

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

THE SBA IMPLEMENTATION IN WALLONIA

24 February 2015



Wallonie



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SBA+VW

La Wallonie soutient ses PME



DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE OPÉRATIONNELLE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE, DE L'EMPLOI ET DE LA RECHERCHE



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Introduction: the chemical sector in Wallonia

- **1/3 of Walloon SMEs** are linked to (para)-chemistry
- 5 out of 9 **universities** have chemical department
- The Walloon government operates a **cluster strategy**, which includes **Plastiwin**, **Biowin** (biotechnologies) and **Greenwin** (green chemistry, sustainable materials broader than chemistry).
- Since 2007, **Essenscia** has accompanied SMEs in the implementation of **REACH** via "Wallonia Reach Implementation Programme" (WALRIP)
- In 2006, Wallonia labeled the **Cefochim "Center of Competence"**. The center's mission is to train the personnel of production, maintenance and control.
- **Issues** of the SME's in the chemical sector: competitiveness, energy costs, security of supply, development of the human capital, complex administration



Integration of the "Small Business Act" into the Walloon political agenda

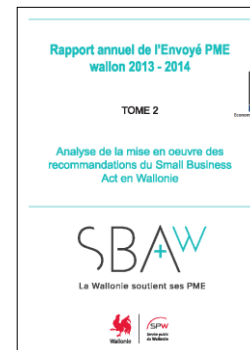
- 2008 creation of the European Small Business Act
- In 2009 strong demand of Social Partners (representatives of the employers and union Organisations)
- In 2011, the Minister of the Economy and SMEs decided to strengthen the implementation of the « SBA » & focus on 4 topics : Access to finance, innovation, entrepreneurship and internationalisation



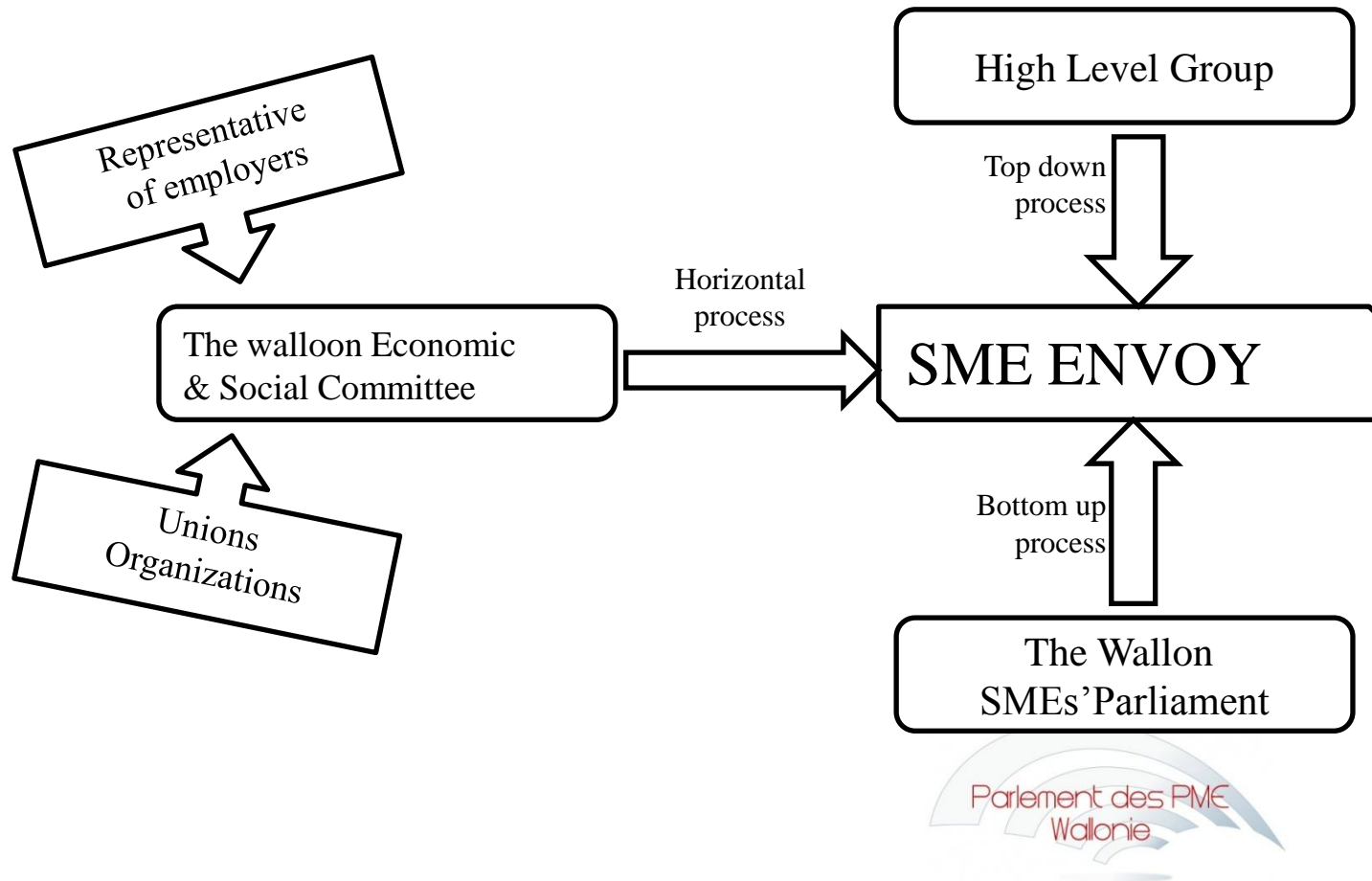
- Belgium = Federal State
- The 10 principles contained in the *Small Business Act* are not totally transposable into the arsenal of regional policies.

Results after 3 years - The SME Policy Coordination

- **The Walloon SME Envoy**
 - + Acting as an intermediary
 - + Monitoring regularly the Commission's recommendations implementation
 - + formulating recommendations
- **The Walloon SBA monitoring**
 - + Assessing ongoing actions
 - + Setting itself new targets
 - + Initiating new actions
- **The Walloon SBA reporting**
 - + The SME Envoy's annual report
 - + Belgian Factsheet



Results after 3 years - The dialogue



The Walloon SMEs' Parliament



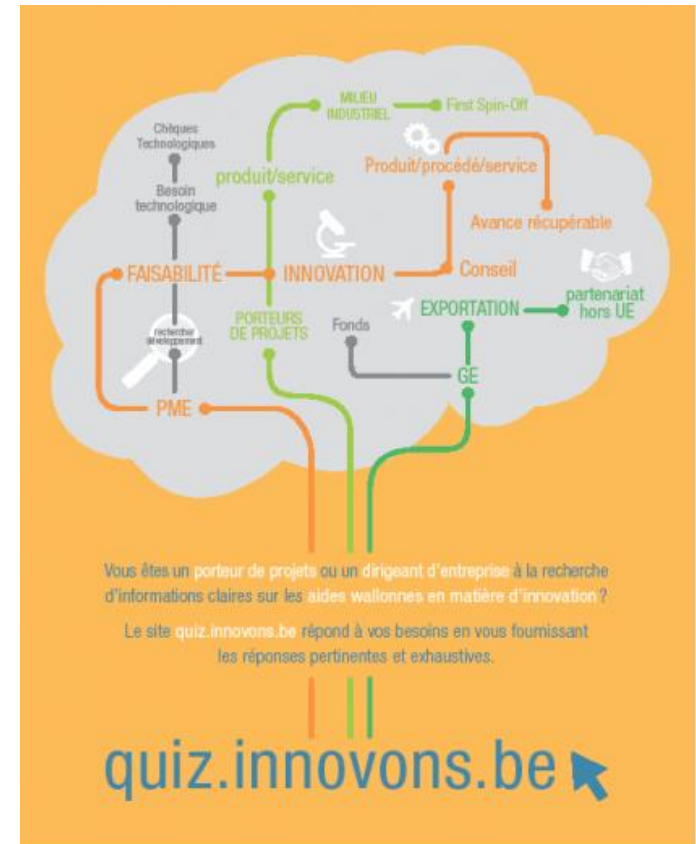
- Created in 2011
- Objectives :
 - Keeping SMEs informed
 - Consulting business bosses directly concerning the implementation of the SBA in Wallonia
- Designed to be participative
 - Entrepreneurs are questioned directly concerning the different aspects of the SBA **they would like to see improved during the next year**
 - After a vote, these proposals are submitted to the SBA Steering Committee to evaluate their feasibility

Concretes results : 2013-2014 new actions

- **Entrepreneurship**
 - Fondation pour l'enseignement, 25
 - statut d'« étudiant entrepreneur », 25
 - Plan Airbag, 29
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 - plan « Ensemble, simplifions », 50
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CONCRETES RESULTS : FOCUS ON ONE EXEMPLE

- During the 2012 Walloon SMEs' parliament, entrepreneurs asked the Minister to increase the accessibility of the different public financial assistance in the field of innovation.
- In 2014, the administration and an executive Agency answered in launching the « innovation quiz ».
- This quizz, accessible with a single click, allows entrepreneurs to find suitable financial assistances that fit their needs and objectives.



La Wallonie soutient l'innovation



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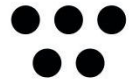
Results after 3 years : an International Recognition

- + Identified as Good Practice within the Guidebook '*How to support SME Policy from Structural Funds*' (DG ENTR)
- + OECD : Presentation of the Walloon SBA
- + Open days - workshop '*Implementation of the SBA on the regional level*' (DG ENTR)
- + Delegations from Turkey and Tunisia
- + Assembly of European Regions - conference '*Investing in SMEs - presentation of the Walloon SBA*'
- + European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) - conference '*Small and medium-sized enterprises – the engine of the European industry*'



Future of the Walloon SBA

- + **New Regional Government** affirms the ambition to *'continue and accelerate, the implementation of all European SBA's recommendations in order to simplify SMEs' life'*.
- + **Enlarge the scope of the Walloon SBA to the 10 principles**
- + Will depend on the **new European SBA 2.0's** content



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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