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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

# Spatial Policy Plan Flanders

Implementation of the Spatial Policy Plan

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# Spatial Policy Plan Flanders Implementation strategy

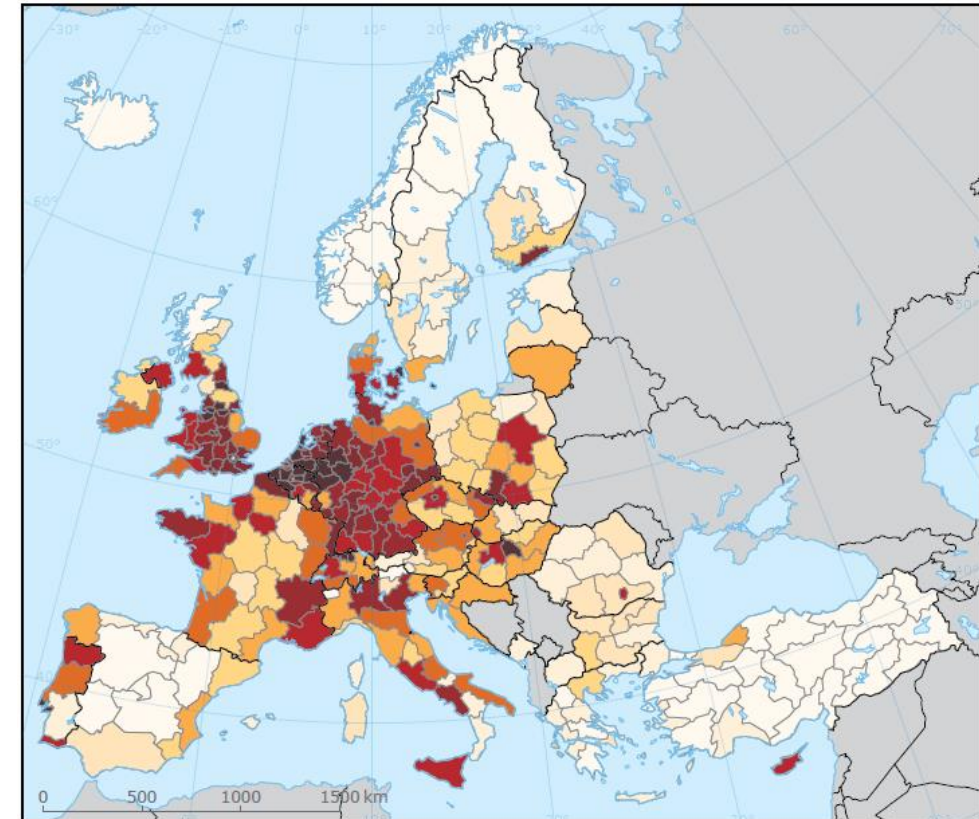
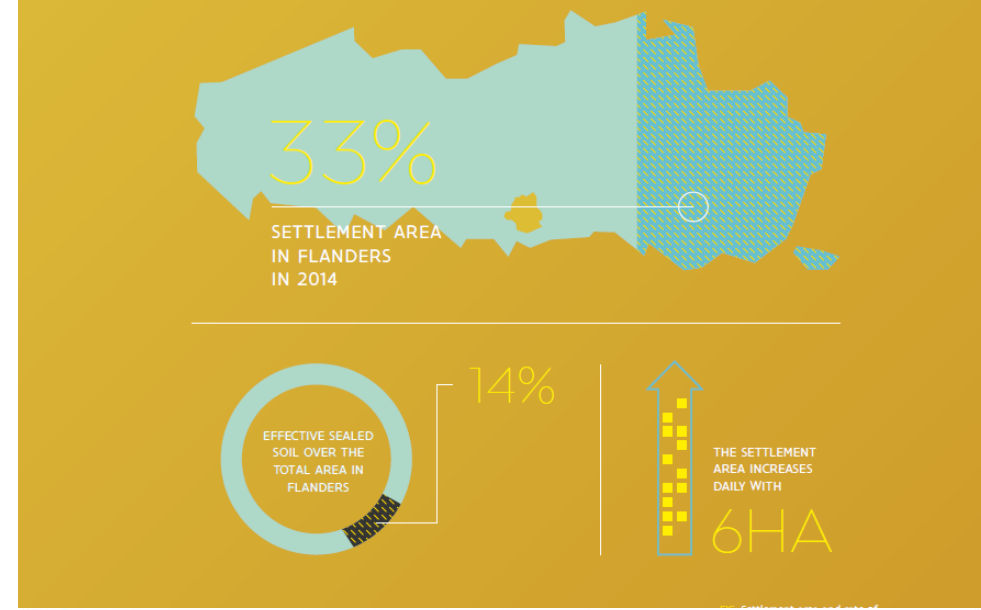
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# Challenges of the Spatial Policy Plan Flanders

# 1. Challenges

- Large footprint (33% settlement area)
- Effective soil sealed area (14%)
- 6 ha average daily land take



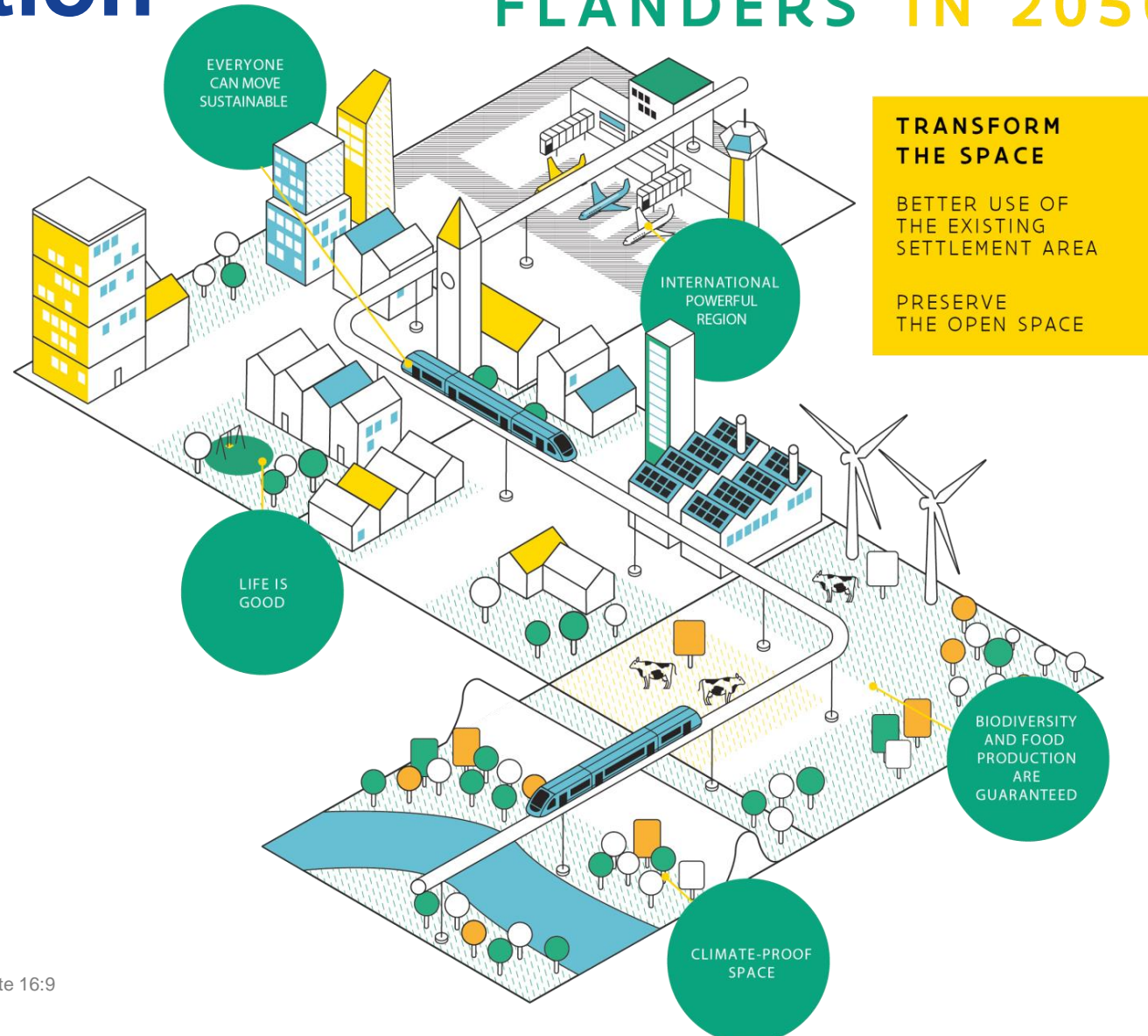
# 1. Challenges

- This leads to:
  - Heat stress
  - Flooding
  - Open space under pressure
- People live and work spatially dispersed
  - Travel long distances (mostly by car)
  - Congestion (Antwerp and Brussels lead top 10 of most congested cities)
- Many 'hidden' costs for government and tax payer



# 1. Spatial Policy Plan Flanders Ambition

## FLANDERS IN 2050



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# Operationalisation and implementation of Spatial Policy Plan

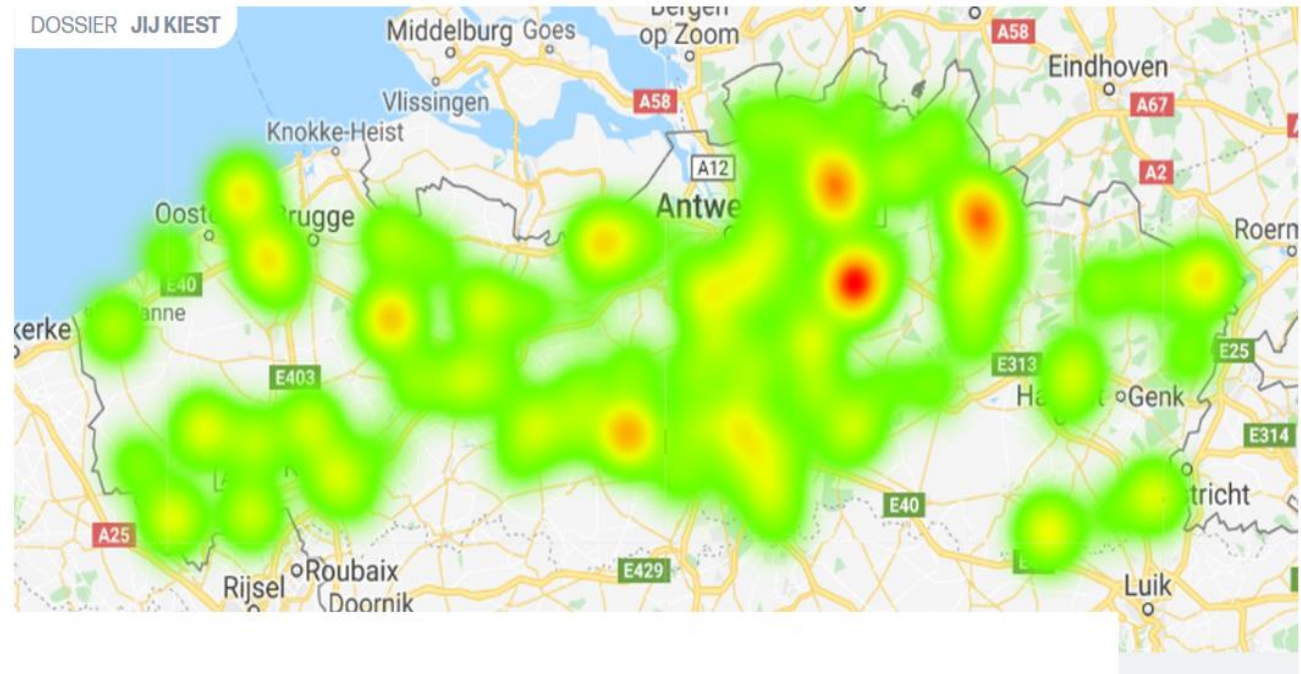
# 2 Operationalisation and implementation

- Spatial Policy Plan = Strategic vision + set of **operational** policy frameworks
  - Last summer only strategic vision politically approved
- But strong pledge to continue with strategic vision by the policy makers:
  - "The Spatial Planning Policy Plan Flanders is extremely important for the future of our children and grandchildren, which makes the switch to a new spatial policy, a policy that fully safeguards the open space through the paradigm shift to spatial efficiency and infiltration, both in the cities and in the village centers." (September Declaration of Flemish minister-president Geert Bourgeois)



# 2 Operationalisation and implementation

- Mentality shift - paradigm change
  - It's happening!
  - Growing willingness among local governments
  - Growing support amongst the people
  - Major theme during past local elections
- Continue our effort to make it happen



**Vlamingen op "Jij Kiest" spreken duidelijke taal: "Betonstop? Liever vandaag dan morgen!"**

“Flemish on “You Choose” make it very clear: Concrete stop? Rather today than tomorrow!”

# 2 Operationalisation and implementation

- Collaboration with stakeholders on mentality shift:
  - Soil unsealing forum
  - Good practice tools
  - More initiatives coming
- Appliance of the strategic vision in our own (Flemish) plans and projects
- Appliance of the strategic vision in integrated area development
- Decrees on instruments, residential reservation zoned areas, forests...

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# Expectations towards EU/other countries

# 3. Expectations towards EU/countries

- Exchange of knowledge and experiences between countries
  - On governance
  - Processes
- Close collaboration between neighbours making sure spatial planning policies 'connect' at the border.
- More appreciation of the vital role spatial planning plays in achieving European objectives
  - Funds is often lacking in spatial planning initiatives
  - Climate change and sustainable energy objectives
  - TEN-T strategy
- Clear position of EU towards the application of SEA-directive on new legislation initiatives
  - Recent d'Oultremont arrest

# // Thank you

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