



THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CITIES MONITOR

Country fact sheet: BELGIUM



<https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/cultural-creative-cities-monitor>

The **Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor** is a new tool to **benchmark the performance** of European cities compared to their peers using both quantitative and qualitative data. It provides a common evidence base at city level that helps decision-makers learn from each other and inspires fit-for-purpose policies to boost economic growth and job creation, foster social development and citizens' well-being, and strengthen resilience. This year's first edition covers **168 cities in 30 countries, selected from about 1000 cities** in Eurostat's Urban Audit on the basis of their **verifiable engagement** in promoting **culture** and **creativity**. Being included in the Monitor is thus in itself an acknowledgement of the importance these cities attach to culture and creativity.



The Monitor's quantitative information is captured in **29 indicators**. These are grouped into **9 dimensions** reflecting **3 major facets** of cities' cultural, social and economic vitality: **'Cultural Vibrancy'**, **'Creative Economy'** and **'Enabling Environment'**. In addition, qualitative evidence helps illustrate what cities are good at.

Selected cities

- Four European Capitals of Culture: Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels and Mons
- One UNESCO Creative City: Ghent
- Four cities hosting at least two international cultural festivals: Leuven, Liège, Namur and Ostend

Key findings

 **Brussels** scores particularly well on **'Creative Economy'** (3rd in the XXL group of 21 ranked cities), mostly thanks to its notable performance on New Jobs in Creative Sectors (2nd). Creative jobs are estimated to represent 6.5% of total employment in the city. On **'Cultural Vibrancy'**, Brussels makes it to 10th place: the city has experienced a cultural renaissance since the early 2000, after being a European Capital of Culture. The annual Zinneke Parade - trying to connect its diverse cultures and communities - is a legacy of this title.

 **Antwerp** does best on **'Cultural Vibrancy'** (11th in the XL group of 34 ranked cities) thanks to its 10th position on Cultural participation & Attractiveness. Antwerp was a European Capital of Culture in 1993. Its cultural vitality complements the city's development as a fashion capital. Its well renowned Royal Academy of Fine Arts

helped to launch the careers of the designers who founded 'Antwerp Six', a collective that has fostered the city's fashion culture and reputation, locally and internationally.

Ghent ranks 2nd on '**Cultural Vibrancy**' in the L group mostly thanks to its notable result on Cultural Venues & Facilities (2nd). They city is not only an excellent example of medieval architecture, but a lively cultural centre. The City Council is implementing an 'acupuncture strategy' to further spread culture and creativity across the city with projects such as the Rabot Creative Quarter aimed at rejuvenating a former industrial area.

Leuven is particularly strong on '**Creative Economy**' (4th in the S-M group of 64 ranked cities), mainly due to its very good performance on Intellectual Property & Innovation (4th). The cultural and creative sectors are estimated to represent 6.5 % of the employment in the city.

Population group	Sub-indices		
	1. Cultural Vibrancy	2. Creative Economy	3. Enabling Environment
XXL Brussels			
XL Antwerp			
L Ghent			
Liège			
S-M Leuven			
Mons			
Bruges			

Scores: Top 33% Middle 33% Bottom 33%

Note: Cities are ordered by Cultural and Creative Cities (C3) Index score within each population group. The Index is obtained by aggregating weighted scores of sub-indices as designed by experts in the field. The [C3 online platform](#) allows customising the weights, inserting your own data and comparing cities.

Did you know that...?

Liège is an important spot for the audio-visual sector thanks to its 'Liege Image Hub'. The Hub hosts more than 30 creative companies and shooting studios designed for cinema and TV productions.

Mons was a European Capital of Culture in 2015, attracting more than 2 million visitors. A new biennale cultural event will take place from 2018 to maintain the cultural vibrancy generated by Mons 2015.

The experience of **Bruges** as a European Capital of Culture in 2002 has had a considerable impact on cultural cooperation. The city now hosts Brugge Plus, the successor of Brugge 2002. Brugge Plus animates the city's cultural life with events like the 'Feast of lights' in cooperation with local and regional partners such as museums, theatres or public authorities.



Café Europa for Mons 2015. Credit: Ars Electronica under CC BY NC ND licence