#EnablingChange
Activity report 2021-2022
Foreword

Every day, development cooperation workers make international solidarity possible and give people the means to stand up and build a future for themselves. Such is our mission.

We must work together across borders as partners. Not for charity, but because we have the same challenges and all live together on the same planet. More than ever, we realise that people are connected globally. No matter who or where, the challenges and the dreams are often the same. So are the concerns.

Indeed, in times of uncertainty, solidarity is always the solution. This is the positive thing we should remember of corona times: We have managed this pandemic by working together across borders. Last winter’s Omicron variant taught us a harsh lesson: Global challenges cannot be solved nationally. We will not be safe until everyone is safe.

Unfortunately, we are not there yet. Two years after the outbreak of the pandemic, today more than 85% of the people in Africa are still not fully vaccinated. But we are making progress and I am proud that within Europe Belgium is playing a leading role in accelerating access to vaccines worldwide. Together with the World Health Organisation, we invested in South African scientific research that led to the unravelling of the mRNA code of the corona vaccine. This is a real breakthrough for global health. Not only to accelerate the local production of corona vaccines, but also in the long-term fight against infectious diseases. That is exactly what development cooperation should be for me: not charity, but providing tools to sustainably strengthen countries and people worldwide.

After all, the willingness to make a difference is strong. Young people no longer shy away from the greatest challenges of the century because they know they are not alone. Every action matters. The climate marches of young people all over the world started because today we are in touch with each other at all times. They made it clear to the world that it is more than ever time to join forces. Climate change requires a common international solidarity approach.

For the first time, therefore, we have launched a climate programme in the Sahel region that no longer invests in each partner country individually, but rather focuses on a global approach. Both at the Glasgow COP26 and in the Sahel region, young people gave me the same message: We must act now, to secure the future. Young people realise better than anyone else that extreme droughts in countries such as Burkina Faso and Senegal are jeopardising future dreams of the local population, but are also having an impact elsewhere.

Looking back at the past year, one cannot, unfortunately, avoid gloom. The human suffering caused by conflict is unseen. The war in Ukraine is the latest on a list of humanitarian crises. Millions of people are currently fleeing Ukraine for Europe, while needs are also high in Afghanistan and hunger is ruthlessly spreading in Yemen. With our humanitarian partners, we are doing all we can to get aid to the people as quickly as possible, wherever it is needed.

In recent weeks we have seen that Belgian solidarity is powerful and help goes strong. In the coming months and years, we will resolutely extend this wave of solidarity to all people in need, all over the world. For those fleeing war must be helped. Without distinction of origin, religion, colour or gender. All refugees are human beings.

In this foreword Enabel was not once mentioned. The reason is very simple: because everything I have just described was simply impossible without Enabel. I may have the honour of often being the voice of the daily solidarity shaped by our country around the world, but the teams of Enabel are the faces of that international solidarity. This annual report makes that clear once again. I would like to thank the Belgian development agency for that from the bottom of my heart.
Table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity card</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision 2030</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do you look back at the past year?
Jean Van Wetter – Before I go into the details of our various achievements, I would like to thank the staff of Enabel around the world. Thanks to their work, we have not only continued ongoing programmes and started new ones, but we have also contributed to developing responses to the COVID crisis with our partner countries. At the same time, we were able to carry out change projects, such as setting up collaborative governance and implementing our WiTiP – Working independently of Time and Place – model, which reorganises work at Enabel’s around the empowerment of each individual on the basis of objectives.

Delphine Moralis – Crises and transformation projects are major sources of stress. That our teams were able to carry out their work successfully in such a context speaks volumes about their motivation. They are passionate people who do their utmost for their projects, which is a great source of pride for us. We want to continue to work with people at the heart of our work. This concerns Enabel as well as our partners in Belgium, in Africa and in the Middle East. These are times that require dialogue, listening and collaboration to build bridges between organisations and institutions and to ensure the success of our projects.

What guidelines underlie Enabel’s work?
JVW – For me, there are three of them: solving common challenges together, moving from a logic of problems to one of opportunities, and knowing how to listen to our partners.

DM – Today, it is important to develop a global, holistic approach to problems. Thinking about tackling the effects of climate change means thinking about agriculture, reforestation and water management. But if you think about it further, you realise that it also affects the fight against inequalities, the support of migratory flows and health policy. Hence, the need to place each action in a global context.

Moving from a logic of problems to one of opportunities. What does it mean?
JVW – Take the COVID crisis. Like many other countries, Belgium joined the COVAX programme, which aims to provide vaccines to countries with fewer resources. But we very quickly felt that we needed to think in the longer term and had to work on structural solutions. We therefore initiated two projects. On the one hand, in Senegal, we support the establishment of a ‘lab’ bringing together the entire pharmaceutical industry: authorities, public players, local and international private companies, in short, all the players who were involved in some way in the country’s pharmaceutical production. With this ‘lab’ we can build an action plan for the local production of
vaccines against COVID-19, with specific roles and responsibilities for the various local and international actors. It allowed Enabel to identify a project to support the establishment of a Medicines Agency. On the other hand, in Rwanda, we supported the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) in obtaining the necessary WHO approvals to certify the local production of vaccines and allow their distribution throughout the region. Rather than simply solving the problem of vaccine availability, we have helped to improve the response capacity on the African continent.

In these examples, collaboration plays a major role. Is this the way Enabel evolves?

DM – I would rather talk about co-creation. Involving our partners from the very beginning of the project is the best way to achieve sustainable results. We want to get out of the silo logic and create real partnerships, where everyone wins. The important thing is to develop real listening capacity.

JWV – This requires permanent presence in the partner countries and being in contact with the local reality. Of the approximately 2,000 people who work for Enabel, only 230 work in Brussels. The others are in the partner countries. In this way we can feed back challenges and ideas and help create solutions that are relevant to local realities.

DM – This is in line with our dynamic of opportunities. Finding opportunities means listening to people in partner countries. If we think in the long term, our world is changing, Europe is ageing, and soon the majority of the African population will be under 18 years old. Dialogue and co-creation become essential; otherwise our action will become completely obsolete.

You insist on the notion of Team Belgium. What does it mean?

DM – Team Belgium stands for the idea that Enabel’s role today is not only to provide its own expertise, but also to go and find cutting-edge expertise where it can be found. For example, in 2021, at the instigation of Minister Kitir and in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Enabel organised a round table that brought together all the players in the pharmaceutical sector in Belgium: Sciensano, universities, the federal agency for medicines, the Federal Public Service Health, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Univercells, etc. We reflected together on what Belgium could mean for our African partners, with the expertise of the various participants. That is the Team Belgium spirit.

And what about Team Europe?

DM – It is the same idea: It is about pooling the expertise at European level to respond together to problems for which partner countries ask our support. Enabel plays an important role here. In 2021, thanks to our involvement in Team Europe, our actions financed by the European Union and its member states totalled more than 90 million euros for the first time.

How was the collaboration with Enabel’s supervising minister, Meryame Kitir?

JWV – We are fully in line with the Minister of Development Cooperation’s vision. Under her leadership, Enabel set up a large number of new programmes in 2021. For example, we have launched a regional climate change programme involving several Sahel countries as well as Senegal. We also launched a social protection programme with Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo. And we launched new five-year programmes in Palestine and Niger. So, collaboration is excellent, and we hope that this will continue in 2022.
The Belgian development agency Enabel implements the Belgian governmental cooperation. The agency also works for other national and international donors.

**Experience**
- 20 years

**Projects**
- 170 ongoing

**Volume**
- +300 million euros

**Recruitments**
- 541

**Staff**
- 2,000

- Brussels: 43%
- Expats: 62%
- Local staff: 72%

- 57%
- 38%
- 28%

Our gender strategy aims to improve the gender balance.

**Breakdown of activities**
- 48% in N&W Africa
- 38% in Central Africa
- 7% in EUR
- 4% in ME
- 3% in SA

**Nationalities**
- 40

**78% of activities in fragile contexts**

* Fragile context: in which the government and state institutions lack the means or political will to ensure the security and protection of citizens, to efficiently manage public affairs and fight poverty.
Impact

In 2021, four new programmes are signed for a total commitment of EUR 220 million over five years. They concern a new programme for Palestine (EUR 70 million), the new Niger programme (EUR 50 million), the thematic programme Climate in the Sahel (EUR 50 million) and the thematic programme Social Protection in Central Africa (EUR 50 million).

- **600,000**
  - In the Sahel, we are going to make 600,000 people more resilient to climate change.

- **27,000**
  - In Palestine, we are going to guide, train and help 27,000 young people find a job.

- **50,000**
  - In Niger, we are going to ensure that 50,000 pupils have access to quality education.

- **60,000**
  - In Central Africa, we are going to ensure that 60,000 people benefit from better social protection.

Themes

Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges and promoting global citizenship.
The first thematic programmes

Launch of the first thematic programmes: climate change in the Sahel and social protection in Central Africa

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The country programme for the Palestinian territories (70 million euro) focuses on youth empowerment and climate and environment. Together with the Palestinian partners, the aim is to accompany, train and employ 27,000 Palestinian youth so that they become active and critical citizens. Enabel also aims to reduce the ecological footprint and greenhouse gas emissions of 1.6 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The focus is on a green circular economy and the creation of 6,000 m² of green urban spaces.

The Niger country programme (50 million euro) aims primarily at promoting social protection and reducing social inequality. 50,000 pupils, half of whom are girls, must gain easier access to quality education. More than 1 million Nigeriens will have access to quality health care. The second pillar of the country programme focuses on agro-pastoral development and youth entrepreneurship. This should result in greater food security, enhanced resilience and higher incomes for the people in Niger.

The main objective of the Climate in the Sahel thematic programme (50 million euro) is to improve the integrated management of natural resources and the sustainable restoration of ecosystems in an area of 40,000 ha in the Sahel. This programme is part of the fight against desertification and the negative impact of climate change. The aim is to strengthen the resilience of 600,000 people living in harsh conditions in vulnerable parts of the Sahel. Under this programme, projects are set up in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

The Social Protection in Central Africa thematic programme (50 million euro) includes projects in the Democratic Republic Congo, in Rwanda and in Uganda. 60,000 people will receive better social protection and 20,000 jobseekers will be accompanied towards better and decent employment. More than two million people are informed about rights and standards at work, as well as about proper social protection.

New projects for the EU

In addition to the four new programmes commissioned by the Belgian State, in 2021 Enabel signed agreements with the European Union to strengthen our programmes in more than ten partner countries. In total, 21 new contracts and 7 extensions of current contracts are involved, for a total budget increase of 113 million euro. 17 projects are in the preparation or start-up phase; they cover themes such as digitisation in The Gambia, youth empowerment in Palestine, apiculture in Tanzania, health and socio-economic programmes in Guinea and Mauritania, and police reform in DR Congo.

Two projects with EU funding are under preparation in Côte d’Ivoire, a new partner country for Enabel. A first project focuses on cocoa farming and contributes to Belgium’s international cooperation priorities such as decent work, environmental protection and food security. Côte d’Ivoire is the most important cocoa producing country, but cocoa cultivation suffers from deforestation, child labour and poverty, partly due to the very low price of cocoa on the world market. The project is in line with the public-private ‘Beyond Chocolate’ initiative to have all Belgian chocolate certified by 2025. The second project aims to support employment in Côte d’Ivoire by strengthening the skills of small entrepreneurs through exchanges with the West African diaspora in Belgium.
The 14 partner countries of the Belgian governmental cooperation show in blue. We also carry out projects for other donors in the 7 other countries.
Impact

In an interconnected world, global challenges are increasingly intertwined

The world is becoming more interconnected. As a result, challenges are becoming more complex. We are continuously gaining a better understanding of this complexity, and of the interactions between the global challenges we and our partners have set out to tackle.

For the past two years, we have been shifting our focus to allow for a more integrated approach so as to leverage our expertise and that of our numerous partners and tackle global challenges more effectively. We are increasingly noticing links between these challenges. The way we develop our expertise in the future will take these links into account, so we can devise a better way to work and build bridges between our programmes and maximise their effectiveness.

**Multi-country projects for more global impact**

In line with the international agenda set during COP26, and with Belgian priorities defined by Minister Meryame Kitir, Enabel has reinforced its actions with regard to mitigating climate change. We have defined five angles to direct our action in this domain.

The first three are clean energy, water management and reforestation. The others are green cities and climate-smart agriculture. For water management and reforestation,

we have started working on two projects involving our partner countries in the Sahel. The first is a project of integrated water resources management of the Niger river; the second is the strengthening of the Great Green Wall in Africa’s Sahel region, at the southern edge of the Sahara Desert.

Both projects illustrate the need to break down silos and work on projects that involve several partner countries, other development agencies and several areas of expertise. Working on larger-scale projects and fostering cooperation between countries and partner organisations are becoming a necessity to address climate change in an effective way.

**Security as the foundation of progress**

We also notice that our areas of expertise are becoming increasingly intertwined. Take Burkina Faso, one of our partner countries in the Sahel. We have several agriculture, private sector development and health programmes there. But without security, these programmes cannot have solid foundations to build on. Which is why security is one of our priorities as well. We need it to provide people with solid foundations.

**Mobility and migrations require cooperation**

Another area of interest is the international mobility of people. When you talk about migration, people usually assume that you are talking about migration to European countries. But this is only a tiny fragment of migrations worldwide. In Africa, for example, regional migration is already a reality. When an area becomes prone to conflict or instability, people tend to move out of it and find a safer, healthier and more conducive environment to live and work in. But if you want to make sure that people do not live in separate and disconnected communities in the destination countries, and that migrants contribute to society by paying taxes and getting involved in the local communities, you need effective and good governance.
Again, we see the need to foster collaboration between countries, but also to bring together several people and organisations to tackle this challenge effectively.

**Partnerships are key**

As we can see, effective action needs partnerships. These partnerships include governments as well as civil society. In Morocco and Tunisia, for example, Enabel has formed effective partnerships directly with the departments of various ministries that deal with migration, employment, youth employment, employability and so on. But we have also partnered with employer organisations. There is not a single approach: every project is different. As is more and more the case across the spectrum of our activities, success is all about developing partnerships and working with the right people, as well as making sure you are not forgetting anyone. Building relationships with the authorities, civil society and other organisations is more than ever the way forward to engage in effective action.
On the following pages you find a selection of stories, large and small, sometimes with telling figures, sometimes with testimonies of people whose lives have changed significantly. QR codes bring you to videos, interviews or podcasts on our website.
No health workers, no health care

Mauritania is a vast country in West Africa. It is 30 times larger than Belgium and consists mainly of desert and steppe. Health care is hard to organise efficiently across the country. Together with the Ministry of Public Health, Enabel tries to tackle the problems and ensure that everyone has access to quality health care.

It is extremely difficult to find health workers willing to work in remote areas. Often, after only a few weeks, they are no longer interested and leave.

In the Bababé region, in the South of the country, Enabel launched initiatives with local communities to welcome and assist health workers in their first steps in an unfamiliar environment and to organise accommodation for them. The government ensures that health posts have sufficient equipment and medicines to guarantee an adequate service.

The results are more than encouraging. Of the thirteen health posts in the region, six had no staff. Thanks to local support, we have managed to recruit five health workers on a permanent basis. This has increased the number of medically assisted births in the region from 10% to 60%.

This positive experience inspired the Ministry to develop strategies to improve universal health coverage.

Women entrepreneurship

Removing barriers to women entrepreneurship and promoting women’s economic empowerment is at the heart of the Women Entrepreneurship programme implemented in Guinea. In 2021, in the capital Conakry as well as in the Kindia and Mamou regions, the programme deployed ‘Pépites’, an initiative aimed at making women into economic champions through their innovative projects in sectors such as agri-food, fashion, design and the digital.

Today, 180 MSMEs led by women are followed-up via a digital purpose-made platform. The support they get ranges from access to financing to strengthening of their technical and managerial capacities. 80 of these enterprises developed from an organisational as well as operational viewpoint. This enabled them to access new markets and increase the visibility of their products and services.

To solve the issue of access to finance – a key issue in entrepreneurship support – the programme signed a memorandum of understanding with three private Guinean banks to make it easier for supported ‘Pépites’ businesses to access credit lines at a preferential rate. These will enable the businesses to guarantee continuity and develop their activities.
Mobile care teams in Niger

Despite the government’s efforts, access to quality health care remains a major problem in Niger. Many people live in remote and sometimes insecure areas. For basic medical assistance, they can go to their village health post, but often enough they stand in front of a closed door as the post has run out of medical supplies.

For a real medical problem, they have to go to the city. It is too far on foot and hours of driving away from the village, so people do not often go there.

Enabel and Niger’s Ministry of Public Health worked out a solution to bring medical assistance to the people.

Since 2019 mobile healthcare teams are operating. Their medical staff bring supplies and medicines to the health posts. As a result, people from the surrounding villages can count on the services of the health post. Moreover, additional services are offered monthly, so that people can also go to the health post for other medical assistance, which in turn relieves the larger medical entities.

"Every month we go out," explains doctor Issaka Salifou. "I travel with two nurses to different villages in a specific region. There we offer medical consultations. Pregnant women visit us, children who need vaccinations, but residents can also come to us with other health problems."

Some figures:
- Only 39% of deliveries in Niger are assisted by medical staff
- Maternal mortality: 462 deaths per 10,000 live births (Belgium: 8)
- Between January 2019 and December 2021, 32 field visits and mobile teams were organised
- 9,000 women attended antenatal consultations
- 17,000 children under one year old received an infant consultation
- 14,000 children aged 9 months were vaccinated against measles
- 9,500 deliveries were medically assisted

Read the full report on enabel.be:

Watch the video:
Mobile childcare at the training site

Imagine being a young woman and being given an opportunity to follow vocational training. But, you have a toddler on your shoulders and you can’t leave her with someone else. You decide to take your child to training, but that distracts you and it is not so safe.

In Guinea, Enabel came with a solution: childcare at the place of training. That way, mothers get trained, their children are cared for nearby and they can get breastfed. It reduces the number of women dropping out of education or becoming isolated and it also creates a safer learning environment.

In rural Guinea, children usually stay with their mothers during the day. The mobile day care centre now offers a solution for the women being trained, without creating too much distance with their child. This solution also creates local jobs, since nursery staff is recruited locally and even more women are attracted to vocational training.

New hospitals for more than a million people

In 2021, three new district hospitals were inaugurated in Niger. They are fully financed and equipped by the Belgian Development Cooperation. The emergency, gynaecology, maternity, radiology and surgery wards allow for improved reception and care of patients while reorganised services smoothen the patient’s pathway. The premises also provide better working conditions for healthcare staff.

These district hospitals are also important for the local people, who previously had to travel far away to reach the nearest hospital. The new hospitals serve a population of more than one million.

The infrastructure contributes significantly to the development of remote areas, with the project not only improving access to health care for the local population, but also bringing more clean water and electricity to the towns concerned.

“There are women who study and work with their children on their backs – sometimes even in the sun – because they have no one at home to look after their children. This initiative is very important for women. It gives me the assurance that my children can play safely in a healthy place.”

Fatouma Camara
A young woman of 25 and mother of two attends the vocational classes
Switching to light

Feeling more secure in your home, watching your children do their homework at night, starting a new business, or simply enjoying a cold soda in the midst of the day... Access to affordable and reliable electricity can transform peoples’ lives.

Growth of the energy sector in Rwanda during the recent decade has been impressive. It is often celebrated as a leading example of success across Sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2014, Enabel has been working closely with the Rwandan government and Rwanda Energy Group to reach the target of 100% electricity access by 2024. And after eight years, the results are here: more than 1,000 km of power network have been constructed in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. The Electricity Access Rollout Project has connected 33 schools, 14 health facilities, over 400 businesses and SMEs, as well 24 public administration institutions.

“Having electricity brings a sense of liveliness, and activity. These days, the amount of theft has gone down because thieves are afraid of being seen,” says Mukakalisa Chantal, a farmer and mother of two children living in Rwamagana District.

Access to electricity plays an essential role in almost all aspects of our lives: for health workers, this means not having to use torches to light rooms, and focus on providing better care for their patients. For ICT teachers, lacking electricity meant only be able to teach the theory of computer science, without showing the practical side of things. For students, access to electricity means access to the internet, a game changer to succeed at college. And for all the businesses and stores in town, electricity means serving more clients and generating extra revenues.

Over 250,000 people - who previously had no or limited access to electricity - are now benefitting from a reliable and affordable power supply.

“It was like a dream! Before we got the electricity, I was using a solar system in my salon. That allowed me to work about three hours a day. Being connected to the grid means I can work as many hours as I want. On a daily average, I can now serve over twice as many customers.”

Augustin Ndahimana
Owner of a hairdressing salon in Munyaga Sector, Rwamagana
The Tshopo province in 8’53”

Our teams in the DRC’s Tshopo province made this video on progress made in our projects in 2021. Watch the testimonials of young women and men being trained, of farmers, and of patients and health professionals. Enjoy the stories behind the numbers and find out how a little training or a bit of help or an opportunity can profoundly change a person’s life.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
- 6,500 students assisted in schools
- 2,500 young women and men steered towards employment

Agricultural development (PRODAT)
- 21,000 family farms supported
- 289 farmers’ organisations strengthened
- 162 agricultural processing units installed

Support to Provincial Health Departments (PADP)
- 2,600 women professionally assisted during childbirth
- 2,700 children get professional paediatric follow-up

"Queens of the road” in Kisangani

In the DR Congo, to boost youth employment Enbel supports labour market insertion and starting business incubators.

As part of this initiative twelve young women were trained to operate heavy machinery. They are now ready to take the road.

This is quite an unusual approach in the province as jobs that were previously considered predominantly male are now opening up to women.

The adventure of these young trailblazers does not end here. Thanks to a collaboration between business incubators and the Roads Agency, they could do a two-month internship to improve their general skills and specialise in a range of machines. Such internships offer real career prospects.

Watch the video:
Our natural resources need women

In Kamalé, a municipality in Mali’s Koulikoro region, women play an important role in cultivating land and managing natural resources. Women are pioneers in sustainable horticulture. With their proceeds they pay household expenses and school fees for the children.

Nanténin Keita, a produce farmer and member of the local village committee explains how women cultivate the land but also, through the village committees, have a say in what happens with available land and how it is managed.

Together with local partners, Enabel established horticultural plots, which are cultivated by 1,100 women. 40% of women hold key positions in the governing bodies of agricultural organisations.

Agricultural development for food sovereignty

Mauritania, with its 4.16 million inhabitants, is one of the least densely populated countries in Africa. It is basically a desert country but it also has vast expanses of pastureland. It has an extraordinary dairy potential. However, from production to consumption, this sector is barely profitable: The lack of sustainable rural infrastructures is notably to blame. Actually, only 10% of local production is marketed and domestic dairy consumption consists primarily of imported powdered or tinned milk.

With European Union funds Enabel supports the development of the local value chain – from storage and preservation to processing and consumption – and makes it sustainable and economically viable. Our approach involves the communities from the design of the infrastructure onwards. With such social engineering in the development of rural and agricultural infrastructure, we make sure that the communities take ownership and the infrastructure is used sustainably over time.

By promoting the building and management of sustainable infrastructure on the one hand, and by making the dairy sector a wealth-creating sector on the other hand, Mauritania’s food sovereignty is reinforced.

“Today, women’s opinions are taken into account in the village committees. We can participate in decisions on the responsible use of the land resource we have. We are looking for a balance between cultivation and conservation.”

Keita Nanténin
Produce farmer and member of a village committee
Sexuality education with a mobile application

In order to promote sexual and reproductive health, improve access to sexual and reproductive rights for women and young people and combat gender-based violence, Enabel worked on the development of a website and mobile application for Guinean youth.

The application and website provide information on sexuality, a major taboo in Guinea. Kouyé wants to inform and raise awareness among young people about sexuality and gender equality. Kouyé means “peek-a-boo” and is used by children when they play hide-and-seek. The name of the application thus refers to the taboo surrounding sexuality in Guinea.

The app answers a whole range of questions about sexuality that young people are worrying about, such as “What can I do to avoid getting pregnant against my will?”, “What does Guinean law say about abortion?” and “What is child marriage?”

There is also information on diseases such as Ebola or Covid-19. Young people can test their knowledge with a quiz, share ideas with other young people through the forum or look up the address of the nearest health centre. The application and website should reach at least 10,000 Guinean youths in 2022.

The project is funded by the EU and Germany and implemented in partnership with the Guinean government and the German development agency GIZ.

Website: https://kouyé.com/

“We mainly want to inform and raise awareness, also on sexual violence. There is little data on this, while, for example, more than 95 per cent of girls and women in Guinea are circumcised.”

Hannah Van den Berghe
Junior Expert Digitisation at Enabel’s
Community policing restores trust between citizens and security forces

For many years Carine Vanden Borre (49) was a police officer in Brussels. Since June 2019, she has been working in Burkina Faso as a project manager for Enabel. The aim of the project is to restore the population’s trust in the police through the concept of ‘community policing’.

“The core of our action is to reconcile our objectives with the concrete needs on the ground. This means talking to all actors: police forces, local authorities, local security initiatives, civil society organisations, traditional chiefs, etc.

For me, the success of a project depends on the involvement of all stakeholders. Strengthening relations between the population and the security forces, for example, not only helps to reduce crime, but also to resolve conflicts between people before they lead to violence. This ultimately strengthens social cohesion.

And it ensures that all parties participate in co-building increased security for all.”

Gender equality is on the rise

“This is a job for women; it makes you exceptional. Because you do everything that men can do.” Annita Sekou is a police officer in Benin’s Republican Police force. Like other women, she is helping to break the glass ceiling that still exists in professions considered typically male.

In a country where bias, social constraints and traditions continue to weigh on gender relations, we met Innocentia Apovo, Ghislaine Bocovo and Pristille Tofoedo. Three women who dreamed of becoming policewomen and contribute to breaking down gender stereotypes and pave the way for an equal future.

Through our project with the Republican Police in Benin, we support women in the police force and pursue equal representation.

Read the full story of Carine Vanden Borre on enabel.be:
Local governments joining forces for better services to citizens

Thirsty? You fill a glass of water from the tap. You need to get rid of your garbage? Every week at a fixed time waste collectors come by and take care of this for you. Your children want to do homework in the evening? No problem, you just turn on the light.

For many people this is how it works. It’s so normal that we don’t even think twice about it.

But in some villages and small towns in Palestine, the local government lacks the financial and human resources needed to deliver these types of services to their citizens.

Yet, in a challenging social, economic and political context, local governance can be a real force for promoting state-building and local economic development. Investing in local governance is investing in people.

That’s why some mayors and civil servants in villages, small municipalities and remote communities decided to work together, in collaboration with the Belgian Development Cooperation. They made long-term development plans for their villages. For and with their people.

Together they decided, looking at the budget and in consultation with citizens, civil society and the private sector, which services needed to be developed first to improve the quality of life for their own communities while at the same time supporting communities in need in the surrounding areas.

“We activated electricity subscriptions. Every citizen who wanted to subscribe to the electricity plan could come to the council and we provided them with the necessary permit, working together with the electricity company.”
- Nabeel Dabaseh, director Al-Karmil municipality.

All over the world cities are expanding, and rural areas are increasingly becoming more urban, Palestine is no exception. With this, new challenges emerge. Population density increases and services need to be adapted to this new reality. People working for local government also realise this and decided to cooperate for planning and delivering services to their citizens. In some cases, this led to villages officially joining forces and becoming one municipality.

“Previously the municipal council would sit down and decide on its own whether we wanted to build a road or a school. This is no longer the case. Planning has become participatory, and we also support women’s engagement and youth participation.”
- Ghassan Kabha
Mayor of Barta’a municipality
A sustainable future for Lake Tanganyika

It is 6:30 p.m. when Zafarani Kayabara drops her helmet and gloves and ends her day on the job. She is a member of Juhudi PESA, a community-based organisation from Kigoma in Tanzania that picks up waste and brings it to the collection points in the city’s districts.

Her natural leadership and motivation are well known in the area: Together with the other members of the organisation she is determined to contribute to the protection of Lake Tanganyika, a unique ecosystem and one of the natural wonders of the world.

Its natural biodiversity is however threatened by climate change, pollution and human activity. The poor quality of the water, the progressive disappearance of fish and the appearance of pandemics such as cholera are all alarming signs.

In order to cope with this, with European funds of the Latawama project Enabel supports several community-based organisations, such as Zafarani: In addition to waste collection and personal protection equipment, these organisations – made up largely of female heads of household as well as men and youths from disadvantaged backgrounds – receive organisational support. The project also assists the municipality of Kigoma in its waste collection and disposal tasks by creating new collection points, upgrading vehicles and setting up a financing system.

Women have a key role in the fight against climate change. While they are not often put in the limelight, they are definitely active behind the scenes. And Zafarani concludes: “So we take care of the lake, because it takes care of us.”
Drinking water for 500,000 Congolese

Since 2018, Enabel has been working in the provinces of Kasai Oriental, South Kivu and Maniema on a drinking water supply project for more than 500,000 people.

In Mbuji Mayi, the capital of the province of Kasai Oriental, wells were drilled to reach the groundwater, sometimes as deep as 200 metres. In other provinces, spring water is collected in water tanks. This water must then be transported to various distribution points. This can be done with fossil fuel pumps, but also by using environment-friendly solar panels.

In Mbuji Mayi, Enabel built two photovoltaic pumping stations in 2021. Six more will be built in the province so that residents outside the city also have access to drinking water. One of the city’s pumping stations consists of 400 solar panels, which helps supply 120,000 people with water.

COVID-19 results in your pocket

In August 2020, the European Union and Germany issued a grant that aimed at supporting nine countries1 in Africa in the use of digital technologies to address the health challenges that are caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The ResiCOdi (strengthening the resilience to COVID-19) project is implemented by Enabel in Burundi, Rwanda and the DR Congo. One of the challenges that Rwanda had to face, like many other countries, was monitoring the spread of the virus and the vaccination status of the population.

Through the ResiCOdi project, Enabel collaborated with the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) to develop a COVID-19 app (the RBC-C19 app), giving citizens the opportunity to manage their vaccination status, keep track of their test results and offering access to various reliable resources related to COVID-19. The RBC-C19 app became the official COVID-19 status application for Rwanda’s national health agency. More than 10,000 people have downloaded the app. “COVID-19 has demonstrated that we need to use information systems and data. We need to be as prepared as possible to inform in real time,” says Dr. Richard Gakuba, Business Analyst eHealth at Enabel.

The clients just need to register in the app and they can then access their vaccination status. The app automatically shows the certificate. It’s really easy to use for me in my job.”

Lambert Mugabo
Taxi driver and user of the RBC-C19 app

Watch the video:
Migrant entrepreneurs

Over the years, Morocco has become a land of transit migration and even a host to migrants. Enabel assists Morocco in implementing its National Immigration and Asylum Strategy through the Amaddu project, which aims to better integrate immigrants.

Access to legal status and employment is important to integrate migrants as it allows economic empowerment and social insertion in the host country.

Solange, who grew up in Cameroon is a mother of three. She arrived in Morocco in 2017 to join her husband, who had been in Morocco for more than ten years. The Amuddu project helped Solange obtain her self-employed status and launch her enterprise.

“One day, I found a can at the water’s edge. I took it with me and informed after the value of aluminum. I discovered that these cans could be bought to be melted down and resold as aluminum blocks and that this could generate an income.”

From that moment on, everything started rolling. She met one of the Amuddu agents at a meeting, who informed her about the project and the services offered to migrants by the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment (ANAPEC). Once she had registered with ANAPEC, Solange attended many courses and she learned to elaborate her business plan, which helped her in moving from the informal to the formal economy.

Solange presented her can recycling project before a jury of an award committee and she subsequently obtained funding for the project. She receives support and marketing, business and resource management courses as well as funding to purchase a scooter, boots and coveralls, a helmet and gloves to work in good conditions and safely.

Solange lives from recovering cans from several restaurants and from cleaning operations on the coast in Rabat. In the near future, she wishes to expand her business by hiring mainly vulnerable women from her entourage. Her project is growing and more and more recycling companies have already contacted her. As a result, Solange is thinking of expanding her business to a larger area to sell more cans and make her project prosper.

Since 2019, more than 350 persons registered through the Amuddu project for one of the vocational training programmes to boost their employability.
New opportunities for 15,000 young Guineans

In Guinea, Enabel works with young unemployed Guineans and Guinean migrants who have returned to their homeland. Although some want to go to Europe, 75% of emigrating Guineans prefer to migrate to neighbouring countries or the Maghreb.

In neighbouring Senegal alone, there are about 3.5 million Guineans. They left Guinea mainly for economic reasons. Returning migrants return after a journey of several months or years. Upon returning, they often have a hard time reintegrating.

Belgium wants to offer these young people a new start: They receive vocational training and financial support to start their own businesses. By providing youth with training that matches the needs of the labour market, they are less likely to emigrate and they can contribute to their country’s economy. A better performing economy, in turn, will lead to better health care, infrastructure and education, and thus to a stronger and more future-oriented society.

In the course of five years, Enabel and its partners want to put 15,000 people to work while focusing on low-skilled people between 18 and 35 years of age. 6,000 young people, of whom 2,000 are returning migrants, will receive comprehensive support during nine months. About twenty training courses are offered, e.g. for plumbers, electricians or bricklayers. Literacy courses and financial training are also offered.

Find out about Mamadou and Aissatou, two Guineans who returned home:
Welcome in the digital era carried by Women In Tech

Benin wants to be a digital frontrunner. The Ministry of Digitisation (MND) and Enabel are running the EU-funded Digiboost project, aimed at building an ecosystem of support organisations, promoting the entrepreneurial spirit and encouraging innovative partnerships.

Digiboost places particular emphasis on initiatives in favour of women. The project’s biggest accomplishment is the consolidation of the Women In Tech (WIT) community in 2021, an influential and diversified network of female digital entrepreneurs. The WIT-community has generated traction and support above expectations, up to the level where men have become true ambassadors of the community.

Women in Tech has sensitised and encouraged hundreds of women to develop economic activities through digitisation through a road show in eight cities across the country.

A federation of 36 member organisations has been created, offering collective and individual training and exchange sessions to further encourage the spirit of collaboration. The on line platform www.digiboost.bj offers an accessible and valuable public service for all stakeholders, support organisations, NGOs, start-ups, public actors and financial institutions.

When motorcycle taxi drivers save lives

Uganda’s maternal and infant mortality rates are still very high. Improving transportation of mothers that are about to give birth can save many lives. Enabel’s Wehubit programme invests in 27 digital social innovations and supports the Mama Rescue project, set up by Uganda’s BrickbyBrick organisation. The technology is simple: A free mobile phone system links expectant mothers, motorcycle taxi drivers and health centres. As a result, the women are referred far more quickly to appropriate obstetric care. Since June 2021, more than 7,000 women have been brought to maternity wards on time leading to more safe deliveries.

Grace witnesses: “My experience of losing my baby pushed me to start riding a boda boda (motorcycle taxi) so that I can support my fellow women who are pregnant to reach the hospital on time and not have complications leading to the death of their babies. Several mothers call me at any time from the neighbouring villages to come and take them to the hospital to save both the life of the mother and the baby.”
Train young coaches for better professional insertion

Vocational and technical training that is adapted to the needs of the job market, internship opportunities, coaching of young talents looking for a job or youths full of enthusiasm to create their own business...

In the Kisangani area in the DRC’s Tshopo province, that was like a nice dream, until recently.

In collaboration with the Federation of Enterprises of the Congo (FEC), Enabel started an initiative with a view to promoting vocational training. First of all, about thirty young talents were trained as coaches/trainers at boot camps, so that they can in turn train and accompany young people in starting an independent economic activity. Having a good idea is one thing, but developing it into a viable economic activity is another. In collaboration with local incubators, a guide on business skills, project development, marketing, financial management and business management was developed for beginning entrepreneurs.

After graduating from boot camp, the coaches themselves train and mentor hundreds of young people in the region, thus building a vital bridge between the school and the business world.

“The young participants start from issues and concrete cases that they face in their daily lives. Based on these they formulate needs and learn to brainstorm and finally shape their own business ideas.”

Fabrice Kanku
Expert in training design
Respect for the environment and human rights in Belgian business supply chains

Enabel and its Trade for Development Centre advocate fair and sustainable trade. Policy advocacy is an essential part of this.

Spurred on by Enabel and Fairtrade Belgium, the Business Duty of Care working group was established. Entrepreneurs were also involved. A group of 60 companies and business federations drafted a letter asking the Belgian government to develop a national legal framework requiring businesses to take responsibility for environmental standards and human rights in their supply chains.

The letter was handed over on 4 February 2021 by Ann Claes (JBC) and Bruno Van Steenberghe (Kalani) to Belgium’s Minister of Development Cooperation Meryame Kitir and Belgium’s Minister of Economy and Employment, Pierre-Yves Dermagne.

Ann Claes believes a legal framework is needed: “That way, sustainable initiatives by entrepreneurs and businesses don’t remain just a drop in the ocean.”

“Social, economic and environmental sustainability should not be an option, but a mandatory basic standard for companies to operate,” adds Bruno Van Steenberghe. “We need a legal framework to accelerate this change.”

The International Labor Organization estimates that over 45 million adults worldwide are victims of modern slavery. In addition, the production of certain raw materials, such as palm oil, cocoa and coffee, and the dyeing of fabrics in the textile industry, causes serious environmental damage, such as water and soil pollution and deforestation.

Belgian companies significantly contribute to international development and large parts of our economy depend on imports of raw materials. So we cannot remain blind to what is happening in the supply chains. This is also why more and more companies are committing to playing a positive social role.

But preventing and actively combating violations of human rights and environmental standards in international supply chains involves costs and requires investment. Legislation can reward efforts and thus create a level playing field among companies.

Watch the video:
Everyone a global citizen?

What young people in Belgium say about their engagement. Young people were at the forefront of the new social engagement initiatives like the Climate marches, the #MeToo movement and the Black Lives Matter protests.

Less visible forms of volunteering are also growing. For example, thousands of young people in Belgium commit themselves weekly through youth work or civil society organisations.

Yet there are also doomsayers: for example, young people are said to be less interested in social issues and want to break ties with traditional political parties. Many opinions, but few facts? This is precisely why Annoncer la Couleur and Kruit, the Global Citizenship Education programmes of Enabel, commissioned a study on young people and social engagement.

As a promoter of global citizenship and international solidarity, Enabel undertakes to encourage youth engagement with a global perspective. After all, it is not just about local social engagement, but also about thinking globally. In this way, young people become more aware of interdependencies and responsibility at the international level and they grow up to be true global citizens.

In the qualitative study involving 33 young people between the ages of 15 and 19 we discussed (their) social engagement.

Download the full study (in French) here:

Would you rather listen directly to what young people have to say about it? In this podcast series Elisabeth, Lou, Shema, Raihanna, Sien, Yassin and Pawel talk about their engagement (in French and Dutch):
Laying the groundwork for sustainable architecture

It matters how we design and build public spaces. Public spaces have an influence on how we live our lives and on the environment. Marketplaces, schools, hospitals, community centres and the bridges and roads connecting all these places contribute to a higher quality of life and help mitigate the impact of climate change.

In Rwanda and Burundi Enabel invests in sustainable architecture. How so? By making sure that buildings and other construction projects meet the needs of their users. Asking the opinion of citizens for each project is vital to us. Their input is incorporated to improve designs.

Enabel kicked-off a first participation project in Rwanda’s Rubavu district in 2021. More than a hundred representatives from the Agakiriro market, related cooperatives, students, genocide survivors and citizens gathered to assess their needs and propose participatory projects to local government representatives. An urban walk with all participants helped in identifying potential projects.

Besides participation of users, choices of materials are also important. Enabel prefers to use locally produced materials. This reduces the cost of construction and makes maintenance easier and less expensive. It also brings about new training and employment opportunities.

In Burundi, Enabel used perforated bricks to construct 3 multimedia resource centres on vocational training campuses. These bricks are made from clay, which abounds in Burundi and in the Great Lakes region. Using clay bricks helps reduce the need to import cement.

“The default mindset for architects is to use concrete for the structure of buildings. But concrete is an imported material and uses up a lot of energy to be produced. We prefer local materials, such as stone, bamboo, agricultural byproducts and perforated brick.”

Elodie Deprez
Junior Expert and architect working in Rwanda
We want to create a virtuous circle: completed buildings serve as examples for developers and architects. Construction companies and workers build up experience working with these materials. All stakeholders are included in the drive towards using sustainable materials and therefore support each other.

Karine Guillevic
Architect expert in Burundi

© Enabel

Enabel was one of the first to invest in the use of perforated bricks. After seeing the positive results at the multimedia resource centres, the perforated brick sector continues to grow. There are now more building sites using this technique and more young Burundians have the skills to work on such construction sites.

Alongside the ‘classical’ approach of working with construction companies, Enabel set up construction site schools. These are construction sites that hire freshly graduated students, giving them the opportunity to acquire a first professional experience while being coached by teachers and by experienced construction workers.

Karine Guillevic and Elodie Deprez, architects working for Enabel, tell us more about their work in this interview:

Culture and creativity for the future of cities

Sustainable development is usually associated with economic and social elements and with environmentally friendly management.

But culture also has an essential role to play. This publication brings together theory and practice on people-friendly sustainable urban development in Africa, Asia and Latin America, taking into account the important role of culture, cultural heritage, identity, diversity and creativity.

A publication (2021) by the European Commission, Bozar, Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles/Wallonie-Bruxelles International and Enabel.
Public-law company

Enabel is a public-law company with social purposes, established by the Law of 16 November 2017 changing the name of the Belgian Technical Cooperation and defining the missions and functioning of Enabel, the Belgian development agency. The Belgian State is the sole shareholder and is represented in the General Meeting by the Minister of Development Cooperation.

Enabel implements Belgium’s governmental cooperation policy. The agency also actively explores assignments for other donors in view of strengthening Belgium’s foreign policy. Enabel can also carry out and coordinate international cooperation initiatives of Belgian federal instances. Thus, Enabel becomes the interface between Belgian public instances and Belgian or foreign donors for international development actions, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Management bodies

General Meeting

The Minister of Development Cooperation represents the Federal State at the General Meeting. In 2021, the General Meeting was held on 7 June.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of members who have proven and useful expertise in international development, development cooperation and business management. The members of the Board of Directors are appointed for a renewable term of four years. In 2021, the Board of Directors convened nine times. The board members were: Hannelore Beerlandt (chairperson), Xavier De Cuyper, Brigitte Boone, Nadia Molenaers, Martine Van Dooren, Chris Verhaegen, Alain Coheur, Guido Gryseels, Olivier Lanotte, Dirk Roctus.

In 2021, a new Board was appointed. The new members are: Delphine Moralis (chairperson), Caroline Amrom, Karla Basselier, Brigitte Boone, Alain Coheur, Farah Dehon, Nicole de Moor, Amélie Derbaudrenghien, Guido Gryseels, Patrick Itschert, Louise Ringuet, Bart Staes. The new Board took office on 1 December 2021 and held a first informal meeting on that day.

Managing director

The Managing director is responsible for the daily management of Enabel. He or she is appointed by the Board of Directors for a renewable six-year term.

Management Committee

On the recommendation of the Managing director the Board of Directors appoints the members of the Management Committee for a renewable six-year term. Current composition: Jean Van Wetter (Managing director), Martine Brisse (HR director), Sven Huyssen (Operations director), Danny Verspreet (Finance & IT director), Liana Hoornweg (Sectoral and Thematic Expertise director). In 2021, the Management Committee convened 21 times.

Control bodies

- Government’s Auditors (Development Cooperation & Budget)
- Board of Auditors (Court of Audit & registered auditors)
- Internal Audit

Integrity

Every day, we have to gain the trust of our donors, the partner countries and the people for whom we work. Trust is not just a matter of words but is gained at all times by irreproachable behaviour, by respecting rules of behaviour and by professional due care. The values that our actions are based on are respect, integrity, engagement and responsibility.

Enabel’s Code of Conduct is the cornerstone of our organisation’s ethical engagement. It incites all staff members of Enabel to behave in an ethical and responsible way everywhere in the world, even if circumstances are difficult. Moreover, communicating and promoting this Code with, in particular, our partners and suppliers, clearly expresses the values that underlie our relations.

In 2018, Enabel, like other Belgian international cooperation actors, signed an Integrity Charter and engaged to reduce the risk of integrity violations and to treat incidents in an appropriate manner.
Vision 2030

Even though 2021 was still strongly marked by Covid, we stayed on course to achieve the objectives we set out in the Business Plan. Here are some examples of key achievements, under the six pillars of our strategy:

Key partner of the Belgian government and Belgian expertise hub
We have more than 60 framework cooperation agreements with Belgian institutions with a view to providing to our partners the best of Belgium’s expertise. In 2021 we convened more than 140 representatives of these institutions. It showed these agreements are relevant in improving the impact of our programmes.

In 2021, Meryame Kitir, the Minister of Development Cooperation, instructed us to redefine the Global Citizenship Education programme as well as the Junior Programme, with the objective of reaching a wider audience and increasing young people’s understanding of the importance of international solidarity.

Preferred partner to enable systemic change
In line with the instructions of Minister Kitir, we finalised two new country programmes (Palestine and Niger) and two thematic programmes (Climate and Social Protection). In addition, we started an initiative aiming at the local production of vaccines and medical supplies in Senegal and in Rwanda and we joined African and European forums on this matter.

Double the volume and triple the impact
Our turnover in 2021 for the first time exceeded EUR 300 million, a growth of 30% compared to 2019. This result is attributable to three factors:

- A significant improvement of our planning and execution capacity
- Clarity in Minister Kitir’s policy, with clear strategic lines and a precise timetable of instructions, which allowed us to plan our workforce and workload
- Our Global Partnerships strategy with activities for the European Union reaching EUR 90 million in 2021.

Specific domains of expertise and targeted geographical coverage
The Theories of Change for the five global challenges in our strategy have been finalised. They will be expanded with toolkits for each of the 17 development solutions included in the strategy.

Work is also underway to make better use of national expertise and to open up expertise positions, traditionally stationed in Brussels, to our colleagues in the various partner countries.

Beyond Aid
Our initiative on the local production of vaccines is totally in line with our desire for a partnership approach on an equal footing. It also allowed us to network with African regional institutions and other actors.

Our initiative in the framework of our co-presidency of the Practitioners’ Network led to stronger synergy between development agencies and public development banks.

Model and cradle of entrepreneurship and innovation
The implementation of collaborative governance practices stimulated greater collaboration between our Brussels-based teams and partner country teams.

We also made progress in 2021 on working more flexibly (Working Independently of Time and Place) in a spirit of accountability.

Considerable progress was made in better mainstreaming gender in our projects and in improving the gender balance in our teams.
Finances

Balance (euro)

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<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>31/12/2021</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>31/12/2020</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1,048,730</td>
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<td>13.9%</td>
<td>50,744,489</td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>273,299,648</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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<td>Amounts payable &gt; 1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisions and deferred income taxes ≤ 1 year</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amounts payable ≤ 1 year</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>273,299,648</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Income statement

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/12/2021</th>
<th>31/12/2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenue</td>
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<td>Turnover</td>
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<td>Other sales and activities</td>
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<td>Non-recurring operating revenue</td>
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<td>614,552</td>
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<td><strong>Operating costs</strong></td>
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<td>Purchases</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous goods and services</td>
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<td>Staff costs</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Provisions for risks and charges</td>
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<td>Other operating costs</td>
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<td><strong>Operating result</strong></td>
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<td>Financial costs</td>
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<td>Financial revenue</td>
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<td>Result for the financial year before taxes</td>
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<td>78,544</td>
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<td>Taxes on the result</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the financial year</strong></td>
<td>274</td>
<td>78,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers from / to tax-free reserves</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>78,544</td>
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