

# FACT SHEET

## FLANDERS



## MAP OF THE REGION



### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Date of application: 28/02/2013
- EER year : ☒ **2014**
- Applicant: *Flemish Region (Vlaams Gewest)*
- Political endorsement: *The application is supported by Minister Kris Peeters, Flemish Minister-President and Minister of Economy*
- Contact person: *Gonda De Smedt, Agentschap Ondernemen, Seminariestraat 2, 9000 Ghent, +3292674050, gonda.desmedt@agentschapondernemen.be*

### 2. REGIONAL DATA

- NUTS: *BE2*
- Population: *6.350.765 (2012)*
- Area: *13.521 km<sup>2</sup>*
- GDP / inhabitant: *€ 29.200 (2011)*

### 3. COMPETENCES / ACTIVITIES / AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In line with the objective of Europe 2020 – to strive to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – the region Flanders has set up together with all the movers and shakers in society it's ambitious ViA (Flanders in Action) plan. In the **ViA plan**, the Flemish government included the need for *more and stronger entrepreneurship*. This focus has led to an **Action Plan Entrepreneurship** which describes how this target has to be realized. Some of these actions will be elaborated in this application.

The Flemish administration has created, within its competence over the policy area 'economy', an internal but autonomous agency that is called '**Agentschap Ondernemen**' (*Flanders Enterprise*). This agency coordinates the efforts of the Flemish administration in the field of entrepreneurship. It organises and supports events, seminars, and other initiatives; answers questions from entrepreneurs and coordinates the distribution of grants and other forms of public funding for businesses. ([www.agentschapondernemen.be](http://www.agentschapondernemen.be))

The Flemish government **organises and supports various initiatives that promote entrepreneurship** in Flanders and Flemish entrepreneurs abroad. This includes, among others, **awards** given to the most promising business plan (*Ondernemingsplanwedstrijd*) ; and through FIT to **businesses doing exceptionally well in export** (*De Leeuw van de Export*). **And also the most business-friendly municipality of Flanders** (*Ondernemingsvriendelijke Gemeente*) is honoured with an award. The Bright Young Starters Platform '**Bryo**' has even received much recognition internationally.