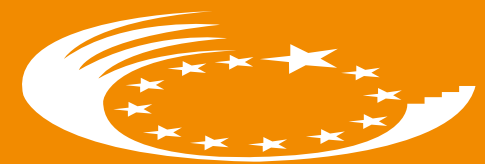


Antwerp 2012

Candidacy for the title of European Capital of Sport





Dear Mr. President,

Antwerp is the city of Rubens, a capital of culture, a world port, a global diamond centre, a fashion hub of international stature, a varied shopping paradise, a child and family-minded centre for leisure, a place of vibrant and pleasant living, and a hospitable and multicultural metropolis. Increasingly, Antwerp is also a city of sport.

Ever since the 2006 local elections, sport has been high on Antwerp's political agenda. It is now an area of shared competence between the mayor and the alderman for sport. Under the 2008-2013 sports policy plan, a drive has been launched to enhance the city's sports infrastructure and to promote sports in general. Investments in the construction of new and the renovation of existing sports facilities, budget allocations for additional sports stimulation staff and subsidies for sports clubs have all increased at an unprecedented rate. The sports policy plan sets out the ambition of obtaining the title of *European Capital of Sport 2012* as the culmination of Antwerp's concerted drive for greater sports participation.

Antwerp is a city of 500 000 inhabitants and 164 nationalities. This diversity is both a challenge and an asset. It requires inclusive and targeted policymaking, as well as a firm commitment to community cohesion and progress, with an attitude of openness towards Europe and the world. The city of Antwerp is working towards those goals through a multi-pronged approach, adapted to the various target groups and integrated into different areas of policymaking.

This is why the city pursues a diversified and all-embracing sports policy: basketball courts in public locations are just as important as state-of-the-art sports venues; the water quality in swimming pools is maintained for the benefit of competitive as well as recreational swimmers; support structures are in place for elite sportspersons as well as first-time female cyclists from ethnic minority communities... Moreover, in the construction of new and the renovation of existing sports infrastructures, due account is taken of the historical and present-day contexts with a view to a sustainable future. This finds expression in, among other things, the application of cutting-edge technology for rational energy use.

Antwerp – as an international seaport, a global diamond centre, and an exuberant city of youth and culture – reaches out to Europe and the world. As the European Capital of Sport 2012, we intend to offer value added for all European cities and for ACES. Together, we can develop a methodology for measuring sports participation in cities across the continent with a view to connecting people through sport.

On the strength of this unique drive for sports participation and the city's fundamentally inclusive sports policy, we are convinced that Antwerp can be successful in its bid for the title of *European Capital of Sport 2012*. Conversely, obtaining this title will be an important step towards our overriding policy goal:

To encourage as many inhabitants of Antwerp as possible to engage in lifelong sports in optimal conditions.

Antwerp is in the starting blocks and raring to go!

Patrick Janssens
Mayor

Ludo Van Campenhout
Alderman for Sport

Antwerp lives and breathes sport

Executive Summary

Antwerp has a rich history as a city of sport. In 1920, it hosted the seventh Olympic Games of the modern era. The Olympic Stadium is now the home ground of top-flight football club Germinal Beerschot. As a former Olympic host city, Antwerp wishes to further enhance its status as a city of sport, both in Flanders and across Europe.

SPORT IS THE WARP AND WOOF OF THE CITY

Sport is everywhere in Antwerp. It is woven into every fibre of the city's fabric. On public squares around town, there are local kids playing their own 'world cup' or emulating their basketball heroes; the city's parks are abound with strollers and joggers; and wherever you look, there are cyclists of all ages out and about. Antwerp: A is for Athlete.

Recent research has pointed out that **65 percent of Antwerp's adult population engage in sport**. No fewer than one in three residents are members of a sports club, and participation rates are even higher among youngsters. As these figures indicate, Antwerp is a sporting city, and that is why it provides the perfect environment for young talents to develop their sports skills. Antwerp has produced numerous national, European, world and Olympic champions in a variety of sports. It is, moreover, the only city in Belgium to boast top-flight outfits in all major team sports, including football, volleyball, basketball, handball, futsal, korfbal, baseball and ice hockey.

No surprise, then, that sport is a policy priority. By pursuing a well-considered sports policy, based on scientific research and the principles of inclusion and empowerment, Antwerp strives to further enhance the degree of public sports participation. Investing in sports promotion and infrastructure are the principal spearheads of this policy.

ACCESS TO SPORT IS A UNIVERSAL RIGHT

*Sport has the power to unite people from different backgrounds. Sport builds bridges between different worlds. **The common interest and universal values of sport work as a cement that binds people together.** When people engage in sport, cultural and socio-economic differences quickly fade into the background.*

In Antwerp, sport is a right for all. Every inhabitant of the city is encouraged to participate in the rich offering of sporting activities or to attend sports competitions and events as a spectator.

Antwerp's **sports promotion policy is aimed in particular at socially, economically, physically or culturally vulnerable groups.**

The 'Handikid' programme, for example, provides sports activities for disabled children, while 'Beweeg Mee' is geared to the sporting needs of the over-55s. There are also neighbourhood sports programmes that aim to increase the sports participation rate in ten deprived neighbourhoods by offering appropriate and low-threshold sports infrastructure, by developing sports networks, and by organising tailor-made sports programmes for local residents. Children, seniors, underprivileged persons and special-needs citizens benefit from reduced swimming pool admission fees. And the local Public Centres for Social Welfare distribute free tickets for sporting events among financially vulnerable population groups.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Sports infrastructure is key to achieving a high and qualitatively satisfactory sports participation. The city is investing greatly in improving existing facilities and constructing new infrastructure.

In recent years, all municipal swimming pools have been given a complete makeover, at a total investment of over **60 million euros**. The highlight of this effort has undoubtedly been the conversion of the Art Deco swimming pool Veldstraat into a modern swimming pool and steam bath centre.

After the sizeable investment in Antwerp's swimming pools, the focus has now shifted to the city's **sports halls and open-air sports facilities**. In addition to the refurbishment of existing halls, the city also intends to build no fewer than **thirteen new indoor sports locations** between 2010 and 2013. Again, the approach is diversified: the drive encompasses local sports halls, multifunctional sports centres, a gymnastics hall and a second venue for elite sporting events.

In a strongly urbanised environment, laying new pitches in natural grass can be problematic. Therefore, the city has decided instead to invest substantially in artificial playing fields. Plans have been drawn up for **eleven artificial grass pitches**: four for korfbal and seven for football.

Top-level sport occupies an important place in the city's sports policy. Antwerp is committed to providing the right environment for the professional development of its indoor sports clubs. After the opening of the Lotto Arena in 2007, the city intends to construct a **second elite indoor sports venue**.

Antwerp's skyline is set to change dramatically in the coming years with the construction of a new **football stadium** beside the river Scheldt at just two and a half kilometres from the city centre. This 40 000-seater stadium is part of the joint Belgian-Dutch bid to host the **2018 or 2022 football World Cup**.

BELGIUM'S LARGEST SPORTING EVENT

Sporting events are an essential ingredient of life in Antwerp. Every year, some **seventy different events** attract a total of around 50 000 participants and 450 000 spectators to the city. These include professional competitions for elite athletes as well as public participation events and combinations of the two. The main fixture is undoubtedly the **Antwerp 10 Miles**, which attracts around **25 000 runners and 100 000 spectators**, making it the largest event on Belgium's sporting calendar.

SIGHTS ON EUROPE

Antwerp's sights are set firmly on Europe and the world. During its tenure as the European Capital of Sport, Antwerp intends to bring value added for all European cities.

In 2012, Antwerp, in collaboration with European sports research centres, will be conducting a round-up of **measurement tools for sports participation rates** with a view to developing a **European standard**. Antwerp also intends to work on **social integration** through **and social remediation of** sport. A logbook and interactive website will collect good practices in this field from across Europe. However, participation requires **not just words, but also action**. We shall invite citizens from the various European capitals of sport to a number of sporting events that are illustrative of the Antwerp's diversity of sports offerings. We shall also organise a conference for sports officers from the European capitals of sport to discuss aspects of a general and diversified urban sports policy.

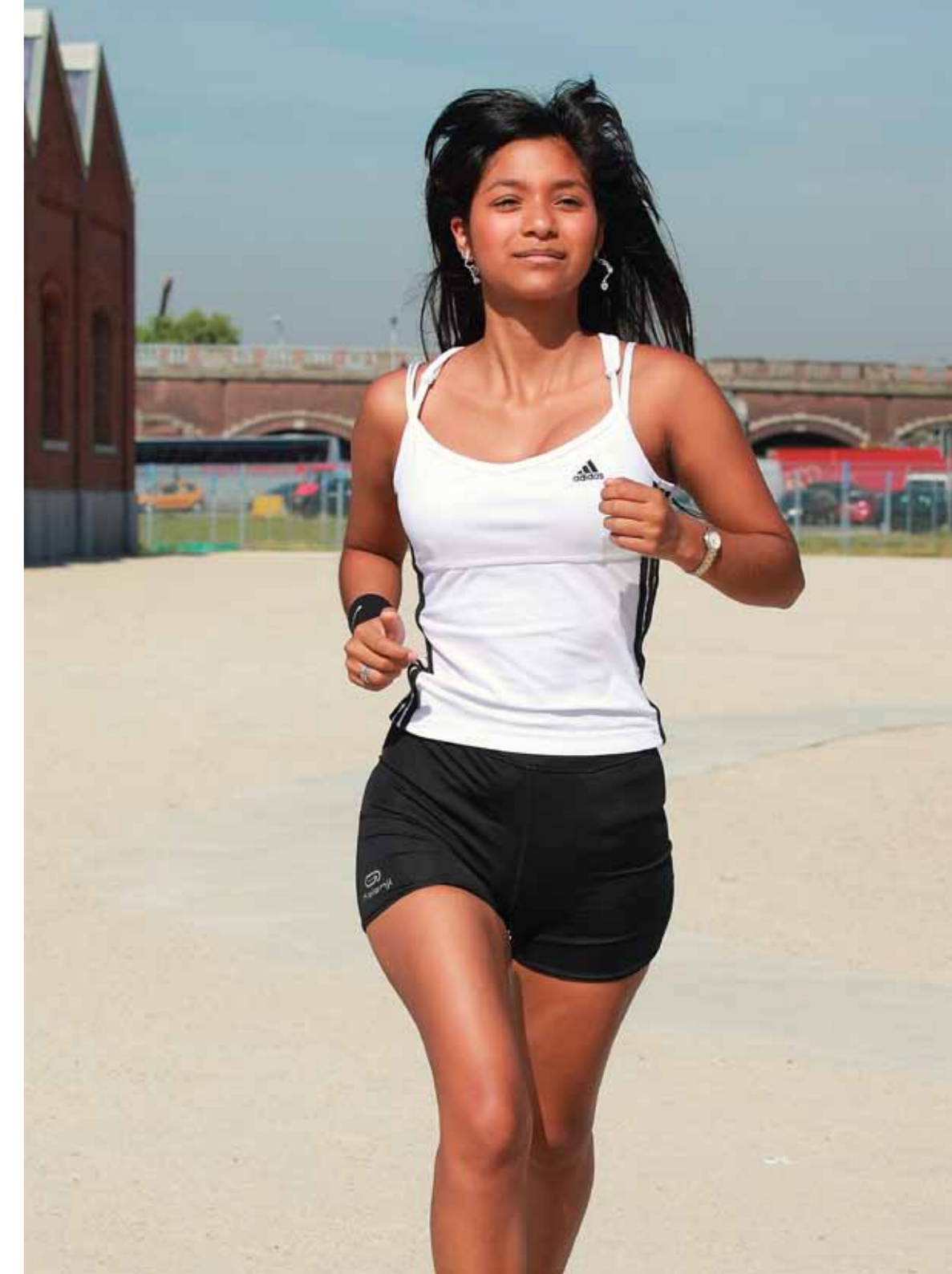




Table of content

Executive Summary.....	05
Table of content.....	09
01 General information	11
Name of the city.....	13
Population.....	16
Which department in your city is responsible for sports?.....	17
Representative of the city.....	18
Head of the department.....	19
Contact person.....	19
02 Sports in your city	21
How many people (%) are active in sports in your city?	23
How many people (%) in your city are members of a sports club, a company sports group, or are organised in sports otherwise?.....	24
How does your city support voluntary work in sports?.....	25
Is there a development plan for sports in your city? What are the objectives of this sports development plan?.....	26
What role do sports play in your city with regard to achieving the five objectives of the ACES Manifesto?	28
03 Variety of offers in sports and exercises	35
Are there special offers for sports for particular age groups?	37
Who makes these sports offers?.....	37
Are there quality criteria for these sports offers?.....	39
Are there educational possibilities, e.g. for trainers and tutors?.....	40
Are these measures subsidised by your city?	41
04 Sports infrastructure	43
How many sports locations are there in your city?.....	45
What plans are there for expanding sports locations and gyms ?.....	48
05 Sporting events	51
What sporting events are regularly organised in your city?.....	53
Which sport does your city focus on?.....	53
How does your city participate in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?.....	53
What sporting events have taken place in your city in the last 5 years?.....	54
What outstanding sporting events will take place or are planned in your city for the next 5 years?.....	56
To what extent will your city participate in these future events in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?.....	56
06 Cooperation in national/international sports, cooperation with science and research	59
How does your city cooperate with sports associations and institutions on a national and European level, e. g. National Olympic Committee or international sports associations?.....	61
How does your city cooperate with universities, high schools and research organisations on a local, national and European level?.....	62
07 Profile and possible activities as European Capital of Sports	65
How does your city see – also in comparison to other cities – its special quality, its particular strong point and outstanding profile as the Capital of Sport?.....	67
How will your city, as the European Capital of Sports, realise the five main objectives of ACES with regard to the sports development in your city?.....	67
Which initiatives und activities will your city want to contribute to the work of ACES?.....	67
Conclusion.....	71
Appendices.....	72



General information

Name of the city

Population

Which department in your city is responsible for sports?

Representative of the city

Head of the department

Contact person

01

Antwerp, a multifaceted gem of a city

Name of the city

Antwerp is a pocket-size metropolis: heartwarmingly open and unaffected, yet pleasantly vibrant and cosmopolitan. It is the city of diamonds and fashion, of shopping and nightlife. Antwerp is also a centre of culture, strewn with architectural pearls, historical monuments and inspirational artworks, and boasting a wonderful offering of museums and art galleries. At the same time, it is a human-size town with cosy squares, picturesque streets and characteristic neighbourhoods, dotted with pockets of green and tranquillity. Antwerp is where culture, history and good living meet.

CITY AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

Antwerp is conveniently located between London, Paris and Amsterdam, at just 50 kilometres from Brussels, the capital of the European

Union. It also lies in Europe's economic heartland, between the Ruhr in Germany, Randstad Holland and the French regions of Nord-Pas-de-Calais and Lorraine-Sarre. This metropolitan region has the highest concentration of cities and economic activity in Western Europe and the densest infrastructure and communications network in the world.

Antwerp covers an area of 204.51 square kilometres, making it **Belgium's second largest city**. It is a centre of great economic and social activity. Its official language is Dutch, but French, English and German are widely understood and spoken. The City of Antwerp is comprised of nine districts that are connected by an efficient public transport system. **The New York Times (2005) and Lonely Planet (2009) both picked Antwerp for their top-ten of the world's most attractive and pleasant cities.**



CITY AND PORT ON THE SCHELDT

Antwerp owes its existence and affluence to the river Scheldt. Already in the sixteenth century, it was the world's largest and busiest port. Today, the **port of Antwerp** is the **second largest in Europe** and the **most productive in the world**. It is connected with the European hinterland by a dense network of roads, railways, rivers and canals. Whereas the industrial function of the port has long been banished from the city centre, Antwerp has retained its pleasant maritime atmosphere. Every summer, the quays of the river Scheldt are transformed into an attractive centre of activity as the cruise terminal welcomes dozens of tourist vessels. Antwerp is also a regular port of call in the Tall Ships Race.

CITY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

As a former European Capital of Culture, Antwerp boasts a **varied palette of classical and modern art**. The Rubens House and the Plantin-Moretus Museum – a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site – bring to life the sixteenth century, Antwerp's first 'Golden Age'. Their vast collections include work by Old Masters such as Peter Paul Rubens, Christophe Plantin, Jacob Jordaens and Anthony van Dyck, to name but just a few. The splendid

Cathedral Of Our Lady houses two of Rubens's masterpieces, *The Elevation of the Cross* and *The Descent from the Cross*. Antwerp's trendy South is home to the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, which holds the largest Ensor collection in the world, as well as the Museum of Contemporary Art (MHKA) and a sprinkling of art galleries.

Antwerp has a **tradition of architectural variety** that extends from the medieval era to the present day. The city's wonderful architectural heritage includes such pearls as the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady, the Renaissance City Hall, the Baroque inner courtyard of the Rubens House, and the spectacularly renovated 19th-century Central Station, named by Newsweek in 2009 as the fourth best railway station in the world. **More recent architectural highlights** include the new Palace of Justice (by Richard Rogers), the MAS museum (by Neutelings-Riedijk), and the forthcoming new football stadium. Numerous urban development projects are either under way or in the starting blocks to ensure that the historical city of Antwerp continues to evolve as a contemporary metropolis.





CITY OF FASHION

Dries Van Noten, Walter Van Beirendonck and Ann Demeulemeester are just some of the influential fashion designers to have graduated from Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts since the early 1980s. More recently, designers such as Véronique Branquinho, Anna Heylen and Stephan Schneider have consolidated Antwerp's reputation as a fashion centre to rival Paris, Milan and New York. Today, the city's trendy shops and MoMu fashion museum **attract fashionistas from around the world**. Sportswear hits the catwalk in the collections of Dirk Bikkembergs, yet another iconic designer from the Antwerp school of fashion and the proud owner of Italian football club Bikkembergs Fossombrone.

CITY OF DIAMONDS

Antwerp is a diamond's best friend. With 85 percent of all uncut and around 50 percent of cut diamonds passing through the Antwerp market, the city remains **the world's number-one diamond trading centre**. Thousands of cutters work every day to uphold the international quality label 'Cut in Antwerp'. The industry also sponsors many sports events in the city, including the Thomas Cook Diamond Games (tennis), the Antwerp Diamond Swimming

Cup, the Antwerp Diamond Karate Cup and the Antwerp Diamond International Billiard Week.

Population

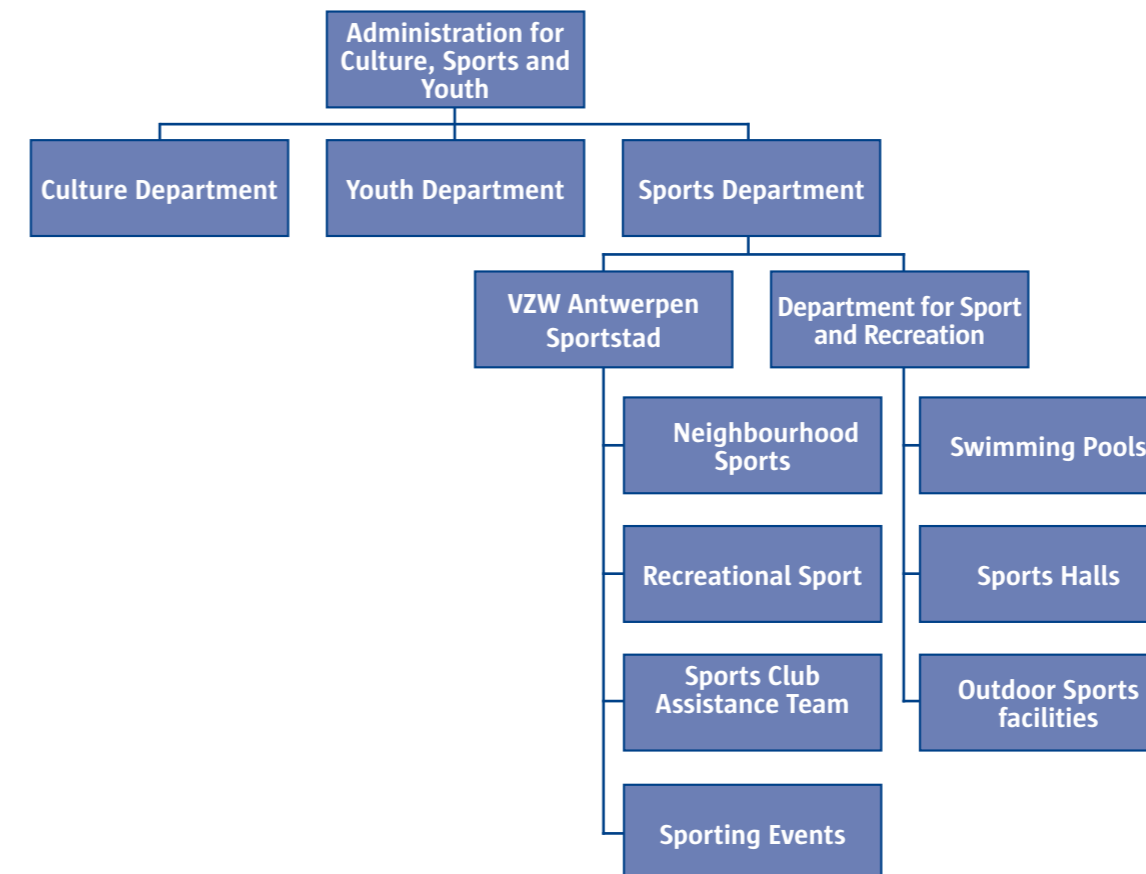
CITY OF PEOPLE AND CULTURES

Belgium has a population of 10.6 million, 6.1 million of which live in Flanders. The population of Antwerp has grown in recent years from 450 000 inhabitant in 2000 to 500 000 today, making it the Flanders' most populous city. It is the centre of a conurbation of around 913 000 people.

One-third of the population is under twenty-five, and the city pursues an active policy to attract even more young families with children. In other words, **Antwerp is a young city** and it will continue to grow younger still. It is also a lively student city, with over 30 000 youngsters studying at its university and colleges.

At the same time, over 20 percent of the population is over sixty, so that Antwerp may also be said to be a city of senior citizens.

Antwerp is a cultural melting pot. With **164 different nationalities** living in Antwerp, it is the second most multicultural city in the world.



Which department in your city is responsible for sports?
Name and address of the department

ANTWERP'S MUNICIPAL SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Antwerp's sports policy is implemented by an extensive municipal Sports Department which, together with the Youth and Culture Departments, makes up the municipal Administration for Culture, Sports and Youth. This structure allows a general approach to leisure-related policymaking. An extensive sports programme for children and youngsters is, for example, worked out as part of the programme for *Antwerp, European Youth Capital 2011*.

The daily functioning of the municipal Sports Department is in the hands of **two organisations**: the **Department for Sport and Recreation** and **vzw Antwerpen Sportstad**. The former is responsible for the management and follow-up of the city's sports infrastructure, while the latter manages the City's sports stimulation programme. Together, each from their own perspective, they implement the City of Antwerp's sports policy.

In addition to the centralised municipal bodies, each of the nine Antwerp districts has its own **contact point for sports** to keep a finger on the local pulse.



**Representative of the city
Name and address**

City representatives in charge of sports

Patrick Janssens has been Mayor of Antwerp since 2002.

Patrick Janssens
Grote Markt 1
B 2000 Antwerpen
Tel. +32 3 338 82 22
e-mail: patrick.janssens@stad.antwerpen.be

Ludo Van Campenhout has been Antwerp's Alderman for Sport since 2007.

Ludo Van Campenhout
Grote Markt 1
B 2000 Antwerpen
Tel. + 32 3 338 80 61
e-mail: ludo.vancampenhout@stad.
antwerpen.be



Head of the department

Head of the Administration for Culture, Sport and Youth

Bruno Verbergt is the Director of the City Administration for Culture, Sport and Youth.

Bruno Verbergt
Francis Wellesplein 1
B 2018 Antwerpen
Tel. +32 3 338 75 00
e-mail: bruno.verbergt@stad.antwerpen.be

Heads of the Sports Department

Bart Vrints is the Director of vzw Antwerpen Sportstad.

Bart Vrints
Atletenstraat 80
B 2020 Antwerpen
Tel. +32 3 292 84 83
e-mail: bart.vrints@stad.antwerpen.be

Karin De Craecker is the Director of the Department for Sport and Recreation.

Karin De Craecker
Francis Wellesplein 1
B 2018 Antwerpen
Tel. +32 3 338 75 67
e-mail: karin.decraecker@stad.antwerpen.be

Contact person as regards to questions on the application.

Coordinator of the candidacy for the title of European Capital of Sport

Steven De Meyer is the Coordinator of the Strategy Team for the Sports Department

Steven De Meyer
Francis Wellesplein 1
B 2018 Antwerpen
Tel. +32 3 338 75 68
e-mail: steven.demeyer@stad.antwerpen.be

www.antwerpen.be/sport



Sports in your city

How many people (%) are active in sports in your city?

How many people (%) in your city are members of a sports club, a company sports group, or are organised in sports otherwise?

How does your city support voluntary work in sports?

Is there a development plan for sports in your city?
What are the objectives of this sports development plan?

What role do sports play in your city with regard to achieving the five objectives of the ACES Manifesto?

02

A large, light orange silhouette of an archer in a dynamic pose, holding a bow and arrow, positioned in the background of the page.

Antwerp, a sporting port

How many people (%) are active in sports in your city?

65 PERCENT OF ANTWERP'S ADULT POPULATION PARTICIPATE IN SPORT

Antwerp is a true sporting city. This is apparent in the city's commitment to organising large sporting events and to constructing modern sports infrastructure, but even more so in the impressive sports participation rate of its population. Just about everyone in the city is involved in one way or another in sports, be it as a sportsperson or as a volunteer or supporter.

Recent studies show that **65 percent of Antwerp's adult population engage in sport activities** several times a year and may therefore be regarded as sportspersons. The group of frequent participants is also large. Almost half (46 percent) of the group surveyed participate in sport at least once a week. While 35 percent never

or rarely participate in sport, two-thirds of this group would like to become more active. In other words, 90 percent of the adult population of Antwerp either participate in sport or are interested in becoming a participant.

Sport is also popular among the city's youth. Children and teenagers identify sport as their **favourite pastime** much more commonly than any other activity. Sport is the third most popular leisure activity among young adults, after nightlife and watching television.

Not only is active sports participation popular in Antwerp, so too is attending sporting events as a spectator. **Over half of Antwerp's adult population attend at least one sporting event a year.** Around 30 percent attend four events a year and almost 20 percent are regular spectators, attending at least twelve events annually.



Clearly, then, sport is an important ingredient of life for a large majority of people in Antwerp. Sport is woven into the fabric of the city's community.

How many people (%) in your city are members of a sports club, a company sports group, or are organised in sports otherwise?

OVER HALF OF ANTWERP'S CHILDREN ARE MEMBERS OF A SPORTS CLUB

Sports participation happens mainly in three ways: unorganised, through a sports club or in another organised form.

Unorganised sports participation assumes different forms and involves persons of all ages: individual jogging in a park, playing squash with friends, going swimming as a family, working out in the gym, playing basketball on a public court, ... This kind of sports participation is undoubtedly the most popular. Approximately **70 percent engage in such unorganised or informal sports activities**. Almost 37 percent indicate that they participate exclusively in this kind of sports activity.

Sports clubs are the most common way of engaging in organised sports activities. Over half of Antwerp's six to twelve-year-olds and 40 percent of the city's teenagers are

members of a sports club. **About a third of Antwerp's adult population participate in sports through a sports club.**

In addition to sports participation through membership of a club, about 30 percent of the adults take part in other organised forms of sport, e.g. activities organised by the city, by commercial providers or by employers.

How does your city support voluntary work in sports?

VOLUNTEERISM: THE BACKBONE OF SPORTS

From manger to coach to groundsmen: together, these thousands of volunteers are the backbone of Antwerp's sporting community. Without them, many clubs would simply not exist. In acknowledgement of their effort and commitment, the city provides financial, logistical, promotional and administrative support to sports clubs. Both large competitive clubs and small recreational organisations can call on assistance from the municipal authorities.

The sports club assistance team consists of **ten staff members**. They provide constant qualitative assistance and alleviate the administrative burden of sports clubs. Plans are in place for the creation of an **additional taskforce of experts** that can provide support to sports clubs in outlining policies, organising

events, fundraising and subsidy applications, administrative tasks, marketing and member recruitment. The municipal Sports Department will also continue to work on the digitalisation and simplification of paperwork. Clubs can register with the 'sports database' and submit applications for subsidies electronically.

Each of the nine districts that make up Antwerp has a local **contact point for sports** for citizens, sports clubs and organisers of sporting events. **Five youth sports coordinators** provide technical assistance to the volunteers working in sports.

Municipal infrastructure and sports equipment are made available cheaply, which helps keep sports clubs viable.

Conversely, the sports clubs provide feedback and make recommendations to the Antwerp city council via **advisory sports committees**. In each district, the clubs' elected representatives offer the public authorities advice on sports-related topics on a monthly basis. In addition to the nine local advisory committees, there is a general sports council. The functioning of each of these bodies is supported by one staff member. The City also likes to acknowledge the efforts of all sports volunteers in various other ways, including by offering awards, organising information sessions, and providing gadgets and free training opportunities.



Is there a development plan for sports in your city? What are the objectives of this sports development plan?

ANTWERP'S SPORTS POLICY PROGRAMME FOR 2008 – 2013

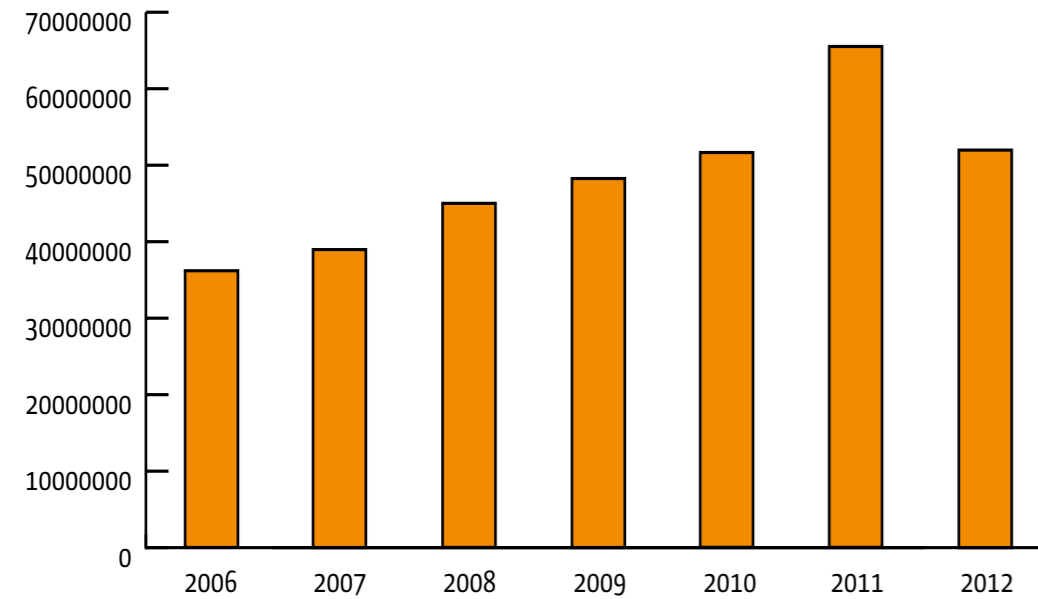
ANTWERP SPENDS 100 EUROS PER RESIDENT PER YEAR ON SPORT

Sport is high on Antwerp's political agenda; it is a **policy priority**. This translates among other things into substantial budgets. The yearly sports budget (including for staff) has been increased from 37 million euros in 2006 to over 53 million for 2012, with a peak of **66.5 million in 2011**, when the construction project for a new football stadium shifts into higher gear. This amounts to an increase by 43 percent or **an average per capita expenditure of more than 100 euros per year**. The multi-year budget includes a provision of six million euros for the title of *European Capital of Sports*.

A CITY WITH A SPORTING VISION

Antwerp is proud of its Olympic heritage and intends to continue to enhance its stature as a city of sport.

SPORTS BUDGET



The overriding ambition is to create a city with a climate and an appetite for sport; a city where every resident participates regularly in sporting events, either actively as an athlete or passively as a spectator. This way, Antwerp will become known in Belgium and abroad not only as an international seaport and as the city of Rubens, fashion and diamonds, but also as a city of sport.

A CITY WITH A SPORTING MISSION

From the recreational to the professional level, Antwerp offers over a hundred different sports for active participation and a vast array of sporting events for passive enjoyment. Obviously, a local authority cannot achieve this feat alone. The commitment of thousands of volunteers and private sponsors to developing their club or organisation is invaluable. A successful implementation of local sports policy requires teamwork between the City and its partners: the sports clubs and their members and supporters.

The City of Antwerp fulfils four separate roles in the implementation of its sports policy plan:

Facilitating:

Creating optimal conditions for sports in Antwerp (sports infrastructure, monitoring of the quality of sports clubs, ...).

Stimulating:

Encouraging residents to participate actively and passively in sports (marketing and communication, sporting events, ...).

Supporting:

Helping our partners achieve the city's sporting goals by providing resources for their qualitative development (sports infrastructure, subsidies, ...).

Directing:

Outlining of sports policy and monitoring of its implementation on the basis of research and community participation. Making policy adjustments where necessary.

The City's primary role in the realisation of its sports vision is not to organise; it is rather to encourage and assist its partners in taking sports initiatives. However, the City also plays a supplementary role in that it is committed to filling any remaining lacunas in local sports offering.

In other words, to STIMULATE is more important than to ORGANISE.





GOALS

The City's sports policy plan aims at attaining two major strategic goals:

1. *To create a sports-minded environment where everyone is encouraged to participate in sports.*

Together with its partners, the City of Antwerp strives for an extensive, diversified and high-quality offering of sports activities and sporting events, and to encourage all citizens to participate actively and passively in these initiatives.

2. *To put Antwerp's sports infrastructure on the European map.*

The City intends to develop its sports infrastructure so that all those participating in sports could do so in optimal conditions. In order to achieve this ambition, the renovation of existing and the construction of new sports infrastructure has been made a policy priority.

The full text of the sports policy plan for 2008-2013 is included as Appendix 2.

What role do sports play in your city with regard to achieving the five objectives of the ACES Manifesto?

THE FIVE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACES MANIFESTO: A PLATFORM FOR SPORTS

A group of children playing in the shallow pool. The local water polo team preparing for next weekend's fixture. Swimming lessons for groups of adult women from ethnic minority backgrounds. Senior citizens keeping fit and healthy through swimming. And all of these swimming pool users showing courtesy and fair play towards each other by keeping the showers and changing rooms clean. It's all in a day at Antwerp's municipal swimming pools.

As this example shows, the five objectives of the ACES manifesto – enjoyment in exercising, willingness to achieve, experiencing community, learning fair play and improving health – are an integral part of Antwerp's all-embracing and inclusive vision for sport. Together, they generate the value added of the city's sports policy plan.

Enjoying exercises

EXERCISE FOR FUN

Two hundred and fifty people dancing to tango music on the banks of the river Scheldt as the sun sets on a warm summer's evening. Skateboarders performing tricks to the sound of hip hop at the brand-new skatespot in Park Spoor Noord. Spontaneous applause for the perfect nutmeg during a five-a-side football game in the local sports centre. Literally thousands of recreational athletes enjoy Antwerp's wide range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities on a daily basis.

Nine in ten adult sportspersons in Antwerp exercise at a recreational level. In so doing, they explore the city and discover a myriad of opportunities for sporting fun. Two-thirds of the activities on offer from Antwerp's sports clubs are recreational. On almost two hundred **sports fields and playgrounds** scattered around the city, kids can enjoy a casual game of football or basketball with friends. **Two large and four mini sports hangars** are dedicated to the sporting pleasure of the general public. The construction of no fewer than twenty-seven jogging tracks and the slogan **"The whole city is running!"** have proven a resounding success.

The city's sports offerings for disabled persons, senior citizens, children and youngsters, and other specific target groups reach over 5 000 residents a year. The philosophy underlying these programmes is invariably that **participation and enjoyment are more important than winning.** Antwerp also stages plenty of major public sporting events ('t Stad Sport, Antwerpen Sport, the Antwerp 10 Miles, cycle races...) for the public's enjoyment.

Three-quarters of the available timeslots in Antwerp's municipal swimming pools are reserved for schools and for recreational swimming. All these facilities have been wonderfully refurbished for the public's enjoyment and sporting fun.

Willingness to achieve

PARTICIPATE TO ACHIEVE

The novice swimmer who wants to make it across the pool. The jogger in pursuit of a personal best around the park. The football team that is going for the amateur league title. The professional athlete who has her eyes set on achieving the Olympic minimum. No matter how modest or how ambitious





the target, everyone participating in sports sets out to achieve. Antwerp's sports policy encourages this attitude and stimulates young talents to perform.

Antwerp is the only city in Flanders to pursue an **elite sports policy**. The main focus is on creating a **springboard for talented young athletes**. The city supports top-level sports clubs financially and logistically. Since 2004, the average annual budget for elite sports subsidising has amounted to 1.5 million euros. Youth sport coordinators in swimming, gymnastics and football assist coaches in determining training programmes and objectives at different levels of achievement. This targeted approach, based on the sports performance pyramid model, enhances the technical proficiency of young athletes and helps them on to the next level.

The results are clear to see: once again, Antwerp's top-level sports clubs in swimming, triathlon, handball, basketball and futsal have enjoyed fantastic seasons.

And Antwerp also produces plenty of individual athletes who can perform at an **international level**. Elfje Willemssen (bobsleigh), and Bart Mollin, Jeroen Van den Bogaert and Karen Persijn (skiing) recently represented Belgium at the Winter Olympics

in Vancouver. And the focus is now on London 2012 for such elite athletes as Kimberley Buys, Annelies De Marée and Elise Matthijsen (swimming), Dirk Van Tichelt, Ilse Heylen and Catherine Jacques (judo), Tom Goyvaerts, Thomas Smet, Hanna Mariën and Kevin Rans (athletics), and Bert Jammaer and Sofie Goos (triathlon). Antwerp-based boxer Sugar Jackson, for this part, has his sights set on the world welterweight title.

Top-level sports clubs and elite athletes are also important **role models**. By taking part in school competitions and public events, including local basketball and football tournaments, they serve as sports ambassadors, further whetting Antwerp's appetite for sport and encouraging youngsters to follow in their footsteps.

Experiencing community

CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH SPORT

Sport builds bridges between generations and cultures. It levels the playing field for people from different social and economic backgrounds. Antwerp has invested in very specific sports projects aimed at connecting people and creating bonds between them.

The 'Open Stadium Fund' encourages local football clubs from the first and second divisions to engage in **community building**. Royal Antwerp FC and Germinal Beerschot offer work-experience programmes for long-term unemployed persons inside their grounds, in their club administrations and catering services. The clubs also organise initiation programmes for underprivileged youngsters. They support initiatives by local residents and make available their stadium infrastructure to community associations.

Residents of **ten underprivileged neighbourhoods** in Antwerp are **stimulated** to participate in sports. Community sports workers engage with residents and monitor local sports needs. Outreach programmes are in place to involve women from ethnic minority communities in cycling, gymnastics and swimming.

Antwerp has conducted large-scale and successful **advertising campaigns** to encourage people to participate in, among other things, dancing and running programmes.

Clubs create networks of people. Sports clubs are therefore encouraged to participate in community festivals and to reach out to local schools. The **After-School Sports Pass** offers children from the age of twelve cheap access

to sports facilities in their neighbourhood. The local Public Social Welfare Centres (OCMWs) offer **reduced sports club membership fees** and distribute **free admission tickets** to sporting events to members of financially underprivileged communities. Youngsters, secondary school pupils, students and senior citizens all have access to sports facilities at reduced rates. Sport clubs who participate actively in outreach programmes receive additional support. A team of **five individual sports mediators** assists people from underprivileged backgrounds in crossing the threshold of sports participation.

In addition to promoting active sports participation, Antwerp's sports policy aims at connecting people by encouraging them to take part as spectators, not only in major events such as top-level cycling competitions, the international triathlon or the Antwerp 10 Miles, but also on a weekly basis, as supporters of their children or grandchildren's sports team.





Learning of fair play

FAIR PLAY FOR ALL

Competitive sport can be tough, both at a professional and at a recreational level. It is therefore important that participants should adhere to rules of conduct that transcend interpersonal differences. The importance of fair play assumes an additional dimension in the context of a culturally and socio-economically diverse city such as Antwerp. Showing respect for team mates, opponents and referees on the pitch is conducive to mutually respectful relations off the pitch, in one's own neighbourhood and in the streets of the city.

Antwerp has drawn up a set of **unequivocal rules** for municipally subsidised sports clubs. It speaks for itself that doping and other forms of cheating that might soil the reputation of the club and the city are expressly prohibited.

Subsidised sports clubs are required to sign up to the **Panathlon Declaration**, entailing a commitment to upholding the ethics of sport. All sports training programmes in Antwerp, and indeed in Flanders, emphasise the importance of the notion of fair play.

The City of Antwerp is proud of its track record in organising sports events where fair play and inclusiveness are central. In 2006, the city played host to 3 000 participants in the national **Special Olympic Games** for athletes with intellectual disabilities. In 2007, Antwerp organised the **EuroGames**, a European sporting event for gay and lesbian athletes that also attracted over 3 000 participants.

Improving health

KEEPING THE CITY FIT

Keeping healthy and fit is cited by nine in ten adult sportspersons in Antwerp as the main motivator for exercising. Health promotion is also an important consideration in outlining a diversified sports policy that reaches out to young as well as old, to both men and women, and to recreational and professional athletes, not only in major but also in small or local sports events and competitions. Keeping the population healthy reduces healthcare expenses. Promoting physical fitness also contributes to mental wellbeing in and for local communities.

It is always better to learn young. That is why Antwerp's **'Sport & Health' promotion project**

targets six to twelve-year-olds. Primary school children are encouraged to be physically active and they are familiarised in the classroom with healthy dietary habits. This way, their physical education is extended well beyond an hour's Physical Training in the school gym. In order to maximise the impact of the project, a collaborative effort has been set up involving schools, local health consultants and the municipal sports administration.

The aptly named **Fitness Coach** is a bus that tours the province of Antwerp to make people aware of their level of fitness through a number of tests. On the basis of their performance, they are advised on how to improve their physical condition. The Fitness Coach calls at markets, public buildings and sports facilities. In 2009, it made stops in most of Antwerp's nine districts.

The city of Antwerp attaches great importance to **sports initiation programmes**. These are aimed primarily at non-athletes. Several such low-threshold, grassroots programmes are already under way, including **'Start to Run'**, **'Start to Swim'** and **'Start to Bike'**. To complement this approach, a major drive was kicked off at the beginning of 2010 under the slogan "The whole city is running!". The promotional campaign makes use of

various channels, and it encompasses the construction of new jogging routes and the organisation of runs. It is intended to encourage the public to take part in the Antwerp 10 Miles or the Ladies Run events. All practical information is provided in a free guide, which has already proven a hit among runners in Flanders and the Netherlands.

Antwerp is also committed to enhancing the fitness of **citizens with special needs**. Specially adapted sports facilities are made available for free to the Cancer Foundation ('Stichting Tegen Kanker'). The city also provides an annual programme of sports activities for disabled persons. And it sponsors a football team that is preparing for the Homeless World Cup.



Variety of offers in sports and exercises

Are there special offers for sports for particular age groups?

Who makes these sports offers?

Are there quality criteria for these sports offers?

Are there educational possibilities, e.g. for trainers and tutors?

Are these measures subsidised by your city?

03

An inclusive city of sport



Are there special offers for sports for particular age groups? Who makes these sports offers?

Antwerp has sports offerings for all ages and target groups, thanks first and foremost to the numerous sports clubs in the city. Together, they cover around ninety sports disciplines. Antwerp's sports administration encourages these clubs to offer sporting opportunities for all ages and target groups. It also attracts partners to fill any remaining lacunas. Where necessary, the City actively develops additional recreational sports programmes.

In 2009, the sports administration organised 209 weekly sporting activities for 3 410 citizens and around 500 one-day events for **30 000 participants**. These included movement activities and sports camps for young children, as well as made-to-measure sports programmes for adults. The city also runs the

'Handikid' sports project for children with a disability. In association with thirty-eight local Public Centres for Social Welfare, it offers special programmes for the over 50s.

The **Neighbourhood Sports** initiative offers additional sporting opportunities for underprivileged citizens. This programme, which runs in ten underprivileged neighbourhoods, provides not only personal assistance in association with sports clubs and other partners, but also workshops and courses. It makes available sports facilities, organises local sporting events and offers sports initiation classes at schools. During the Easter Holidays, over 200 free sports initiation programmes are provided in cooperation with a variety of sports clubs. Around 1 500 children and youngsters conclude their sporting holiday by participating in a dynamic closing event in the city centre.



JESPO vzw and KIDS vzw offer additional low-threshold sports opportunities for children and youngsters, with special focus on underprivileged groups. Together, they provide 124 weekly and 41 occasional activities.

There is also a broad offering of curricular and extra-curricular sport throughout the educational system, for pupils and students of all ages. Moreover, youngsters are entitled to **special rates**.

Numerous private companies, associations of senior citizens, social and cultural clubs and commercial organisations (fitness centres, dance schools, etc) also develop sporting opportunities for specific target groups. Rest and care homes provide physical exercising for their residents, with **support from the city** where necessary.

Wapper is a non-profit organisation specialising in sports for persons with a motor disability, and Psylos provides a similar service in mental healthcare. Citizens with an intellectual impairment can get physically active at Recreas or at a paralympic sports club.

Rode Antraciet, a cultural organisation for detainees, organises sports activities in Antwerp prison.

Are there quality criteria for these sports offers?

QUALITY CRITERIA FOR SPORTS OFFERINGS

The City of Antwerp is committed to providing high-quality sports opportunities for all of its citizens, in terms of infrastructure as well as coaching.

The quality of the municipal sports infrastructure is guaranteed by **400 employees** whose daily job it is to maintain Antwerp's indoor and outdoor sports facilities. To ensure that the sports infrastructure meets all the legal and sport-specific requirements, maintenance and renovation are a **constant priority**. Over the past few years, all of the city's swimming pools have been thoroughly renovated, so that they meet the strict environmental standards of the VLAREM II legislation. The City is presently overhauling its sports halls and open-air sports facilities.

New sports infrastructure is being constructed as part of the realisation of the City's **long-term vision**. Every new project is designed with a view to sustainability, rational energy use and environmental responsibility. The architectural quality of the projects is monitored by the city architect.

Quality control is a priority in all municipal sports offerings. The city therefore relies on **professional monitors** and on continuous **user feedback**. All participants in municipal sports activities are asked to fill out an assessment form, with a view to the constant improvement of provisions.

The municipal sports administration also encourages sports clubs to implement quality control and improvement strategies. **Subsidies** are granted **on the basis of strict qualitative criteria**. Better qualified coaches equate to more generous financial support. Every effort is made to provide enough coaching courses locally. Low-skilled residents are encouraged to enrol for these programmes, and appropriate strategies are in place to prevent dropout.

To further assist the sports clubs in developing high-quality provisions for youngsters, the City has appointed a number of **youth sports coordinators**. They are at the disposal of sports clubs who wish to enhance their approach to coaching and youth development.





Are there educational possibilities, e.g. for trainers and tutors?

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The strength and success of a sports club is codetermined by the commitment and ability of its coaches and board members, as well as its volunteers. The City is committed to attracting specialised training courses to Antwerp and to encouraging sports club staff to enrol for such programmes.

*Vlaamse Trainersschool*¹ is a training institution that provides around **sixty coaching courses** in a variety of sports in Antwerp. There is also an offering of **courses focusing on other aspects** of running a sports club, including accountancy, legislation and taxation, insurance and liability, not-for-profit legislation, managing volunteers, attracting sponsorship, etc.

¹ *Vlaamse Trainersschool* is a training institution for sports coaches established by the Flemish authorities in association with the region's universities and university colleges, as well as the various sports associations. The institution grants official coaching degrees.

There are various secondary schools in Antwerp that offer sports studies for twelve to eighteen-year-olds, and two university colleges – Artesis Hogeschool and Karel De Grote Hogeschool – have Bachelor programmes in Physical Education.

At Antwerp's **elite sports school**, twelve to eighteen-year-olds with a talent for sports can combine general education with intensive sports training. The school, in cooperation with various sports federations, provides programmes in football, swimming, tae kwon do, tennis, badminton, judo, skiing and snowboarding. For the 2009-10 academic year, the school has 147 pupils. In addition, over forty football talents, aged between twelve and fourteen, are taking the preparatory programme.

Are these measures subsidised by your city?

SUBSIDISING OF SPORTS CLUBS

The sports clubs, most of which are volunteer organisations, are the City's principal partners in the implementation of its sports policy. The City fully acknowledges and supports their important role, with a view to further developing Antwerp's high-quality offering in the field of sports.

The City pursues a diversified subsidising policy that provides appropriate support to the sports clubs in question. In addition to a **basic subsidy** and **reduced rents** for municipal sports infrastructure, clubs can obtain additional funding by striving for quality improvement. **Extra resources** are earmarked for sports clubs involved in social integration programmes.

In addition to the centralised approach, the various districts distribute funds among local sports clubs.

Overview of direct subsidising

Subsidy	Amount (in euro)	Criteria
Operational funding	400 000	Basic functioning, qualified trainers, members with disabilities, training courses, Panathlon declaration, variable offerings, targeting at vulnerable groups, interclub cooperation
Infrastructure and equipment funding	1 550 000	Acquisition of sports equipment, construction or conversion of sports infrastructure
Impulse subsidies	300 000	Qualified youth sport coaches and youth sport coordinator, organisation of training, enrolment for training
Diversification project funding	150 000	Promotion of diversity
Elite sports fund	1 550 000	Development of talent
District subsidies	231 500	Organisation of events, newly formed clubs, youth sports vouchers,...
Total direct subsidies	4 181 500	



Sports infrastructure

How many sports locations are there in your city?

What plans are there for expanding sports locations and gyms?

04

A light blue silhouette of a basketball player in mid-air, holding a basketball with both hands above their head. The player is facing right. The silhouette is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the main text area.

A city tailor-made for sport

How many sports locations are there in your city?

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Sports infrastructure is essential to any sporting success. Therefore, investing in sport facilities is one of the pillars of the City's sports policy.

Antwerp already has a **varied and ample sports infrastructure**. This includes facilities for indoor and outdoor sports, facilities for competitive sports at the professional, semi-professional and recreational levels, facilities for individual athletes and sports clubs, and facilities for special-needs athletes.

At the present moment, there are **over 1 150 official sports facilities** in Antwerp. An overview:

Sports halls

210 sports halls, including three for major sporting events, twenty multifunctional sports centres, two local sports facilities, thirty-two smaller sports halls and 153 school gyms.

Swimming pools

Sixteen public swimming pools, including one 50-metre pool, eight 25-metre pools, five pools for teaching, one open-air pool and one natural pool.

Indoor sports facilities

127 sport-specific facilities, including four bowling alleys, two ice rinks, fifty-five fitness centres, three climbing halls, eight squash halls, two table-tennis halls, nine tennis halls, four gymnastics halls and twenty-four martial arts facilities.



Outdoor sports facilities

Almost 800 facilities, including ten athletics tracks, 131 football pitches, thirty-seven korfbal pitches, 172 pétanque courts, 187 tennis courts, two football grounds, one velodrome and 181 sports fields in public locations.

Antwerp's diverse and high-quality sports infrastructure and its excellent hotel accommodation shall be available for teams participating in 2012 London Olympics.

DIVERSITY

The diversity of Antwerp's sports infrastructure is apparent from the following examples:

For **top-level indoor sports**, Antwerp possesses the **combined facility** of Sportpaleis (15 000 seats) and the adjacent Lotto Arena (5 000 seats), a **unique setup in Flanders**. Both venues boast VIP lounges, a hospitality centre, and medical and paramedical facilities, so that they are suitable for international sporting events and competitions at the very highest level. The City's main objective is to **further stimulate top-level sporting performances and to enhance the role of sport in society**. Attracting international sporting events to Antwerp and building successful local

sports teams is important in boosting public participation in sports and generating civic pride. The expected impact and return on investment is great.

Park Spoor Noord is a good example of Antwerp's strategy of converting brownfield sites into green public spaces. The new 24-hectare park, designed by Italian architects Bernardo Secchi and Paola Vigano, replaces a disused railway yard. Its insertion has vastly improved the quality of life and living for local residents.

The park serves first and foremost as a 'neighbourhood garden', a meeting place for residents, an area for relaxation and leisure, for playing and for sport. It offers an array of possibilities: playing fields, picnic areas, a local sports hall, a shelter, playgrounds, table-tennis facilities, hammocks, various sports courts and a running circuit. It also includes a BMX and skatebowl, a water playground and a multifunctional sports facility that attract users from further afield. The park also has catering facilities, so that it is suitable as a venue for a variety of public events. This has made the new location a huge success, not only locally, but citywide.

The sports function of the new park is supplemented by the nearby swimming and steam bath centre, known as **Sportoase Veldstraat**. In 2004, the city council took the decision to thoroughly renovate this listed 1933 swimming facility in late Art Deco style. The building, with its unique 33.33 by 12 metre pool, was revamped under a public private partnership. The swimming pool was retained and some new extended functions were added. The combination of swimming pool, hammam and wellness centre has proven immensely popular, not only among local residents of this, one of Antwerp's most multicultural neighbourhoods, but to the city as a whole.

In another project, the City has transformed the former open-air swimming facility in Boekenberg Park in Deurne, which has fulfilled an important social role since 1934, into a **natural pool**; a good example of how Antwerp strives to combine sports functions with environmental promotion and heritage protection. Because of the park's listed status, the traditional swimming pool had become untenable. But rather than abolish the pool, the city decided to convert it into an ecological swimming facility where the water is purified by means of a biofilter system, without chemicals. The filter consists in a

layer of lava rock covered with water plants, creating a biotope for bacteria that feed on the pollutants in the water. During the winter, the facility is used for polar bear plunges by a local ice-swimming club, while during the summer it attracts visitors from across Antwerp and beyond. The biologically purified water, the wonderful architecture in a unique green setting, and the fact that admission is free have made this project a resounding success.





What plans are there for expanding sports locations and gyms?

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: A SPORTING CITY ON THE MOVE

In order to further increase the degree of sports participation and the quality of its citizens' sporting pleasure, Antwerp continues to invest in existing and new sports infrastructure as part of its dynamic and diversified sports policy.

Preparations for the construction of a **new football stadium** are now in full swing. The new ground will host Antwerp's two major clubs, which play in the first and the second divisions of the Belgian league. With a view to Belgium's bid to host the 2018 or 2022 World Cup, the 25 000-seater stadium can be reconfigured to a venue for 40 000 spectators.

Antwerp has also unveiled plans for a **second top-class indoor sports facility**. With its capacity of 2 000 spectators, this new site will complete Antwerp's line-up of indoor sports venues, which presently consists of Sportpaleis (15 000 seats), Lotto Arena (5 000 seats) and Arena Sports Hall (1 200 seats).

With the addition of these two state-of-the-art venues, the city of diamond's top sports clubs will have ideal facilities to continue to shine in domestic and international competitions.

Furthermore, the City will, over the next three years, be opening a whole range of new sports facilities for recreational use, including eight multifunctional halls, three neighbourhood sports centres, a gymnastics hall, eleven artificial grass pitches, fifteen running tracks and a variety of sports courts and fields in public locations. These plans are all part of Antwerp's concerted drive to upgrade its

sports infrastructure. The new sports halls alone will provide an **additional 15 000 square metres of space for sport**. The projects are distributed optimally across the city to ensure that **residents could participate in sport locally**.

Antwerp is also implementing a master plan for the renovation of existing sports infrastructure. The municipal swimming pools have already been revamped. Next in line are the sports halls, which will all be thoroughly refurbished over the next few years.





Sporting events

What sporting events are regularly organised in your city?
Which sport does your city focus on?
How does your city participate in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?

What sporting events have taken place in your city in the last 5 years?

What outstanding sporting events will take place or are planned in your city for the next 5 years?
To what extent will your city participate in these future events in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?

05

A vibrant host of city for sport



Hosting sporting events is an important element in Antwerp's sports policy. A diverse and attractive calendar of mass and elite sports events enhances Antwerp's stature as a city of sport. Moreover, it stimulates active and passive sports participation and contributes to community cohesion and civic pride. Last but not least, the organisation of international sporting events generates great economic spin-off.

In line with its sporting mission, the City's role in staging sporting events is facilitating rather than initiating. While Antwerp is committed to attracting and hosting both large and small-scale events, the actual organisation is left to the various competent partners (clubs, associations, commercial organisations...). The City provides support to help ensure the success of such initiatives.

Swimming, running and cycling, the most popular sports according to participation research, are well represented on Antwerp's calendar of sporting events.

**What sporting events are regularly organised in your city?
Which sport does your city focus on?
How does your city participate in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?**

ANNUAL EVENTS

The City of Antwerp strives to host an appropriate mix of top-level sporting events, mass participation sporting events and sporting events for specific target groups.

The top-level sporting events attract over 350 000 spectators every year.



Highlights include the **Diamond Games** (tennis; over 30 000 spectators), the **Scheldeprijs, Schaal Sels, Scheldecross** and the **After-Tour Deryn Event** (cycling), **Jumping Antwerpen** (showjumping), and the **Open Flemish Swimming Championships** and the **Antwerp Youth Swimming Cup**.

The 2009 edition of the **Antwerp 10 Miles & Marathon** attracted over 25 000 participants and more than 100 000 spectators, making it the city's most popular sporting event and the largest road running fixture in Belgium. The programme includes various runs to appeal to the widest possible group of individuals, ranging from kids to professional marathon runners.

The **Antwerp Iron Weekend** is another regular fixture on Antwerp's sporting calendar. Day one of this two-day half-distance triathlon event is reserved for recreational athletes, while the second day is for over 1 100 top athletes from across the world. It is a qualification event for the Ford Ironman World Championship 70.3 in Florida with 50 qualification spots up for grabs. The race has a wave start for different age categories and handcycle athletes.

For a complete overview of annual events, see Appendix 4.

The City of Antwerp distributes free admission tickets to a variety of sporting events among members of financially underprivileged target groups.

What sporting events have taken place in your city in the last 5 years?

OUTSTANDING PAST EVENTS

Antwerp is a hospitable city and, in line with its inclusive sports policy, has hosted a variety of sporting events in recent years. In 2007, Antwerp proudly hosted the **EuroGames** for gay and lesbian athletes as well as the **Korfbal European Cup**. Major sporting events for disabled athletes have included the 2006 **National Special Olympic Games** and the 2007 and 2009 **Qualification Tournament European Cup Wheelchair Basketball Antwerp**. And in 2003, Jewish athletes from across the continent converged on Antwerp for the 2003 **European Maccabi Games**.

Antwerp strongly promotes swimming and cycling. It has recently hosted the 2007 **European Junior Swimming Championship Short Course**, stage 2 of the 2007 **Eneco Tour** (Road cycling (UCI Pro Tour)), the 2006 **National Road Cycling Championships**, the

2001 **European Swimming Championships Short Course** and the 2001 **World Track Cycling Championships**. In 2001, the finish of stage 2 and start of stage 3 of the **Tour De France** attracted an enthusiastic crowd of 500 000 spectators.

Antwerp's sports calendar caters for a variety of audiences. It has recently included a round in the **World Championship Formula 1 Waterski**, a qualifying round in the **UEFA Futsal Championship**, the **Qualifier European Cup Baseball and Softball for teams**, the **European Open Championship Ju-Jitsu**, the **Tall Ships Race** and a round in the **World Powerboat Championship**.

The City promotes sporting events, qualitatively and professionally, by providing free sports infrastructure, logistics, policing, promotional materials and side activities. The organisational aspect is facilitated through financial support and a one-stop information desk.





What outstanding sporting events will take place or are planned in your city for the next 5 years?
 To what extent will your city participate in these future events in terms of organisation, finance and by providing facilities?

OUTSTANDING FUTURE EVENTS

Antwerp will be hosting a whole series of events in the coming years. In addition to the annual sporting fixtures for a broad audience, the city will be hosting various national and international championships and competitions. For a complete overview, see Appendix 4.

Antwerp will be hosting a number of international events that appeal mainly to young spectators, including a round in the **Big Air Snowboard World Cup** and the World Ropeskiing and Skateboarding Championships. The **World Billiard Championship** caters for a predominantly older audience. Antwerp also continues its commitment to disabled sports with bids to host the **Boccia World Cup** and the **World Wheelchair Rugby Championships**. Students will converge on Antwerp for the **Korfball University World Cup**. And in 2013, Antwerp will be hosting the **World Outgames**.

Popular sports such as cycling and football will continue to feature prominently. The 2010 **Tour de France** passes through Antwerp on the fourth of July, and the city is also a candidate for the Grand Start of the 2014 edition of this legendary cycle race. Antwerp is a venue in the joint Belgian-Dutch bid to host the **football World Cup in 2018 or 2022**, and it is also considering a bid to organise the **World Student Games**.

Antwerp's budget (excluding staffing costs) for attracting and supporting sporting events amounts to 600 000 euros for 2010, 700 000 euros for 2011 and 800 000 euros for 2012. An additional budget for further sporting events has been foreseen should Antwerp be awarded the title of European Sports Capital for 2012.






Cooperation in national / international sports, cooperation with science and research

How does your city cooperate with sports associations and institutions on a national and European level, e. g. National Olympic Committee or international sports associations?

How does your city cooperate with universities, high schools and research organisations on a local, national and European level?

06

A city of learning and progress



*Antwerp's approach to sports policy is anything but insular. The City firmly believes in **building sports networks with local, national and international partners**. This leads to strong, structural relationships as well as cooperation and knowledge exchange that can only add to Antwerp's sports culture.*

How does your city cooperate with sports associations and institutions on a national and European level, e. g. National Olympic Committee or international sports associations?

COOPERATION WITH SPORTS ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Antwerp's fund for elite sports is aligned with Flemish regional sports policy. Antwerp cooperates with the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC), the different sports federations, the Agency for the Promotion of Physical Development, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (BLOSO), the Department for Culture, Youth, Sport and the Media, the Minister for Sport and the provincial Camille Paulus Fund.

The Antwerp school for elite sports is a joint project of the Minister for Sport, BLOSO, BOIC, various sports federations, the Association for Physical Education, the Flemish Sports Federation, the three main educational networks and the City of Antwerp.



BLOSO, in cooperation with the City of Antwerp, organises a number of major events and promotional activities, including a Badminton Festival, the Sports Club Week and Antwerpen Sport.

Antwerp also cooperates on a regular basis with the Flemish Institute for Sports Management and Recreational Policy (ISB vzw), the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities, and the Flemish Sports Federation, for the purpose of exchanging information and organising fact-finding trips.

The Foundation for Flemish School Sports (SVS), in association with the municipal sports administration, organises various curricular and extra-curricular sporting activities for pupils.

Located in the centre of Antwerp, the House of Sport is a unique meeting-point for the Flemish and provincial sports sector. It houses offices of the Provincial Sports Department, a conference centre and the registered offices of over fifty sports federations and institutions.

Cooperation structures are in place with the Department for Culture, Youth, Sport and the Media with a view to the construction of sports infrastructure and the stimulation of sports participation by members of deprived

communities, as well as within the framework of the Open Stadium Fund, which encourages first and second division football clubs to engage in community outreach programmes.

How does your city cooperate with universities, high schools and research organisations on a local, national and European level?

COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITY COLLEGES AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

A planned approach based on extensive research in various areas is essential to Antwerp's sporting policy. To this end, the City calls on research groups at different universities and university colleges.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel has carried out various sports-related research projects. Findings have been published in 'Neighbourhood sport for underprivileged youth: new challenges for a municipal sports policy? The case of Antwerp (Belgium, 2003)' by Marc Theeboom, and in 'A methodology to determine the needs of the users of municipal sports infrastructure in Antwerp (Belgium)' by Marc Theeboom, Kathy Van Den Bergh en Paul de Knop.

In 2009, a large-scale sports participation study was carried out in cooperation with the K.U.Leuven and a marketing research company. This study is conducted every three years.

The City also cooperates with university colleges and universities by offering internships to students and by participating in the supervision of student theses.





Profile and possible activities as European Capital of Sports

How does your city see – also in comparison to other cities – its special quality, its particular strong point and outstanding profile as the Capital of Sport?

How will your city, as the European Capital of Sports, realise the five main objectives of ACES with regard to the sports development in your city?

Which initiatives und activities will your city want to contribute to the work of ACES?

07

Antwerp, European Capital of Sports for 2012

How does your city see – also in comparison to other cities – its special quality, its particular strong point and outstanding profile as the Capital of Sport?

Rather than to excel in one particular sport or to focus on one specific perspective, the City of Antwerp strives to develop a general and scientifically grounded approach to sports that is based on the principles of inclusiveness, empowerment and participation. This is where the strength of Antwerp as a European Capital of Sport lies, and it is this diversified approach to the realisation of the five ACES that Antwerp wishes to demonstrate to Europe in 2012.

How will your city, as the European Capital of Sports, realise the five main objectives of ACES with regard to the sports development in your city?

Which initiatives and activities will your city want to contribute to the work of ACES?

ANTWERP, HOSPITABLE CITY OF SPORT

Sports officials from European Capitals of Sport shall be **invited** to sports events in Antwerp to witness the City's unique approach. This way, they can see first hand how novice and competitive swimmers share Antwerp's pools, and how inexperienced joggers are encouraged to run alongside seasoned competitive athletes. This unique combination of elite sport and public participation events is the cement of community





cohesion and civic pride in Antwerp. The City also organises **seminars** on the important relationship between land-use planning and sport, on the specificities of social inclusion through sports, on local sports club policy and on Antwerp's diversified approach to sports infrastructure development.

The 2012 edition of the **Antwerp 10 Miles & Marathon** shall be devoted to connecting the citizens of Europe through sport. From each ACES city, Antwerp shall invite a team to take part in the relay marathon as well as a family to participate in the 1-km Kids Run, the 5-km Antwerp Short Run, the 5-km Ladies Run or the full Antwerp 10 miles.

The **Antwerp Street Soccer World Cup** is more about participating than about winning. We shall invite a team of recreational street footballers from ethnic minority communities from each ACES city to participate in this unique event: a team of Moroccan footballers from Valencia, an outfit of Surinam players from Rotterdam, a Russian team from Warsaw, an African squad based in Copenhagen, a Turkish side from Stuttgart, a team of Albanians living in Milan, etc. In sum, a wonderful testimony to how sport brings people and cities together.

SPORTS PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE

Antwerp also wishes to put its diversified sports participation policy on the European map from a structural perspective. After all, how should sports participation be measured? Obviously this encompasses a lot more than just counting memberships of sports clubs or the number of daily users of swimming pools. Antwerp therefore intends to organise a **conference** where European research institutions can develop a joint tool for measuring sports participation rates.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH AND SOCIAL REMEDIATION OF SPORT IN EUROPE

The municipal authorities have very good reasons to invest in sport. First and foremost, sports participation is an important goal in its own right. Furthermore, sport can contribute to the resolution of various societal issues. In this sense, **sport is a means to an end**. But like other social goods (e.g. education, housing, healthcare and employment), sport is not equally accessible to all citizens. People from underprivileged neighbourhoods, low-income groups and ethnic minority communities face barriers to achieving their sporting ambitions.

The **City of Antwerp is a trendsetter in Flanders in the field of social sports policy**. Social integration through and social remediation of sport are achieved under an inclusive and all-embracing programme. Antwerp pursues an interdisciplinary, cross-departmental and targeted sports policy with a view to overcoming barriers to sports participation.

Social integration through and social remediation of sport is a challenge and an opportunity. It is important that the cities of Europe should be able to share their experiences in this field. Antwerp intends to stimulate such cooperation and to involve Flemish educational institutions in inventorying good practices in the aforementioned fields. The results of these research efforts shall be presented and discussed in 2012 at a **European conference**. The findings shall be disseminated by means of a logbook and an interactive website for the enhancement of a social and sports-minded Europe. The City of Antwerp, during its tenure as European Capital of Sport in 2012, intends to serve as a European knowledge centre in the field of social integration through and social remediation of sport.



Antwerp lives and breathes sport

Conclusion

Antwerp lives and breathes sport! The city of diamonds, culture and fashion on the River Scheldt therefore cherishes the ambition of also being recognised as an outstanding city of sport, both by its own citizens and by Europe and the world.

The label of European City of Sport and the prestige that it entails is not a given; it must be earned. Antwerp's commitment to sport is apparent from the three-yearly research report on sports participation and sports needs in the city, which provides a solid foundation for an effective and inclusive urban sports policy.

Moreover, the City of Antwerp's sports policy plan ties in with a more encompassing social project. The slogan 'You own the city', Antwerp's unequivocal message of empowerment to its citizens, also applies to sport and sportinfrastructure. The City is thus committed to involving everyone in its inclusive vision on sport. This presupposes a joint effort and a sense of civic belonging.

From street sports to elite sports; from local fixture to international events; from neighbourhood basketball court to state-of-the-art indoor sports facility: the city subscribes wholeheartedly to a sports policy that includes and enfranchises, with special focus on specific target groups such as deprived individuals, senior citizens, street kids,

persons with a disability, the homeless, women from ethnic minority communities... For all these groups, Antwerp offers tailor-made sporting opportunities.

Antwerp intends to promote this comprehensive and inclusive approach during its tenure as European Capital of Sport in 2012, both nationally and internationally, for sport connects people with their city, with their region and with Europe!



Appendices

The enclosed memory stick contains the following documents :

1. Digital dossier Antwerp 2012 / Candidacy file for the title of European Capital of Sport
2. Sports policy plan for 2008-2013 - original version
3. Sports policy plan for 2008-2013 - English translation
4. Overview of events for 2010-2014
5. A visual impression of the City of Antwerp

Colophon

Graphic design and lay-out: Peggy Wouters - GC: 63182

Responsible publisher: Bart Vrints, Atletenstraat 80, 2020 Antwerpen

Legal depot number: D/2010/0306/136

