

Ghent University

**Summary
Annual Report**

2001





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Prof. dr. Andreas De Leenheer
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25
B-9000 Gent
<http://www.rug.ac.be>

EDITOR

Tom De Smedt, Department of Administrative Affairs

TRANSLATION

Home Office

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bart Cloet
Anne Deknock
Hilde Christiaens
Peter Van Hoof

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PREFACE



The unified European university environment is becoming more visible every day. Ghent University faces the challenge of preserving its strong position in Flanders within this European context, both on the level of academic education and that of internationally respected research.

On the level of education, Ghent University has developed several important projects by way of preparation for this further internationalisation. The care for the international quality control of academic education was also a permanent campaign point in 2001 where it encompassed projects in the areas of internal and external evaluations, lecturer training, etc. In addition, Ghent University continued to expand its regional, national and international network and laid, in 2001, the basis for its later association with several important institutions of higher education in East and West Flanders.

Of course, a future-oriented policy can only be built on a sound foundation. This Summary Annual Report shows clearly that Ghent University is continually reinforcing this foundation. Despite the ominous reports on the low birth rate, our University retained a stable population of a good 23,200 students, with a striking 13 % increase in the number of doctoral students. The number of European students choosing to spend a year at Ghent University as part of an exchange project also rose considerably to 448, equalling the number of outgoing exchange students. Ghent University owes the confidence that Flemish and foreign students have in it to its unceasing care for quality education in addition to its social provisions and service; in 2001, several new and renovated residence halls and student restaurants were opened.

A major challenge for our institution was the further expansion and validation of its scientific research. After all, the University's academic education and social service are only relevant when they are supported by continuous, innovative and international-level research. Thus a further strengthening of our research activities is the condition sine qua non for fulfilling our European role. Several steps have been taken in this direction during 2001. The stipends for doctoral work were quadrupled, positions for extra research professors were created and various endeavours arose to supervise the quality of fundamental and applied research.

The results of this increasing research capacity were already visible in 2001. The number of our own doctoral students and the number of students on scholarships from external research organisations again rose considerably. The investment in research from the Special Research Fund, various governments and industry grew by 11 % to 134 million euros. Co-operation with businesses and organisations is playing an increasing role in this; indeed, the University continues to promote this scientific and social service with the structural support provided by research validation. The figures in this annual report already demonstrate a positive tendency, but over the coming years, Ghent University must make further extensive efforts to strengthen its international position.

The efforts that we require of our employees and, in particular, of our researchers must, of course, receive structural support from the University administration. The University's investments in infrastructure and material support are a tangible example of this: in 2001, university

investment expenditures rose from 32 million euros to more than 58 million euros, good for 17 % of all expenditures. On the level of personnel also, the University worked to create a stimulating environment for the collective international positioning of our institution. The career perspectives for academic and support personnel were delineated further in 2001, and the central administration began its transformation into a more transparent and service-oriented entity.

I am convinced that – with the esteemed and single-minded co-operation of all our personnel – our University will be able to distinguish itself further as a leading research and educational institution.



Prof. dr. Andreas De Leenheer
Rector



CONTENTS

3	.....	PREFACE
5	.....	CONTENTS
7	.....	GHENT UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT
9	.....	ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF GHENT UNIVERSITY
9	.....	CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES
10	.....	ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY BODIES
10	.....	TOWARD A TRANSPARENT AND SERVICE-ORIENTED CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION
11	.....	EDUCATION AT GHENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001
11	.....	MORE STUDENTS, MORE DIPLOMAS
13	.....	EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
14	.....	STRIVING CONTINUOUSLY FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
15	.....	GHENT UNIVERSITY AS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNER
17	.....	RESEARCH AT GHENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001
17	.....	DOCTORAL RESEARCH AS SCIENTIFIC PILLAR
18	.....	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS
20	.....	RESEARCH OUTPUT AND VALORISATION
21	.....	PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURES A QUARTER HIGHER
21	.....	GENERAL SOCIAL SERVICE
23	.....	STAFF AT GHENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001
23	.....	TOTAL NUMBERS OF STAFF EMPLOYED AND PERSONNEL COSTS
25	.....	DYNAMIC PERSONNEL POLICY
27	.....	SOCIAL FACILITIES IN 2001
27	.....	HOUSING
27	.....	DINING FACILITIES
28	.....	SOCIAL SERVICES
28	.....	STUDENT ACTIVITIES
31	.....	FINANCIAL REPORT 2001



UNIVERSITEIT
GENT

Faculteit

Letteren en Wijsbegeerte



MISSION

GHENT UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Ghent University holds a unique position in the Flemish university landscape. That unique profile is summarised in the University's mission statement, which is the touchstone for its daily policy. It is the basis for strategic policy plans and processes of change on all levels.

GHENT UNIVERSITY

- distinguishes itself as a socially committed and pluralistic university, open to all students, regardless of their ideological, political, cultural and social background;
- defines itself in a broad international perspective, all the while accentuating its individuality in terms of language and culture;
- aims to encourage its students to adopt a critical approach within a creative, development-oriented educational and research environment;
- offers a broad spectrum of high-quality, research-based educational programmes that are constantly being adapted to the most recent scientific developments;
- aims to develop in a selective manner the advanced degree programmes, as well as post-graduate and continuing education programmes;
- aims to situate its educational and research activities within the broader social and ethical context and to remain in continual dialogue with all parties concerned;
- aims to promote and further develop fundamental independent research in all faculties and to be a world player in the selected fields of endeavour;
- aims to be an enterprising university with a focus on the social and economic applications of its research findings;
- attaches particular importance to social facilities made available for students;
- creates a stimulating environment for its staff and provides them with the fullest scope of opportunities for developing their potential;
- attaches particular importance to the participation of students, staff and social representatives in the formulation of policy;
- desires strong interaction with its alumni;
- opts for a decentralised, dynamic organisational model.





On 1 October 2001 Prof. Jacques Willems turned over his rector office to Prof. Andreas De Leenheer

ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

- ◆ The board of directors consists of 34 voting members (as of 1 October 2001).
 - Rector
Andreas De Leenheer
 - Vice-Rector
Marc De Clercq
 - ▶ Representatives of the tenured academic staff:
 - Baudewijn Bouckaert
 - Lucas Boullart
 - Hubert De Brabander
 - Geert De Soete
 - François De Troch
 - Johnny Devreker
 - Helmut Gaus
 - Josephina Lenaerts
 - Roland Paemeleire
 - Paul Van Cauwenberge
 - Carlos Van Peteghem
 - Michel Waroquier
 - ▶ Representatives of the assisting academic staff:
 - Lieven Danneels
 - Koenraad Goethals
 - Sigrid Sterckx
 - ▶ Representatives of the administrative and technical personnel:
 - Mireille De Clercq
 - Peter De Keyzer
 - Herman Luwaert
 - ▶ Student Representatives:
 - Peter Comhaire
 - Milena De Wael
 - Joris Morbée
 - Karel Van Bever
 - ▶ Representatives from public bodies, political, socio-economic and cultural entities:
 - Erik Dejonghe
 - Luc Hamelinck
 - Meryem Kaçar
 - Mil Kooyman
 - Guido Sieben
 - Marc Van den Bosch
 - Freya Van den Bossche
 - Jan Vercamst
 - Guido Verhaegen
 - Frans Verheeke
 - ▶ Members with an advisory vote:
 - Government commissioner: Yannick De Clercq
 - Administrators: Robert Hoogewijs / Dirk Mangeleer
 - Finance delegate: Georges Stienlet
 - Secretary: Lieve Bracke
- ◆ The executive committee consists of the following 8 voting members, delegated by the board of directors (as of 1 October 2001):
 - Andreas De Leenheer
 - Marc De Clercq
 - Joris Morbée
 - Geert De Soete
 - François De Troch
 - Guido Verhaegen
 - Koenraad Goethals
 - Peter De KeyzerMembers with an advisory vote and secretary: Cf. board of directors
- ◆ The daily administration is in the hands of the management committee, which is composed of the rector, Andreas De Leenheer, the vice-rector, Marc De Clercq, the academic administrator, Robert Hoogewijs, the logistics administrator, Dirk Mangeleer, the government commissioner, Yannick De Clercq and the secretary Lieve Bracke.
- ◆ For specific issues, the University administration requests advice from various councils and commissions, such as the advisory council for education, the research council, the social council and the building commission.



ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY BODIES

Ghent University has 11 faculties: Arts and Philosophy, Law, Science, Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering, Economics and Business Administration, Veterinary Medicine, Psychology and Educational Sciences, Agricultural and Applied Biological Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Political and Social Sciences. The faculties are further divided into 134 departments (as of 31 December 2001). These are the smallest administrative units, each of which is responsible for teaching, research and scientific services within a given field of study.

Each faculty is directed by a faculty council, which is composed of representatives from the academic, administrative and technical staffs and students. The faculty councils are responsible for organising and coordinating the teaching and research in the fields of study under their authority. The daily management of a faculty is in the hands of the dean, who is also the chairman of the faculty council.

TOWARD A TRANSPARENT AND SERVICE-ORIENTED CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Early in 2001, Ghent University started the STeR project, the thorough restructuring of its central administration. With a view to an enforced Service-orientation, Transparency and acceptance of Responsibility, the current aggregate of more than 30 central and rectoral services comprising 700 staff members was transformed into a new conveniently arranged structure with 8 major departments, namely the Department of Educational Affairs (DOWA), the Department of Research Affairs (DOZA), the Department of Administrative Affairs (DBZ), the Department of Personnel and Organisation (DPO), the Financial Department (DFIN), the Information and Communication Technology Department (DICT), the Department of Infrastructural and Facility Management (DGFB) and the Department of Student Facilities (DSV).

The purpose of the STeR project is the effective and efficient provision of services to internal and external customers. The project is intended to disseminate customer-oriented thinking and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the work process.

A director with a 4-year management mandate leads each of the University departments.

At the suggestion of the new rector and vice-rector, the executive committee meeting held on 21 September 2001 appointed Prof. Dr. Luc François and Prof. Dr. Herwig Bruneel to DOWA and DOZA, respectively. The mandates of both directors took effect on 1 October 2001.

After an in-house search and at the suggestion of the selection commission composed of the rector, vice-rector and administrators and supported by external consultants, the executive committee meeting held on 29 October 2001 appointed Gonda Cock director of DFIN. Her mandate took effect on 1 November 2001 and runs to 31 December 2005.

On 7 December 2001, the executive committee also appointed directors for DBZ, DPO, DGFB and DSV, and this effective as of 8 December 2001. Their mandates also run up to and include 31 December 2005. Kristof De Moor heads DBZ. Bob Van Win is director of DPO. Els Van Damme holds the mandate of director for DGFB. Ignace Van der Cam heads DSV.

The director for DICT will be appointed in 2002.

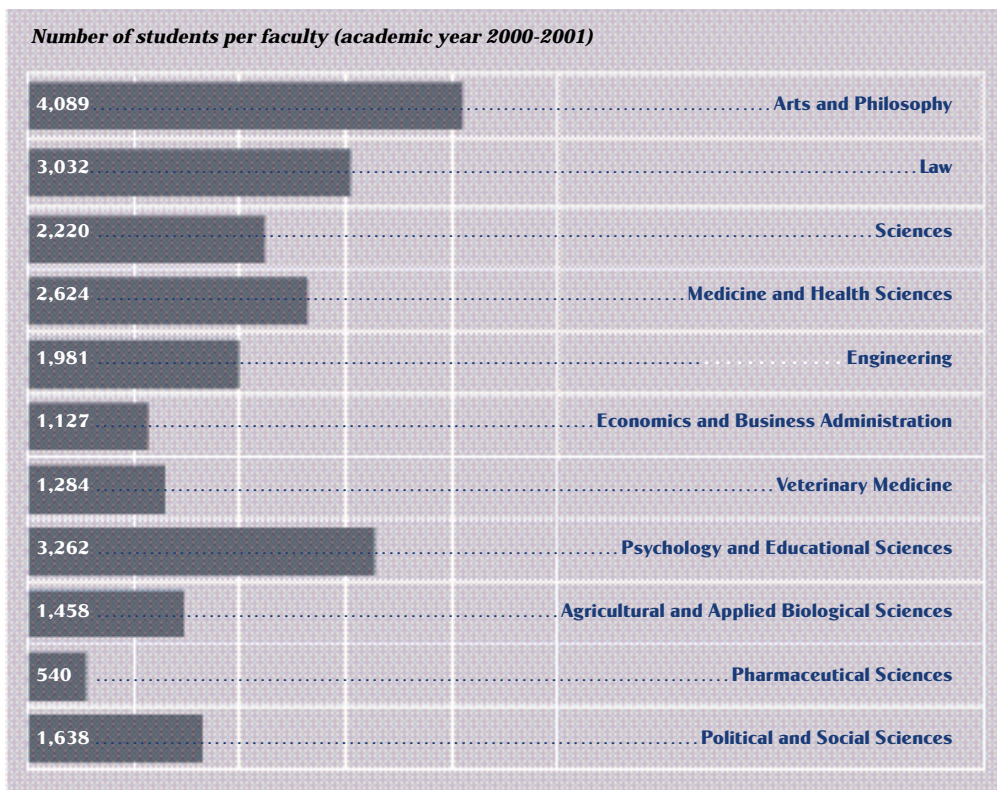


EDUCATION AT GHEENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001

MORE STUDENTS, MORE DIPLOMAS

For the 2000-2001 academic year, Ghent University enrolled 5,753 new students, distributed over 11 faculties. This brought the total student population up to 23,255 students. Despite the ominous reports on the decreasing birth rate, the student population remained stable (23,241 in 1999-2000); moreover, the 2001-2002 academic year again started with a considerable increase in the number of enrolments. For the past 10 years the number of new students in the first year at Ghent University has risen by 29 %, while the total number in Flanders has risen by only 14 %. This means that Ghent University's share of the market among new Flemish students has risen from 27 % to 34 % over a 10-year period.

Nearly half of the students (10,382) were enrolled in the 'first cycle' (first 2 to 3 years) and 9,165 in the 'second cycle' (second 2 to 4 years). The number of students pursuing advanced degrees is increasing year by year. In 2000-2001, 1,188 students pursued advanced academic degrees, 482 were enrolled in secondary teacher training programmes and 292 in preparatory PhD programmes. During the 2000-2001 academic year, 1,134 students were enrolled in a doctoral programme, a number that has increased annually thanks to the University administration's efforts (1998-1999: 726; 1999-2000: 1,001).



Again in 2001, women formed the largest group among the students, making up 54.2 % of the total; their number increases each year. More than 3,500 students received a grant, either as stipend students (3,164) or as students "almost eligible for a stipend" (338).

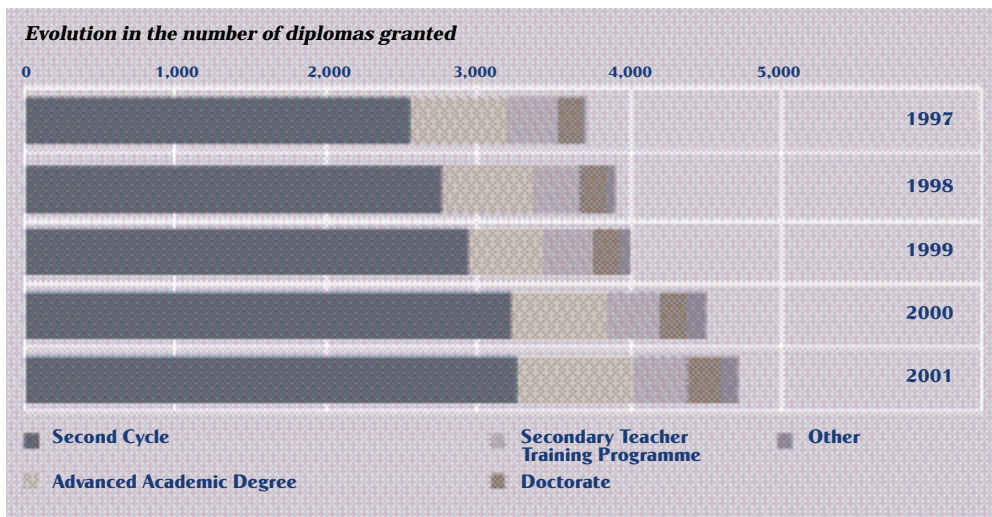
The foreign student population was composed of 475 EU citizens and 477 students from non-EU countries. The exchange students, such as those in the Socrates Programme, are not included in these figures.

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There was a slight rise in the pass rate: in the first year an average of 51 % of the students passed, in the second year this rises to 80 %; for the following years the pass rate fluctuated around 90 %.

Ghent University granted 7,803 diplomas in 2001: 3,103 for the 'first cycle', 3,242 for the 'second cycle', 756 for advanced degree programmes, 368 for the secondary teaching programme, 217 doctoral diplomas and 117 certificates for a pre-doctoral or doctoral programme. Here again the figures show an important increase in the advanced degree and doctoral programmes. 61 % of the students obtain their diplomas within the nominal pre-established study time. 24 % required an additional year of study, 9 % required two years and 6 % three years or more.



EXTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Ghent University offers numerous programmes in each of the various fields of study. There are abundant opportunities, not only in the first and second cycles but also in the secondary teacher training programmes, the doctoral programmes and the advanced degree programmes. Again in 2001, there was extensive co-operation at the inter-university level in these last programmes.

Great attention is being given to the further improvement of the various programmes, both in terms of content and organisation, this in accordance with the conclusions drawn from the educational evaluation provided by students and by the external evaluation commissions.



In addition to the adaptation and renewal of existing programmes, several new programmes were introduced during the 2000-2001 academic year. The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences now offers a four-year programme in biomedical sciences, which is attracting interest from students. In addition, there is a supplementary programme in pharmaceutical biotechnology and 4 new specializations: American Studies, Physical Education, Dental Prosthetics and Endodontology.

STRIVING CONTINUOUSLY FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

In its mission statement, Ghent University refers explicitly to permanent and structured care for quality in all aspects of the academic enterprise. That is why quality control was again a central campaign point among the policy goals for 2001. Various endeavours were made to realise this goal.

The University's central advisory council for education reflected on several current topics such as the Bologna reforms, the language of education and the optimisation of educational evaluations.

On the faculty level, the education quality cells (KCOs) and the education commissions worked on the structured quality control and monitoring of the various programmes. During the 2000-2001 academic year, numerous programs in the various faculties were adapted to the goals and the pre-set attainment targets.

The system of educational evaluation by students was further extended and automated; a good 450 teachers throughout the various faculties were evaluated in 2000-2001. The educational director discusses the evaluations with the teachers concerned; the evaluations are then added to the professors' personal files. In addition, efforts are being made to provide further didactic training for the teaching staff: during the past academic year, 83 young professors participated in a three-day didactic training course.

The University administration discussed and monitored the results of the external quality control, which was performed by visiting evaluation commissions. In 2000-2001, the visiting evaluators examined 4 programmes; thus far, 38 study programmes have been evaluated. All of them considered it a rich and useful source of feedback.

Quality education means providing a suitable study environment and adapted guidance for the students. The Student Advisory Centre served again in 2001 as the central hub for study advice and counselling. During the past academic year, 24,000 people found their way to the Advisory Centre for information and guidance. Various faculties and departments also provide tutorials, primarily oriented toward the first year students. In addition to offering counselling in academic areas, the University also provides various social services for the students (see below).



GHENT UNIVERSITY AS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNER

The open and unified European area is gradually becoming a reality for higher education. In this context, Ghent University considers it important to develop an extensive regional and international network that will further strengthen its position.



In 2001, the advisory council for education and the University's board of directors laid the foundation for an association with several other important institutions of higher education in the region. Extended co-operation had already existed with the Hogeschool Gent, Arteveldehogeschool and Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen, but the new association creates a structural basis for further intensified co-

operation. The four institutions together encompass more than 40,000 students and represent more than a quarter of Flemish higher education. The association aims to provide a complete, varied and transparent offering of basic and higher level programmes for Flemish students, and to create an expanded knowledge, developmental, research and educational centre, imbedded in a strong economic, cultural and social region.

On the international level, too, Ghent University maintains close co-operative ties. Closer European and international co-operation contribute to the quality of education and research, to the market value of graduates and to the cultural, economic and political development of the entire society. For 2001, Ghent University can look back on a successful international educational year.

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First, it was a successful year for the Socrates/Erasmus programme, which allows students to spend a few months in a European partner university. Via this programme, 442 students from Ghent spent time in another country, about ten more than last year. The main destinations for the students from Ghent were Spain (129), France (70), Italy (45) and Germany (45). Most students came from the faculties of Arts and Philosophy (128), Medicine and Health Sciences (65), and Agriculture and Applied Biological Sciences (46). Not only students from Ghent, but teachers also spent time in another country in the context of the Socrates programme; in 2000-2001, no fewer than 109 lecturers temporarily exchanged their teaching chairs in Ghent for a lectureship in another country.

The number of arriving students also rose considerably to equal, for the first time, the number of outward-bound students: 448 European exchange students chose for Ghent University in 2000-2001 (in comparison to 393 in 1999-2000). They studied mainly in the faculties of Agriculture and Applied Biological Sciences (156), Engineering (54), Law (49) and Arts and Philosophy (41). The majority of the students came from Spain (121), followed by Italy (50) and Poland (46).

The increasing mobility between Ghent and Central and Eastern European countries has become a clear tendency over the past years. Other endeavours, among them the various Tempus programmes, witness to these increasingly intensive relations. The Tempus/Tacis programme, among other things, strengthens ties with the former Soviet Union; the most striking project here is the CHAIN-E Project, the first large-scale and structured programme for student exchange with Russia. With the Tempus/Cards programme, started in 2000 and aimed at promoting political and social stability in five partner countries, Ghent University distinguished itself as a dynamic partner in the construction of a Trans-European network of 51 universities in areas such as the EU, Albania, Macedonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the same area, Ghent University is active in various smaller-scale efforts and projects involving educational co-operation.

In the area of the institutional, non-project related, co-operation, Ghent University currently maintains bilateral co-operative agreements with 60 universities around the world. New since 2001 is the co-operation with universities in San Simon (Bolivia), Cuenca (Ecuador), Beijing (China), Warsaw (Poland), Yaounde (Cameroon) and Blacksburg (Virginia, VS).

In addition to these programmes, Ghent University remains an active partner in other European educational programmes intended to encourage co-operation with non-EU countries, as well as in various new endeavours aimed at the further development of a solid international network; all of this is based on intense faculty involvement.

Of course, there is also the multi-lateral co-operation within the Santander Group, a co-operative effort that has come to unite 45 European universities.

Finally, Ghent University is an important partner in 'Open Universiteit', the Dutch-Flemish organisation for university-level distance education. 815 students enrolled in the Ghent branch of 'Open Universiteit' in 2001 for one of the 287 courses on offer. This means that Ghent University serves 40.53 % of all Flemish Open University students.



RESEARCH AT GHEENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001

DOCTORAL RESEARCH AS SCIENTIFIC PILLAR

The research council directs research policy at Ghent University. This council – reappointed in the fall of 2001 for a new 4-year term – translates Ghent University's Mission into a tangible policy plan that delineates the main policy lines for the medium-term. The research council applies international standards in selecting research endeavours to be financed by the Special Research Fund and encourages researchers to draw on external financing channels.



In 2001, special attention was given to the support and promotion of research activities. The research performed by doctoral students is one of the main pillars of scientific work at the University. Besides being a relevant source of research findings, a doctoral dissertation is also a profound and appreciated training for talented young scientists. Ghent University developed several remarkable projects in 2001 to stimulate graduates to undertake a doctoral project. The most important decision in this area was the quadrupling of the doctoral stipend, which meant that research groups henceforth receive 10,000 euros for each completed doctorate.

Every year various young scholars start on their doctoral studies with a grant from the Special Research Fund of Ghent University. In 2001, 50 new doctoral mandates and 21 mandate extensions were given grants from this Special Research Fund, in addition to the dozens of assistants who invest in a doctoral project. FWO-Flanders (Flemish Fund for Scientific and Scholarly Research) and IWT (Flemish Industrial Research Fund) provide another important part of the financing for doctoral research. In 2001 they approved, respectively, 54 and 69 applications from new candidate doctoral students for research groups at Ghent University.

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In 2001, the Universities of Ghent and Leuven completed the first phase of a large-scale examination of doctoral programmes in Flanders. They investigated the influx and outflow of junior scientific staff in the period 1984-1998. The findings show that, on average, 32 % of young scholars ultimately succeed in obtaining the title of doctor. Considerable differences can be noted between women and men (28 % as compared with 35 %) and between the various fields of study, in which human sciences score significantly lower than the other disciplines. Both universities will continue their investigation to map out the qualitative aspects of obtaining a doctorate.

The Special Research Fund of the university, FWO-Flanders and the IWT allocated post-doctoral mandates that provide promising researchers with further opportunities within the University after receiving their doctorate. In 2001, 41 scholars worked with a post-doctoral research mandate.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 2001, means were transferred for the first time from the Special Research Fund for the purpose of hiring professors who would be occupied mainly with research. In the meantime, the staff of professors has been expanded to include 3 such academic personnel members.

Ghent University also uses the Special Research Fund to stimulate scientific research projects. This takes place via so-called concerted research actions, large-scale projects whose outstanding scientific value can be objectively demonstrated. In 2001, 43 concerted actions were in progress at Ghent University and 7 new campaigns were approved.

In addition, 2001 witnessed the approval of financing from the Special Research Fund for 49 two to four-year research projects. In their turn, these projects are a source of doctoral research. In 2001, 36 doctoral grants and the appointment of 12 pre-doctoral scientific staff were approved for these projects.

Beside the support for doctoral research, FWO-Flanders and IWT also finance many other research projects. In 2001, FWO-Flanders approved 11 proposals for Scientific Research Communities in which Ghent University participates, beside 83 new group projects and the payment of 35 credits to researchers. Within the framework of the GBOU-impulse programme (Generic Basic Research at Universities), IWT granted approval to 4 projects for which Ghent University was the promoter and 6 in which it is a partner.

There was intensive co-operation on research projects nationally and internationally. In 2001, the Flemish Government issued a call to scientific institutions to establish permanent, scientific policy support cells. Of the 12 university keystones in Flanders, Ghent University participates in 8; Ghent researchers coordinate 3 of these: 'Sustainable Agriculture', 'Re-creational Flanders' and 'Entrepreneurship, Enterprises and Innovation'. The fifth call from the Innovation Promotion Program in Higher Education resulted in the participation in 6 new projects.

On the federal level, 22 projects from the 'Inter-university Attraction Poles' programme were allocated to Ghent University, and various research projects focussing on sustainable development, earth observation, ICT and micro-organic collections were approved in the DWTC programme.

Ghent University recognises the international importance of scientific and scholarly research and for this reason it wishes to promote international co-operation in these endeavours. In 2001, the Special Research Fund granted approval for visits from 6 researchers from South Africa, Australia, India, the United States and Israel. In addition, various research groups participated in the Fifth European Union Framework Programme that was started in 1998. At the end of 2001, more than 100 research contracts were made within this Fifth Framework Programme.





After a long period of restoration and renovation, the Rommelaere infrastructure was officially opened on 13 September 2001

A number international research programmes were also set up by Ghent University outside the EU in 2001. 19 new projects are situated within the bilateral scientific and technical collaboration between Flanders and those countries with most-favoured-nation status (Chile, China, Hungary, Poland, Romania and South Africa).

In 2001, the university administration gave particular attention to the importance of university development co-operation. Ghent University actively participated in several co-operation projects financed by national (VLIR [Flemish Inter-University Council], DGIS [General Directorate for International Co-operation], BTC [Belgian Technical Co-operation]) and international organisations (Unesco, UNU, ...). Ghent University attracted 33 % of the VLIR programmes for development co-operation, including various of the VLIR's own endeavours – here Ghent University coordinates 4 projects – and by means of large inter-university co-operation programmes with institutions in Zambia, Vietnam and Ecuador. To stimulate such endeavours, the board of directors of Ghent University decided in 2001 that the development co-operation activities would, from now on, be explicitly included in the professors' job description and would be an element in evaluations and career advancement. In addition, various projects were developed to support students and young scholars from third world countries.



RESEARCH OUTPUT AND VALORISATION

The results of the policy to stimulate research are rendered in various areas. In 2001, Ghent University awarded 211 doctorates, a figure that increases annually. The representation of scholars and scientists from Ghent University in internationally recognised periodicals collected in the Web of Science is also increasing.

The promotion and support given to the valorisation of research findings is one of the priorities in the University's policy. The technology transfer unit was further expanded for this purpose. The goals of the valorisation efforts include better management of intellectual property, the promotion of new technologies in industry and the stimulation of spin-off companies and incubation projects.

In 2001, the University managed 101 patent files, 44 of which it owned completely. The University did introduce a more stringent patent policy, intended to encourage more commercially interesting files. The valorisation of this intellectual property took place via various channels. Negotiations to obtain a licence or transfer agreement were begun for 16 patent files; by the end of 2001, Ghent University closed 14 licence agreements with external partners.

Last year, Ghent University launched 2 new spin-off companies: Fytolab cvba and Toxi-Test nv both distinguish themselves within the growing sector of food safety and control. Indeed, the University took various measures to stimulate the establishment of spin-offs in the future: an improved structural co-operation with the Ghent University Incubation and Innovation Centre, a more active co-operation with the nv Baekeland Fund (the venture capital fund of Ghent University) and the development of a network of experts in company law, licence agreements, etc.

2001 also witnessed preparations for a renewed valorisation code and for an extended awareness campaign to inform scientific staff at Ghent University about the commercial potential of their research findings.

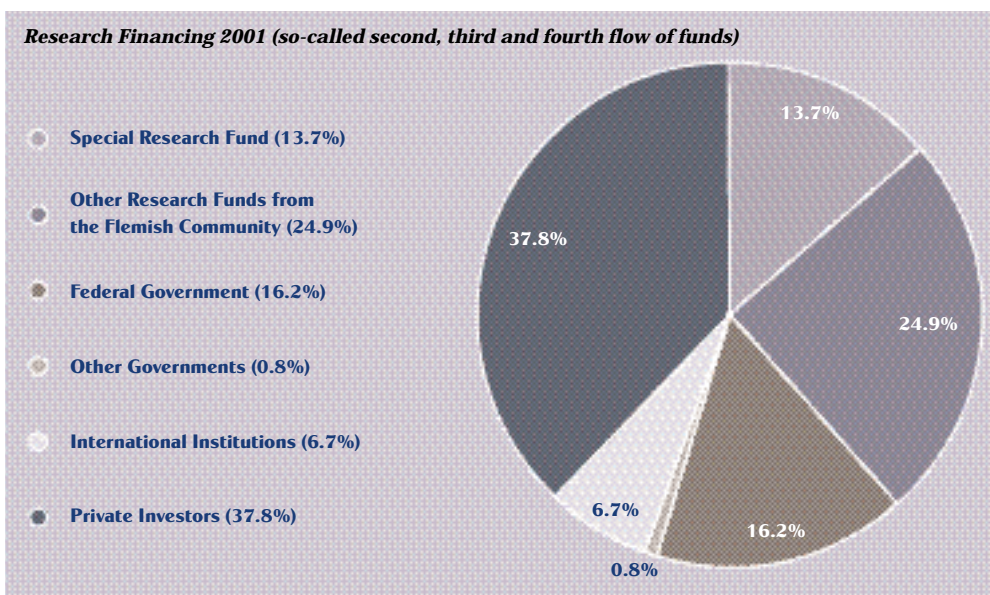
The Ardoyen Science Park of Ghent University continued to grow. In 2001, 8 high-technology companies were situated there, and plans were approved for the construction of various new buildings. In addition, the University's administration approved the proposal from the City of Ghent to expand the Science Park in the future into the area between Don Bosco school and Rijvisschestraat. With a view to expanding available industrial areas further – and to strengthen its position in the Province of West Flanders – Ghent University signed, in the summer of 2001, an agreement in principle on the construction of a new Greenbridge Science Park in the Plassendale Industrial Zone near Ostend.



PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURES A QUARTER HIGHER

The results of the above-mentioned endeavours to valorise scientific research grow more clearly visible each year. In 2001, Ghent University spent more than 50.6 million euros on private sector research and service activities, a quarter more than the previous year and more than double when compared with 5 years ago.

This means that for the first time private sector expenditures have come to equal expenditures by the Flemish Community Government. In addition to expenditures for the Special Research Fund (18.3 million euros), the Flemish Community Government also spent 33.3 million euros on research funds via other channels (12 million of which via FWO-Flanders). Expenditures for the Federal government reached a total of 21.6 million euros. Research expenditures for international entities reached 8.9 million euros in 2001. The total expenditures specifically intended for research (the so-called second, third and fourth flow of funds) rose in 2001 by 11 % to 133.9 million euros. The amounts mentioned above also include the funds managed by VIB (Flemish Institute of Biotechnology) and IMEC (Micro-Electronics Research Centre).



GENERAL SOCIAL SERVICE

In addition to co-operation in research with national and international governmental and private sector partners, members of the academic staff also contribute their expertise to other endeavours that benefit the community.

Many professors and researchers are active members of regional, national and international commissions and task forces, in particular those advising governments and policymakers. Various experts of Ghent University work as scientific advisors in ministerial cabinets or hold a position in international political, socio-economic and cultural organisations.

Every day the audiovisual and print mass media call upon the scientific knowledge of Ghent University. The daily monitoring of Flemish newspapers and periodicals shows that Ghent University and its scientists were mentioned in the press approximately 2,650 times in 2001. No tally was kept of references to Ghent University's scholars in the audiovisual media, yet here again their continual presence as experts in news, commentary and popular scientific radio and television broadcasts is noticeable. The central administration services systematically support this visibility via press conferences, press releases, the magazine 'Gent Universiteit',...



In 2001, these endeavours were optimised in several ways, including the development of a network of faculty communication officers and a further refinement and automation of the information supply. Special attention went to the foreign media, including international news databases (with AlphaGalileo.com as the most important international news site).

Also in 2001, Ghent University was a fixed feature in the programme of congresses, symposia, workshops, lectures, etc. The University organised some sixty congresses and colloquia during 2001. The University's researchers were present at a multiplicity of these, nationally and internationally. The faculties and central administration organised numerous lectures for the benefit of a broad public of interested parties.



STAFF AT GHEENT UNIVERSITY IN 2001

TOTAL NUMBERS OF STAFF EMPLOYED AND PERSONNEL COSTS

At the end of 2001, Ghent University employed 4,482 people, equivalent to 3,889.2 full-time positions. Two-thirds of these employees were financed by the basic subsidies provided by the Flemish Community – the so-called direct government funding – the rest of the personnel were financed by other sources of income. In total, there were 2,485 men and 1,997 women. Compared with 2000, the total number of personnel had increased by about one hundred.

The breakdown by category of the staff (in physical persons) is represented in the following table:

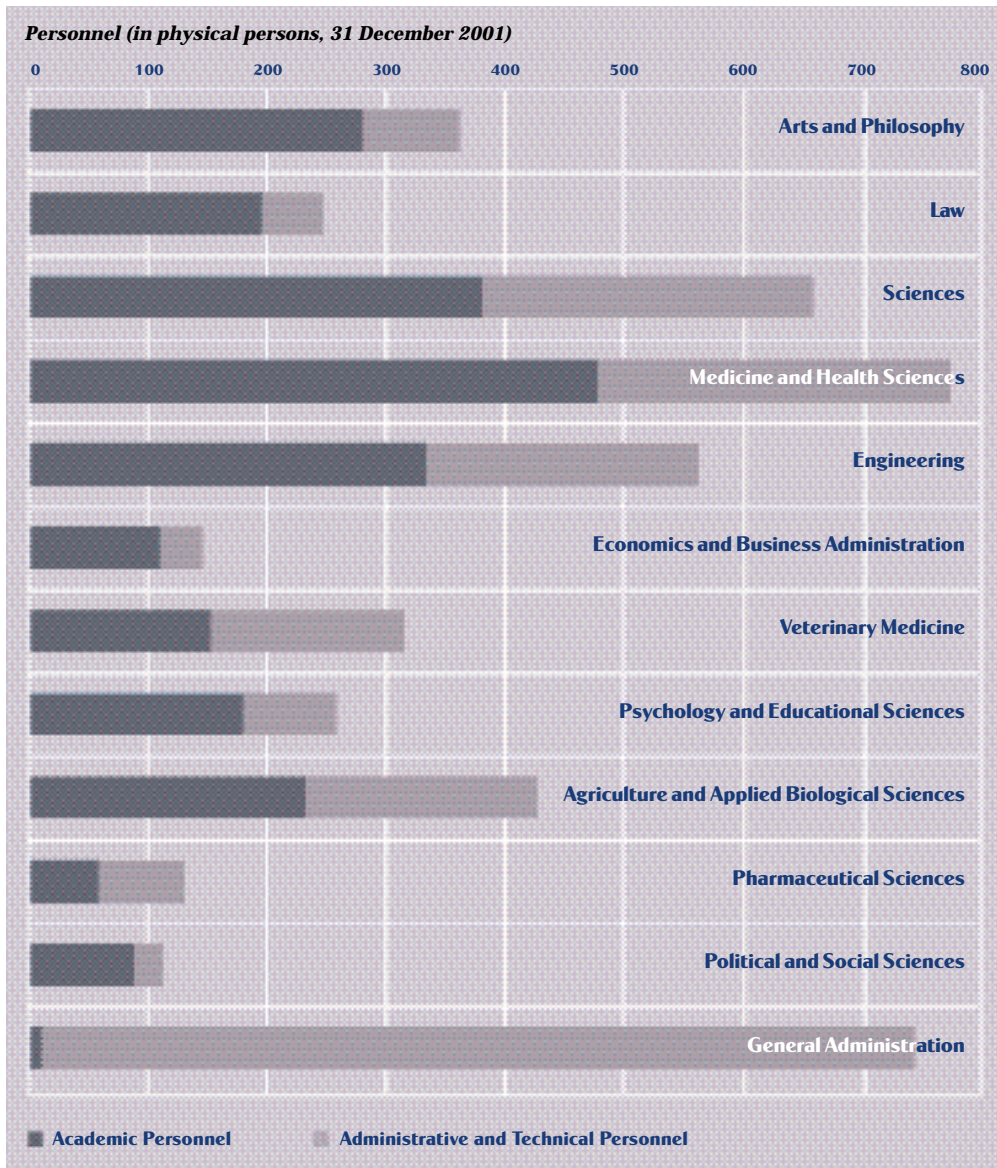
	Direct Government Funding	Other income sources	Total
Tenured Academic Staff	841	0	841
Assisting Academic Staff	809	0	809
Other Scientific Staff	4	700	704
Administrative and Technical Staff	1,371	757	2,128
Total	3,025	1,457	4,482

This table only includes staff members in the strict sense of the word. In addition, there were 642 other researchers from the FWO, the VIB and IMEC, 445 doctoral grant recipients and 43 other researchers employed at Ghent University. This group of externally financed researchers, a total of 1,140 employees, grew by a fifth in comparison with 2000.

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The total personnel costs amounted to 182.7 million euros; this amount represents 53.7 % of the total expenditures for 2001, an exceptionally low percentage that can be explained by the high investment in real estate in 2001 (see below). 117.8 million euros of the personnel costs were covered by the direct government funding from the Flemish Community, the remaining costs were paid with money from the research funds, scientific services, student social facilities and the patrimony.



DYNAMIC PERSONNEL POLICY

Ghent University's mission statement notes that the University is attentive to creating a stimulating environment with the fullest scope of opportunities for personnel members to develop their potential.

An element that marked personnel policy for professors in 2001 was the introduction of biannual evaluations. The faculties carry out the procedure, which is based on previously set individual task descriptions, goals and evaluation indicators. In addition, a new promotion policy for tenured academic personnel was developed in 2001, with as most striking element the division of these personnel members into two sub-categories. Within the sub-categories, a functional career path has been developed that allows for promotion on the basis of seniority and favourable evaluation, without prejudice to the opportunities of a quickened career within the sub-category. Promotion between the sub-categories is based on competition for a restricted number of positions. In 2001, 206 academic personnel members were promoted according to the new career path model based on the new evaluation procedure.



As for the administrative and technical personnel, the main focus in 2001 was on continuing the development of a new career policy based on job classification. Thus far, job evaluation criteria were established within this project and job evaluation commissions were appointed. These commissions have been meeting since the second half of 2001, their results were reported in 2002 and provide a basis for organising all administrative and technical jobs according to job classes linked to category levels and salary scales. This offers administrative and technical staff members a clearer salary and career perspective.



On 25 September 2001 the Flemish Minister of Education, Marleen Vanderpoorten officially opened the new Bertha De Vriese residence hall



SOCIAL FACILITIES IN 2001

The student social facilities are intended to promote the democratisation of university education and to give each student the opportunity to get a university education, irrespective of his or her financial or family circumstances.

HOUSING

Ghent University's housing policy optimises both the internal supply of rooms (in university residence halls) and the external supply of rooms (private housing market).

During the 2000-2001 academic year, Ghent University had five residence halls with a total capacity of 1,520 furnished rooms and one residence hall with 103 furnished flats. The average rent in 2001 was 119 euros per month for a room and 224 euros per month for a flat.

In 2001, further investments were made in renovating the residence halls, enhancing security policy within them and increasing the number of units available. This led to the official opening of the new Bertha De Vriese residence hall, located at De Sterre, at the end of the summer. This residence hall contains 191 modern, furnished studio flats for students, twenty of which are adapted to the specific needs of disabled students. In addition, 200 older rooms were renovated.

Ghent University also provides advice and acts as intermediary for the renting of student rooms on the private market. In co-operation with the City of Ghent and other institutions of higher education, the University has compiled an address list of 5,725 rooms and 2,312 studio flats. Striking was the reduction of the average price for housing on the private market; in 2001, students paid approximately 177 euros per month for a room and 257 euros per month for a bed-sitter (resp. 181 and 266 euros in 2000).

DINING FACILITIES

Ghent University offers healthy, quality meals to its students and personnel at stable, socially acceptable prices. The students enjoy special reduced rates in the university restaurants that are below the actual cost price of the meals. This dining subsidy applies to all students, regardless of their financial means.

In 2001, Ghent University started decentralising the production and distribution of meals. By means of a dynamic purchasing policy, the various components of the meals were purchased ready-to-cook from carefully screened vendors. This conversion required several adjustments in the restaurants. The greatest changes were made to the Astrid restaurant, which was completely renovated. The seating capacity in the restaurant of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Merelbeke was expanded by a further 84 seats, while plans were made to set up or expand catering facilities at other sites.

In 2001, the restaurants and cafeterias of Ghent University had a seating capacity of 3,233 places. The price of the basic meals in the restaurants maintained a stable average of 2.64 euros. A total of 669,699 meals were served in 1999, a decrease by 7 % compared with 2000. A trend that has been visible for several years is the growth in the supply and consumption of bun sandwiches; the turnover in this segment rose again in 2001 by more than 5 %.

SOCIAL SERVICES

As for social service, in 2001 Ghent University paid advances on their Flemish Community study grants to 117 students. The University also granted 37 student loans, provided special financial aid to 19 students and again paid nearly 10,000 euros to the non-profit organisation 'Assisting Students with a Handicap'.

Ghent University attempted to find student jobs for 1,078 students in 2001. More than 950 of them are students at Ghent University; the rest is the result of co-operation with various other institutions of higher education. Ghent University mediated for a total of 31,265 hours of work. A total of 62,906 hours of work in shorter assignments (less than 3 months) was distributed by the temporary employment agency with which the University has worked since 1 April 1999. Nearly half of the hours involved work in the student facilities sector (university restaurants, residence halls, etc.).



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

In 2001, a total of 89,242 euros was distributed over the various councils and student initiatives (student newspaper, student radio, etc.). The councils, in turn, distribute the subsidies to the various recognised student clubs and associations that they coordinate. In addition, the University administration approved an additional budget of 250,000 euros in the estimate, to be spent on special projects recommended by the students. For this, the students are working on several projects in the area of developmental co-operation, cultural participation, student involvement and information.



The renovated swimming pool in the university sports centre opened its doors on 8 February 2001.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2001

The permanent increase in the student and personnel population required investments in the areas of infrastructure and support. In 2001, 58.1 million euros of the University's means were allocated to investments, a good 25 million euros more than the previous year. Supplemented with extra expenditures for personnel, this means – for the first time in years – that the University's expenditures (a good 340 million euros) exceeded its income (310 million euros).

This budget deficit was foreseen in the so-called 'financial capacity model', which the University administration drafted in 2000 and in which the surpluses produced in previous years are now systematically used to finance major real estate investments.

Summary Overview of the Profit and Loss Account for 2001 (in thousands of euros)

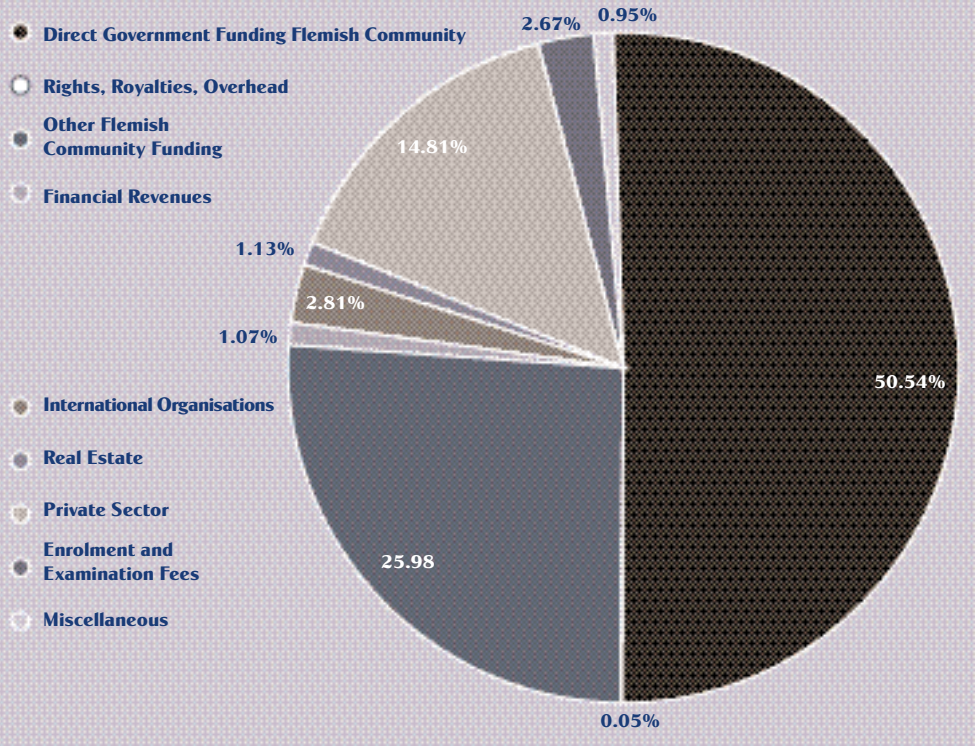
	2001	2000
Revenue for the Financial Year		
Direct Government Funding	237,608	224,650
Operational Funding	156,942	148,741
Real Estate Investments	6,341	6,316
Social Facilities	5,015	4,892
Special Research Fund	25,532	19,626
Other Research Funds	43,643	44,863
Miscellaneous	134	212
International Organisations	8,733	10,218
Private Sector	45,992	42,379
Rights, Royalties, Overhead	150	2,290
Enrolment and Examination	8,289	8,146
Financial Revenues	3,326	4,592
Real Estate	3,506	2,987
Miscellaneous	2,940	2,941
Total	310,545	298,203

Expenditures for the Financial Year

Personnel	182.727	171.027
Operations	99.775	78.282
Equipment	58.086	32.119
Total	340.588	281.429

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Revenue 2001



Expenditures 2001 - Economical approach

