

# FLEMISH RESILIENCE: THE AMBITIOUS RECOVERY PLAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS

COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented crisis. The Government of Flanders is responding to this with its ambitious **Flemish Resilience recovery plan**. An investment worth **4.3 billion euros** and intended to turn the corona crisis into an opportunity. An opportunity bringing societal and economic gains and making Flanders one of Europe's frontrunners. The **European Union** has also set up a recovery fund to emerge from this crisis, from which it is allocating **2.25 billion euros** to Flanders.



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## 7 key focal points, 180 projects

Flemish Resilience features **7 key focal points** that are being implemented via **180 projects**, **55** of which are EU-funded. These projects are expected to propel Flanders **to the forefront** of the digital revolution and help it shift gear to a more **sustainable economy**.

### THE 7 KEY FOCAL POINTS OF FLEMISH RESILIENCE



- Investing in climate and innovation and making the economy and society more sustainable
- Investing in infrastructure and major mobility works
- Transforming Flanders digitally
- Promoting lifelong learning and digitalisation in education and on the labour market
- Strengthening Flanders' care and welfare system
- Emerging from the corona crisis and Brexit
- Decreasing red tape and increasing government efficiency

## From the digital leap to cycling infrastructure

With **180 Flemish Resilience projects**, the Government of Flanders wants to help Flanders recover from the corona crisis.

### PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Government of Flanders is turning the backlog in digital education into a lead by making a **digital leap** ('**digisprong**'). It is investing in laptops and computers as well as in ICT training and digital learning tools. Recovery funds totalling 385 million euros will be spent on ICT infrastructure in schools.

The Government of Flanders wants to make Flanders a leading hydrogen region and is investing 125 million euros in the **hydrogen economy** to support the transition to a sustainable hydrogen industry. After all, hydrogen is an energy carrier that can store energy from renewable sources and is also used in industrial processes and for transport.

The Government of Flanders has earmarked 60 million euros of Flemish Resilience funds for **edusprong**, a plan for making an educational leap to quality adult education. Thanks to this investment, even more disadvantaged groups will find their way into adult education. Furthermore, the training offer will be improved and a broad ICT offer with open modules will be developed.

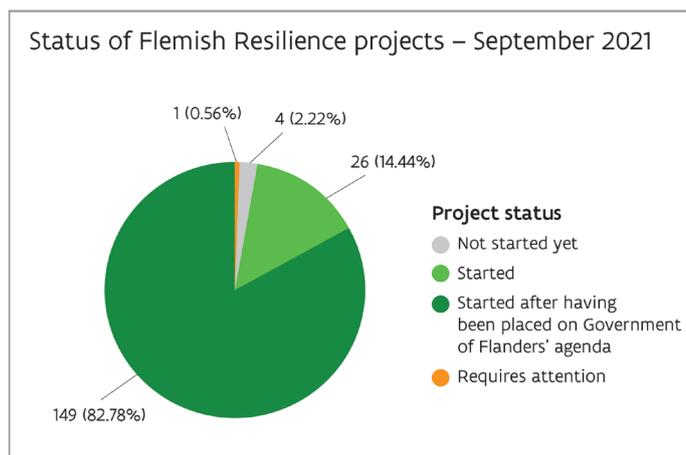
The Government of Flanders is investing 4.8 million euros in the **OverKop houses**. These are accessible meeting places where under-25s can take part in leisure activities, find a listening ear and receive well-being support without being stigmatised.



The Government of Flanders is stimulating bicycle use and making investments in **cycling infrastructure** on municipal roads by contributing 1 euro for every 2 euros invested by local authorities. The Government of Flanders has appropriated an amount of 150 million euros for this purpose. In this way, it wants to invest at least 450 million euros in cycling infrastructure on municipal roads.

The Government of Flanders is simplifying the subsidy landscape by bundling as many subsidies as possible into one online desk. For this reason it is transforming the existing renovation grant and energy grants into a **unified home renovation grant**. The Government of Flanders aims to make the subsidy landscape more customer-friendly and encourage more people to renovate their homes.

## Monitoring and reporting: 3 times a year



The Government of Flanders is monitoring and reporting the progress of the 180 recovery projects **three times a year**. The second measurement in September 2021 shows that almost all the projects have been started: **175 out of 180** or **97%** of the recovery projects. In early **2022**, Flemish Resilience will be at **cruising speed**.

The progress of the projects is measured by **output indicators**. They indicate for each project what the Government of Flanders wants to achieve with the 4.3 billion in recovery funds.

### EXAMPLES OF OUTPUT INDICATORS

- (Re)constructing 1,498 kilometres of cycling paths
- Installing 35,000 charging points
- Organising 300,000 online training courses
- Awarding 225,000 grants for better management of our energy output

# The state of Flanders in figures: dashboard

The Government of Flanders is closely monitoring the economic and societal recovery after the corona crisis using an **indicator** dashboard. This offers hope for and confidence in the future.

In 2021, Flanders' **economy** will **recover** strongly **(+5.8%)** and continue to grow in 2022 **(+2.8%)**, after the 6.1% plunge it took in 2020.

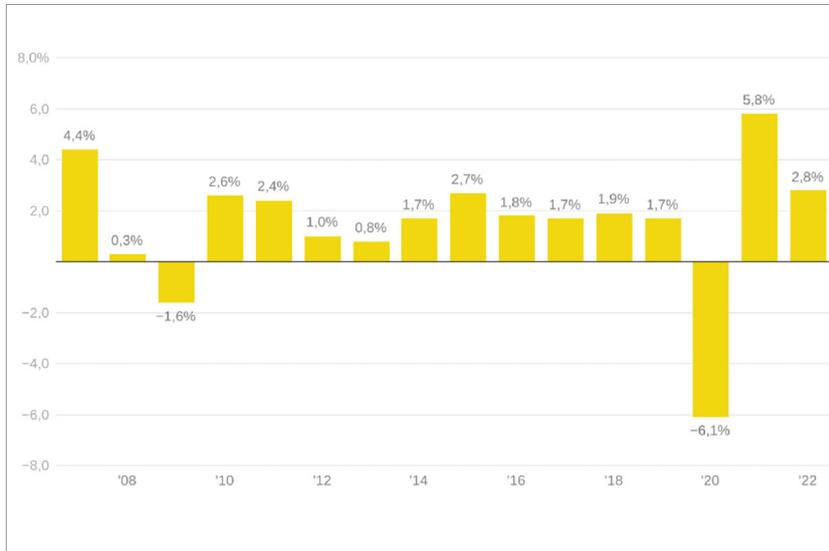
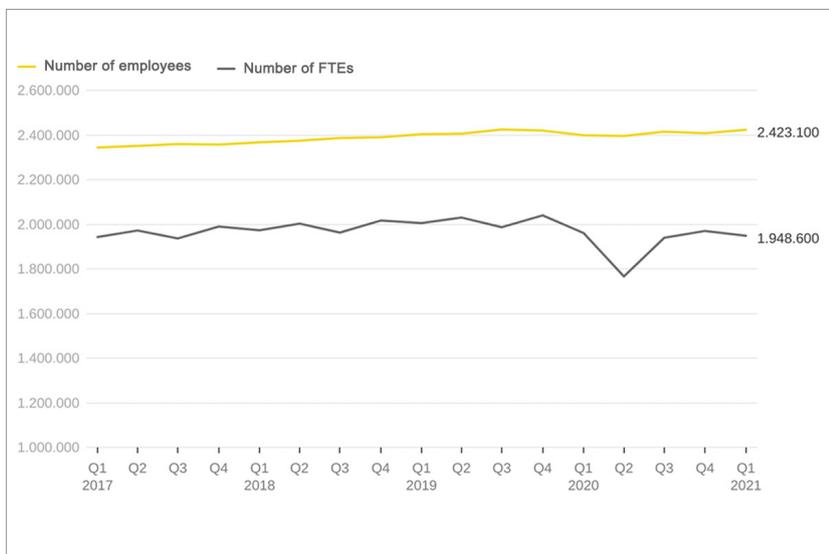


Chart: DKBUZA | Source: HERMREG-FPB, BISA, IWEPS, VSA 2020, via Statistics Flanders

**Employment** has reached **pre-corona level** again. **24,232 jobs** were created, which is a **1% increase** compared to the first quarter of 2020. The number of full-time equivalents has not yet fully recovered and is **4.5% lower** than before the corona crisis.



Note: 2021-Q1: estimate (based on Quick Estimates of Employment at NSSO) Chart: DKBUZA | Source: NSSO via Centre of Expertise for Labour Market Monitoring

The mental well-being of the people of Flanders has improved significantly. At the beginning of April 2020, anxiety disorders increased by 19.9% and depressive disorders by 16.5%. In June 2021, they dropped to 13.7% and 12.6% respectively, which is still higher than the pre-corona levels of 8.8% and 6.5%.

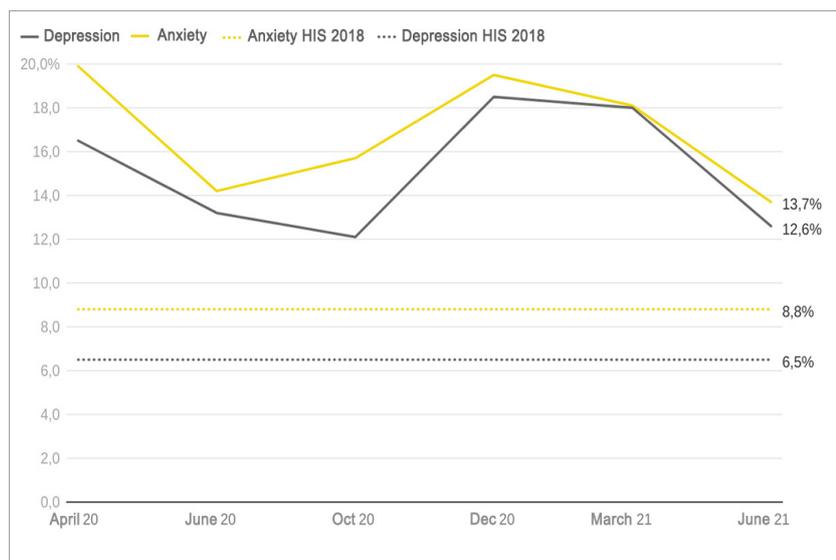


Chart: DKBUZA | Source: Sciensano

## **More ambition than ever! 5-metre-high square brackets**

Flanders is the first region in Europe to communicate the results of its investments and bring the recovery plan to life for its citizens. With a public campaign, the Government of Flanders wants to show citizens that it creates employment, boosts the economy and supports societal recovery.

The slogan of the public campaign is [More ambition than ever]. It should give the people of Flanders confidence in the recovery plan and in the future. On the dike in Ostend, 5-metre-high square brackets attracted attention. The side façade of Flanders' research centre IMEC was also made an eye-catcher with metres-high brackets. The public campaign also showcases the Flemish Resilience investments by means of advertisements, social media and posters.

