

Good Practice Summary: Urban Data Scan

Cities are continuously confronted with new challenges and questions. In order to tackle this challenges, Antwerp uses the urban scan. The city of Antwerp's company for urban development performs extensive spatial and environmental analyses to enable well-considered spatial policy visions and decisions based on quantitative and objective information. Extensive and integrated analyses of the (spatial) environment are a necessity for area-oriented development projects as well as for generic plans such as the strategic Spatial Structure Plan for Antwerp or sectorial plans.

The urban scan maps out the specific needs, challenges and opportunities of particular urban areas. A relevant set of geo-data and statistical data is analysed in light of a number of themes, such as socio-demographics, economy, housing, the legal context, mobility, environment and wellbeing. In addition, the area is scanned for built and unbuilt amenities. This enables the configuration of specific programmes that contribute to a liveable and high-quality urban environment for residents, commuters and visitors.

This has been the approach in Antwerp for ten years. And, as the supportive function of spatial-environmental analyses has become partially mandatory in the past year, its importance has further increased. Spatial analyses can be applied in the beginning, during and after the implementation of projects, allowing the city to monitor projected objectives. Simulations can take into account future residents in project areas and calculate effects in terms of additional needs or required new amenities.

Amenities are analysed in two ways, measuring their 'reach' on the one hand and gauging their capacity on the other. To this end, first, sectorial partners are consulted to assess the scale on which local amenities function. Three scales can be discerned in this respect: neighbourhood amenities, residential quarter amenities and urban quarter amenities.

Neighbourhood amenities are located within 400 metres (a five minute walk) of their users. Examples of neighbourhood amenities are primary schools, nurseries, youth services, pharmacies, (mini) supermarkets, bakeries, butchers, banks, local green spaces (<5 ha), playgrounds and local sport facilities.

Residential quarter amenities lie within 800 metres (a ten minute walk) of their users. Examples of urban quarter amenities are communal service centres, physicians, dentists, supermarkets, leash-free dog zones and local green spaces (5<10 ha).

Finally, **urban quarter amenities** are situated within 1.600 metres (a twenty minute walk or an eight minute bike ride) of their users. Examples are secondary schools, part-time arts education, youth clubs and centres, party venues, sport halls, swimming pools, libraries, cultural centres, recycling centres, district service centres, police stations, garden allotments and local green spaces (>10 ha).

Reach-focused analyses allow policy makers to evenly distribute amenities based on walking distances. GIS (geographic information system) models are used to draw buffers or influence-spheres around amenities, corresponding to their respective scales. Barriers, shortcuts and crossings are taken into account to evaluate access to or proximity of amenities. The number of residents within their sphere of influence is calculated, too. Citizens living outside of these spheres find themselves in

a shortage zone. These areas, outside of the reach of current amenities, are thus interesting locations for new amenities.

Capacity-based analyses enable policy makers to plan the distribution of amenities based on population density and target groups. The amount or total area of amenities is calculated per citizen. Population density and age groups are taken into account to determine the number or severity of shortages. The citywide average or, if available, a norm serves as the point of reference.

The city has a number of user-friendly instruments to **disclose these data and maps**. Platforms are used to share data with city employees, citizens, companies, research agencies, project developers and other cities. This way, everyone uses the same figures and definitions. The statistics and maps are used in an integrated manner; not only for spatial planning, but across different policy domains. This in turn further increases the importance of data sharing. Maps are also powerful tools to communicate and to raise awareness and useful instruments in carrying out analyses and developing visions. The available data have a city-wide scope, but tailored or area-oriented simulations and scenarios can be generated as well. Yearly updates of the data also help to monitor evolutions.