

The Belgium Experience



- **SST**
 - Network of WISEs
 - Represents 90 % of WISEs in Flanders
 - Lobbying
 - One Voice for the social enterprises



The Belgium Experience



- **WISEs in Flanders**
 - Period of Transition
 - New law
 - Subsidy of wages (45% - 60%)
 - ✦ Evaluation of subsidy 3 years
 - Depends on the distance to the labour market
 - Competences / Personal Development Plan (POP)



The Belgium Eperience



- **Our Challenge**

- Sustainability
- Awareness, creativity, innovation
- Networking and good relations with local authority

→ Role of City of Ghent





PIETER HENDRICKX
CITY OF GHENT



Ghent employment



- 250,000 inhabitants
- Economy:
 - Sea Port
 - Sectors: education, health



Why social economy?



- Local government is ambassador of social economy
 - Local employment policy
 - ✦ >5,000 vacancies
 - ✦ 7500 >1 year unemployed
 - ✦ 1500 jobs in social economy
 - Why subsidies?
 - What are benefits?

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**"It's not a great mission statement,
but we'll revise it if things get better."**



How can social economy develop?



- **Coordinate**
 - Cooperation
 - Multi-level governance
- **Support**
 - Subsidies
 - Project development
- **Government as part of social economy**



Social economy platform



- SWOT → Action plan
- Information/Exchange



labour

WEERWERK
STERK IN MAATWERK

5 social enterprises
500 jobs



Ateljee
Ons werk maakt sterk



UCO: Social Economy Cluster



- 50,000 m² old industrial area
- Training Center
- Comfort services: restaurant, bike service,...

UCO: cluster of activities



Public procurement for social economy



- 6 priority sectors:
 - Cleaning
 - Printing
 - Greenery
 - Public domain
 - Catering
- 1 mln euro in 2014

