



DGD programme

# GLOBe 2024

## Impressions and achievements

In 2024, the VVSG's GLoBe programme continued to guarantee strong cooperation between Flemish local authorities and their international partners. Through town twinning, partnerships with umbrella organisations and targeted SDG projects, we worked together on good local governance, social participation and policy renewal. We were active in Benin, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Senegal, Rwanda and Flanders itself, where we continue to support local authorities in integrating global challenges in their policies. In 2024, the GLoBe programme operated through 12 city partnerships, 3 collaborations between the VVSG and sister associations, and 7 SDG partnerships.



**vvsg**

- In Rwanda, district officials from Bugesera and Karongi participated in a learning programme on participatory urban development. During the 'Umujyi wanjye' campaigns, they engaged in dialogue with citizens and stakeholders on inclusive spatial planning. A total of **900 handbooks** on land redistribution and participation were distributed.

- In Benin, local authorities were supported in setting up gender committees. The town twinning schemes focused on local entrepreneurship and actions to promote greater financial autonomy.

- In Nicaragua, agro-ecological practice zones were established for the cultivation of tilapia, vegetables and fruit. Youth participation was central to raising awareness of ecological issues.

## 66



66% of Flemish local authorities use the SDGs in their environmental analysis.



The VVSG organised **15 tailor-made SDG information sessions** for Flemish authorities on topics such as SDGs in administrative agreements, environmental analysis and policy planning. The webinars on the SDGs attracted a total of

more than 300 participants, with a strong presence of general directors, financial managers and strategic coordinators.

- In Senegal, Tambacounda expanded its vegetable gardens for 190 women and young people.

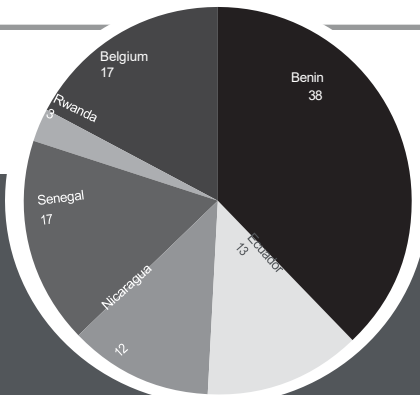
- Two inspirational videos were developed on the integration of SDGs into local policy in Flanders. Local representatives and civil servants testify to the added value of SDGs for their municipal policy.

- Seven active SDG partnerships between Flemish local authorities and municipalities in Rwanda and Benin worked on themes such as the local economy, participation and food policy in 2024.

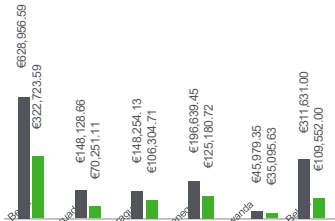


Follow-up of the integrity policy:

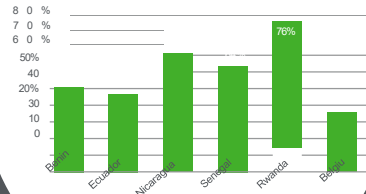
**no integrity complaints**



Budget ratios



Expenditure



Consumption



## Challenges

### Political context and planning

In almost every country, there are delays due to staff changes or employee absences. Flexibility is needed to compensate for this. Focusing on knowledge transfer, capitalisation, information flow and archiving is more important than ever.

### Gender and the environment

Gender remains a focus area, despite initiatives such as the activation of gender focal points in Benin. The environment was often included in programmes on an ad hoc basis. Structural integration of the environment, for example through climate action plans or monitoring tools, remains a work in progress.



## Opportunities

- The planned study trip by Rwandan district representatives to Belgium in January 2025 is a unique opportunity to further explore the theme of participatory urban development. The experiences gained from the 'Umujiyi wanjye' campaigns provide a strong basis for stimulating mutual learning, with a focus on co-creation, spatial planning and stakeholder management.
- The momentum of the local elections in Flanders in October 2024 can be exploited to the full. The multi-year plans that Flemish local authorities will draw up in 2025 will determine the path towards 2030. The SDGs can play a central role in this. The VVSG supports this through an extensive range of tools, guidance and inspiring practical examples.
- The VVSG SDG conference on 30 September 2025 offers an excellent opportunity to position local authorities internationally. The conference will focus on the local translation of global challenges, with room for international dialogue, SDG practices and political visibility.
- In Ecuador, new alliances were forged between water stakeholders in 2024. The collaboration between the urban water company and the rural service UMSA in Portoviejo demonstrates that economies of scale and cooperation between services are crucial for affordable and sustainable water supply. This experience can be translated to other partner contexts where water policy is fragmented.
- In Tambacounda (Senegal), the local technical office B3P was strengthened as an internal expertise centre, with capacity building in management, monitoring and support of agricultural projects. This demonstrates the importance of institutionally embedding project experience, so that the knowledge and methods acquired are retained after the GLoBe initiatives have ended.



In 2024, the GLoBe programme helped us to strengthen good local governance not only in our own municipality, but also to rethink it from a global perspective. Thanks to the exchange with Ouinhi, we learned how strongly participation can be embedded in local policy, with village centres represented in the municipal council and weekly coordination between civil servants. We took those insights home with us and linked them to our own ambitions regarding policy participation and strategic land use. The programme did not result in abstract cooperation, but in a shared practical experience that has enriched our policy and opened the door to ongoing exchange based on mutual respect and learning.

Ellen Leroy, Managing Director Laarne, partner Ouinhi (Benin)

Through the GLoBe programme, we were able to take major steps towards a sustainable food system in Santo Tomás. The municipal council, CDC/MIDECSA, cooperatives and entrepreneurs are joining forces to strengthen the production and consumption of agro-ecological products, with seasonal vegetables, honey and the local pride and joy, quesillo, at the forefront. Thanks to policy, training and investments in, among other things, the plant nursery and the village centre, this initiative took concrete shape. At the same time, we are learning from inspiring exchanges, such as with the UCHON cooperative and Rikolto. In Mol, we are linking this town twinning to our own plans: citizens are involved in activities and our greening policy is given an extra dimension through the Santo Tomásplein. In this way, our cooperation is growing into a tangible form of mutual solidarity and we learn how climate action and local policy can go hand in hand.

Lotte Vreys, alderwoman for global policy in Mol, with a partnership in Santo Tomás, Nicaragua



In 2024, the GLoBe programme helped us to better plan, implement and monitor municipal actions by involving more residents and local actors. Thanks to the programme's support, we were able to set up participatory mechanisms for drawing up the municipal budget and improved transparency in project management. This has not only increased the population's confidence in the municipal administration, but also ensured a better distribution of resources and greater acceptance. Thanks to the federal programme Deinze Lievegem KEMOPODI (3 municipalities of Keur Moussa, Pout & Diender), we have also organised meetings with young people and women on waste management in order to better take their needs into account in municipal projects. Thanks to the programme, we are currently working on 15 pilot projects for waste collection using tricycles in 15 neighbourhoods of the KeMoPoDi intermunicipal cooperation.

Malick Ndiaye, Mayor of Pout (Senegal), chair of the KEMOPODI intermunicipal cooperation (3 municipalities: Keur Moussa, Pout & Diender) – partner of Deinze Lievegem.

