



Wallonie
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SPW

**Assessment of Smart Specialisation
Strategies implementation and impact**
Preparatory work from Wallonia

12 June 2020

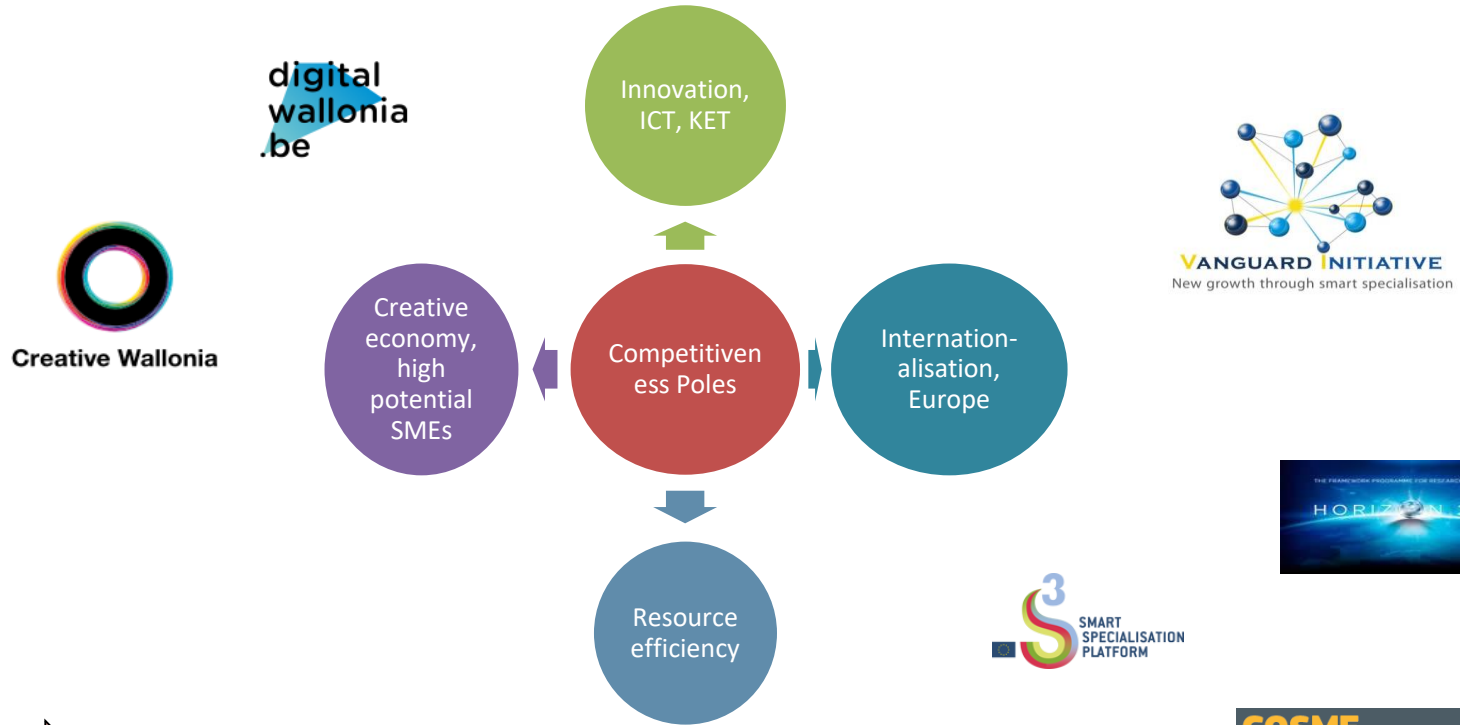
Florence Hennart – florence.hennart@spw.Wallonie.be

GENERAL APPROACH FOR WALLOON S3 2014-2020

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) in Wallonia : a continuous process – Incremental approach



Consolidation and deepening of our Strategy



New innovative value chains



EVALUATION ELEMENTS

2018-2019 – Pilot project on industrial transition

- Peer learning on industrial transition
- Self-assessment of our S3 in the light of the new enabling conditionalities criterias

Self-assessment of our S3 - Overview

13/11/2020

7

Up-to-date analysis of bottlenecks for innovation diffusion	✓ various data, analysis and evaluations available
Existence of competent regional institution or body, responsible for the management of S3	✗ No central institution in charge of managing S3. Political piloting
Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy	Existing tools but no specific to S3
Effective functioning of entrepreneurial discovery process	✗ No continuous EDP – approach centred of Clusters
Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems	Numerous reforms ongoing, to be pursued and integrated in the S3 2.0
Actions to manage industrial transition	Industrial transition challenges are part of our S3 – to be renewed in line with new priorities of the Government. Skills dimension to better integrate.
Measures for international collaboration	This dimension is already present in our S3, but implementation to improve

Data and analysis

- Full set of regional innovation data available at : <https://innovationdata.be/>
- The Economic and Social Council analysis every 2 years the [scientific and innovation policy](#) of the region with an "International Benchmark" component.
- A complete review of the [regional innovation ecosystem](#) was performed in 2012 by the OECD – main conclusions still valid
- Economic analysis : https://www.iweps.be/tag/economie-regionale/?post_type=publication

Governance

- Main piloting at political level – no administrative or specific body in charge of implementation
- Many actors are involved in the implementation of the S3 but there is little organized coordination
- Political changes had impacts on the continuity in the implementation of the smart specialization strategy and more broadly on the regional development strategy and monitoring tools
- Clusters at the core of the approach but with no additional dedicated role in relation to S3

Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation framework was in place for the broader regional development strategy (dedicated monitoring body and tools, evaluation process) – but changed by the new Government
- Monitoring and evaluation tools in place for several policy instruments which are part of the S3
- But no specific tools to monitor and evaluate the S3 as such

EDP

- The strategy was initially designed by building on pre-existing policies and processes, and notably in the framework of our Competitive Poles policy based on a triple helix approach
 - The 4 axis defined for deepening our S3 (see above) were aimed at activating more developed collaborative approaches, new innovation dynamics, entry of new actors, improving the policy mix...and thus nurturing the EDP
- ⇒ We have observed some interesting developments, but for this approach to succeed a strong governance structure would have been needed.

Some conclusions

- Lack of ownership
- The S3 process has helped in developing an overarching approach to RDI and industrial policies but process and implementation to improve
- Governance aspects important – some leadership is needed
- Lack of long term vision and clear priorities
- No fundamental changes in the system induced
- Still lagging behind in terms of economic impacts – not enough market and result orientation



NEXT STEPS – REDISIGNING OUR S3

Preparation of the next phase – S3 2.0

- On the basis of
 - the evaluation of our current S3 in the light of the new conditionality,
 - taking into account new challenges
 - and learnings from the pilot project on industrial transition
- Decision to start a process to renew our S3 with:
 - EDP process and involvement of quadruple helix
 - Definition of new strategic innovation priorities (decoupled from pure clusters priorities)
 - Proper governance structure, monitoring and evaluation tools
- Dedicated work group put in place in July 2019 (administrations, innovation and digital agencies, cabinet)

Steps

13/11/2020

15

Workshop S3/EDP

13 Dec.2019

- Clarification of concepts and expectations from the Commission – key stakeholders

Workshop on the assesment of the current S3

14 Feb. 2020

- Involvement of stakeholders (around 80)
- Co-construction

EDP

- External support – contract ongoing
- Co-construction of the S3 with stakeholders (quadruple helix) – Innovation camp in July 2020
- Building on our knowledge base

Steps

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16

Definition of strategic Innovation areas by

- RDI priorities
- Value chains, Clusters and industrial potential
- Societal and prospective vision – New Government priorities (Transition)
- Specific resources of the territory
- International dimension

Definition of the Policy Mix

- Building on several reforms and reflexions ongoing (SME and innovation supports, digital agenda, circular economy,...)
- ERDF, regional policies, synergies with EU funding,...
- Collaborations between stakeholders
- Articulation between thematic and horizontal tools

Definition of the governance

- Governance bodies
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Modalities for continuous EDP

Approval by the end of 2020 / Q1 2021

First take aways

- Launch of the process on a collaborative basis – factor of trust
- Strong demand from the stakeholders to be involved and to participate
- Starting the process from Societal challenges and needs should help in opening new perspectives, new approaches, collaborations and go beyond the silos
- We see a strong potential to adress transition issues, based on demand and market perspectives
- Moving from input indicators to results and impacts (socio-economic + related to challenges)

First take aways (2)

- But it will ask a transformation process:
 - New governance arrangements
 - New forms of collaboration
 - New policy tools and mixes
 - Capacity building
 - Consensus building
- Need to articulate with EU processes relevant with transformation priorities...but the regional dimension is not always considered

To be continued...work ongoing

Impact of COVID crisis on S3 – 1st reflections

- Crisis urges us to have smart spending approaches : S3 process and priority setting more relevant than ever – Result and impact orientation needed.
- Could reinforce the focus on some thematic priorities
- The crisis has generated a good illustration of what we want to achieve with a challenge- based approach:
 - Mobilisation of the ecosystem to find innovative solutions
 - New forms of collaboration
 - Sense of urgency, agility and speed
 - Quick reorientation of industrial and knowledge capacities

Thanks for your attention

Smart specialisation Strategy

florence.hennart@spw.wallonie.be

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