



# Setting-up Climate Districts in Flanders

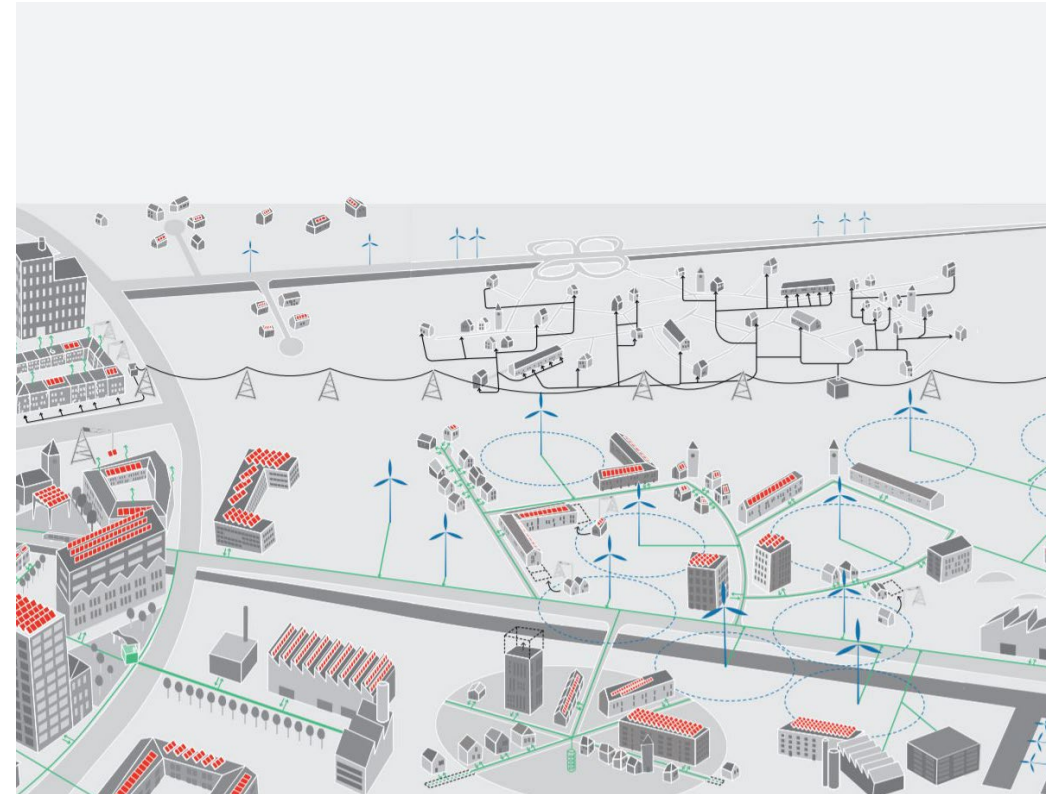
Presentation at the ESPON Lulea Seminar 2023  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENVIRONMENT  
& SPATIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

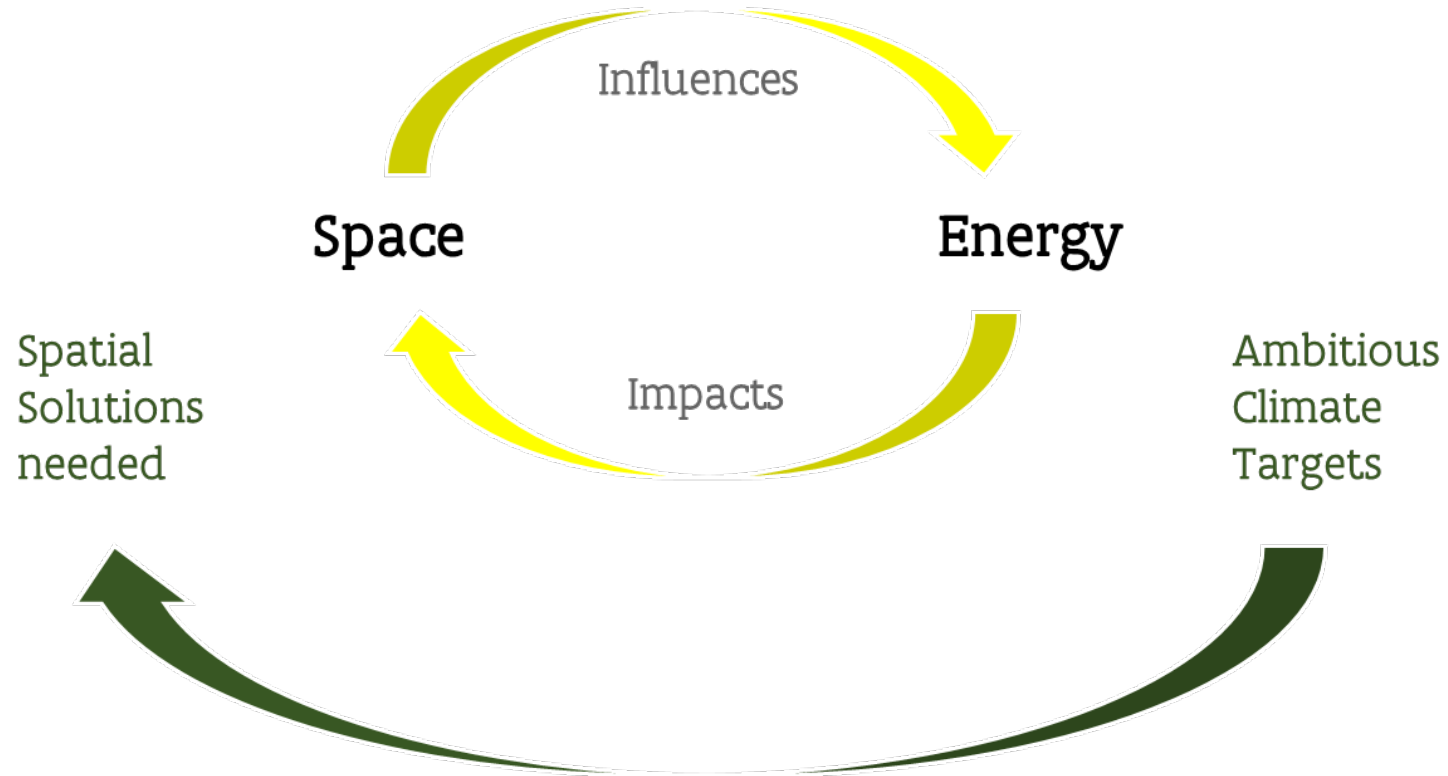


# Outline

- ▶ WHY?
- ▶ WHAT?
- ▶ WHO?
- ▶ HOW?
- ▶ Positive Energy Districts: a European Transition Pathway
- ▶ EU Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

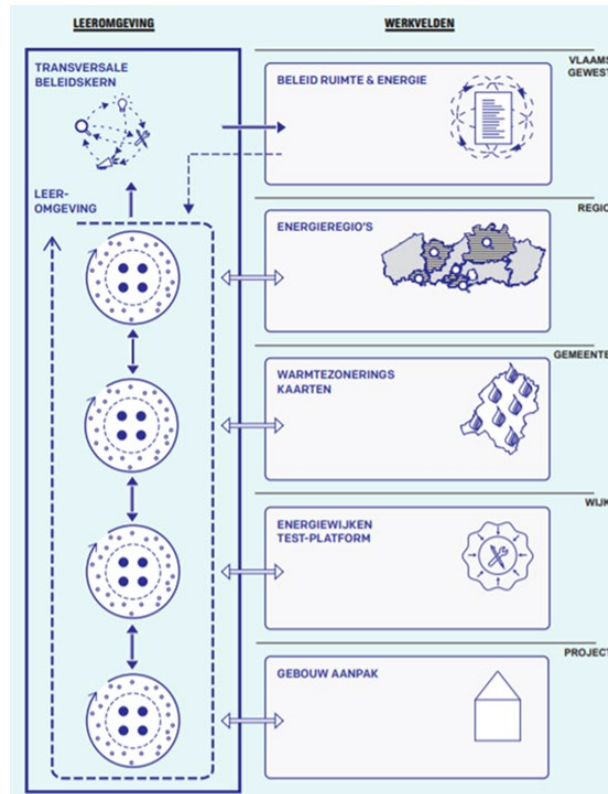


# WHY? Energy = Space



# WHAT? Connecting different levels

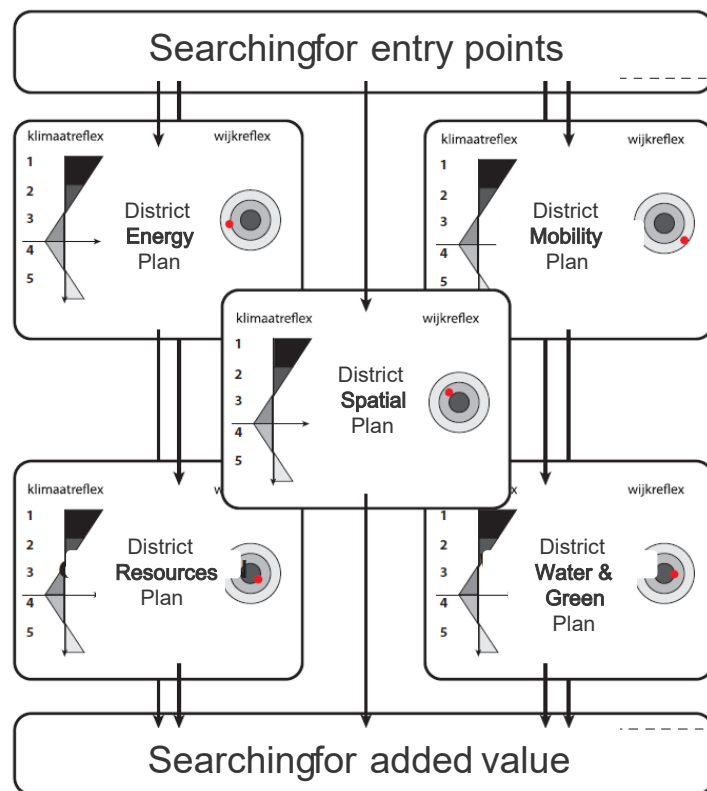
Each spatial level has a role to play



- ▶ European Level
- ▶ Flemish level
- ▶ Regional level (= cooperation several municipalities)
- ▶ Municipal level
- ▶ Neighbourhood level
- ▶ Building level

# WHAT? Connecting different challenges

Using the energy transition as an entry point



- ▶ All of the challenges come together in space
  - EnergyTransition
  - MobilityTransition
  - Circular Transition
  - Green&Blue Transition
  - ...
- ▶ Challenges become very concrete
- ▶ No transition without spatial transformation



# WHO? Connecting different stakeholders

Each stakeholder needs to take ownership

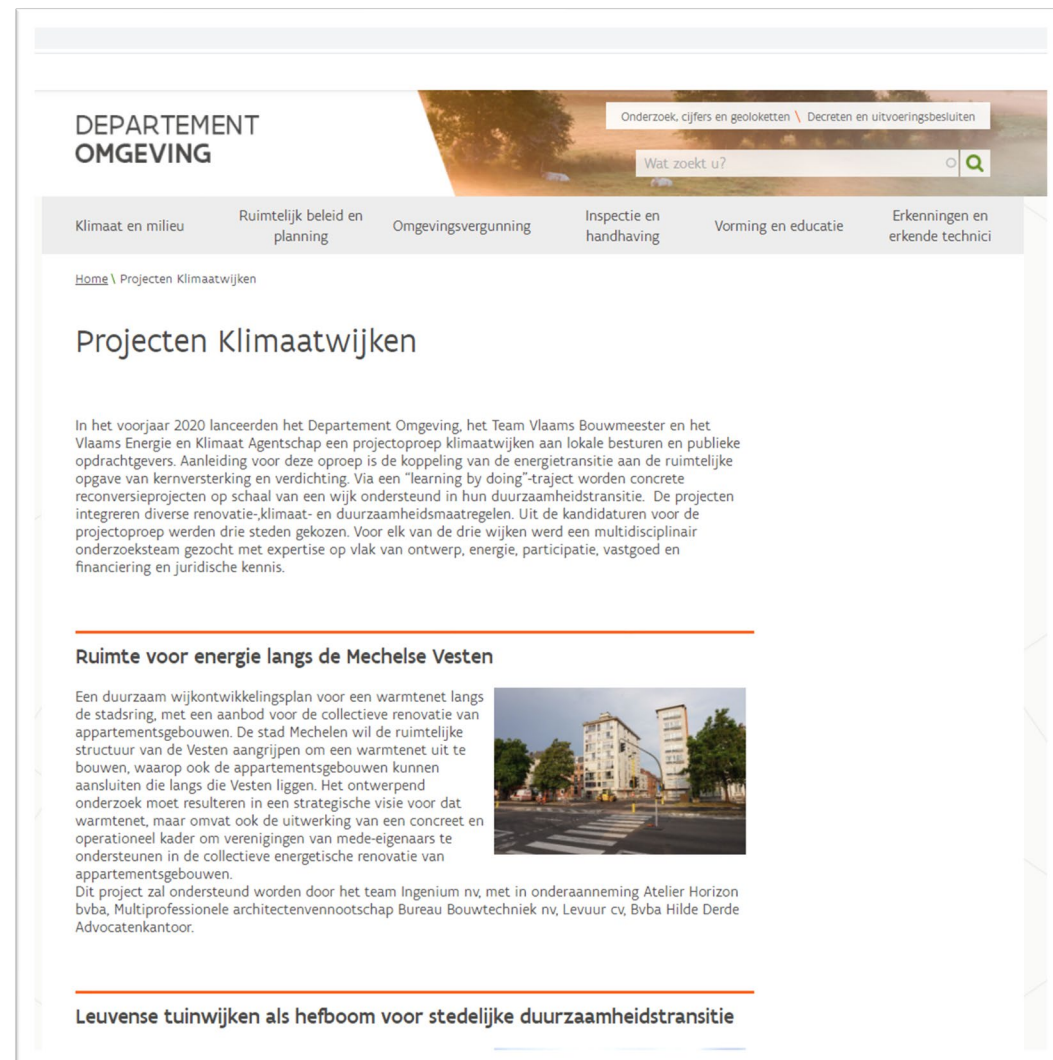


- ▶ Government
  - Levels
  - Units
- ▶ Companies
  - Banks
  - Industry
  - Services
- ▶ Civil society
  - Cooperatives
  - Interest groups
- ▶ Citizens
  - Home owners
  - Tennents



# HOW? A call for Climate Districts in Flanders

## Searching for exemplary cases



# HOW? Selecting 3+2 concrete projects

## A research by design exercise

- ▶ **Kortrijk** – Building block Walle; energetic symbiose between industry and housing
- ▶ **Leuven** – Garden city as lever towards a sustainable urban transition
- ▶ **Mechelen** – Making space and place for energy along the ring road



Mechelen



Leuven



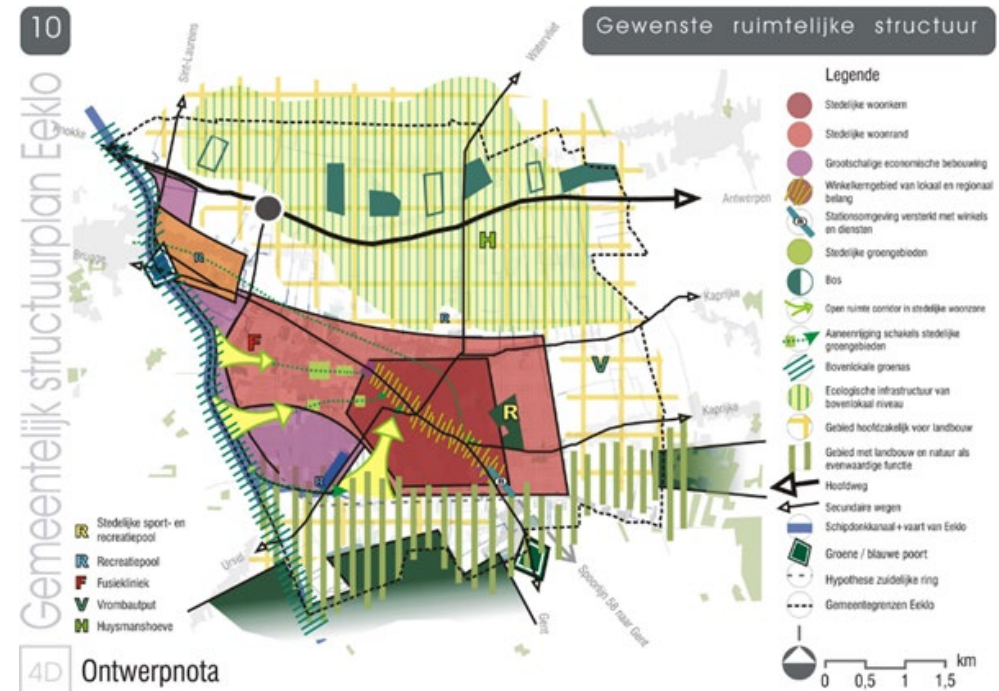
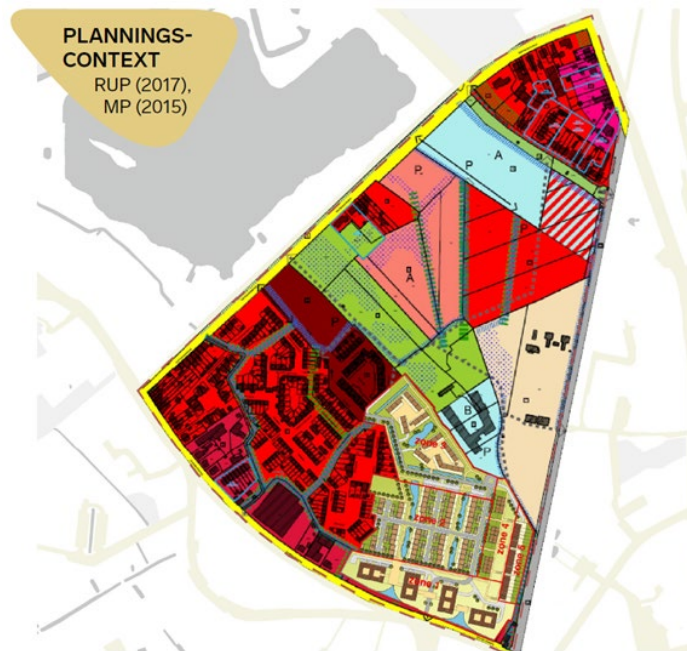
Kortrijk



# HOW? Selecting 3+2 concrete projects

## A research by design exercise

- **Brugge& Eeklo** - development of an integrated sustainability vision for large-scale energetic neighbourhood renovation of social housing towards climate-neutral neighbourhoods



# HOW? Organising knowledge exchange

## Connecting projects and people

- ▶ Share lessons learned
  - Short publication
  - Seminar
- ▶ Giving input towards other projects and initiatives
- ▶ Next steps towards valorisation
  - Scaling up these first pilot projects (and learning from others)
    - × Embedded within all policy sectors
  - Support the front runners with peer-to-peer learning
  - Setting up the right instruments
    - × District plan
    - × District contract
    - × District financing

} Supported by District Directors

# Driving Urban Transitionsto a sustainablefuture

## DUT partnership

- ▶ European cofunded partnership under Horizon Europe
- ▶ Tackle complex urban challenges and boost the urgently needed urban transformations towards a sustainable future with enhanced quality of life in cities.
- ▶ Research and innovation and capacity building
- ▶ Enable local authorities and municipalities, service and infrastructure providers, and citizens to translate global strategies into local action



# DUT Partnership

## 3 Transition Pathways



- **Positive Energy Districts**: Transforming the urban energy system
  - Optimise the local energy system
  - Mainstreaming actions in urban planning processes
  - 100 PEDs by 2025
- ▶ **15 Minute City**: Rethinking the urban mobility system and space
  - Encourages sustainable mobility choices
  - Rethinking urban morphology and public space
  - Portfolio of 50+ solutions and good practices
- **Circular Urban Economies**: An integrated approach for urban greening and circularity transitions
  - Foster the design of urban places by regenerative urbanism
  - Increased urban resource efficiency and liveability
  - Portfolio of 50+ solutions and good practices



# DUT

## Positive Energy Districts Transition Pathway (PED)



- ▶ Building upon SET Plan and JPI Urban Europe (2018)
- ▶ Linking projects and initiatives all over Europe
- ▶ Building up the knowledge base on PED
- ▶ Linking with the City Mission

### Definition PED:

*“PEDs are energy efficient and energy flexible urban areas or groups of connected buildings which produce net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and actively manage an annual local or regional surplus production of renewable energy. They require integration of different systems and infrastructures and interaction between buildings, the users and the regional energy, mobility and ICT systems, while securing the energy supply and a good life for all in line with social, economic and environmental sustainability.”*

# EU City Mission: Climate Neutral and Smart Cities

Objectives of the Mission:

- ▶ Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
- ▶ Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050
- ▶ PEDs act as stepping stones





# Thank you!



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the Art

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SPATIAL  
DEVELOPMENT

