertiary sector (28%) and households (22%). Industry excluding ETS and the new category 'not allocated' accounted for 11% and 2% respectively, while the share of agriculture and public lighting was smaller than 1%.

**Diagram 26** CO2-monitoring (ktons of CO2), 2017, Ghent



Source: Vito

If we consider the evolution since 2007, we see that households have been responsible for the biggest decrease (-27.6%) despite demographic growth. The emissions from transport have declined by just 12.3%. Emissions have remained stable on motorways and have experienced a limited decrease on local roads.

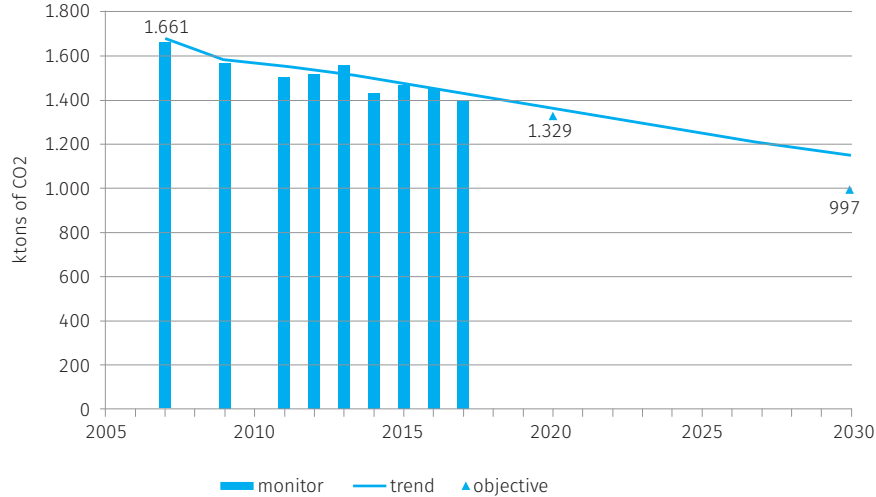
**Table 15** CO2 monitoring (ktons of CO2), according to emission source, with degree-day correction, 2007-2017, Ghent

	2007	2017	2007 2017 evolution
Industry excl. ETS	196	160	-18,10%
Tertiary sector	506	418	-17,40%
Households	445	322	-27,60%
Agriculture	8	5	-35,90%
Transport	598	524	-12,30%
Public lighting	5	3	-37,10%
<b>Total incl. degree-day correction</b>	<b>1.757</b>	<b>1.433</b>	<b>-18,50%</b>

Source: Vito

The graph below features a trend line. The decline was most pronounced between 2007 and 2009 due to the economic crisis which was felt in the industry and transport sectors. The decline was smaller between 2011 and 2017. The graph shows that the target of 20% reduction in 2020 is feasible. We will not achieve the target of 40% reduction by 2030 if the current trend continues.

**Diagram 27** CO2 emissions, Trend line up to 2030, Ghent



Source: Vito

14 LIFE  
BELOW WATER



# SDG 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## Topics of SDG 14

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Reduction of marine pollution, in particular from land-based activities (14.1)**

**Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2)**

**Abatement of ocean acidification through enhanced scientific cooperation (14.3)**

**Regulation of harvesting, elimination of overfishing, illegal and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and sustainable restoration of fish stocks (14.4)**

**Conservation and management of coastal and marine areas (14.5)**

**Elimination of dysfunctional or disproportional fisheries subsidies (worldwide) (14.6)**

**Economic benefits for small island states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism (14.7)**

## SDG 14 in short

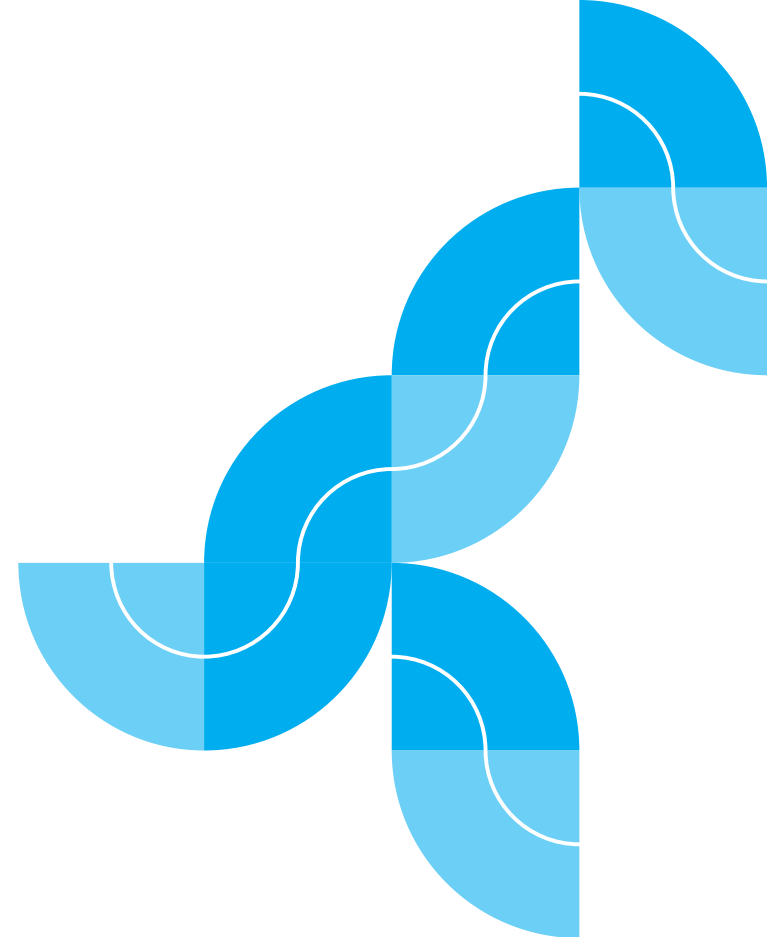
*On account of their temperature, currents and underwater life, the oceans are the engine of global systems that make the earth habitable for humankind (climate, weather, air, drinking water, food).*

*A sustainable future is impossible without careful management of this essential global resource. Management includes the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, the abatement of pollution and ocean acidification, the regulation of fisheries, the restoration of fish stocks, the creation of economic benefits for small island states and the development of international scientific cooperation in these matters. The causes of marine pollution need to be addressed on land as well.*



## Status of the city

*Strictly speaking, this goal does not have any links with Ghent's urban context. We will therefore not discuss any environmental indicators in this respect. Although Ghent is not located by the sea, the city does have an indirect impact on this SDG, for instance through its harbour and watercourses which flow into the sea. Please refer to SDG 6 'Clean water and sanitation', SDG 9 'Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation (raise industry's share of employment and GDP)' (9.2) and SDG 15 'Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems and services' (15.1) for the topics of water, harbour and watercourses.*



15 LIFE ON LAND



# SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

## Topics of SDG 15

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.*

**Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems and services (15.1)**

**Conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests, afforestation and reforestation (worldwide) (15.2)**

**Abatement of desertification, restoration of degraded land (including land affected by drought and floods), land degradation neutrality (15.3)**

**Conservation / protection of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity (15.4)**

**Conservation / protection of natural habitats, biodiversity and threatened species (15.5)**

**Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources (15.6)**

**Elimination of poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna as well as illegal products derived from them (15.7)**

**Control or eradication of invasive alien species (15.8)**

**Integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into policies (planning & implementation) (15.9)**

## SDG 15 in short

*SDG 15 requires us to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of our (freshwater and mountain) ecosystems. Forests should therefore be sustainably managed, desertification addressed, land degradation reversed and biodiversity loss halted. Action should also be taken to end trafficking of protected plant and animal species and measures should be introduced to control invasive alien species. Access to genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably. Ecosystem and biodiversity values should be integrated into policies since deforestation and desertification constitute huge challenges in terms of sustainable development.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**More green spaces, nature and water make Ghent a more pleasant and climate-proof city through:**

- > Making public spaces greener and removing asphalt
- > Expanding and (re)designing parks, woodlands and natural areas for and with the inhabitants of Ghent
- > Optimising the management of public green spaces, woodlands and natural areas as well as the animal welfare policy

## Status of the city

### Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems and services (15.1)

Also refer to SDG 6 'Clean water and sanitation'.

Located at the confluence of the rivers Lys and Scheldt, Ghent has a historical link to water. This chapter is more difficult to quantify and therefore falls back on the urban planning data.

The starting point of the '2030 Zoning Vision – Space for Ghent' is a set of spatial concepts, including "Water, topography and soil constitute the basis for a growing city" and "The green-blue network provides oxygen in and around the city".

## Water

Ghent's natural water network plays a prominent role, but its spatial potential is still under-utilised. The Scheldt, Lys, Kalebeek, Meirebeek and Rosdambek valleys and the Moervaart/Zuidlede depression structure Ghent's topography. They define the character of open spaces and connect different (green) spots and functions.

Watercourses and valleys connect the surrounding rural areas to the inner city. The combination of the water network and green axes creates so-called green climate axes.

Not only do they connect, they also convey cool and clean air into the city centre and provide cooling by means of ventilation flows, open water, evaporation and shade.

Furthermore, flooding can be prevented by storing water at the source and reusing it. As it supplements groundwater reserves, facilitating the on-site infiltration of rainwater has become even more important because of dropping groundwater levels. Alternative solutions and innovations are required to address water-related problems in the centre and inner city.

In addition to sufficient natural infiltration facilities, innovations such as green roofs, water squares and alternative forms of above-ground and underground water storage are vitally important to the further development of the city. The proportion of hard surfaces must be reduced.

A well-functioning sewerage system is essential too. Wastewater is quickly and efficiently conveyed to water treatment plants, and attention is paid to the potential of wastewater as a source of energy.

With North Sea Port, Ghent also has a functional main water structure. Ghent's sea port is connected to seven other northern European ports via the river Scheldt and the Ringvaart canal in the south and the Ghent-Bruges canal and Terneuzen-Ghent canal in the north. These main structures for commercial waterborne traffic link Ghent to the maritime and inland navigation routes in Europe. In addition to these main structures, an extensive network of inland waterways reinforces Ghent's connectivity with northern France and the European inland navigation system.

The dimensions and design of these economic infrastructures are centred around functionality, speed and capacity. Thanks to their green banks, the Scheldt river and Ringvaart canal also add value to the landscape and landmarks of Ghent's urban space.

The radial water axes of the Brugse Vaart canal and Lys and Scheldt rivers are important navigation routes to and from Ghent. On an urban level, an additional network of inland waterways (Verbindingskanaal, Muinsschelde, Visserijvaart, Handelsdok and Voorhaven) includes spatially structuring and visually recognisable elements for local residents, passers-by and recreational users.

Throughout the centuries, Ghent has always sought a connection to the sea. The Lieve canal was dug in the thirteenth century to establish a navigation route to the river Zwin near Damme. Due to the silting up of the Zwin, a new canal was needed and the Sassevaart canal was dug in the sixteenth century to link Ghent to the Honte inlet in the Western Scheldt.

The city's first economic artery, the Lieve canal, fell into disuse over the centuries. In recent years, a process has started to restore this historically important

waterway to its former glory. The Lieve canal's visibility and structuring function are re-established; large parts of the project have already been realised. The aim is to provide the Lieve canal with more space and facilitate interaction with the surrounding residential and business areas.

Finally, there are recreational water structures such as Blaarmeersen and Watersportbaan, and more urban meeting places can be developed along the water (like the existing ones in Keizerspark, Portus Ganda, Graslei and Korenlei).

## Green-blue network

The city's green space and water network should constitute a coherent whole from an ecological, landscape and recreational perspective. This continuous network of green areas is based on a green core structure and gradually branches into a dense fabric of small, evenly distributed and accessible green spaces that stretch deep into the paved urban environment.

Within the urban area, the five green poles, eight green climate axes and, on a lower level, the neighbourhood parks and other urban green and green-blue spaces are important vehicles of an accessible, dense green spatial network that needs to be strengthened.

## Ghent's green structure

The 2012 Green Structure Plan<sup>233</sup> describes the direction Ghent wants to take when it comes to the environment: a fully-fledged green structure that serves the interest of humans, nature, the landscape and the climate.

## Green poles

Green poles are larger than 100 hectares and are located no further than five kilometres from someone's home. They are nature areas, play forests and parks with a social, educational and recreational function. Ghent boasts five green poles:<sup>234</sup>

1. Gentbrugse Meersen in the Scheldt valley
2. Parkbos in the southern open space between Sint-Martens-Latem, Sint-Denijs-Westrem, De Pinte and Zwijnaarde
3. Vinderhoutse Bossen in the Oude Kale valley
4. The former airfield in Oostakker
5. The Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen nature reserve and the Blaarmeersen recreational area: together they constitute Bourgoyen-Malem-Blaarmeersen-Sneppemeersen.

## Neighbourhood parks and residential green spaces

Neighbourhood parks are larger than one hectare, are within walking distance (400 metres) from a residential area and offer a minimum surface of 10 m<sup>2</sup> per inhabitant. 49% of Ghentians had a neighbourhood park near their home in 2019 (compared to 31% in 1999) and slightly more than 44% has some kind of residential green space (compared to 35% in 1999). These percentages should be put in perspective, however, since parks in the centre and inner city are too small for the number of people who use them.

A survey among 8,500 Ghentians<sup>235</sup> revealed that 72.5% of them feel there is sufficient green space in their neighbourhood, which is nearly 10% more than ten years ago. The degree of satisfaction is low in the districts Elisabethbegijnhof-Papegaai, Muide-Meulestede-Afrikalaan, Sluizeken-Tolhuis-Ham, Rabot-Blaisantvest, Ledeborg and Binnenstad. The degree of satisfaction is high in the districts Gentbrugge, Oud Gentbrugge, Mariakerke, Watersportbaan-Ekkerghem, Sint-Denijs-Westrem and Sint-Amandsberg.

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<sup>233</sup> City of Ghent (2012). *Groenstructuurplan Gent* (Ghent Green Structure Plan).

<sup>234</sup> The majority of Ghent's green poles are only partly located in Ghent's territory. Ghent also benefits from their climatic and other functions.

<sup>235</sup> Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). *Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden* (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

Each (re)development begins with an extensive study in accordance with the guidelines of the Harmonious Park and Green Space Management. Involvement and participation of local residents and organisations are standard practice in this context. In the 2020-2025 term, 14 new neighbourhood parks will be developed and 18 neighbourhood parks will be redesigned (and possibly expanded).<sup>236</sup>

## Green climate axes

The green climate axes constitute a recreational, ecological and scenic connection between the surrounding rural areas, the 5 green poles and the city centre. They provide the urban environment with greenery, cooling and fresh air, mitigate the urban heat island effect and prevent flooding and groundwater depletion. In addition, they fulfil an important function in connecting natural areas for plants and animals. A continuous cycling and walking axis ensures the connection between the city centre and the surrounding rural areas:<sup>237</sup>

- > Oostakker, link to the former airfield in Oostakker
- > Sint-Amandsberg, link to Destelbergen
- > Lower Scheldt, link to Gentbrugse Meersen
- > Upper Scheldt, link to Zwijnaarde
- > Parkbos, link to Parkbos
- > Lys, link to the Lys valley
- > Vinderhoutse Bossen, link to the Vinderhoutse Bossen green pole
- > Lieve canal, link to Wondelgem

## Adapted green space management

The surface area of green spaces to be managed has increased due to the investments made in green poles, green climate axes and recreational green areas. In addition, climate change is already having a tangible effect on the work organisation of public and private green space managers: the growing season begins

earlier (mid-February instead of mid-April) and can last until almost the end of the year (mid-December instead of mid-October); summers are getting drier and heavy showers are increasingly frequent, resulting in floods.

Green space management needed to be adapted to this new situation, and less intensive management has become standard practice in recent years. It is not just more ecofriendly, but also less labour-intensive in the medium and long term. At the same time, the designs for green spaces are aligned with non-intensive management and the demands imposed by climate changes, for instance by choosing appropriate plants and providing more space for spontaneous vegetation development. Not all Ghentians have embraced the philosophy of ecological management yet: some of them consider a flowery grassland to be a neglected lawn, and weeds growing in the pavement are a nuisance. However, public support for these practices is growing.

## Green Spatial Implementation Plan under development<sup>238</sup>

The City of Ghent is developing a thematic Green Spatial Implementation Plan. Its objective is to protect the existing valuable green zones and increase the surface area of woodland and other natural environments. However, many ideas are currently impracticable or difficult to implement due to the existing zoning system. The City of Ghent and various nature conservation associations are acquiring green areas. Whenever private owners wish to sell them, the City can exercise its right of pre-emption for green zones in the Spatial Implementation Plan, thus conserving them as nature areas. An expropriation plan is being drawn up for areas where the City will develop additional woodlands and other natural environments.

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<sup>236</sup> City of Ghent. (2020c). "De tuin van alle Gentenaars" Acties voor beleidsnota openbaar groen (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Openbaar%20groen%202020-2025.pdf>

<sup>237</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>238</sup> Spatial Implementation Plan = land-use plan



## Conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests, afforestation and reforestation (worldwide) (15.2)

Since 1999, the surface area of woodland has increased by 71 hectares, partially by trees being planted in Gentbrugse Meersen, Ter Durmepark and the Desteldonk corridor. Woodlands<sup>239</sup> now cover 6.1% of Ghent's total surface area, compared to 5.4% in 2009 and 11% for Flanders. Ghent's woodlands are highly fragmented as more than half are smaller than five hectares and are private property not open to the public. In terms of the surface area of woodlands and other natural environments that are open to the public, Ghent is below the average of the 13 Flemish centre cities.<sup>240</sup>

With 880 hectares of woodland in 1999, the City of Ghent strives for a surface area of 1,260 hectare by 2030. To achieve this objective, the city invests in maximally protecting and conserving the existing nature areas and woodlands, e.g. by including them in a legally appropriate land-use zone in the Green Spatial Implementation Plan.

In addition, new woodlands are planted and new nature areas are developed, particularly in the green poles and green corridors. The Flemish government and nature conservation association Natuurpunt are important partners in this respect. If woodlands or other natural environments are cleared, they need to be compensated for. A specific compensation arrangement is in place in Ghent. By managing public green spaces in an ecofriendly manner and without using any pesticides, the City of Ghent is turning its parks into miniature nature reserves.<sup>241</sup>

## Abatement of desertification, restoration of degraded land (including land affected by drought and floods), land degradation neutrality (15.3)

Ghent boasts some valuable soils that provide space to valuable habitats if left undisturbed. Since soil formation and remediation are very slow processes, it is best to treat soils with care and adopt a careful approach to earthworks and paving in case of construction projects. Interventions such as lowering the water table can have profound consequences for the soil.<sup>242</sup>

The City of Ghent is therefore drawing up a soil assessment map which covers its entire territory and provides an overview of the remaining (relics of) (highly) valuable soils. In case a project or new development takes place within an area with highly valuable soil, disturbing the soil (earthworks or construction) will in principle be forbidden. In areas with valuable soil, further investigation is required and the objective is maximum conservation without making the land use impossible. The City formulates proposals for documenting and archiving unprotected valuable sites.<sup>243</sup>

## Conservation / protection of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity (15.4)

This objective is less relevant for Ghent.

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239 City of Ghent (2012). *Groenstructuurplan Gent* (Ghent Green Structure Plan).

240 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). *Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden* (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

241 City of Ghent (2020c). "De tuin van alle Gentenaars" Acties voor beleidsnota openbaar groen (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Openbaar%20groen%202020-2025.pdf>

242 *Ibid.*

243 *Ibid.*

## **Conservation / protection of natural habitats, biodiversity and threatened species (15.5)**

The natural environment has become degraded over the past fifteen years. The most valuable area shrank from 626 hectares in 1999 to 582 hectares in 2014.<sup>244</sup> Two important focal points are improvement of protection and appropriate management practices, including on land not owned by the City of Ghent. On the other hand, Ghent has a richer diversity of birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians than the surrounding rural areas.<sup>245</sup>

## **Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources (15.6)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

## **Elimination of poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna as well as illegal products derived from them (15.7)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

## **Control or eradication of invasive alien species (15.8)**

In recent years, the City of Ghent has seen an increasing number of reported sightings of alien species (including pond sliders and rose-ringed parakeets) in parks and even in the municipal nature reserve Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen. These introduced species have a negative ecological impact on the development of native species and have to be controlled according to the law. The police takes action against the illegal trade in exotic wildlife.

The City of Ghent organises the capture of alien species if required. In the spring of 2019, the City launched a campaign to capture pond sliders (red-eared sliders, Cumberland sliders and yellow-bellied sliders) in active collaboration with vzw Rato, the Provincial Centre for Environmental Research (PCM) and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO).<sup>246</sup>

## **Integration of ecosystem and biodiversity values into policies (planning & implementation) (15.9)**

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

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<sup>244</sup> City of Ghent (2015). Geactualiseerde Biologische Waarderingskaart van de stad Gent.

<sup>245</sup> Nys, A. (2012). Het natuurrapport van de Vlaamse steden en gemeenten 2006- 2012.

<sup>246</sup> City of Ghent (2020a). Beleidsnota Dierenbeleid (voorontwerp). Consulted via <https://stad.gent/sites/default/files/media/documents/Voorontwerp%20Beleidsnota%20Dierenbeleid%202020-2025.pdf>

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



# SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

## Topics of SDG 16

Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex. Below you can find the list of underlying topics.

**Reduction of violence and related death rates (16.1)**

**Elimination of child abuse, exploitation and trafficking as well as violence against children (16.2)**

**Promotion of the rule of law and ensuring of equal access to justice (16.3)**

**Reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, return of stolen assets and the fight against organized crime (16.4)**

**Reduction of corruption and bribery (16.5)**

## SDG 16 in short

*This goal concerns the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies with an eye to sustainable development, the provision of equal access to justice for all and the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions. This goes hand in hand with strongly reducing or ending violence against children (including child abuse, exploitation and trafficking) as well as corruption, illicit financial flows, illicit arms trafficking and organised crime. Strengthening legal systems and accountable institutions is essential, as are representative decision-making, access to transparent information and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

**Ghent is a safe city thanks to an alert police force that is close to the people, through:**

- > Expanding a balanced and widely supported three-prong policy: prevention, reparation and enforcement
- > Reinforcing and rejuvenating an alert police force that is close to the people

**Development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6)**

**Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16.7)**

**Equal participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (16.8)**

**Provision of legal identity for all, including birth registration (16.9)**

**Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10)**

**Ghent provides dynamic services tailored to the needs of citizens through:**

- > Strengthening accessible and personalised local services
- > Strengthening a wide and accessible range of digital services
- > Ensuring high-quality and proactive services relating to civil affairs
- > Reinforcing a communicative organisation that listens, informs, connects and encourages

**Groep Gent is a flexible and result-oriented organisation.**

**We develop Ghent in collaboration with its citizens and partners through:**

- > Strengthening local, city-wide and participatory practices for all Ghentians
- > Adopting an integrated approach to societal challenges in the neighbourhoods with all partners
- > Strengthening volunteers and focusing on cooperation with various civil society organisations



## Status of the city

### Reduction of violence and related death rates (16.1)

Please refer to SDG 11 – Access to safe, inclusive and green public spaces (in particular for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities) (11.7).

The total of number of offences against the physical integrity of persons in Ghent was 2,427 in 2019, which is comparable to 2018 and 2017. This number only includes cases recoded by the police and can be broken down into 2,104 cases of assault and battery, 18 murder cases and 305 cases falling into the category ‘other’. These figures should be interpreted with caution: they reflect reported and recorded offences, but these depend on the willingness to report offences and the police priorities. The above-mentioned figures also include attempted cases.<sup>247</sup> Also see SDG 11.7: Access to public spaces (safety).

### Elimination of child abuse, exploitation and trafficking as well as violence against children (16.2)

No figures are available for Ghent.

(Suspected) cases of child abuse are reported to various organisations in Flanders. The child abuse victim support centres occupy a central position in this respect and register cases reported by citizens and professionals. They transmit these reports to the Flemish Child and Family Agency, which publishes the number of child abuse cases reported to the victim support centres on an annual basis.

In 2018, there were 47.6 reported child abuse cases per 10,000 children under 18 in the province of East Flanders. This figure was slightly higher for East Flanders between 2015 and 2017. This is an important indication of the problem, but should not be interpreted as the incidence rate of (the risk of) child abuse. Not all cases of child abuse or neglect are reported to the victim support centres and some are probable not reported at all. The figures of 2018 indicate that the majority (76.9%) of cases were reported because of (suspected) concrete (physical, emotional or sexual) abuse or neglect of a child by an adult. The number of (suspected) concrete situations of emotional abuse / neglect is slightly higher than the number of (suspected) situations of physical abuse / neglect. 11.3% of reported cases concern a risk situation and 0,9% concerns coping problems. 5.2% of reported cases concern children who were (allegedly) confronted with transgressive behaviour on the part of another minor. The most widely reported offence committed by minors is sexual abuse.<sup>248</sup>

### Promotion of the rule of law and ensuring of equal access to justice (16.3)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent. There are indications that people living in poverty experience difficulties in getting access to justice, but little fundamental research has been conducted in this respect. This will be a focal point for the next publication.

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247 Federal Police (2020). Clarification Barometer, location where the offences took place: Police Zone of Ghent

248 Kind en Gezin. (2018). Child abuse. Consulted via <https://www.kindengezin.be/cijfers-en-rapporten/cijfers/kindermishandeling/>



## Reduction of illicit financial and arms flows, return of stolen assets and the fight against organized crime (16.4)

Police statistics provide an insight into the trade and production of (fire)arms. The number of offences reported in Ghent was 18 in 2018, which is slightly higher than in 2016 and 2017.

A total of 27 armed robberies were committed on a public road or in a public place in 2018, which is stable compared to 2016-2018.

## Reduction of corruption and bribery (16.5)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

## Development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (16.6)

Efficiency, accessibility, transparency, good governance and scope are a few aspects of the concept of 'accountability'. In combination with an exhaustive list of institutions, this requires an analysis of audits, inspection reports, annual reports and evaluations. In this section we will focus on the confidence of citizens / Ghentians in several institutions and levels of government.

## Confidence in the police and political levels of government

The confidence in the police increased from 40% in 2014 to 45% in 2017, compared to 43% for the Flemish centre cities. This is confirmed by another survey: 56% of respondents has sufficient to great confidence in the local police, while one in ten Ghent inhabitants has limited to no confidence in the local police.<sup>249</sup> In 2019, two thirds of Ghentians were (very) satisfied with the work of the local police.<sup>250</sup>

The City Monitor for liveability and sustainability cities measures the confidence in the Belgian federal government, the Flemish regional government and the local government as well as in justice and the police.

One fifth and nearly one quarter of the population (of 13 cities) have confidence in the Belgian federal government and in the Flemish regional government respectively. On the other extreme of the spectrum, 40% and 20% of urban residents state that they do not trust the federal government and the Flemish government respectively. Leuven, Mechelen, Antwerp and Ghent have the highest levels of confidence.

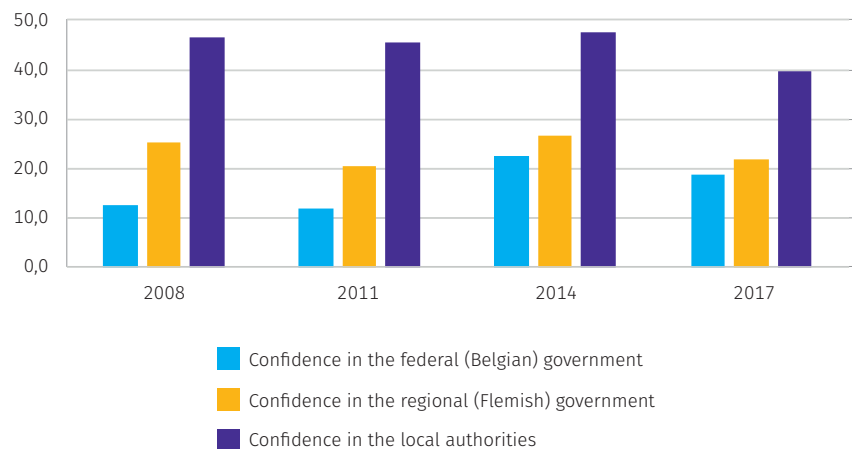
In 2008, the Ghent population showed a clear difference in confidence between the different levels of government: the nearer the level of government was to the citizens, the more confidence they had. One in five people trusted the federal and Flemish governments in 2017. Confidence in the local authorities has declined considerably over the years to (less than) one in three.

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249 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). *Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden* (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

250 Federal Police (2019). *Veiligheidsmonitor 2018* (2018 security monitor)

**Diagram 28** Proportion of Ghentians (in %) who trust the authorities, 2017



Source: 2017 City Monitor

In Flanders, the difference between the municipality with the highest level of confidence (Vorselaar with 66%) and the municipality with the lowest level of confidence (Zelzate with 14%) has decreased by over 50 percentage points. Ghent used to be among the top municipalities and is still in the top 5.

## Leading by example

Ghent plays a leading role in Eurocities, a network of over 140 medium-sized and large European cities. As one of the smallest members of Eurocities, Ghent held the presidency in 2017 and 2018. Also refer to SDG 17 ‘partnerships’.

In addition, several realisations of the municipality have won awards over the years. A few examples of national and international awards won by Ghent:

- > In 2015, Ghent was a finalist of the European Commission’s *Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans Award*.
- > In 2015 and 2018, Ghent was elected Flanders Cycling City by the expert jury and the public.
- > In 2017 and 2018, Ghent was included in the shortlist of the 2019 and 2020 European Green Capital Award respectively.
- > In 2018, Ghent received the SDG Action Award from the United Nations. Ghent promotes the Sustainable Development Goals as one of eight Belgian SDG voices.
- > In 2019, Ghent received the Global Climate Action Award from the United Nations for its sustainable food strategy ‘Gent en Garde’. Ghent is the first Belgian city to win this prestigious international award. The award ceremony took place during the UN climate conference in Madrid (COP25).

## Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16.7)

Belgium has a representative democratic system with compulsory voting. Elections are organised for the local, provincial, regional and federal levels of government.

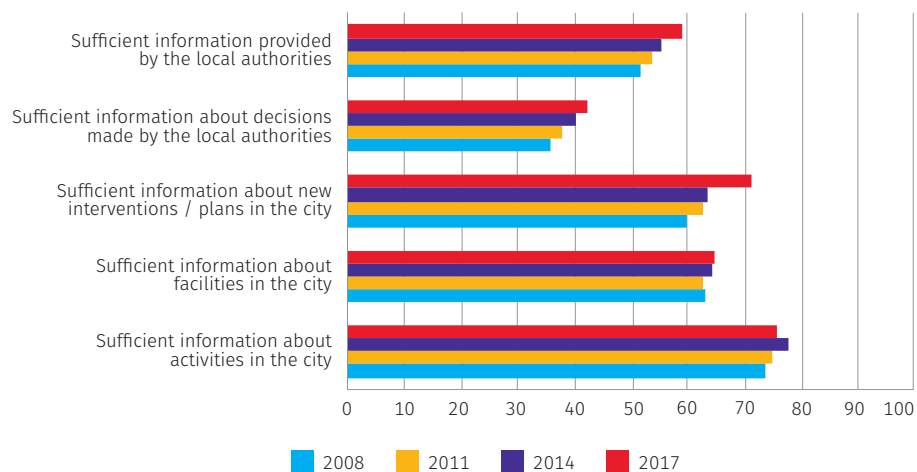
### Participation

A strong and healthy democracy on a local level implies considerable participation and involvement of citizens. The willingness of Ghentians to enter into the debate on developments in the city is an important prerequisite in this context. 54% of Ghentians are prepared to participate in the debate on municipal matters, which is higher than the average for the 13 Flemish centre cities and higher than in 2008. This

percentage also indicates that governments cannot assume that 100% of citizens are willing to participate.<sup>251</sup>

It is also important that citizens (and other social actors) are sufficiently informed about what is going on in their city, what is possible and what plans and decisions are made.

**Diagram 29** Proportion of Ghentians (in %) who are satisfied with the provision of information by the local authorities, 2008-2017



Reliability margin: 95%

Source: 2017 City Monitor

60% of Ghentians are satisfied with the dissemination of information about and by the city, which is a slight increase compared to previous surveys.<sup>252</sup>

One third of Ghentians are of the opinion that the local authorities invest sufficiently in consulting the population. This proportion has remained unchanged since 2008. 29%<sup>253</sup> of Ghentians are of the opinion that the local authorities make insufficient efforts to involve local residents in decisions and one quarter state that the local authorities make insufficient efforts to listen to the desires of the population.

Numerous Ghentians take their participation one step further and are actively engaged in contributing to their neighbourhood or city. They participate in the organisation of a street, neighbourhood or district festivity or a cleaning action or embellish their street together with their neighbours.<sup>254</sup>

If citizens are actively involved in their neighbourhood or city, this usually means that they feel connected to it to a certain extent, are concerned about everyday affairs and want to contribute to solving urban problems (on a neighbourhood level).

16.1% of respondents was active in their neighbourhood or city in 2017, compared to 14.4% in 2014 and 13.7% in 2011. This is not a significant increase in view of the overlapping confidence intervals.

## Equal participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (16.8)

This objective is less relevant for Gent.

251 Bral, L., Jacques, A., Laenen, S., & Vanderhasselt, A. (2018). *Stadsmonitor 2017 – Een monitor voor leefbare en duurzame Vlaamse steden* (2017 city monitor – A monitor for liveable and sustainable Flemish cities). Brussels: Home Affairs Government Agency.

252 *Ibid.*

253 *Ibid.*

254 The survey asked the question: "Have you been actively involved in an initiative in your neighbourhood or city over the past 12 months (e.g. organisation of a street, neighbourhood or district festivity, a cleaning action, embellishment of a street together with neighbours or a protest)?"

## Provision of legal identity for all, including birth registration (16.9)

### National register – legal identity<sup>255</sup>

In Belgium, and therefore in Ghent, every citizen is registered in the database of the national register. This system combines all municipal population registers into a single entity, and registration is mandatory for every Belgian citizen.

The Federal Public Service (FPS) for Home Affairs manages the register, and municipalities provide it with data. At birth, every Belgian citizen is assigned a unique national registry number in order to prove their identity and exercise their rights. The identification data in the national register are also entered into other (public) databases such as those of the FPS Finance, banks and health insurance funds. Holders of a Belgian residence permit also have a national registry number, as do foreigners who have been recognised or request to be recognised as refugees.<sup>256</sup>

### People without legal residence

80 families in Ghent are going through the procedure of waiting for legal residence. Several other families in Ghent have an illegal or precarious residence status. Medical data revealed that 476 illegal minors were registered in 2017, 87 (18%) of whom were newborns. It is estimated that 250 to 300 children aged between 6 and 14 without legal residence make use of a free Buzzy Pazz season ticket for public transport. A count from 2015 revealed that there were about 200 families in Ghent with a precarious residence status, including about 100 intra-European migrants. It is assumed that at least 500 undocumented children are living in Ghent, and this number is probably an underestimate.<sup>257</sup>

## Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10)

### Open government

The process of political decision-making mainly takes place in the town hall, which is open to the public on various occasions. All meetings of the municipal executive and municipal council are required to be open to the public by law. Members of the public can take a seat in the council chamber and attend all public sessions.

In addition, every citizen can access administration documents and request further explanation (and ask for a copy). Access and explanation are provided free of charge. How a request should be made and how the City of Ghent should handle a request is described in the Administration Decree.<sup>258</sup>

### Proactive allocation of (fundamental social) rights

Public authorities take measures to facilitate obtaining a compensation, benefit, subsidy, entitlement, discount, etc. which all too often require an administrative procedure. Proactive allocation of rights means that the government automatically gives citizens what they are entitled to on the basis of the information which the government already has at its disposal. Approximately 4.2% of the Flemish population does not exercise their rights to the full extent as they are not fully aware of their fundamental rights.<sup>259</sup>

255 "Wat is het Rijksregister van de natuurlijke personen?" (2020). Consulted via <https://www.ibz.rn.fgov.be/nl/rijksregister/faq/wat-is-het-rijksregister-van-de-natuurlijke-personen/>

256 Just like in Belgium, the number of recognised refugees is increasing in Ghent (figures of December 2019). However, this number is small compared to the numbers worldwide. The total number of refugees in Ghent is approximately 3,000. The nationalities most represented among them are Afghans, Syrians and Somalians, accounting for about 60% of all refugees. Over 75% of all refugees are men.

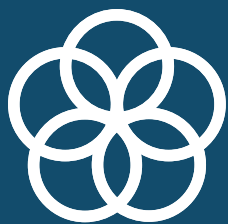
257 City of Ghent – Data and Information Department. (2018). 2018 Environmental analysis. Consulted via [https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3\\_1-08091d.pdf](https://d21buns5ku92am.cloudfront.net/62000/documents/36770-Omgevingsanalyse2018-NLweb3_1-08091d.pdf)

258 City of Ghent (2018). Administration Decree of 7 December 2018. Consulted via <https://codex.vlaanderen.be/PrintDocument.ashx?id=1030009&datum=&geannoteerd=false&print=falsestuu>

259 Samenlevingsopbouw (2020). Lokaal proactief kader: Iedereen Beschermd. Consulted via <https://www.samenlevingsopbouw.be/e-dossiers/onderbescherming/lokaal-proactief-kader-iedereen-beschermd>



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Topics of SDG 17

*Further information: the official text of the SDGs drawn up by the United Nations is included as an annex.*

*This goal includes 19 sub-objectives, only three of which are relevant to the municipal level; most sub-objectives apply to the regional or federal level of government.*

### **Additional financial resources (17.3)**

### **Enhancement of North-South and South-South cooperation on knowledge sharing (17.6)**

### **Effective partnerships (17.17)**

## SDG 17 in short

*Cities contribute to the mobilisation of additional financial resources for developing countries. Effective partnerships, both multi-stakeholder partnerships and extensive (inter)urban networks, can reinforce sustainable development and thus mobilise and share knowledge and expertise in order to achieve the sustainable development goals in all countries and in particular in the developing countries.*

*The 2020-2025 multi-annual strategic plan of Ghent includes the following related objectives:*

### **We develop Ghent in collaboration with its citizens and partners through:**

- > An enhanced image, more space and freedom for experimentation and innovation, reinforcement of Ghent's regional and international position and ensuring that Ghent can realise its ambitions as a unifying force
- > Adopting an integrated approach to societal challenges in the neighbourhoods with all partners
- > Strengthening volunteers and focusing on cooperation with various civil society organisations

### **Ghent is a warm city where people come together and feel connected:**

- > Ghent aligns its policy with the impact on the global South and encourages international solidarity in different ways.



## Status of the city

### Additional financial resources (17.3)

The capacity made available by the City of Ghent for international solidarity is considerable in comparison with that of other Belgian cities. This capacity is financial and also takes the form of a strong professional team and the centrally located infrastructure of Vredeshuis, a hotspot for NGOs that are active worldwide. This way, Ghent makes a significant contribution to the national efforts of Belgium, which, like other developed countries, has set the target to spend 0.7% of its gross national income on official development aid (ODA/GNI). In the case of local authorities, the target is not 0.7% because there is no such thing as a gross local income. To make a comparison between local governments possible, the per capita budget is often used, which is over € 2 per inhabitant for Ghent. The contribution stands up to European comparison and positions Ghent as an international city. The GOLD report by PLATFORMA – the pan-European coalition of towns and regions active in development cooperation – recommends a target of € 1 per inhabitant and at least one full-time employee for major cities.

### Enhancement of North-South and South-South cooperation on knowledge sharing (17.6)

We have insufficient data at our disposal to provide a representative picture of the situation in Ghent.

### Effective partnerships (17.17)

The City of Ghent is a member of some forty international and European networks. Membership is based on a well-informed choice and is frequently evaluated. Most of these networks are thematic.

Examples of partnerships and networks relevant to sustainability are 'ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability' (a leading global network of more than 1,500 local

and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development), Climate Alliance (the largest European city network dedicated to climate action), the Covenant of mayors (dedicated to making Europe climate-neutral by 2050), Mayors for Peace (a global network of mayors striving to achieve nuclear disarmament), Civitas (an international network of cities committed to introducing sustainable urban transport) and LUCI (a platform to help cities progress towards a more sustainable use of light).

Depending on the scope of these networks, cooperation with developing countries takes place; for instance, Climate Alliance works closely with indigenous groups from the Amazon forest and LUCI supports the economic and social development of cities in the global South through partnerships as part of the LightLinks initiative which facilitates the implementation of street lighting.

International policy pays a great deal of structural attention to two city-wide urban networks in which Ghent plays an active role, namely Eurocities and the Global Parliament of Mayors, which also put SDG topics on the agenda. When Ghent held the presidency of Eurocities in 2017 and 2018, it gave the SDGs a prominent place on the agenda.

The City of Ghent is also involved in several communities and initiatives which promote the SDGs such as the EU Fair & Ethical Trade award, the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN) and the UN SDG community. During the UN SDG Global Festival (Bonn, 2018), Ghent won an SDG Award for its campaign to promote the SDGs (People) among the Belgian public. Ghent was the first city in Belgium to receive the title of SDG ambassador from the federal government as a result of the first SDG actions launched in Ghent in 2016 (VNCityTalk).

Since 2016, the City of Ghent has not concluded any direct partnerships with local governments in the global South because the impact of such partnerships is considered too small. The focus is on cooperation with local authorities and the reinforcement of their capacity through the development of international networks that strengthen local authorities in certain fields. For example, RUAF is a global partnership in which the City of Ghent assumes an important role in the exchange of knowledge and expertise with regard to *local food policy*. Various cities around the world (Quito, Tegucigalpa, Toronto, Colombo, etc.) share information and allow

private partners to make a contribution, thus increasing the added value and impact in comparison with a bilateral partnership between two cities.

By winning the Fair and Ethical Trade Award in 2018, Ghent had the opportunity to enter into cooperation with a partner from the global South, in this case Sahnewal in India, with a focus on fair textiles. This short-term project will be documented by the International Trade Center to serve as an example for other actors and local governments worldwide.

The City of Ghent resolute opts for fair trade between continents (also see SDG 12) and thus contributes to achieving the goals with regard to trade, but is also looking towards a new trade system where producers and suppliers receive a fair price for the products and services they provide. Fair trade as such is not included in the SDGs. The City strives to promote trade without explicitly referring to the component 'fairness'. Yet the City continues to focus on making the extraction of raw materials and the production process fairer.

## Global trends versus local and national policies

The 19 sub-objectives, three of which are relevant to the municipal level, make it clear that only the national and regional levels of government are competent in these matters.

However, the local level also has a part to play since the consequences of unexpected global events (such as natural disasters, pandemics (e.g. corona) and conflicts) and globalisation are most pronounced on a local level.

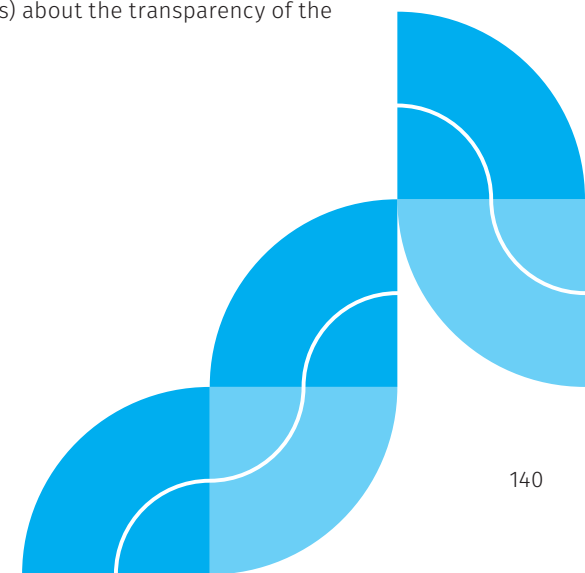
Climate change illustrates the relations between the local and national levels. In 2008, Ghent set the target of becoming climate neutral by 2050 within the scope of the Covenant of Mayors. This commitment preceded the Paris Agreement objectives and the recent Green Deal of the European Union. Households, companies, the transport sector and the government will have to make considerable efforts to achieve the targets set for reducing CO2 emissions in Ghent by 2030. This requires the higher levels of government to support and promote the local climate policy plans. Flanders will not meet the target set by the EU of reducing CO2 emissions by 35% by 2030 and will only achieve a 32.8% reduction by 2030 with the current climate

and energy plan. Ghent therefore monitors the evolution of the Green Deal tools closely and provides input, the expectation being that the necessary incentives (e.g. legislation, subsidies, stimuli and knowledge exchange) will reach the Flemish municipalities in support of an effective local climate policy. Another example is the policy on (economic, political and war) refugees. Also refer to SDG 10 'Reduced inequalities'.

Ghent has a tradition of pioneering global sustainability targets (previously the Millennium Development Goals (UN 2000)), as is illustrated by Ghent's commitment to achieving the SDGs.

This is illustrated by Ghent's desire to reinforce the coherence of local policies for sustainable development. For instance, the City of Ghent has developed a policy for sustainable official trips abroad. In 2019, the municipal staff jointly developed a sustainable concept for public procurements and the City introduced a sustainable procurement strategy which takes into account social justice.

In terms of sustainable procurement policies, the City had focused on food (product segments such as fair-trade wine, coffee, juice and bananas) and textiles in recent years. As a city with a history of textile manufacturing, this is part of our DNA and we see a lot of room for improvement in the production process on a global level. We strive for fairly-traded raw materials (with a fair-trade label) and enter into a dialogue with our suppliers (e.g. of work clothes) about the transparency of the production process.



## Conclusion

This report has shown that a lot of figures are available for some SDGs, fewer figures are available for other SDGs. In addition, quantification is not always easy for every topic, and monitoring has not yet been generally adopted everywhere. Other obstacles are the fragmentation of actors in a specific domain or concepts that are difficult to implement.

We continue to take steps to collect data and make them public.

From next year onwards, we will provide explanation on some of the SDGs on an annual basis. To do so, we will base ourselves on the following five major SDG topics: People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships and Peace (also known as the '5 Ps'). People will be highlighted in 2021, the spotlight will be on Prosperity in 2022 and the report will focus on Planet in 2023. The topics Partnerships and Peace will be discussed every year since they are central to the achievement of the goals. We will highlight inspiring projects launched in Ghent and bring together the relevant stakeholders. The reports provide us with the opportunity to keep on investing in strong partnerships. You cannot realise a sustainable transition on your own: it is a story we write together.

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# Annex

## Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

## Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land,

other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

## Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing

- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

#### **Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

#### **Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

- 5.5 *Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life*
- 5.6 *Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences*
- 5.a *Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws*
- 5.b *Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women*
- 5.c *Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels*

## **Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

- 6.1 *By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all*
- 6.2 *By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*
- 6.3 *By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally*
- 6.4 *By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity*
- 6.5 *By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate*
- 6.6 *By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes*
- 6.a *By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies*
- 6.b *Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management*

## **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

- 7.1 *By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services*
- 7.2 *By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix*
- 7.3 *By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency*
- 7.a *By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology*
- 7.b *By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support*

## **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

- 8.1 *Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries*
- 8.2 *Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors*
- 8.3 *Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services*
- 8.4 *Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead*
- 8.5 *By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value*
- 8.6 *By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training*

- 8.7 *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms*
- 8.8 *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment*
- 8.9 *By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products*
- 8.10 *Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all*
- 8.a *Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries*
- 8.b *By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization*

### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

- 9.1 *Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all*
- 9.2 *Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries*
- 9.3 *Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets*
- 9.4 *By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities*
- 9.5 *Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending*
- 9.a *Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States*

- 9.b *Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities*
- 9.c *Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020*

### **Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

- 10.1 *By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average*
- 10.2 *By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status*
- 10.3 *Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard*
- 10.4 *Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality*
- 10.5 *Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations*
- 10.6 *Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions*
- 10.7 *Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*
- 10.a *Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements*
- 10.b *Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes*
- 10.c *By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent*

### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

- 11.1 *By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums*



- 11.2 *By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons*
- 11.3 *By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries*
- 11.4 *Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage*
- 11.5 *By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations*
- 11.6 *By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management*
- 11.7 *By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities*
- 11.a *Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning*
- 11.b *By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels*
- 11.c *Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials*

## **Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

- 12.1 *Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries*
- 12.2 *By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources*

- 12.3 *By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses*
- 12.4 *By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment*
- 12.5 *By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse*
- 12.6 *Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle*
- 12.7 *Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities*
- 12.8 *By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature*
- 12.a *Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production*
- 12.b *Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products*
- 12.c *Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities*

## **Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

- 13.1 *Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries*
- 13.2 *Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning*
- 13.3 *Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning*
- 13.a *Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions*

and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

## **Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”

## **Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing

countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

- 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

## **Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decisionmaking at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

## **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**

### *Finance*

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official

development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries

- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

### *Technology*

- 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

### *Capacity-building*

- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

### *Trade*

- 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade

*Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access*

*Systemic issues*

*Policy and institutional coherence*

- 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence*
- 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development*
- 17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development*

*Multi-stakeholder partnerships*

- 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries*
- 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships*

*Data, monitoring and accountability*

- 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts*
- 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries*