



INTRODUCING THE MYRIAD OPPORTUNITIES THAT INNOVATIVE ANTWERP HAS TO OFFER

Sandy Ceulemans Business & Innovation
City of Antwerp



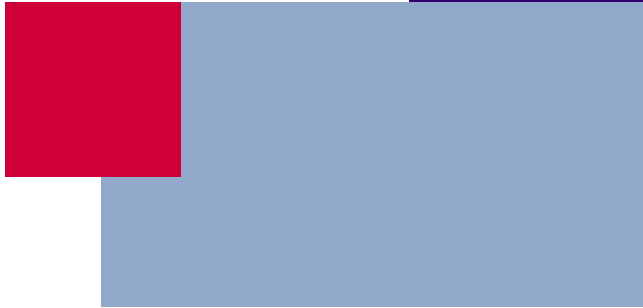
1. Introduction





Antwerp a dynamic pocket-sized metropolis
in a prosperous region.

2. Antwerp and its Economic Power



4 Fundamentals



A world-class Port
Antwerp-Bruges

n°1
integrated chemical
cluster in Europe



n°1
diamond trade
capital of the world



A Fashion & Retail
Hotspot





Port of Antwerp-Bruges

N°2 Port in Europe

289 million

tons of maritime freight traffic
in 2019

5 billion

euros of investments attracted
in 2019

164,000

direct and indirect jobs

€21 billion

Added value



Home to the largest
integrated chemical
cluster in Europe



Chemical industry

N°1 Integrated chemical cluster in Europe

Many of the top 20 chemical producers in the world have a presence in Antwerp

Exxon Mobil, Total Energies, Ineos, Borealis, Lanxess, Air Liquide, BASF, Dow, Evonik, Covestro, Bayer

1.000 km
of pipeline in
the Antwerp
port area



Diamonds

N°1 diamond trade capital in the world



86%

of all rough diamonds in the world



50%

of all polished diamonds in the world

Each diamond travels through Antwerp at least once



Oldest, purest & largest diamond hub in the world



Retail & Fashion

**N°1 favourite retail
destination in Belgium**

**N°7 in the top 25 fashion schools in
Europe: Royal Academy of Fine Arts
Antwerp**

11 million
shoppers annually

3. Innovation Powerhouse



Port of
Antwerp
Bruges

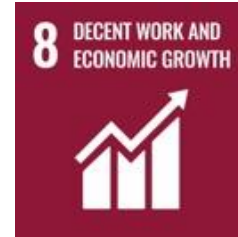


University
of Antwerp



Innovation strategy strives to formulate answers to 5 priorities, based on European SDG's

1. Beat climate change
2. Build the port of the future: digital & sustainable
3. Achieve sustainable transition of the chemical cluster
4. Make Antwerp a healthier city
5. Innovate traditional sectors: diamond, fashion & retail





**Focus on 3
growth
clusters**

Digital

**Circular
economy**

Health

Unique positions in the...

**Internet of Things
and Artificial
Intelligence for port
& industry**

**Sustainable
chemistry
Energy
transition**

**Pandemic
preparedness
Digital health**



€4.7 bln
Ecosystem
value



+81%
Increase in the
last 5 years

€580 mln
Funding raised
since 2022

Home to...

- 767 startups
- 12 incubators/ accelerators
- 3 innovation hubs
- +100 investors
- +11,000 creative entrepreneurs

Antwerp's start-up ecosystem

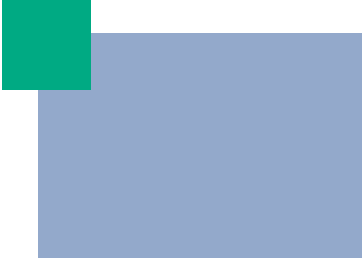


Most funded

Industries
Health, Energy, Port &
logistics

Technologies
Deep tech, hardware &
internet of things

Industries of Antwerp startups





Antwerp excels in the following sectors

- Smart Port, Logistics & Industry
- Drones
- Smart mobility & infrastructure

Ecosystem for Digital innovation

International reference in Internet of Things & Artificial Intelligence

Smart Port & Logistics

Industry

- Building the port of the future: a digital port
 - Digital management systems
 - Digital twin
 - Internet of Things: smart safety
 - Drones
 - Smart ships



Hub The Beacon

- Markets
 - port/logistics – industry – mobility
- Technology
 - IoT/AI
- Target group
 - startups/scaleups/corporates/knowledge institutions
 - 40 residents and +100 in the community
- Founders
 - City of Antwerp, Port of Antwerp-Bruges, University of Antwerp, imec, Agoria and Lantis

Antwerp excels in the following sectors

- Sustainable chemistry
- Energy transition & Hydrogen
- Electrification
- Recycling



Major Projects

BlueApp

BlueChem

Blue Gate Antwerp

NextGen District/Demo

Ecosystem for circular economy

If Antwerp wants to be a future-proof city, it must consider its environmental impact. The city and port take many initiatives in this regard.

Climate Action Plan 2030-2050:

reduce carbon emissions & carbon neutrality in 2050

Unique ecosystem for sustainable chemistry

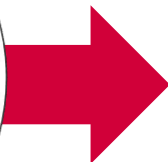
Port of Antwerp-Bruges European centre for hydrogen

Transforming waste into new raw materials or energy

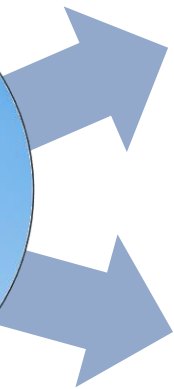
Unique ecosystem for sustainable chemistry:
support through every phase (TRL), from research to
commercialization



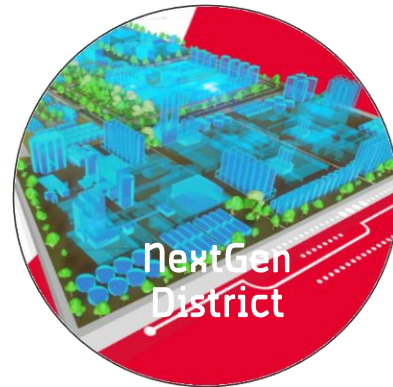
**PRE-
INCUBATION**



INCUBATION



**PILOT
INSTALLATION &
PRODUCTION**





Hub BlueChem

- Incubator sustainable chemistry
 - Labs & offices
 - Extension planned for 2025-2026
- Technology
 - Waste and side streams, process optimization, renewable chemicals, sustainable products
- Residents
 - 6 corporates: Air Liquide, BASF, Borealis, ExxonMobil, Ineos, VOPAK
 - 12 startups: CO₂, water, proteins...
- Founders
 - Essenscia, City of Antwerp, POM, VITO



Major Projects

Vaccinopolis

Dunden

Blue Health Innovation
Center, powered by
imec.istart

Antwerp Health Harbour

Antwerp excels in the following sectors

- **Pandemic preparedness**
- **Digital Health**

Ecosystem for Health innovation



Make Antwerp
a healthier city

28

Campuses, unparalleled health
network in Europe

175

Nationalities



Top research institutions
like Institute for Tropical Medicine and
University of Antwerp and Vaccinopolis

Hub Dunden

- Innovation Tech hub in the heart of Antwerp focusing on healthcare, funding and social impact
- Target group
 - startups/scaleups
 - 16 residents
 - Invested community
- **BlueHealth Innovation Center** – accelerator for digital health, powered by Imec
 - Integrating digital flows in hospitals
 - Digital Healthcare at a distance
- Concessionaire
 - Venture Studios (Cronos Group)

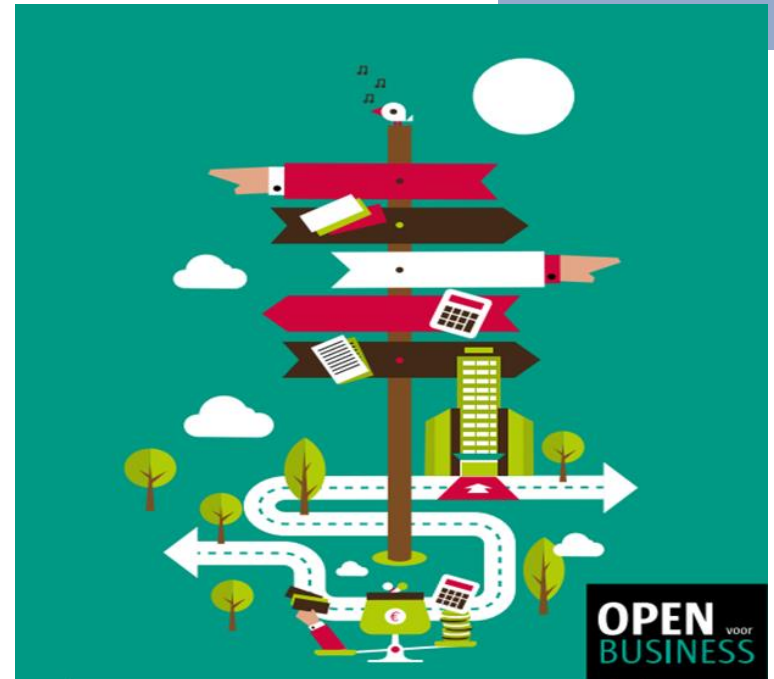


4. Support (local) entrepreneurship



Starter Service

- Inform → www.antwerpen.be/ondernemers-en-bedrijven
- Inspire → success stories www.businessinantwerp.eu/en
- Matchmaking in business & location
- Refer to Antwerp ecosystems → Innovation hubs
- Accelerators
- Monthly one-stop-shop



Student entrepreneurship

TAKEOFFANTWERP

- Information
- Events

Antwerp Management School

- Cooperation
- Events

SINC

- Students for students
- Community
- Events
- The Future

Touchpoints at
UA, KdG and AP



The Box

- Dreaming of your own shop
- Ready to use retail space
- Market prices
- Plug & Play
- Low risk
- Ideal test phase
- One week up to three months



5. Why Antwerp?



A gateway to Europe

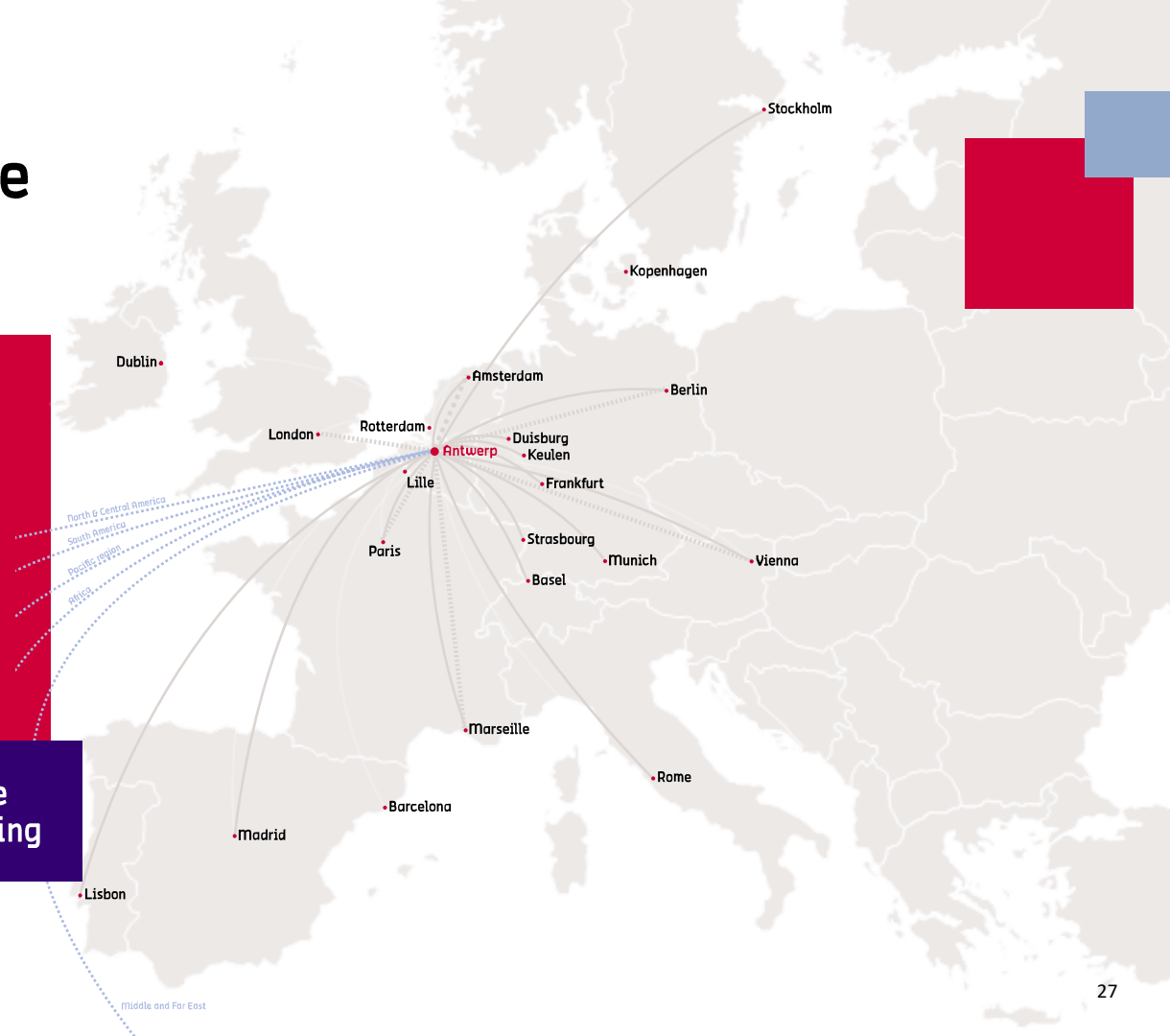
Antwerp,
a pocket-sized metropolis

545,858 inhabitants

175 nationalities

55,116 students

Affordable
cost of living



A drive for innovation



Flanders is a 'strong innovator'
(Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2023) **and**
European frontrunner in R&D
investment

Supported by a strong 5G digital
network

State-of-the-art innovation hubs &
incubators

- The Beacon
 - BlueApp – BlueChem – BlueGate – Nextgen District
 - Dunden - Vaccinopolis
-

World-class business accelerators

- Imec.istart
- Start it@KBC
- Bluehealth innovation center, powered
by Imec

A business-friendly investment climate



6 top ten places in fDi rankings 2023



ranked **11th** out of
234 on the
Regional
Competitiveness
Index, better than
EU average.

Highly productive, multilingual and skilled talent

TAKEOFFANTWERP

offers various forms of
support as 'student
entrepreneurs'



8 higher education institutions
and over 200 specialisations

55,116 students
enrolled in higher education
(2023-2024)



41% hold a tertiary degree
s. 32,8% EU27 average



Unbeatable quality of life

A great place
to raise children

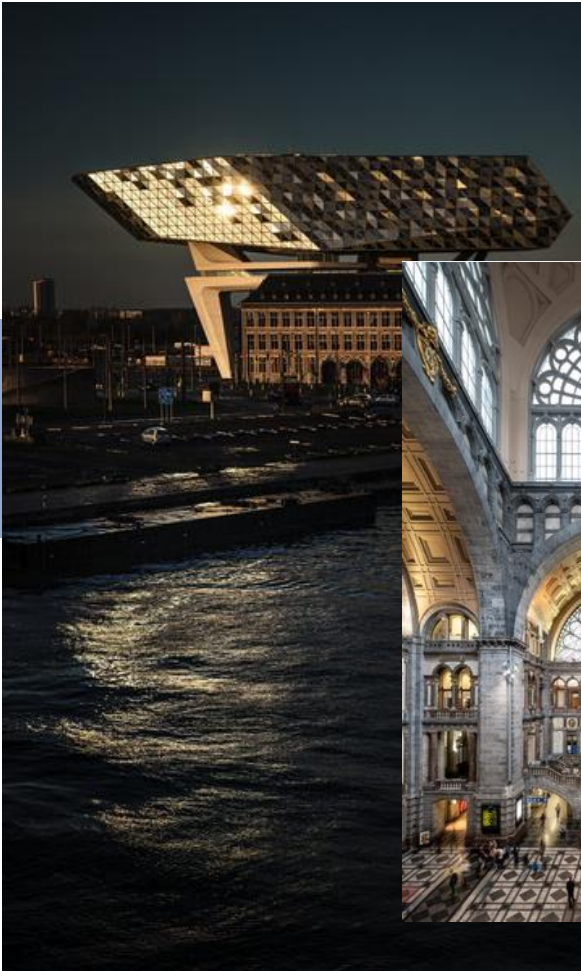
A new and future proof city

Bike-friendly inner streets



92% of citizens
satisfied with living in
Antwerp

Source: European Commission, Report on the
Quality of Life in European Cities 2023



Hip & historic

- Antwerp combines a rich history with forward thinking
-

Cultural hub

- Major historic landmarks
 - Renowned architects
 - Vibrant art and cultural scene
-

International gastronomy

- European & exotic restaurants including Michelin stars & Gault Millau ratings
- World-famous Belgian beers and chocolate



WE SUPPORT YOU

Access to **talent**

Access to **network**

Access to **capital**

Access to **market**

- We link you to our **innovation hubs and ecosystems**
- We help you find the **right business location**
- We support **soft landing services** to welcome your international workforce
- We help you find the **right talent** in Antwerp
- We advise you on **grants, incentives, tax rulings and funding**
- We guide you through the **permit application process**
- We **boost your product or service launch** through our customer channels



Your business, our drive

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