

Making space for the foundational economy

Urban economic policy and planning perspectives
from Brussels

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What is our economy for? Too often we lose sight of this question, focusing on growth and profit as an end in itself. Instead, we need to remind ourselves always that the overall purpose of the economy is to deliver human well-being, within environmental limits.

Just Space Economy & Planning, London, 2015

1.

What is the foundational
economy?

A large, multi-story apartment building at night, viewed from a distance. The building is dark, but many windows are illuminated from within, creating a grid of warm, yellow and orange lights against the dark facade. The lights are scattered across the building, with some windows appearing brighter than others. The overall scene is a dense, repetitive pattern of windows and balconies.

THE FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY

2.

Making space for the

foundational economy?



Scarcity of basic goods and services, reinforcing unemployment & strenghtening social inequalities

what are the spatial and non-spatial tools to make space for the foundational economy?

Effects of current spatial policy instruments?
Are they easing spatial inequalities?

1.

How is the construction sector key to the social reproduction of the city?
What are policy opportunities for less competitive development?

2.

What is the economic geography of the construction sector?
What are its spatial needs?

3.

How to regulate competition between urban functions?
How to create an inclusive intertwining of working and living?

4.



Making space for the foundational economy *through:*

How to regulate competition between urban functions?
How to create an inclusive intertwining of working and living?

Productive city strategies

4.

Schaarbeekse buurt protesteert tegen school waar park moet voor verdwijnen

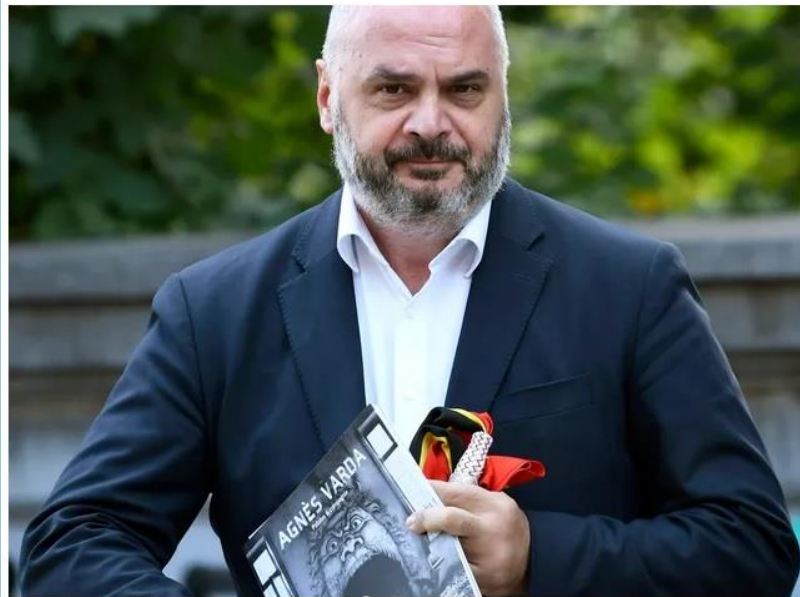
MILIEU SCHAARBEEK 28/11/2020 EC © BRUZZ DELEN: [f](#) [t](#) [✉](#)



© Anton Schuurmans | De buurtbewoners plaatsen zaterdag een hele reeks vlaggetjes in hun buurtpark, uit protest met de bouw van de nieuwe school.

Doulkeridis: 'Publieke domeinen gebruiken als alternatief voor duur vastgoed'

SAMENLEVING ELSENE 22/2/2020 GODFRIED ROELANT © BRUZZ DELEN: [f](#) [t](#) [✉](#)



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To conclude:

Public real estate strategies become the new protagonists in the provision of essential goods and services in cities.

Thanks!

Questions?

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New book release: april 2022

David Bassens & Sarah De Boeck (eds.)

DAVID BASSENS &
SARAH DE BOECK (RED.)

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