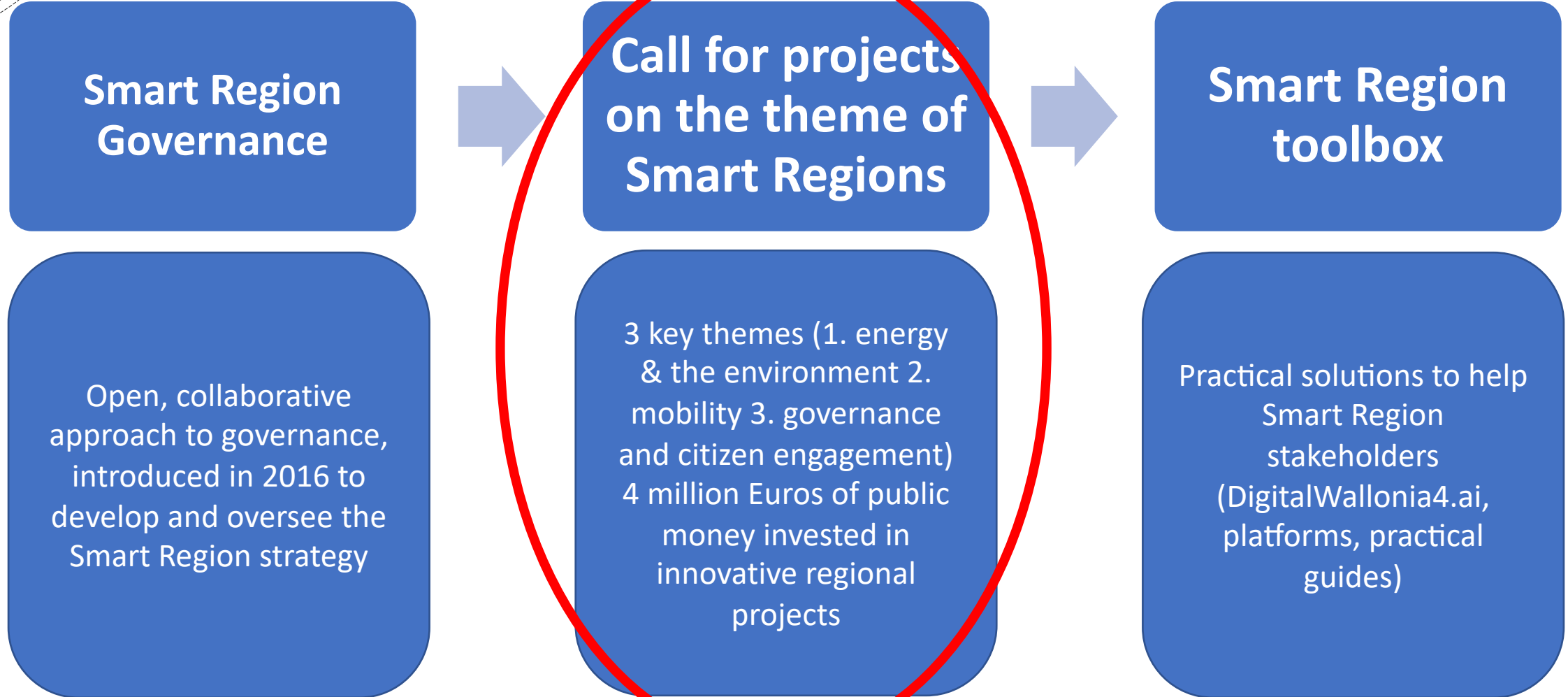




Case study:
Call for innovative
projects 'Smart
Territory'
Wallonia, Belgium

Smart Regions: A framework of actions and resources



Call for smart territory projects launched in 2019

The specific objectives of the call for projects :

- Improve the efficiency of municipalities and therefore services to citizens
- Create useful micro-services for citizens
- Meet the needs of citizens
- Include the notion of digital transformation at the strategic and long-term level in municipalities and cities
- Co-finance concrete, ambitious and innovative projects
- Develop solutions and services by Walloon SMEs and startups

Call for smart territory projects launched in 2019

The project evaluation criteria were as follows:

- The implementation of a priority theme (energy and environment, mobility and logistics, governance and citizenship)
- Data: data generation, governance and sovereignty, open data, security
- Citizen participation, search for transparency and openness
- Innovative, interoperable, open and replicable character
- Consistency of the project with the local strategy (Transversal Strategic Plan) in order to be sustainable



Call for smart territory projects launched in 2019

88 application forms submitted – 43 winning projects (20 of which are rural municipalities) !

100 municipalities submitted projects, 188 municipalities impacted (out of 262 Walloon municipalities) :

- 23 projects relating to smart energy and the environment (28%) – 13 winners
- 21 projects relating to smart mobility (24%) – 11 winners
- 42 projects relating to smart governance and citizen engagement (48%) – 19 winners

4 million Walloon subsidies and co-funding for bidders and their partners

*The Regional Policy Statement (DPR) renews the Call for Projects and continues its commitment to the Smart Region concept! **ANOTHER CALL FOR PROJECTS IN 2021***

Project: "Camions Sentinelles/Garbage trucks"

: **BEP** (Bureau Economique de la Province de Namur)

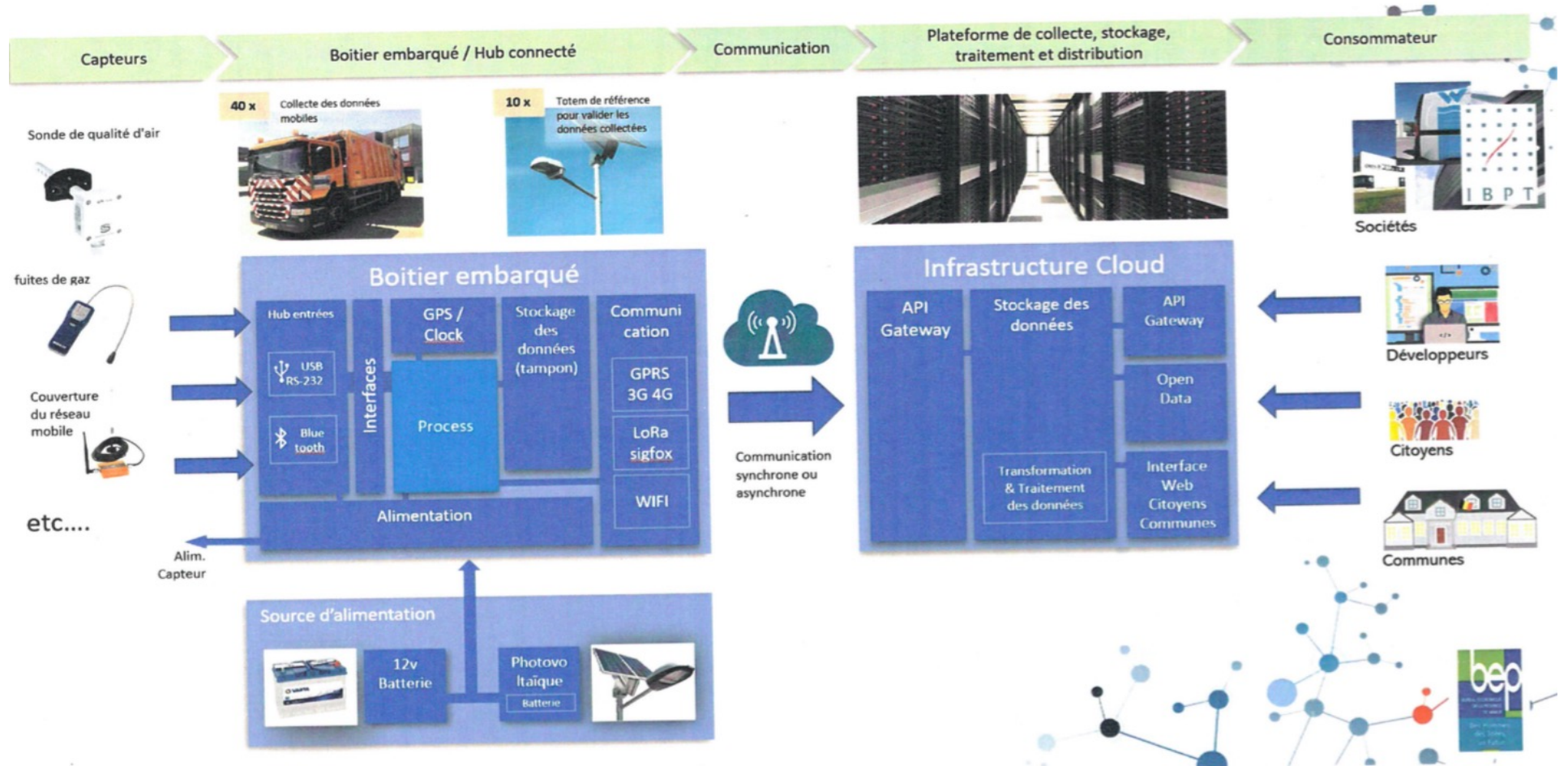


The project aims to create a platform for collecting, storing, processing and distributing data from an on-board IoT hub in garbage trucks with sensors for air quality, connectivity, road quality and congestion, etc. The project put to use a web interface for citizens and municipalities, as well as a possibility of crowdsourcing to consolidate the data collected by the trucks

Partnership with the IBPT, Gedinne, Profondeville, Viroinval, UNamur

Smart Region AWARDS

“Camions Sentinelles” /Garbage trucks”



Project: "BiomMAP" – Digital decision support tool to rebuild ecological network



Supported by the municipality of Wasseiges in collaboration (LAG) Meuse@Campagnes.

Citizen participatory production of qualitative data on biotopes (hedges, trees, islets, plantations, etc.) on a web platform, which also allows citizens to visualize the biodiversity potential of their plot/municipality, to receive advice on their plot and to point out public places to maintain in terms of biodiversity. => production of a tool to help their decision-making and to steer concrete actions. Biodiversity diagnosis will be more precise and constantly fed by contributions from the field. https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/biommap-belgium-wallonia_en

Project: Wellin compétences/Wellin skills



Supported by the municipality of Wellin.

It is a citizen participation web portal to promote the skills of the inhabitants, to allow the transmission of know-how, to create links and sharing between citizens of different generations, in an inclusive manner.

From a virtual platform it is also a question of proposing concrete actions of social bond, (conferences, exhibitions, sharing of skills, tastings, promotion, festive events). Recently the site made it possible to create a directory of local talents and to bring them together between two periods of lockdown in 2021.

<https://www.wellin-competences.org>

Call for smart territory projects launched in 2019

Success factors

Existence of a digital ecosystem :

- Existing SME ecosystem to offer smart solutions and services
- Stakeholders and institutions to support digital transformation, Smart Region academic and scientific referents (Smart City Institute, Futurocité, E-Campus, Multitel Research Center, Universities...).
- Digital ambassadors (acculturation by peers)

Links with the regional strategy : Existence of a regional strategic framework (smart region strategy 'Digital Wallonia')

Bottlenecks

Lack of preliminary diagnoses of local needs :

- Opportunity effects and call for projects rather oriented by technology providers
- Lack of focus on correctly diagnosed needs

Lack of human resources at the local level : Lack of expertise and human resources to propose/candidate/monitor projects at the level of small municipalities (technical specifications, monitoring of technological markets, etc.)

Call for smart territory projects launched in 2019

Transferrability

- The logic of calls for projects makes it possible to target regional action and is in this sense more effective in initiating pilot approaches than ordinary financing under common law.
- In the Walloon Region, the examination of the current needs of small rural municipalities in terms of smart territory shows that concerns are quite similar to those of other territorial scales (mobility, participation, energy, etc.). The factors that limit the deployment of solutions in small towns are related to their scale: market too small, maintenance costs, etc. Today, we need to think about how to pool smart solutions. From a geographical point of view, the scale of the LAGs is in this sense relevant for carrying out projects.
- The transfer of experience from this Walloon experience to more metropolitan areas should be studied in more detail, but at least the intermediation of supply and demand (between service providers and principals) to grow the market and acculturating is a transferable fundamental.
- On a comparable rural scale, the call for projects approach is also transferable with regard to the pilot effect that would be sought.

General impact

- The project had a ripple effect :
- Kick off for many stakeholders to seize the subject of digital transformation.
- Spotlight on the theme of digital transformation.
- Contributes to the evolution of the degree of digital/smart maturity in Wallonia

Questions submitted to workshop participants

Is there a good territorial scale to implement smart solutions within rural territories ?

What levers and key players should be mobilized to facilitate the promotion of “Smart Rural Territories” call for projects ?

What are the "smart" themes that are emerging in other European territories ?