



# Flanders

## State of the Art

# *Implementation of Regional Smart Specialisation Strategies*



**Flanders**  
State of  
the Art

# The Flanders case

- 1 ) The FLANDERS IN ACTION plan 2020
- 2) New Industrial Policy in Flanders
- 3) Bottum-up approach asking for a top-down policy
- 4) Policy framework to support the bottum-up approach
- 5) Vanguard Initiative for New Growth by SS
- 6) Conclusions

# The Flanders case

## 1 ) The FLANDERS IN ACTION plan 2020

- SWOT analysis
- Goals for 2020 + monitoring
- Board of Captains of Society
- Strong participation of civil society organisations
- Wide base: pact 2020 with more than 100 civil society organisations

# The Flanders case

## 1 ) The FLANDERS IN ACTION plan 2020

- Long term strategy: over the elections
- Horizontal policy approach of the challenges
- 13 breakthroughs / transitions:

1 = New Industrial Policy

# The Flanders case

## 2) NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY in Flanders

- Automobile crisis was eye-opener for paradigm shift
- Q = future of industry in Flanders / Europe ?
- Mental shift: industry does matter
  - +/- 19 % of added value in GDP
  - +/- 80 % of R&D
  - +/- 80 % of export
  - 1 more job in industry creates 2 more jobs in the economy

# The Flanders case

## 2) NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY in Flanders

- Bottom-up approach: listen to Industry

➔ 2 challenges:

a) a good entrepreneurial environment:

labour costs, taxes situation, energy strategie, etc.

# The Flanders case

## 2) NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY in Flanders

b) an industrial transition strategy to shift towards the new paradigm:

- lifting up the production capacity ( factories of the future )
- shift to new product-service combinations in niches with worldwide economical potential and answering to the global challenges

➔ Action Plan with 4 pillars and 50 actions

- Economic pillar / Innovation pillar / Labour pillar/ Infrastructure pillar



# The Flanders case

## 3) Bottom-up approach asking for a top-down policy

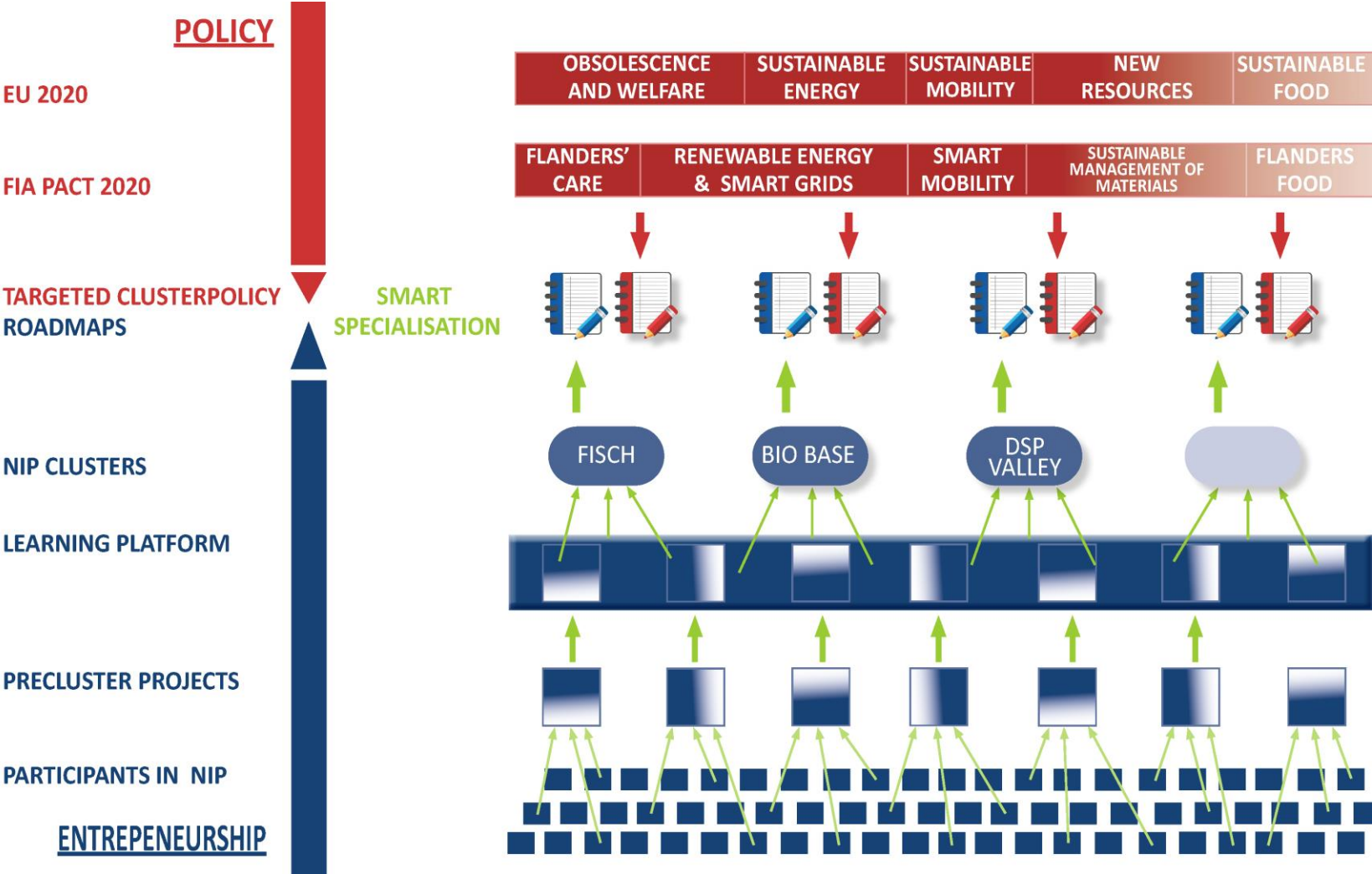
- re- discovery of the importance of industry
- only industry and behavior change can lead to a solution for the global challenges
- booming of knowledge and technology is the opportunity
- knowledgecenters and companies have the knowledge more than policy makers

➔ Initiative and responsibility lies with the industry

# The Flanders case

- 4) Policy framework to support the bottom-up approach
  - bottom-up meets top down
  - Flemish framework matches with European framework
  - Pre-cluster projects / learning platforms / clusters / roadmaps ( for paths through the valley of death ) / targeted cluster policies in smart specialisation areas

# Framework Flanders' NIP



# The Flanders case

## 5) Vanguard Initiative for New Growth by Smart Specialisation

- Initiative of Flanders uniting 17 European industrial regions
- Launched in november 2013
- Convinced of
  - the importance of SSS ( in Industry )
  - the role of industry ( in the lead )
  - a bottum-up approach within a top-down policy
  - the need of horizontal policy integration
  - the role of multi-level governance targeted on SSS-strategies

# The Flanders case

## 5) Vanguard Initiative for New Growth by Smart Specialisation

- advocate for multi-level governance towards the European institutions
- advocate for ( European ) horizontal policy integration and co-operation of the existing structures
- advocate for interregional co-operation

➔ **LEADING BY EXAMPLE:** setting up interregional SS-clusters to build European Worldclass clusters

# The Flanders case

## 6) Conclusions

- Re-discovery of the importance of industry
- Industry = important factor in the solution for the global challenges
- The european industry needs to transform towards SS → SSstrategies are needed
- Industry is in the lead, Policy is in support