EUROSAI WGEA
Ayia Napa, Cyprus
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The Walloon Region’s strategy and exemplary role with respect to sustainable development situation 2010
Outline

1. General Background
2. Scope and Method
3. Need for a Walloon SD strategy
4. Major Findings
5. Recommendations
6. Lessons learned
General Background


2. Commitments
   a) International level
   b) European level
   c) Belgian constitution
   d) Walloon Region
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Scope and Method

The Court of Audit’s two-step approach:

- New legislative term: review of the current situation 2010
- End of term (2014): assessment of the SD regional strategy

Scope:

- Strategy and exemplary role of the Walloon Region regarding SD
- An example: the sustainable management policy of the Region’s buildings
- Focus on the strategy-leadership as a key issue to ensure vertical integration (from the local to the European level) and horizontal coordination (of the numerous public policies)
Scope and Method

Method

• Analysis of reports, frameworks, existing (and under way) plans
• Questionnaires and interviews of key officials, members of the SD minister’s cabinet, secretary general
• Benchmarking (Federal level, Flemish Region)
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Need for a Walloon SD strategy

Reasons:

- Meeting the Region’s commitments
- Managing public funds economically, effectively and efficiently
- Meeting the administration and civil society's expectations
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Major Findings

Highlighted by the review:

Numerous existing measures and action plans regarding SD (Marshall plan 2, green, air climate plan, environmental plan for SD, regional policy statement, administrative operational plans...)

But:

no overarching SD regional strategy
no effective exemplary role
no entrusted body in charge of strategy-leadership
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Recommendations

- Elaborating a global SD strategy in a legal framework
- Setting measurable strategic and operational objectives along with implementation deadlines and adequate financial means
- Designing indicators of social, economic and environmental performance as well as governance
- Having a single empowered body drive, coordinate, steer and, if need be, rule this SD strategy.
- Harmonizing this strategy with strategies at federated, federal and European levels.
- Adopting an appraisal process and a learning cycle with a view to readjusting the strategy as necessary
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Lessons learned

*by the “auditee”*
- Added value
- Independent support for clarifying roles and responsibilities
- Awareness of strategy weaknesses and risks exposure
- Publicity as a stimulus for taking action in due time

*by the “auditor”*
- Research topic and approach praised by Parliament
- Enhanced pragmatism and public visibility of the Court of Audit’s concerns and work
- Incentive role played thanks to the Court’s independent status
- Increased of audit quality enabling performance evaluation at the end of the legislative term
QUESTIONS?