

STEPHANIE

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STEPHANIE directs regional research and innovation policies towards photonics-based space technologies to address today's grand societal challenges.

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An interregional cooperation project for improving innovation delivery policies.

ACTION PLAN FOR WALLONIA



Project partner: Centre Spatial de Liège (Université de Liège)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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Part I – General Information

Project	STEPHANIE
Partner organisation	Centre Spatial de Liège (Université de Liège), Wallonia
Other partner organisations involved	
Country	Belgium
NUTS2 region	BE3 : BE31, BE32, BE33, BE34, BE35
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Introduction

In the frame of the STEPHANIE project, it is relevant to take into account that Belgium is a country where the “industrial/innovation policy” depends mainly on the different Regions and Communities (each ones having their own Government, Parliament and Administration). An important exception is constituted by the “Space Domain” which, as is, is mainly driven by the federal (national) level, via BELSPO (Belgian Science Policy Office), but without excluding the regional policies.

Photonics and other “industrial domains” depend on Regional policies, i.e. on Wallonia Region in regard to STEPHANIE. To be consistent with the STEPHANIE project, the following considerations are in relation with the Walloon regional policy.

Part II – Policy context

Introduction to the Walloon regional policy

The context regarding public policies, focused on “innovation and industry” fields, will be examined via 3 approaches:

- the Clustering Policy in Wallonia;
- the economic redeployment programme for Wallonia (“Marshall Plan”);
- a previous transregional initiative : the ERA Net project “ERA-STAR Regions”

1. The Clustering Policy in Wallonia

The Business clusters and the Competitiveness clusters are complementary tools for the Walloon economic development. They both fit in the same logic of the Walloon Government's policy consisting in the willingness to create the conditions needed to build clusters in the Walloon Region.

While the Business clusters are funded to develop economic promotion and promote innovative partnerships, whether industrial, commercial or technological, the Competitiveness clusters are mainly supported for carrying out investment, R&D or training projects, in line with the strategy of competitive positioning they have themselves defined.

Business cluster “Photonics” and Competitiveness cluster “SKYWIN” (mainly via its “Wallonie Espace” component) are in connection with STEPHANIE.

The technical fields of STEPHANIE are the Space and the Photonics domains. Bearing in mind that the members of the Photonics Cluster (presently included as a sub-group in Agoria, an industry federation) are also members of “Wallonie Espace”, the following considerations will presume that Skywin is the “main industrial /innovation tool” of the Wallonia, w.r.t. STEPHANIE.

The Belgian aerospace cluster “Skywin Wallonie” is a group -really representative- of companies, training centers and research units engaged in public and private partnership and building synergies around common and innovative projects in the Walloon region of Belgium. It represents some 6,500 direct jobs and more than € 1,5 billion in revenue, exporting 90% of its products. Skywin counts more than 130 members among which one finds more than 90 SME's.

The Walloon Aeronautics Industry (1250M€, 5400 employees) is mainly focused on Aircraft Engines and Structure, Equipment, Simulation and Training.

The Walloon Space Industry (250M€, 1600 employees, 36 establishments) is mainly focused on Equipment for satellite payload and launcher, System exploitation and Space application.

Concerning Photonics, the weight of photonics activities in Wallonia is significant: 53 establishments identified, and approximately 1400 skilled jobs, including about 150 public researchers.

It is important to understand the relation between Wallonia (Government) and SKYWIN (Cluster), in the frame of the Research & Development projects (collaborative projects industries/research centers).

Skywin does not setup projects, but accredit them:

- by organizing a jury of international experts which validate the technical content;
- by promoting the project to the local government which then validate the socio-economic impact of the project (via the Marshall Plan, see below).

Skywin provides a bridge to financing system for R&D projects:

- labelling of collaborative projects;
- setup training program for the aerospace sector, in cooperation with training institutions;
- promote the aerospace industry at international airshows;
- take part of projects committees and management to stay in contact with the industry;
- trade missions (according to the needs of the members, with governmental help and sometimes towards other sectors).

2. *The “Marshall Plan” for Wallonia*

The objective is pursuing the reindustrialisation of Wallonia. Especially for Photonics and Space domains, the relevant priority is the “Priority Area II”:

- PRIORITY AREA II: Support the development of industry through a policy of innovation and business growth
 - II.1. Innovation
 - II.1.1. Renew the research strategy
 - II.1.2. Renew the strategy of the competitiveness clusters on the basis of smart specialisation
 - II.1.3. Support the industrial promotion of the projects developed by the competitiveness clusters
 - II.2. Growth
 - II.2.1. Support business innovation
 - II.2.2. Support business internationalisation
 - II.2.3. Finance the growth of businesses
 - II.2.4. Supporting the development of companies.
- Wallonia supports advanced manufacturing mainly in the framework of its ‘Competitiveness Poles programme’, the focus of which is on generating concrete projects focusing on end products and final applications, mainly through R&D collaborative projects, training actions, internationalisation activities and innovation platforms. These areas also converge with the strategic guidelines adopted by the ERDF/ESF, producing leverage effects (training of workers, primarily by improving relations between education and training, integrating young people into the labour market, financial support for innovation and research, business development support, territorial development to promote economic activity, support for the sustainable production of energy and smart

specialisation of the territory through competitiveness clusters, taking particular account of the digital dimensions).

- As the Competitiveness Poles have been selected on the basis of their economic and technological weight in the regional economy, but also on the basis of their development strategies in their thematic area in which they possess competitive advantages, the smart specialisation strategy (S3) of Wallonia is directly linked to the competitiveness poles (and cluster) policy.

3. The ERA-STAR REGIONS project

Within the scope of the ERA-Net project (European Commission), the Walloon Region coordinated the project “ERA-STAR Regions” (ERA – Space Technologies Applications and Space Technologies Applications and Research for the Regions and Medium- Research for the Regions and Medium-sized Countries).

Focused on the STEPHANIE regional partnership, “ERA-STAR Regions” included also:

- Direzione Generale Sviluppo Economico RT Italy – Tuscany
- Česká Kosmická Kancelár, O. P. S. (Czech Space Office) CSO Czech Republic
- Junta de Andalucía SGUI Spain – Andalusia

The goal was “Creating space to grow”, through exchanging information and good practice the network’s research programme managers are setting the groundwork for future joint projects.

Given that the network comprises many regions with their own governmental and administrative structures, particular attention was being paid to removing the administrative and legal obstacles to cooperation in collaborative projects.

The longer-term goal was to launch joint calls for proposals that will cement transregional cooperation and build the distributed resource bases that respond to the large RTD demands of the space industry, as well as taking the products of space research and developing innovative spin-off applications for the benefit of Europe’s citizens.

Name of the policy instrument addressed

Operational Programme ERDF 2014-2020, Priority Axis 2: INNOVATION 2020

This Action addresses priority 1b aiming to strengthen research, technological development and innovation by promoting R&I investments in business, developing links and synergies between businesses, research centers and the development and education sector.

The policy instrument that the Action Plan aims to impact is:

<i>Investment for Growth and Jobs programme</i>	<i>YES / NO</i>
<i>European Territorial Cooperation programme</i>	<i>YES / NO</i>
<i>Other regional development policy instrument</i>	<i>YES / NO</i>

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

TITLE: Interregional connections for R&D projects

1. Overall Topic and Description of the proposed Policy Improvement	
Overall Topic	Support/Facilitation for Research & Development projects (or RIA: Research/Innovation Actions) to be develop by R&D organisations (research centers and companies) from different regions.
Specific Description	<p>3 levels of support for interregional connections for R&D projects :</p> <p>Level 1 [First contacts]: Transregional contacts between clusters managers in different regions; contacts between their members (group<->group, and/or particular B2B meetings).</p> <p>The “Clustering policy in Wallonia” (see above) includes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the promotion of the aerospace industry at international airshows, - the participation of Trade missions (according to the needs of the members, with governmental help and sometimes towards other sectors). <p>Concerning the Phase 2 of STEPHANIE, the ‘Action Level 1’ is driven by SKYWING, the aerospace cluster of Wallonia. It is an association of companies, research organisations and training centres engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects.</p> <p>Level 2 [Open access]: opening local (regional) support R&D calls to R&D organisations from other region(s).</p> <p>The Wallon Government is launching, on a regular basis, calls for projects directed to the poles. Projects first undergo an internal review within the pole and are then submitted to the international jury for a final go/no go decision. Skywin is the pole which is active in the area of aeronautics and space.</p> <p>Generally, these calls are opened to Walloon entities, to constitute a consortium (2 companies + 2 R&D organisations) in order to realize a common R&D project. The financial public support (“Plan Marshall”) is assumed under Priority Area II: Support the development of industry through a policy</p>

of innovation and business growth (II.1. Innovation; II.1.3. Support the industrial promotion of the projects developed by the competitiveness clusters).

The aim of the 'Action Level 2' is the opening and the promoting of these calls to participants from other regions than Wallonia.

It is important to consider that in such "open calls" approach (calls open to entities out of Wallonia), the interregional collaboration is limited to a common (or cross) acceptance (or labelling or certification) of the R&D projects; each region maintains its own system to fund and control their own regionals. There is no need to previously define and negotiate an agreement between the Regions.

Nevertheless the initiative and the acceptance of the projects is managed by the Walloon Region, there is a high degree of similarity in the protocols used by the different regions to consider such collaborative projects (criteria for excellence, innovation level, socio-economic impact, budgets and distribution between regions ...).

The mechanism of the Level 2 action will be open to all regions but, concerning the Phase 2 of STEPHANIE, the target is limited to a pilot with the Brittany region. Consequently, the frame of the Walloon Level 2 action is obviously "the mirror" of the Brittany Action Plan.

Concerning the Phase 2 of STEPHANIE, as explained before, the 'Action Level 2' is driven by SKYWIN, the aerospace cluster of Wallonia, engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects.

Level 3 [P2P : support public-public partnerships] : joint programming initiatives between Member Regions, in the frame of interregional R&D projects, directly accessible by entities (Research centres and companies) from different European regions.

In a similar way to the well known ERA Net/EUROSTARs initiatives, the aim of the 'Action Level 3' is a co-fund action designed to support public-public partnerships (P2Ps), including joint programming initiatives between Member Regions, in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities. The focus is the funding of single joint calls for

	<p>transnational research and innovation in the areas jointly selected by the Member Regions.</p> <p>In the same manner than as in the Level 2, the interregional collaboration is limited to a common/cross “acceptation/labellization/certification” of the R&D projects; each region maintains its own system to fund and control their own regionals.</p> <p>The target for this ‘Action Level 3’ is the participation of the Wallonia to different projects in the frame of ERA-Net or EUREKA, or equivalent European initiatives.</p> <p>Concerning the Phase 2 of STEPHANIE, the ‘Action Level 3’ is driven by DGO6, one of the operational directorates (DGO) of the Walloon Public Service. The DGO6 is the key policy-design and implementing body for regional research and innovation policy. Its mission is to implement and monitor the aid granted in the field of economic policy - including the support granted within the framework of EU programmes- and to encourage the development of enterprises, especially SMEs. It also supports the Walloon actors in business networks or clusters. In the field of research and technological development, the DGO6 provides administrative support for the accreditation of research centres and implements a series of (European) programmes. The DGO6 also provides support to clusters and co-ordinates the competitiveness poles support measure.</p>
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2. Need addressed

The need addressed by the Action Plan is the improvement of interregional activities, especially for SMEs and Research centers.

Through staff exchanges, a need for more transregional/transborder activities was identified. A better understanding of each partner/cluster (at a Regional level) is to be envisaged. The key players (industries, SMEs, public authorities and clusters) need to be aware of opportunities and local economic base of each Region. There is a lack of information at this stage. A better understanding of the needs and key players is essential to target new projects and technologies development. This will also give rise to synergies in the photonics/space sectors and beyond (potential applications e.g. in medical, defense sector, agriculture).

Therefore, one of the goals of the Action Plan will be to reinforce the information flow. This could lead to more cooperation and projects development and could give visibility to SMEs and Research Centers (Level 1).

To transform these relationships to partnerships, it is important to have a simple way to implement the interregional collaborations. The Level 2 of the Action Plan consists of the opening

the regional calls to partners from other regions.

The internationalization of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) is a well identified need. The facilitation of this international development of SMEs is the aim of the Level 3. The ERA-NET project mentioned in introduction [Part II – Policy context] (and other equivalent European initiatives) was taken as an example, the Level 3 actions will incorporate all the lessons learnt during the operating period. This internationalization mode is in continuity and in complement to the Level 2 action.

3. Relevance to the STEPHANIE project	
Details of proposed Policy improvement	Links with interregional input
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have qualitative dedicated meetings to exchange between the Regions (based on a “Regional cartography” of the Photonic/Space sector e.g. by Region). • Give better visibility on the Region/EU funding schemes and provide answers to funding possibilities -> Success stories by Region. • The focus would be shifting from the funding of networks to the top-up funding of single joint calls for transnational research and innovation in Member Regions. This aims at increasing substantially the share of funding that Member Regions dedicate jointly to challenge driven research and innovation agendas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Photonics Bretagne • GP01 CSL-Wallonia • GP02 CSL-Wallonia • Contacts Wallonia – Tuscany and Wallonia - Andalucia, in the frame of a previous ERA-Net project (ERA STAR Regions) • Share of experience with CATEC in the frame of the staff exchanges. • <u>Share of experience with Cluster Photonics Bretagne in the frame of the staff exchanges.</u> <p>During the Phase 1, a strong preparation has already been established :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examination, by STEPHANIE partners involved (Brittany and Wallonia), of local practices to support Research and Development/Innovation collaborative projects; - April 2019 : Visit (Liège) of a Brittany delegation (8 responsables companies/research centres); contacts with 2 laboratories and 3 companies from Wallonia; identification of common technical interests; identification of the potential contractual frames of collaborations; - May-Oct 2019 : contacts (both Wallonia and Brittany sides) with local Competitiveness Clusters, Research centers Interfaces, Public Authorities; - November 2019 : Meeting (Rennes) with official representatives of the 2 Regions : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wallonia, Service public de Wallonie (SPW), Économie emploi formation recherche, Direction

	<p>des Programmes de Recherche, Département de la Recherche et du Développement Technologique (DGO6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Région Bretagne, Service de l'innovation et des stratégies économiques (SIS), Direction de l'économie (DIRECO) <p>The conclusion is that the potential and the will exist in both regions to collaborate (i.e. to support and finance collaborative projects) in the context of Wallonia's calls or other European calls.</p> <p>The interregional exchange of experiences (staff exchanges) showed the need for more collaboration and information/prospective actions to better understand the photonics/space market. A plate-form to interact and get to know each player is a way to target opportunities. Events could also be organized to promote/attract/inform users.</p>
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4. Specific Activities and TIMEFRAME

Activity Number	Activity Description	Timing
1	<p><u>Level 2</u></p> <p>The procedure to be respected for answering to a Walloon call (“Marshall Plan”), managed by SKYWIN (Competitiveness Cluster, mandated by the Walloon Region for implementing actions) is, after the call launch :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delivery of letters of intent; - draft plan for the SPW Research (Walloon Research Administration) ruling; - ruling with SPW Research; - amended draft for International Expertise; - "dry run" presentation of the project at the Pole (SKYWIN); - Skywin Internal Selection Committee; - final draft available to the Pole (SKYWIN) for official submission; - submission by the Pole (SKYWIN) of projects to the Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal submitted by end of 2020. - Approval of proposals : 2nd half 2020
2	Start of the projects	- Beginning 2021

3	Monitoring of approved projects	- 2021-2023
4	<u>Level 1</u> 4 contacts with SKYWIN (Competitiveness Cluster, mandated by the Walloon Region for implementing actions) to define the events to be supported by SKYWIN (B2B meetings, seminars, ...)	2020-2021
5	<u>Level 3</u> 4 contacts with DGO6 to examine the participations of Wallonia to the (future) projects that will be developed under the (future equivalent of) the ERA Net, EUROSTARs, EUREKA initiatives.	2020-2021

5. Players involved	
Name of Organisation	Role in Action Plan Implementation
Skywin, the aerospace cluster of Wallonia. It is an association of companies, research organisations and training centres engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects.	Calls launch and proposal procedure management
Wallon Region administration (DGO6, Official Walloon administration w.r.t. industrial policy)	Funding body
SMEs and Research centers	Will submit project proposals

6. Risk and Contingency Plans		
Description of Risk	Level of probability	Description of Contingency Plan
Regional policy changes (Levels 1, 2, 3)	Low	The continued contacts with the Wallon Region Authorities (DGO6) and with the mandated actor (Competitiveness Cluster SKYWIN) limit the risk of the Action Plan implementation.
Sharing sensitive/competitive	Low	Confidential agreements (NDAs) should be signed

information (Levels 1, 2, 3)		between key players, depending on the targeted project/sector.
Difficulty to have coordinated calls between Wallonia and Brittany regions (Level 2)	Low	Brittany and Wallonia regions have the same criteria for the evaluation of projects (scientific excellence and business outcome for the companies).

7. Costs

Level 1 : The action consists to define (i.e. to propose/to orientate) the events to be supported by SKYWIN (B2B meetings, seminars, ...). Such mission and so the budget of the action itself (i.e. organizing/co-financing the participation to the event) is already a part of the global budget dedicated to a competitiveness cluster.

Level 2 : Depends on the participation success (budget of the partners in R&D projects). Concerning the Wallonia co-financing system available for companies and research established in Wallonia, the reserved amounts for all R&D projects are already open in the Walloon budget.

For example, for a R&D project with 2 companies and 2 research centres :

Operator	R&D budget (KEUR)	Public (RW) co-financing Rate	Public (RW) co-financing KEUR	Private part
Company 1 (GE)	1 060	0,4 -> 0,65	500	560
Company 2 (SME)	450	0,6 -> 0,8	280	170
Research center 1 (University)	850	1	850	-
Research center 2 (University)	400	1	400	-
Total	2 760		2030	730

Rem : - in the figure above, all companies and research centers come from Wallonia. The rate would be 0 (concerning the subsidies from Wallonia) for partners from Brittany.

Level 3 : The action consists to define (i.e. to propose/to orientate) the participation of Wallonia to different projects in the frame of ERA-Net or EUREKA, or equivalent European initiatives. Concerning the budget, the reservations to be declared by Wallonia to participate to such initiatives are already a part of the Walloon budget (DGO6) dedicated to such collaborative actions.

8. Funding sources

Walloon Authorities (existing public support, via the Clusters policy and the ‘Marshall Plan’) but taking into account, concerning the Level 2 and the Level 3, that the principle is each Region finances their own regionals (operators) for a particular project.

9. Monitoring			
Monitoring tools		Level 1 & 3 : Direct contacts with SKYWIN and DG06. Level 2: Short survey sent to the partners of the project before and after the project to predict and collect the job and turn-over created. This monitoring tool should be simple and easy to answer.	
Indicators		Target amounts	Means of Verification
1	Level 1 : Number of events supported/promoted by SKYWIN	3	Survey
2	Level 3 : number of Initiatives supported/promoted by Wallonia	3	Survey
Level 2 (Wallonia-Brittany) :			
3	Job created (2 years after the end of the project) through interregional projects funded by the new call.	1/100k€ subsidies	Survey
4	Increased turn-over (2 years after the end of the project) through interregional projects funded by the new call.	Subsidies x 3	Survey
5	Follow-up projects with the same partners	2/project	Survey

6	Number of companies benefiting from the instrument that have developed innovation projects in Space/Photonics	5	Project proposals
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Part IV – Official Signature(s)

Date:	
Name	
Signature	Stamp of the organisation (if available)

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Centre Spatial de Liège

À l'attention de Mr BERNIER

002100

Objet : Soutien du SPW EER à l'ACTION PLAN FOR WALLONIA élaboré par le Centre Spatial de Liège dans le cadre du projet INTERREG EUROPE - STEPHANIE

The Wallonia Public Service - Economy, Employment, Research (SPW EER) implements the policy of the Walloon Government in the fields of Economy, Employment and Research. He represents Wallonia within the different levels of power and ensures the relay of European programs.

The SPW EER is defined as the essential lever for business growth, the safeguarding and development of quality employment and support for innovation.

In these three areas of competence, the missions of the SPW EER consist of generating an incentive effect through financial support for projects, regulating economic development and ensuring compliance with economic and social legislation. It provides strategic advice to Walloon economic and social policy, as well as coordination and operational support in policies decided by the Government (for example, competitiveness clusters).

In the Research and Innovation sector, the SPW EER supports, promotes and evaluates applied research projects of companies, universities and research centers.

The Action Plan For Wallonia results and brings together the contributions of all the stakeholders involved and constitutes a working tool of great utility for the development of the Region.

In this context we endorse the Action Plan For Wallonia submitted by the Centre Spatial de Liège in the context of the Interreg Europe project STEPHANIE.



Ir. Alain GILLIN
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