

Province of Antwerp, Your dynamic partner



**Provincie
Antwerpen**



An aerial photograph of a park or resort area. In the upper left, there is a large, calm lake with a few small yellow boats. To the right of the lake, a red tennis court is visible. Below the lake, there are several buildings, including a prominent one with a large, multi-faceted, metallic-looking roof. The park is filled with lush green trees and a large, intricate maze made of hedges in the lower right quadrant. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast by the trees and buildings.

Contents

1. Foreword by the Governor	5
2. Meet the faces behind the province	7
3. Fact sheet	9
4. Read our economic success story	13
5. Signing up for job opportunities	15
6. Discover our knowledge sharing	17
7. Learn from our international education	21
8. Work with us	23
9. Enjoy the region	27
10. Use our space	33



EUROPE

UNITED KINGDOM
IRELAND
FRANCE
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
LIBYA
EGYPT

London
Paris
Madrid
Lisbon
Rabat
Algiers
Tunis
Tripoli
Benghazi
Zelten
Buzeima
El Joff

Azores Is.
Lisbon
Gibraltar
Casablanca
Marrakesh
Oran
El Goleo
Colomb Bechar
Adrar
Murzuk
Ghat
Arlit

NORWAY
DENMARK
GERMANY
AUSTRIA
SWITZERLAND
ITALY
GREECE
TURKEY
EGYPT
SAHARA DESERT

Berlin
Vienna
Bern
Rome
Athens
Istanbul
Cairo
Alexandria

1. Foreword by the Governor

Antwerp is open to the world, which comes as no surprise as this has always been the case, since the 15th century, and this continues to be the case today. In fact, Antwerp's historical assets – which have been amplified over time - continue to have an impact even today: Antwerp, which is centrally located in Europe, has a world-class, well-connected port; it is a prosperous and cosmopolitan region, offering a good quality of life; Antwerp is open and accessible in every respect. Which also explains why it is a world centre for the diamond trade, for fashion and for the industrial activities in some of the foremost industries of the present and future. Above all, the region owes its prosperity and dynamism to its greatest asset: the passionate, creative and flexible people who work and live here, combining a healthy pride in their region with a sense of entrepreneurship and pragmatism.

In a world where borders can often become rigid, looking beyond them, transcending these borders reveals a lofty ambition. Or, as the successful Antwerp entrepreneur, Vic Swerts, once famously said, "There's a much bigger world out there." Our horizons are continually broadened thanks to exchanges with new people and ideas, with other regions and governments, with other tastes. An open, uninhibited, ever curious approach to the world, that is never naïve, offers the most valuable, if not the only possible perspective on our opportunities, weaknesses, threats and challenges in the globalising world we live in today. The Province of Antwerp is keenly aware of this.

I entreat you to learn more about the region of Antwerp, about our impressive diversity, our qualitative education and research, the many, often innovative companies and SMEs. Do visit us, explore our historical and cosmopolitan cities and our verdant countryside. Enjoy the achievements of our outstanding artists and performers, writers, designers and top athletes. See what our scientists, artists and entrepreneurs are working on. The international vocation of our province is a strong one. At the same time, we have set ourselves a dual mission: not only do we aspire to firmly embed Antwerp in the world, we also want the world to have a strong foothold in our province.

Cathy Berx
Governor of the Province of Antwerp





2. Meet the faces behind the province

Four deputies

The governor of the province, **Cathy Berx**, is the head of the organisation. She is the chairperson of the four deputies: these provincial representatives were elected by the provincial council. What are their responsibilities? They perform the daily administration of the province. Each of course, within its own domain of responsibilities.

Introducing:

Jan De Haes

Responsibilities: environment and nature, water policy, tourism, recreation facilities, parks and green areas, Kempens Landschap, personnel, communication and organization, Campus Vesta

Luk Lemmens

First deputy and spokesperson. Responsibilities: general policy, internal audit, urban planning, appeals against planning permissions and environmental permits, mobility, education and training, heritage, religious bodies, Sportpaleis



Ludwig Caluwé

Responsibilities: finance, logistics, ICT, economy, agriculture, international partnerships, innovation, Provincial Development Agency, APB Port Center

Danny Toelen

Provincial registrar

Cathy Berx

Governor

Kathleen Helsen

Responsibilities: labour and employment, rural and village policy, housing, social economy, education policy, European partnerships, Kamp C, De Warande cultural centre, chair of Het Giels Bos, chair of Rurant, co-chair of Kempens Landschap.

Provincial, Flemish and Federal

Good to know: the deputation also fulfils tasks commissioned by the Flemish and the federal administrations. Which is called **'multilevel governance'**. As such, our province provides the ideal link between local and national levels.



3. Fact sheet

78.4

billion euros
gross regional
product

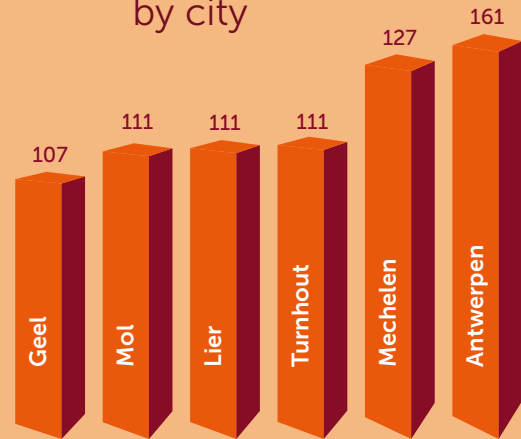


1.9

billion euros
research &
development
expenditure



Number of different
nationalities
by city



8000 km

cycling and
walking routes



1.8

million
inhabitants



149.801

companies



2000

diamond traders
on 2 km²



**world
trade center**
for over
550 years



port of
Antwerp
is the **largest**
petrochemical
cluster
in Europe

1. Provinciehuis

Leisure

- 2. De Schorre
- 3. Tourism Province of Antwerp

Provincial parks

- 4. Arboretum Kalmthout
- 5. Archaeological Depot
- 6. Broek De Naeyer
- 7. De Averegten
- 8. D'Ursel Castle
- 9. Hertberg
- 10. Hof Van Leysen
- 11. Hoge Mouw
- 12. Kesselse Heide
- 13. Neteland
- 14. Prinsenpark
- 15. Pulhof
- 16. Rivierenhof
- 17. Vrieselhof
- 18. Park Vrijbroek

Education

- 19. PIVA

Safety

- 20. Campus Vesta

Economics

- 21. Harbour Centre
- 22. Camp C
- 23. Provincial Development Agency
- 24. Science Park

Rural development

- 25. Hooibeekhoeve
- 26. Experimental Poultru Centre



Antwerp, international



Mechelen, historical



port city



Campine, innovative green region

Turnhout

11

13

25

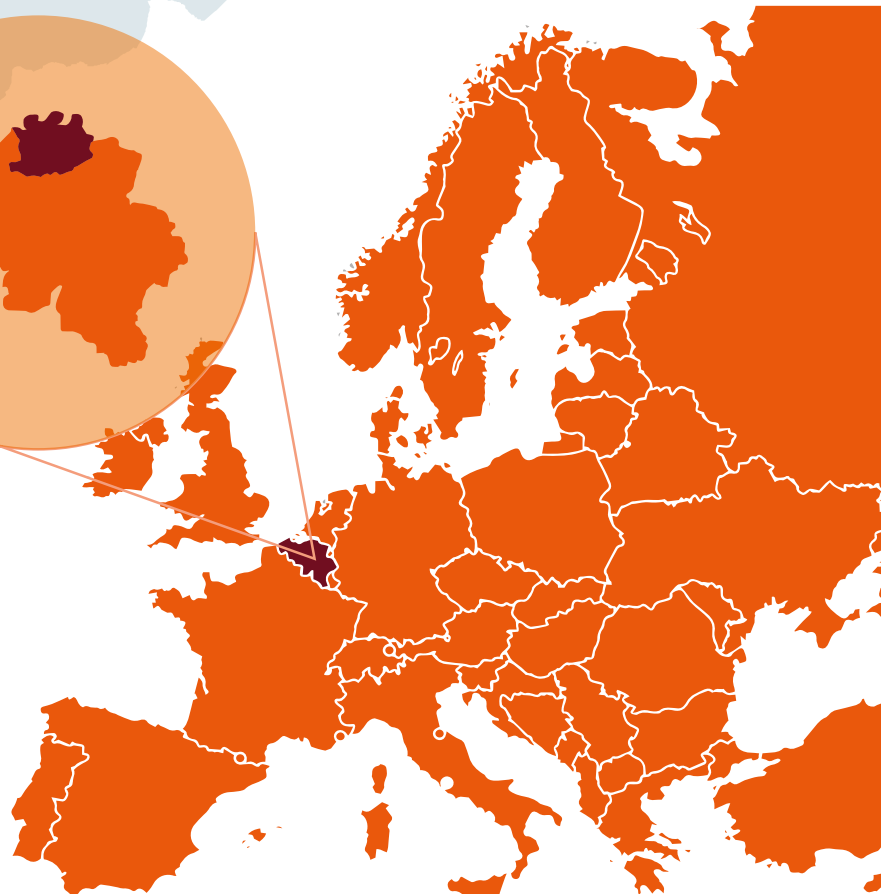
26

22

9



city of culture





133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

4. Read our economic success story

Top of the class

Our province is located in the heart of the European Union. Did you know that – with a population of 1.8 million – we are the largest Flemish province? On an economic level, we are the top of the class.

There are no less than 827,000 jobs in the province's 69 municipalities. The Port of Antwerp plays a starring role, in addition to the high quality care industry and the extensive trading activities in the province. The diamond industry and chemical sector also create many jobs, as does our strong SME network, full of businesses active at home and abroad.



"The life sciences industry has developed a world-class cluster in the province of Antwerp with Janssen Pharmaceutica at its base. The excellent scientific basis coupled with strong entrepreneurship attitudes and a supportive provincial government has created the atmosphere to advance world-class science into transformational cures for human suffering."
Ajit Shetty - former CEO Janssen Pharmaceutica

Check our barometer

Looking for an overview of our province's social economic situation? Go to provincies.incijfers.be

This site bundles statistics on the municipalities, regions and the entire province. It summarizes the development of our region over time. It includes data on demographics, well-being, the labour markets, business cycles, innovation and entrepreneurship.





5. Signing up for job opportunities

Vibrant entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is part of the Province of Antwerp's DNA. Thus, thousands of companies, SMEs, self-employed and large companies contribute to our economic prosperity. They are active in 'leading sectors', such as construction, metal, logistics, chemical industry, agro-industry, care and retail.

The province coordinates the economic policy to facilitate this, and focuses on creating space and a propitious climate for entrepreneurship and the employment market in the spearhead sectors.

For more information, contact us at economie@provincieantwerpen.be.

Your ideal business location

Are you looking for a new location to expand your business? There is no better place than our province. You will benefit from the central location, the Port of Antwerp and the excellent inland connections.

The Antwerp Provincial Development Corporation (Provinciale Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij Antwerpen – POM) will be happy to assist you in your search. It is continually creating and reactivating industrial estates, with consideration for the sustainable use of space and CO2 neutrality. Additionally, it works on projects reinforcing the economic effectiveness of, for example, the chemical, logistic and creative sectors. Science Park University of Antwerp is a partnership between the Provincial Development Agency (POM Antwerpen) and the University of Antwerp. With offices and labs for start-ups, scale-ups and large companies, operating in the life & environmental sciences and IT, this park wants to stimulate, offer support for and promote innovative entrepreneurship in the Province of Antwerp.

Find your future business location on www.pomantwerpen.be. Any questions? Contact us at pom@pomantwerpen.be.

Hard at work at the harbour

The Port Centre introduces young people to the unknown and overwhelming world of the Port of Antwerp, taking them to places and companies which you would never visit otherwise, letting them meet the people who work in the port. The Port Centre inspires them with stories and tailored challenges, showing them the world of opportunities for the future, in our world-class port. By letting young people experience the port first-hand, the Port Centre builds a bridge between study choices and employment.

Behind the scenes of the port

Every day, 85 port guides tour the port with various groups. They go onsite, taking a glimpse behind the scenes of various port companies. The Port Centre also has activity and experience-oriented kits for school groups, which correspond with the educational attainment levels.

Want to know more?

Go to www.havencentrum.be or send an e-mail to info@havencentrum.be.



6. Discover our knowledge sharing

Camp C: sustainable construction

Sustainable construction is hot. So why not find some inspiration at Camp C, an expertise centre for businesses and professionals, local authorities, private individuals and the training and education sector. Tour the grounds of Camp C for examples of (more) sustainable alternatives. Speeding up the transition to a sustainable society by focusing on two principles: sustainability and innovation is the key idea behind Camp C. Camp C is also the Flemish Cleantech antenna for the construction industry, where innovative ideas are collected and shared with national and international stakeholders.

Want to know more? www.kampc.be.

"De wijk van Morgen"

This digital platform groups informs about all the newest developments in the construction industry. We facilitate contacts between people and companies and share knowledge, launching innovative projects with unlikely partners. The platform contains examples, inspiration from and for the construction industry and also lets you exchange information.

Want to know more? www.dewijkvanmorgen.be

Campus Vesta: multidisciplinary training centre for safety training courses

Preparation is everything. This certainly applies to fire fighters, police, disaster specialists, prevention advisors and ambulance personnel. They train and maintain their skills at Campus Vesta, a training centre with 37 hectares of training grounds. Simulating an accident with hazardous substances, analysing social media during a calamity, etc. You will learn it all during our multi-disciplinary training courses, which are attended by corps from all over Europe. Our annual emergency drill in the margin of the post-graduate training on disaster management, which we organise together with the University of Antwerp, is well-established. Campus Vesta has vast expertise in emergency services, and they are happy to share it with you.

Interested in a research or knowledge exchange project? Send an email to info@campusvesta.be.



"Sustainable and technologically high quality infrastructure and buildings are desired by both the government and the residents of our province. The entire construction industry and the related sectors have drawn strength from this philosophy and have rightly earned international respect with iconic examples such as the MAS, the Port Building, and the Palace of Justice and, on a smaller scale, with the newly built A.Z. Sint-Maarten hospital!"

Martine Reynaers – CEO Reynaers aluminium

Experimental Poultry Centre: research into poultry

Hens and broilers cackle away merrily at the Experimental Poultry Centre (Proefbedrijf Pluimveehouderij). And rightly so, as they are staying in ultra-modern stalls with climate control and feed and water regulation systems. It is the perfect setting for researching animal welfare, job efficiency, environmental conservation and energy efficiency. The results of this study teach poultry farmers how to achieve higher efficiency and sustainability levels regarding chicken meat and egg production. The results are highly appreciated across the globe. The Experimental Poultry Centre has excellent international contacts through the World's Poultry Science Association.

Would you like to join forces with the Experimental Poultry Centre? Or pay us a visit? Then get in touch via proefbedrijf@provincieantwerpen.be.

De Hooibeekhoeve: research into dairy cattle

De Hooibeekhoeve teaches you everything about dairy cattle and forage crops. What is so unique about this company? It conducts research in the stables and in the fields, combining the two. Feed, housing, well-being, management, smart farming and ammonia emissions are examined in the stables. In the fields, they research fertilisation, soil management, smart farming, greening and agrobiodiversity. What is the purpose of all these tests? They pursue making dairy farming sustainable on economic, ecological and social levels.

De Hooibeekhoeve shares its knowledge with farmers, students and international partners. It is regularly visited by foreign delegations. It is a partner and pioneer in all kinds of projects including fodder trials and cultivation techniques.

Would you like to set up a research project or partnership with De Hooibeekhoeve? Send an email to hooibeekhoeve@provincieantwerpen.be.

Provincial Archaeological Depot

Do you want to build a new business park, redevelop an existing site or develop an ambitious construction project? Are you legally required to have an archaeological survey conducted on your land?

The Provincial Archaeological Depot of the Province of Antwerp is tasked with the durable conservation of its archaeological archive.

Go to www.provincieantwerpen.be to find out more about the research, the study materials and the public activities of the Provincial Archaeological Depot.

Monumentenwacht

For over 25 years, Monumentenwacht has provided support to the owners and managers of valuable buildings. We conduct building inspections of historical buildings, and our monument officers specialise in interiors, archaeology, mill heritage, sailing heritage, funerary or other "minor" heritage.

Based on its inspection, Monumentenwacht establishes a report, assessing and describing the damage it observed, and making specific recommendations for the maintenance, restoration and preservation of the heritage. You can use this report to hire a specialist – architect, contractor or restorer. You can also request a multi-annual maintenance plan and budget estimate for your heritage object.

The message is clear: Monumentenwacht helps you preserve the life span and quality of your heritage with limited resources and time. Monumentenwacht Antwerp likes to share this message of preventative heritage care with international partners. The many international contacts, including site visits in Antwerp and international workshops, prove that "care" continues to be a concern around the world.

Do you want to know more about Monumentenwacht's approach and activities? Go to www.monumentenwacht.be or contact us at monumentenwacht@provincieantwerpen.be.

Fietsbarometer

The Province of Antwerp collects objective, geographical information about cycling routes, cycling movements, cycling comfort and cycling accidents in its Provincial Cycling Barometer or Fietsbarometer. The compilation of these data gives the province a better insight into road safety, into mechanisms for getting more people to use a bike and set out a policy. The Fietsbarometer is a unique instrument in Europe, because it combines and analyses geographical information about the safety, the comfort and the use of 4,000 km of cycling routes.

Are you interested in a collaboration? Perhaps our policy can inspire yours or your ideas might help us. Contact us at fietsen@provincieantwerpen.be.

Structural cooperation with universities and research institutes

Our province works closely with the University of Antwerp and the Flemish Institute for Technological Developments (VITO), enabling us to continue as an innovative and pioneering region. www.uantwerpen.be, www.vito.be





7. Learn from our international education

Standing still is going backwards: permanent learning is the key message. This takes place in our provincial schools. They know today what the economy of tomorrow needs, and thus organise training courses to fulfil those requirements. What is unique about the provincial schools? They focus on the world, on other cultures. That is a must in these times of extensive globalisation. That's why we teach our students about the world economy and global citizenship. We assure they are prepared when entering the labor market.

Overseas exploration

Looking for examples of an 'extramural activity'? Take for instance our partnership with the national agency, EPOS (Europese Programma's voor Onderwijs, Opleiding en Samenwerking – European Programmes for Education, Training and Cooperation). This enables individual students and entire classes to experience a foreign adventure.

Tasting the world at home

The schools also discover the world from their own province. Thanks to our cross-border partnerships with governments, businesses and knowledge institutes. These exchanges supply students with foreign oxygen.

Does it bear fruit? Yes. Just look at the chef that made waves in China. The violinist basking in global applause. And the wooden table traveling in the wake of the Tour with the TV show Vive le Vélo. One by one, these are 'products' of our provincial schools.

PIVA: the reference for Hotel, Baking, Butchery and Tourism

Young people with the ambition to develop a career in the hospitality sector can prepare optimally at the PIVA. The school focuses on Butchery, Baking, Hotel and Tourism and the newly-created Food technology. A diploma guarantees a bright start in the hospitality industry.

Naturally, PIVA is engaged in internationalisation. It is a member of:

- **CHASE (Consortium of Hospitality & Accommodation Schools of Europe)**
This is a co-operative of seventeen European partner countries: from Spain, over Ireland to Sweden, thus making foreign exchanges internships and visits possible for students and teachers.
- **AEHT (European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools)**
This association organises meetings, workshops and contests.
- **Euhofa, the International Association of Hotel Schools**
This association holds an annual congress for directors of hotel schools.

There is also the 'Heart to Heart' project in China: enabling exchanges with Beijing 55 High School. Moreover, the PIVA maintains international contacts, including with Thailand, Myanmar, South Africa and Australia. The PIVA makes sure to stay in touch with old-students even those located abroad. For example with Dave Beeckmans in Kuwait, Renaat Morel in China and Igor van Gerwen in Tasmania.

Would you like more info? Please contact piva@provincieantwerpen.be.



8. Work with us

Partnerships

Administrations like our province play a role in the global economy. We open doors that would otherwise remain closed to companies and knowledge institutions, by investing in relations and partnership agreements with regions in other countries.

We focus on our border collaboration with the adjoining Dutch provinces, working closely with North Brabant in this framework.

Besides this, we also look for partnerships within the EU that increase our innovative and competitive clout. The Flemish-Dutch Delta (Vlaams-Nederlandse Delta) is such a partnership. This is a strong region, on the logistical-economic level, for example. Learn more about its assets in our Delta monitor.

But the Province of Antwerp also has a more global outlook.

Our first partnership dates from 1985, with Shaanxi province in China. We have since entered into similar agreements with the Oblast Leningrad in Russia, and the city of Chongqing in China. The many projects we enter into with the partners in these regions ensure an excellent long-term relationship. Our networks are available to companies in the Province of Antwerp wishing to develop international contacts.

Thanks to our networks, we keep an overview of who is doing what on the international level, allowing us to easily switch between partners, putting you in touch with the right people. A good example of this is **i²PCC**, our Flemish-Chinese interprovincial Cleantech network.

More information: send an e-mail to international@provincieantwerpen.be.



"We are big enough to work across borders and small enough to make the difference on the ground. This makes the Province of Antwerp an ideal location for facilitating and stimulating effective partnerships."

Ludwig Caluwé - deputy responsible for
Economics and International cooperation



Global

Our Global Policy is maximally and durably focused on the South, more specifically on four pillars:

1. Two own long-term commitments, including one in Guatemala.
2. The restoration and protection of tropical ecosystems together with the local population. We plant new trees to compensate for the annual emissions of the province, which are difficult to avoid (4,000 tons of CO²). We protect forests in tropical regions, covering a same surface area as our forests in our own province (60,000 hectares). The project is open to our municipalities and companies.
3. Cooperation with an international organisation for education and social-economic development.
4. Cooperation with the citizen initiatives for global solidarity for the support of small-scale initiatives of the these organisations in our province.

In addition to this, Fair Trade guarantees that farmers in the South receive a fair price for their products. Every year, the Province also presents an Award for Global Research to the best graduate projects with a link with the South.

More information and contact: mondiaal@provincieantwerpen.be

In Europe

Did you know that the Province of Antwerp excels at building partnerships? In this role, it brings Europe, citizens and professionals closer together. This is achieved through years of expertise and a broad knowledge of European partnership programmes. Nowadays, we rely on an extensive network of cities, municipalities, companies, educational institutes and non-profit organisations. And you reap the rewards of this.

For many decades, the Province of Antwerp has worked to close the gap between Europe and its citizens, with activities for schools, municipalities and associations, that are organised by the "Europa Direct" Information Centre.

The Europe Service is on hand to help with any questions you have about grants or if you want to bridge the gap with Europe. Get involved and send an email to europa@provincieantwerpen.be. We just might be working together on your project soon.





9. Enjoy the region

Antwerp, a cycling province

Cycling highway network

The Province of Antwerp has 23 cycling highways (called fietsostrades in Dutch). These F-Roads (like the Fietostrade Antwerpen-Mechelen F1) connect all the major cities, across provincial and national boundaries. The Province of Antwerp has been building its own cycling highways for over 10 years. Every day, the cycling highway between Antwerp and Mechelen attracts thousands of cyclists. The Province of Antwerp is designing and building more than 80 km of new cycling highways in the coming years. The Province is also working on four bicycle tunnels and 10 new bicycle bridges, two of which are made of composites. This is a first in Flanders, and also demonstrates our continued innovative approach to mobility as a province.

The perfect cycling holiday destination

The cycling networks are a huge asset for Flanders, including on the international level.

The Province of Antwerp has a qualitative network of 3,000 kilometres of superbly signposted and well-maintained recreational routes.

In the past decades, the tourist office of the Province of Antwerp has acquired a lot of know-how about route networks. We create access to these networks, both for cyclists (maps and route platforms) as well as professional partners (liberalisation of route data). We promote and stimulate the development of tourism products, by combining route structures with strong USPs such as beer or the Flemish Masters.

The coordination of the three-year, interprovincial project on 'Cycling holidays in Flanders' paved the way for plenty of useful B2B contacts and additional expertise.

Tourism is a dynamic, economic sector, with countless possibilities for fascinating projects with and for local entrepreneurs.

Interested in developing a project together?
Send an e-mail to toerisme@provincieantwerpen.be.



Arboretum Kalmthout: garden of knowledge

A botanic collection garden promoting the art of horticulture and at the same time a platform for research and education programmes; that is Arboretum Kalmthout. You discover a decor of 12.5 hectares of exceptional trees and shrubs from the temperate climate zone. The Arboretum was established in 1856 as a nursery and later developed into a provincial green domain, with one of the most prestigious botanical collections in the world.

Arboretum Kalmthout also features the oldest and largest collection of witch hazels (Hamamelis) in Europe and is thus the International Cultivar Registration Authority on them.

Knowledge centre

The Arboretum is happy to share its knowledge with interested parties like you. It makes its collection available for research institutes and nurseries. And offers some ten work placements per year, offering Horticulture and Landscape Architecture students the opportunity to brush up on their knowledge of plants and gardening. Foreign students can even stay at the domain. Handy!

Visitor centre

The Arboretum does not only appeal to 'specialists'. Everyone is welcome. You can visit from early January until Christmas. You can, for instance, follow a themed tour with your company or school and enjoy refreshment in the lovely cafeteria with patio terrace afterwards. Or, hire a hall for your meeting, seminar or networking event. You and your visitors can get there by public transport as the garden is opposite the Kalmthout station.

Go exploring in the Arboretum Kalmthout?
Ask for more info via info@arboretumkalmthout.be.



Kasteel d'Ursel: a prime location for your event

Receiving your guests in style for a special occasion? Why not welcome them in d'Ursel Castle in Hingene? Four hundred years ago, this was the favourite country retreat of the noble d'Ursel family.

The duke, his family and their staff spent all their summers there. Nowadays, the castle is owned by the province, which is restoring it to its former glory.

Rent this stately accommodation as an individual, association or company. Opt for the lobby: the perfect place for receptions, presentations and banquets. The Hall of Mirrors, which gives out onto the lake, is the perfect venue for meetings and dinners. You can also offer your guests a guided tour of the salons and bedrooms with valuable wall coverings from China, India and Europe.

In 1878, Countess Antonine de Mun had a painter's workshop built just a stone's throw from this castle. Today this studio has been given a new lease on life as a holiday residence for 8 guests. Have your guests enjoy the good life in a magnificent interior in a unique location. Let them explore the park. Hingene is centrally located between the Flemish art cities of Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent and Mechelen.

Have you always dreamt of being the lord of the castle for a day?
Go to www.kasteeldursel.be to find out more.





De Schorre: for all your events

Does the name 'Tomorrowland' ring a bell? Quite possible! As this huge festival lures dance fans from across the globe. It takes place in De Schorre. Did you know you could also organise your event there?

Having fun

A festival for a modest audience or for the masses? Anything is possible thanks to the array of indoor and outdoor options. The optimal accessibility makes it easy for your visitors.

Doing business

De Pitte congress centre is situated in the green heart of De Schorre. It is an ideal location for your congress, meeting, workshop or networking event. You can count on ample parking facilities, a relaxing environment and excellent catering.

Book the perfect spot for your next event, get in touch with onthaal@deschorre.be.



"In 10 years, Tomorrowland has evolved into a global symbol of connectedness. Each year, a unique thing happens in Boom when young people from more than 214 countries across the world come together at one magical place and experience one of the most fantastic weekends. We are grateful that the Province of Antwerp has believed in our dream since the very start and that we, thanks to the fruitful partnership with the Provincial Domain of De Schorre, have been able to create an almost mythical location with an appeal and fame that reaches even the farthest corners of the world."

Manu & Michiel Beers - Organizers Tomorrowland



10. Use our space

Watertight water policy

The Province of Antwerp manages 2,400 kilometres of unnavigable waterways in the most optimal way. We are committed as part of our task, to preventing flooding through projects in valley regions and along rivers. We also actively participate in developing River Basin Management Plans for the European Water Framework Directive and in coordinating water management in Flanders.

Space for nature and water

Another expertise? Combining the space for water with space for nature. Preferably, without invasive exotics, which are animals and plants that arrived here, not by themselves but by human intervention.

By way

of the LIFE and INTERREG funds, we have achieved various projects in this regard with partners from Flanders and the Netherlands. A number of those partnerships are:

- Restoration of the Grote Nete lowland river system
- Interactive water management in the Flanders-Netherlands border region
- Invasive exotics in Flanders and Southern Netherlands

Interested in working with us? We are too! Maybe our policy will inspire yours. Or your innovative ideas may help ours. Send an email to diw@provincieantwerpen.be.

Sustainable environment and nature policy

A sustainable environment and nature policy: something our province actively pursues.

Our nature, landscape and environment experts:

- ensure the integration of environment and nature in provincial policy;
- offer expertise to specific target groups like municipalities and businesses;
- sensitise citizens to participate in a green province.

Expertise and budget

What competency can we offer? Our experience includes environmental management, corporate social responsibility, bio-diversity, combating oak processionary caterpillars and creating natural resource management plans. Parts of our projects are co-financed by European subsidies, such as Solabio and GIFT-T. In turn, we subsidise green projects for municipalities and local associations.

Climate change and climate adaptation

Because of climate change, we expect periods of extreme draught and heavy showers in our territory. The province wants to be prepared for this. The optimal management of the province's water and green infrastructure is therefore crucial. The province is also making an effort to prepare its municipalities for the challenges the climate poses for us as a local authority.

Do you want to join 'green' hands with us? Gladly!

Tell us how we can help you. Or show us what we need still to change. Send a message to leefmilieu@provincieantwerpen.be.



Kempens Landscape Association: unique landscape management

An association concerned with nature, agriculture, recreation and cultural heritage? It exists and it's called Kempens Landscape Association (VZW Kempens Landschap)! Its mission is acquiring, preserving and opening landscapes to the public. The association already owns 1,000 hectares and manages a diverse estate spread over 64 municipalities in our province. To achieve this, Kempens Landscape Association works in partnerships on local, national and European levels.

With its innovative approach, the association won the Europe Nostra Award 2014.

Interested what the association can mean for you? Send an email to info@kempenslandschap.be.

Combined landscape management through Regional Landscape and Forestry Groups

The province gladly shares its expertise and knowledge about nature conservation and landscape management with other governments, associations and citizens active in these areas. It is no simple task to figure out the regulations, the array of subsidies and the various management methods, or to start a specific project. Feel free to request our assistance.

Our Regional Landscapes and Forestry Groups are at your service, in the field, to advise or assist you with the implementation of your project.

Interested? Please contact leefmilieu@provincieantwerpen.be.



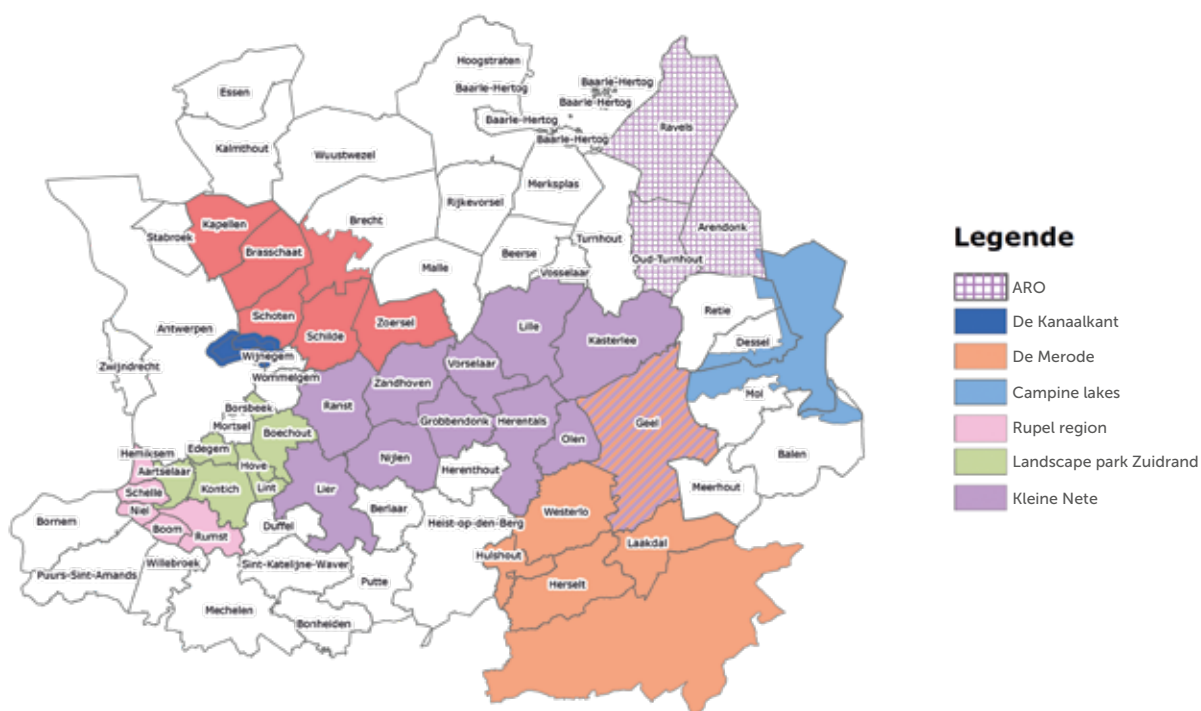
Area-oriented policy

An area-oriented approach searches for integrated solutions for the needs in a specific area. Examples include the combination of housing and industry, water and agriculture and the link with the leisure sector. As such, the province takes the lead in an area, developing a cooperation model across sectoral and municipal boundaries. The objective is to ensure broad support for the decision-making of various partners, with common goals. The result is an action programme that responds to an area's needs, with a flexible approach. Various sectors can join this effort. The resulting dynamic creates a spin-off effect.

Which areas?

The Province of Antwerp focuses on seven areas: ARO, Kanaalkant, Campine lakes, Zuidrand, Kleine Nete, De Merode and the Rupel Region. Each area offers its own opportunities and challenges, each area programme retains its own specificity. The method is the same however. The Province of Antwerp has already developed substantial expertise with the development and implementation of its ongoing area programmes.

We like to share this expertise and this method with international partners. Contact us at gebiedsgerichtbeleid@provincieantwerpen.be



Would you like to join forces?
Contact our international
cooperation department by mail:
internationaal@provincieantwerpen.be



www.provincieantwerpen.be

Provincie Antwerpen | V.U.: Maarten Puls | Koningin Elisabethlei 22 | 2018 Antwerpen | D/2019/0180/23