



gent: jong & wijs

Vision text and action plan 'Ghent: a child and youth-friendly city'

23/06/2015

#gentjongenwijs

Introduction

Ghent intends to be the most child and youth-friendly city in Flanders. This action plan is a rendering of this ambition. Child and youth-friendliness is not only an objective in itself, but also a touchstone of a responsible social and people-friendly policy. The City of Ghent starts from an offensive, positive viewpoint on youth, with a strong belief in the power (and not regarding the complaints) and the potential of young people.

In the build-up of the new strategic long-range plan on behalf of the City of Ghent, the Youth Department initiated a track around 'Ghent, a child and youth-friendly city', in cooperation with a series of other municipal services. A core group, comprising representatives of various departments and reinforced with a number of organizations, committed themselves to think about this concept.

At the end of 2014, the City of Ghent was bestowed the label of 'child and youth-friendly towns and cities' by minister Sven Gatz. This label was a recognition of the work already achieved by the entire Board of Mayor and Deputy Mayors and all municipal services. However, this is not a final point, but on the contrary an encouragement to invest even more in a child and youth-friendly city. The entire Board intends to speed up the gear. Within the Youth Department, additional functions were created, including the appointment of a programme director and a child secretary.

Working towards a child and youth-friendly city includes more than sufficient playrooms, more than extra slides and swings.... Child-friendliness is also defending the interests of the most vulnerable children and youngsters.

Next to a compilation of the vision and the basic principles in the scope of a child and youth-friendly city, it will comprise a range of action plans initiated by various services and departments.

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1. VISION

In March 2004 UNICEF defined 'Child-friendly City' as follows: "A city, committed to fulfilling children's rights. It is a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions".

Children and youngsters will notice the following child and youth-friendly aspects:

- Children and youngsters are welcome

Children and youngsters can use the public space independently and safely. They belong to the natural street scene.

Children and youngsters have easy access

Schools, community centres, sports associations and other facilities are readily accessible by means of safe pedestrian and cycling routes, or using the public transport.

- Children and youngsters are welcome

Are children feeling welcome in the facilities? Children and youngsters should be encouraged to participate in various ways in society and need to be supported if necessary.

- Children and youngsters can participate

Do the facilities match the expectations and the living environment of all children and youngsters? Are we listening to the opinions of children and youngsters? Are they incited to make a personal contribution?



We wish to include the lines of force of the npo 'the European Child Friendly Cities Network', created in 2001 (source: www.childfriendlycities.org):

- Child-friendliness is a **quality** which cannot be reduced to extending specific facilities; it is no characteristic of facilities, it is no characteristic reflected by the sheer number of facilities, it is a characteristic of an entire city in all its aspects [holistic approach].

- **All life domains** of the city should therefore be child-friendly: education, mobility, urban planning, health, environment, sports, etc. [integrated approach]. Particular attention should be paid to avoid a restricted middle class perspective, but must also include children and youngsters who are growing up in precarious or socially vulnerable situations.

- Next to this integrated approach, it is also requiring an **inclusive and intergenerational** approach: child-friendliness does not mean a separate children's city, but involving children and youngsters as part of the entire city. Children and youngsters cannot be socially isolated or only allocated to areas especially reserved on their behalf. We neither intend to lapse into the contradiction 'youth versus the rest' but instead view them as a common project of many actors, in which the youngest citizens can actively be involved.

- **Participation** of children is of the utmost importance. Children are citizens, small and young citizens indeed, but citizens of their own right, able and capable of contributing to the quality of life. Their **actorship and co-ownership** must be visible and appreciated. We strongly believe in their creative power and self-initiative and want to give them the require room. No suffocating or patronizing policy in which everything is being delineated in advance, but bestowing them both physical and mental space to explore, to learn, to make mistakes and occasionally to revolt.

- Moreover, child-friendliness is a highly dynamic characteristic, **it is in permanent evolution**, it is a continuous task, including new characteristics and challenges. It is an ambition or an objective rather than a final point.

We would like to add one line of force: child and youth-friendliness **is not only to be left to the policy makers**. The city is a collective responsibility of all active parties. A child-friendly city pursues a continual dialogue between all people with vested interests, including policy makers, children and youngsters, parents, project developers, schools, businesses, children and youth workers and housing corporations. By combining these forces, by focusing on networks and by stimulating, supporting and strengthening citizenship. This requires new methods, new visions and a new profile of the municipal role as well as intelligent links between public initiative, midfield and market.

An integrated child and youth-friendly policy is **not necessarily more expensive**. It mainly asks for a different approach, another method, a change of conduct. A policy is only child and youth-friendly if it is not only made for, but also by children and youngsters. Participation of children and youngsters is in fact an essential condition for a child and youth-friendly policy.

Finally, we have to conclude that it is a **long-time effort**: a local policy is spread over various sectors and quite some challenges require efforts on a medium or long term. The ultimate objective is the involvement and logical harmonization of all these sectors on children and youngsters.

1.1 Major social challenges

Ghent is a city, boasting excellent scores on various levels. **It is important to maintain and develop these strengths**. Yet, there are a series of expected demographic and social evolutions which will have a significant impact on the development of a child and youth-friendly city, thus compelling Ghent to considerable challenges. They will require sustained **efforts** on various fields in the scope of an **entire and integrated policy** from all parties involved.

- Greenery: a strong increase of young children
- Considerable population increase and condensation
- Impoverishment and larger duality
- Multicoloured society: the super diversity
- The migration of young middle-class families towards the outskirts of town has still not been reversed
- Alarming health data
- Considerable environmental burden
- Sizeable youth unemployment

2. ACTION PLAN

Introduction

This action plan is by no means an inventory of all objectives and actions that are relevant to Ghent children and youngsters. Approximately all policy domains have a direct or indirect impact or link with the youngsters. It is therefore virtually impossible of listing an entire survey. To keep the plan surveyable, we will only **focus on the new or considerably adjusted actions that are planned within the current term of office**. This Action plan is no isolated document, but it is linked to the priorities within the strategic long-term planning and the various policy notes drawn up by various deputy mayors. A considerable number of actions include an engagement of various services, over the boundaries of departments and competences and focused on cooperation. This is also a consequence of the dynamics ensuing from the emphasis on child and youth-friendliness, paving the way for an enhanced integral and integrated youth policy.

The 15 spearheads:

2.1 All the choices and decisions made by the municipality are taking into account the views of children and youngsters. Children and youngsters can ventilate their opinions, they feel taken seriously and involved as regards decisions that affect them and are co-actors.

Actions
Enhancing district-oriented participation, e.g. involving children, youngsters and families with children in the scope of the District of the Month
Setting up (ad hoc) involvement projects with children and youngsters as regards new challenges in the scope of the youth policy, paying particular attention to vulnerable target groups (e.g. cooperation with street workers, youth welfare work, etc.);
Involve youngsters in the scope of new temporary initiatives and possibly support them by means of project subvention.
Focus on co-creation with children and youngsters and involve them as actors during the achievement of the path towards the child and youth-friendly city.
Involve children and youngsters in drafting the Master Plan Ghent ('Room for Ghent')
Reinforce the participation of children and youngsters in the scope of the environment and sustainability (Children's Climate Council, etc.).
Achieve a youth paragraph as touchstone of child and youth-friendliness during important decisions.
Achieve a youth paragraph as touchstone of child and youth-friendliness during important decisions
Actively involve youngsters in the offer that needs to be developed in the scope of employment.
Stronger profile of the municipal ombud service as contact point of Ghent children and youngsters as well as housing the children's rights committee during their monthly

visiting hours.

Organization of J1000: a major involvement track with children, youngsters, citizens, midfield etc. so as to map the needs and necessities in the scope of child and youth-friendly city (paying particular attention for involving vulnerable children and youngsters as well as various target groups). This event will include a youth congress during the Child in the City conference and a closing moment during 2017.



J1000: a major involvement track

2.2 More greenery and more space for sports, games and meeting events

Actions
GAMES AND SPORTS
Achieve and preserve high-grade (game) areas on behalf of children and youngsters, in consultation with children and youngsters, paying particular attention to a series of priority districts.
Give a more child-friendly and more challenging character to the public domain.
Stronger implementation of playing infrastructure during major urban renovation projects and other urban projects as well as achieving a pilot project in the Brugse Poort district.
Focus on temporary initiatives and multiple use of space (such as opening playgrounds, company premises, etc).
Initiate an optimization as regards a more efficient use of indoor infrastructure for the youth
Provide child and youth-friendly outdoor infrastructure and lay-out of the surroundings during each urban renovation project and other large city projects
Enlarge the hours and periods of the playing street project
Build a large skate park on the Blaarmeersen recreation ground.

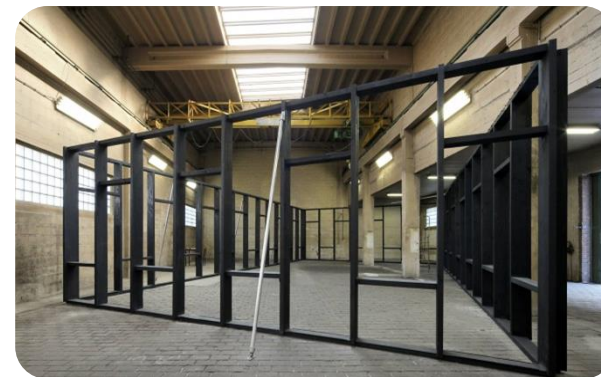
Achieve greenery and adventurous playing fields by granting a subvention and offering intrinsic support to schools.
Extend the number of local sporting fields with additional fitness appliances, ping-pong tables, etc.



Realization of GRAS (BS De Oogappel)



Skatepark Blaarmeersen



Grants for temporary projects

GREENERY AND PUBLIC SPACE
Extend the park function of cemeteries, with special attention for children
Achieve a play wood in the greenery poles Vinderhoutse Bossen and Parkbos. Budget: not separately defined, include in the greenery pole projects.
Achieve game incentives in the city centre.
The realization of art pieces that encourage children to play on them in parks (e.g. maritime elements where children can play on in the Old Dockyards).
Invest in new district parks and upgrade some existing parks.
Invest in additional residential greenery areas.



2.3 The youth work and leisure offer is enhanced and made easily accessible to all children and youngsters

Actions
CULTURE
Achieve and support a child-friendly and accessible cultural offer, with special attention for teenagers and comprehensive urban events (Wilde Mannen, Woeste Wijven, Urban Festival, etc.).
Develop an 'UITPAS', particularly focused on a varied offer for and canvassing of children and youngsters.
Develop Minus One into a youth meeting venue intended for and managed by youngsters for perception, creation and presentation (with room for performances, exhibitions, creative rooms, etc.).
Give additional oxygen to children's arts in the structural and project-based support of the cultural sector (theatre companies for children, cultural and educational organizations,...).
Give children and youngsters a significant role in the functioning of the new library at the Krook and its district branches.
The subvention regulations 'Culturele projecten' (cultural projects) includes child-friendliness as a line of force, bestowing a surplus value to the submitted projects. The Youth Department is seating in the advisory committee.
Facilitate an Urban Sports & Arts Festival (USAF); borne by culture, sports and youth. USAF needs to be developed as a reference in Ghent and Flanders for hybrid forms of expressions (sportive and artistic) run by and on behalf of youngsters, where professionals and amateurs can meet each other, where a platform can be offered for new talent.
Broadening the offer of some Historical Houses towards all age groups (e.g. the Castle of the Counts) and/or providing holiday initiatives (e.g. Saint Peter's Abbey).

Pay attention to child-friendliness and education in the public events of the municipal cultural institutions (library, museums, historical houses).
SPORTS
Initiate the project 'Buur(t) Zoekt Beweging' [Neighbour(hood) In Search Of Exercise] (cost-free instructors for organizations/associations wanting to organize healthy exercising).
Achieve 'Elk Talent Telt' [Every Talent Counts], a project initiated by 'Voetbal in de Stad' [Football in the City] to give the opportunity to the largest possible number of Ghent children and youngsters to play football.
Extension of the number of youth sports coordinators, paying attention to new themes (diversity, social role of youth football, etc.).
Enhancing the easily accessible sports offer by district sports coaches for children and youngsters (sportmobiel, ELECTRABEL Street Heroes,...).
Further expansion of the number of district-oriented sports halls.



Expansion free youth sports and swim for free under 6 years



New bib at de Krook



Sports hall at Tondelier

YOUTH WORK
Achieve new youth work infrastructure on behalf of the youth work and the youth welfare work (El Paso, Bonte Was, Chiro Tijn en Nele, FOS de Zebra's, etc.)
Elaborate 'Youth initiatives' regulations for structural and easily accessible support of youngster initiatives that do not enter into consideration as youth work initiative.
Promoting outdoor playing infrastructure and launching a campaign to this effect
Organization of the 'Pretfabriek', full-day playground activities during the summer and Easter holiday in various towns and other activities, complementing the blind spots in the holiday offer.

Support the project 'Jong Gent in Actie' (youngsters in generation poverty).
Paying additional efforts to make the holiday offer and the available animation by the Youth Department more accessible and more varied, tailored to the supporting strength of every activity.
PARTYING AND NIGHTLIFE
Construction of the 'Zulle' (new polyvalent party hall in Wondelgem).
Develop a more positive party policy by removing administrative burden and restrictive measures by means of organizing a study day and drafting an action plan.
Extend the Quality Nights Label towards other party concepts in Ghent. It involves 12 services that the initiator needs to guarantee: earplugs, condoms, cost-free water, link towards public transport, health information, trained staff members, healthy food, chill-out area, access with a wheel chair, First Aid room.
Rendering advice with respect to atmosphere management upon the delivery of an environmental licence
Further elaboration of the prevention campaign as regards the One Hundred Days. Central theme: take care of each other. Examine the possibility of organizing the One Hundred Days in all Ghent schools on the same day and providing some extra guidance measures (with respect to transport, safety on the streets (Overpoort), atmosphere management,...).
Detecting and approaching discrimination in nightlife by harmonizing the regulations about doorkeepers on the Anti-Discrimination Plan, communication as regards the midfield (a. o. youth welfare work).



Extending vacation offer: de pretfabriek



Nieuwe party hall in Wondelgem

2.4 Children and youngsters enjoy easy and safe transfers in the city.

Actions
Introduction of zone 30 in the city centre and in the residential areas of the suburbs.
Cost-free public transport for all children between 6 – 14 years provided by the Flemish public transport company DE LIJN.
Enhance the road safety by extending safe school environments, develop cycling infrastructure (construction of bicycle tracks, bicycle shot-cuts, bicycle bridges, bicycle streets, bicycle suggestion strips, bicycle storages, etc.) and provide improvements on the school tracks or in the immediate vicinity of the school entrances in consultation with schools (footpath bulges, betterment of footpaths, etc.), organize cycling lessons (teaching material, traffic parks, etc.)
Redoubling the pedestrian area in the city centre and snip through existing through traffic flows in the centre area.
Extension of the number of school streets.
Integrate play infrastructure and communication tissues during public and private urban renovation projects.
Achieve a children's route (with play impulses) in the Brugse Poort district.
Extend and improve the public transport night network.
Raise the budget and extend the Pavement Action Plan to accelerate repairs and replacements of footpaths in the city.
Develop the network 'Trage Wegen' [Slow Streets]



Expansion zone 30 and doubling pedestrians area



Efforts on safety of school environments



Realizing playing areas in urban renewal projects and child itinerary

2.5 Child and family friendly events and municipal services

Actions
Achieve child-friendly counters with special attention for playing areas, accessibility, diaper tables, training of counter clerks, breastfeeding areas, etc. with start-up of pilot projects.
Render the Ghent Festivities more child and youth-friendly (prolongation of the children's afternoons in the Zuidpark, opening moments for children, incite organizers to strengthen their afternoon programmes towards the target group of families with children and provide presentation opportunities for youngsters (cf. subvention regulations) and the Winter Festivities (increased offer for children).
Deploy child-friendly aspects during the organization of proper events
Stimulate child-friendly aspects in the scope of festivities with third parties (fairs, deanery parties, etc.) for instance by installing a children's bar, diaper tables, children's toilets, provide animation, etc.
Approach the problem of deploying children as interpreters during school hours and create training efforts for counter clerks in cooperation with the EVA IN-Ghent, het 'Huis van het Nederlands' and the Communication Department.
Coaching of 'young catering industry entrepreneurs' during the start-up of their business and the communication towards the neighbourhood. We are achieving this by providing 1 on 1 information and on the other hand by setting up district consultation moments. Experiences of the FAK-bar have ensued in excellent results.



Design children's corner Wondelgem



Child-friendly events



Child-friendly Gentse Feesten

2.6 The youth unemployment is tackled, focusing on unqualified outflow.

Actions
Tackling youth unemployment (Policy Note Work and Activation 2014-2019, WERF 1).
Coping with the unqualified outflow (Policy Note Education and Youth 2014-2019)
Elaborate actions to promote the entrepreneurial spirit and the entrepreneurship in the final years of secondary education (including contests of entrepreneurship for pupils, educational Ghent enterprise game, etc.)
Achieve policy harmonization between the City of Ghent, VDAB (Flemish Employment and Vocational Training Agency), OCMW (Public Social Welfare Centre) as well as education partners in view of a more coherent and efficient package of preventative and curative measures as regards youth unemployment (including 'Take Off', 'Wijs aan 't werk' en 'Word wijs' project monitoring and simultaneously examine surfacing as well as coping with new needs).
Setting up of the labour market educational package 'Wijs aan 't werk' for youngsters in the last grade of secondary education
Develop an outreaching initiative towards NEET-youngsters (not in employment, education or training) who cannot or hardly be contacted by the regular services guiding towards work.
Setting up actions so as to enhance the dialogue between youngsters and employers via 'Gent, Stad in werking' [Ghent, City at Work] aiming at increasing work and learning opportunities
Develop the opportunities for unqualified youngsters to obtain a qualification by means of learning and work tracks (ESF innovation project Qualification@work)
Structural embedment of innovative methods developed by 'Gent, Stad in werking' [Ghent, City at Work]. Eminentia (VDAB), Word wijs (Stap), actions in the scope of anchor figures with IEM background, etc.)
Assume a co-directorship as regards coaching actions for youngsters, organized by the VDAB for training programmes.
Work towards a guidance and cross-pollination of 'Alles Kan' project submitters in view of projects as regards work and entrepreneurship by means of guiding youngsters towards tracks and projects initiated by the Department of Economy.



Actions in the context of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in secondary education



Outreached werken naar NEET-jongeren (not in employment, education or training)



Tackling youth unemployment

2.7 We will focus on counteracting poverty with children and youngsters as well as creating more learning and development opportunities for youngsters in poverty

Actions
COUNTERACTING POVERTY
Draft and achieve a policy plan against child poverty, paying special attention on knowledge in various services and sectors, integrated cooperation accessible services, etc. (see growth action plan).
Focus on an anti-poverty policy at school within the renewed functioning of the 'Beleidsgroep Onderwijs Gent – BOG' [Policy Group Education Ghent] and with the support of IVA.
Achieve a team of Outreaching district workers (street corner workers, school spotters, etc.).
Organize cross-network intervision moments for schools, with the theme anti-poverty policy at school and deploying hands-on experts during the functioning of the school
Rewrite the regulations of the Social Support Fund, focusing on the intrinsic aspect as regards achieving an anti-poverty policy at school.
Elaborate and monitor income-related child care and affordable meals.
Achieve a special rate for children of people receiving higher grants via UiTPAS: children and youngsters pay 20% of the usual price for culture, sports and youth activities.

In consultation with the midfield and the other welfare organizations (OCMW [Public Social Welfare Centre] and CAW [Centre for General Welfare]) will examine within the local competences the possibilities to support and improve the situation of families with children living in precarious living conditions and risk becoming homeless (achieved small-scale sub actions: an integration project where East-European families without housing are offered a rental house and receive counseling and guidance by a professional organization) , organization of winter relief, opening weekend open club center, where disadvantaged people get the opportunity to meet each other, eat and drink something and shower for free (currently on Sundays during the winter).
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Initiate an action research about the overrepresentation of Slovakian pupils in special education, in cooperation with npo TOPpunt, paying particular attention to pedagogic support in the scope of the care continuum and the M-decree.
Stimulate infant participation, with special attention to risk groups and intra-European migrants.
Focus on language stimulation via the covenant with npo Roeland for organizing Dutch language camps for underage newcomers during school holidays as well as develop language-supporting material in cooperation with TVGent and Kind en Gezin (Child & Family).
Achieve an education and support contact point in cooperation with INGhent for parents from ECM.
Improve the extra-muros offer and the homework policy in municipal schools with respect to children in poverty.
Expansion of the project 'Brugfiguren' within secondary education.
Strengthen youth welfare work (mobile youth work), paying extra attention to children and youngsters in poverty, East-European target groups, girls....
Create a stimulating reading environment, in cooperation with the library (crèches, reading projects with parents and grandparents, Komen Lezen, ...)
PARENTS AND UPBRINGING SUPPORT
Reinforce the involvement of parents during the education of their children by means of Dutch language conversation groups in the school desks of their children.
The 'opvoedingswinkel' trekt de wijken in en herschikt openingsuren
Achieve preventative, easily accessible family support by initiating the 'Huis van het Kind Gent' [House of the Child Ghent].
Strengthen the team of housing coaches and the counselling of vulnerable families



Startup of 'Huizen van het Kind'



Directing child poverty and poverty at school



Chance fee free time for children and young people in poverty

2.8 More schools and child care

Actions
Provide additional places on several schools and build extra schools.
Coping with the unqualified outflow (Policy Note Education and Youth 2014-2019)
Extend the holiday offer in the scope of a comprehensive child care (action plan 'dekkend vakantieaanbod' [comprehensive holiday offer]).
Increase the number of places in day-care centres.
Build a school at the itinerant premises on behalf of caravan dwellers
In analogy with the Taskforce Capacity Primary Education, a Local Taskforce Secondary education will be created which will closely monitor the offer and the demands of parents.
Explicitly mention crèches, schools, etc. in Master Plans.



Opening STIBO 't Groen Drieske



Holliday activities Pretfabriek



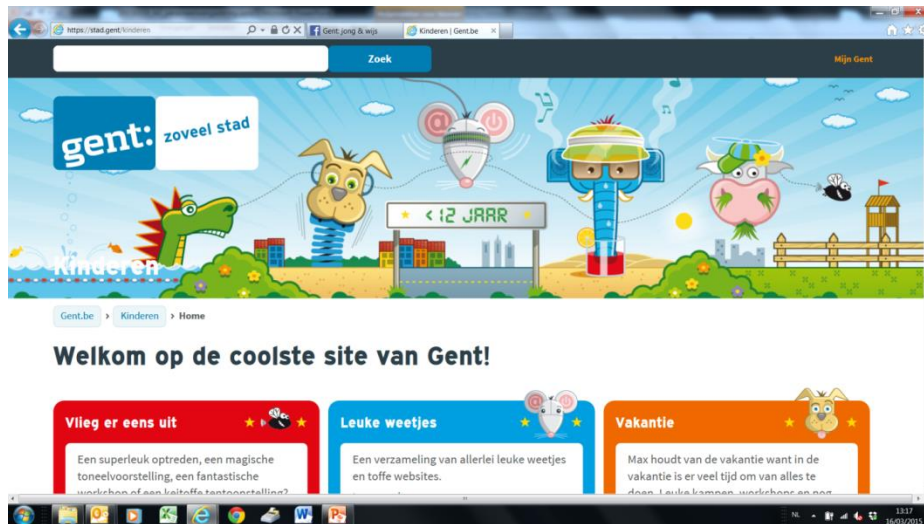
nursery de Droomboom

2.9 Children and youngsters are well-informed

Actions
Achieve a new youngsters and children site.
Develop a better integrated youth information policy and streamline the communication towards children and youngsters (consultation with media partners, broaden information on venues for youngsters, cooperation with youth welfare work, social media, provide school routes and the bicycle track plan, etc.).
Achieve a youth page in the city magazine.
Facilitate a Rap Op Stap point in the Youth Department by npo Kompas (travel information for families in poverty).
Publish brochures with information survey about the leisure offer (children's festivities pocket, winter pocket, etc.) in cooperation with Uitbureau.
Publish brochures with information survey about the leisure offer (children's festivities pocket, winter pocket, etc.) in cooperation with Uitbureau.
Build a 'Huis van de Jeugd' [House of the Youth] with integrated information desk.
Enhanced information of parents from risk groups about the Ghent leisure offer by means of the method 'Onbekend is Onbemind' [Unknown, Unloved]. We will promote the method with intermediaries such as the Krasdiensten, teachers, mediators, PSWC staff members,..... in cooperation with Associations where the Poor have the Floor.
Based on the results of closely monitoring the use of new/social media by children and youngsters, we will examine which other social networks and new media can be deployed to the benefit of children and youngsters
Create a website page 'jongenwijs.gent' with the gent.be, mainly intended to become an interactive platform about 'jong en wijs / child and youth-friendliness' in the City of Ghent

Pay special attention to reusing data and information, e.g. by means of open data (as a bench-mark of the diversity of questions), thus enabling (professional and leisure) developers to process these data into their proper apps/web applications and paying extra attention for information with respect to children and youngsters (e.g. data about playing grounds, recognized youth associations, party halls, etc.) ..

Launch the Facebook page 'Ghent: jong & wijs' for youngsters between 12-18 years, with information about all events destined to youngsters in Ghent and what is going on in our city.



New children's website

2.10 Focus on health and welfare of children and youngsters

Actions
CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS WITH A DISABILITY
Achieve extra actions for children with a disability (financial support for parents of children with a disability, a needs assessment in the scope of leisure during holiday periods)
Develop an app/website with information about accessibility (adopted parking areas, sanitary equipment, catering industry, etc.)
Enhanced attention for inclusion within education and child care as well as intensify the existing joint ventures, further development of the M-decree.
MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Develop the project 'Blijf er niet mee', in which Ghent organizations and associations can apply for psycho-educational sessions (with special attention for the offer of methods tailored to youngsters)
Support the recently started Tejo Ghent as provider of easily accessible therapeutic help for youngsters between 10 and 20 years.
PHYSICAL HEALTH
Develop an intersectoral policy about healthy food in cooperation with the 'Netwerk Gezondheids promotie Gent' [Network Health Promotion Ghent] (in the scope of overweight youngsters, risk of diabetes, promote drinking enough water)
Elaborate a new project for accessible dental care in Ghent, with sensitizing actions of general practitioners
Develop educational material to give youngsters a better understanding of our health system, explaining what health insurance actually means, the importance of a personal general practitioner, the costs of a medical consultation, different kinds of medical insurance bureaus, etc.
CLB (Centres for Pupil Counselling) will put at the disposal material in the scope of health. Learning pupils to eat less candy, intensify the policy on flexibility in drinking water <u>and</u> peeing during lessons in schools and more exercise in schools.
Learning pupils to deal sensibly with stimulants (smoking, alcohol, party drugs...), combined with a prevention policy in this respect.
Provide healthy snacks and refreshments as an alternative of candy and soft drinks in school and in the day-care centres.
Start-up of the project 'Proeftuinen' in which vegetable gardens and vegetable containers are promoted in school in the scope of healthy food in cooperation with Logo Gezond+
Focus on integrating an anti-alcohol policy plan on 4 large Ghent schools (at the demand of the school management).



Experimental projects in schools



Studentenvieruurtje Saint-Pieters abbey



2.11 We are pursuing sufficient, fitting, affordably, high-grade child and family-friendly houses as well as a child and youth-friendly environment

Actions
Develop and implement urban development instruments to stimulate affordable family-friendly houses, e.g. housing type checks, 'mix at multi-family houses', budget housing, Master Plans, draft of a thematic Master Plan 'Municipal Housing'
Include child and youth-friendliness during assessments of urban development permit applications.
Include child and youth-friendliness during the development of spatial policy visions and instruments. Draft policy frameworks as regards various spatial themes, e.g. elaborating an urban development vision as regards family-friendly high-rise flats, allotments, ... Enhance the quality of family houses by granting home allowances.
Draft and implement a housing check in the scope of child-friendliness of plans, projects and existing houses and develop a check for a child-friendly residential environment. We ask the children to formulate improvement proposals in their district and we include their suggestions.
Provide help to vulnerable families during energy renovation of houses via npo REGent. This is reflected on the level of advice (construction advice, renovation advice at home, financial advice), relief (looking for and contacting building contractors and comparison of tenders, follow-up of the work, ...), granting energy allowances and energy loans.



Encourage family-friendly homes

2.12 Focus on respectful cohabitation and citizenship

Actions
CITIZENSHIP AND COEXISTENCE
Achieve actions around intergenerational working (development of the website www.jongenoudingent.be , provide support, present annual awards, etc.)
Promote children's rights (actualization and easy access of the children's rights path with special attention of the global aspect, celebration of 25 years of children's rights, etc.)
Develop a volunteer support point where offer and demand in the scope of volunteer work are better attuned, paying special attention to youngsters.
Expand the anti-pestering policy for municipal schools, also focusing on cyber pestering
Deploy children and youngsters as actors in the shared Ghent Citizenship (actions in the scope of cohabitation in diversity, explore the line of thought about peaceful schools/districts, organize a forum as regards democracy and citizenship)
Provide a 'Democratiefabriek' [Democracy Factory] (itinerant DIY exhibition about identity, diversity and active citizenship for youngsters from 14 years onwards.
Achieve a sensitization campaign to promote a respectful cohabitation in the city (including special attention for children and youngsters) and provide mediation in case of conflicts.
DIVERSITY
Start-up of various projects to enhance coping with diversity (multimedia product in cooperation with Mediaraven in the scope of sexual diversity, project around media wisdom, methods for youth workers)
Coordinated monitoring of the rainbow declaration that was launched in 2014, including actions for the integrated approach of discrimination of LGBT's in the city via the think tank homophobia
Furthered promotion and facilitation of international cooperation for youngsters and youth workers in cooperation with Jint (annual information moment, cooperation in the scope of Go Strange, etc.)
SUSTAINABILITY
Focus on raising children and youngsters as world citizens (responsibility with respect to the living environment, MOS - Milieu op school [Environment at school], fair trade, environmental awareness, sustainable mobility (sustainable on the road / sustainable on the way towards school), etc.
Initiate a participatory and educational track about Gent Klimaatstad [Ghent Climate City]: children and youngsters in a livable and climate-neutral city in 2050 and continuation of the 'Climate Kids' project.
PREVENTION AND SAFETY
Deploy a child and youth-friendly approach in the scope of nuisance and GAS [Municipal Administrative Sanction] (no GAS-fines for criminal facts committed by underage persons, child-friendly and reasonable approach as regards GAS, focus on communication towards youngsters)
Apply an appropriate procedure during police interventions in the scope of partner violence with underage witnesses. A separate summons will be written for every child or youngster, allowing the public prosecutor to follow this case in the scope of a POS file (problematic monitoring situation).
Organize 'cycling for adults and children' courses (destined to vulnerable target groups), as a part of a livable school environment and more exercise.



Promoting children's rights



Kids climate council

2.13 The City of Ghent provides a family-friendly working environment for its staff members

Actions
Further expansion of the possibility of telework and flex work.
Extend the possibility of time-independent working
Provide the possibility of taking holiday leave in blocks of 1 hour and compensation in hours and minutes
Provide new time tables such as the 'school bell job'
Create breastfeeding accommodation.



Further developing tele- and flexible working

2.14 Focus on a family and youth-friendly tourism

Actions
Promote Ghent as a pilot city for 'Cultuurnet' in the scope of De Vlieg, a 'digital fly' (app or site).
Implement a city-scan on the child and family-friendly aspect of the tourist centre.
Look for child bloggers who can use their proper experience to write inspired articles about activities or venues for people who would like to make a city trip to Ghent.
Support more youth stay amenities in the Centre (FOS de Zebra's) and Drongen (Chiro Tijl en Nele).
Develop a track in the scope of child-friendly shops.
Stimulate child-friendly catering industry by promoting various aspects of child-friendliness (sanitary equipment, diaper tables, possibility to warm up baby bottles, healthy children's menus, etc.) and examine the advisability and opportunities of a label.
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Dispensation of the city tax to the age of 18 instead of the current 12 years as a financial means of tourism promotion for families with children and youngsters tourism in Ghent
Pay extra attention for children and youngsters in the development of large projects such as the visiting centre of the Mystic Lamb.
Assembling the existent offer for children and youngsters in cooperation with the Youth Department, museums, HORECA VLAANDEREN, ... and communicate via various channels to the attention of tourists.



Child -friendly tourism



Atmosphere at the Graslei

2.15 Achieve a track Ghent: child and youth-friendly city

Actions
Draft of an action plan 'Ghent: child and youth-friendly city' with annual report of the achieved results.
Develop instruments in view of a structural implementation of child and youth-friendliness in the policy (youth paragraph, touch stones in the scope of spatial planning, etc.).
Recruitment of a programme director and a children's secretary.
Elaborate a communication and promotion plan in the scope of a child and youth-friendly city.
Develop expertise by organizing exchanges, forums, study moments (study visit to Rotterdam, forum about child-friendly areas, etc.).
Achieve social engagement with citizens, midfield, companies, about the theme child and youth-friendliness (set up a digital platform to share experiences and best practices, appeals and challenges around various themes, initiate a network of ambassadors (involved citizens), etc.)
Annual presentation of the 'Jong en Wijs Prijs' [Young and Wise Award] for individuals, midfield, companies that are playing a role in making the City of Ghent more child and youth-friendly.
Develop a positive image of children and youngsters by deploying actorship and media coverage (e.g. 'Jong en Wijs' torch that is monthly transmitted from one youngster to the next).
Start up a core group and a programme team in the scope of implementing and monitoring the 'Ghent, child and youth-friendly city' track.
Co-organize the international conference 'Child in the City 2016' in Ghent.
Simultaneously with the 'Child in the City' conference, we will also set up a children and youngsters congress, including workshops, discussion moments, etc. for children and youngsters



Child in the City Congres in Ghent in 2016



Jong en Wijs price

Any questions?

The entire plan (in Dutch) is available at the Youth Department of the City of Ghent.

Should you have any more questions concerning the content of the action plan, feel free to contact the Program director of 'Ghent, child- and youthfriendly city' Marianne Labre on Marianne.labre@stad.gent or 09/269 81 10.

The website of Ghent, child- and youthfriendly city' (in Dutch): www.jongenwijs.gent