



City in Numbers



COLLECTING AND EXPLORING DATA THROUGH DASHBOARDS

In Belgium, there is a lot of data available about different themes and domains. The multilevel government structure makes it complex to find the right/most recent data. To analyse all these data sources it is necessary to have a good data platform. By using the SWING platform, named <https://roeselare.incijfers.be/dashboard>, the various data are made available in one place. That way employees, civilians, corporations, organisations, associations, etc can find the core data of the city in one place and in a way that is easy accessible.

In order to fulfill these needs, the municipality worked together with the 12 largest cities in Flanders ('Centrumsteden') and the Flemish Community Committee in Brussels. The goal of this collaboration is not only to create uniformity between the platforms in Flanders, but also to create a platform where similar data can be compared.

Roeselare is one of the cities that also asked for data on the level of the neighbourhood. In that way it is possible for the users to get more detailed data on the 14 districts in Roeselare.

As a consequence, good and transparent data can be used not only to compare to other cities, but also to improve local policy decisions based on facts & figures.

Relations to Workpackages

We as a municipality are turning our data into information that can be used to provide better and more transparent governance and services. This also encourages the users to develop their digital skills in order to design the dashboard in a way they can use it.

Local partners

Kenniscentrum Vlaamse Steden (KCVS)
www.etc.be

ABF Research
www.abfresearch.nl

Representors of the Flemish Community Committee

Representors of the 13 municipalities

This Case Study Paper is produced by Wouter De Spiegelaere and Kimberley Van Luchem.

About LIKE!

Local governments, citizens, universities and SMEs come together to co-create smarter, more efficient and more innovative services through 9 transnational pilots that cover 3 core themes:



Data is centrally available

The primary goal of this project is to gather meaningful data and information from external sources and centralize this on a public platform. To reach this goal it is crucial to have the cooperation of different governmental agencies, a data-focused team and a customer friendly digital platform. The municipality therefore collaborates with the 12 largest cities in Flanders to achieve this goal.

One request for many purposes

Coordinated in the workgroup, we centralise, prioritise and structure all data requests to the different governmental agencies. This approach is very useful for each participant and also for the agencies. Together we can achieve more: faster and more easily access to data. A single point of contact makes the transformation more efficient. The next step should be: governmental agencies upload their data as open data and the platform uses this as the unique source.

GOAL

The pilot is about making an easy accessible and useful dashboard, that can be used for policy making (internally), but also by the society to look at the city in numbers (externally).

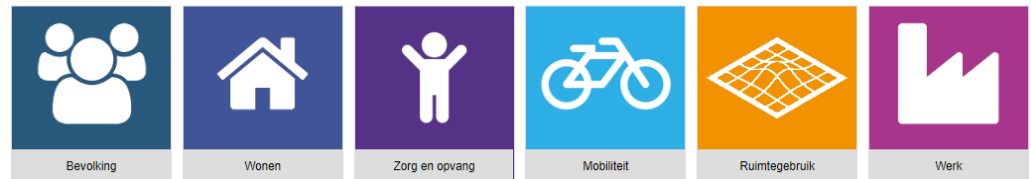
It contributes to the public service delivery when it comes to data.

Approachable dashboard with analytic backroom

Data are not sexy and could be misunderstood quickly. The simple homepage of the platform shows different tiles. Each tile is a subject (e.g. demography, mobility, climate, wealth and poverty). One click reveals core information about the chosen subject. This information is visualised by an infographic, a simple number or a graph. More information (e.g. evolution, datasource, metadata) can be obtained by a second click. Users searching for more opportunities or customized graphs find a free backroom. The database in the backroom is accessible and also has more analytical tools and more visualisation options.



Roeselare in cijfers



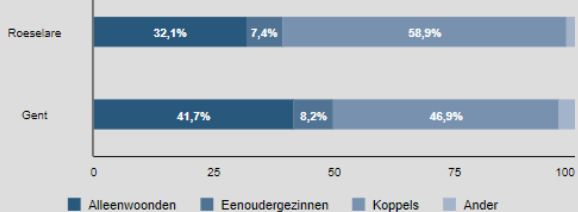


Inwoners
aantal

Roeselare
61.849

2017

Gezinnen



2017

Totale aangroei

Totale aangroei
aantal



706
Roeselare

Totale aangroei
per 1.000 inwoners

11,51
Roeselare **8,48**
Gent

2016

Natuurlijk saldo
aantal



110
Roeselare

totaal migratiesaldo
aantal



596
Roeselare

2016



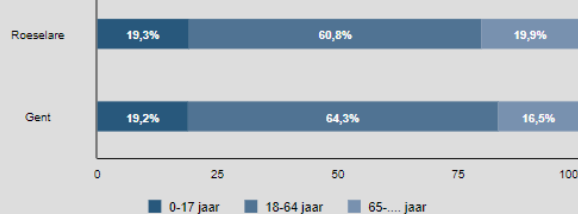
Bevolkingsdichtheid
inwoners/km²

Roeselare
1.034

Gent
1.663

2017

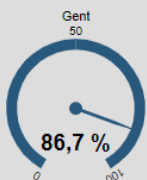
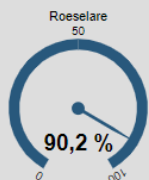
Bevolking: leeftijd



2017

Woonstabiliteit

Inwoners die niet verhuisd zijn



2017

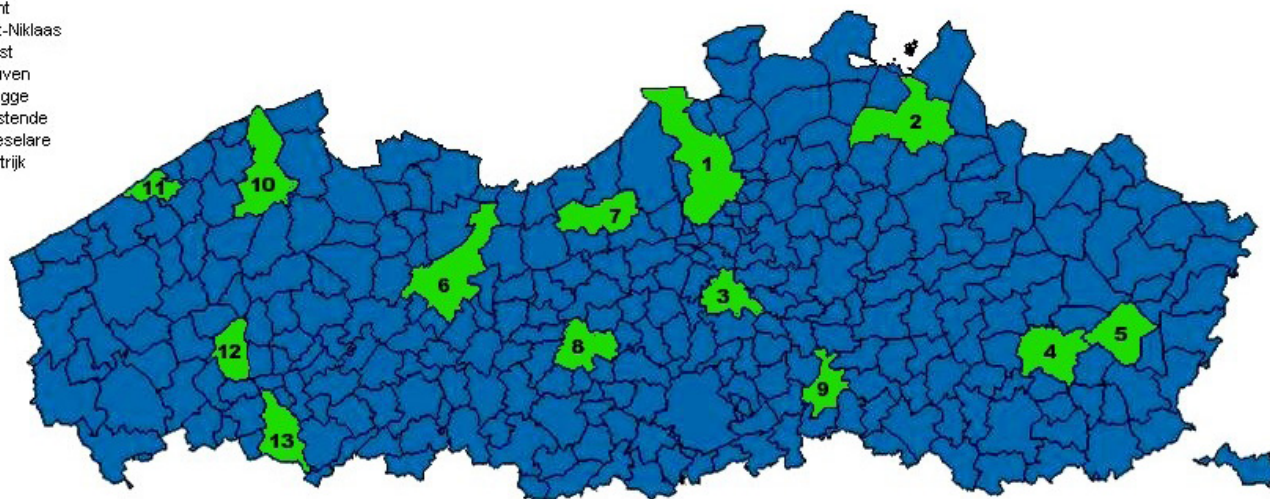
Benefits for staff and empowerment of the community

One central location for core data is not only time saving for the user. It encourages staff members to use the data in a more easier way and to clarify correct data with other sources.

There are also benefits for the community. The platform gives local citizens and the community the possibility to learn more about their city and their neighbourhood. It can also empower them to use the data for policy proposals or questions. Publishing data helps to achieve an open, transparent climate and can enlarge the trust in the local government.

1. Antwerpen
2. Turnhout
3. Mechelen
4. Hasselt
5. Genk
6. Gent
7. Sint-Niklaas
8. Aalst
9. Leuven
10. Brugge
11. Oostende
12. Roeselare
13. Kortrijk

This picture shows the location of the 13 'centrumsteden' in Flanders.



Unlocking data unlocks many opportunities

- Data on city level or on neighbourhood level is the first step for a better data-adjusted policy. It enlarges government transparency and thus gives an insight in a lot of domains.
- Data benefits the internal staff, policy makers, citizens and the community. They can create the dashboard in the way they want it to.
- This platform gives us a digital tool to centralize internal data.



The data on neighbourhood level of the city of Roeselare can be a first step for better data-adjusted policy making.

SWING as a useful tool

The SWING platform is underpinning various policy advices. One example of this is the inspiration paper to advice the new city board of Roeselare. The data from the Roeselare.incijfers.be platform formed the motivation (in numbers) for the suggested policy recommendations by the municipality to the new board. Besides, the information from the platform was visualised in the form of pictograms and incorporated as introduction and explanation of the context of the policy issues. In that way, the new board had access to solid and correct information to base their new policy direction on.

Dynamic Learning

The introduction of Roeselare.incijfers.be was a great success. In order for people to find the way to the platform and in order to encourage them to use it, Roeselare organized dynamic workshops. The SWING-sessions were handled practically and showed people what they can do with data in their daily job. By showing the impact it can have on their job, namely gathering data more easily, people were very enthusiastic about the platform. It made people conscious about what data sources can be used, for what purposes it can be used and the simple accessibility they have to data. Staff members don't have to contact the different agencies anymore, they don't have to wait for days to get a response, in fact they can now find their data in a few clicks. The era where people need to spend hours and hours searching for data is starting to disappear. Dashboards are the future, the start of a new era when it comes to fact-based policy.

Do you Like! to use Dashboards in different ways?

The creation of this platform is also very important in the Like! context. It's another example of a dashboard, that can be integrated in the learning and best practices of the project. By setting up the cooperation with the other cities, people of the project can see how each city has created their dashboard in their own style. It gives an insight in how data can be delivered to the society in many different ways. The experiences of the 13 cities could be integrated into the other projects in Vechta, Aalborg, etc.