

## LIFE SCIENCES & HEALTH

# Graciously effective

## WHY HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES ARE PART OF FLANDERS' DNA

Treatment methods that change people's lives, innovative pharmaceutical products... Flanders is the ideal testing ground that truly pushes boundaries, thanks to a cross-pollination between biotech, nanotech and healthcare. This one-of-a-kind ecosystem is underpinned by a robust funding and financing landscape as well as a supportive government. Tapping into this dynamic life sciences hub is a major asset, to say the least.

Describing Flanders' life sciences sector as diverse is an understatement. From young start-ups to established local players and even multinationals: the entire value chain – from research to validation and commercialization – is represented in the northern region of Belgium. What's more, Flanders' highly ranking universities, university colleges and business schools educate top-level researchers, engineers and entrepreneurial talent that will happily contribute to the ambitions of innovative industry players and leaders.

### In good and efficient company

In Flanders, knowledge institutions, research centers (such as imec, VIB and VITO) and industry players unite in co-creation projects to bring novel life sciences and health products and solutions to the market in a fast, effective and integrated way. The various disciplines within the region's life sciences and health industry are characterized by their unique interwovenness, forming an ideal biotope for groundbreaking innovations.

*For example, the next generation of medtech applications will not just arise from the intersection of healthcare, nanotechnology and biotechnology; it will also include cybersecurity technology. This is another field in which digital companies from Flanders are at the top of their game, offering vast experience and expertise in data security.*

### Vigorous innovation support

Flanders' life science ecosystem is also stimulated by a well-developed funding landscape. While a variety of capital providers make the region an attractive location for start-ups and scale-ups, numerous incubator and accelerator programs also give new entrepreneurs every opportunity to prepare their concepts for commercialization. It should therefore come as no surprise that Flanders-based start-ups, according to Eurostat, have the highest chances of survival in Europe.

Flanders' strong (cluster) policy also contributes to this attractive breeding ground. Thanks to a system of dedicated testing zones, for example, it is possible to experiment with innovative

### DID YOU KNOW...

5% of the total pharmaceutical output is developed in Flanders. This is no surprise: all of the world's top 10 pharmaceutical firms operate bases in the region.

techniques or solutions to your heart's content. In these privileged circumstances, Flanders-based companies bring new products and services to full maturity in the best possible way



Flanders  
State of the Art