



**Flanders stakeholder platform for european R&I
policy & initial ideas on mission implementation**

Overview

- **Flemish stakeholder platform for European R&I programmes (VEP)**
 - Purpose
 - Structure
 - Membership
 - Information flow
- **Initial ideas on citizens engagement and mission oriented R&I policy (MOP)**

VEP: Purpose

The VEP is a partnership between actors of the '**quadruple helix**' (government, research institutes, private enterprises and civil society organisations) in Flanders in the policy domain of **economy, science and innovation** (ESI) with the aim to:

- **Represent and defend** in a coordinated and balanced way **the interests** of Flemish governmental and other actors who (want to) participate in European ESI related subsidy programmes and supporting initiatives;
- Involve in a structural and transparent manner Flemish governmental and other actors in the **development and implementation of European ESI related policy**;
- Promote in an informal way the **mutual acquaintance and networking** between (representatives of) Flemish governmental and other actors active in European ESI related policy.

The VEP works on the basis of **mutual trust and respect**. Relevant information, insofar as it is not bound by confidentiality restrictions, will be exchanged in a timely manner. Consultation and commitment takes place in an **open atmosphere** and with a **constructive-critical mindset**.

VEP: Membership (1)

- Membership is for **organisations** (not individuals);
- Any Flemish organisation that participates in EU ESI programmes or is involved in EU ESI related initiatives or policies can apply for membership;
- Each representative of a VEP member is
 - ❑ explicitly **mandated** by his/her organisation and/or constituency,
 - ❑ **conveys**, in particular when asked beforehand, **the point of view of his/her organisation or constituency** during meetings or in “written/digital” procedures,
 - ❑ **channels** information to and from his/her organisation and/or constituency.

VEP: Membership(2)

Flemish public administration	Knowledge Institutions	Industry	CSOs
- Policy domain Economy, Science & Innovation (ESI) - DEWI [<i>dept.</i>] - FWO [<i>research agency</i>] - VLAIO [<i>enterprise agency</i>] - Advisory bodies (*) - SERV - VARIO - Policy domain Chancellery & Foreign Affairs (KBUZA) - DKBUZA [<i>dept.</i>] - FIT [<i>foreign investment agency</i>] - VLEVA [<i>Flanders Europe Liaison Office</i>]	- Universities (5) → Via VLIR → Rotating representation [<i>rectors conference</i>] - Universities of Applied Science (13) → Via Vlaamse Hogescholenraad (PXL) [<i>heads of ... conference</i>] - Strategic Research Centres (4) - Rotating representation	- Via Agoria - Via Unizo - Via Voka - Via BiR&D [<i>industry umbrella / stakeholder organisations</i>]	Via Verenigde Verenigingen [<i>civil society umbrella organisation</i>]

(*): observer role

VEP: Structure

- ❑ **steering group**

- ❑ to define a general strategy for the VEP
 - ❑ leading officials or other high level representatives
 - ❑ meets five times per year (lunch meetings)
 - ❑ by preference umbrella organisations

- ❑ **thematic working groups**

- ❑ to carry out actual work with an own agenda (and plans in function of a work plan drawn up by the steering committee)
 - ❑ meet between 3 and 6 times per year
 - ❑ additional “one topic” meetings can be organised
 - ❑ Individual organisations are allowed

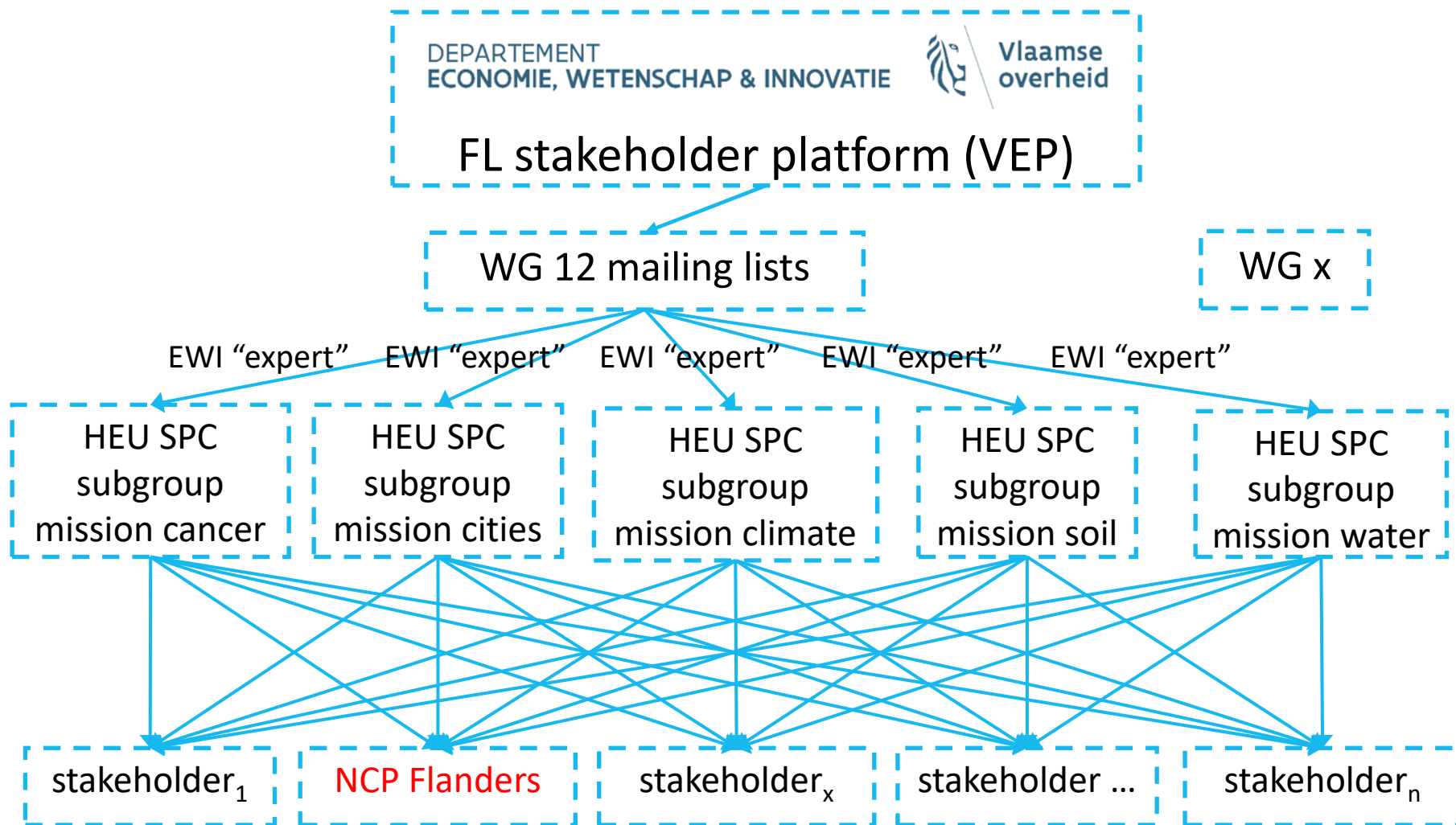
→ *currently no SCO/citizen participation in WGs*

- ❑ **Ad hoc distribution groups**

- ❑ merely to disseminate information by email and receive feedback
- ❑ initial mailing distribution groups per HEU mission created

→ *currently not many SCO/citizens included in mission mailing groups*

VEP: information flow



MOP: Some initial ideas (1)

1. Invite SCOs to participate in VEP WGs [= quick win]

- Include SCOs in WG12 mission mail distribution lists
 - the SCO umbrella organisation can indicate the most appropriate ones per missions
- Invite the Flemish social entrepreneurship “facilitator”
- Organise WG12 subgroups per mission
 - have FL consortium partners in vertical HEU mission CSA take the lead ?
→ also use expertise, channels, lists, methods, ... of other departments

2. Stimulate local actors to participate in the TRAMI EMIN

- With this event 😊

3. Organise local events

- With SCOs (specific or the umbrella organisation) as co-organiser/lead
- With Vleva (using its network of local governmental actors)

Currently only theoretical reflections

MOP: Some initial ideas (2)

4. Analyse and adapt the instrument/policy mix

- Link existing transition oriented initiatives (in so far as possible) to HEU missions, and add a “citizen engagement component”
 - the research pillar of the Flemish AI plan can develop:
 - use cases/demonstrators that build on AMAI! Ideas
 - include citizens preferences in its choice for certain use cases

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Continue (and extend) the one truly mission oriented mini programme (AMAI!) [= effective policy]

- could develop general idea collecting and citizen engagement mechanism(s) for topics that can be tackled by individual researchers (master thesis, PhD, ...)
- Foresee that the various thematic initiatives develop/extend their science communications activities into real citizen engagement activities (where relevant and feasible), and (partly) adapt their SR(I)A
 - E.g., VLIZ and ERA action 14.1 (Plastic Pirates)
- Change “user commissions” into “citizens commissions” for instruments that (also) target societal impact

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→ And learn

- by doing
- by following up what happens in Europe (ERA Forum, TRAMI, ...)

Currently only theoretical reflections

Question to you:

**How would *you*
(as a Flemish SCO) prefer to
become involved ?**