

Frederik Ceulemans

Schepen van Stadsvernieuwing, Klimaat, Burgerparticipatie en Nederlandstalige aangelegenheden

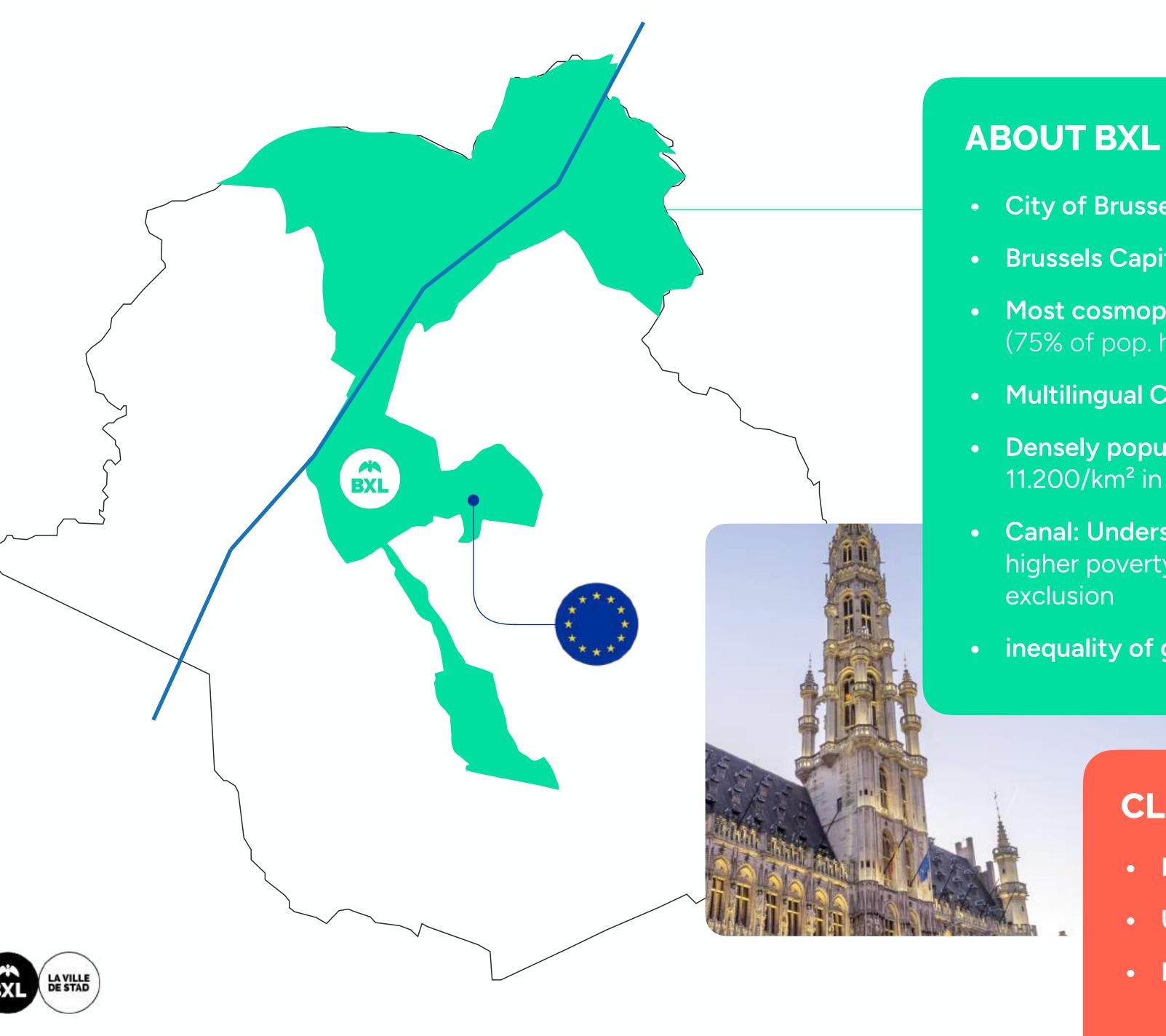
Echevin de la Rénovation Urbaine, du Climat, de la Participation Citoyenne et des Affaires néerlandophones

Alderman for Urban Renewal, Climate, Citizen Participation, and Dutch-Language Affairs

Webinar

Cities for the Green Transition: Empowering Communities Through Local Action

13/10/2025



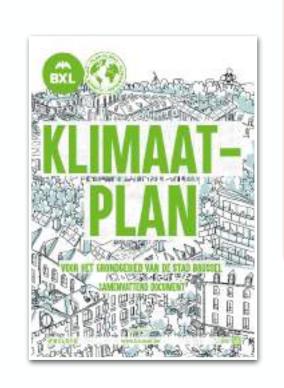
- City of Brussels: 200.000 inh.
- Brussels Capital Region: 1,2 mln inh.
- Most cosmopolitan city in Europe (75% of pop. has migration background)
- **Multilingual City**
- Densely populated 11.200/km² in Pentagon
- Canal: Underserved neighborhoods facing higher poverty risk and socio-economic
- inequality of green & public space

CLIMATE RESILIENCE RISKS

- Flooding & Heavy Rain
- Urban Heat Island Effect
- Drought & Water Stress

AGENDA 21 2020





TOGETHER WE'LL SUCCEED

- Climate Plan Update: Citizens' **Assembly on Climate** Local and regional initiatives
- Open Call for Climate (yearly)
- Co-create neighborhoods (City Renewal Contracts)
- Scaling Pilote Projects

CHALLENGE

- **Building Trust**
- Consistency
- Socio-economic reality
- **Activation Private Sector**
- **Public Budget**

2008

2018

2022

2030

-55%

2050 Net Zero

Climate Plan 2.0 for the **City of Brussels Territory**

EU Mission: 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities.



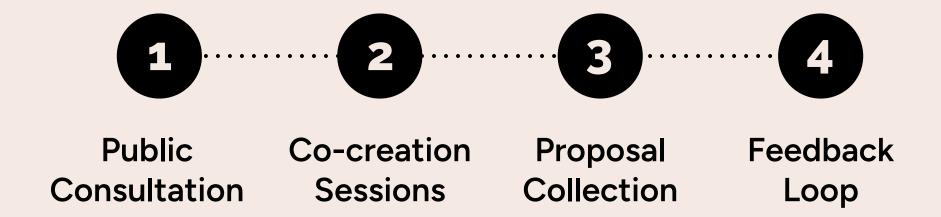




CLIMATE PLAN UPDATE

Recap 2022:

- C700 citizens actively participated
- 46 workshops were organized
- Over 300 proposals for actions were collected



CALL FOR CLIMATE PROJECTS

Up to 40K per project

- Environmental impact
- Innovation and creativity
- Collective dimension (civil society and SMB)
- Sustainability and autonomy





CO-CREATION: URBAN RENEWAL CONTRACT

- Budget: City + Region 5 years
- Co-created with a mission-oriented neighbourhood council
- 30% Stone, 30% Public Space, 30% socio-economic projects
- Specific underserved neighborhoods



LESSONS LEARNED

- Long-term commitment to citizens, businesses, and communities.
- The sustainable transition must be inclusive, even more in underserved areas.
- Fix: the fixed neighborhood council between citizens and city hall.
- Flex: a hybrid participation process that connects urban renewal projects from city hall with proposals in the neighborhood.
- Reflex: Participation must be embedded in governance.
- **Hybrid backbone.** Engage citizens on their streets, and turn their input into actionable insights.
- A clear **participatory roadmap** for sustainable transition.
 - Misinformation and distrust: Some citizens participate and do not believe that their input matters
 - Limited scope: The actual power and scope of participatory innovations may be limited, leading to a feeling that participation is just "tokenism"
 - Time, budget and resource constraints.

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THANKS

