



FLANDERS INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (VLAIO) HELPS

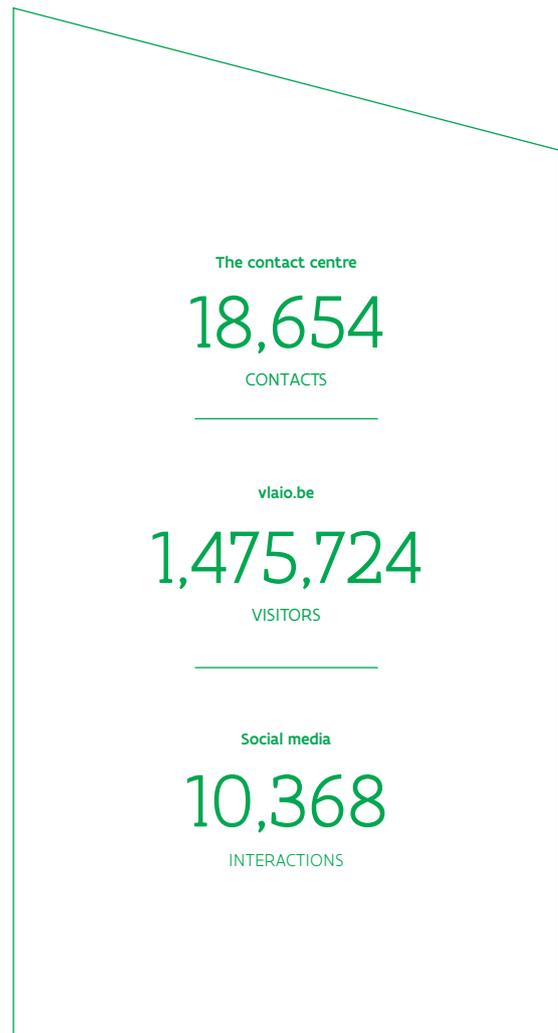
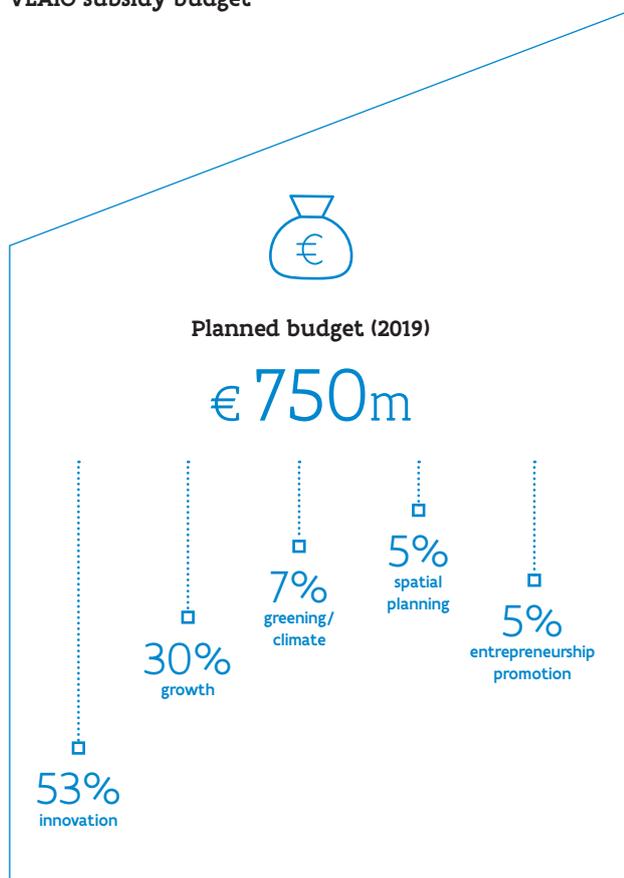
in conjunction with the partners in our network

VLAIO at a glance (figures 2018)

- 368 staff
- 220 partners

- **Direct support to businesses (2018)**
 - Innovation support
€ 199 m -> 473 projects
 - Economic support
€ 79 m -> 817 projects
€ 61 m -> 151,000 projects

VLAIO subsidy budget



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In conjunction with an extensive partner network we have but a single goal: the creation of a favourable business environment

SME portfolio

This easily accessible and interactive subsidy is geared to SMEs. They can apply for financial support when they purchase services that boost the overall quality of their business. Examples include training or advisory services (such as establishing a communication plan) from a registered service provider. The SME portfolio aims to be accessible for a maximum number of businesses, which is why the application procedure can easily be completed online.

SME growth subsidy

SMEs looking to realise strategic growth can apply for SME growth subsidies to help them secure the knowledge they need to grow. There are several ways to grow, viz. transformation, innovation or internationalisation. The entrepreneur is free to decide how this knowledge is to be acquired: either by working with a strategic consultant, hiring someone or a combination of both.

Green subsidies

Entrepreneurs looking to make environmentally friendly or energy-efficient investments can call on financial support. Here, too, easy access is essential. Via an online aid application, companies can select a standardised environmental technology from a limited list of approved technologies. When certain conditions are met the Flemish government shoulders a portion of the additional cost such an innovative investment entails.

Strategic ecological support

Substantial environment-friendly or energy-efficient investments which, due to their unique nature, do not feature on the limited technologies list for 'classic' green subsidies, may qualify for strategic ecological support if certain conditions are met. This subsidy caters to SMEs and large companies that invest at least € 3 million.

Strategic transformation support

This financial measure supports large investment and training projects that are aimed at transforming both the company and the Flemish economy as a whole. The innovative value, the degree of internationalisation and the sustainable character of the project are key factors in assessing the concrete impact of the transformation.

R & D projects

Innovation is the driving force behind any business. That is why VLAIO grants subsidies to companies that, individually or with partners, implement projects where an innovative idea can lay the foundations for a successful business. If the realisation of the project requires challenging R&D activities or if new knowledge must be acquired then our agency provides advice and a financial leg-up.

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More details on transformation support

For whom?

The strategic transformation support caters to SMEs and large companies looking to realise a transformation project, either alone or together.

Why the support?

Investments and training projects that are essential to the implementation of the transformation project.

Amount

Basic support of 8% for investments and 20% for training

For what purpose?

To support investment and training projects that make a substantial contribution to the strengthening of the economic fabric of the Flemish region.

More specifically:

- investments in strategic clusters and lead plants in Flanders;
- investments in the international expansion of innovation-oriented SMEs in Flanders;
- investments that make a transformation possible and realise the long-term anchoring of important jobs in Flanders.

Conditions

- Exclusively for SMEs and large companies looking to realise a transformation project, either alone or together;
- The company's core activity is situated in the eligible sectors;
- The training projects and investments are essential to the implementation of the transformation project;
- Over a three-year period the eligible training costs and investment amount are at least as high as the entry thresholds;
- At the date of allocation the company must not be a company in difficulty according to European rules.

Amount

The subsidy package consists of basic support for the transformation project on the one hand and bonus support for the creation of extra jobs on the other.

Basic support amounts to 8% for investments and 20% for training projects with a maximum of €1 million per applicant company.

Bonus support must not exceed 25% of the basic support, this is a ceiling of 2% of extra support for investments and maximum 5% for training projects. The degree of support depends on the number of jobs created by the transformation project.

When interconnected companies submit individual requests for subprojects that fit within the scope of a global transformation plan then the total support (=basic support + bonus support) across the different applications will be limited to €1.25 million.