




EUROSAIWGEA
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

1. Sustainable development concept – UN Brundtland report (1987)
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?