

“Vue sur Ville,”

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People, ideas, actions... A glance at our towns & cities.

INTERVIEW

Michel Daerden
Minister of Pensions and Big Cities

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Michel Daerden

“A TOWN’S RICHNESS LIES IN THE CONTINUOUS MIXING OF ITS INHABITANTS!”

KNOWN FOR HIS POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN FAVOUR OF THE DESTITUTE, MICHEL DAERDEN, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR PENSIONS AND BIG CITIES, GIVES HIS VIEW ON THE MAIN PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE SUCCESS OF THE FEDERAL URBAN POLICY. INHERENTLY HANDS-ON, HE ALSO PROVIDES US WITH HIS VISION OF THE IDEAL TOWN. INTERVIEW.

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In 1999, the federal authorities included an integrated urban approach in their agenda by creating the Urban Policy. What is its key feature?

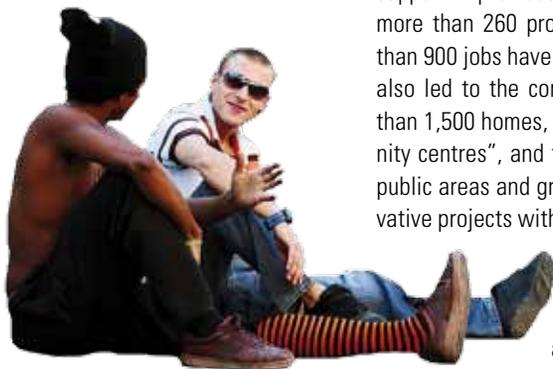
Michel Daerden : The Urban Policy Department is an integral part of the PPS for Social Integration. It focuses essentially on developing integrated development strategies aimed at social cohesion in deprived areas of our big cities. These are cities that have accumulated a large number of disadvantages and inequalities over the decades, which need to be overcome by creating conditions and a living environment worthy of their inhabitants.

In concrete terms, the Urban Policy subsidises projects in five Flemish towns and cities (Ghent, Antwerp, St. Niklaas, Mechelen, Ostend), five Walloon towns and cities (Liège, Charleroi, Seraing, Mons, La Louvière) and seven communes in Brussels (Bruxelles Ville, Saint-Gilles, St-Josse-ten-Noode, Molenbeek-St-Jean, Anderlecht, Forest and Schaerbeek). Since the creation of the Urban Policy and thanks to the financial support it provides (approximately EUR 600 million), more than 260 projects have been set up and more than 900 jobs have been created. This programme has also led to the construction and renovation of more than 1,500 homes, the creation of numerous “community centres”, and the construction of a good number public areas and green spaces. The majority are innovative projects with a leverage and multiplier effect in these neighbourhoods. These initiatives are aimed at a number of objectives simultaneously such as adopting the socio-professional

integration of low-skilled youngsters from these particular neighbourhoods to renovate housing. In this sense, besides an integrated approach, the Urban Policy (UP) favours endogenous development which encourages the appearance of resources particular to these neighbourhoods. And I can’t tell you how proud I am at having managed to maintain the Urban Policy’s federal budgets and convince the Council of Ministers to extend the sustainable cities contracts until 31st December 2011. On an annual basis, the Urban Policy is actually worth approximately EUR 60 million. A real boost, there where we can take action...

Considering that it was necessary to give local authorities the means to reverse the negative dynamics affecting deprived neighbourhoods in cities, the Urban Policy has set up a programme of financial support according to a contract-based system. Has this strategy been effective? To what extent?

M. D.: In view of the excellent results, I’m convinced that the contract-based system is the right approach. Besides the fact that the Minister of Big Cities determines the general framework in which towns and communes will operate as well as the financial and administrative directives, each town or commune can suggest initiatives that are tailor-made to their needs. While the contract offers a great deal of flexibility in the choice of projects, it is nevertheless subject to a strict schedule. This allows the majority of projects to be carried out within a reasonable timeframe. Believe me, the results out there are tangible enough.



The main objective of the Urban Policy is to make sure towns and cities remain viable by combining the following key areas: work, housing and leisure activities. Has this goal been achieved?

M. D.: I would be more inclined to say that the objectives of the Urban Policy are essentially situated in the economic, social and environmental spheres. On an economic level, we would certainly like to increase the appeal of towns and cities, especially in neighbourhoods that are going downhill, but we'd also like to create local jobs particularly for low-skilled youngsters. On a social level, the initiatives are aimed at the creation of social links for inhabitants in deprived areas. And on an environmental level, it is a question of developing a living environment adapted to the needs of current and future inhabitants while reducing the ecological footprint through low-energy buildings, for instance. Sustainable development is therefore a key point in the programme and we favour projects that integrate all these aspects to the greatest extent. A town or city that wants to improve its image and reach must also be pleasant to live in, a place where efforts are made to breathe new life into deprived neighbourhoods and dilapidated sites. The urban tourism "boom" has also led to an increased interest in the quality of life in all parts of the town, in cultural diversity, in the reassignment of abandoned sites and, of course, in the associated architectural innovation.

In 2009 and 2010, contracts were concluded on an annual basis, with 17 towns and cities benefitting from the programme since 2005. What are the advantages / disadvantages of this yearly system?

M. D.: Before 2009, the contracts were long-term. Owing to the current uncertain political situation (aren't some people talking about a regionalisation of this policy?), we can't elaborate a policy over several years. The contracts are renewed on a yearly basis and even on a half-yearly basis in 2011. It's not really the best thing for our towns and cities but neighbourhood

A town that wants to improve its image and its reach must also be a pleasant place to live.

needs are such that our partners have no problem in offering to extend worthwhile projects in progress, while remaining creative, innovative and courageous.

The distinction between urban contracts and housing contracts has disappeared and they have been replaced by integrated contracts, now known as "sustainable city contracts". Why? What do you mean by a "sustainable city"?

M. D.: Since 2009, "city contracts" and "housing contracts" have indeed been integrated into "sustainable city contracts" since there was no longer any reason for this differentiation. Some towns and cities tend to prefer investing in housing or social amenities, while others prefer to hire staff to successfully carry out these initiatives. Insofar as it's possible, the main thing is to promote projects that integrate the three aspects of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental. That's why I think it's important to focus on socio-professional integration projects that also lead to the creation of quality housing for those on a low income. It should also be

noted that many projects introduced by towns and cities place a particular emphasis on reducing the ecological footprint and fighting climate change - because the Urban Policy also contributes to helping towns reduce their ecological footprint. In general, the key points are sustainable energy, energy-efficiency in buildings, and the rational use of natural resources.



Minister of Pensions and Big Cities.



A man close to reality.

The Federal Urban Policy encourages collaboration between the various European authorities. What type of collaboration do you favour at this level? And why?

M. D.: We're very active on a European level. During the Belgian presidency, I suggested, in consultation with our regions, that the theme of Multi-level Governance should be our focal point. This has led to good results: a manual of instruments and a book of good practices. These two tools will be distributed and used everywhere as of September. Furthermore, my public service actively participates in numerous networks, such as URBACT, a platform to share knowledge and experiences between towns and cities, or EUKN, an exchange network for electronic information.

Besides the sustainable city contracts and collaboration on a European level, does the Urban Policy still have a special role to play?

M. D.: Yes, urban development is present in other areas covered by the federal government. My public service clearly stands out as a link between the various services that are

The town according to Michel Daerden

M. D.: In the globalised world, towns and cities are playing an increasingly important role in the development of a wider environment. They are the driving force behind economic life and are home to decision-making centres in various domains, which are vectors for innovation and creativity. Towns and cities are places where people live, places in movement, places with a social mix, encompassing the young, the old, the deprived, the rich, and people of various origins and cultures. I think that a town's richness is indeed this continuous mixing. And I would say this mixing is ideal, isn't it?

On a structural level, beyond this mixing of cultures and people, the development of urban areas to make them pleasant places to live must ensure that a "fair balance" is maintained between public and private (homes) spaces, and between green and built-up areas. And ideally, today, as I have continuously repeated in this interview, all this must be mixed with a backdrop of aspects of sustainable development, whether they are economic, social or environmental. I think that's what makes a town ideal, doesn't it?

more or less involved in the area of towns and cities. It has compiled a handbook of some fifty concrete measures concerning urban aspects in the various federal departments. Hence, the Ministry of Home Affairs takes care of prevention and safety with tools such as communal administrative penalties. In fiscal terms, there are preferential VAT rates for renovation works

in specific deprived areas. The Ministry of Employment is offering first-time "Rosetta" jobs in new urban professions (stewards, wardens, etc.). The PPS for Social Integration's Poverty Department is working on homelessness, social housing and places where the Roma live.

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Urban professions

SERVING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THEIR INHABITANTS

CREATING LINKS, PREVENTING, REACTING, INTEGRATING, BRINGING TOGETHER, CO-ORDINATING... THE NEW URBAN PROFESSIONS ARE PURSUING GOALS THAT ARE BOTH NECESSARY AND AMBITIOUS. ACKNOWLEDGED OBJECTIVES OF THESE DYNAMICS: TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR URBAN PROBLEMS AND MANAGING UNEMPLOYMENT. EXPLANATION BY RAPHAËL DARQUENNE, RESEARCHER AT THE FACULTÉS UNIVERSITAIRES SAINT-LOUIS IN BRUSSELS, AND CO-AUTHOR OF THE STUDY* "ÉTAT DES LIEUX ET ÉVOLUTION DES MÉTIERS URBAINS" (SURVEY AND EVOLUTION OF URBAN PROFESSIONS), FINANCED BY THE FEDERAL URBAN POLICY.

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The need to create new urban professions in the 1980s, and especially in the 1990s, resulted from an irrevocable observation. At that time, towns and cities were confronted with numerous social challenges (massive unemployment, job insecurity, social exclusion of the most vulnerable) and those working in social policy seriously called into question the effectiveness of their role.

"Pilot studies of public policies carried out at that time reveal a growing awareness of the local as an area of reference for public action", explains Raphaël Darquenne. The result was the territorialisation of social work. All levels of power (federal, regional, communal) and different areas of competence (domestic, social integration, etc.) were therefore involved in the conception and financing of these new systems called "urban policies".

"The notion of new urban professions in some way conveys the passage from a sectoral division of public action, such as the youth or political integration policy, to a territorial division, although the two continue to exist", he adds. "The town, the slum belt or the neighbourhood therefore became reference areas where action was needed. And the urban players were increasingly thinking in terms of sustainable socio-economic development, social cohesion or restoring the social link..."

DIVERSITY OF ROLES

The setting up of supralocal programmes for the urban policy has led to a multiplication of 'urban posts' subsidised at local level. Security contracts, neighbourhood contracts, social cohesion projects, integrated social plans, initiative neighbourhoods, special initiative areas/initiative neighbourhoods, Stedenfonds and the Federal Urban Policy, are some of the political responses to this urbanisation of the social issue.

In the field, this awareness has resulted in a range of posts that come under a variety of titles: anti-graffiti brigade, horeca coach, mobile psychologists, sports instructors, wardens, street workers, local development officers, social mediators, neighbourhood mediators, social support, home visitors for the elderly, etc.

* "État des lieux et évolution des métiers urbains", February 2011 - Centre d'étude sociologique (Facultés St-Louis) - HIVA (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven). Researchers: Liesbeth Van Parys, Nathanaël Bailly - With the collaboration of Emmanuelle Petit and Raphaël Darquenne. (Co-)sponsors: Prof. Abraham Franssen, Prof. Christine Schaut, Prof. Ludo Struyven.



Neighbourhood Centre in St-Gilles (Brussels).



Urban professions cover cleaning among other things.

“These new urban professions are characterised by a great diversity”, he explains further. “Some are quite technical and concern built-up areas or public spaces, while others are more social or focus on youth in the neighbourhoods. Some jobs are skilled, others not. We are faced with a multitude of jobs that are the result of the superimposition and multiplication of public policies. According to the programme they depend on, some jobs are extremely precarious while others are more stable**”. Not to mention the fact that this diversity is closely linked to the way in which the communes choose to organise these policies in the field.”

MEETING CONCRETE NEEDS

Anchored in the reality of the neighbourhoods, these urban posts aim, above all, to meet concrete needs and cover the different aspects of urban life: neighbourhood social development; education; prevention; literacy; security; legal, psychological and logistical assistance for children from immigrant families; aid for people in debt; technical intervention in built-up areas or public spaces; socio-economic integration; the environment; etc.

“The communes still benefit from a certain autonomy in the implementation of the urban policy. Some choose to pool all the subsidies and organise their social policy in a relatively

** Read the study for details of the various statutes discussed.

“The notion of new urban professions conveys the passage from a sectoral division to a territorial division of public action.”

professional manner. Others choose to structure their actions according to the type of subsidy with a department responsible for the urban policy, another to implement neighbourhood contracts, and another one for security contracts and prevention... The organisational forms are quite variable, just like the resulting efficiency.”

ESSENTIAL MISSIONS

“The new urban professions are primarily oriented towards mediation, contact with the public, conciliation, social adjustment, support, psychological support and prevention”, explains Bertrand Ravon. For this senior lecturer at the Faculty of Anthropology and Sociology, Lumière Lyon II University, this specificity results from the fact that urban authorities attempt to reconcile two objectives: on the one hand, taking charge of urban problems and, on the other hand, managing the problem of unemployment in towns and cities.

“These two objectives aren’t contradictory in themselves, because it is altogether possible to employ low-skilled people and entrust them with missions aimed at ensuring

social cohesion. Nevertheless, this option isn’t as simple as that. It’s necessary to consider all the different aspects associated with the role, job status, the authorities and the recognition of these new professions. While the field studies show that there is increasing recognition from the various audiences, they also indicate that we rarely avoid a confusion of roles between the different players. In general, the majority of players consider their job too unstable and insufficiently recognised by the public authorities. Without getting into an argument about it, I would say that the consequences of this uncertainty are very worrying. Because they are in a situation of permanent uncertainty regarding their professional future, the players don’t have the opportunity to make long-term plans. The applicants’ selection criteria are relatively obscure, there is a high turnover and the reference frameworks are too broad. This results in a blurring of the boundaries between the professions and uncertainty regarding the roles that need to be fulfilled... If we were to list the characteristics of these professions, I would say that they have six objectives: establishing links, prevention, reaction, integration, bringing things together and co-ordination.”



Being present to bring inhabitants greater serenity.

1 Establishing links and making contact

Contact with the population is the main role of all the urban professions in the field, except for co-ordination which is more of a second-line role. One of the first missions of people working in urban professions is to act as a go-between, sometimes between the commune and the population, and sometimes vice versa.

2 Prevention

Prevention is one of the magic words that are part of the system that forms the “urban policies” constellation. This prevention concerns as much “uncivil” behaviour (dumping rubbish, etc.) as situations likely to create insecurity. However, this prevention isn’t limited to situational prevention activities; it also covers long-term work with young people, adults, women, children of immigrant families, people suffering from social exclusion, etc.

3 Reacting

“Professions” that report have been replaced by those that react, repair, renew, rebuild. Here, the “broken glass theory” immediately comes to mind. It is important to repair the damage as quickly as possible, to get rid of the first tag before the second one appears... As part of this mindset, it is also necessary to react to urgent social situations.

4 Fitting in, integrating

Integration through “small urban professions” should act as a springboard towards more stable employment, according to the activation principle. The growing uncertainty of urban policies, which reduces job security among workers, has a negative impact on these dynamics.

5 Bringing together

Creating links means getting closer to the field and its users. This proximity must be physical: it is necessary to be in the field with the people to get a proper grip on the place.

6 Co-ordinating

Finally, the role of second-line co-ordination is perhaps the one we think of the least when we talk about urban professions. Co-ordinating means “bringing together the different elements with a view to a goal”, according to the dictionary. But which one? Besides difficulties in terms of management, including human means, and deciphering local political stakes, this is undoubtedly a stumbling block among co-ordinators.

Brussels-Capital Region VALUABLE SKILLS

IN MOLENBEEK, THE SUBSIDISED PROJECTS UNIT HAS A HIGHLY STRATEGIC POSITION IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF “URBAN PROFESSIONS”. INTERVIEW WITH SARA TANT, ASSISTANT TO THE SUBSIDISED PROJECT CO-ORDINATION UNIT AND LOCAL MANAGER OF THE URBAN POLICY PROGRAMME.

What is the role of the subsidised projects unit?

Our mission consists of setting up programmes that meet communal needs. Whether they are of federal origin with the Urban Policy, regional with the neighbourhood contracts, at community level with Cocof or Cocon or European with the Feder and Objectif 2 programmes, all the subsidies are allocated according to precise objectives. Within this context, we offer our expertise

in order to best match the subsidies available with the most urgent projects. We often call upon the creativity of the associations’ network to optimise the means we have at our disposal.

In terms of urban dynamics, what do these subsidised projects offer?

In Molenbeek, more than 90% of the “urban professions” are clearly subsidised. In fact, there are quite a number of them: park war-

dens, street workers or people working in the local centres, neighbourhood contract co-ordinators, landscape gardeners, gardeners, homework school leaders, etc. These different jobs are essential to guarantee social cohesion within the neighbourhoods.

Could the commune do without these “professions”?

Absolutely not! All these people employed thanks to subsidies play an essential role. For instance, the SAMPA project, which provides assistance to the children of immigrant families in Molenbeek, depends entirely on subsidies. In Molenbeek, this project is vital because it meets an increasingly pressing demand. And the commune doesn’t have any budget to keep it running properly.

MORE PROFESSIONALISATION

While these goals define the general missions of the urban professions, there is still a high level of uncertainty and vagueness regarding their translation into operational objectives for the people in question.

The blurred nature of the professional limits has led to the feeling that “the players in the field must solve all the world’s problems”. The vaguer the missions defined by the political powers, the more insecure the workers are, and the more they demand a framework.

“The future of these new urban professions depends on a certain number of political decisions”, concludes Raphaël Darquenne. “It is es-

sential to reach an agreement on the necessity of pursuing the urban policy, because there is an urgent need to make these professions secure. It is a prerequisite for the creation of projects in the long term. We also recommend ensuring a form of support for the communes, administrative simplification and a continuation of the subsidies. The increase in justifications leads to inefficient projects and random management of human resources. It is also a question of ensuring sufficiently clear procedures for recruitment, pay, assessment, training, etc.”

In general, players in the field are asking for greater clarity, more long-term vision, work methodologies, qualitative assessments... in short, more professionalisation.

The study “État des lieux et évolution des métiers urbains” can be downloaded from: www.politiquedesgrandesvilles.be

LOOKING FOR LEGITIMACY

While urban “professions” are something new, they are situated at the crossroads of institutions, services and jobs also present in the same neighbourhoods. They have established themselves there where there was some space for them and sometimes “instead of”. This has automatically led to the need to be recognised and legitimised. Hence, those working in the new urban professions immediately define themselves in a negative manner, reminding us that they aren’t police officers or parapolice, communal civil servants like the others, or social workers. On the contrary, it is sometimes the other professionals in the field who want to draw a line and highlight the differences between them and these “new professions”.

How are these projects set up and how are the “professions” that depend on them attributed?

The projects are set up according to the requirements linked to the nature of the subsidies, to communal needs and to the profiles of the people to be hired. A neighbourhood contract co-ordinator, fully subsidised by the Region, can, for instance, be supported by five or six people hired under the status of “Article 60”, which meets criteria that fall within the competence of the CPAS (welfare office).

Doesn’t setting up a project according to the subsidies available weaken the socio-professional inclusion process?

You have indeed put your finger on a recurring problem. In principle, these contracts are explicitly or implicitly temporary since they depend on subsidies allocated for a determined

period. On a human level, the situation can be difficult to manage for a socially vulnerable person.

From a more global point of view, it is also a loss for the commune. Over the months, and even over the years, some workers have acquired essential skills. The job of “warden”, for instance, requires experience and a good knowledge of the area. This skill is acquired over time. When a contract comes to an end, it disappears to the detriment of social cohesion.

What initiatives are you taking to improve the situation?

While some jobs correspond to professional integration needs, others are essential for the commune. If necessary, we endeavour – insofar as it is possible – to integrate these profiles into the communal teams. Some skills



Preventing uncivil actions... and taking action if necessary.

acquired could also be developed through professional integration in the private sector.

Are people aware of this state of reality?

Yes, especially at the level of the Urban Policy. For instance, during meetings on this matter, the idea has already been raised to favour the creation of schools for urban professions – things are gradually getting better.

Charleroi

ROSETTA, A PLAN TO MAKE THE CITY A BETTER EXPERIENCE

IN CHARLEROI, THE ASSOCIATIONS' NETWORK IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL GUARANTEES OF SOCIAL COHESION. ITS OPERATION PARTLY DEPENDS ON THE ROSETTA JOBS ALLOCATED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. INTERVIEW WITH BRUNO BLANCHART, LOCAL MANAGER OF THE URBAN POLICY PROGRAMME.



Trainers, roadsweepers, police officers, administrative employees, town stewards... there are hundreds of them working every day for the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in Belgium's cities. Within the framework of the agreement made between the city and the federal government, 22 young people under the age of 26 who meet the criteria of the Rosetta Plan* have been hired for the benefit of Charleroi. This team, which is equally divided according to the needs of the communal service and associations, makes a major contribution to the smooth running of the projects.

"Within the framework of the Sustainable City agreement, which is part of the Urban Policy programme, Charleroi's communal authorities have chosen to focus their efforts on the Porte Ouest neighbourhoods as well as on Charleroi's city centre. The 22 Rosetta jobs, divided between several associations, actively

participate in the social regeneration of these neighbourhoods. To restore social cohesion, it is indeed essential to ensure an effective presence in the field in order to maintain the cleanliness of public areas, support youngsters, create a reassuring presence or help inhabitants in everyday matters..."

Thus, under the status of the Rosetta Plan, young "roadsweepers" have reinforced local teams in charge of maintaining and cleaning neighbourhoods. "Wardens" provide a non-repressive presence in the streets, parks and close to schools. Administrative staff have been seconded to the "Régie des Quartiers" (association specialising in socio-professional integration), the "Maison des Associations" (logistical platform for associations in the Porte Ouest area), the non-profit-making association "Comme Chez Nous" (day centre for people in difficulty) and the non-profit-making association "Centre Ville" (focused on boosting the city centre) to reinforce the associations' network.

"For us, these professions are essential to ensure the smooth running of the associations. When the programme is suspended or when some contracts come to an end, the managers of non-profit associations call up in a panic in order to find out if they will be able to benefit from new colleagues. It's clear that the young people hired through the Rosetta Plan respond to a real need. Associations like "Comme chez Nous" or "Centre Ville", for instance, couldn't possibly function without this support..."

While there is no question about the service offered to associations in terms of jobs, the aspect of the social integration of young people could be better defined.

"For many young people, this first job is vital. It's a doorway to the world of work, even a springboard for their professional future... Because besides providing them with their first job, our aim is also to make them employable and of value to the job market..."

As such, the project managers have a responsibility in terms of training and support. But is this aspect really taken into account?

"Given that the needs are enormous, the associations and services into which the young people from the Rosetta Plan are integrated tend to manage everyday matters. Subsequently, the challenge consists of reconciling both aspects: the service provided to the associations and the return which the young people can reap in terms of support. We remain very attentive to this aspect of the project and in general, it all goes well..."

ROSETTA IN TWO WORDS

In force since 1st April 2000, the "first job agreement" (Rosetta) allows young people under 26 years old to quickly enter the labour market on a long-lasting basis, both in the private and public sector.

Antwerp

A HAVEN OF PEACE AND JOB CREATION

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, PARK SPOOR NOORD HAS BECOME A REAL CONCEPT IN THE HEART OF ANTWERP. A HAVEN OF CALM AND GREENERY IN ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST URBANISED AREAS. A PLACE FOR LOCAL INHABITANTS TO RELAX, PLAY SPORT AND ENJOY THEMSELVES, THE PARK, OWING TO ITS SIZE, CALLS FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH AND COMPETENT STAFF. BECAUSE A SPACE SUCH AS THIS ALSO GENERATES JOBS: MAINTENANCE, SURVEILLANCE, SUPERVISION OF ACTIVITIES, ETC.

"Many city services are present in the park, in particular the Green Spaces and Cleaning departments", explains Ilse Rossou, one of the project managers.

The different departments work in a team and co-ordinate their actions to ensure:

- regular cleaning campaigns;
- the additional presence of park wardens;
- park maintenance;
- special anti-pollution actions;
- etc.

Moreover, municipal employees are also responsible for organising various activities in the park and the surrounding area, in collaboration with youth movements, playground leaders and others.

Such an extensive park is also the source of job creation. *"For instance, our department's work will continue to increase as other parts of the park open up to the public", stresses Geert from the Green Spaces department. "We currently have a team of four people just to clean and maintain the park. Because one of the disadvantages of such a big space is that it also unfortunately attracts waste from building sites and illegal dumping. Bigger works are planned for next winter, such as the replacement of 60 trees that didn't survive the drought in the spring, and the pruning of the others.*



The labour requirements will undoubtedly increase as the park grows."

Park Spoor Noord is thus the subject of a real growth spurt. *"Over the last few months, new buildings and services have opened, such as a youth centre in the main training centre as well as a part-time arts education centre. At the beginning of September, an after-school club and a "Sportloods" especially for the neighbour-*

hood will open their doors. At the end of September, the Artesis Hogeschool's new sports hall will open. These are all projects that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on employment in the park. New, more specific jobs will certainly be created", concludes Ilse Rossou.