

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DATA COLLECTION IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN?

Moving around unnoticed in public spaces seems almost impossible today. ANPR cameras, surveillance cameras, smart light or audio sensors, and other data-driven technologies are omnipresent. These technologies are widely used. Also in Flanders, we see a growing trend and 'datafication' of the public domain.

Would you like to learn more about data-driven technologies in the public domain and how Flemish people feel about them? [Read the report here](#), in which we surveyed 1682 Flemish people. The study was conducted by the Knowledge Center Data & Society, led by imec-MICT-UGent.

FAMILIAR TECHNOLOGIES, UNKNOWN DATA FLOWS

Various data-driven technologies are being used in both densely populated and less densely populated cities and villages to increase safety and optimize services. These technologies are omnipresent and constantly collect data. ANPR cameras, bodycams, and fixed cameras (CCTV) are well known among Flemish people. There is more doubt about the **precise data** collected by these technologies. For example, **56,3%** of Flemish people indicate that they do not know or doubt which data ANPR cameras collect about them. For bodycams, this is **50,6%**, and for fixed cameras (CCTV), it is **38%**.



ANPR stands for Automatic Number Plate Recognition, which is an intelligent camera capable of taking photos and then looking up personal information about the vehicle's owner. For example, ANPR cameras are used to flash when people are speeding.



A **bodycam** is an individual mobile camera that records images and sound and is worn on the body, allowing it to see and hear exactly what the wearer sees and hears. They are used by various groups (e.g., police, first responders, and security guards) to minimize aggression and document facts, among other things.



Fixed cameras (CCTV) are cameras at fixed locations (e.g., on the corner of a street in a city center) that often achieve very high resolution. These cameras can be in either public or private management, depending on that different laws apply.

NEW TECHNOLOGY: IS IT WELCOMED?

Overall, Flemish people have a positive attitude toward most technologies that are implemented in the public domain. Fixed cameras (CCTV) are the most accepted. This may be explained by the fact that this technology has been used in Flanders for some time and is therefore more normalized than other technologies. It is important to note that the objective of a technology greatly influences its **acceptance**. For example, the use of ANPR cameras to register unauthorized vehicles is considered acceptable by an overwhelming majority (**88,7%**), while this is much less the case for deterring cut-through traffic (**54,3%**). The purpose and potential advantages and disadvantages clearly influence the acceptance of technologies.

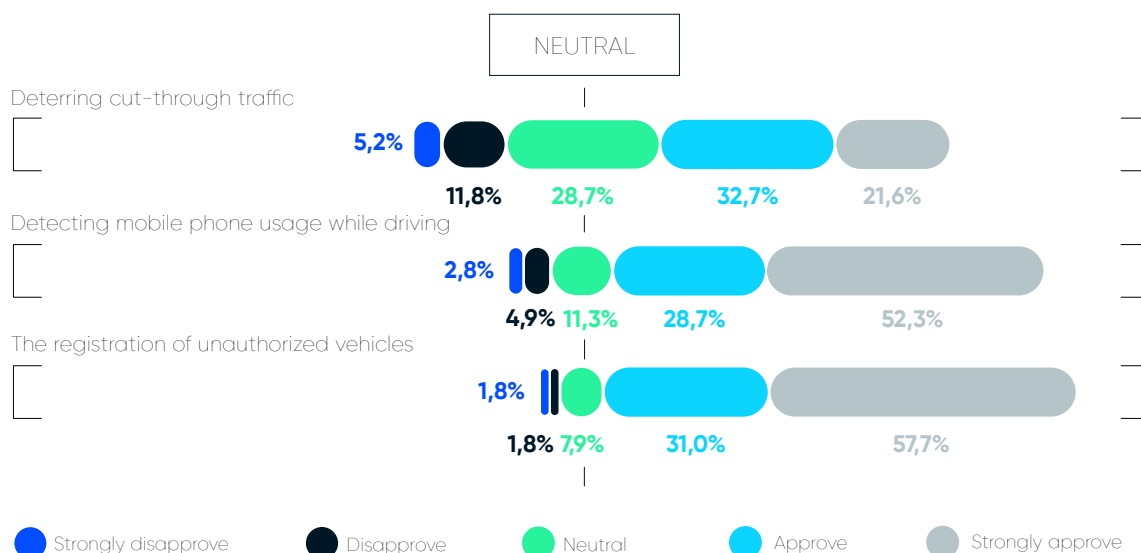


Figure 1: acceptance towards other objectives when using an ANPR camera (in %)

I consider it important that...

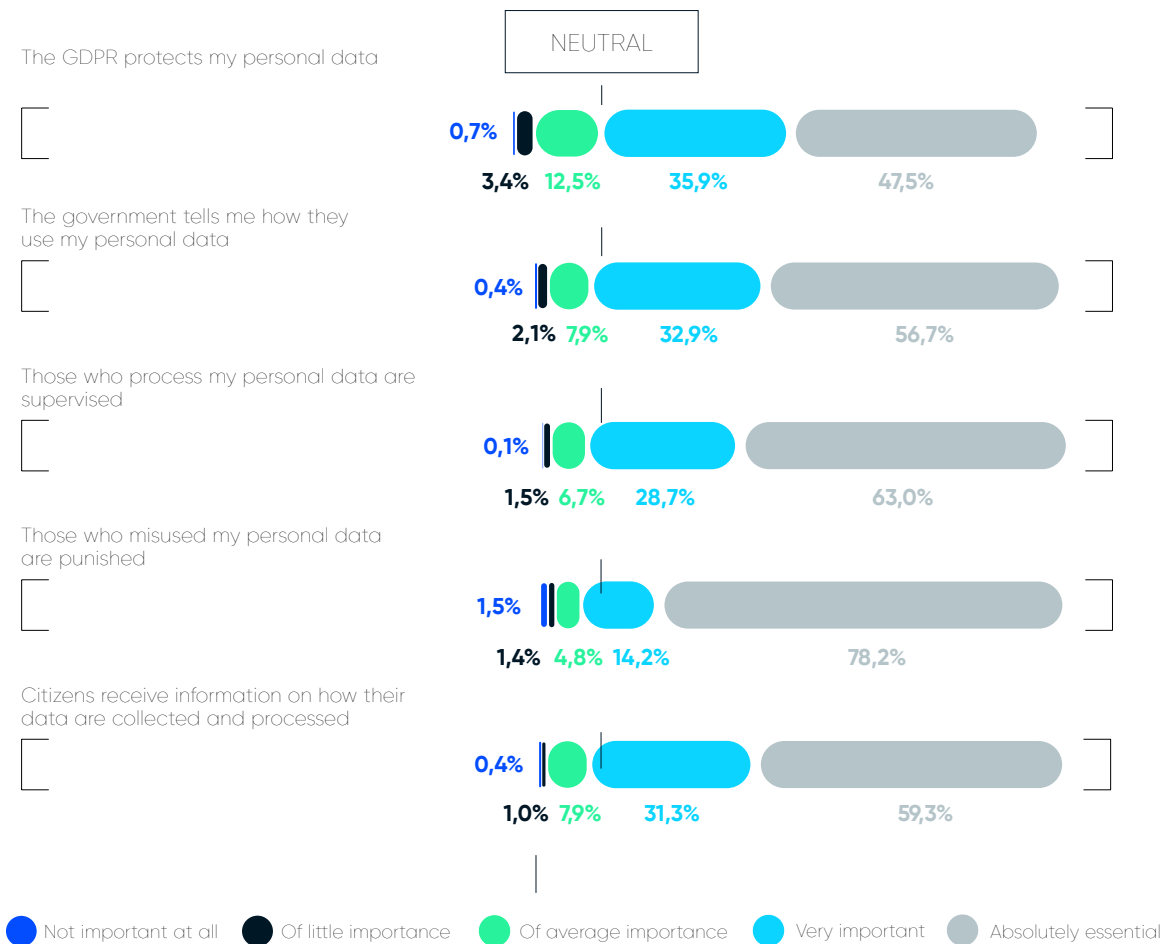
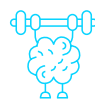


Figure 2: data protection

UNKNOWN? YET NOT UNLOVED

Flemish people are moderately concerned about **privacy**. One possible explanation is that citizens are not always aware of the various disadvantages or purposes of these technologies. Nevertheless, the vast majority of Flemish people attach great importance to the protection of their personal data. For example, **89,6%** indicate that they consider it important for the government to inform them about how personal data is used. Additionally, **90,6%** state that they consider it important to receive information as citizens about how their data are collected and processed.

Flemish people prefer active involvement in the way data are collected and processed by the government. They would like to be informed about the technologies used in public spaces. Preferably, they receive this information mainly via email, municipal websites, or resident letters.



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