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1. Foreword by the Governor

Antwerp opens to the world. This should not surprise anyone. It has been the case since the 15th century, and it is still the case today. Greater still, Antwerp's historical strengths continue to work — reinforced further — in today's environment: Antwerp is centrally located in Europe with a substantial, well-connected world harbour; it is a prosperous, cosmopolitan and, at the same time, liveable region; Antwerp is open and accessible in every respect. Precisely for that reason it is a world centre for diamond trading, for fashion and for industrial activities in the leading sectors of today and tomorrow. Above all the region owes its prosperity and dynamism to our greatest asset: the driven, creative and flexible people working and living here, with their healthy dose of pride, entrepreneurialism and sufficient pragmatism.

Yet in a world where borders are often rigid, the ambition is to look beyond them at all costs. Or, as the successful Antwerp entrepreneur, Vic Swerts, said, "There is always greater scope abroad than at home." Our horizons are also broadened through exchanges with new people and ideas, with other regions and administrations and with other tastes. An open, uninhibited, ever curious yet anything but naïve view of the world probably offers the most valuable, if not the only, perspective on our opportunities, weaknesses, threats and challenges in a globalizing world. The Province of Antwerp is fully aware of that.

I heartily invite you to acquaint yourself with the region of Antwerp, with our impressive diversity, with our high levels of education and research, with the many innovative companies and SMEs. Experience it yourselves, come, and explore the historical and cosmopolitan cities and the green countryside. Enjoy our leading artists and performers, writers, designers and top athletes. Discover what our scientists, artists and entrepreneurs achieve here. The international mission of this province is strong and, at the same time, double: not only do we aspire to anchor Antwerp firmly in the world; we want to anchor the world firmly in our province.

Cathy Berx
Governor of the Province of Antwerp





2. Meet the faces behind the province

Six deputies

The governor of the province, **Cathy Berx**, is the head of the organisation. She is the chairperson of the six deputies: these are the provincial representatives elected within 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:

Inga Verhaert

Responsibilities: education, youth, communication, energy and ICT.

Ludwig Caluwé

Responsibilities: economy, agriculture, innovation, international partnerships, finance, infrastructure and property.

Bruno Peeters

Responsibilities: tourism, recreation and parks and public recreational spaces, sport, safety and staff.

Peter Bellens

Responsibilities: well-being and health, social economy, rural policy, European partnerships.



Rik Röttger

Responsibilities: quality of life, sustainable development, North-South.

Luk Lemmens

First representative and spokesperson for the deputation. Responsibilities: general policy, urban planning, mobility and culture.

Cathy Berx

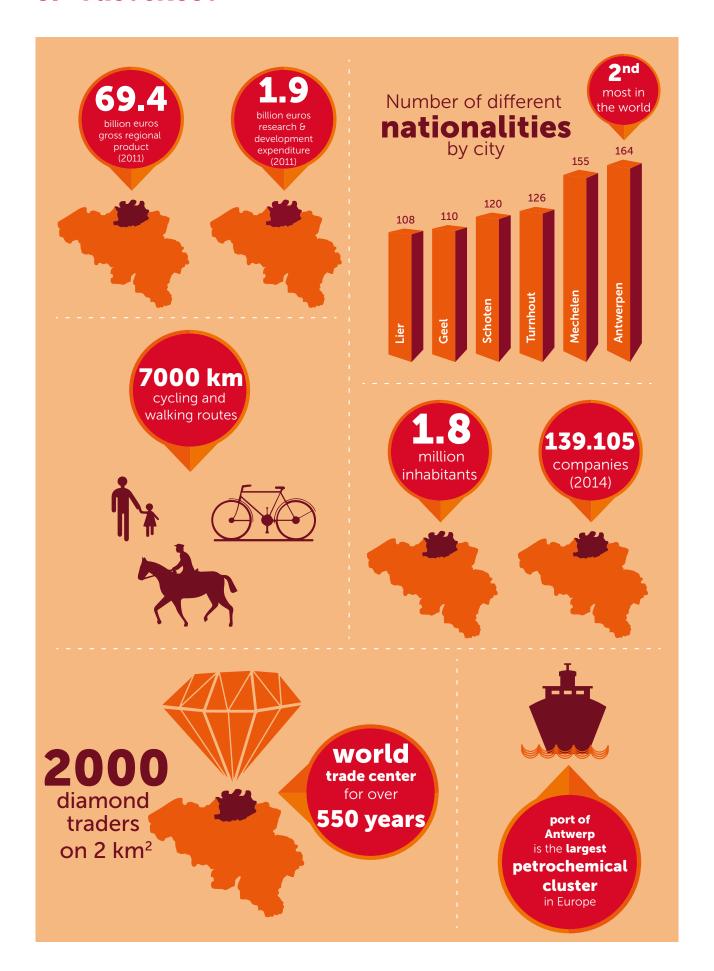
Governor

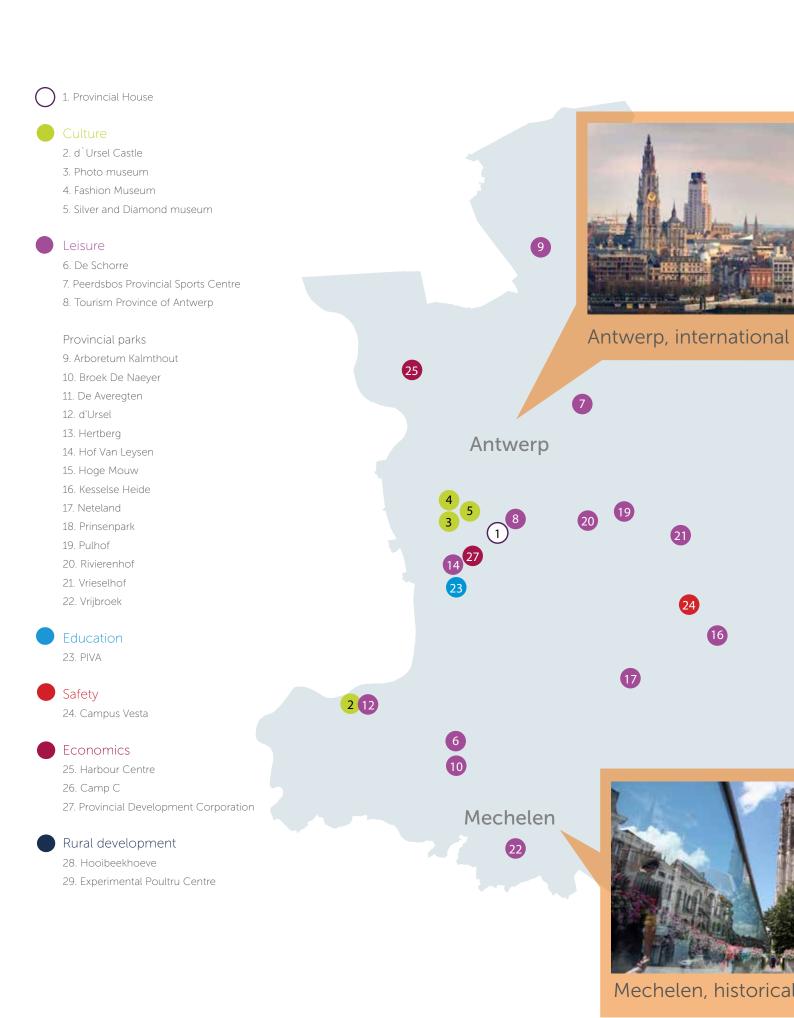
Provincial, Flemish and Federal

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









Campine, innovative green region

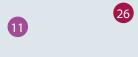
Turnhout



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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 70 municipalities, of which the Port of Antwerp has a starring role with its transport and wholesale operations. 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 worldclass 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? The economic barometer offers it all on www.provincieantwerpen.be.

The economic barometer 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 and independents contribute to our economic prosperity. They are active in 'leading sectors', such as construction, metal, logistics, chemical industry, agro-industry and retail.

The province coordinates the economic policy to facilitate this, and focuses on creating space and conditions 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 ${\rm CO_2}$ neutrality. Additionally, it works on projects reinforcing the economic effectiveness of, for example, the chemical, logistic and creative sectors.

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 of Antwerp is a world in itself. If you're interested in taking a look behind the scenes, the Harbour Centre (Havencentrum) is the place to be. The centre introduces the 50,000 annual visitors to the maritime, industrial and logistic activities at the port.

There are no less than 90 guides — speaking four languages — to assist schools, associations and companies.

It is the Harbour Centre's mission to promote the employment opportunities in and around the harbour to young people. For this purpose the Centre organises unique excursions as well as,for example, guest speakers and indoor and outdoor exhibitions. Good to know: the visitors centre has an auditorium, two conference rooms and a cafeteria.

Interested? Go to www.havencentrum.be.
Or book your visit via reservatie@havencentrum.be.



6. Benefit from our knowledge sharing

Kamp C: sustainable construction

Sustainable construction is hot. No idea how to achieve it? Lend your ear to Kamp C: an expertise centre for businesses and professionals, local authorities, individuals and the education sector. The grounds of Kamp C itself are the example of a sustainable business site with seven sustainable buildings. There is also a major exhibition on sustainability on site. Also, Kamp C is the Flemish Clean Technology Antenna (Cleantech Antenne) for the construction sector. It is where innovative ideas are gathered and shared with domestic and foreign stakeholders.

The SAFE-ICE research programmes

SAFE-ICE is an example of a project initiated by Kamp C; it features collaboration between cluster partners from Belgium, France, the Netherlands and England.

What did they demonstrate in the first few months of the project? How businesses can optimise their energy consumption, how B2B relations can reduce carbon emissions, how specific measures on industrial estates can lower energy consumption.

You can find the results and good practices of the study online on www.safe-ice.eu. What's next on the agenda? Future steps include promoting heating networks and the opportunities for SMEs in the low carbon sector.

Interested? Send an email to info@kampc.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? Not only does it house dairy and young cattle, it also conducts research. Feed, housing, well-being, fertility and antibiotics are examined in the stables. In the fields, they research fertilisation, soil and forage crops. 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.

Team for violence and victim policy

We're not afraid to address themes as domestic violence, honour and gender-related aggression and the abuse of children and elders. These topics deserve our attention, now more than ever. Our provincial team for violence and victim policy really takes this seriously. This team is part of inter alia, the European Alliance of Family Justice Centres, Women Against Violence Europe and the Network of Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence.

Are you looking for a partner to develop a methodology, enter into a European partnership or expand your network? Then our team is the right one for you.

Introduce yourself to us via welzijn@provincieantwerpen.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. Thus, all services are well coordinated when something really does go wrong.

Training

Do you also want to call out your crews to Campus Vesta? Good idea! Consider simulating an accident with hazardous substances, dealing with a latent terror threat, analysing social media during a disaster, etc. You will learn it all during our multi¬disciplinary training courses, which are attended by corps from all over Europe.

Knowledge sharing

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.

Structural cooperation with universities and research institutes

Our province cooperates on a structural basis with the University of Antwerp and the Flemish Institute for Technological Developments (Vlaams Instituut voor Technologische Ontwikkeling), enabling us to continue as an innovative and pioneering region.



"Antwerp has held an international reputation in brain research since the start of the last century thanks to the pioneering role of Dr. Ludo Van Bogaert. This, together with my fascination with the human psyche, played a critical role in my choice of researching dementia." Christine Van Broeckhoven - Professor Molecular Biology and Genetics, Antwerp University





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 work force.

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 offers courses in four departments: Butchery, Baking, Hotel and Tourism. 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 Iceland 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 a school in Peking. 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. This is due to the shifts of power in the world and the emergence of countries in which governments play major roles. For example, we open doors that would otherwise remain closed to your business or knowledge institute. How? By investing in relations and affiliations with other countries and regions.

Our first partnership arose in 1985 with the Shaanxi province in China. We have since entered into similar agreements with the Oblast Leningrad in Russia, the Province of North Brabant in the Netherlands 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. Would you like to develop contacts in these regions? Give us a sign and we can definitely help you.

Also convenient: we know who in our province is following which international course. Thus, we can easily get you in touch with the right person. To do this we rely on our:

- **natural partners**: cities, municipalities, intercommunity's, the Flemish government and the European government;
- **allies**: social partners, entrepreneurs, sector federations and trade associations both within our Regional Socio-Economic Consultation Committees (Regionale Sociaaleconomische Overlegcomités) as within our Talent Houses (Talentenhuizen);
- **associates**: knowledge institutes, Flemish provinces and provinces of the Netherlands within the Flemish-Netherlands Delta

Do you need a helping hand in international business or relations? Send an email 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

The province is fully committed to development partnerships, with the Provincial North-South policy supporting education and exchange projects, global citizenship and sustainable development.

Our concrete activities:

- development education for a wide audience, at schools and events;
- long-term programmes in Guatemala and the Philippines, focused on regional development and strengthening the administrations;
- support to 50 projects by NGOs and development organisations in more than 30 countries (from Africa, over Asia to Latin America).

Would you like to collaborate on a development project? Contact noordzuid@provincieantwerpen.be.





9. Enjoy the region

The province of beer and bicycles

Antwerp Province Tourism (Toerisme Provincie Antwerpen) contributes to the image of the Province by promoting Flanders as a destination for international visitors. In that, we put the unique combination of our beer and bicycle culture in the spotlight.

There is definitely no lack of breweries in our province. De Koninck, Duvel, Het Anker and Westmalle are all housed here. Antwerp beers regularly win awards in international competitions. Fans can visit a brewery in our province or sip a fresh pint in an authentic bar. The beer cycle routes are also fun. They are integrated in our cycling route network covering 3,000 kilometres. They are ideal for discovering the most beautiful spots along safe, flat and signposted trails.

Would you like to apply our expertise concerning beer and cycle routes for your tourism project? Contact us at toerisme@provincieantwerpen.be.

The Peerdsbos: for every athlete

Are you looking for a knowledge centre for G-sports (sports for persons with a challenge)? Then you are in the right place in the Peerdsbos Provincial Sports Centre (Provinciaal Sportcentrum Peerdsbos) in Brasschaat. It has training facilities, accommodation and programmes suitable for G-athletes.

The Peerdsbos is open to all athletes. It is the ideal location for your internship, practice game and team building activity. A wonderful country location but one that is still easily accessible from the city centre of Antwerp.

Interested? Send your query to sportcentrumpeerdsbos@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!

Visitors' centre

The Arboretum does not only appeal to 'specialists'. Everyone is welcome. You can visit from January to November. 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.



ModeNatie: the home base of fashion

Do you have a passion for fashion? Then Antwerp is the right place for you, with the world famous 'Antwerp Six'. Through them, the city soon became a fashion hotspot. A logical result was the foundation of ModeNatie, a location that fashion partners call home, such as the Flanders Fashion Institute, the ModeMuseum (Fashion Museum) with accompanying library, the Copyright Bookshop and the fashion department of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. ModeNatie is a meeting place bubbling with creativity, dynamics and passion for fashion. It is also the platform for debate, confrontation and reflection between students and designers. Talk about an inspiring environment!

Exhibition in the MoMu

The most famous inhabitant of ModeNatie is probably the ModeMuseum (MoMu). What should you expect? You won't find a permanent collection but you will find a new exhibition every six months. Each time, focused on a designer, fashion house or fashion theme. Names such as Walter Van Beirendonck, Yohji Yamamoto, Dries Van Noten have already been put in the spotlight, as Delvaux, the Belgian house of fine leather luxury goods.

Interested in the visiting options, like a nocturnal visit and guided tour of the MoMu? Send a mail to info@momu.be.

FotoMuseum: home of photography

The FotoMuseum (FoMu — Photo Museum) immerses you in the fascinating world of photography. You can explore the museum's private collection through themed exhibitions, while temporary exhibitions show the work of national and international photographers.

The FoMu is more than just a museum. It is an expertise and meeting centre for photography in all its forms. It stimulates scientific research into art and photographic history and technical and



conservation issues. This is achieved by means of unique interactive platforms. The FoMu also plays a pioneering role in digital conservation and passive repository building and operation. The museum has built expertise in making photographic collections available to the public.

Would you like to use the photo museum's knowhow for your project? Send a request to info@fomu.be.

Diamonds are Antwerp's best friend

Diamonds and silver: a wonderful duo. Do you know that, in 2016, Antwerp will be getting a new museum? It will be located between the Grote Markt, the Vleeshuis and St. Paul's Church. In a neighbourhood that has housed goldsmiths, jewellers and diamond merchants since the sixteenth century. The nearby river Schelde is perfectly suited as a trade route, both in the past as now.

Would you like more info? Please contact maartje.stubbe@provincienantwerpen.be.

Kasteel d'Ursel: a prime location for your event

Receiving your guests in style for a special occasion? Then invite them to d'Ursel Castle (Kasteel d'Ursel). Four hundred years ago, it 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. Or use the mirrored hall, with its view of the lake, a top spot for meetings and dinners. In the meantime, guide your visitors around the salons and bedrooms with valuable wall coverings from China, India and Europe.

Be the lord of the castle for a day? Send an email to info@kasteeldursel.be.





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 optimalway. We are committed as part of our task, to preventing flooding through projects in valley regions and along rivers. We also actively paricipate in developing River Basin Management Plans for the European Water Framework Directive and in coordinating water management in Flanders.

Space for nature

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 didier.soens@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.

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 dirk.vandenbussche@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 850 hectares and manages a diverse estate spread over 65 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 and become a member of one of our four regional landscape or five forestry groups.

Interested? Please contact dirk.vandenbussche@provincieantwerpen.be.





