

## Vlaamse bijdrage aan het plan voor Herstel en Veerkracht

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# 1. Increasing renovation activity of the building stock: energetic + asbestos removal

**Bevoegde minister:** Zuhair Demir, minister van Justitie en Handhaving, Omgeving, Energie en Toerisme en Matthias Diependaele minister van Financiën en Begroting, Wonen en Onroerend Erfgoed

**Projectgrootte:** 422 million in total over period 2021-2024 (of whom 40 M as ESA neutral investments)

## 1.1 Beschrijving van het project

### 1.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

1) Flanders has set - in the Long Term Climate Strategy and in the Long Term Renovation Strategy - the ambitious goal that by 2050 all residential buildings should reach the same energy performance level as new buildings built in 2015. That means that every residential building should reach label A. For the moment only 3,5% of a total of 3 million residential buildings meet this target. For the non-residential buildings the goal is to reach a carbon neutral building stock by 2050. To reach the goals that are set, an acceleration in the renovation rate is necessary.

2) New situations of asbestos exposure for all citizens due to living and working in buildings and infrastructure containing damaged and deteriorating asbestos. Deteriorating asbestos roofs and facades cause:

- environmental pollution of soil, air and sediments in rainwater and sewage systems.
- Increasing costs or obstructing threshold for (energy)renovations and management of buildings.
- Loss of recyclable demolition waste as resource due to asbestos contamination.
- Presence of asbestos roofs makes potential use for solar panels impossible.

### 1.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

1) Increased investments in the renovation of the building stock will stimulate and accelerate the energetic renovation of the buildings (including social housing) and contribute to achieving the goals concerning energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as formulated in Flemish Energy and Climate Plan, the Energy Efficiency directive and the long term renovation strategy.

2) One project that contributes to the acceleration of energetic renovation of buildings is making buildings and infrastructure asbestos safe, especially for (vulnerable) target groups by phasing out damaged or deteriorating asbestos: highest risk applications by 2034 and all other applications ultimately by 2040.

### 1.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:

1) Adapting regulatory framework, launch of new premes, schemes, ...

2) - Facilitating and stimulating the removal of asbestos towards the milestones 2034 and 2040 by nudging and co-financing.

- Launching instruments supporting both sectoral approaches and regional coordinated projects for cheaper and easier inventorying and removal of asbestos.

- Launching renovation grants targeting asbestos removal combined with energy efficiency measures.

#### *1.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Ja

Eengemaakte woningrenovatiepremie

#### *1.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

1) The additional budget will be used for the stimulation of implementing energy savings measures in the buildings, such as a large-scale programme for energy renovation of private homes (by providing a label grant), increased insulation subsidies if in combination with asbestos removal, extension/reinforcement of the demolition and reconstruction subsidy (pending a (federal) VAT reduction to 6%), integrated home renovation subsidy from 2022, additional funding for a zero interest loans scheme with delayed repayment for vulnerable house owners, accompanying policy measures (bonus on energy grants) for phasing out electric storage heating, energy efficiency action plan for public building via VEB [Flemish Agency for Public Sector Energy Saving], increased social housing investments and supported through research via EnergyVille

2) Concerning the ambition regarding asbestos, milestones 2034 and 2040 pave the way for energy efficient buildings towards the EU climate goal 2050.

- Facilitating or initiating energy efficiency measures in buildings by removing asbestos as investment threshold: e.g. renewal of heating and ventilation system, approving insulation, installation of solar panels, ...

- Making circular use of buildings and demolition waste possible by inventorying and phasing out asbestos.

- Stimulating employment and innovations in construction and environmental industry. Stopping environmental pollution of soil, air and sediments.

#### *1.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

The asbestos project will include:

- Mandatory asbestos inventory for owners when selling and ultimately by 2032 in order to facilitate safe building maintenance, renovation or demolition.
- Realtime online input of survey data via mobile application in centrale database.
- Automatically generated digital asbestos survey report unlocked to other databases such as the building passport.

## **1.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: Regulatory framework

*Looptijd: - 1/12/2020*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Regulation in place*

Fase 2: Implementation and communication

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 3: Evaluation and adjustments

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 1: Implementation of mandatory asbestos survey for every building < 2001 by selling

*Looptijd: 1/04/2022 -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 2: Milestone mandatory asbestos survey for every building < 2001

*Looptijd: 1/04/2022 -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

## **1.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)**

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	216	206				
Vereffeningskredieten	156	166	50	50		
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering			298			

## 2. Cycling Infrastructure

**Bevoegde minister:** Lydia Peeters, Vlaams minister van Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken

Bart Somers, Vlaams minister van Binnenlands Bestuur, Bestuurszaken, Inburgering en Gelijke Kansen

**Projectgrootte:** 400 miljoen euro

### 2.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 2.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Transition to sustainable mobility

Improve safety for cyclists

Public investments provide employment during times of crisis

Democratic mode of transportation for all generations and incomes

A healthy mode of transportation

E-bikes are evolving rapidly and it's the right moment to invest in future-proof infrastructure

Contribution to liveable cities

Best way to solve the pollution in cities

#### 2.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

Acceleration/ increase of investments in cycling infrastructure

Increase in comfort and safety of the cycling infrastructure

Stimulate the functional and recreational cycling use in Flanders

CO2 reduction - prevent climate change

Investing in local economy - all services at cycling- or walking distance

A more healthy environment and a more active society

Realise modal shift: increase the share of sustainable modes of transport to 40% in Flanders and 50% in Antwerp, Ghent and the "Vlaamse Rand". Investigate possibilities to reform and accelerate procedures in order to meet investment targets.

#### *2.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The resources, which are foreseen on the multi-annual investment programmes of Flemish, provincial and local governments, will be used in two manners. (1) Additional investments in cycling infrastructure by the Flemish public work agencies. These additional investments will be integrated in a multi-annual investment programme with clear objectives on cycling infrastructure (total of 250 million euro, 125 million euro in 2021 and 125 million euro in 2022). (2) A call to local authorities will be launched for realizing cycling infrastructure on a local level. 150 million euro will be used to subsidize local authorities, where the local authority receives 1 € for every 2 € they invest in cycling infrastructure. The maximum subsidy is defined by the number of inhabitants of the city/municipality. Cities/municipalities can apply until the end of 2022. Payments are possible until the end of 2024.

#### *2.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Nee

#### *2.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

Cycling is environmentally friendly and healthy. The bike takes little space in the public domain and is a democratic way of transportation for all generations and incomes. The upswing of the e-bikes ensures that the bike is also an alternative for longer distances. Investing in cycling infrastructure will contribute to a modal shift towards more sustainable transport modes and less car trips.

#### *2.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

We invest in bicycle counting infrastructure in order to collect and share mobility data

## **2.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

## Phase 1: INVESTMENTS

Approval of the multi-annual investment programme

*Looptijd: 1/10/2020 - 1/03/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Approval of multi-annual investment programme*

INVESTMENTS phase 2 regarding the 2021 recovery resources: organising calls for tenders with specifications for individual projects as well as framework contracts

*Looptijd: 1/10/2020 - 1/01/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Procurement of projects/framework contracts for the 2021 recovery resources by mid-2021*

INVESTMENTS phase 3: carrying out the projects on the basis of individual specifications or framework contracts for the 2021 recovery resources

*Looptijd: 1/03/2020 - 1/12/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Comfort and/or conformity to cycling vademecum has been realised for the selected projects*

INVESTMENTS phase 2 regarding the 2022 recovery resources: organising calls for tenders with specifications for individual projects as well as framework contracts

*Looptijd: 1/10/2021 - 1/01/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Procurement of projects/framework contracts for the 2022 recovery resources by mid-2022*

INVESTMENTS phase 3: carrying out the projects on the basis of individual specifications or framework contracts for the 2022 recovery resources

*Looptijd: 1/03/2021 - 1/12/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Comfort and/or conformity to cycling vademecum has been realised for the selected projects*

## 2.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	125 m€ + 75 m€	125 m€ + 75 m€				
Vereffeningskredieten	50	100	125	75	50	
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering			420	300		

### 3. Accelerating the digital transformation of the Flemish compulsory education

**Bevoegde minister:** Ben Weyts, Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Education, Sport, Brussels Periphery, and Animal Welfare

**Projectgrootte:** EUR 375 million

#### 3.1 Beschrijving van het project

##### 3.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

The COVID-19 crisis has triggered unprecedented measures for the Flemish school system. Digital resources were the first aid to communicate and to make distance learning possible. In addition, digital skills proved to be undeniably important for functioning of education. The crisis has demonstrated that digital education is not a marginal issue but a central component of learning, teaching and assessment in the 21st century. It also became apparent that the digital transformation in most Flemish schools is lagging behind. Some of our schools are unequipped to develop the digital competences of both students and teachers. We want to accelerate the digital transformation in our schools by embedding digital education sustainably in our education system. Investment in connectivity, equipment and organisational capacity and skills guarantees that everybody has access to digital education and enable us to provide all pupils with a tailor-made learning offer. Digital education ensures that our high achieving pupils can excel, and that individual guidance can be offered to pupils who are lagging behind.

##### 3.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

By working as a government on the digitisation of education, we ensure that accumulated knowledge and skills, gathered during the first wave of the pandemic are not lost. Momentum is there to firmly embed the actions and measures that were taken to tackle the COVID19-crisis in which blended learning was of increasing importance. Moreover, as we found that digital transformation in most Flemish schools is lagging behind, the time has come to push Flemish education forward towards the digital schools that the 21st century needs.



We will work towards five mutually reinforcing objectives. Our first objective is to catapult the ICT infrastructure of every school into the 21st century and make them a valuable part of a high-performing digital education ecosystem. For this we will invest in installing, maintaining and managing quality hardware, functioning networks, digital platforms, fast and reliable internet and connectivity. Secondly we want to support and coach schools to transform towards true digital schools with well-designed and comprehensive ICT policy. Mainstreaming better ICT-policies at school will ensure better skills development among learners. Empowering schools and their leadership is key. As they need to understand how and where digital technologies can enhance education and support relevant organisational change to innovation and experimentation. A strong ICT vision and leadership within the school also reduces the administrative planning burden on teachers and improves their teaching time. Furthermore as a third objective we want to make sure that every school team has the right ICT-skills. Training in digital skills – including digital teaching methods – is essential for staff. We will reform the initial teacher training to firmly embed digital skills and we will invest in strengthening the range of professionalisation opportunities for the entire school team. Fourthly we will foster a trusted ecosystem of digital learning tools and learning environments. A trusted digital education ecosystem requires accessible high-quality content, user-friendly tools, learner-centred value-adding services and secure platforms that maintain privacy and uphold ethical standards. We will develop a quality framework for 'blended learning' that will enable digital education to complement face to face teaching. The availability of more and better digital learning resources and learning environments is a strong lever for the digital transformation of our schools. We will conclude partnerships with relevant partners to stimulate the development and exchange of teaching materials. We will invest in electronic learning environments and educational software packages. Finally, we will invest in the coordination on both governmental and school level. The establishment of a Digital Education Advisory and Knowledge Centre of the Flemish Government will mainstream the ICT-coordination competence and responsibility framework in Flanders and support schools in their transformation towards a school with a future-proof ICT coordination and policy. On school level, we will support ICT-coordinators through staff increases.

### *3.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

### *3.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Nee

### *3.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Gedeeltelijk - 40%

This project adds to the objectives of the green transition as the use of digital technologies is also crucial for the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives and for reaching climate neutrality by 2050. Improving the digital skills of learners and teachers will foster the use and development of digital technologies that are in turn powerful enablers for the green economic transition.

For ICT-infrastructure acquisitions strict guidelines are applied, especially environmental, social and labor law and anti-discrimination legislation. Each ICT Service Provider is obliged to comply with all applicable obligations in the field of environmental, social and labor law as referred to in Article 7 of the Public Procurement Act, and to have them complied with by every person acting as a Subcontractor at any stage, and by any person who employs personnel for the execution of the assignment. Furthermore, the Flemish government is fully committed to the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). ICT Service Providers must clearly describe in how a socially responsible ICT Service (ethically responsible and sustainable) is guaranteed.

Moreover, in this project, extra attention goes towards sustainability by stimulating the integration of second-hand devices in education.

### *3.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

Rapid digitalization over the past decade has transformed many aspects of our daily life. Driven by innovation and technological evolution, the digital transformation is reshaping society and the future of work. The education and training system is increasingly part of the digital transformation. Digital-proof Flemish schools can harness the benefits and opportunities of these transformations. However, they will also need to effectively manage the risks of the digital transformation, including the risk of a digital divide where certain pupils can benefit more than others. Moreover, the transition to a digital society and economy requires solid digital competences for all. A Flemish school system that boosts digital skills at all levels helps increase growth and innovation and build a fairer, more cohesive, sustainable and inclusive society. Being digitally skilled and acquiring digital literacy can empower people of all ages to be more resilient, improve participation in democratic life and stay safe and secure online. Equipping our pupils with digital competences will be critical for economic recovery in the coming years. In addition to digital skills, the digital society requires also complementary skills such as media literacy, adaptability, problem-solving, critical thinking and readiness to learn.

## **3.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1:

Phase I infrastructure provision (generic for all schools)

Increase in ICT coordination by raising points/hours for ICT coordination

CPD for teachers (ongoing)

creation of a Single Sign On infrastructure

developments to several learning resources repositories

Establishment of a central support structure in the form of an ICT knowledge and advice center

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 2:

Phase II infrastructure provision

CPD for teachers (ongoing)

ICT coordination: creation of office and extension to CBE and transformation to ICT teams

Policy planning and digital learning resources: ongoing developments

Curriculum developments in primary education and basic education.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/12/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 3:

CPD for teachers (ongoing)

ICT coordination: ICT teams

Policy planning and digital learning resources: ongoing developments

*Looptijd: 1/01/2023 - 1/12/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4:

New stock-taking of ICT monitor - adjustments

*Looptijd: 1/01/2024 - 1/12/2024*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 3.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	300	75				
Vereffeningskredieten	200	125	50			
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale & overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

## 4. Learning and career offensive

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw en Ben Weyts, minister van Onderwijs, Sport, Dierenwelzijn en Vlaamse Rand

**Projectgrootte:** 200 miljoen euro

### 4.1 Beschrijving van het project

*4.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:*

#### Activation + Skills and Training

The challenges we want to tackle with this project is the readiness of our employees, job seekers and employers for a transformed post-pandemic, digital and green society. We need to provide citizens with the tools for a resilient and fulfilling career/business. The effect on employment rates is still unsure but the EC projected in its fall projections a fall in the employment rate of Belgium and a rise in the unemployment rate by 2021. Many workers will have to make the transition to another job, in possibly even another sector. Moreover, our Flemish labour force does not have the acquired skills to make this transition at this moment (growing skills mismatch).

#### Continuous Lifelong learning

Flanders lacks a genuine lifelong learning culture. Flanders scores below average compared to other European education systems, with only 8.6% of 25-64 year olds participating in training or education. This is far off the 15% which was set as a goal to reach by 2020 at European level in the framework of ET-2020 cooperation. Within adult education, the low participation of the low-skilled, the unemployed and older people is a major problem. Flanders also notices an underutilization of the opportunities offered by the modular training structure. The current learning offer is not yet sufficiently focused on facilitating the reconciliation of learning, work and family life. We want to give Flemish people a stronger position on the labour market, and wish to encourage lifelong learning more than ever and make the participation thresholds lower by firmly embedding hybrid and blended teaching methods to complement the face to face learning in the Flemish education system.

#### *4.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

#### Activation + Skills and training

With this project we wish to activate people through improving our public employment service and work on jobmobility and restructuring. We also want to answer to the specific recovery needs of our social economy. Next to this, the project wants to contribute on making careers more sustainable, through subactions on lifelong learning. We want to provide our workforce with the appropriate tools towards sustainable careers (with an emphasis on digital and green skills). Actions in this sense will include reinforced initiatives on dual learning, developing a larger (online) education training provision, actions on career ownership (with specific attention for "transition points"- jobmobility) and on the job learning. The public employment service will further anticipate the twin transitions by digitalising and greening their training centres. In this way, citizens can make use of future-proof facilities which will help create a learning culture for up- and reskilling.

#### Continuous Lifelong learning

In order to strengthen the Flemish adult education sector and increase the Flemish lifelong learning participation we want to work towards four objectives. Firstly, we want to strengthen the digital competences of adults. Digital literacy trajectories and trainings will be developed and firmly embedded in the adult education offer. The offer will be tailored to remote workers' needs and requirements. Secondly, we will strengthen the lifelong learning offer by better aligning it with the needs of the labour market. Adults will participate in programmes tailored to the twin green and digital transition. These programmes will be agile, resilient and future-proof. People with qualifications have the opportunity to re-train for a bottleneck job. It will allow us to react more dynamically to shifts that are taking place within the labour market. Thirdly, we will set up a big promotion campaign directed at potential learners to adult education. Lastly we will support side-entrants to our education system. The experience and knowledge that side-entrants bring to our education system contributes to the diversity in teacher teams and stimulates innovation. We develop a short but condensed pedagogical training targeting side-entrants. As of 1 September 2020, the (financial) seniority of new and side-entrants for certain bottleneck subjects or posts in primary and secondary education will be validated. Previous achievements will be included in the financial seniority up to a maximum of eight years.

#### *4.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

##### Activation

In the first phase we want to focus on short term actions that tackle rising unemployment and sustain the employment opportunities for disadvantaged workers by preparing the social economy for the future.

##### Skills and Training

The second phase of the project consist of various investments in training and education and lifelong learning to prepare the labour market for the future. The Public Employment Service (VDAB) will make investments in master campuses. The project will also support online learning and workbased learning. Furthermore, the projects builds skill-detection and coaching systems and foresees tools to facilitate job transitions between sectors.

##### Continuous Lifelong learning

###### Line 1: Strengthening digital competences

- Strengthening digital competences among disadvantaged groups with insufficient digital literacy skills in general with a view to participation in a post-corona society.
- Supporting centres to develop and implement a tailor-made offer around strengthening digital competences of employees who will in the future work more from home and who today need to broaden their competences in this field. E.g. in the use of cloud environments, digital collaboration, digital meetings, making webinars, ... The focus is on a target group composed of teachers, civil servants and people working in administrative or managerial positions in larger companies.

- Supporting centres in the development and implementation of a tailor-made offer around the strengthening of digital and pedagogical competences of parents of school going children with a view to creating a stimulating learning climate in the home environment.
- Supporting centres in implementing, consolidating and strengthening blended learning methodologies, with particular attention to practical training and accessibility for the illiterate.
- Improving the accessibility of online enrolment and intake for vulnerable target groups.

#### Line 2: combating young people's lack of qualifications

- Outreach work to young people (NEET and unqualified but not NEET) in a vulnerable situation in order to obtain a degree secondary education or sustainable vocational qualification.
- Setting up individual learning pathway counselling, among other things, to easily recognise competences a short and relevant learning pathway
- Supporting centres in developing and implementing an offer to help young people who are at risk of dropping out of SE to obtain qualifications.

#### Line 3: Strengthening labour market opportunities for workers in precarious employment ( upskilling and reskilling)

- Supporting centres in the development and implementation of flexible organisation of profession-oriented training courses that permanently lead to a new professional qualification and enable a fundamental career change (e.g. intensive offer during holiday periods, hybrid learning, ...).
- Supporting centres in the development and implementation of exemption tests in order to recognise acquired competences and shorten the learning pathway.
- Making future-proof curricula by accelerating the conversion of professional qualifications into new programmes with a focus on STEM (including ZorgSTEM) and Green Deal.

Within the three phases or headlines of the Learning and career offensive\_ continuous lifelong learning a mix of different methodologies will be used:

- Calls for projects, in which all institutions are encouraged to participate, in which adult education institutions (adult education centres, primary education centres or centres or cross-network collaborations) can submit a tailor-made project.
- Initiatives that will be organised jointly for all institutions all over Flanders. One of these initiatives is a phased media campaign aimed primarily at the recruitment of specific target groups who, as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, are in need of retraining or retraining, as well as students who have (temporarily) dropped out due to circumstances during this period.
- Scientific monitoring and follow-up
- Outreach work to reach the target groups in different projects and to guide them in their learning needs will be a requirement for all projects targeting specific target groups.

The projects will be assessed by a jury, managed and followed up by a diversified project group, in which not only the government, but also the implementing institutions and experts are represented.

#### 4.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?

##### Activation + Skills and training

The learning and career offensive is linked to the reform of the Flemish labour market. In the labour market of the 2020's and beyond we want to activate all talents in the society and make sure that no one is left behind. The reform also includes a radical switch from job-thinking to career-thinking. In the future labour market we want citizens to have sustainable careers with room for job mobility and education and training moments. This project consists of massive investments in training and education for adults and will thus be an important pillar of the reform. Furthermore, the project also aims to mitigate the effects of the crisis and will consequently avoid higher unemployment and inactivity rates.

##### Continuous Lifelong learning

See: fiche "Higher Education Advancement Fund"

Both fiches are about LLL, upskilling and reskilling in adult learners, but cover different types of training (e.g. different levels' vks). For both projects we want to focus on complementary in order to serve the target group as good as possible and to offer a wider range of training opportunities.

See: fiche "Accelerating the digital transformation of the Flemish compulsory education".

Training of teachers in digital skills is essential. Adult education, with its offer, can become a priority partner of schools in compulsory education for the professional development of the whole school team.

Upskilling Europe: see below for the contribution of this measure/investment to the green and digital transitions

#### 4.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?

##### Gedeeltelijk - 40%

Adjusting people for a society in transformation does require an overarching view on which direction we aim to see it going. Activation of people without a job and the increasing of ownership over and sustainability of careers imposes a focus on skills and lifelong learning. These skills have to be adjusted to the needs of our businesses, who at their turn are transforming to fit a sustainable and resilient society. This is needed in complying with the targets and required actions as set out in the European Green Deal. That is where the impact on the green transition comes in: the skills and careers will have to be transformed to fit the green and digital transition we are facing today.



A sustainable and green society does require investments and developments in the field of employees, workers, and job seekers. The transition to a low-carbon, resource efficient and green economy can only be made by developing the right skills, knowledge and competencies. Flanders has proposed an SRSP project on this topic (green skills roadmap), which would correspond in a mutual reinforcing way with the project. A better alignment of the lifelong learning offer towards the labour market will result in programmes tailored to the twin transition. Furthermore improving the digital skills of adults will foster the use and development of digital technologies that are in turn powerful levers for the green economic transition.

#### 4.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?

A lot of the above mentioned subactions will be put into place by digital platforms, e-learning,... the link between activation through a learning and career offensive and the digital transition is necessary to bring this project to a good end. The outreach to activate people is digital, the skills platforms will be digital, as will part of the actual skills themselves. Rapid digitalisation over the past decade has transformed many aspects of our daily life. Driven by innovation and technological evolution, the digital transformation is reshaping society and the future of work. The education and training system is increasingly part of the digital transformation. Digital-proof adult education can harness the benefits and opportunities of these transformations. However, they will also need to effectively manage the risks of the digital transformation, including the risk of a digital divide where certain adults can benefit more than others. Moreover the transition to a digital society and economy requires solid digital competences for all. A Flemish adult education-sector that boosts digital skills increases growth and innovation and builds a fairer, more cohesive, sustainable and inclusive society. Being digitally skilled and acquiring digital literacy can empower people of all ages to be more resilient, improve participation in democratic life and stay safe and secure online. Equipping our adults with digital competences will be critical for economic recovery in the coming years.

## 4.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Activation - The first phase consists of short term actions to prevent long-term structural unemployment and inactivity due to the crisis.

*Looptijd: 1/03/2020 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: On a short term, we want to provide learning and career opportunities for those who are (temporary) unemployed and mitigate the effects of the crisis on employment in the Flemish (social) economy.*

Fase 1: LLL & support vulnerable pupils - preparation, project calls, selection of projects, launch of ICT offer and communication campaign

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: - Preparation of project call(s), composition of jury and selection of projects on the basis of submitted project plans*

- Launch of project groups

- Concluding cooperation agreements in view of ICT offer for teachers, civil servants, employees of large companies and implementation of these projects in accordance with the KPI (qualitative and quantitative) provided for in each project plan
- Launch of recruitment campaign aimed at specific target groups (i.e. ICT offerings) and their leaders
- Creation of a regulatory framework for the projects.

Fase 2: Skills and Training - In a second phase we want to launch massive investments in training and education/lifelong learning.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:* We want to raise the participation in (online) adult learning, especially for low-skilled adults and reduce skills mismatch. By 2025, we want to have 4 master campuses of the public employment service and a more focus on digitalisation and green transition in the education facilities of the PES.

#### 4.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	125,8	75				
*Voorlopige aantallen, dit zal verder uitgewerkt worden.						
Vereffeningskredieten	73,9	60,8	27,0	19,2	16	3,9
*Voorlopige aantallen, dit zal verder uitgewerkt worden.						
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

#### 5. Strengthening R&D

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw

**Projectgrootte:** 280 miljoen euro

## 5.1 Beschrijving van het project

### 5.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Research & innovation are central to the approach to the recovery in Flanders. In the first place because R&I is needed to keep our companies competitive and productive, so that jobs can be maintained and created in Flanders.

This project responds to the following challenges and observations formulated in the country-specific recommendations of the European Commission 2019 and the in depth productivity review of Belgium of the OECD 2019:

- (17) Research and development is concentrated in a few industries and there is insufficient diffusion of innovation to the rest of the economy, ultimately weighting on productivity growth [...] In terms of Research, Development and Innovation, there are also regional and sub-regional disparities. [...]
- CSR 3. Focus investment-related economic policy on sustainable transport, including upgrading rail infrastructure, the low carbon and energy transition and research and innovation, in particular in digitalisation, taking into account regional disparities.
- The lack of multifactor productivity growth is worrying as it may reflect low efficiency gains, for example owing to weak innovation and diffusion of technologies across firms. (IN-DEPTH PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW OF BELGIUM © OECD 2019)
- Belgium is one of the top OECD performers in terms of total government support for business expenditure on research and development. However, this support tends to be extremely concentrated and to benefit mostly large and old firms in the manufacturing sector ((IN-DEPTH PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW OF BELGIUM © OECD 2019)

Flemish businesses are at the forefront of innovation in Europe. Investments amounting to 2.16% of GDP underline the R&D intensity of companies and contribute strongly to the fact that Flanders is close to the 3% R&D standard with 2.92% since 2018. Direct support for R&I projects is increasingly succeeding in reaching small(er) companies, thus responding to the European Commission's findings in the European Semester country report for Belgium (in 2019 57 % of direct support for R&I project was granted to SME's). Nevertheless, the spread of R&D across more sectors and business types remains a challenge for our region, which requires further efforts. After the Corona crisis, innovation will determine the competitiveness of our companies and economic growth even more than before. Extra investments in R&I are needed to spread innovation more evenly throughout the economy, thus boosting overall productivity growth.

Having, or access to, (international) state-of-the-art research infrastructures is a prerequisite for excellent science and innovation that can drive productivity growth. Moreover, research infrastructures are needed to tackle major challenges facing us; with a focus on artificial intelligence, digitisation, (big) data, HPC/Cloud/Data, clean energy, healthcare, climate, bioeconomy, .... in particular but also with the aim to reinforce our excellent research base in general .

Strengthening the research base: Innovation is most of the time based on years of research, starting from fundamental over basic to applied science. We will reinforce our research base in Flanders by increasing the success rates of different calls. This way we ensure our much-needed “breeding ground” for the innovations that will drive productivity growth in the future.

#### *5.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

The objectives of this project are to give an additional stimulus to companies wishing to innovate and to ensure that adequate research infrastructure in Flanders is at the disposal of research institutions, universities and companies. To that effect we will invest in research infrastructures and technology infrastructures. In addition, we want to boost research and development related to the bioeconomy in Flanders.

Applications for innovation support have risen sharply in the course of 2020. Our entrepreneurs have taken advantage of the crisis to accelerate their innovation plans. We will continue to stimulate innovation by businesses. We will therefore allocate an additional EUR 100 million for grants to R&D projects of companies. These grants will be awarded under the conditions of the current instruments targeting R&D support to companies. We will allocate an additional 60 million euros to strengthen the research field and accelerate R&D.

60 million euro will be invested in strengthening the research base. Innovation is most of the time based on years of research, starting from fundamental over basic to applied science. We will reinforce our research base in Flanders by increasing the success rates of different calls. This way we ensure our much-needed “breeding ground” for the innovations of the future.

Excellent scientific research is not possible without an extensive research infrastructure landscape. Such infrastructures are also crucial for scientific breakthroughs that contribute to socio-economic challenges. International research infrastructures offer researchers opportunities that exceed the investment capacity of a single country or region and that were not previously available. We therefore support the participation of our knowledge institutions in international research infrastructures. We will also invest in so called technology infrastructures which are still closer to innovation as they operate at higher TRL levels. Through these investments, we also contribute to increasing public spending on R&D and achieving the 3% standard. We will allocate an additional 100 million for investments in research infrastructure, a.o. in spearhead clusters, university colleges and other knowledge institutes.

Additionally, we will invest 20 million in an impulse programme bio-economy. Through research, innovation and knowledge sharing, we will boost the sustainable transformation of bio-based raw materials for innovative circular value chains. This impulse programme combines actions for thematic R&D, support for cluster innovation projects, and support for pilot activities by innovative SMEs. This allows a broader group of companies to join the innovation clusters in Flanders.

#### *5.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The additional funds for companies' research and development projects will be granted within the existing support frameworks and regulations. For the most part, Flanders is adopting a bottom-up approach whereby companies can permanently submit their innovative projects for support. We want to strengthen this channel with the resources of the RRF and support additional business projects. The implementation will be the responsibility of the Flemish Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Concerning our foreseen investments in Research infrastructures and technology infrastructures we aim, on the one hand to give an injection in already established programmes with calls for proposals. But we will also invest in dedicated initiatives concerning bio-economy, HPC/Data/Cloud ...

#### *5.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

A working group (The Flemish Relance Committee) composed of independent experts has formulated advice towards the Flemish governments on necessary and urgent transitions for the relance of the Flemish economy. The proposed actions in this document are in line with what was proposed by the Flemish relance committee.

#### *5.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Gedeeltelijk - 40%

In Flanders, we work with a bottom-up system to support innovation projects of companies. However, a considerable part of the projects that are supported relate to greening, decarbonisation, circular economy,... In a bioeconomy, biogas and biomass are produced sustainably and used for bio-based products. As the biomass, wood, grass and straw are ideally suited for the sustainable production of chemicals. The residual flows from agriculture can be reused as raw materials in the bioeconomy. New bio-economic inventions help our entrepreneurs to develop e.g. ecological plastics from green organic building blocks. We are investing in an innovative bioeconomy to make us more independent from petroleum products and other natural resources. Because it is a crucial element for a sustainable future for our basic industry, we are contributing to the transition to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral society.

#### *5.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

In Flanders, we work with a bottom-up system to support innovation projects of companies. However, a considerable part of the projects that are supported relate to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digitisation,... We will also invest in strengthening our research infrastructure landscape through among others reinforce our FAIR / Open Data policy in general and in particular within our research infrastructures (taking into account the EOSC) and through investments in up to date HPC infrastructure.

## **5.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: Boosting additional research and development projects in companies accounting for a total investment of EUR 250 million, of which EUR 100 million in grants and EUR 150 million in private funds.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Qualitative R&D projects totalling 250m€*

Fase 2: Strenghtening the research base (60 m€)

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Increasing success rates in funding instruments for science*

Fase 3: Strenghtening the Flemish research and technology infrastructure landscape (100 m€)

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: increase sustainable socio-economic impact*

Fase 4: impulse programme bio-economy (20 m€)

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Thematic cluster innovation projects, increased pilot and demonstration activities by SMEs*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### **5.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)**

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	142	138				
Vereffeningskredieten	42	102,5	99	36,5		
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering					150	

## 6. Blue Deal

**Bevoegde minister:** Zuhail Demir (minister van Justitie en Handhaving, Omgeving, Energie en Toerisme) - Hilde Crevits (minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw) - Lydia Peeters (minister van Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken)

**Projectgrootte:** The estimated governmental budget is 343 million euro, to be invested predominantly in 2021 en 2022. A substantial contribution by the EU would make it possible to prolonge this program beyond 2022 and thus have a higher impact). Budget breakdown: 258 mio (BD Environment - minister Demir), 35 mio (BD Mobility - minister Peeters), 34 mio (BD Agriculture & Fishery - minister Crevits), 16 mio (BD Economy and innovation - minister Crevits)

### 6.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 6.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Given its low per capita water availability, Flanders is highly sensitive to drought-induced water scarcity (as experienced in 2017-2020) and needs to manage its water availability and use carefully. Current climate change predictions strengthen the need for investments to prevent water scarcity and to improve water supply. This project aims to establish a scientifically substantiated, climate robust water system in Flanders. In mid 2020, the Flemish government launched an ambitious and innovative investment programme (the 'Blue Deal') to make Flanders more water resilient.

#### 6.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

The Blue Deal aims at achieving a major transition in the water system and engages public actors, businesses, industry, agriculture and households. It encompasses over 70 actions to both reduce water demand and increase water supply, in order to achieve sustainable water use. This includes initiatives to improve local water storage, to restore infiltration capacity, to reduce water demand and improve circularity of water use by households, SME's, industry and agriculture (re-use, co-operation across companies with excess water and water demand; development of water-saving techniques and processes; introducing green/blue corridors in paved areas, developing drought-resistant crops ...), reduce water spoilage in nautic operations, as well as large-scale river and wetland restoration projects. We will do this by strengthening existing support measures for companies, by stimulating investments in water-saving techniques and in circular water use technologies, as well as by large-scale public investment programme in blue-green infrastructure.

#### *6.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The 'Blue Deal' is an overarching policy and investment program launched by the Flemish Government to combat drought and water scarcity

- in a structural, proactive way;
- with strong investment pulse in water infiltration, wetland and river restoration, circular water use, increased water use efficiency, blue-green infrastructure, technology development, research & innovation;
- with all water users (industry, agriculture, households, public authorities) as part of the solution;
- engaging local authorities to step up their commitments and investments accordingly.

The Blue Deal consists of more than 70 distinct actions and projects, organized in six thematic clusters. Rather than listing all projects in the frame of this fiche, we choose to present here the clusters.

The majority of the Blue Deal investments encompass substantial engineering and construction works. As such, the blue Deal will contribute significantly to a post-COVID-19 economic relance through increased job and contract opportunities for planners, engineering firms, construction workers, building sector, etc.

#### *6.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

#### *6.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%



By increasing and restoring the natural infiltration in Flanders; by focusing on the most appropriate and sustainable use of water resources (dependend on the qualitative needs); by the increased efforts for re-use; by the increased efforts to reduce water spillage (e.g. reducing the ILI of the drinking water companies tot 0.5 or below), ... all the projects included in the Blue Deal will contribute to a greener and more climate-resilient Europe. In addition, the Blue Deal puts great emphasis on nature-base solutions and investments in blue-green infrastructure.

#### *6.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

There will be a strong focus on the collection of more (via sensors) relevant data, the interpretation of these data (AI, open data) and finally the use of these data with innovative techniques (e.g. machine learning) to make adequate predictions for surface water and groundwater availability. This will allow to take appropriate measures in time to avoid damage to water dependent nature, economical and agricultural damage and so forth. Moreover, the project includes initiatives to develop a range of water dashboards, for companies and the general public. These waterdashboards aim to distribute data to all those who can contribute to useful analysis and solutions for current water problems (universities, consultancy firms,...), but will also help the general public to beome aware of current problems, possible solutions, evolutions in (ground)water and drinking water quantity and quality that may affect their daily life.

## **6.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Cluster 1: Public administrations lead by example and ensure appropriate regulation

1.1 Flanders invests in waterways and in channel networks: creating space for collection, buffering, delayed drainage and infiltration of rainwater (blue-green infrastructure, nature-based solutions). Optimized use of holding basins, buffer basins and flooding areas

1.2 Flanders supports investments of local authorities: (1) investments in soil sealing removal ('operation perforation'); (2) investments in climate-resilient and drought-resistant cities; (3) Support far-reaching local rainwater and drought actions; (4) Use of river contracts to solve complex local water problems

1.3 Fight against leakage losses in the drinking water system

1.4 Rainwater and drought plans

1.5 Water saving programme

1.6 Efficient use of resources through a simplified governance of the water production sector and of watercourse management bodies

1.7 Better enforcement of water regulation, using innovative techniques

1.8 Facilitating regulations

1.9 Embedding water management as a guiding principle in spatial planning policy

1.10 Cross-border cooperation

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Cluster 2: Circular water use as the new standard

2.1 Waterscans and audits

2.2 Circular water use as a rule, especially within priority sectors

2.3 Ecology support for water saving and circular water use in SME's and industrial production

2.4 Investing in water conservation in the agricultural sector

2.5 Maximum commitment to large-scale collection and reuse of rainwater

2.6 Maximum reuse of water from well dewatering

2.7 "Blue Deals" Water for priority sectors

2.8 Reducing water consumption for shipping

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Cluster 3: Agriculture and nature as part of the solution to increase the resilience of the water system

3.1 Expand and continue the spatial investment program 'Water-Landscape'

3.2 Investments in large-scale wetland restoration

3.3 Support measures to strengthen rainwater infiltration throughout the countryside

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Cluster 4: Raise awareness and encourage private individuals to remove soil sealing

4.1 Introduction of soil unsealing premium for private individuals, schools and associations ('operation Steenbreek')

4.2 Regional ordinance paving front gardens

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

## Cluster 5: Increasing water supply security

### 5.1 Strategic plan for water supply

### 5.2 Source protection: review of drinking water protection zones

Cluster 6: R&D investments for innovative solutions to make the Flemish water system smarter, more robust and more sustainable

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

## 6.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	170	173				
Vereffeningskredieten						
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering				100-200 mio	+500 mio	

## 10. Spending reviews

**Bevoegde minister:** Matthias Diependaele, minister van Financiën en Begroting, Wonen en Onroerend Erfgoed

**Projectgrootte:** 10 miljoen euro

### 10.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 10.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Given the context of limited fiscal space and the need to relaunch our economy sustainably, reforms are needed next to investments. Spending reviews and policy evaluations increase the efficiency of spending. Both the OECD and the European Commission emphasize the use of spending reviews as a means of prioritizing expenditure. It is the explicit intention of the government of Flanders to use this crisis as an opportunity to implement reforms and simplify processes. They will help the Flemish government to improve expenditure prioritisation as well as increase the efficiency of public spending. As a result, spending reviews can contribute to the creation of fiscal space for new spending priorities, such as public investment, while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

#### *10.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

Based on a thorough evaluation of the pilot project, conducted in 2018-2019, the Flemish government will further roll out the use of spending reviews. The goal will be to make the reviews a regular exercise and part of a permanent budgetary tool to ensure and promote the efficiency of public spending and create fiscal space. The project consists of a thorough review of all expenditure in preparation of the budget of 2022 with an aim to define whether the expenditure is justified and spent efficiently. Furthermore a number of spending reviews will be prepared every year as they will become a permanent budgetary tool. This will be accompanied by the developing of an expenditure standard that ensures an anti-cyclical budget policy.

#### *10.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The project consists out of two major components, in the first phase, in preparation of the budget of 2022 the Flemish Government will organise a "Thorough Tiewiew" of all policy domains. The goal is to obtain an answer to a number of research questions that are common to the policy areas by the summer of 2021. The thorough review will analyze, among others, the following questions for each policy domain:

Analysis of the current policy

What are the goals of the policy? Which SMART objectives and KPIs can be used to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy? Is the policy still relevant?

What is the substantiation of the expenditure? How can these be related to the components volume / use (Q) and prices / rates (P)?

Is there no research material to make statements about the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy (expenditure)? Can efficiency gains be achieved through digitization or less overhead

What lessons can we draw from the 'best practices' abroad, can we use benchmarking?

Can the division of powers between governments and / or with regard to the private sector be improved?

Examining at least a savings variant of 5% and 15% in the policy domain respectively.

For which topic is an in-depth spending review recommended?

The policy domains can use the framework agreement that is placed on the market for this purpose. A department or agency acts as ordering party and places the orders in line with the work plan of the project group.

On the basis of the thorough review policy recommendations will be formulated and depending on support of the government and parliament implemented in support of formulating the budget of 2022. This process will also be used as an input to formulate a deficit reduction trajectory and expenditure norm as of 2022.

The second component consists of conducting spending reviews as of 2022. Based on the thorough review in 2021 a list of policy fields or expenditures will be identified that will be subject to in-depth spending reviews. These reviews will take place as of 2022 with the goal of becoming of becoming a permanent feature in the Flemish budgetary process.

#### *10.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Ja

The spending review should be seen as both an investment project and a reform project given that the thorough review will be used as an input for the formulation of the budget 2022. This is also closely linked to the formulation of an expenditure norm and a trajectory for deficit reduction when the Covid-19 crisis will be over. The spending reviews in the years after 2022 will also be used as input for implementing reforms in the Flemish policy domains.

#### *10.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Neen

#### *10.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

Neen

### **10.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: Formulating and validating the work method and launching the contract for the frame work agreement to support the thorough review and spending reviews.

*Looptijd: 1/12/2020 - 1/01/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Agreement of the Flemish government on the working method and launch of the public contract. Composition of the project groups per policy domain.*

Fase 2: Execution of the thorough review for each policy domain: analysis and formulating recommendations.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2020*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: A report with analysis and recommendations for each policy domain.*

Fase 3: Implementing the recommendations of the thorough review during the formulation of the budget of 2022

*Looptijd: 1/08/2020 - 1/10/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Formulating a target and trajectory of deficit reduction (in X € mio or %) and formulating an expenditure norm as of the budget of 2022.*

Fase 4: Implementing spending reviews based on the topics that are identified in the thorough review.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/12/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Conducting X spending reviews and formulating recommendations as feedback for the budgetary process.*

Ja

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 10.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	9	1				
Vereffeningskredieten	6	3	1			
Bron van financiering	EU - niet Federale Deelstaat Lokale Private herstel & overheid overheden overheden sector veerkracht					

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

x

## 11. An industrial value chain for hydrogen transition (participation in IPCEI Hydrogen and related projects)

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw

**Projectgrootte:** 125 million euro (in part through repayable advances of which 30% are taken into account as ESA-based charge)

## 11.1 Beschrijving van het project

### 11.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Hydrogen is an important component in the transition to a climate-neutral economy. Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier that can be used in many areas: making industrial products and processes or the transport sector more sustainable, making natural gas more sustainable in the transition phase and storing energy from renewable sources. For the development of a strong Flemish hydrogen ecosystem and the support of our industry towards climate neutrality, the development of a hydrogen value chain is a crucial challenge. The EU hydrogen strategy is based on the production of 40 GW of electrolysis capacity for green hydrogen by 2030, which requires a coordinated European approach and the development of a European value chain Hydrogen Technologies and Systems.

### 11.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

With this project, the Flemish government aims to support the transition to a sustainable hydrogen industry in Flanders through investments and project financing. With this portfolio, the Flemish government aims to stimulate the development of a value chain in Flanders that is embedded in a long-term objective of greening industry and contributes to the transition to a climate-neutral industry in line with the EU Green Deal. By embedding itself in the Important Projects Common European Interest-IPCEI (Important Projects Common European Interest-IPCEI), the Flemish Government aims to link up with broader European value chains in order to support European competitiveness and the intended transition to climate neutrality.

### 11.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:

The project will be realised through investments and funding of projects from companies for activities that contribute to hydrogen transformation. An important group in this portfolio are the projects affiliated to the European Initiative on Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). Other projects that focus on hydrogen will also be considered. This may include R&D&I projects and investments that do not seek the possibility of the broadened state aid in IPCEI, or complementary activities that contribute to transition such as projects related to import of hydrogen.

To participate in IPCEI, a portfolio based on expressions of interest from industry was submitted in an open call on 5 June 2020. Based on the submissions received, the Flemish Government agreed with participation on 17 July 2020 and with a framework for such participation.

Subsequently, the proposals were further elaborated in accordance with the framework and submitted on 1 October 2020. On this basis, the Flemish Government will select suitable proposals and submit these to a coordinator (Germany) for integration into an overall document, to be notified at the EU. Following approval by Europe, the granting of support will be decided and allocated on the budget. At that time, companies will start up implementation of individual projects in the portfolio.

The focus is on projects with a breakthrough character and clear ambition, with priority given to projects that contribute to an innovative component. Projects must have a clear impact on the Flemish ecosystem, with SMEs benefiting from the implementation, even if they are not project partners.

The IPCEI portfolio aims at a broad value chain with (1) production of green hydrogen from renewable energy, (2) conversion of hydrogen to liquid fuels with captured carbon and capture, purification and storage of carbon (3) application of hydrogen in industrial processes for green transition, (4) application of hydrogen in mobility (heavy transport), (5) manufacturing of equipment for hydrogen production and storage and (6) infrastructure for hydrogen transport and (7) import of hydrogen.

Within the IPCEI portfolio, there will be 3 types of projects. (1) Project-based support for research, development and innovation (R&D&I). (2) First industrial application (first industrial deployment-FID): these must always enable the development of a new product and/or the development of a fundamentally new production process. FID largely comprises investments but is linked to the roll-out of the R&D&I results.

#### *11.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

#### *11.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

The production of green and low carbon hydrogen can be used to make many sectors more sustainable.

(1) Application in industrial processes and mobility: (a) a direct impact on green transition when using green hydrogen by reducing the use of fossil fuels and (b) a facilitating role on green transition when using conventional hydrogen by adapting industrial processes as an intermediate step towards the use of green hydrogen.

(2) The use of fuels based on green hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> from CO<sub>2</sub> capture installations and the elaboration of carbon capture, purification and storage both contribute to reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through circular use.

(3) Infrastructure projects and support activities have an impact by facilitating the hydrogen transition.

#### *11.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*



## 11.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Clustering of European project and notification.

Drawing up an all-in document based on the sub-projects that Flanders has submitted to the German coordinator after internal screening and selection. Prenotification process with EU. Notification process with EU and approval by the EU for the granting of extended state aid by Member States.

*Looptijd: 1/02/2021 - 1/01/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: EU notification: Authorisation for Member States to grant extended state aid*

Fase 2: Funding and commitment by Flanders

R&D&I projects: Oct 2021 - Dec 2022

Projects first industrial deployment: nov - dec 2022

Infrastructure projects environment: Oct 2021 - Dec 2022

*Looptijd: 1/09/2021 - 1/01/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Granting of support by Flanders*

Fase 3: Implementation of R&D&I projects by companies

R&D&I projects.

*Looptijd: 1/07/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Delivery of R&D&I results. Creation of intended knowledge and/or development, documented in final report*

Fase 4: Implementation projects FID

*Looptijd: 1/01/2023 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Completion of planned investments, introduction of industrial process/product on the market.*

Fase 5: Implementation infrastructure projects

*Looptijd: 1/09/2021 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Implementation of infrastructure and environmental benefits*

### 11.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten		125 m€				
Vereffeningskredieten		59 m€	48	53	47	80
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale & overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering	125				3750	

## 12. Greening road infrastructure

**Bevoegde minister:** Lydia Peeters, Vlaams minister van Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken

**Projectgrootte:** 120 miljoen euro

### 12.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 12.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

- Significant investment needs in sustainable transport, in particular to tackle congestion as well as deploy infrastructure for electric and zero-emission mobility and logistics and the use of shore power and zero-emission solutions in marine and inland terminals.
- Promotion of private investment, with a focus on the green transition, in particular on infrastructure for sustainable transport (and the use of clean energy), to foster the economic recovery

#### 12.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

- Investment in sustainable road infrastructure through innovative solutions such as LED-lighting: 'limited' works can tackle congestion through increased visibility as well as make the infrastructure more sustainable (LED lighting is more efficient energy-wise and requires less maintenance)
- Analysis of potential for charging infrastructure in urban areas (choice of location/numbers/power capacity)
- Analysis of potential of and support for the use of zero-emission solutions in marine shipping and inland navigation and the use of shore power.

- Supporting the deployment of alternative fuels' infrastructure: normal and (ultra)fast (semi-)public charging, zero-emission logistics, taxis and shared mobility, highway concession zones, truck parkings and park & rides and (private) truck depots ... through financial incentives, calls for proposals (grants) and policy decisions

- Through this boost for the charging infrastructure sector and the resulting incentive for electric driving, we give our European companies a head start on the global market by investing now and specializing in electric and alternative fuels. They will already be fully adapted and on top of their game, when finally the rest of the world will start to change to more ecological responsible transport options.

#### *12.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The project will support the deployment of charging infrastructure for different categories of electric vehicles. In total, the project has the ambition to deploy 30.000 extra charge points equivalents by 2025. It will focus on the roll-out of public and semi-public chargers (normal power and (ultra)high power) through tendering and financial support in the form of project-calls. Furthermore, the project foresees in the conversion of the existing lighting to LED lighting, improving sustainability.

#### *12.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Nee

#### *12.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

- LED lighting is a cost effective and sustainable solution, that requires less maintenance than the current fixtures, that at the same time can have a large impact on road safety

- The deployment of charging infrastructure is necessary for the transition towards zero-emission transport for all modes; financial incentives are necessary to lower barriers and promote private investment in sustainable transport. This should go hand in hand with a focus on the production of clean energy, grid capacity, energy efficiency and the development of smart applications.

#### *12.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

### **12.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: Preparation for the roll-out: concertation, spread and location, timing, power capacity

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/07/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Roll-out plan*

Fase 2: Tendering the roll-out of public charging infrastructure in close collaboration with the local authorities, as well as LED-lighting

*Looptijd: 1/10/2020 - 1/01/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Regulary launch of tender lots for the roll-out*

Fase 3: Project-calls for the realisation of (ultra)fast charging infrastructure along the main roads and highways and for the realisation of semi-public charging infrastructure, mainly on private property

*Looptijd: 1/08/2021 - 1/12/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: appropriate numbers of (ultra)fastchargers*

Fase 4: Roll-out of public and semi-public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/12/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: 30,000 extra charge point equivalents*

Fase 5: Execution of LED-lighting

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/01/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: appropriate numbers of LED-lighting fixtures*

### 12.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	105	15				
Vereffeningskredieten	1	29	28	20	20	22
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale & overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

150

## 13. Digitization: local and for all

**Bevoegde minister:** Bart Somers, minister van Binnenlands Bestuur, Bestuurszaken, Inburgering en Gelijke Kansen **Projectgrootte:** 50 miljoen euro

### 13.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 13.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

The Flemish government wants Flanders to become a top-5 region in the Regional Innovation Scoreboard. Digital innovation will be key to achieve this aim. At the same time, cities are confronted with a multitude of challenges ranging from economy to environment and from mobility to social cohesion. And as always: governments need to lead by example. That's why we will encourage our cities and towns to digitalize their processes to increase efficiency and customer services at the same time. These goals will also be used to increase social cohesion and the processes of the Flemish integration programs.

#### 13.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

- Accelerated digitization of the processes and services of local authorities. The goal is that companies and citizens can complete their administrative obligations faster, without having to queue up physically. In addition, this should make the administrative burden simpler and the handling faster and more efficient. A “municipality without a town hall” is the provocative idea, along with more teleworking civil servants.
- Digitization of Flanders’ extensive Integration programmes for newcomers. This is aimed at enabling newcomers to acquire skills and knowledge more independently, to facilitate integration in the labour market and to become self-sufficient.

#### 13.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:

Municipality without a town hall will launch several project calls starting in 2021, inviting all Flemish municipalities to submit transformational IT project proposals (35 mio).

A specific target group are newcomers, who are participants in civic integration. We are seizing the opportunities that digitization offers to develop specific measures for them. This includes measures aimed at rendering the integration process more efficiently and effectively, e.g. via e-learning (10 million). In order to optimize the monitoring and evaluation of the trajectories of the newcomers in the civic integration process, we are adapting the specific database (Crossroads Bank for Civic Integration) to user needs and digital evolutions (5 million).

#### 13.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?

Nee

#### 13.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?

Gedeeltelijk - 40%

Although the action in itself is not directly aimed at the green transition, indirectly there can be benefits given that smart mobility and smart environment projects can contribute to achieving the EU climate targets. The digitization of society allows to render it more sustainable and reduce mobility.

#### 13.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?

The policy cluster is entitled “digitization: local and for all”. Its main focus is the digital transition (see aims of projects)

### 13.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Launch of governance track, vooronderzoek en definiëring van deelprojecten, opmaken van businesscases

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Assignments of the subprojects are defined*

Fase 2: Launch of calls, selection of projects

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2024*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Qualitative projects*

Fase 3: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 13.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	20	30				
Vereffeningskredieten	6	12	10	9	9	4
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht Federale overheid Deelstaat overheden Lokale overheden Private sector					
Verwachte cofinanciering				7		

## 14. Digitalisation of the Flemish Government

**Bevoegde minister:** Jan Jambon, Minister-president en minister van Buitenlandse Zaken, Cultuur, ICT en Facilitair Management

**Projectgrootte:** 116 miljoen euro

### 14.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 14.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

The digital transformation of the Flemish government needs to address the double disruption societies face these days: the increasingly digital economy and society, and the second disruption that COVID-19 triggered, to accelerate the digital disruption even more. The government has to provide digital "low touch" services to citizens and business (both inside Flanders and increasingly in Europe) that are as good or better (e.g. privacy) as the services provided by the big commercial digital platforms. The government must be able to easily work together with private initiatives, research institutions and citizens to co-create digital-enabled solutions to some of today's most pressing policy problems (e-health, environment, mobility). The government needs to stimulate the creation of a Flemish data-economy, as part of the future European data-economy.

#### *14.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

The digital transformation of the Flemish government aims to make government more efficient and effective. More efficient by improving our internal operations, by rethinking our administrative processes and making them more flexible, and by providing our civil servants with the necessary means (cloud-based tools, hybrid workplaces) to better perform their work. More effective by becoming data-driven in our policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, by using new technologies such as AI to become an agile and intelligent organisation. Digitalisation will allow government to provide better services to citizens and businesses while remaining within strict budgetary constraints.

#### *14.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The project is largely composed of direct investments; some deliverables will generate associated private investments. The project is split up in different focused projects, each with a dedicated projectteam. The overall project will be governed by a steering group composed of the main stakeholders of Flemish regional government, local government, private sector and society. Project deliverables are formulated via a user centric and use case-driven approach. Participative advisory boards will be installed to hear the voice of the user. Project deliverables comprise, amongst others, generic central technical components and use case based reference implementations supporting local administrations. The Flemish government reserves sufficient resources for recurrent costs associated with exploiting the resulting IT-systems.

#### *14.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Ja

The Flemish government has also launched an additional investment programme for the creation of "state-of-the-art digital government services". This Flanders Radically Digital II programma has a budget of €5 million for 2021, €10 million for 2022 and €15 million for 2023. These budgets will be used to finance a number of digitalisation projects that complement the projects financed by the European Recovery and Resilience Facility.

#### *14.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Gedeeltelijk - 40%

The project will result in several smart cities applications contributing to the sustainable use and protection of water resources, prevent pollution through sustainable mobility. One other project will contribute to the digitalisation of the circular economy, other projects will support the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems by digitally transforming related public services.

#### *14.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*



The further digitalisation of the government at the regional and local level provides crucial support to the accelerated digital transition of the economy and society. By providing more effective and secure digital public services, the government incentivises businesses, in particular small & medium-sized enterprises, to also provide their services by digital means ("leading by example") and increase the digitalisation of their internal operations. By focusing on developing truly citizen-centric digital public service delivery, the government stimulates more and more citizens to acquire and use the necessary digital skills to actively interact with government, and also to fully participate in the digital economy.

## 14.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: implementing thematic data spaces facilitating public-public, public-private and private-private data sharing

*Looptijd: 1/02/2020 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: realised investment program*

Fase 2: 'citizen in control' : citizens and enterprises take back control over their own data and decide who can use their data

*Looptijd: 1/02/2020 - 1/01/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: fully operational IT-systems*

Fase 3: 'use cases' resulting in improved data sharing and allowing efficient and effective applications for the green transformation

*Looptijd: 1/02/2020 - 1/01/2024*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: fully operational IT-systems*

Fase 4: 'use cases' related to the digital transformation of public government allowing faster and effective decision making, user-centric cross-border public services and low touch services through process automation

*Looptijd: 1/02/2020 - 1/01/2024*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: fully operational IT-systems*

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 14.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	28	38	25	15	10	
Vereffeningskredieten	28	38	25	15	10	
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale & overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering			30 (VRD2)	m€		

## 17. Improving spatial planning

**Bevoegde minister:** Zuhail Demir, minister van Justitie en Handhaving, Omgeving, Energie en Toerisme, Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw, Lydia Peeters, minister van Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken en Bart Somers, minister van Binnenlands Bestuur, Bestuurszaken, Inburgering en Gelijke Kansen

**Projectgrootte:** 95 miljoen euro

### 17.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 17.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

In order to help repair the economic and social damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic and at the same time realize a major transition to a green and healthy environment and a climate-robust ecological water system in Flanders, we strengthen the capital of companies (=> private investments). The Flemish Government has already taken a number of important decisions in this regard, which now need to be further developed in the field.

At the same time, we are accelerating and increasing investments in green and blue infrastructure (=> public investment) and increasing the investment portfolio for commitment credits reserved for the current term in order to accelerate the realization of important investment projects.

#### 17.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

By improving spatial planning we invest in more qualitative locations to do business and to accelerate the renewal of outdated industrial estates. We utilize the potential of heat networks and solar energy and improve the green structure and water management. We are making more space for green and blue corridors, both in urban environments and business parks and ecological defragmentation projects around existing transport infrastructures, which contribute to road safety and sustainable traffic, pavement reduction, high-quality greening and ecological connections.

We support local authorities in sustainable urban development and in their policy to strengthen commercial centers. We are launching calls for projects to acquire and transform commercial properties, with accompanying policies on sustainable mobility and parking, and data-driven policies based on store data. The common thread in strengthening commercial centers in our local communities is innovation. Together with local authorities and local entrepreneurs, we will implement innovative concepts that also seize opportunities in online marketing and sales.

A more inclusive society in resilient cities and municipalities is the central objective of the call for urban renewal projects. A specific one-off call for urban renewal projects, "Towards a resilient and inclusive society", will be launched in 2021 to address the societal challenges and needs of the COVID 19 pandemic and to support projects that contribute to densification, accessible, inclusive, circular and economically resilient cities.

#### *17.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

We encourage private investment by redeveloping / renovating outdated and polluted business parks and by providing subsidies to combat vacant and dilapidated business premises.

We focus on the ecological defragmentation of priority bottlenecks in regional transport infrastructure (roads and waterways). The defragmenting measures can be very visible, for example in the form of ecoducts, but also less conspicuous, such as ecotunnels with an accompanying grid.

We will invest in the sustainable renewal of commercial centres. Concrete projects and measures will be determined in interaction with cities and municipalities. The budget will be invested through calls aimed at local authorities in combination with initiatives to disseminate good practices. These calls can then be accompanied by awareness-raising actions as well as guidance for the cities to prepare the right initiatives. With regard to the additional resources for sustainable qualitative locations to do business. These resources will be used to strengthen existing instruments in addition to the resources within the regular budget.

As to the urban renewal projects: a call will be launched in 2021. It is up to the local governments to apply for support for urban renewal projects in cities to reinforce the social and economic tissue of urban life.

#### *17.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

#### *17.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

all the projects included will contribute to a greener and more climate-resilient Europe. In addition, improving spatial planning puts great emphasis on nature-based solutions and investments in blue-green infrastructure. The renovation and re-use of obsolete and polluted industrial sites means a more efficient use of resources and a clean, circular economy (land re-use), which can also improve local air quality in the cities.

Selected projects will have to meet requirements in sustainability. For example, the business park must be designed, issued and managed in a sustainable manner and it must be climate-neutral.

Ten years of monitoring shows that around 5 million wild animals die on Flemish roads every year. By ecologically defragmenting, these animals regain more living space, access to food and shelter, and find a suitable partner more easily. The chance of wildlife victims due to collisions with road and train traffic or by drowning is also decreasing.

#### *17.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

As to the call for urban renewal projects: the call will also invite urban renewal projects with a digital dimension, for example focusing on the creation of open test beds or improvement of digital access and skills.

### **17.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

ecological defragmentation: selection of projects

*Looptijd: 1/02/2020 - 1/09/2020*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Selection of qualitative projects*

ecological defragmentation: realisation of projects

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: realisation of qualitative projects*

commercial centres -Fase 1: Preparation and implementation of calls to strengthen commercial centres

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Selection of qualitative projects*

sustainable locations: Fase 1: sustainable qualitative locations to do business

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Selection of qualitative projects*

urban renewal projects: Fase 1: launch call for projects

*Looptijd: 1/02/2021 - 1/06/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 17.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingkredieten	75	5	5	5	5	
Vereffeningskredieten	28	19	18	5	5	
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering			x	x	x	

## 18. Greening the bus fleet (De Lijn)

**Bevoegde minister:** Lydia Peeters, Vlaams minister van Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken

**Projectgrootte:** 93 miljoen euro

### 18.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 18.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Modal shift towards collective and low emission transport + collective and zero emission transport

Foster the economic recovery by mature public investment projects

Tackling pollution and enhancing air quality in urban areas/ city centres

Tackling greenhouse gas emissions from transportation

### *18.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

Gradual transition towards a green and sustainable bus fleet of VVM De Lijn: the focus here is the replacement of the heavy polluting Euro III buses.

Support the economic recovery by investing in sustainable and public mobility.

De Lijn wants to achieve the European goals about clean vehicles: from august 2021 until december 2025, 45% of the bus fleet needs to be clean.

### *18.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

For the zero emission busses De Lijn has put a tender in the market that goes to closure in Q3-2021.

For the hybrid buses the implementation of the order exists of the expansion of the hybrid bus fleet of De Lijn. Both type of buses will be used throughout Flanders and will replace the older Euro III buss (100 % petrol driven buses). The project consists of ordering 60 e-buses and charging infrastructure and the resting amount will be used to order the hybrid buses (12-meter hybrid buses and 18-meter hybrid buses).

### *18.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

### *18.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Volledig - 100%

Investing in a green and sustainable (low and zero emission) bus fleet contribute to achieving less greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Furthermore, investing in collective transport contributes to the modal shift towards more sustainable transport modes. These investments therefore contribute to the objectives of climate change mitigation and pollution prevention and control.

### *18.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

## **18.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: Place the order and start production

For the electric buses the tender will be closed in Q3-2021 with and will immediate followed with an order. Production can start as soon as the current supplier can incorporate these buses in his current production line.

The hybrid buses can be ordered as per the existing agreement/contract, which is still in place and does allow De Lijn to place additional orders. Production can start as soon as the current supplier can incorporate these buses in his current production line.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 2: Delivery and in service process

As soon as one bus leaves the production line, the delivery process will start. Once the bus is delivered to 'De Lijn', the in service process will start (adapt the bus for specific exploitation in its designated region).

Both processes are a continued process and take on average between 2 and 4 months.

*Looptijd: 1/09/2021 - 1/12/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: All buses in service by the end of Q4 2022*

Fase 3: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### **18.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)**

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	93					
Vereffeningskredieten	46,5	46,5				
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering			3			

## 21. Higher Education Advancement Fund

**Bevoegde minister:** Ben Weyts, Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Flemish Minister for Education, Sport, Brussels Periphery, and Animal Welfare

**Projectgrootte:** EUR 60 million

### 21.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 21.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

2020 has been an unprecedented year of challenge and disruption on education and training. The COVID crisis demonstrated the importance of stepping up the readiness of digital solutions for teaching and learning in Europe and also pointed to where the weaknesses lie in terms of quality and inclusiveness. For Flanders, the transition to blended learning posed additional challenges in terms of digital infrastructure and teaching. The new plan for higher education and training will therefor focus on the expansion and integration of blended learning. The Flemish recovery plan aims to realise the ambition of a qualitative leap and to give Flemish education a head start. However, currently, not all courses of study are adjusted to the demands of the labour market and the changing, and it is difficult for adult learners to find the right pathway to re- or upskill. The new Fund will therefor focus on the optimisation and renewal of the offer in order to guarantee a better connection with the labour market, with special attention to STEM. Strong education is the engine of our knowledge economy and benefits the whole of Flanders. Flanders will therefore invest heavily in the quality of education, including higher education. The recovery plan for education therefor focuses on more quality in education and lifelong learning. Through the new higher education plan, higher education institutions will be encouraged to strengthen their educational offer and make it more future-oriented.

#### 21.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

The Fund focuses on three elements. Firstly, blended learning: this new form of learning and teaching will be made more concrete and strongly embedded in the Flemish education system. The Fund will support and strengthen the development, implementation and quality of blended and phygital higher education in Flanders.



Secondly, the plan will ensure that Flanders upholds the high quality of its higher education system by making it future proof and more flexible. Future-oriented is understood as learning is up to date with current and future demands of the labour market, with special attention to entrepreneurship and 21st century skills. Notwithstanding that the Flemish Higher education system has a level of flexibility the Fund will facilitate more structural reforms, targeting more student centred choices and learning pathways. In the higher education portfolio, special attention will be given to STEM, and the start up of new, future proof and innovative STEM programmes will be supported by the Fund.

Lastly, the current offer of higher education will be adapted in order to better capture the needs of all learners, giving special attention to re- and upskillers.

The Fund will stimulate institutions in removing important barriers and making it easier for learners to participate in retraining, upskilling and side-entry into higher education. Shorter programmes in the context of upskilling or retraining will also be targeted for this purpose. By focusing on developing the higher education offer and updating a number of courses, content will be better aligned with the demands of the labour market.

The Fund is in line with the EEA 2025, as it will help widen learning opportunities and strengthen the role of higher education and vocational education and training institutions in lifelong learning by providing more flexible and modular learning opportunities. They are useful not only for professionals, but can also complement the curriculum for students at Associate Degree, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels. A growing number of adults, with or without a higher education degree, will need to reskill and upskill through more flexible alternatives than a full degree in order to overcome the gap between the learning outcomes of their initial formal qualifications and emerging skills needs.

Part 1: Blended Learning

Part 2: Making the Higher Education portfolio future proof and more flexible

Part 3: Reskill and Upskill

#### *21.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

Part 1: Blended Learning

- to support higher education institutions in implementing, consolidating and strengthening blended learning, striving towards a good mix of physical and online education, known as phygital education.
- to support higher education institutions in implementing and consolidating time and place independent evaluations, e.g. developing an examination centre, implementing proctoring correctly, developing alternative evaluation strategies, ...

- enhanced attention to digital didactics, offering professionalisation for higher education teachers
- To start a network on blended learning, to share good practices.

Part 2: Making the Higher Education portfolio future proof and more flexible. The COVID 19 crisis shook up the (educational) landscape and society. This resulted in new challenges for higher education programmes, but also known challenges who became more urgent.

The Higher Education Advancement Fund will help higher education institutions to answer to these challenges, by innovating their programme offers, by

- o The optimisation of their programme portfolio
- o Making curricula more future proof
- o Including 21st century skills
- o More attention should be given to entrepreneurial skills and sustainability
- o Supporting development and start of new programmes, e.g. in the area of STEM
- o Focussing more on cocreation with the professional field, so that the social and /or labor market orientation of the programmes remains guaranteed.
- o Intensifying cooperation with research institutions and /or other (higher) education institutions, in order to strengthen the knowledge bases of the programmes.
- o Restructuring the course offer, which could be operationalised by
- o Broad bachelor programmes
- o Introduction of interprofessional clusters or course of studies
- o Introduction of interdisciplinarity in higher education programmes
- o Making student centred packages
- o Introduction of more flexible and modularised learning pathways

Part 3: Reskill and Upskill.

This part of the Fund will stimulate higher education institutions to rethink their educational organisation, targeting an efficient and effective higher education offer, both for regular students and life long learners.

- Developing and education offer that targets highly educated students, who want/need to reskill, reorient or upskill, by
  - o An associate degree, bachelor or master programme
  - o A specific programme like postgraduate programmes
  - o A microcredential, who will be further developed and sustained
- More cooperation with the labour market
  - o Dual learning
  - o Introducing visible workplace components with flexible paths
- Offering contract education (on digitalisation, sustainability, .. ) to the labour market, the expertise of the higher education sector is brought towards companies, small businesses, ..
- Innovative learning paths, targeting specific vulnerable groups, that are insufficiently reached today, e.g.
  - o Job seekers, non-native speakers
  - o Tailor made programmes for immigrants whose degrees are not (fully) recognised, in order to make it possible for them to enter the labour market

The Higher Education Advancement Fund will operate using different methodologies:

- Project calls, who will give institutions the opportunity to submit a tailor-made project. All institutions will be encouraged to participate
- Flanders-wide initiatives that will be organized by and for all institutions together, focussing on learning together and sharing experiences
- Scientific based monitoring and follow-up

The projects will be assessed by a jury, and managed and monitored by a diverse steering group, in which, in addition to the government, the higher education institutions will also be represented.

All projects will be guided by an advisory committee in which, in addition to experts, stakeholders will also be represented.

Dissemination of results and good practices is an important action aspect of all projects of the fund. All materials developed are open source and will be available to all higher education institutions.

#### 21.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?

Ja

This project is linked to the "learning and career offensive: strengthening adult learning." Both plans target LLL, upskilling and reskilling for adult learners, but they focus on different educational institutions and levels. Coordination will be necessary, but no overlaps are expected. Both projects will focus on complementarity in order to serve the group of adult learners as optimally as possible and to offer a broad range of training.

This project also has important linkages with "learning and career offensive: Extra support for vulnerable learners." That plan has some projects, that also target higher education institutions. Notwithstanding the scope is different and no overlaps are expected.

#### 21.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?

Gedeeltelijk - 40%

This project adds to the objectives of the green transition as the use of digital technologies is also crucial for the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives and for reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

This action will effectively support sustainability transitions through integrating environmental perspectives across higher education. The green transition requires investments in higher education to increase the number of professionals who work towards a future proof, climate-neutral, and resource-efficient economy.

There is a need to enable a profound change in peoples' behaviour and skills, starting in the education system and higher education institutions as catalysts. Actions will be geared towards changing behaviour, boosting skills for the green economy and fostering new sustainable education. Specifically, the innovation of higher education is a way to future-proof the offer of courses of study. The new and updated offer will enhance the alignment with the labour market. Students and adults will participate in higher education programmes tailored to the twin green and digital transition. These programmes will be agile, resilient and focusing on the jobs of the future. With the upgrade and renewal of the offer, the Flemish HEIs will be able to prepare their students for professions with a significant impact on sustainability and ecology.

#### 21.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?

The COVID crisis demonstrated the importance of stepping up the readiness of digital solutions for teaching and learning in Europe. Member States have invested heavily in digital education, in particular in digital infrastructure. HEIs will continue to invest in digital education, for example by focussing on blended learning. Furthermore, the Fund is consistent with the DEAP in that it contributes to the creation of a high-performing digital education ecosystem. Lastly, the Fund is aligned with the EU's digital strategy, as it will support the investment in digital skills for all Europeans, for example by adjusting and updating the offer of courses of study as well as by ensuring barriers for lifelong learning will be mitigated.

## 21.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Preparation, project calls, selection of projects

Writing and publishing calls

Installation of the jury

Selecting project, based on submitted project plans

Installation of steering groups and advisory committees.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 2: execution of the projects

Implementation of the projects, following the KPI in the project plan ( quantitative and qualitative)

*Looptijd: 1/09/2021 - 1/06/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 3: Consultation and dissemination

Sharing (interim) results with the government, stakeholders and other higher education institutions

Continuously stimulate cooperation between higher education institutions, stakeholders and government

Guidance/advice to the projects provided by a steering group and advisory committee

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/08/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4: Project evaluation, and dissemination of the results

Establishing baseline

Evaluation of the results, policy recommendations

Making the results in the institutional policy more sustainable

Final report

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### 21.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	40	20				
Vereffeningskredieten	30	20	10			
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

## 25. Circular Economy

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw en Zuhal Demir, minister van Justitie en Handhaving, Omgeving, Energie en Toerisme

## **25.1 Beschrijving van het project**

### *25.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:*

Circular economy projects reduce the use of primary resources (such as fossil resources, water and space) to meet our needs (such as food, housing, transport, comfort, communication, health). They do this by offering or organizing services in such a way that they require less use of resources (dematerialization), by making products last longer, by keeping materials and water better in the cycle (such as through reuse and recycling) or by replacing the use of primary resources with the use of materials, water and food that cause less environmental impact over the entire cycle and in multiple cycles.

1) In the linear economy of Flanders a lot of value is still disappearing under the guise of waste. By letting the resources circulate in local value chains, we reduce waste, the use of primary raw materials and thus our carbon footprint. From an economic point of view it decreases our dependency on the unpredictable foreign supply of raw materials by competing trade blocks with their own agendas, and we increase our resilience to external price shocks. We noted that during the current crisis, prices for new raw materials have dropped dramatically, demand for secondary raw materials has decreased, and the manufacturing industry has seen its productivity drop significantly. Through reshoring, Flanders can boost its own critical production capacity and make its economy more resilient. One of the ways to achieve this is by creating a recycling hub in Flanders.

2) Circular construction pays attention to the two important aspects: urban mining on the one hand and forward-looking building on the other. It is important to focus specifically on construction, since

- 30 to 40% of the waste comes from this sector;

- renovation and new construction require a lot of material and energy, so circular building practices have a great potential for savings;

- accelerating the renovation rate of the Flemish building stock is one of the biggest challenges within the Flemish climate and energy policy;

- there is great potential for efficiency gains in the construction sector through adapted building practices and digitization.

The challenge is to increase the renovation rate of our buildings with a factor 3 so as to make them more energy-efficient and at the same time reduce the environmental impact of construction materials and their treatment as waste materials.

As a result, the construction sector is facing major challenges, and the transition to an innovative circular sector can contribute to overcoming these on various points.

3) In general, circular concepts have to be promoted in manufacturing industry at large. In the context of Vlaanderen Circulair, we are developing work agendas on circular manufacturing (electronic waste, textiles, batteries, ...). The challenge is to stimulate every company to function in a circular ecosystem, including SMEs.

#### *25.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:*

With the recycling hub project we aim to realize at least 6 major investments in new recycling facilities that enable local recycling and closed loops. We want to focus on missing links in a number of value chains in order to make local circular production possible, for example by investing in the recycling of diapers, textiles, mattresses, etc. Investments are also needed in the plastics and chemical sectors. Low oil prices are now strongly pressuring the production and use of recyclates. The processing of removed asbestos cement also offers opportunities. A number of techniques are being developed that destroy harmful asbestos fibres and convert them into new usable additives for the construction sector.

The challenge is not only to further improve recycling, but also to stimulate activities on the higher circular strategies such as circular design, reuse and remanufacturing in order to use products longer and better. At the same time, the use of new technology must be stimulated beyond the experiment and the niche phase. This can be done by supporting demonstration and pilot projects and by stimulating innovation in new business models and new forms of chain collaboration. This action will focus on circular construction and circular manufacturing.

We want to take steps forward in realising the following objectives:

- A reduction in the amount of residual waste (up to 100 kg/capita of household residual waste by 2030 and an equivalent reduction for industrial residual waste) in this way contributing to a reduction of CO2-emissions by 25 % by 2030.
- A reduction of the material footprint of Flemish consumption by 30% by 2030
- more construction and demolition waste is recycled in high end applications
- the removal and destruction of asbestos and recycling into new building materials
- a surge in the steady amount of secondary raw materials as resource for new products
- coupling of a more labour-intensive circular industry as repair, remanufacturing with social economy businesses
- ecodesign of innovative construction materials that can be reused after first use

#### *25.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*



Flanders has in Flanders Circular a central platform whose mission it is to facilitate the transition to a circular economy in collaboration with industrial partners, knowledge institutions, governments, banks and civil society. This public-private partnership will focus on and invest in a combination of thematic work agendas (circular construction, chemistry/plastics, bioeconomy, other product chains in the manufacturing industry, the food chain and the water cycle) and a number of strategic levers (financing, innovation, circular procurement, research, awareness,...). OVAM and EWI take part in several work agendas and strategic levers. VLAIO will put its instruments at the disposal of Flanders Circular for the support of the work agendas and will coordinate the concrete efforts with these work agendas, the development of which starts in 2021.

To stimulate the scaling and mainstreaming of the circular economy in those work agendas we will focus on different types of projects: stimulate research on an industrial scale, flagship projects with industrial companies allowing to have a systemic impact and support the development and implementation of circular business models.

As digitization and the use of big data will be important levers to support the scaling up to a circular economy, special attention will be given to these aspects. New online platforms will enable new forms of collaboration via the sharing of data and thus the creation of new value streams like e.g. remanufacturing. Digital tools like internet of things will e.g. allow the follow up and optimization of material flows.

#### Examples:

1) For the recycling hub: In a first phase, OVAM will develop an assessment framework to support recycling activities in a selection of priority sectors. Initially we use as a scope for the support: asbestos, diapers, mattresses, textiles and plastics (e.g. packaging). With textiles and plastics, we focus on 2 streams that were severely affected during the past COVID crisis. Asbestos, diapers and mattresses are streams with great potential to no longer be transported to final processing. The support will run for 2 years until the end of 2022. It must be possible to demonstrate a substantial environmental gain (per euro subsidy) e.g. environmental gain in the form of reduction of residual waste, detoxification of the cycle (such as asbestos destruction) or reused quantities of recyclates.

2) For circular construction: supporting pilot and demonstration projects for substantial developments in the field of circular construction, in coordination with the work agenda for construction within Flanders Circular, with attention to both urban mining and future-oriented design and construction.

3) For the circular manufacturing industry: setting up specific project calls in line with innovation and entrepreneurship in the VLAIO instruments, in particular for studies, within the collective instruments (such as TETRA, COOCK) and for pilot and demonstration projects in accordance with the roadmap to be developed in the work agenda (in 2021).

#### 25.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?

Ja

In the context of Flanders Circular (under the responsibility of ministers Zuhal Demir and Hilde Crevits), a roadmap is developed in a quadruple helix model. The resources from the Recovery Plan (€55 million) will give an extra stimulus to the implementation of the roadmap. Possible project examples are the further expansion of the extensive recycling capacity with Flanders as 'circularity hub' within Europe. Other projects focus on carbon capture and reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishment, eco-design, new business models and the use of digital technology to increase the circularity of processes and products, recovery of critical raw materials (e.g. from electronics) to increase our industrial autonomy,...

We stress that such additional reforms and investments are necessary for the other various aspects of the transition to a circular economy. In addition to the maximum further development of high-quality recycling, Flanders must also focus on extending the lifespan of products, or in technical terms the inner circles of the circular economy (rethink, reuse, repair, remanufacturing, refurbishment) where more added value can be created. To increase the impact of the recovery plan, we will focus on actions such as

- Scaling up circular projects and optimizing logistics to make them relevant to the industry;
- circular procurement policies;
- Encouraging key circular projects that strengthen the regional industrial ecosystem.
- testing ground with important spillovers for awareness raising, training.

#### 25.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?

Volledig - 100%

Greater circularity and more efficient use of materials present new and necessary opportunities for the further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation greenhouse gas emissions are not falling quickly enough to achieve climate targets and switching to renewable energy can only cut them by 55%. The remaining 45% of emissions come from how we make and use products, and how we produce food. ([https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Completing\\_The\\_Picture\\_How\\_The\\_Circular\\_Economy-Tackles\\_Climate\\_Change\\_V3\\_26\\_September.pdf](https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/Completing_The_Picture_How_The_Circular_Economy-Tackles_Climate_Change_V3_26_September.pdf))

Flanders must also focus on extending the lifespan of products, or in technical terms the inner circles of the circular economy (rethink, reuse, repair, remanufacturing, refurbishment) where more added value can be created. To increase the impact of the recovery plan, we can focus on actions such as

- Scaling up circular projects and optimizing logistics to make them relevant to the industry;
- circular procurement policies;
- Encouraging key circular projects that strengthen the regional industrial ecosystem.
- testing ground with important spillovers for awareness raising, training.

For example circular economy actions in the construction sector can lead to reductions of up to 61 % in the materials-related greenhouse gases emitted across buildings' life cycles, according to an EEA-briefing, (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/cutting-greenhouse-gas-emissions-through/cutting-greenhouse-gas-emissions-through>)

#### 25.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?

The right use of digital technologies can be a strong driver to complete the circular economy transition, e.g. enabling information sharing through data spaces , enabling new business models, empowering citizens and consumers... Digitization and the use of big data will be important levers to support the scaling up to a circular economy : new online platforms will enable new forms of collaboration via the sharing of data and thus the creation of new value streams like e.g. remanufacturing. Digital tools like internet of things will e.g. allow the follow up and optimization of material flows. Traceability of quantity and quality of waste streams and their treatment will be required. Data systems will be set up to guarantee this traceability for the recycling initiatives that are supported.

### 25.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Circular Manufacturing (15m€)

(1) developing the roadmap/work agenda in a quadruple helix process

(2) roll out of supporting actions within this roadmap, in the setting of Flanders Circular

Looptijd: (1) 1/01/2021

(2) 1/07/2021 - (1) 1/06/2021

(2) 1/01/2025

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:* (1) roadmap

(2) transition from linear to circular economy by implementing innovation support instruments in line with the roadmap in the working agenda for the manufacturing industry

Fase 2: Circular Construction (10m€)

*Looptijd:* 1/01/2021 - 1/01/2025

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:* Production of circular construction materials for energy-efficient renovation wave, urban mining, future proof design of buildings,

Fase 3: Recycling hub (30m€)

(1 ) Draw up assessment framework for the support

*Looptijd: 1/11/2020 - 1/04/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Assessment framework for the support available (scope, criteria)*

(2) Announcement of the support framework and start of the submission of support applications

*Looptijd: 1/04/2021 - 1/07/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: The support framework has been widely communicated. Target group is informed*

(3) Granting of funding in accordance with the agreed support framework

*Looptijd: 1/07/2021 - 1/01/2023*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: At least 6 major investment projects that contribute substantially to the goal of recycling more and using less primary raw materials, have been supported.*

## 25.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	30	25				
Vereffeningskredieten	13	18	17,5	6,5		
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	

Verwachte  
cofinanciering

## 26. Investments in renewable heat networks

**Bevoegde minister:** Zuhal Demir, minister van Justitie en Handhaving, Omgeving, Energie en Toerisme

**Projectgrootte:** 50 miljoen euro

## 26.1 Beschrijving van het project

### 26.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

Compared to some other regions, development of renewable heat networks in Flanders is in its early stages, and still offers large possibilities. Although heat networks are a cost-efficient way to increase renewable heat and waste heat use, the initial investment is large and often difficult to finance. Previously, a budget was allocated to start an expertise centre within the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities, which will analyse heat distribution possibilities and develop heat plans with the local authorities. The additional budget will allow more projects to be rolled out.

### 26.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

Increased investments in renewable heat networks and recuperation of waste heat will contribute to achieving the goals concerning renewable energy, energy efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as formulated in the Renewable Energy directive, the Energy Efficiency directive and the Paris Climate Agreement. The potential growth is estimated in the Flemish Energy and Climate Plan to reach on average 250 GWh of heat supply per year, of which half renewable heat and half recuperation of waste heat.

As accompanying measure, Flanders will no longer allow the use of oil in new buildings and a selective phase-out of oil in existing buildings is investigated. In new, large land development projects individual gas connections will no longer be allowed.

### 26.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:

The additional budget will be allocated in twice-yearly calls for renewable and waste heat projects. The most cost-efficient and CO<sub>2</sub>-efficient projects get the priority in the ranking of project proposals. The projects lead directly to more renewable energy production, or to the use of waste heat, which avoids the use of fossil fuels for heat production. Renewable projects can be based on biomass use, biogas or solar energy, heat pumps etc.

### 26.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?

Nee

### 26.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?

Volledig - 100%

The additional budget will be allocated in twice-yearly calls for renewable and waste heat projects. The most cost-efficient and CO<sub>2</sub>-efficient projects get the priority in the ranking of project proposals. The projects lead directly to more renewable energy production, or to the use of waste heat, which avoids the use of fossil fuels for heat production. Renewable projects can be based on biomass use, biogas or solar energy, heat pumps etc.

### 26.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?

## 26.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

continuous calls for proposals during applicable years

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 2: ...

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 3: ...

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4: ...

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd:* -

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

## 26.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	25	25				
Vereffeningskredieten		20	20	10		
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering					75	

## 27. Digibanks

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw

**Projectgrootte:** 50

### 27.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 27.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

According to the study 'Barometer Digital Inclusion' (King Baudoin Foundation - 2020), individuals in vulnerable positions experience a higher risk on digital exclusion. For example, only 38% of the Belgian population has advanced digital skills. More than 50% of individuals on low income or low-skilled will never access e-governments tools. These groups experience risk on three main gaps. These individuals lack an equal access to technology (such as hardware and connectivity). In addition, these groups have lack the digital skills to use these technologies. As a result, they are cut-off of e-government tools and will experience thresholds to social services. The Flemish Government will launch a programme to establish so-called 'Digibanks' in order to tackle these challenges.

#### 27.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

By stimulating local 'Digibanks', Flanders aims to achieve three main objectives to strengthen digital inclusion. First, digibanks will guarantee equal access to digital technologies through the distribution of laptops and hardware. Second, digibanks provide training to strengthen digital skills, both personal as technical (e.g. refurbishment). Third, digibanks need to be easy and fyscial accessible, and will provide individual coaching to essential social services (e.g. tax-on-web). As a result, digibanks will act as a leverage to lifelong learning and an enhanced emplyability of person in a disadvantaged position.

As many initiatives already contribute to one of these objectives on a local level, the Digibanks programme aims to stimulate partnerships and value creation between these initiatives. Moreover, the programma will pursue a flow line within these hubs to assist individuals gradually to strengthen their employability following the objectives (hardware, training, coaching).

Importantly, Digibanks will connect local government, employment agencies, civil society organisations, social enterprises and for-profit organisations through joint ventures. Additionally, though Digibanks will be axed on local needs specific to vulnerable groups, the programme will apply one general branding over Flanders.

#### *27.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

The Digibanks Programme will be executed in a two-stage strategy. As a first step, a number of pilot projects will be selected to develop local partnerships and to implement their agreement of cooperation. These pilots project will identify and clarify the key aspects in order setting up local Digibank partnerships (e.g. structure of costs, partners, business models, ..). As a second step, we will launch a broad call for local and sustainable partnerships.

#### *27.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

The Digibanks Programma is linked to the reform of the Flemish labour market and the key ambition to raise the labour market activation rate. By guaranteeing access to digital technologies and strengthening digital skills, the Programme will enhance the employability due to a higher job mobility, use of e-governement services, and investments in sustainable and life-long learning.

#### *27.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

The Digibanks programme will intensify the distribution of hardware to vulnarable groups on a local level. Hereby, the programme will stimulate the circular economy through the reuse of hardware (e.g. outdated or unused laptops of local business) as well as the refurbishment of hardware. Moreover, it will explicitly enhance business models based on circular economy in order to ensure a sustainable progress of the partnerships. For example, we will also incorporate social economy organisations where refurshment training and circular activities could be deployed to add value.

#### *27.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

The Digibanks programme will not only strengthen digital skills focussed on usability of hardware, and accessility to key services. The local Digibanks will also provide training on technical skills (e.g. refurbishment of hardware). Combined the training and coaching will act as a leverage to a digital transition for vulnarable groups, and strenghten both their personal position (e.g. access to social services) as well as their employability.

### **27.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**



Fase 1: In the first phase, a call for pilot projects will be launched. 5 to 10 projects will be selected to form local partnerships and experiment with different business models. Local actors will need to search for partners to tackle the main 3 goals, to define their responsibilities and assignments and to identify the necessary indicators to measure and monitor impact. The main output is the formation of partnerships, specified in a binding agreement and strategy of cooperation.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/07/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: By the half of 2021, 5-10 pilot projects will be selected, and ready to set up partnerships formed and experiment with their business models.*

Fase 2: In the second phase, after validation local partnership will implement their strategy. Additionally, based on the evidence gathered from the pilot projects, the broad call will be drafted and launched. Moreover, as many local organisations lack the expertise, Digibanks will be supported in the formulation of their partnership agreements, indicators and goals by a service provider selected in this stage. Finally, during this stage communication strategies will be deployed.

*Looptijd: 1/07/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Pilot projects are validated and will be in their execution phase. Broad call for Digibanks deployed, based on the evidence from the pilot projects. Additionally, the technical service strategy as well as communication strategy are finalised (e.g. by appointing service providers)*

Fase 3: the third phase consists of the execution of the project from the broad call for Digibanks.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/12/2024*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Broad large scale deployment of the Digibanks Programme in Flanders (100 local partnerships). By the end of 2024, we aim for higher digital participation rates, strengthened digital skills and access within Flanders.*

Fase 4: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

## 27.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
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Vastleggingskredieten

10 25 10 5

Vereffeningskredieten

Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector
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Verwachte  
cofinanciering

## 28. Digital skills

**Bevoegde minister:** Hilde Crevits, minister van Economie, Innovatie, Werk, Sociale economie en Landbouw

**Projectgrootte:** 50 miljoen euro

### 28.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 28.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

The Flemish labour market as a whole is not fit for the accelerated digital transition we are facing. There is a lot of improvement to be made on various levels, which were made more clear through the pandemic. The services that we as a government provide to our citizens in terms of them finding a job/making career choices are not in all cases accessible enough while more people will be needing the services to reorient, upskill and re-skill as a result of the economic crisis.

#### 28.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

We want to transform Flanders to fit the digital transition. The actions, that will be included in this project will aim for a personalized, digital individual learning account, a personalised career platform and digital learning platform accessible to all citizens. It aims to promote lifelong learning and to give people ownership of their careers. It will create learning opportunities for all citizens. Next to this, the project will digitalize the public employment service, more specific its services towards employers and partners management. This includes an optimisation on unlocking and filling out of vacancies, the organisation of digital jobfairs, a digital counter for employers, implementation of a CRM system for partner management etc. The project will also explore ways to include new technologies (e.g. AI) to improve our services.

#### 28.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:

The implementation of the project consists of various digitalisation projects of services of the public employment service and the Flemish government. In a first phase, we want to give citizens a transparent overview of learning and career possibilities. Next to that, we want to support training providers in providing e-learning opportunities. In a second phase, we want to upgrade and improve these platforms and build digital platforms with employers and other partners.

#### *28.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

This project is linked to "reforming the Flemish labour market". In the labour market of the 2020's and beyond we want to activate all talents in the society. Furthermore, Flanders wants to move from job-thinking to career-thinking. In the labour market of the future there will be more jobmobility and lifelong learning will play a central role. The digital services proposed in this project will give citizens a set of tools to build their careers in a personalized way and to take ownership of their career.

#### *28.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

The digital aspect of the learning platforms, employer counters etc., has a direct influence on the green transition since it avoids (long) commutes.

#### *28.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

The digital transition is at the core of this project. Its general aim is to take all employers, workers, jobseekers on board towards a Flanders that is fit for the fundamental digital transformation of our society. The project works on the digitalization of the public employment service and a digital learning account. The project will also improve the services of the public employment service through the use of AI.

### **28.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project**

Fase 1: The first phase will mainly consist of an analysis and research into how we can provide better digital services to citizens, employers and other partners. Nevertheless, we also want to take some important operational steps in 2021. As a result of the corona crisis, more people will find themselves in a precarious work situation: in temporary unemployment, in advance notice, dismissed, ... It is important that those people have the right instruments to make career transitions.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2021 - 1/12/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:* By the end of 2021 every citizen will have a personalised webpage with career suggestions and information about vacancies. Furthermore, employees will have a clear overview of the instruments they can use to participate in training and education.

Fase 2: The second phase consists of the launch and implementation of the digital platforms for citizens, employers and partners.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2022 - 1/12/2022*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:* By the end of 2022 the personalised learning and career account for citizens will be improved and integrated with other platforms. In 2022 we want to launch a digital training platform and digital platforms for employers and partners of the public employment service. In 2022 we also want to hold a digital job fair.

Fase 3: The third phase consists of integration of platforms and the refinement and improvement of the digital services.

*Looptijd: 1/01/2023 - 1/08/2026*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 4: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

Fase 5: ...

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

### **28.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)**

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
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Vastleggingskredieten 23,3 22,6 4,1 1,25

Vereffeningskredieten

Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel & veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector
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Verwachte  
cofinanciering

## 29. digital transformation of media and (socio)cultural sector

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**Projectgrootte:** 50 Mio euro

### 29.1 Beschrijving van het project

#### 29.1.1 Omgevingsanalyse en uitdagingen:

This project will help implement a roadmap which addresses following challenges and aims to remediate the following situation:

- There is a continuous pressure on the Flemish media-ecosystem that lacks the advantage of scale in a globalized world and is subject to its consequences for a continuous seizure on income through advertising
- There is a growing concern on the issue of desinformation in all his aspects
- There is a very diverse sector landscape for culture: with very diverse approaches to digitization and digital maturity.
- There is a very diverse tooling in the cultural sector, with very, websites, portals / counters and processes that are sometimes unclear and cannot lead to qualitative information. There is a clear need for an integration into a general concept for digitization within the cultural sector.
- There is currently a great need for data exchange, but a lack of exchange standards to do this.
- There is a need for reducing administrative burdens through better digitalization of services/procedures for the sociocultural sector and associations as a whole (in all possible sectors)

#### 29.1.2 Doelstelling van het project:

This project aims to increase the added value of media, culture, sociocultural, youth work, etc, by stimulating an open data architecture that allows economies of scale, use of modular building blocks and that allows innovation by profit, non profit and social profit. The project wants to provide the conditions to allow digital innovation

The project will support a broad digital transformation and innovation process in which the following goals are set:

- Develop a broad digital transformation program that helps the Flemish media ecosystem to survive and pioneer in innovative methods and infrastructure (use of reliable data and algoritmes, digital production, storage and distribution)
- Develop new initiatives to increase media and digital literacy and a fact-check platform to fight disinformation
- Unburdening operational service processes for professionals and primary actors, such as the government on all levels, intermediary actors, associations and others, by setting up cooperative service models
- Reaching a wider audience through accessible digital cultural content.

#### *29.1.3 Uitvoering van het project:*

This project consists of various strands. For the different strands business cases will be defined. In each of them the administration will define its role. Besides this the administration will make sure quality of the overall landscape – meaning the level where the different projects interconnect- is maintained.

Different strands:

- increasing the accessibility of digital collections: focus: digitizing and providing metadata in order to have a critical mass of accessible digital collection data available.
- providing a scaled up tool for documenting heritage collections: this tool will help cultural heritage institutions in creating standardized collection data and making it available to use in internal and external businessprocesses and via API.
- ensuring connecting and linking datasets: in order to make sure the overall digital ecosystem is aligned in terms of data-architecture and processes.
- creating a digital service platform for associations
- sustainable digital transformation: focus on creating interchangeable data related to cultural activities and participation in order to allow tools voor data-analysis, benchmarking, access, ...
- optimizing and increasing data flows within the local media ecosystem.

- fostering the implementation and shared use of innovative technologies within the media sector to better reach target audiences and enhance the discoverability of local content.
- tackling disinformation by using innovative technologies and the power of AI.
- implementing a cross-media measuring system for viewing and listening figures.
- exploring the capabilities of 5G and developing innovative applications enabled by 5G within the media sector.

By applying this methodology we will have a clear view of how to deal with possible impediments, financial and legal aspects in order to maximize the change of success for this project.

#### *29.1.4 Link met andere investeringen van hervormingsprojecten?*

Nee

#### *29.1.5 Draagt het project bij aan de groene transitie?*

Niet

#### *29.1.6 Draagt het project bij aan de digitale transitie?*

The project ticks the following boxes:

- improving connectivity in line with the EU 2025 objectives;
- ensuring effective digital public services;
- ICT research & development, and integration of digital technology by businesses;
- deploying digital capacities;
- increasing the digital skills of EU citizens (including for vulnerable social groups) and the availability of digital technology experts

It does comply to these aims by its ambition to create a digital ecosystem that is connected and organizes itself towards shared goals. By doing so it aims to create a common open data architecture that allows innovation from a UX-centric approach, allows evidence-informed policy and focusses on an augmented medialiteracy within the cultural sector and society as a whole.

The project consists of the following subprojects:

- increasing the accessibility of digital collections
- providing a scaled up tool for documenting heritage collections
- ensuring connecting and linking datasets
- creating a digital service platform for associations
- enabling a datadriven approach on digital activities and participation;
- fostering innovation and enabling a digital transformation of the media sector

## 29.2 Fases en mijlpalen/te bereiken doelstellingen van het project

Fase 1: Research

*Looptijd: 1/12/2020 - 1/03/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Determine scope and budget allocation (for each project)*

Fase 2: Implementation (legal and regulatory framework, subsidy/investment scheme, ... )

*Looptijd: 1/03/2021 - 1/04/2021*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Legal and regulatory framework*

Fase 3: Entry into force of the support measures

*Looptijd: 1/04/2021 - 1/01/2025*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling: Measures fully operational*

Nee

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*

*Looptijd: -*

*Mijlpaal/Doelstelling:*



### 29.3 Budgettair kader (€ mio)

Jaar	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Vastleggingskredieten	50					
Vereffeningskredieten	15	15	10	10		
Bron van financiering	EU - niet herstel veerkracht	Federale overheid	Deelstaat overheden	Lokale overheden	Private sector	
Verwachte cofinanciering					10	