

Multi-level governance for Smart Specialisation Flanders/ West-Flanders



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Bernard De Potter
Ellen Cardoen

WEST FLANDERS IN THE ENTREPRENEURIAL HEART OF EUROPE

Located in the logistics heart of Europe and as Belgium's coastal region, West Flanders is an optimal breeding ground for business.

An extensive, congestion-free and versatile network of motorways, railways and waterways provides the local industries and distribution direct and flexible access to the most important European consumption and production centres.



Part I

RIS 3 FLANDERS

Smart Specialisation in Flanders (Strategic note of 2017)

- Flemish Innovation landscape - evolution:
 - Focussing government support to acquire **critical mass**, resulted in the creation of **Strategic Research Centres**.
 - **Bottom up** approach (clusters): Clusters play an important role in a globalised world to support competitiveness, durable growth, innovation and job creation. Active collaboration between companies and with other actors such as knowledge centres is essential to establish such clusters.

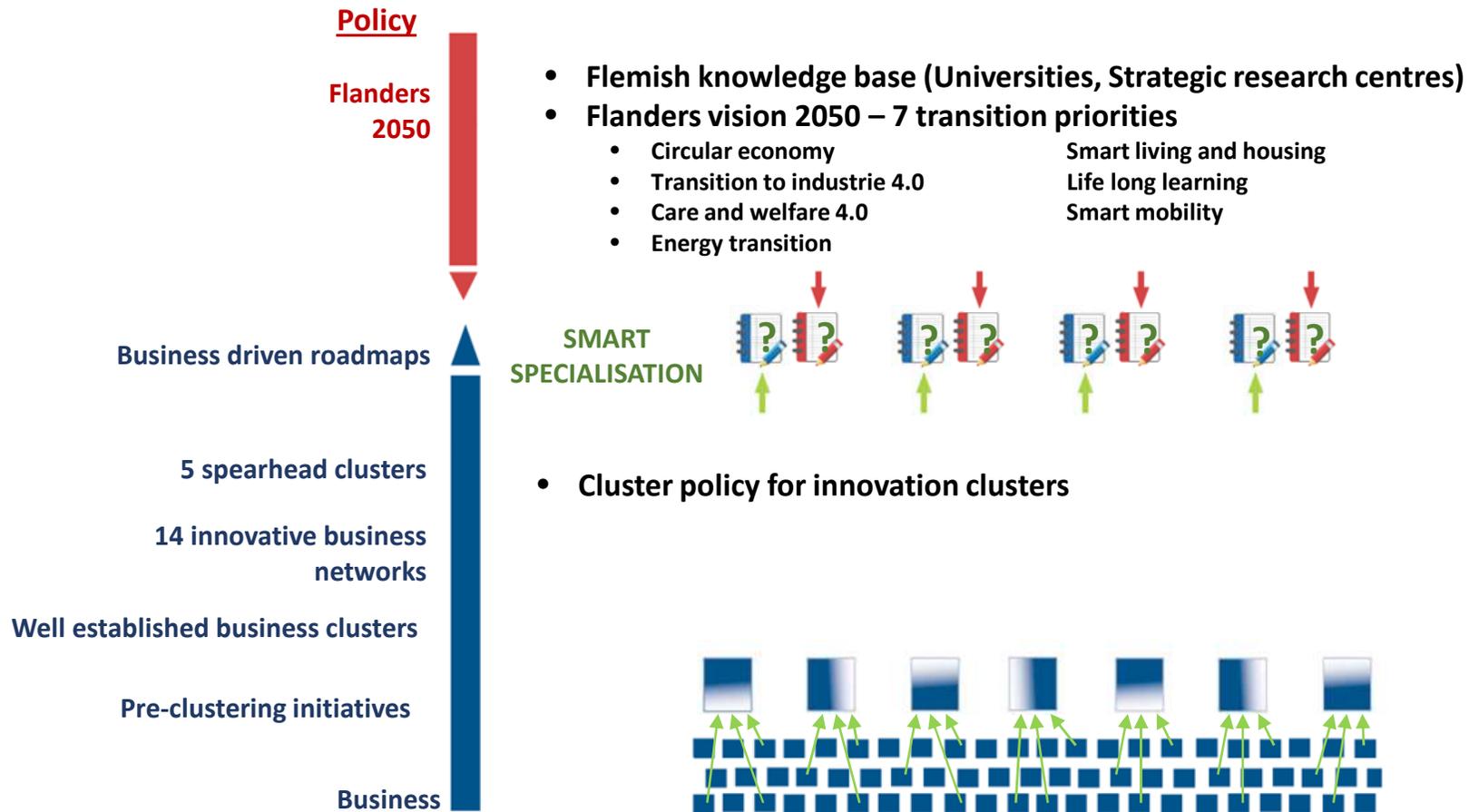
Strategic Research Centres (4)

- Triple helix collaborations;
 - Involved in tech transfer and active interaction with industry;
1. **IMEC:** nano-electronics and broadband technology;
 2. **VITO:** sustainable development and cleantech
 3. **VIB:** Flemish Institute in Biotechnology – life science
 4. **Flanders' Make:** mechatronics, product development methods and advanced manufacturing technologies

Cluster policy: 6 spearhaed clusters

 <p>AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN CATALISTI Samen sterk voor groei</p>	Catalisti – cluster for sustainable chemistry
 <p>AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN SIM Samen sterk voor groei</p>	SIM – Materials innovation
 <p>AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN Samen sterk voor groei</p>	VIL – Smart Logistics
 <p>AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN flux50 Samen sterk voor groei</p>	Flux 50 – Smart Energy Region
 <p>AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN FF FLANDERS' FOOD Samen sterk voor groei</p>	Flanders' Food – cluster for agrofood
!! NEW 2018 !!	Blue Growth – cluster for blue economy

2018 update for Smart Specialisation Strategy for Flanders



Smart Specialisation – a dynamic fact

- **Strategic accents in funding:** dissemination of generic technologies, diversification, transition, emphasis on breakthrough innovations;
- **Alignment with international collaboration:** integration of the Flemish funding programmes in different international networks (Eureka, JTI's, ERA-Net, ERDF, INTERREG, H2020,...)
- **Participation in initiatives that stimulate interregional collaboration in smart specialisation** (f.e. Vanguard Initiative of 2013);
- **Adjustment to the instruments to achieve an optimal policy mix:** test and demonstration activities (TRL 6-8), support in the later stages of innovation

Part II

EDRF FLANDERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

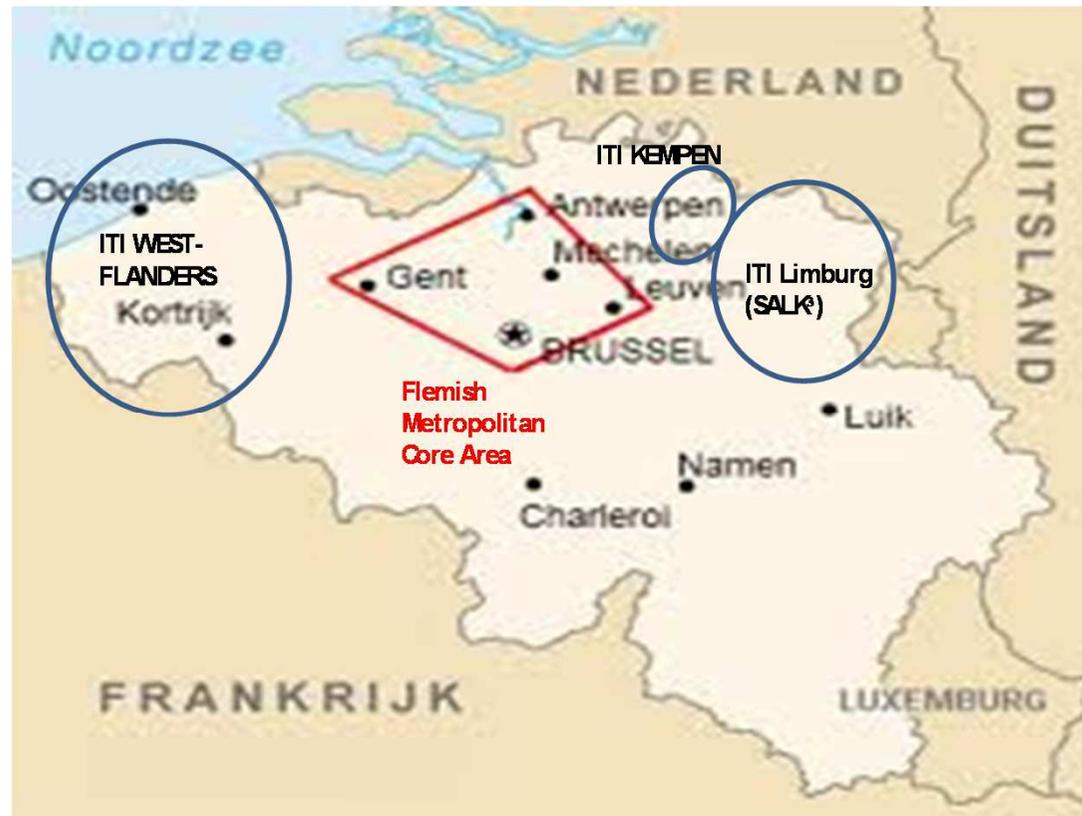
Place based approach in domestic ERDF programme

1. Programme strategy and funds allocation based on SWOT and territorial analysis of Flanders

2. Separate priority axis and budget line for major Flemish cities Gent + Antwerp.

3. Integrated territorial reconversion strategy for 3 specific subregions combining different sources of EU funding

- ITI Limburg (SALK³)
- ITI West-Vlaanderen
- ITI Kempen



ERDF & ITI's:

regional interpretation of RIS3

- To strengthen territorial cohesion, ESF and ERDF provide for the instrument 'Integrated Regional Investments' (ITI).
- This instrument allows the development of a specific, integrated strategy that takes into account the specific socio-economic and territorial characteristics of the area.
- These regional strategies also have a triple helix approach;
- It can be considered as the synergy between the Flemish strategy and the regional strategies.
- In Flanders, 3 ITI's were implemented:
 - ITI Kempen (Dynak) – Dynamic Action Plan Kempen)
 - ITI Limburg (SALK – Strategic Action Plan for Limburg)
 - ITI West-Flanders (West-Deal)

ERDF Flanders 2014-2020

Priorities, ITI's and budget

Priority	ITI Limburg	ITI West-Flanders	ITI Kempen	Flanders	Total
1. Research, development & innovation	33,32	12,24	3,81	35,42	84,80
2. Entrepreneurship	9,03	5,49	1,91	13,45	29,87
3. Transition to low-carbon economy	1,00	3,24	3,81	28,99	37,05
4. urban development (Antwerp, Ghent)				16,93	16,93
5. Technical Assistance				6,94	6,94
Total:	43,35	20,97	9,53	101,73	173,56

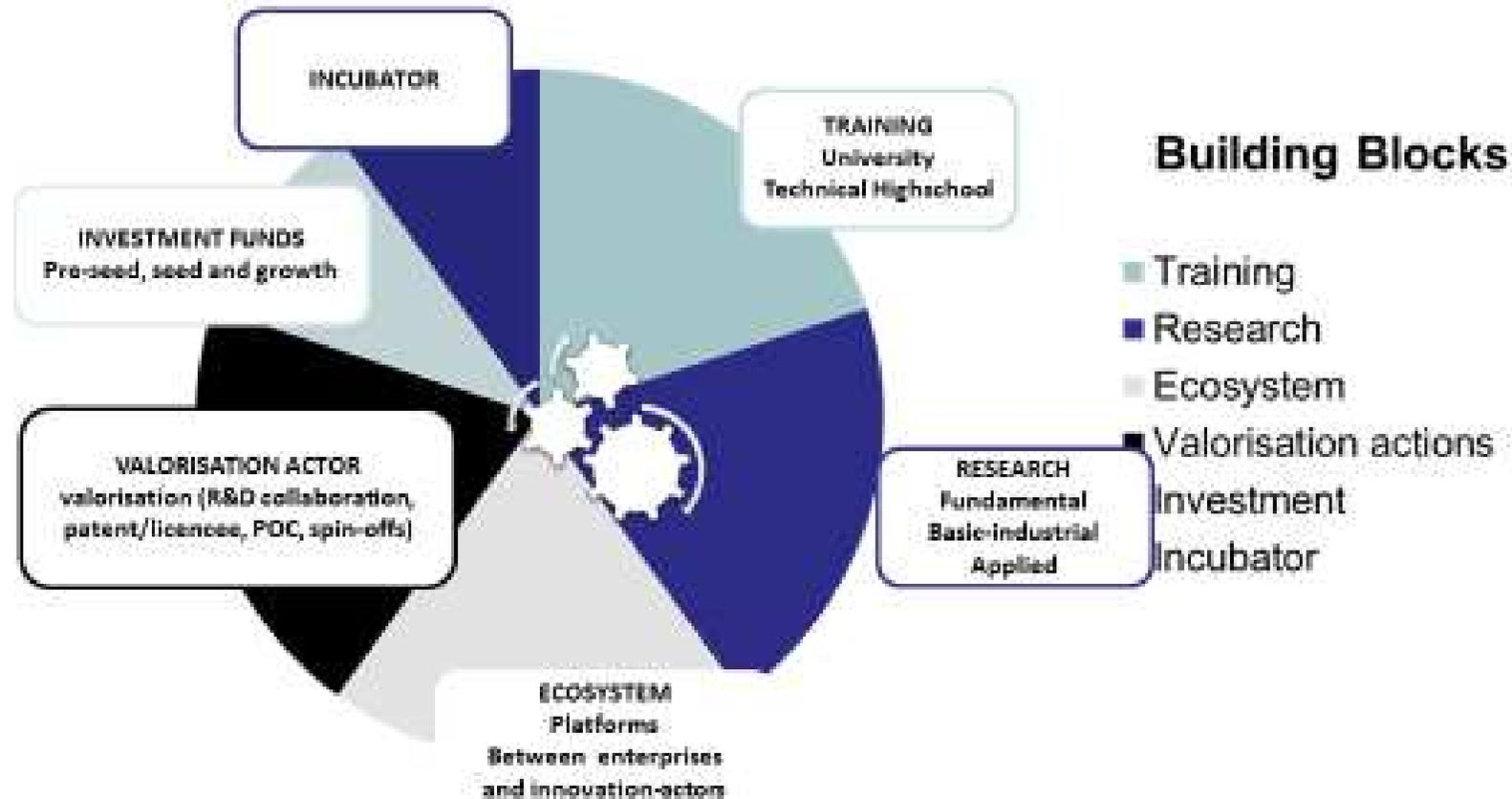
ITI Kempen DYNAK



ITI Limburg SALK



Definition Full Regional Innovation System (FRIS)



ITI West-Flanders West Deal



ERDF Flanders 2014-2020

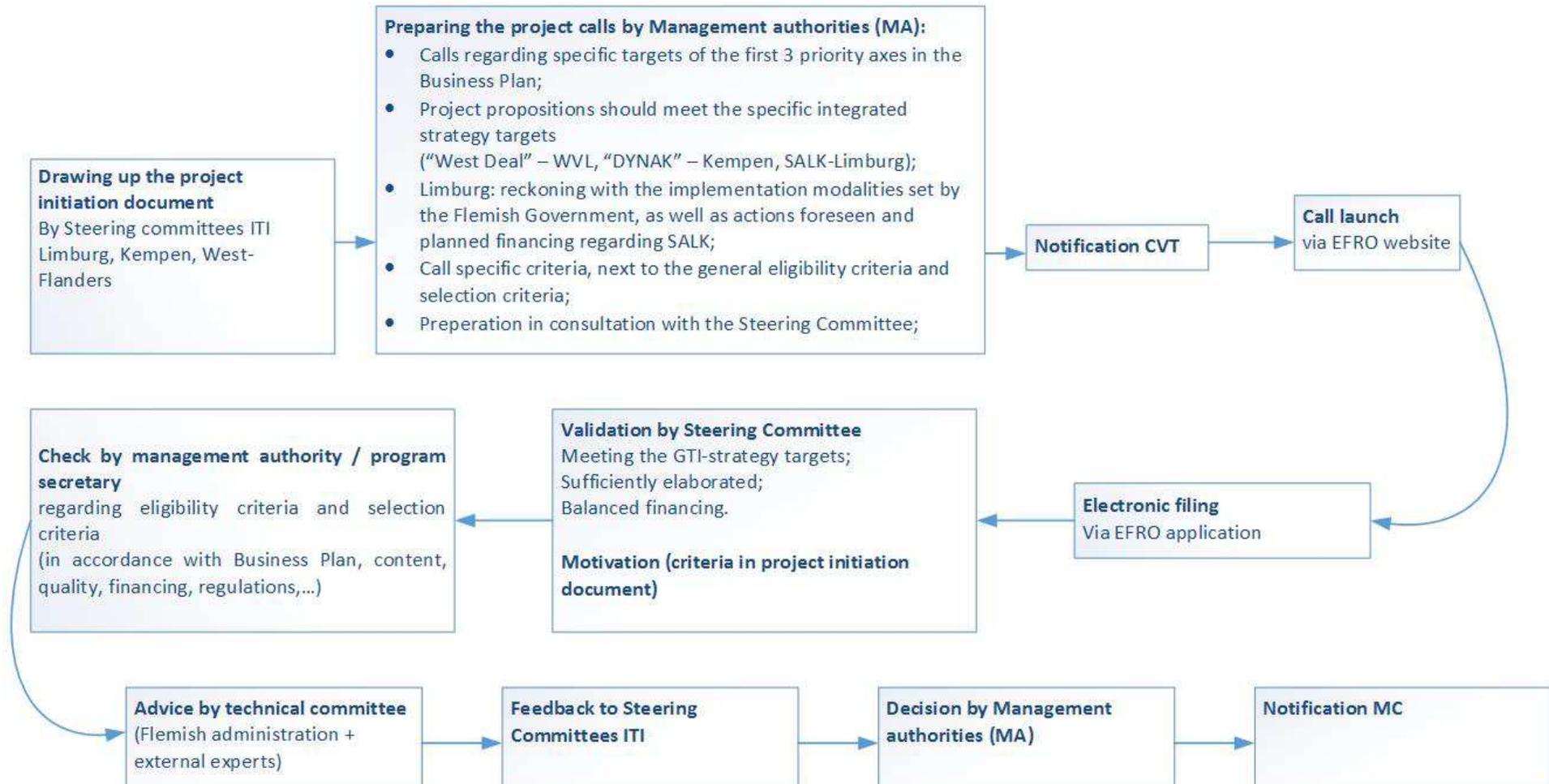
Managament structures

- Management Authority (MA) = Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO)
- Management structures according to triple helix model
 - ERDF Flanders 2014-2020 – Supervisory Committee (Flemish Government, provinces, ITI's, local authorities, social midfield, social partners, Auditauthority, European Commission, ESF, MA;
 - ITI West-Flanders: Steering Group (Flemish Government, Province West-Flanders, local authorities, universities, employers' organizations, MA)
 - ITI Kempen: Steering Group (Flemish Government, Province Antwerp, local authorities, universities, employers' organizations, MA)
 - ITI Limburg = TASK FORCE SALK: Flemish Government, Province of Limburg, social partners

Decision MODEL ITI's (ERDF)

CALL AND SELECTION PROCEDURE (ITI*)

*ITI = Integrated Territorial Investment



Part III

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Question 1: How to insure alignment of the (higher) decisive power in European programmes with subregional strategies?



- **Why:** *Various European programmes are set up and used to support the specialisation strategies of subregions. The management of these programmes however are often either completely integrated in or with a strong voice of the higher (national) authority. Whereas the content (the specific projects) are regarded by the local authority, whose specialisation strategy forms the basis of the programme, as essential in the framework of this strategy, the higher government regards at it in a wider (i.c. Flemish) perspective, with different goals.*
- **What has been done:** *The installation of a Steering Group for the management of the subregional projects in the ITI West Flanders.*
- **What worked:** *Some important projects have been agreed on (eg VEGITEC)*
- **What did not work:** *The representation of the various government levels is not in line with the weight of the main beneficiaries. Meaning: the subregion is much more involved (directly or mainly the institutions and SME's in its region) than the higher level, whereas the subregion is underrepresented in the Steering Committees.*

Question 2: The effective use of the “GTI” instrument as it’s been developed by the E.C.



- **Why:** *The instrument of ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments) has been developed in order to enable the use of various funding instruments for the support of a single development strategy. A firm approach of the strategy requests various angles, for which various programmes are available.*
- **What has been done:** *Based on WestDeal, a ITI has been approved for West Flanders, making use of both regional programmes, the ERDF and the ESF programme for Flanders. For the ITI, a dedicated financial envelope has been defined for the realisation of the RIS3 of WestDeal, with means from ERDF as well as ESF.*
- **What worked:** *The subregion has put forward specific projects for the realisation of its strategy when in line with the general ERDF-objectives.*
- **What did not work:** *Both programmes have a different programme structure, as well as a different management structure and management authority.
A truly integrated approach would need an integrated programme, with common management structure, with involvement of all governance levels from an integrated, multigovernance point of view.*

Question 3: How to integrate specific border region issues in an integrated approach?



- **Why:** *Border regions are confronted with specific needs and opportunities, that differ from the more general national needs and opportunities. Main issue is often SME-orientation in border regions vs. the more lead plant oriented regional programmes.
Next to that, neighbouring regions can commonly form a socio-economic coherence that enforces the ecosystems on each side of the border.
An integrated approach of RIS3 should thus request regional programmes, next to programmes that cover the cross-border region and that enables to join forces with neighbouring partners, enforcing the objectives of the regional programmes.*
- **What has been done:** *The Interreg programmes*
- **What worked:** *Some synergies has been put into practice (eg GoToS3 katalysator, I-QUA)*
- **What did not work:** *The Interreg programmes are managed in its own way, completely stand alone vs. the regional oriented programmes, such as EFRO or ESF.*



*Peer eXchange &
Learning*



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Bernard De Potter
Flanders Enterprise&Innovation
bernard.depotter@vlaio.be
www.vlaio.be

Ellen Cardoen
Province of West-Flanders
ellen.cardoen@west-vlaanderen.be
www.west-vlaanderen.be