



Commentary on Towards Next Generation Smart Specialisation

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S3 for SDGs e-talks
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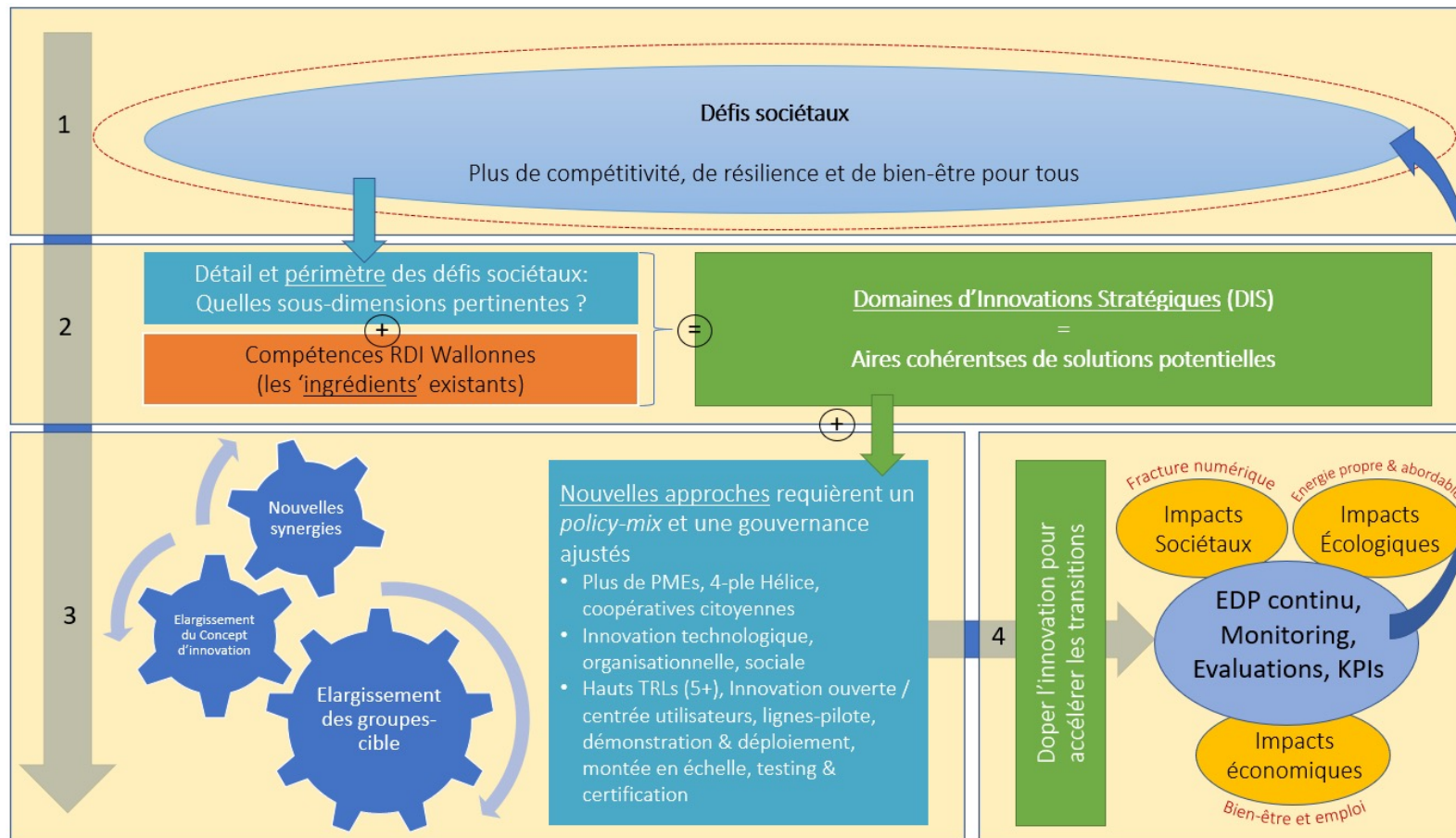
Overall observations

- Important contribution to re-framing S3 (techno-economic dominated) in a triple transition perspective (environmental-social-economic).
- The study provides a good basis for specialists in policy circles to adopt the key concepts in the policy cycle.
- However, for non-specialists there is a need to further operationalise the conclusions and guidance.
- The self-assessment framework is a useful tool that could be applied to help Member States and regions carry out a “sustainability check” on their new S3 – see next slides.

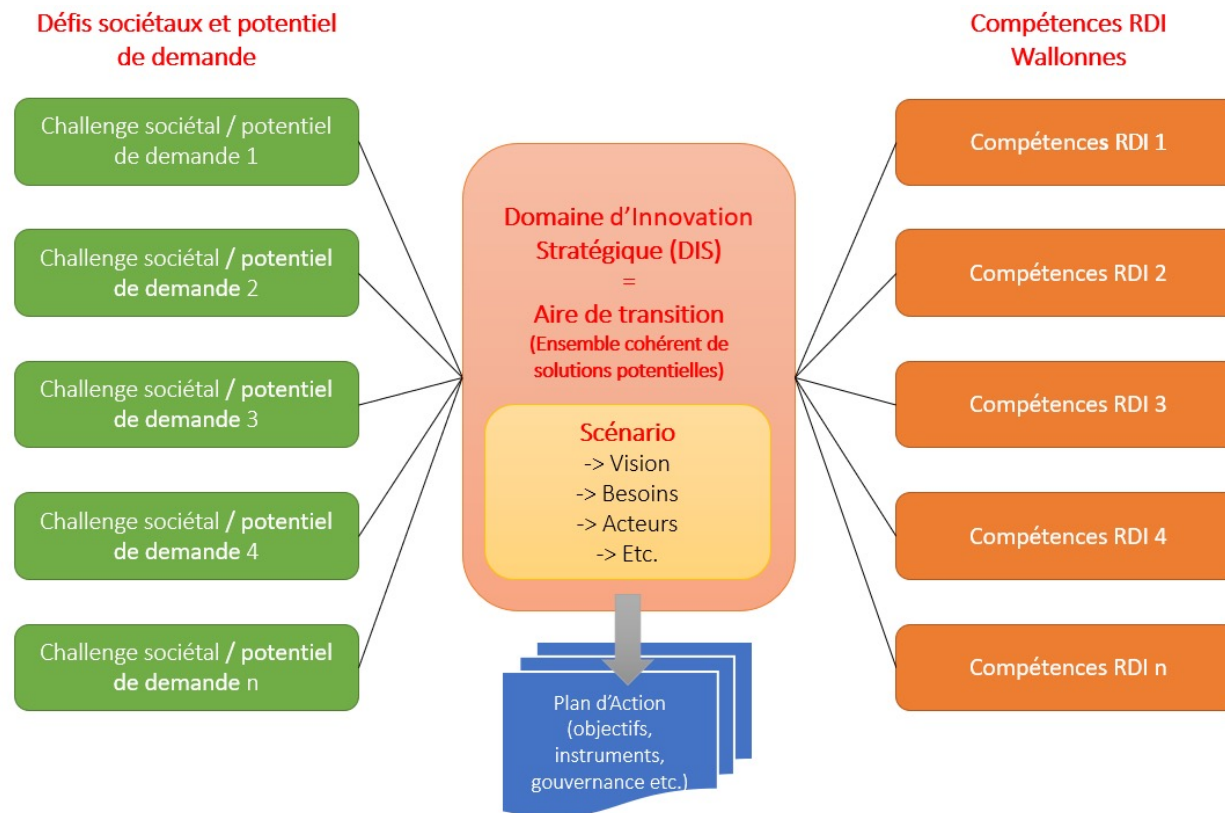
Applying the framework to a case – Wallonia (Belgium)

Self-assessment framework	Wallonia case 2021-2027
Governance	S3 process in 2020 was highly inclusive – mobilised “non-usual” suspects including environmental NGOs, third-sector stakeholders (poverty network, etc.) in priority setting. S3 process has led to strengthening of governance structure but still need to reinforce “cross-departmental” steering
Diagnosis	Diagnosis began from (global) societal challenges facing Wallonia and the extent to which they were more or less severe – this included taking account of SDG (Wallonia has a tracking framework for SDG progress)
Vision	+ The five strategic innovation areas (SIA) are selected for their potential to contribute to societal challenges by mobilising the core strengths of the regional R&I system - Non-explicit integration of transition pathways but linked to other plans such as Circular Economy and digital (transition) strategy
Priorities	Five SIA are further developed via a partnership (community of stakeholders) based roadmap process that defined the vision and ambitions, the strategic topics (‘aires stratégiques’) and the intervention logic (principal resources and financial means to mobilise, including European)
Policy roadmap	Adopting a mission-driven approach, the implementation of the S3 is to be structured via a limited number of strategic innovation initiatives that will respond to one or more of the SIA strategic topics
Monitoring, evaluation & policy learning	Work in progress - SIA roadmap and SII concept notes define ambitions and performance indicators that will enable to track progress towards S3 objectives Challenge may be to “close the circle” and link outcomes to societal challenges

The S3 analysis framework for Wallonia (2020)



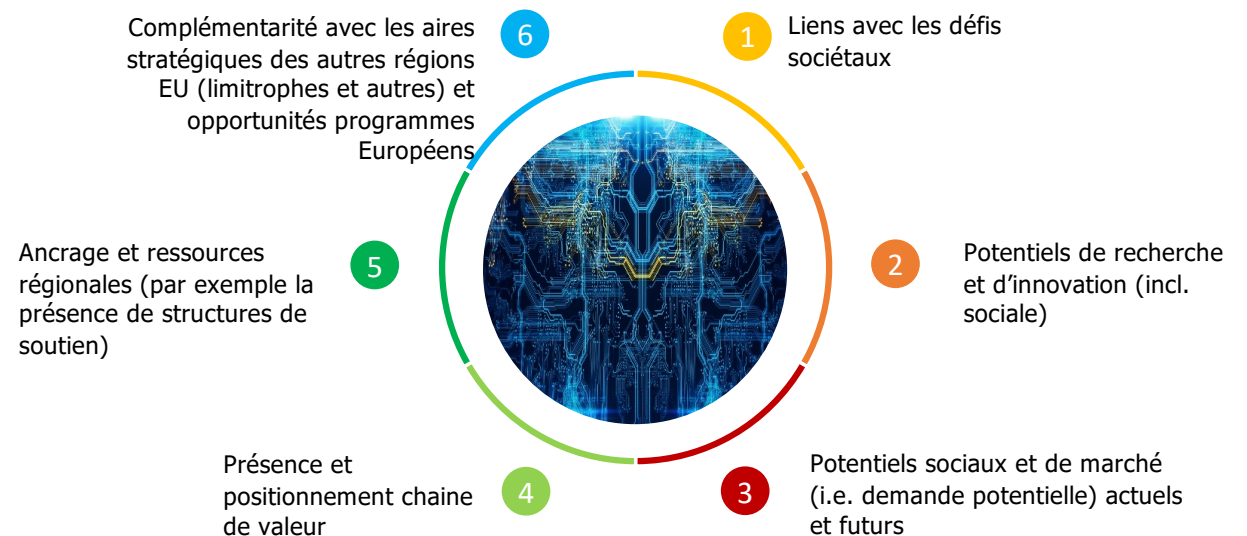
Matching societal challenges and demand for solutions with RDI competence to select priorities



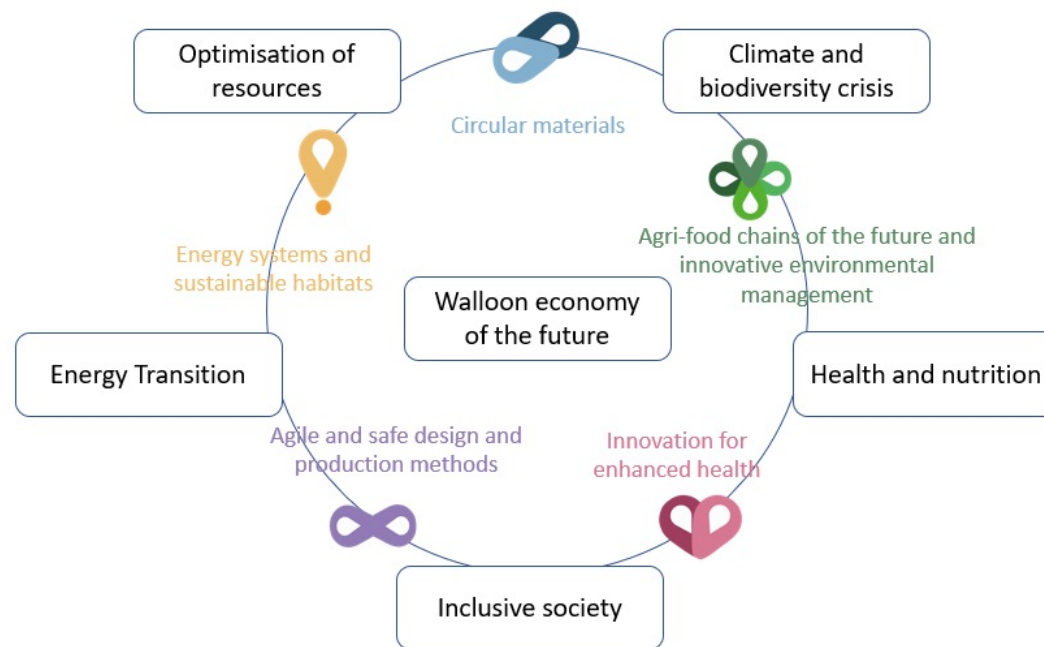
6 criteria for a strategic innovation area (domaine d'innovation stratégique)

"A SIA is a coherent and ambitious set of innovative activities, of regional scope, with a strong economic impact and societal contribution, capitalising on a combination of Walloon resources and distinctive strengths and human-centric.

A SIA contributes both to strengthening the economy and employment, and to responding to societal challenges. It positions Wallonia as an international leader."



Wallonia Smart Specialisation priorities 2021-2027 – 5 SIA responding to six societal challenges



From priorities to implementation – strategic innovation initiatives – Walloon case



SII are defined as a coherent set of activities and projects with a sufficient critical mass bringing together the available forces and relevant actors in response to one or more ambitions of one or more SIA.

More information

- Material on S3 in Wallonia (in French) :
<https://economie.wallonie.be/content/smart-specialisation>
- Wallonia S3 LinkedIn Group :
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13874715/>