

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DOUGHNUT PORTRAIT OF THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

This report details the meticulous process of consolidating the Donut portrait of the Brussels-Capital Region (BCR) and the methodology developed to fill the gaps that were highlighted in the first version of this portrait, presented at the end of the Brussels Donut - Part 1 project. The new iteration of the portrait is the result of a strengthened database of indicators, both quantitative and qualitative. What's more, this version offers more nuance and precision in its diagnosis, enabling more relevant lessons to be drawn for the BCR.

Initiated by the Brussels Donut team, the BCR Donut Portrait was designed as a powerful tool to establish a comprehensive diagnosis of the social and environmental aspects of the territory. By analogy with a compass, this portrait guides the BCR in its quest for a balance between respecting a social foundation to guarantee human dignity, and respecting an ecological ceiling to prevent environmental risks. The methodology adopted to develop the Donut Portrait is directly inspired by the Donut Economy approach theorised by Kate Raworth.

In concrete terms, the Donut portrait takes the form of four "lenses", each of which combines social and environmental issues at different scales, local and global. These lenses include :

- The "local-social" lens: Its objective is to assess how well social needs and aspirations of the Brussels population are being met.
- The "local-ecological" lens: This focuses on the current state of the various environmental aspects within the BCR territory.
- The "global-ecological" lens: This looks at BCR's share of responsibility in global environmental issues, by assessing whether or not it is respecting its "fair share" of the planet's resources and capacities.
- The "global-social" lens: This invites us to consider the impact of Brussels' consumption choices on the world's populations, highlighting the repercussions of our lifestyles on those who produce our goods.

These four lenses come in a total of 36 dimensions, each of which assesses a specific aspect of the eyewear it represents.

The process of consolidating the Donut portrait is based on three crucial stages:

1. Collecting and selecting indicators (Stage 1) :

- a. Gathering indicators: The Brussels Donut team gathered a list of indicators from various stakeholders, including workshops and an online survey conducted as part of the first part of the project. The indicators were evaluated according to several criteria, such as relevance, accuracy and comparability. New data was also collected to enrich the database. The team also sought the advice of grassroots organisations to consolidate the database.
- b. Selection of indicators: Indicators were classified into three categories based on criteria such as internal consistency, external relevance, statistical quality and legitimacy. The five most appropriate indicators per dimension were selected for the Donut portrait.
2. Setting Targets (Stage 2): The team defined realistic and ambitious targets for each selected indicator. These targets were based on external sources, such as BCR's political commitments, scientific recommendations, and the performance of other similar territories. The targets are set so that BCR can progress towards the "Donut" while respecting fundamental human rights and environmental balance.
3. Aggregation of Indicators and Targets (Stage 3): The results of the Donut portrait are constructed by answering three essential questions:
 - a. Is BCR in the Donut? This question involves calculating a score for each dimension, based on the percentage of targets achieved at indicator level.
 - b. Is BCR heading for the Donut? This analysis is based on an examination of recent developments in the indicators and a comparison of this trend with the desirable trend in the sense of the Donut.
 - c. Is BCR heading rapidly towards the Donut? By calculating the number of years needed to reach the targets, assuming constant progress.

The answers to these questions form the social and environmental diagnosis of the BCR.

Although the Donut portrait provides valuable insights, it still has limitations. For example, it lacks robust indicators to assess the overall social impact, and is dependent on insufficient data for certain dimensions. The results are also sensitive to methodological choices, and the representation of the portrait does not take into account the specific needs of vulnerable sub-populations. In addition, future projections are based on extrapolations and do not take account of political developments. To overcome these shortcomings, strong institutional commitment and further research are required. Despite this, the Donut portrait can already be put to significant use. It encourages reflection on the construction of a desirable society, allows indicators to be structured according to a relevant narrative, supports the planning and justification of political actions, assesses the trajectory of BCR and facilitates collective action.

In short, the BCR Donut Portrait, despite its imperfections, represents a promising tool for guiding the BCR towards a more socially and environmentally balanced future, by encouraging awareness, reflection and coordinated action.