



EMPOWERING LOGISTICS



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LOGISTICS AS A DRIVER OF THE ECONOMY

The logistics industry is a crucial link in an increasingly complex world where everything is expected to be possible any time, anyhow and anywhere.

Flanders is an international leader in logistics. The World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2018 ranked Belgium as the third best-performing country in the world in terms of logistics - only Germany and Sweden score higher.

Flanders owes its leading position to:

- an open economy
- its central location in an area with strong purchasing power
- well-developed air and sea ports
- a multimodal transport infrastructure
- logistics service providers and shippers with extensive knowledge and experience
- a well-educated, multi-lingual and productive workforce
- affordable logistics space

The logistics industry is economically very important to Belgium, in terms of both GDP and employment.



The logistics industry adapts itself continuously to keep that leading position. And it is a necessity in a digital on-demand economy with the European Green Deal setting the bar at a high level. This will allow Flanders to maintain and consolidate its leading position in logistics.

VIL VZW

VIL is the key point of contact for all stakeholders touched by the logistics industry: shippers, retailers, logistics service providers, suppliers, research institutes, start-ups, etc. Over 620 businesses and organisations are affiliated with VIL.

Prominent strategic partners and an extensive network at home and abroad guarantee its broad reach.

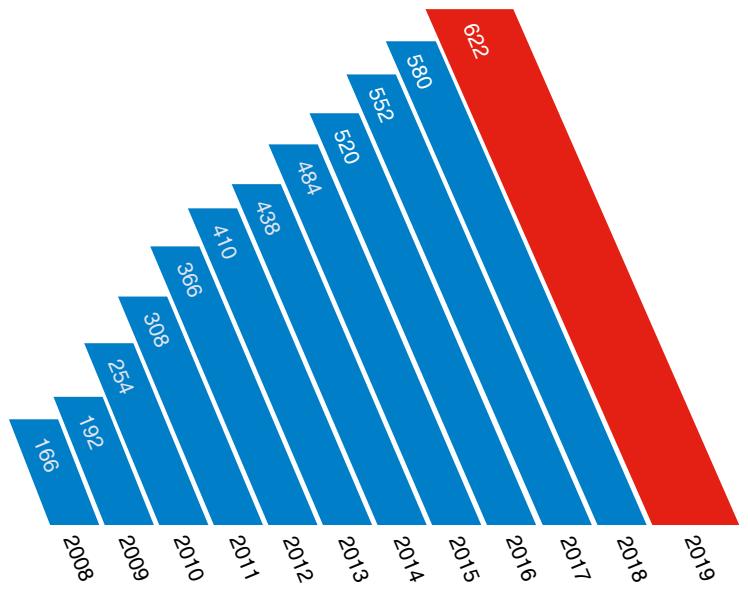
VIL's aim is to create economic and social added value for businesses.

The organisation comprises three units: the spearhead cluster, the multimodal advice desk and the Log!Ville demonstration centre.

Spearhead cluster: generating added value for businesses through innovative projects, networking events, internationalisation, in-house workshops and policy support.

Multimodal advice desk: raising business awareness of and providing support for a modal shift and time shift independently and across transport modes.

Log!Ville: a digital and physical experience in the logistics building of the future.



Trend in number of VIL members



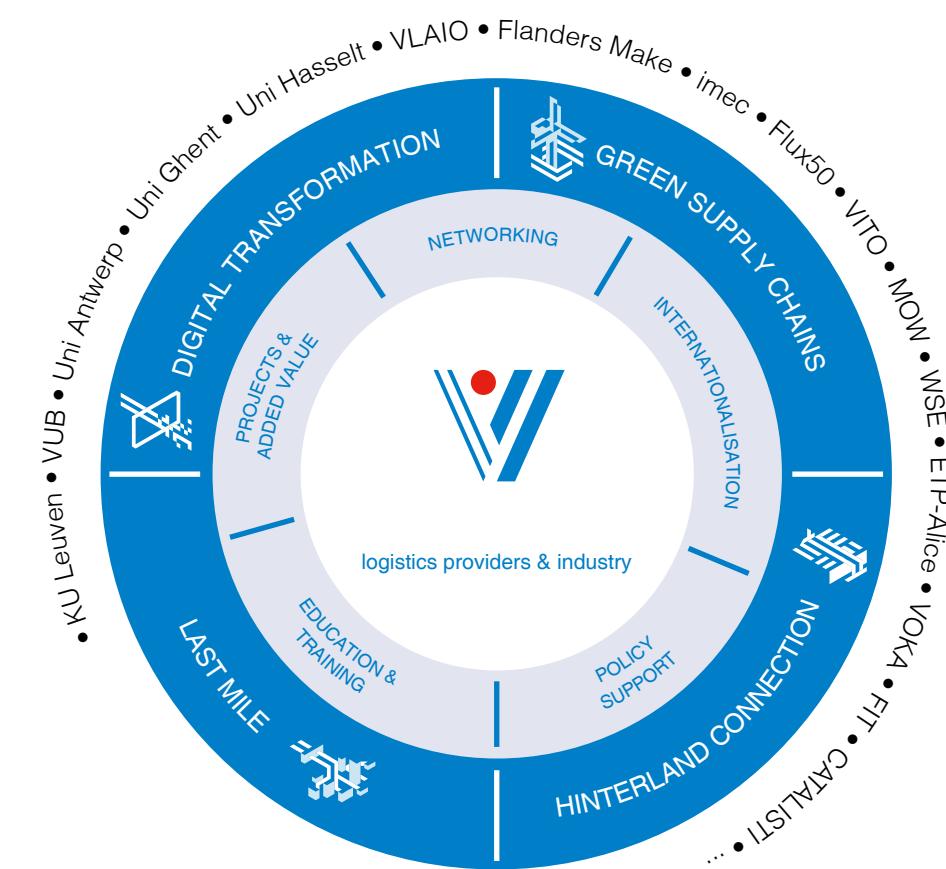
SPEARHEAD CLUSTER

VIL is accredited by the Flemish government as the spearhead cluster for logistics. VIL largely owes this accreditation to its very broad-based support in the industry. A recent policy report (2020) by the Flanders support point for the economy and entrepreneurship - STORE shows that cluster members provide full-time employment for 133,667 people. The total added value generated by the cluster is EUR 13.67 billion.

The spearhead cluster's aim is to bring together businesses and other players within a particular area and to encourage and support them, so they can consolidate their position in the Flemish and international markets.

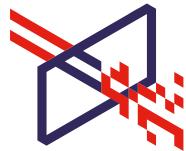
The cluster's mission is:

**TO MAKE FLANDERS THE EUROPEAN HUB
OF THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN**
Sustainable • Digital • Manoeuvrable



Clusters for Growth

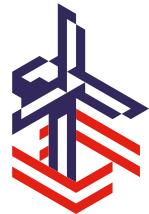
ROADMAP 2020 - 2023



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Simply digitalising existing processes is not enough to prepare businesses for the future. Businesses must subscribe to a digital transformation. Optimum use of data for analysis and forecasting, planned implementation with consideration for employees and cooperation with partners in new business models are important aspects of a digital business strategy in which all processes are laid bare. Only then will the latest technologies generate an optimal return and contribute to growth and sustainability in the logistics industry.

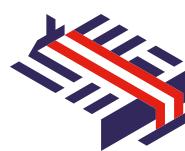
The goal is to transform Flanders into a digital pioneer in the logistics industry.



GREEN SUPPLY CHAINS

Climate and environmental problems are putting increasing pressure on society to join hands and engage in a more sustainable manner with the world we live in. That is why governments, consumers and businesses alike are placing increased value on sustainability. The logistics industry will have to play its part too. Alternative fuels, renewable energy, multimodality, less packaging, sustainable use of materials, circular economy, etc. are increasingly visible trends. The European Green Deal is setting a high bar: we must aim to achieve net zero emissions.

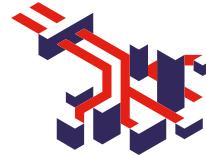
The goal is to make Flanders top of the class in making supply chains greener.



HINTERLAND CONNECTION

Our air and sea ports create jobs, added value and prosperity. However, their potential for growth and development is highly dependent on the extent to which Flanders manages to unravel its mobility problems. Major infrastructure projects combined with an ever increasing demand for both freight and passenger transport will pose an extra challenge over the next decade. Data sharing, cooperation within and across logistics chains, autonomous vehicles and vessels, innovative transshipment methods and hyperloops will contribute to maximum efficiency and optimal capacity utilisation.

The goal is to turn Flanders into an maximally accessible Logistics top region in Europe.



LAST MILE

The last mile is one of the biggest challenges in logistics. The growth in the 'on demand' economy clashes with the rapidly changing environment in which different stakeholders occupy the same space, and with ecological reality. Solutions will be needed for the complexities of the last mile. The focus here is on better utilisation of space, development of new management models and operational excellence. Moreover, new ways of adding value will need to be considered to ensure that these solutions are sustainable.

The goal is to integrate last-mile logistics in Flanders into the overall supply chain as economically and sustainably as possible.

PROJECTS

INNOVATION MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Businesses must anticipate the challenges in the supply chain of the future and regard innovation as a trigger to improving their competitiveness. After all, the supply chain of the future is demand-driven, transparent and highly integrated.

That is why VIL is engaging in a wide range of innovative projects.

The first type of project is **collective projects** involving at least six businesses (COOCK). These are launched bottom-up and cover a wide variety of topics that all cluster members can be involved. Some projects are geared to a particular industry or target group (e.g. the building industry, the marine industry), some are mode-related (e.g. shipping on inland waterways), and others focus explicitly on a specific technology (e.g. AT, IoT, blockchain). These projects are implemented by VIL.

There are also **business projects** (R&D) in which businesses can apply via VIL for grants for their innovative research or development idea. The projects are implemented by the businesses themselves, with VIL offering support and follow-up.

Finally, project types involving **basic research** by research institutes (SBO and ICON) can also be run via VIL.

OPTICHARGE

Automating the loading and unloading of trucks to prevent delays, errors and damage.

"At Spadel, we believe that the growing shortage of truck drivers in Belgium, and by extension Europe, will force all shipping companies to take measures to reduce the time that trucks spend on their sites so that the drivers' available working time can be utilised more efficiently. Against this background, the OptiCharge project is an excellent initiative by VIL. This project will enable businesses to determine which form of automation is of interest to them, both operationally and financially."

- **Spadel**

URBAN WASTE COLLECTION

Improving the quality of life in cities by improving the efficiency of business waste collection.

"In this VIL project, we are looking for an innovative solution to improve the quality of life in our cities. The pilot project in Waregem, in which one unbranded trucks collects both domestic refuse and similar business waste, could offer a sustainable solution. The private operators will retain their customers and manage the commercial relationship, but the waste that is collected from their customers is weighed and recorded separately. That means the same amount of waste can be collected for less distance driven."

- **Vanheede**



RISULT (RESPONSIVE SUSTAINABLE URBAN LOGISTICS)

The development of a total concept for smart urban logistics.

"The time has come to shift up a gear and get in contact with the latest developments in urban deliveries. This is also an opportunity to talk to larger players in logistics and discuss their current logistics issues."

- OVelo



LOGISTICS SUSTAINABILITY INDEX (LSI)

A benchmark tool that evaluates the sustainability performance of the logistics activities in a business.

"In the LSI project, we worked with VIL to create a new tool that gives an insight into how we are doing with sustainability in our business - no "greenwashing", but based on data and facts. This tool will give us more new ideas and encourage us to take action to reduce our impact on the environment and the climate, which is a duty for us all as we look to the future."

- Snel Logistics Solutions



HELICUS AERO INITIATIVE: SECURITY, CONNECTIVITY, SCHEDULING

The use of fully automatic, scheduled and unmanned drone flights for medical transport.

"The "Helicus Aero Initiative" (HAI) ecosystem works with the authorities on drone transport projects and, after years of preparation and air trials, carried out a successful urban flight between Antwerp hospitals on 3 December 2019. The HAI-SCS project (EUR 3.6 m) aims to improve automatic flight scheduling, connectivity between the command centre and the drones, and cyber security."

- Helicus



INTERACTIVE CONTAINER MANAGEMENT APPLICATION

The development of an interactive application to analyse and optimise container and yard management.

"Group-GTS wants to give its clients an insight into the position of their containers at our terminal. Integral connectivity and real-time exchange of stock and transport status have a key role to play in this. We submitted a project to VIL for an interactive container application. Thanks to the support and review of our file by VIL, we achieved our goal and received EUR 185,297 in grants. I can therefore only recommend that my colleagues take that step and make the most of VIL's support."

- Group-GTS



NETWORKING

A UNIQUE MIX OF BUSINESSES

Networking events are an important and crucial activity in the cluster. VIL brings together a unique mix of businesses and organisations, ranging from logistics service providers, shippers, retailers, IT developers, companies in the temporary employment industry, construction and real estate, start-ups to research institutes and government organisations.

VIL organises a wide range of networking opportunities throughout the year:

- Project events
- Company visits
- logiLAUNCH: event for start-ups
- New Year's reception
- Themed cafés
- Workshops
- Information on grants options
- Get-together for new members

And, of course, there is the VIL 'Supply Chains of the Future' summit, held every other year.

"Thank you for the informative summit! Time to change the world with innovation and environmental awareness!"

- Dockflow

"A sound incentive to engage in some self-reflection about what can and must change in terms of sustainability policy."

- Eutraco



INTERNATIONALISATION

VIL's internationalisation strategy is prompted by the need to increase its members' access to markets and knowledge and to improve the cluster's credibility.

That is why VIL is an active member of **international networks** such as ETP-Alice, is continuing to build active working relationships with clusters abroad (e.g. Fraunhofer, TKI-Dinalog) and, by so doing, attempting to influence international funding and policy.

Such networks offer unique access to knowledge built up externally and offer an opportunity to react quickly to new trends and technologies with a potential impact on the logistics industry.

VIL is also involved in "Vlaanderen versnelt" (Flanders accelerates), the internationalisation strategy developed by **Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT)** for the Flemish economy in conjunction with businesses, research institutes and business organisations. VIL supports FIT as a structural partner, to attract foreign investments and to contribute material knowledge about logistics.



SENSE

SENSE, a Horizon 2020 project, aims to use the 'Physical Internet' to implement co-modal transport services at European level within a well-synchronised, intelligent and seamless network to provide optimum support to the supply chain.

"VIL does an excellent job in delivering down to earth knowledge and experience in the development of logistics and Physical Internet. Their focus on building consensus on these developments in a Europe-wide environment is creating a momentum for progress."

- **ETP Alice**

TOKEN

TOKEN, a Horizon 2020 project, uses blockchain within Smart Packaging Reservations in urban logistics. Urban logistics involves not only mobility of people, but also smart loading/unloading sites and locations for mobile delivery points.

"imec researches and develops demand-driven digital technologies. In the domain of innovation in urban logistics, there is extensive added value in working with VIL. They have the domain expertise and the extensive member network to enable and guide us in relevant, transformative projects for urban logistics."

- **imec**



SWITCH

SWITCH, an ESF-WSE project, is about organising workplace exchanges between workers in different businesses. This gives people the opportunity to work in a different environment and this formula offers an alternative to traditional training and teaching.

"The SWITCH project gives us a unique opportunity to exchange lifelong lessons and experience by listening, watching and applying what we learn."

- **Independent Container Line (ICL)**

ULAADS

ULaaDS, a Horizon 2020 project, aims to facilitate and accelerate new shared and zero-emission solutions. The focus is on the challenges arising in future logistics scenarios as a result of the on-demand economy. Ultimately these scenarios must contribute to achieving zero-emission urban logistics in the European Union by 2030.

"As spearhead cluster for logistics, VIL has a large membership base consisting of all types of logistics stakeholders and, therefore, will play an important role in accelerating the deployment of novel, feasible, shared and zero-emission solutions addressing the major challenges generated by the rising on-demand economy in future urban logistics."

- **Bax Company**

SERVICE

Our team of specialists, with broad operational experience in logistics, is at your service to offer individual, tailored advice.

Thanks to our accreditation for the SME portfolio (DV.A211466 and DV.O211464), SMEs in Flanders province can also apply for government support for our advisory services and training courses.



ING BELGIUM

"We worked with VIL a second time on our study of green supply chains. VIL was responsible for organising a survey asking about the extent to which Flemish transport and logistics businesses are integrating sustainability into their strategy and operations. VIL's extensive network resulted in an excellent response rate and the analysis of the results provided a number of remarkable key insights."



OVAM

"OVAM is very grateful to VIL and partners for their constructive cooperation while carrying out the 'Food distribution platforms and logistics' study. We are certain that the results will aid the further growth of the food distribution platforms in Flanders."



INDAVER

"Indaver aims to further digitalise and optimise logistics systems. The current barcode system that tracks part of the logistics flow has had its time and must be replaced. We want to use RFID technology for efficiency reasons. VIL was the right organisation to contact because it has years of relevant experience in the technology. In order to ensure we were well prepared to launch the project, we organised a knowledge café in which VIL clearly and concisely delivered the information to a wide audience. Their experience in past projects is worth its weight in gold to us so that we don't make a false start."



KOMONO

"In light of Komono's rapid growth, we were thinking of RFID solutions to manage our stocks more effectively. But just how and where do you start? VIL has extensive expertise in the area and was the perfect partner for us. Their approach to the work was practical, at the client's pace and with a great focus on passing on knowledge so that you are able to make the right decisions yourself. We are very happy with the result."



MULTIMODAL ADVICE DESK

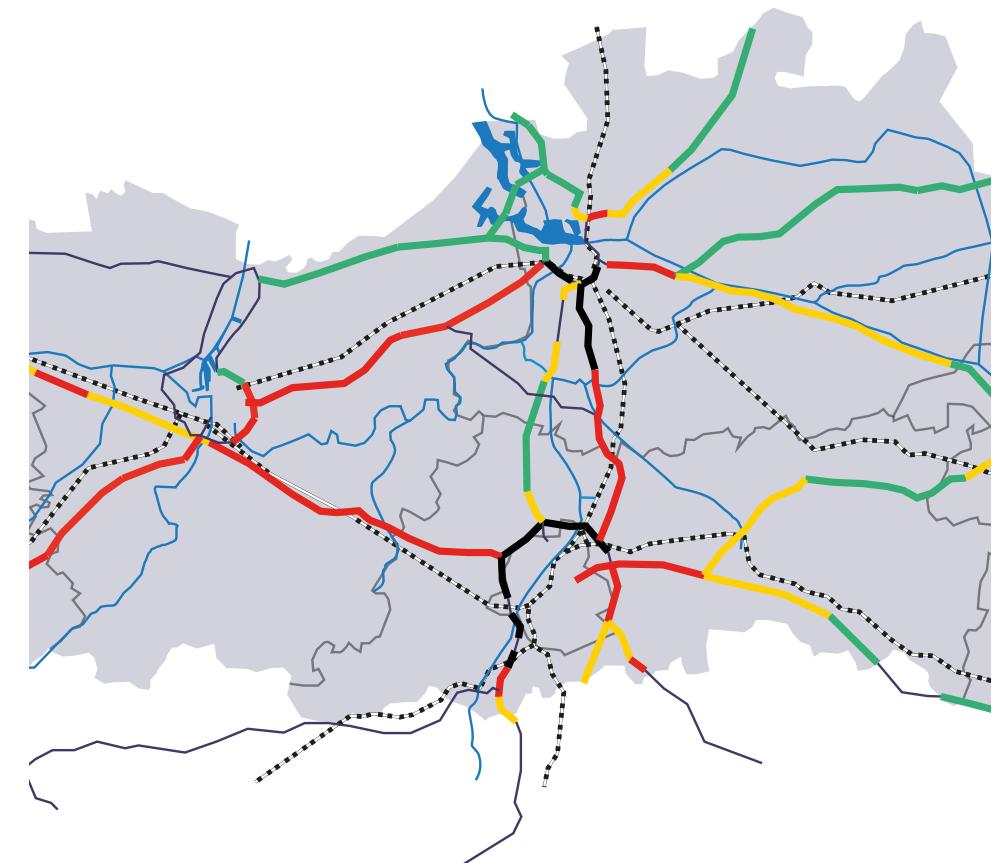
Flanders is an absolute leader in logistics and distribution. The question is whether Flanders will be able to maintain its leading position in the years to come. The competition with neighbouring regions and the persistent traffic congestion inevitably have an impact on the Flemish economy. It would be an understatement to say that the time is ripe for a mental shift.

A transformation towards sustainable logistics and transport takes time and effort. In order to simplify and accelerate the search for effective solutions, the Advice Desk helps shippers and logistics service providers to find alternatives such as waterways and railways, pipelines, night transport, etc. The aim is to work with the business world to make multimodal the logical choice. This puts us on the right track towards more efficient and sustainable transport, which will improve mobility in Flanders.



SENSE OF URGENCY

Average number of vehicles per road segment
Working days (excl. school holidays) 2018



- no. of vehicles/day
- 0 - 25,000
- 25,000 - 51,000
- 51,000 - 71,000
- 71,000 - 150,000

Source: Vlaams Verkeerscentrum (Flemish traffic centre)

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

BUSINESS ADVICE

Logistics service providers and manufacturers, shippers and distribution centres can call on the Advice Desk's independent **business advice**. If alternative modes of transport turn out to be impossible or not feasible, we look at more efficient road transport, a time shift to night transport and/or better utilisation of the available capacity and road infrastructure.

FROM INDICATOR TO POLICY

In order to optimise its approach to this advisory role, the Advice Desk keeps a finger on the pulse of the business world at all times to intercept signals and translate them into **concrete input into the policy** of the Flemish government. For example, the Advice Desk offers solutions for, among other things, infrastructure bottlenecks and failure to comply with regulations and procedures.



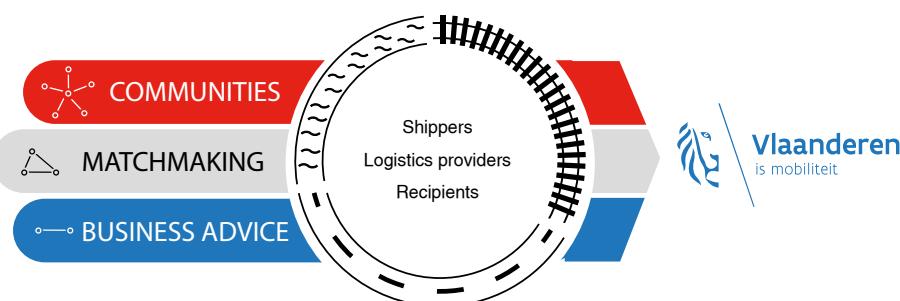
THE POWER OF COOPERATION

"VIL strongly believes in the power of cooperation and is resolutely committed to communities that bring together businesses, service providers and stakeholders around sustainable transport concepts."

- Lydia Peeters, Flemish Minister of Mobility and Public Works in the Mobility and Public Works Policy Document (2019-2024)

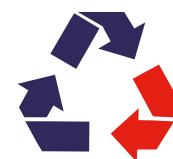
MATCHMAKING

As a matchmaker, the Advice Desk connects stakeholders, both large and small, in Flanders and far beyond. How? By bringing together businesses with similar and/or additional flows of goods around a potential business case. In short, it is about creating new opportunities together.



COMMUNITIES

The Advice desk strongly believes in the power of cooperation. That is why it is fully committed to building and supporting communities. The result? Successful and broad-based multimodal initiatives that cross the boundaries between industries and businesses.



RECYCLING

The Advice desk is working with waste recycling companies to find solutions for increased and more efficient waste transport on inland waterways.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

The community of suppliers and manufacturers of construction materials aims to provide further stimuli to shipping on the inland waterways of Limburg and West Flanders via corridors.

RETAIL FAST MOVING

The Advice desk is working with FMCG businesses and retailers to find concrete solutions to reduce traffic on the motorways at peak times, one of which being to focus on a time shift to night transport.

BEST PRACTICES

OMNIBETON TRANSPORTS NOISE BARRIERS BY WATER

Omnibeton, which manufactures noise barriers, is now an avid user of water transport and used barges for a project along the R6 in Mechelen. A total of 220 walls and deltablocs were transported from Hasselt to Tisselt/Willebroek in two shipments.

"We saved a total of 84 journeys in each direction between Hasselt and Mechelen. It is also important to note that we avoided the E313 and the congestion on the Antwerp ring road! Overall, we saved over 15,000 road kilometres."

- **Omnibeton**



TRANSUNIVERSE IS FIRMLY IN FAVOUR OF INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

Transuniverse is taking the first step towards intermodal transport by serving customers needing goods transported to and from northern Italy by rail from Ghent. In due course, the company wants to establish more intermodal connections to a variety of European destinations.

"Since we wanted to play it safe, we asked for advice from the Advice Desk, a branch of VIL that helps businesses make the transition to intermodal transport. They advised us about the best connections for our launch, the choice of the right partner at the destination, the suitable load carriers, the general conditions, etc. This gave a pragmatic approach to our strategic decision."

- **Transuniverse forwarding**



CARGLASS® REDUCES TRAFFIC ON THE E313

Since mid-2019, Carglass® has moved entirely to water transport to deliver car windscreens to the distribution centre in Bilzen. The inbound containers, coming from the Far East and South Africa, are transported from the port of Antwerp to the port of Genk via inland waterways. The last five kilometres to Bilzen are still covered by road.

"This means we are saving at least 1440 journeys a year to and from an area as congested as Antwerp. As a result of this change, Carglass® has reduced its CO₂ emissions by 80% compared with road transport. And that counts towards the carbon footprint! The Multimodal Advice Desk certainly gave us the inspiration we needed to switch to an alternative mode of transport."

- **Carglass®**



LOG!VILLE

'Log!ville' is the logistics demonstration centre at the Science Park in Niel (Boom) which will open in autumn 2020.

In order to accelerate the transition to smart logistics, the industry needs a meeting place where a multitude of amazing visions, ideas, concepts and technologies can be demonstrated together in a unique surrounding.

The 2,500m² experience space is divided into a physical area where visitors can personally see and test the practical application of new technology, and a digital experience that will excite and inspire.

Log!ville also offers various inspirational meeting rooms and co-creation spaces as well as space for events and company-specific activities.

The demonstration centre will be Flanders' logistics showcase, a source of inspiration that will enable the industry to engage full steam ahead for the future.





LOGISTICS SPEARHEAD CLUSTER

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN VIL?

Membership of VIL guarantees:

- A head start
- Matchmaking opportunities
- Free events
- Free logistics reports
- Exchange of best practices

Logistics: your business, our passion.

JOIN US!

