

ghent: so much city



In this presentation

1. The city at a glance

Geographical positioning, demographical evolution

2. City assets

Different roles and attraction forces

3. Economy

Strategic location, sectors, projects

4. Organisation

Governmental framework, organisation, mission

5. International policy

Organisation, European projects and networks, partnerships



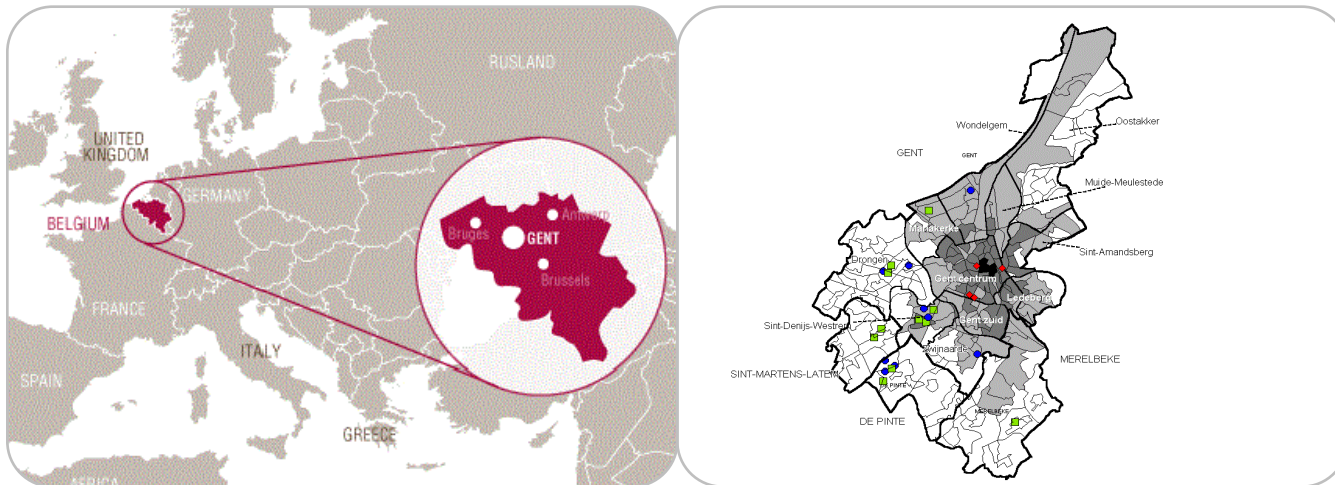
The city at a glance

Ghent is a “pocket sized metropolis”, combining the intimacy of a small city with the openness of a metropolis.

Geographical positioning

- **Strategically within Europe**

Ghent is situated at the crossroads of other economically strong areas such as the Randstad Holland in the north, the Ruhrgebiet in the east, London in the west and Paris and Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing in the south.



Geographical positioning

- **Roads**

Ghent is situated at the crossroads of the highways E40 (London-Istanbul) and E17 (Lisbon-Stockholm).

- **Water**

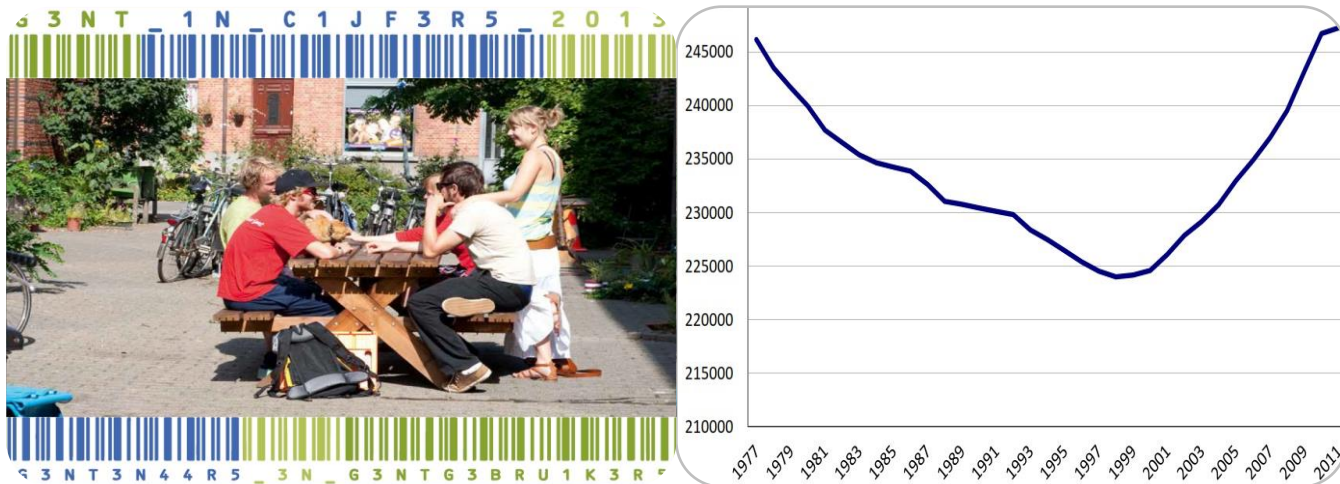
Located at the merging point of the rivers 'Leie' and 'Schelde', Ghent has an important port that is linked to the Westerschelde and the North Sea via the Gent-Terneuzen canal.

- **Rail**

Ghent-Sint-Pieters railway station is an international and regional gateway and the most important passenger station of Flanders.

Demographical evolution

- Total population exceeded 250,000 in January 2014
- Ranking second to Antwerp, both in Flanders and Belgium
- 12% increase since 1999 (after decreasing for 19 years)
- Slight female predominance (50,7%)



Demographical evolution

- **Rejuvenating**

Compared to the Flemish average Ghent has strikingly more 25 to 34-year-olds and young children (0-4 years).

- **Aging**

Almost 1 out of 3 inhabitants is 55 or older. The amount of over 65 is slightly increasing, but there is no relative increase.

- **Diversifying**

Ghent is ethnically and culturally becoming more and more diversified. 19% of the inhabitants belong to an ethno-cultural minority (12% has no Belgian nationality). The city is a melting pot of 156 different nationalities.

City Assets

Ghent offers a variety of operational functions: port city, university city, city of knowledge, culture, ...



Ghent, city with a history



The Belfry, the Saint Nicholas' Church and the Saint Bavo's Cathedral are silent but imposing witnesses to Ghent's rich history.

- Ghent grew at the merging point of two rivers, the Lys and the Scheldt.
- In the Middle Ages Ghent was a metropolis – bigger than London and second only to Paris in size.
- Old and new fit seamlessly together, ensuring a unique, timeless balance.
- 2013: 100 years since the World Exhibition and the summit of the belle époque.

Ghent, city of culture

- Host of the International Film Festival of Flanders
- Ghent is a UNESCO City of Music. The city has a wild range of musical events: the Festival of Flanders, Gent Jazz Festival, I Love Techno, ...
- The ten-day Ghent Festivities is the largest European city festival.
- Thé stage-art city of Flanders



Ghent is a big cocktail of styles in art, design, architecture and music. History is gracefully connected to modern design and art.

Ghent, city of tourism



After sunset Ghent takes on a new dimension. Its award-winning lighting plan creates a magical, shimmering sight.

- No other city in Belgium has as many classified historic buildings as Ghent.
- 3rd in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine ranking of authentic destinations.
- “Europe’s best kept secret” and a must see destination according to Lonely Planet.
- Ghent is home of the ‘Flemish Foodies’, three culinary geniuses
- www.visitgent.be

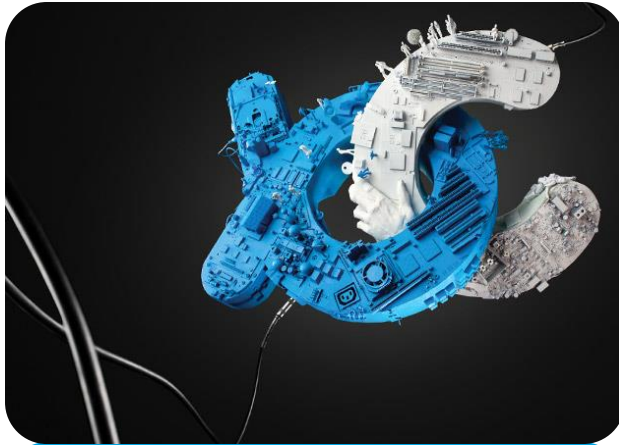
Ghent, city of knowledge and innovation

- Largest student city of Flanders (70.000 students)
- The 'Academic Ranking of World Universities' puts Ghent University as Belgium's top-institution
- 13 research centers of world class (e.g. the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology).



The clustering of high-tech bio-business in synergy with research centers marks Ghent as “Flanders Biotech Valley”.

Ghent, city of creativity



Ghent BC (Big in Creativity) is a network of researchers, entrepreneurs and government stimulating the knowledge economy.

- The creative economy in Ghent counts more than 500 creative and innovative enterprises and more than 6,000 workplaces.
- Ghent is ranking top in the Creative City Index
- Home to institutions and networks as Ghent BC, iMinds and Ghent Web Valley

Ghent, city of the new mobility

- Largest pedestrian area in Belgium
- A parking route
- No traffic through the centre
- Space for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport



Ghent is choosing for a city-friendly mobility where pedestrians, cyclists and public transport are the centerpieces.



Economy

Ghent is supporting future-oriented businesses choosing for sustainable production.

Economy

Ghent is **strategically situated** at the center of Flanders - the economic heart of the European Pentagon (Milan-Paris-London-Hamburg-Munich). In this pentagon about **50% of the European GDP** is produced by 40% of the population on 20% of the surface area.



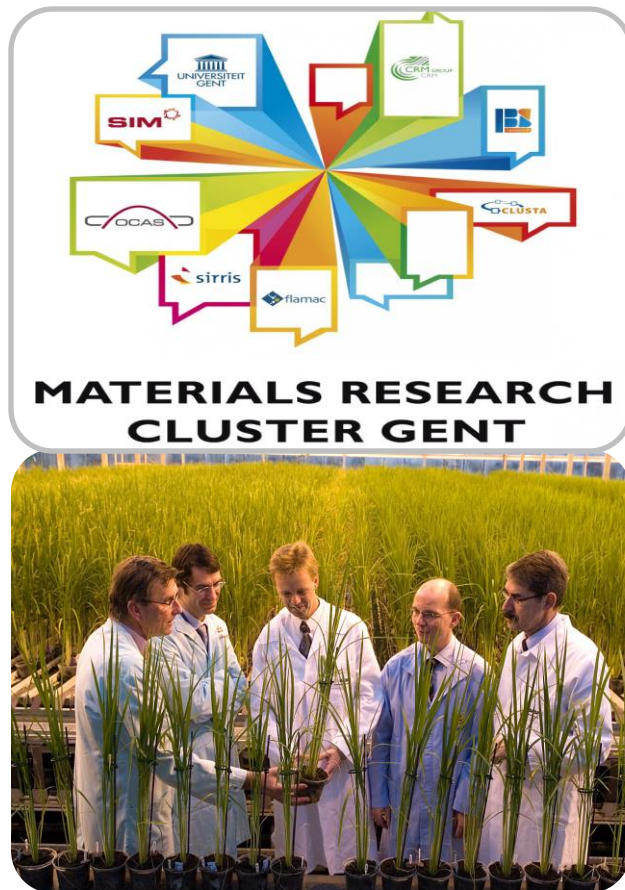
Economy

- 170,249 jobs
- Job ratio 104,8%
- Due to economic crisis, unemployment increased to 12.8% (7.7% in Flanders)
- Share of industrial sector in total jobs is declining due to productivity growth
 - Primary sector: 1%
 - Secondary sector: 19%
 - Tertiary sector: 42%
 - Quaternary sector: 38%



The economic structure is determined by the Port of Ghent, which is providing almost 30,000 direct and 40,000 indirect jobs.

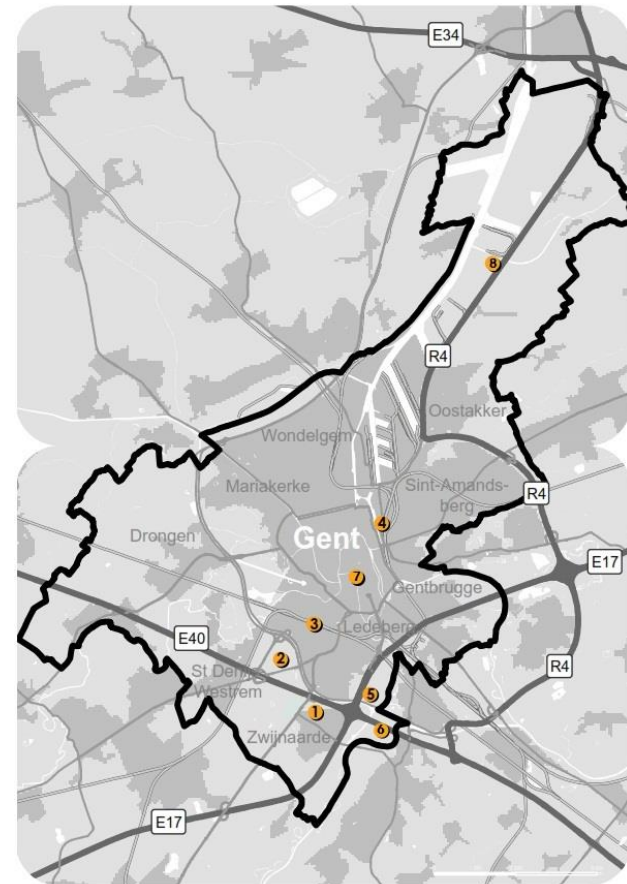
Economy



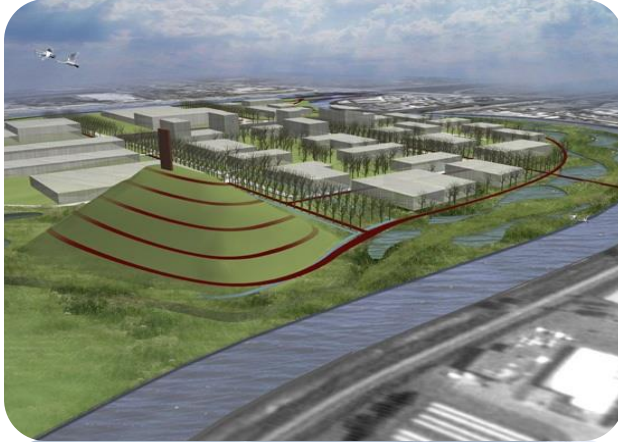
- Industry plays an important role in local employment (e.g. Volvo and ArcelorMittal)
- Industry also produced a rich knowledge network: OCAS, CRM, SIM, ...
- Lots of fast growing enterprises is indicative for an innovative economy: bio-energy, biotechnology, ICT
- Strong patent position in technology areas (biotech, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and telecoms)

Economy – new projects

1. Technology Park Ardoyen
2. The Loop
3. Project Ghent Sint-Pieters
4. Oude Dokken
5. Artevelde Stadion
6. Island Zwijnaarde
7. Waalse Krook
8. Biobase Europe



Economy – new projects



- Room for Logistics: 880 acres (Kluizendock, Oostakker, Island Zwijnaarde)
- Room for Knowledge Economy: 100 acres (Aaigem, Island Zwijnaarde, The Loop)
- Room for Services: 80 acres office space (The Loop, Project Sint-Pieters station)



Organisation

The organisation of the City of Ghent is aimed at giving an efficient and client-friendly service to its inhabitants.

Ghent: city with a mission



Ghent is an open, inclusive, smart and child-friendly city. It connects all forces to develop the city into a lasting and livable whole and in doing so shapes the future.

Ghent wants to be a creative forerunner in the transition towards a climate-neutral city. We are building an eco-friendly and diversified economy that brings welfare for all.

By doing so, we develop a community of responsible citizens who can develop themselves freely and who can count on the necessary support.



Organisation – Governmental framework

The municipality Ghent is 'embedded' in **different government levels**:

- Province of East-Flanders
- Flemish Community/Region
- Belgian Federal Government
- European Union

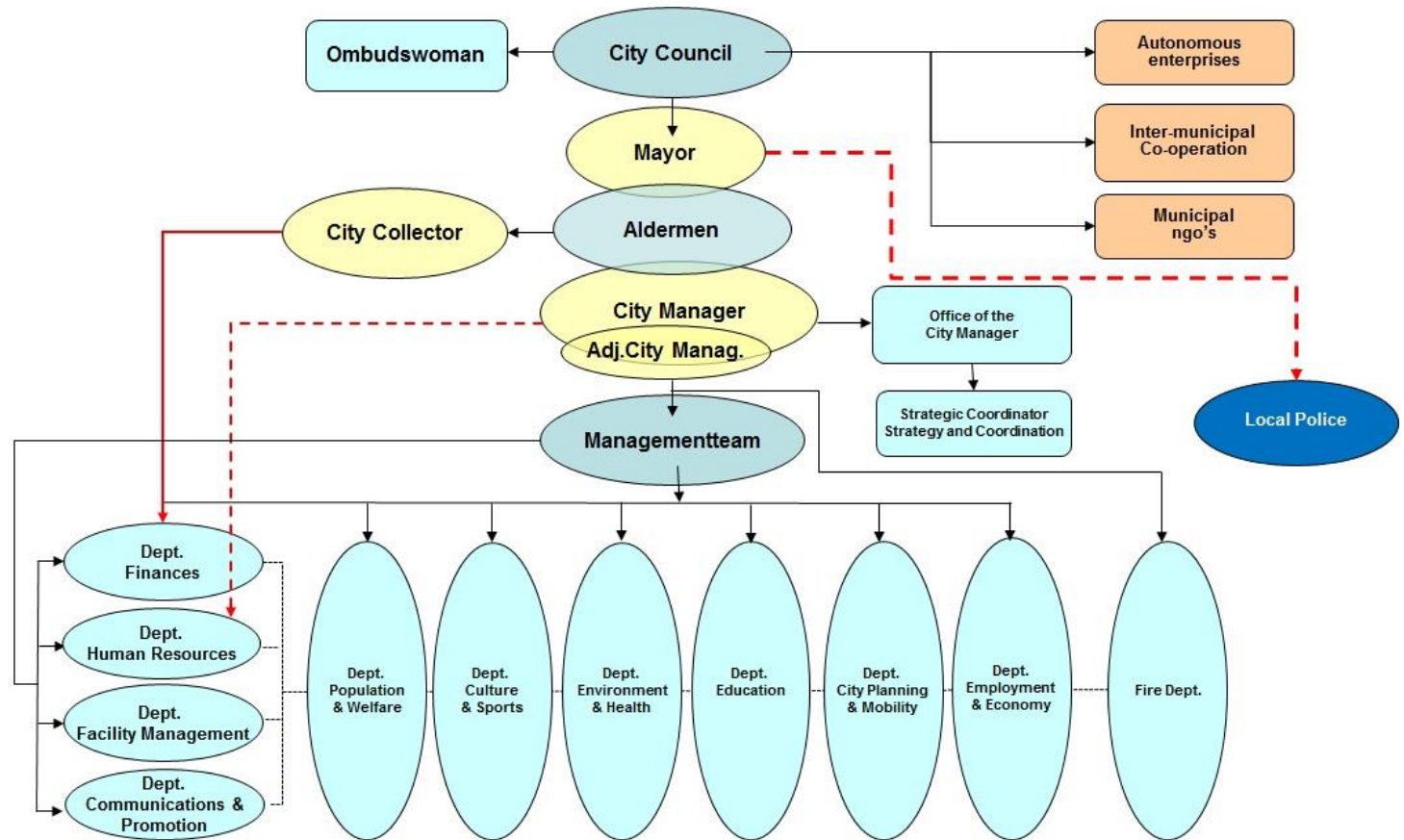
Organisation – Municipal organisation

- **City Council:** 51 members, including Mayor and Deputy Mayors (14 in total)
- Composition 2013 – 2018:
 - Sp.a: 16 (social democrats)
 - Groen: 10 (ecological party)
 - Open VLD: 9 (liberal democrats)
 - N-VA: 9 (Flemish nationalist party)
 - CD&V: 4 (Christian democrats)
 - Vlaams Belang: 3 (right-wing extremist party)

Organisation – Municipal organisation

- **Administration:** 5,102 civil servants (2013)
 - 28% technicians
 - 10% safety personnel (Fire Dept.)
 - 62% administrative employees
 - Furthermore: 2,500 Education Dept. and 1,200 Local Police
 - 47% men / 53% women
 - 145 locations in Ghent, 450 buildings

Organisational structure



European Innovation Partnership Smart Cities & Communities State of Play

Smart Cities & Sustainability Unit
DG Communications Networks, Content and Technologies
European Commission

14 March 2013

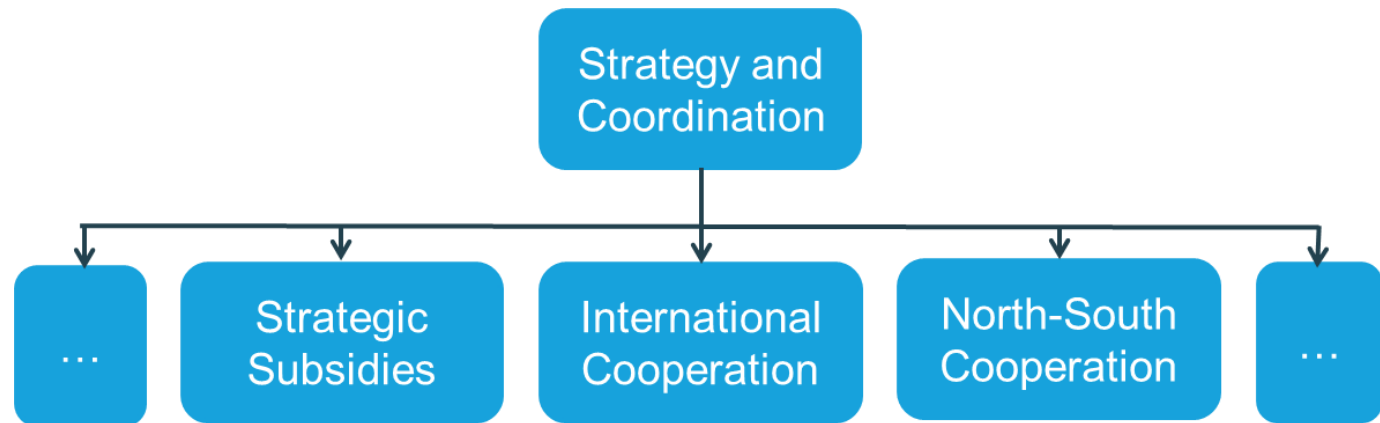
International policy

Ghent puts emphasis on international cooperation and the exchange of experience and know-how.



International policy - organisation

- 1995: Cell External Relations (Department of Economics)
- 2003: Service of Urban Policy and International Relations
- 2005: Division of Policy, International and Subsidies
- 2012: Team International:



International policy – core tasks

- Networking
- Partnerships
- Knowledge
- Raise awareness
- Facilitating
- Informing



International policy – European projects

The City of Ghent participates in many EU-projects:

- **Interreg IV A and B:** Portico, Ace, Music, Yacht Valley
- **7th Framework:** Step-up (Smart Cities), SMART I+P
- **ERDF Objective 2**
- **ESF**
- **CIP-ICT:** SmartiP, Citadel, Partage +
- **URBACT:** EUniverCities
- **CIP-IEE:** Ch4llenge
- Others: Fired Up, Return Fund
- Projects under the Lifelong Learning Program

International policy – European networks

The City of Ghent, member of many networks:

- **Eurocities:** Ghent is member of the executive committee (treasurer), forums and working groups, ...
- **UNESCO, Creative City of Music**
- **EUniverCities:** European network of university cities
- **Luci:** An international network of cities on urban lighting
- And many others...

International policy – European networks

Eurocities, the most important network:

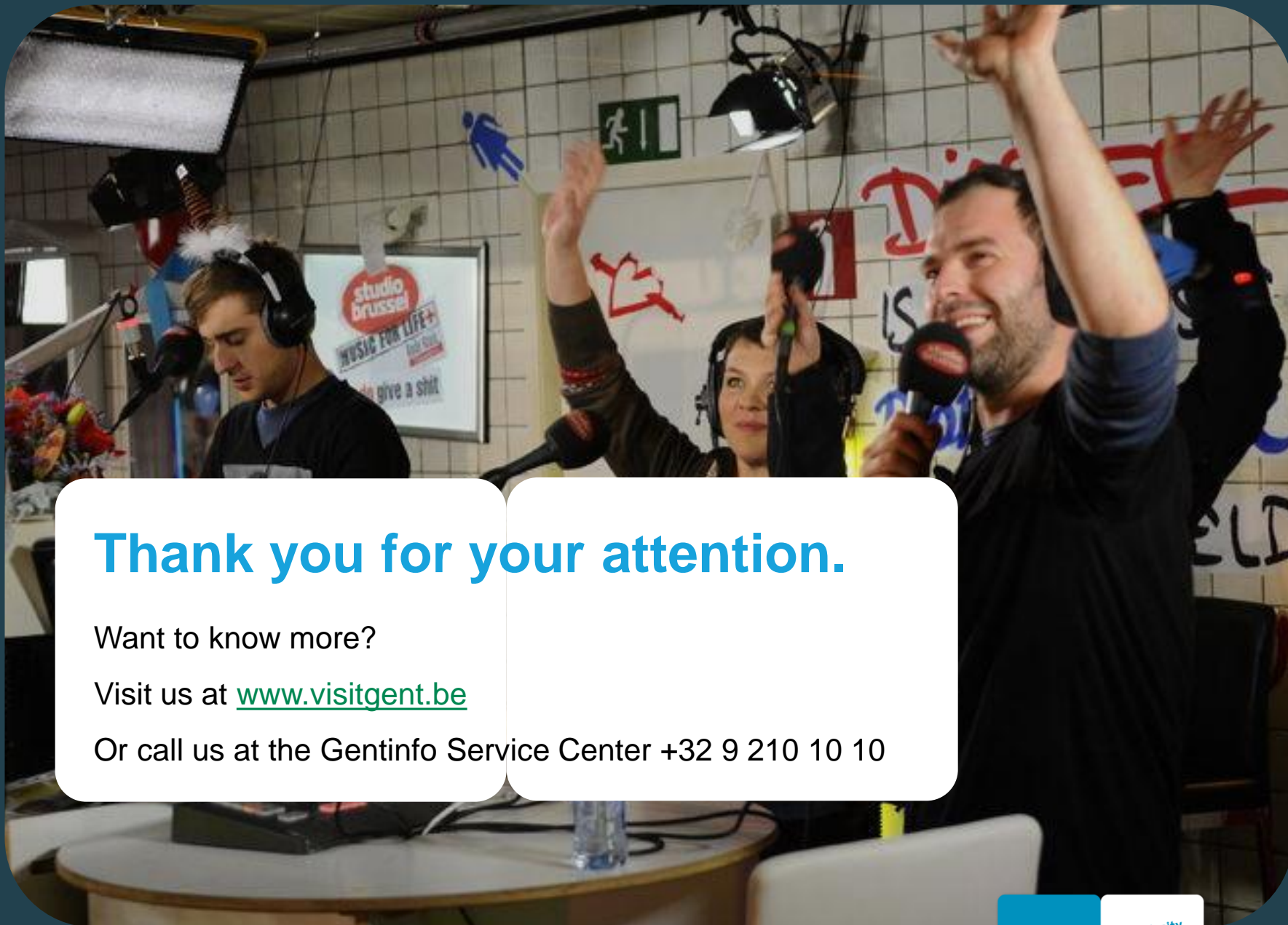
- Ghent is member since 1998 with active participation in forums and working groups
- Mayor is treasurer of the 'Executive Committee'
- Ghent is host of the Eurocities 2013 Annual Conference



International policy – partnerships

The city of Ghent has also Town twinning and other bilateral relations:

- **Twincities:** Melle and Wiesbaden (Germany), Tallinn (Estonia), Kanazawa (Japan), Mohammedia (Morocco), Nottingham (England), Saint-Raphaël (France)
- **Partnercities with MOU:** Gdansk (Poland), Weihai (China), Burgas (Bulgaria), Luik (Belgium), Beyoglu (Turkey)
- **Citylink** with Mangaung in South-Africa (North-South cooperation)
- **Temporary cooperation** based on projects with cities all over the world



Thank you for your attention.

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