

VVSG

Vereniging van
Vlaamse Steden
en Gemeenten



VVSGs work on the SDGs

Visit from the Latvian Association of
Local and Regional Governments

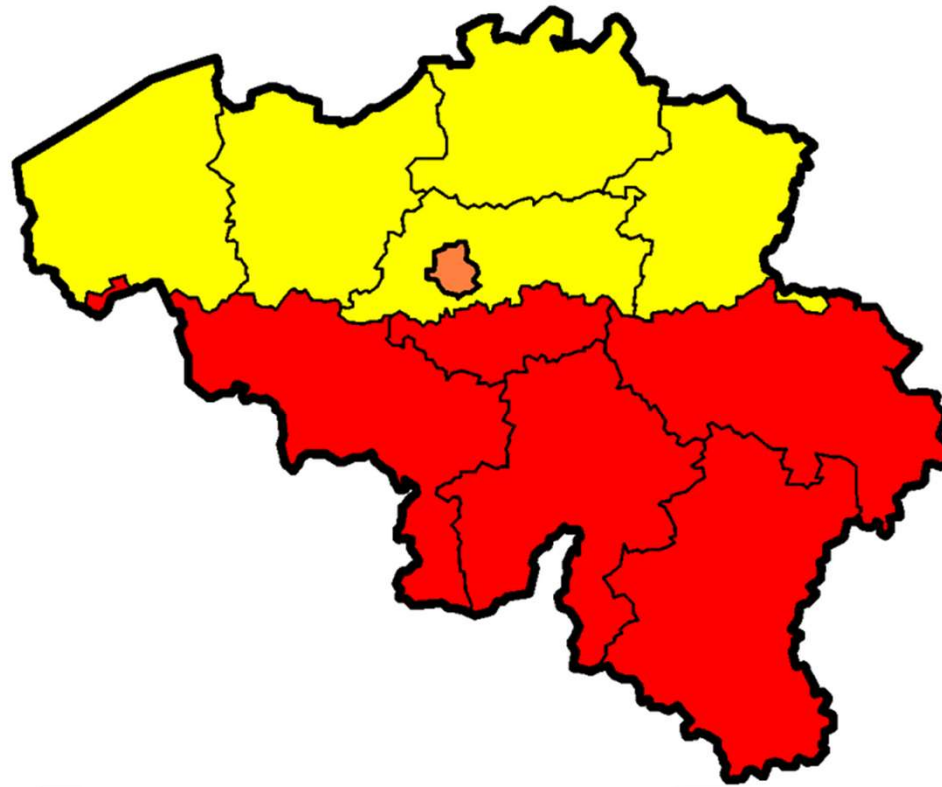
30/11/2023



Flemish Cities and Municipalities

Belgium

Regional governments: Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels Capital

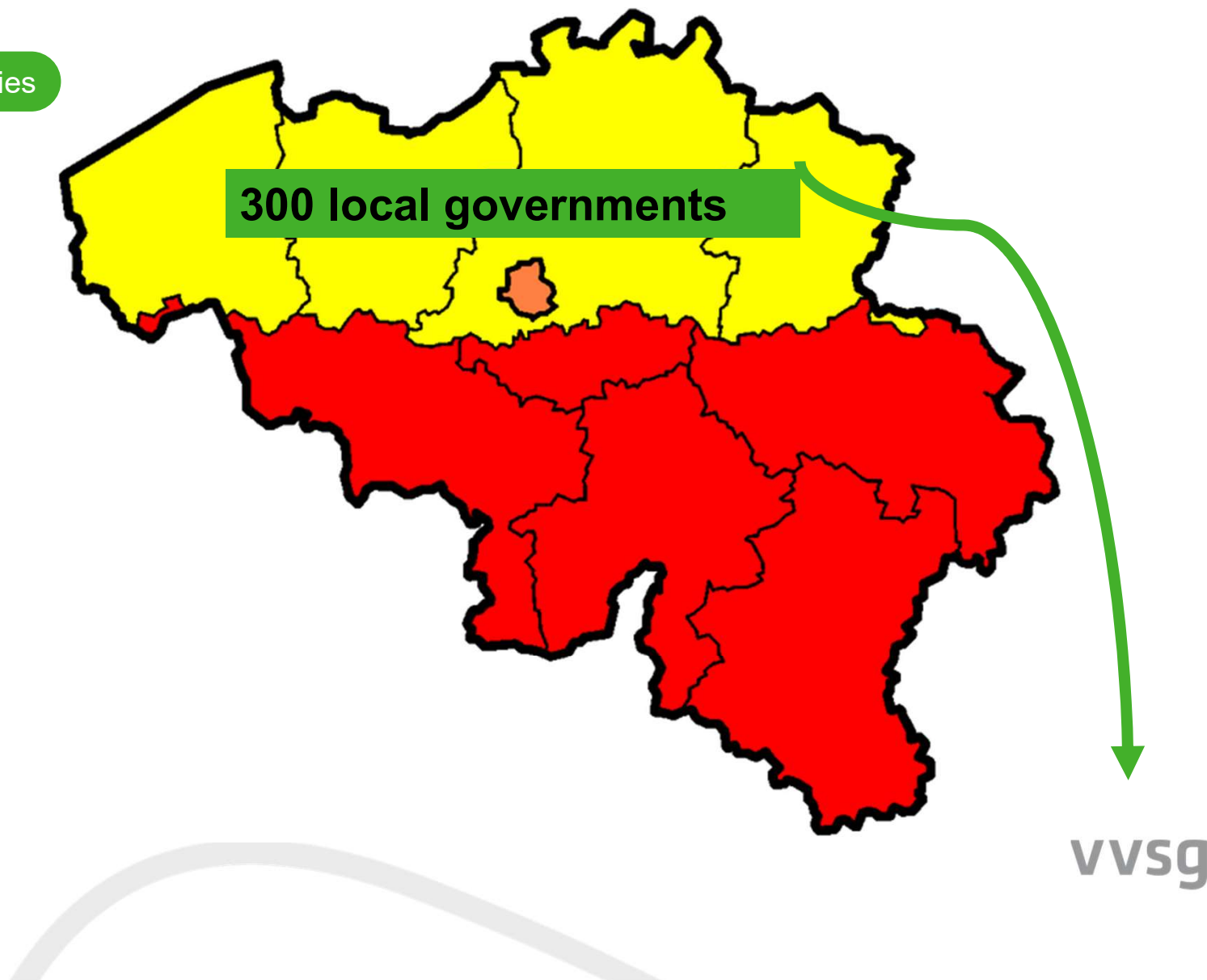


Flemish Cities and Municipalities

Belgium

300 local governments

vvsq



key roles



Advocate

The VVSG represents and defends local governments in numerous policy dossiers



Knowledge provider

The VVSG supports and strengthens local governments with advice, training publications, communication.



Network developer

The VVSG brings together local governments and their partners together and ensures the cross-fertilisation of knowledge and good practices.

VVSG MEMBERS

Municipalities

Public Social Welfare Centres

Police districts

Autonomous municipal companies

Welfare associations

Emergency service areas:

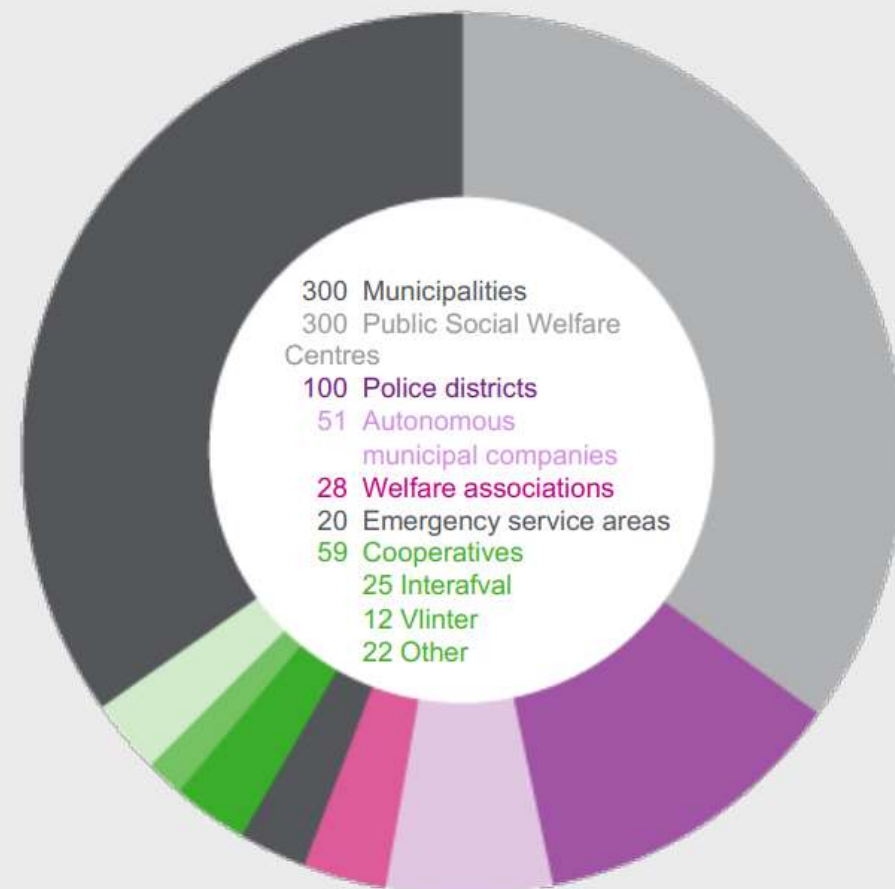
Netwerk Brandweer

Intermunicipal cooperatives:

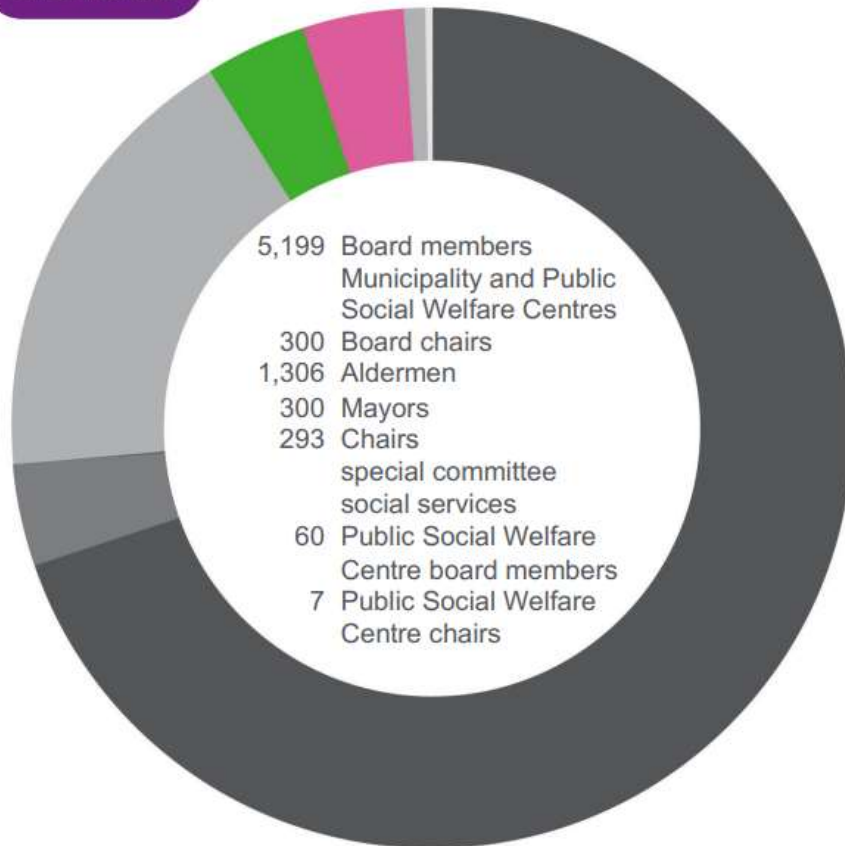
Interafval

Streekontwikkeling Vlinter

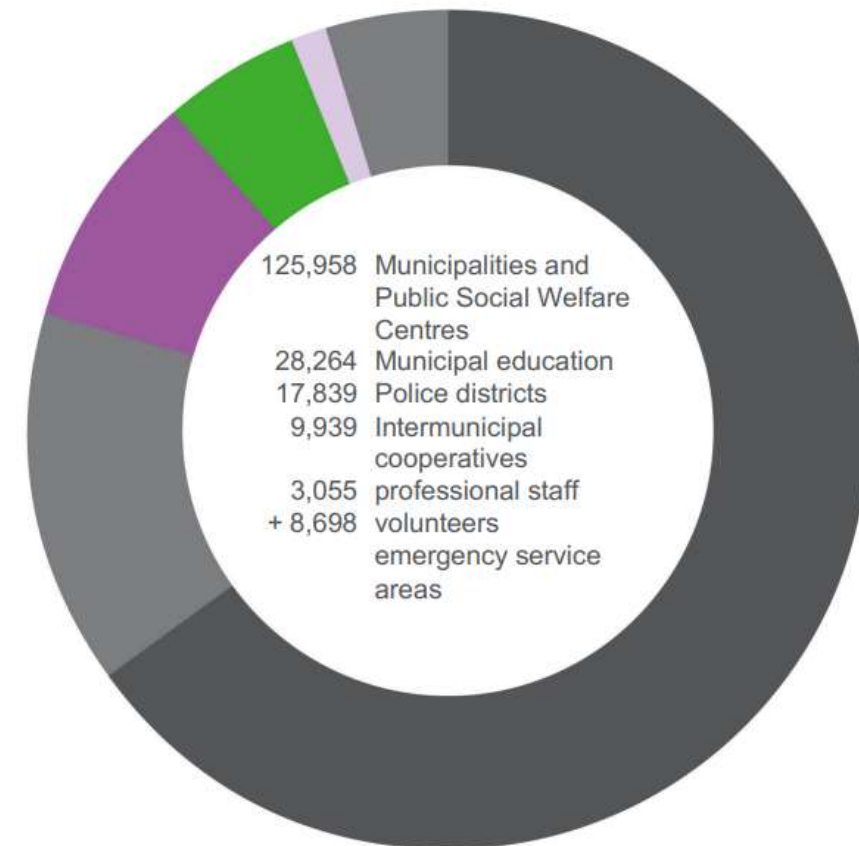
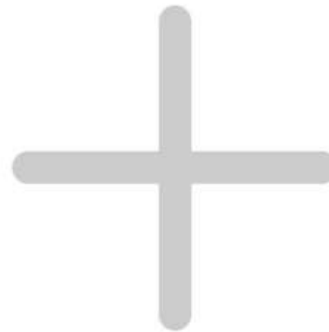
Other



members

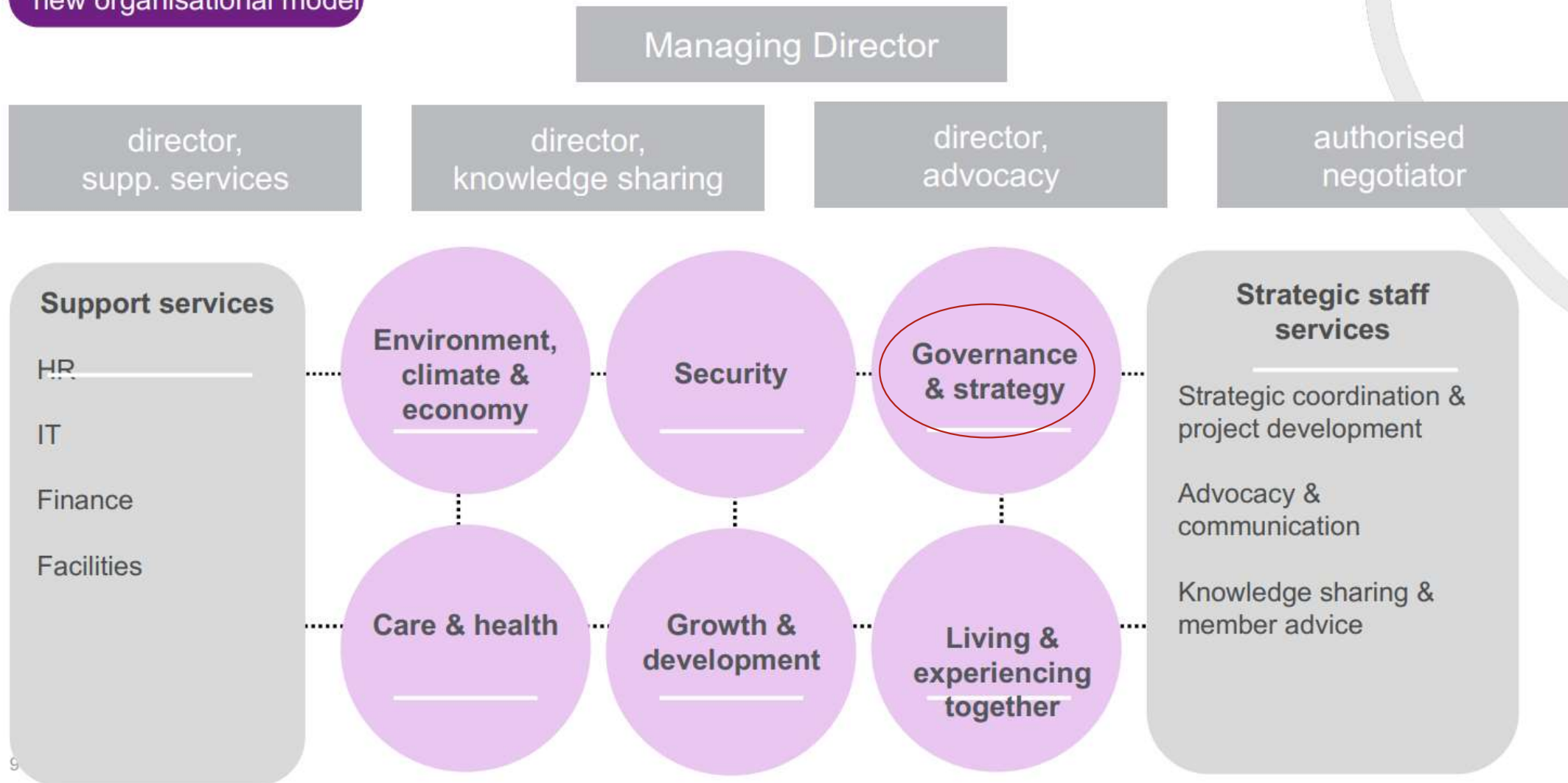


7,465 local politicians with a mandate



193,753 employees in local government

new organisational model



VVSG in figures

€20,469,609 revenue total

■ membership fees ■ subsidies ■ own income

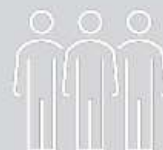
47,40%

36,40%

16,20%



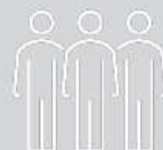
22,296 recorded requests for advice from members



65 VVSG work groups



400 training initiatives
1,500 participants



220 external committees

Start: SDG pilot group

- start 2016
- international department as entry point
- inspire each other
- create tools



vvsg

Awareness raising

Sustainable Municipality Week

Getting local governments and their citizens moving on the SDGs

inspiration



GLOBAL GOALS LOCAL FOCUS

Local governments are committing to sustainable development goals

We underwrite that we, as local governments, accept the responsibility of sustainable development on our territory. We share this responsibility worldwide: in Flanders, in Africa and in Latin-America we have the same duty, even though the local context for action can be quite different. Sustainable development is about economic, ecological and social aspects, everywhere in the world.

As political representatives of local governments in Latin-America, Africa and Flanders, the 17 development goals (Global Goals for Sustainable Development). After a world-wide participatory process 193 countries committed to accomplish this international agenda on 27 September 2015 in the United Nations. The current global challenges increasingly require local actions within an urgent world. We are aware that these sustainable development goals are one and offer an indivisible global challenges.

On the role to be played by local governments worldwide in accomplishing sustainable development, we emphasise that a strongly developed local global policy (which aims for international justice through local actions) can therefore make a major contribution.

Our present world is still far from perfect and that inequality lies at the basis of poverty and besides, the world is getting smaller and smaller. Global challenges are interdependent, are becoming apparent in local communities and therefore the systems must change.

Solidarity and unity between nations as a basic attitude. For us, sustainable development means that we must get the same rights and opportunities, now, but also in the future. At the same time we do not want to endanger the earth's capacity.

We write the importance of these goals as the inclusive and universal agenda for sustainable and integral development processes up to 2030. In order to achieve these global goals, we develop local actions.

We are convinced that local governments worldwide play a crucial and similar role in local processes of development. Being the government level which is most closely involved with the citizens, we have a legitimate right to develop a local policy in this respect. This closeness of the local government's local authorities in the perfect place to adequately and efficiently respond to what the population in their needs. In this context we also promote the international recognition of our territorial role in this agenda until 2030.

We add that the specific role of cities and municipalities in sustainable development is recognised in the content of the eleventh goal (SDG 11: inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and local communities). The sustainable goal fits cities and municipalities worldwide like a glove.

We realise that as local authorities we have to enter into global alliances. We are convinced that sustainable development is only possible through cooperation. This means first of all of mutual relations and learning networks on a regional, national and international level. At the municipal level, a cross-sector vision which requires a transversal, integral and inclusive approach. Through international cooperation we see a lot of potential in exchanging knowledge between officials and politicians.

We recognise that all 17 sustainable development goals, without exception, touch upon our competences, ranging from fighting poverty, over well-being and gender equality to energy, education and consumption to energy and climate policy. Many of these the



The SDGs in municipal international cooperation

40 inspirational examples



The SDGs in your municipality

50 practical awareness-raising examples

VOLUME 2



Local Support for Global Challenges

A local translation of the Sustainable Development Goals



vvsG

Sustainable Municipality Week

18-25 sept

SDG flag at city halls + celebration
of local sustainable heroes



Policy making

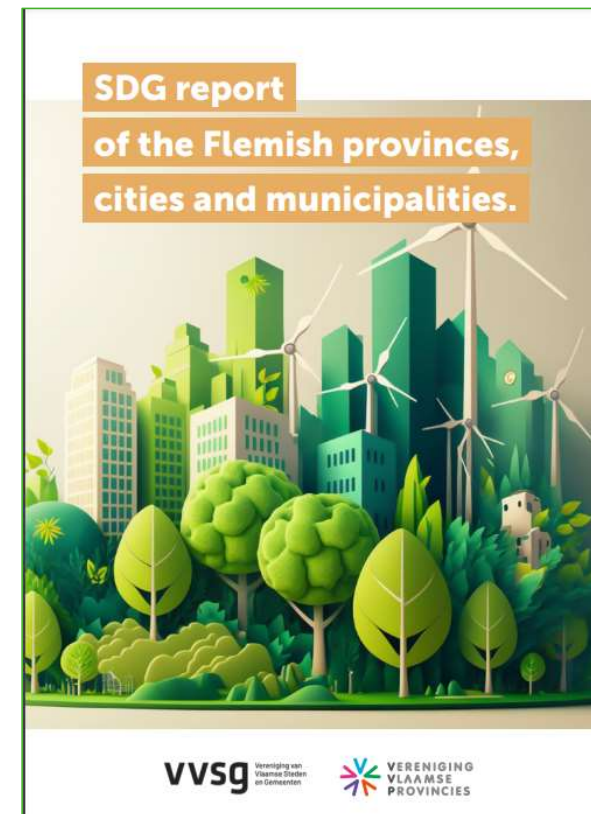
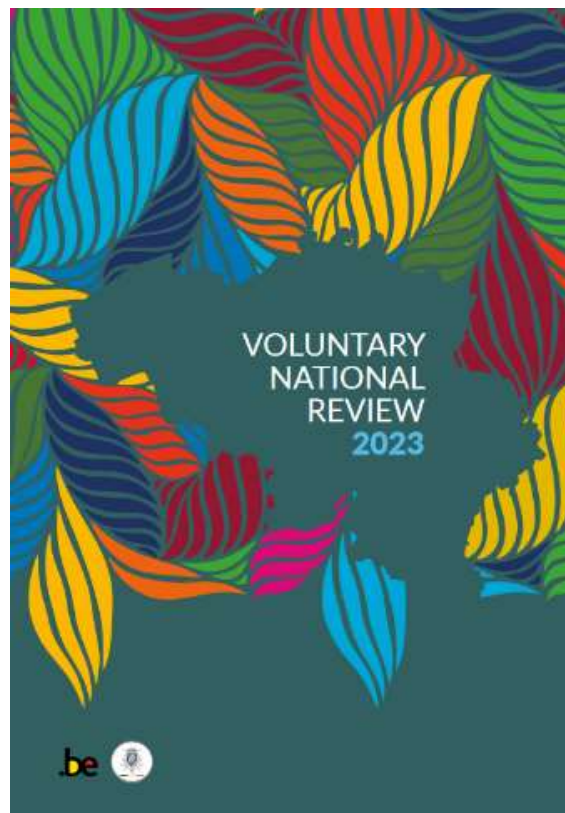
Build onto existing processes!

Figure 2. The municipal policy planning process



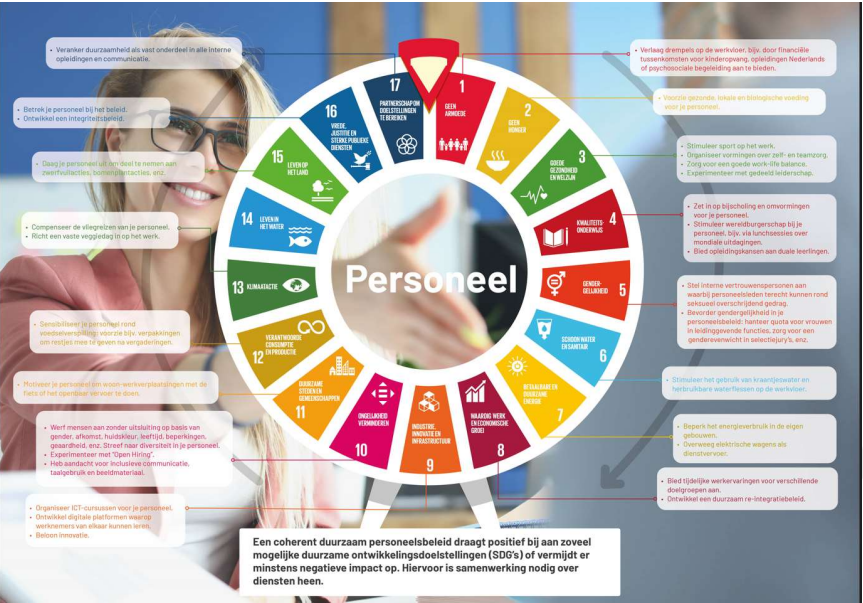
Capitalizing on context and opportunities

- Belgian VNR 2023 => VSR 2023
- EU presidency 2024
- local elections 2024



Lessons learned as association

- move forward according to needs
- mix of individual and group approach
- offer concrete tools
- internal connection



challenges

- SDG integration = ?
- international dimension
- keep overview
- exchange
- Does working with the SDGs really lead to more sustainable policy choices?
- reach politicians (tips?)

Expect to see

1. The College of Aldermen has formally committed to the 2030 Agenda.
2. There was internal communication and sensitisation around the Agenda 2030 to (part of) the municipal officials and/or mandataries.
3. There was external communication and sensitisation around the Agenda 2030 to the general population and/or other external actors.
4. The Agenda 2030 was used as a framework for the multi-year plan.
5. The Agenda 2030 is actively taken into account (as an approach / sustainability check) in the elaboration of at least some priority projects or actions.

Like to see

6. There is a transversal working group within the municipality around sustainability/the 2030 Agenda.
7. The Agenda 2030 is used as a capstone in working with local partners and stakeholders on a more sustainable municipality.
8. Social, economic and environmental sustainability are included as criteria in tenders, grant regulations and/or partnership agreements.
9. Progress on the SDGs is monitored using indicators.
10. The municipality actively pursues international cooperation.

Love to see

11. The positive but also any negative impact on the 2030 Agenda of policy proposals, projects and/or actions are systematically mapped.
12. The municipality reports both internally and externally on progress on the SDGs.
13. The municipality considers environmental impact and the interests and needs of youth, women and vulnerable groups in all steps of the local policy cycle.
14. SDG ambassadors have been identified among municipal staff, CBS and/or municipal council and actively promote the 2030 Agenda in the municipality.
15. Priority SDGs for the municipality were defined.

Connecting with other associations

- ANCB, RALGA, SALGA, AME
(f.ex. SDG partnerships)
- share lessons learned

SDG partnerships



VMSG SDG PILOT PROJECT
WITH LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS 2017-2019:
APPROACH AND LESSONS
LEARNED



vmsg

Sustainable Municipality Week

Getting local governments and
their citizens moving on the SDGs

inspiration



Communication plan Voluntary Subnational Review (for VMSG)

Target audiences:

- Politicians and administration of Flemish local governments
- VMSG colleagues (in order to reach different services and profiles within municipalities, VMSG colleagues need to share the (results of the) VSR towards their contacts and network)
- Local governments in Brussels and Wallonia, through the umbrella associations Brulocalis and UVCW
- Flemish government, focus on departments working on sustainability, foreign affairs, local governance
- Federal government, focus on departments working on sustainability, foreign affairs
- International network: CIB, UCLG, UN organisations working on SDGs and VSRs
- Other groups within civil society, private sector, academia → further define which organisations

vmsg

Good practices: external awareness

Dilsen-Stokkem

SDG chat box for events, civic engagement initiatives and global citizenship education in schools



Good practices: external awareness

Gent

SDG challenges between cities



Good practices: external awareness

Zwalm

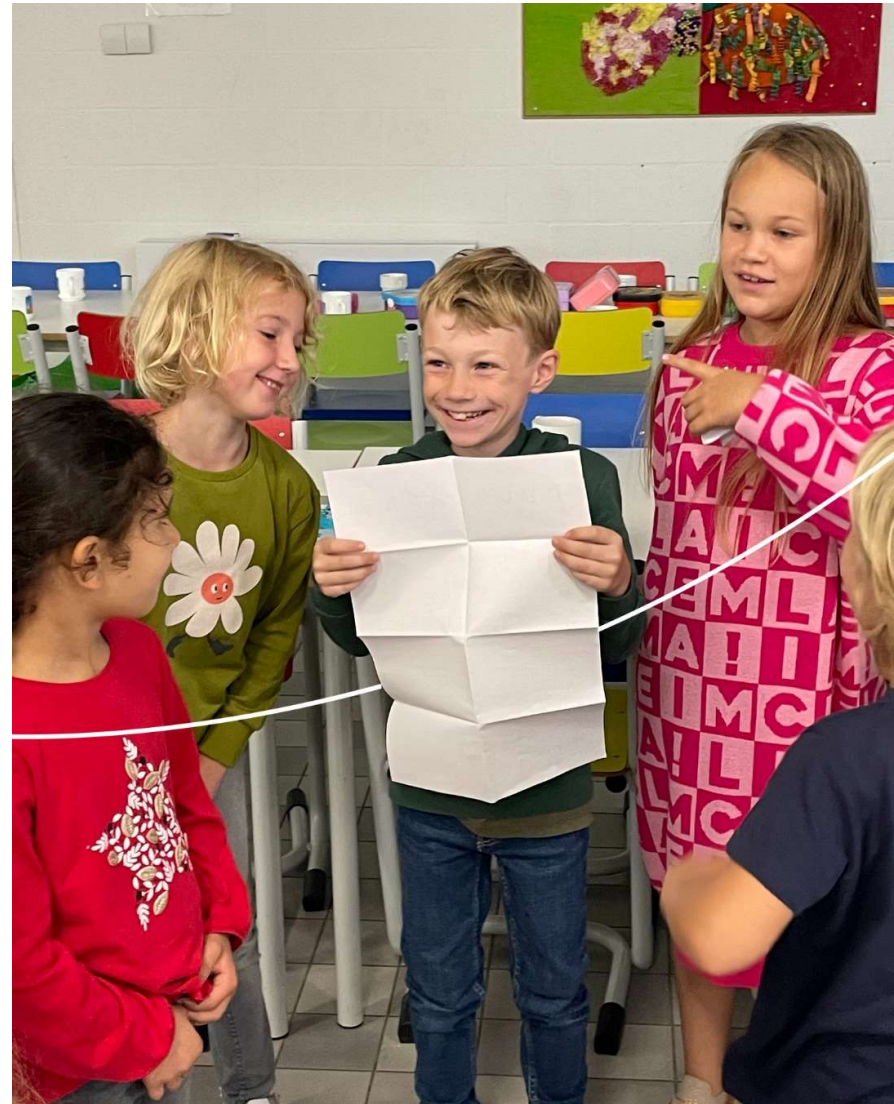
SDG bath for newborns and their families



Good practices: external awareness

Bornem

Wishes for a sustainable city in 2030, together with twin partner



Good practices: internal awareness

Herne

City councillors as SDG ambassadors



Good practices: internal awareness

Evergem

SDG in the spotlight



Good practices: internal awareness

Harelbeke

Kick off SGDs in multi-annual
policy plan



Malle

SDGs in grant regulations of the communal youth department

Bewijsstukken:

- omschrijving van de activiteiten
- kopie van de onkostenbewijzen

15) Inzet voor de gemeente

De aanvrager kan in twee gevallen aanspraak maken op tien extra punten.

- Aanwezigheid op de jeugdraad op minstens 2/3 van het aantal vergaderingen in een werkjaar.
- Een vertegenwoordiger die een gans werkjaar zetelt in het bestuur van de jeugdraad die aanwezig is op minstens 2/3 van het aantal vergaderingen in een werkjaar.

Maximum aantal punten: 20

16) Aandacht voor de duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelstellingen

De aanvrager kan aanspraak maken op 50 extra punten door in de werking van de vereniging aandacht te hebben voor de duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelstellingen. Deze 17 doelstellingen vormen een actieplan om de mensheid te bevrijden van armoede en de planeet terug op de koers richting duurzaamheid te

*Uittreksel
Gemeenteraad
25 juni 2020*

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Good practices: SDGs as a frame for local policies

Hoogstraten

SDGs as a frame for the city's context analysis

Clusteropdeling van Hoogstraten

Cluster	 Duurzame steden	 People	 Prosperity	 Planet	 Peace & Partnerships
SDGs	SDG 11	SDG 1, 2, 3, 4 en 5; en zelfontplooiing	SDG 7, 8, 9 en 10	SDG 6, 12, 13, 14 en 15	SDG 16 en 17
Trekker	Algemeen directeur	Manager burger	Manager ruimte	Expert milieu	Manager interne organisatie
Mede-werkers	Planoloog Mobiliteitsdienst Wonen Museum Jeugddienst Dienst samenleving	Cultuur en vrije tijd Sociale dienst Sportdienst Welzijn Bibliotheek Dienst onderwijs Communicatie-dienst	Patrimonium-beheerder Dienst lokale economie Sociale dienst Openbare werken Toezichthoudende ambtenaar Toerisme Dienst internationale ontwikkeling	Openbare werken Milieudienst Technische dienst Duurzame ontwikkeling	HRM Juriste Communicatie-dienst Lokaal dienstencentrum Kwaliteitsverantwoordelijke zorg

Good practices: SDGs as a frame for local policies

Gent

Annual reporting on local sustainable initiatives and partnerships based on the SDGs



Het Gentse duurzaamheidsrapport 2022
Focus op Prosperity
Voluntary Local Review



Het Gentse duurzaamheidsrapport 2021
Focus op People



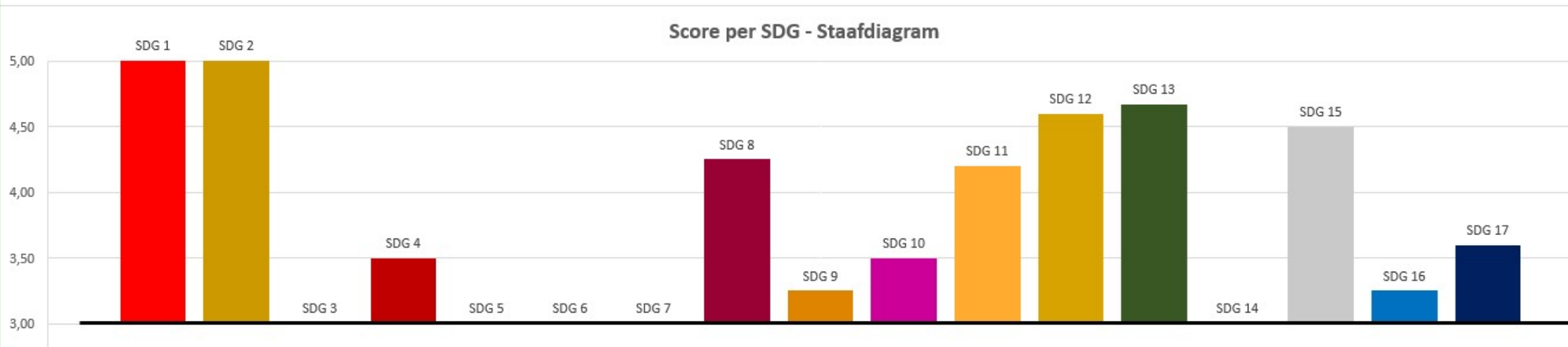
Het Gentse duurzaamheidsrapport 2020

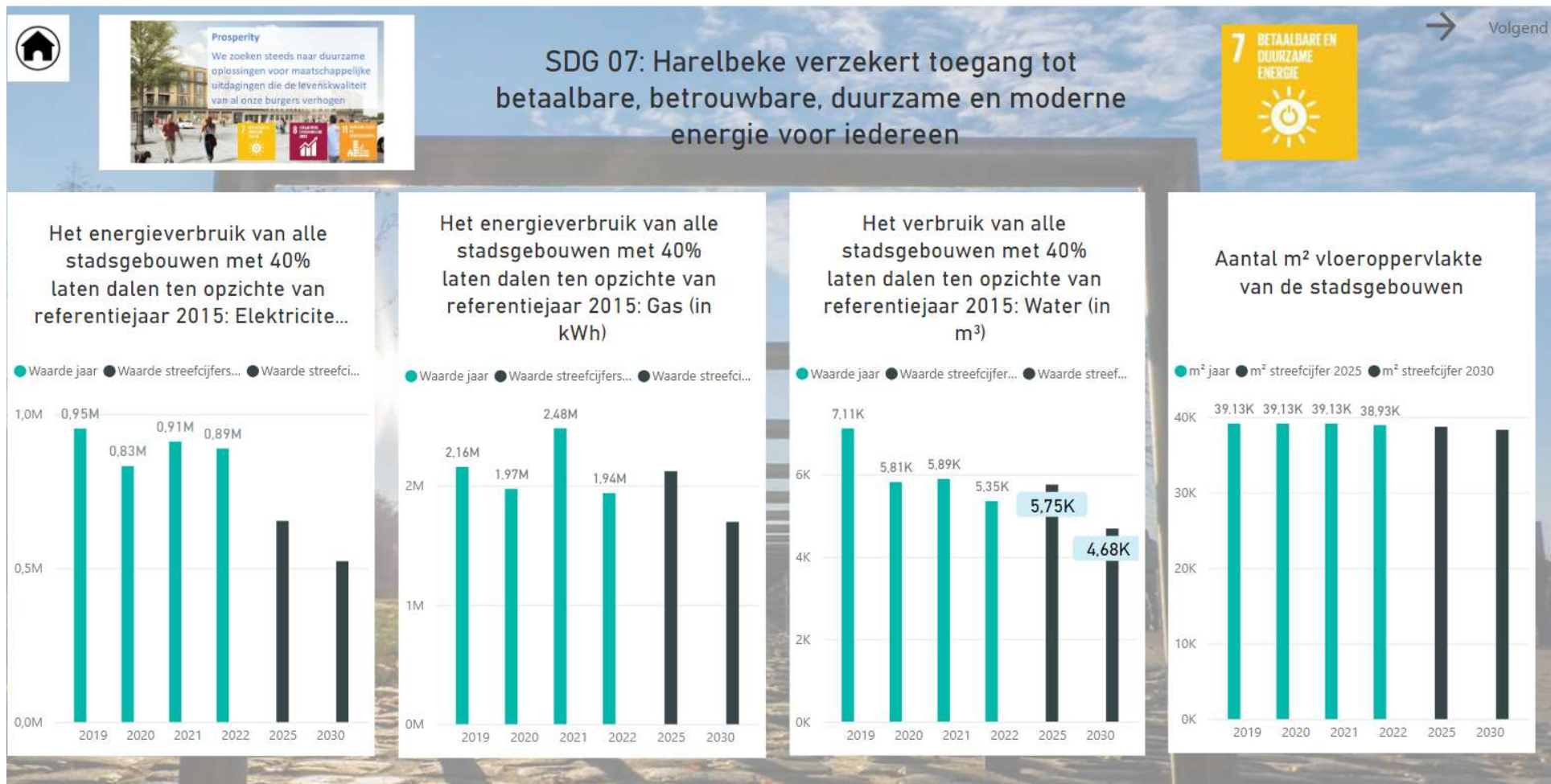
Good practices: SDGs as a frame for local policies

Edegem

Submitting local project on urban farming to VVSGs SDG check

Score	Behaald	Score bij een neutrale impact	Maximumscore
Score voor de SDG's	64,32	51	85
Score voor de basisprincipes	9,54	3	15
Totaal	73,85	54	100





<https://www.vvsg.be/internationaal/sdgs>

**Duurzame
ontwikkelingsdoelen**

**SDG-materiaal en
publicaties**

SDG-vormingen

SDG's in je beleid

SDG-praktijkenbank

Vlaams SDG rapport

**Week van de Duurzame
Gemeente**

Externe bronnen

**SDG documents in
foreign languages**



Thanks!

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