

# Flanders Accelerates

## **FLANDERS, WHERE INNOVATION IS A TRADITION**

In Flanders, the pieces of the puzzle don't just fall into place by chance. On the contrary! It's in the DNA of Flanders' people to strive for a perfect turn of events. In the northern region of Belgium, proximity is the x-factor for a fruitful outcome. Here, you'll find all the ingredients for innovative success within arm's reach: companies that know how to get things done and work together; academic institutions and research centers that support entrepreneurs in their progress; a government that thinks and acts in tandem with the world of business...

Meanwhile, the people of Flanders also pitch in to support your company's ambitions. The region is home to kindred spirits, go-getters and value-seekers in heart and soul, who live, work, learn, experiment and grow alongside one another. Their motto? Never take no for an answer! In other words, the people of Flanders are never afraid to try, always seek to build bridges and won't rest until a solution is brought to the table. As such, the region offers fertile ground for effective innovation at the crossroads of different sectors, disciplines and technologies – yours included.

### **Know-how as natural resource**

It's no secret that Flanders' success doesn't correlate with its size. Instead, what puts the region on the map is its specialized expertise, its compact and dense knowledge network and the results-driven attitude of its people. Know-how from Flanders can be found in a variety of creative and technological products, services and solutions with tangible added value for individuals,

companies and governments around the world. To top it all off, these innovations often respond to complex global challenges – such as climate neutrality, circular economy, cybersecurity and personalized healthcare.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

international rankings consistently place Flanders among the most globalized economies around the globe? Put differently, innovative craftsmanship from Flanders' soil travels the world in no time.

### **Open for (innovative) business**

To make innovations flourish, Flanders also boasts several strong suits. Think of sectors such as food; life sciences & health; sustainable resources, chemistry & materials; smart logistics; and solution-driven engineering & technology. A large part of this success is driven by



**Flanders**  
State of  
the Art

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

Flanders is part of Europe's 6th-most innovative economy? According to the 2019 European Innovation Scoreboard, the region excels in creating smooth and efficient innovation links between the public, private and academic sectors.

Flanders' extremely accessible research centers – including the likes of Flanders Make, imec, VIB and VITO. Moreover, the region is home to numerous clusters in which companies, governments and research centers conduct business and innovate together. Meanwhile, the open minds and perseverance of Flanders' well-educated population provide strong and secure building blocks for innovation in both large and smaller companies.

So, let Flanders be your talent pool as well: a source of ambitious doers who will put their shoulders to the wheel of your innovative project with great enthusiasm.