The case of Wallonia

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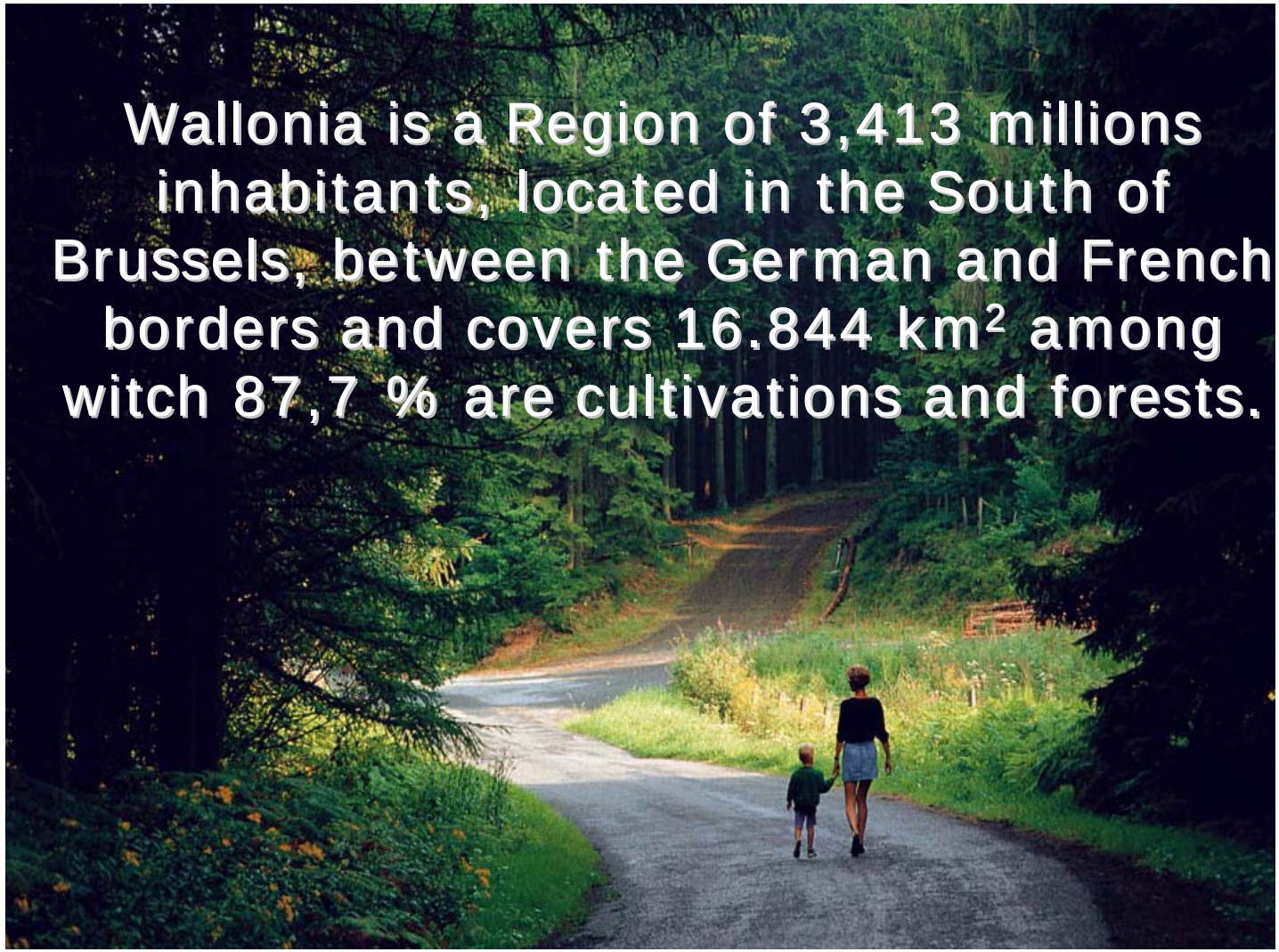
Outline

- Wallonia at a glance
- Technology foresight in regional RTDI policy
- Technology foresight as a transverse concern
- Territorial foresight, an appropriate complement to technology foresight for a region


Wallonia is a Region of 3,413 millions inhabitants, located in the South of Brussels, between the German and French borders and covers 16.844 km² among witch 87,7 % are cultivations and forests.


As State part of the Belgian Federal System, Wallonia is competent to deal with territorial matters such as economy, innovation, public works, environment, urban policy, internal affairs, etc.


The regional economy shows
a very high rate of exports.
The regional economy is
largely based on services
(> 70%).
The regional industrial research is
strongly concentrated
in some large high tech sectors
(life's sciences, pharmacy-
chemistry, aerospace).

Technology foresight in regional RTDI policy

40 Key Technologies in Wallonia

- The regional Innovation Strategy programme co-funded by DG Regio- EU was an important opportunity to conduct a foresight exercise (1999-2000)
- Identification of the 40 key technology fields for Wallonia by 2010 based on the needs and the potential of the companies based in Wallonia
- Three-fold ambition:
  - To find applications of key technologies in several sectors carrying regional growth;
  - To constitute a window for regional technological potential;
  - To hightlight public and private decision-makers

- MATERIALS – CHEMISTRY

  Ex. Non polluting surface treatments; New intelligent glazes; Recycling of refractors
- EQUIPMENT GOODS
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
- LIVING ORGANISM TECHNOLOGIES AND AGROTECH
- ENVIRONMENT – ENERGY – TRANSPORTATION –CITIES

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1. Characterization of the technology itself
2. Interactions with other key technologies
3. Current and potential market development
4. Regional position in the fields (degree of implication, degree of autonomy of the providers and of the users of technology, identification of the actors)

Impact of foresight on RTDI policy

- The key technologies' study has been the foundation stone for technology clustering policy.
- Critical technologies as a foresight method has been predominant in the RTDI policy (scenarios, delphi, backcasting have not been used).
- Technology foresight has been a discontinuous process.

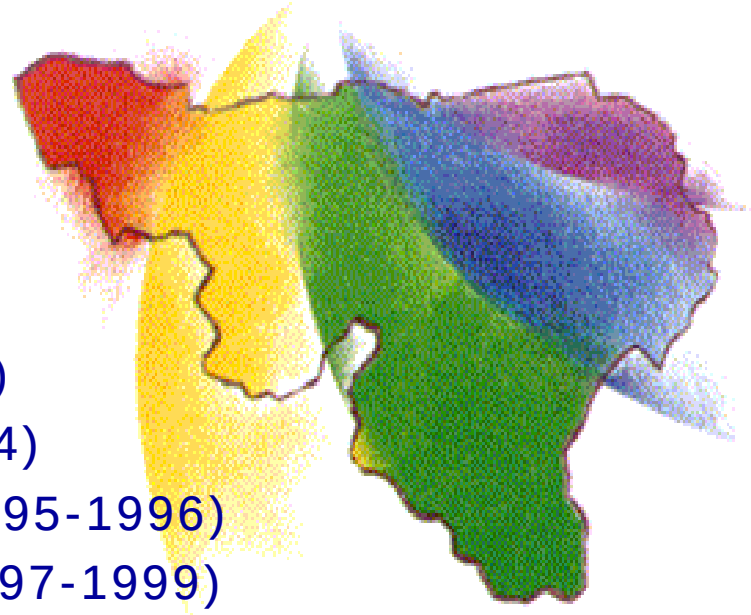
Technology foresight as a transverse concern

- Technology foresight also reaches regional industrial policy (economic clusters, competitiveness hubs) and employment policy (jobs and skills for the future).
- Technological watch is more practiced than technology foresight.
- The process of technology foresight is fairly decentralised: strategic positioning and technology detection and watching are carried out by the actors themselves.

Territorial foresight, an appropriate complement

Since 1985, The Destree Institute had initiated the launching of five foresight exercises untitled

Wallonia to the Future



Towards a new Paradigm (1985-1988)
The Educational Challenge (1988-1994)
Competitiveness and Employment (1995-1996)
Evaluation, Innovation, Foresight (1997-1999)

The aim of the latest foresight exercise called Wallonia 2020 (2005) was clearly to lead the citizens to experiment their creative and critical intelligence collectively in order to take part in the regional political agenda.

Outputs from Wallonia 2020

1. A renewed vision of the future of Wallonia at the horizon 2020
2. A strategic plan with 15 concrete proposals of actions, published and largely disseminated in 2004
3. A networking effect :

- Launching of a Territorial Intelligence Platform
- Launching of the Regional Foresight College

Conclusions

- TF= a discontinuous process and a rather decentralized expertise in Wallonia.
- Even if technology foresight is rather limited in Wallonia, the region has accumulated a strong experience in territorial foresight.
- While globalisation has impact on territories, territorial (or regional) foresight has become a major instrument of regional governance and an appropriate complement to technology foresight.