

# *Wallonia 2020 : A Citizen-based Foresight Exercise about the Future of Wallonia*

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by Pascale VAN DOREN  
*The Destree Institute*

Border Regions-  
Regional Foresight and  
Innovation Development in  
Eastern Germany

Berlin, June 20-21, 2005

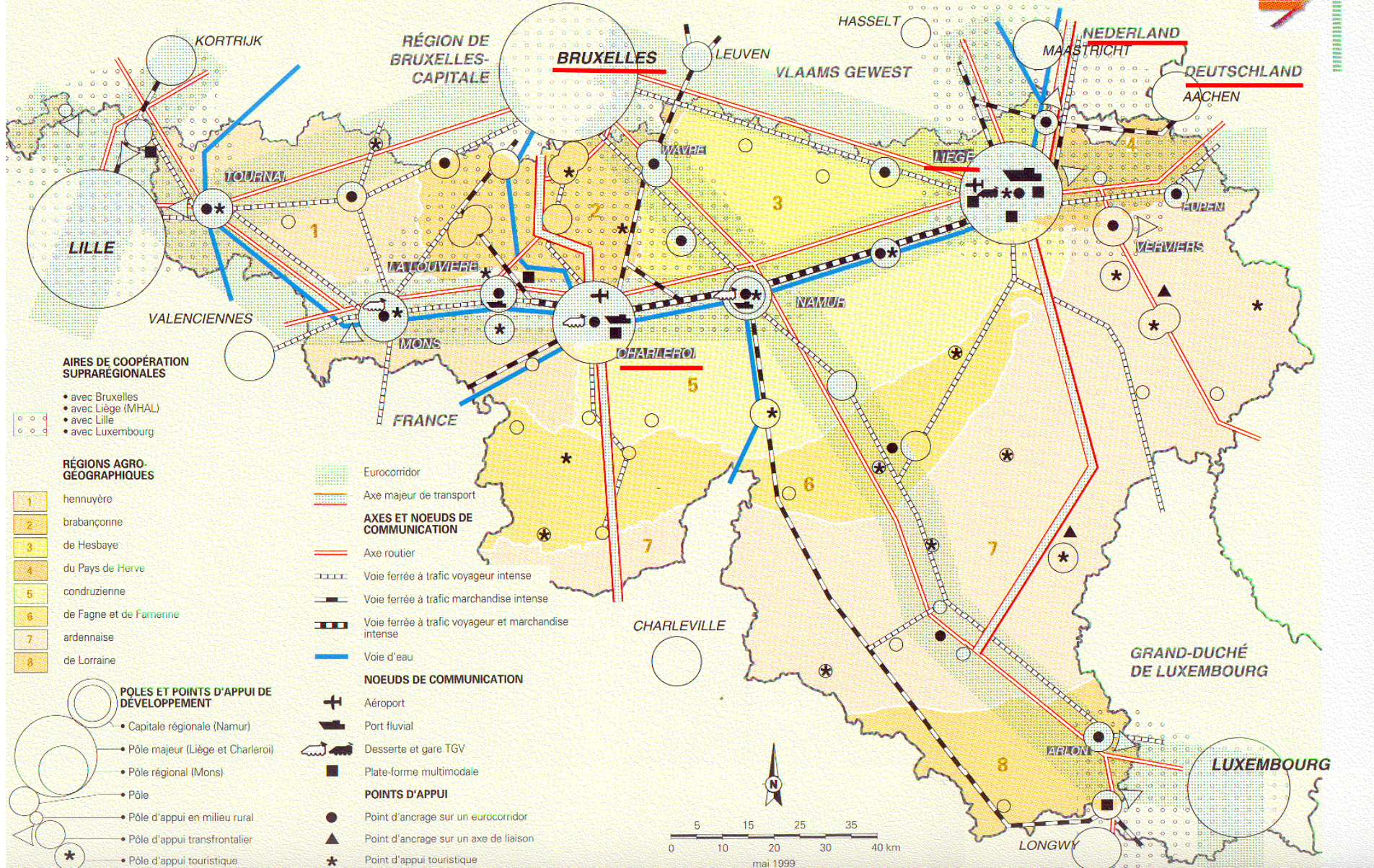


# Wallonia

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- **one of the three regions and of the six federal entities of Belgium**
- **15. 000 km<sup>2</sup>**
- **3,3 millions inhabitants**
- **budget of the Government of Wallonia : 5,5 billions €**

## PROJET DE STRUCTURE SPATIALE POUR LA WALLONIE



# **The Destree Institute**

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- a research centre based in Namur, Charleroi and Liège,
- a tool for regional development analysis, created in 1938,
- an independant think tank, a non profit organization,
- a foresight unit, focus point for global and European networks,
- 8 researchers and an annual budget of 1 million EURO



# Development of culture foresight in Wallonia (1)

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*1985...paradigm change, passage to a cognitive society and an intentional break with the idea of decline, the educational challenge, competitiveness and employment, innovation, foresight and evaluation...2000*

**1985-1988 : *La Wallonie au futur, Vers un nouveau paradigme***

**1988-1994 : *La Wallonie au futur, Le défi de l'Éducation***

**1994-1996 : *La Wallonie au futur, Quelles stratégies pour l'emploi ?***

**1996-2000 : *La Wallonie au futur, Sortir du XXème siècle : évaluation, innovation, prospective***

## Development of culture foresight in Wallonia (2)

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*2000...From Foresight to new Governances and Knowledge Regions...*

**1999 : Création de la Société wallonne de l'Évaluation et de la Prospective**

**2000 : Colloque Prospective et développement régional**

**2000-2004 : Mission Prospective Wallonie 21**

**2001-2004 : *La Wallonie au futur : Wallonie 2020***

**2002- : Province de Luxembourg 2010**

**Province de Liège 2020**

**Le Pays de Herve au futur**

**Zukunftsbild / Vision 2020 Grande Région**

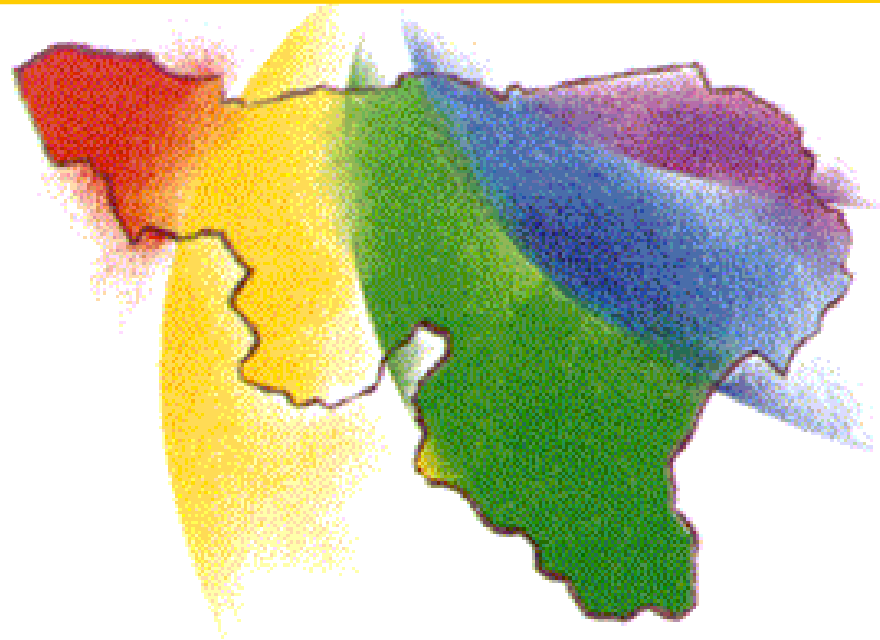
**ProspEnWal 4 X 4 pour entreprendre**

**2003 : Blueprint for Foresight Actions in the Regions  
Création de l'IWEPS**

**2004 : Régions de la Connaissance (SPIDER, METAFORESIGHT)  
Charleroi 2020**


# 1. Wallonia 2020 : 1987-2004 : A Citizen-based Foresight Exercise

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# Wallonia to the Future(1987-2004)


Wallonia to the Future  
Towards a new paradigm  
1987



Wallonia to the Future  
The Challenge of Education  
1991



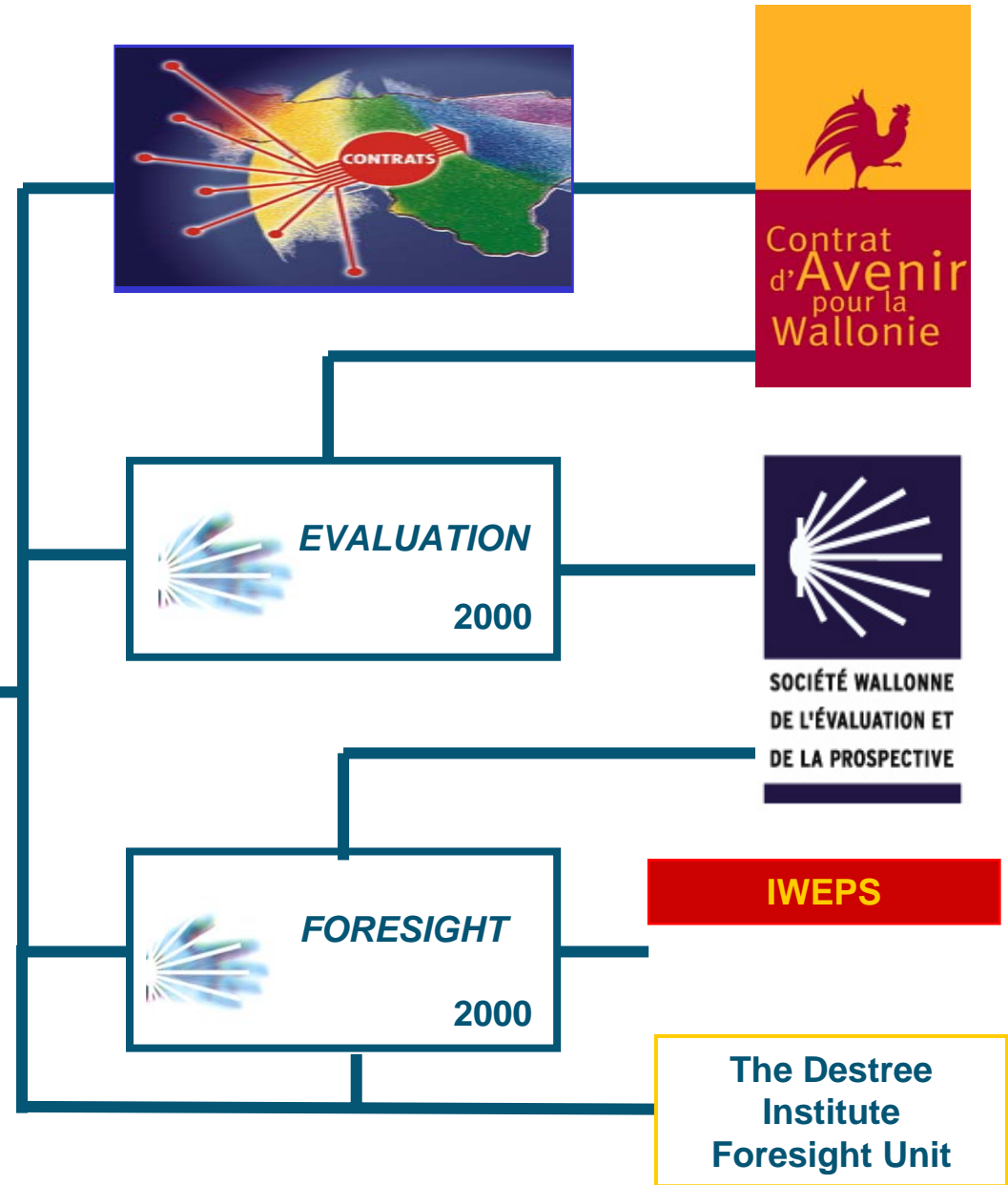
Wallonia to the Future  
What are the strategies for  
employment?  
1995



Wallonia to the Future  
Leaving the 20th Century: Evaluation,  
innovation, Foresight  
1998




Wallonia 2020  
2003

# The three major goals of Wallonia 2020

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- 1. To take in charge the future of Wallonia and its issues in the long run 2020;**
- 2. To begin with the needs of the civil society and of the living realities of the population;**
- 3. To place the future of Wallonia in the context of the global and European changes.**

## **Four new concerns guided the process of Wallonia 2020**

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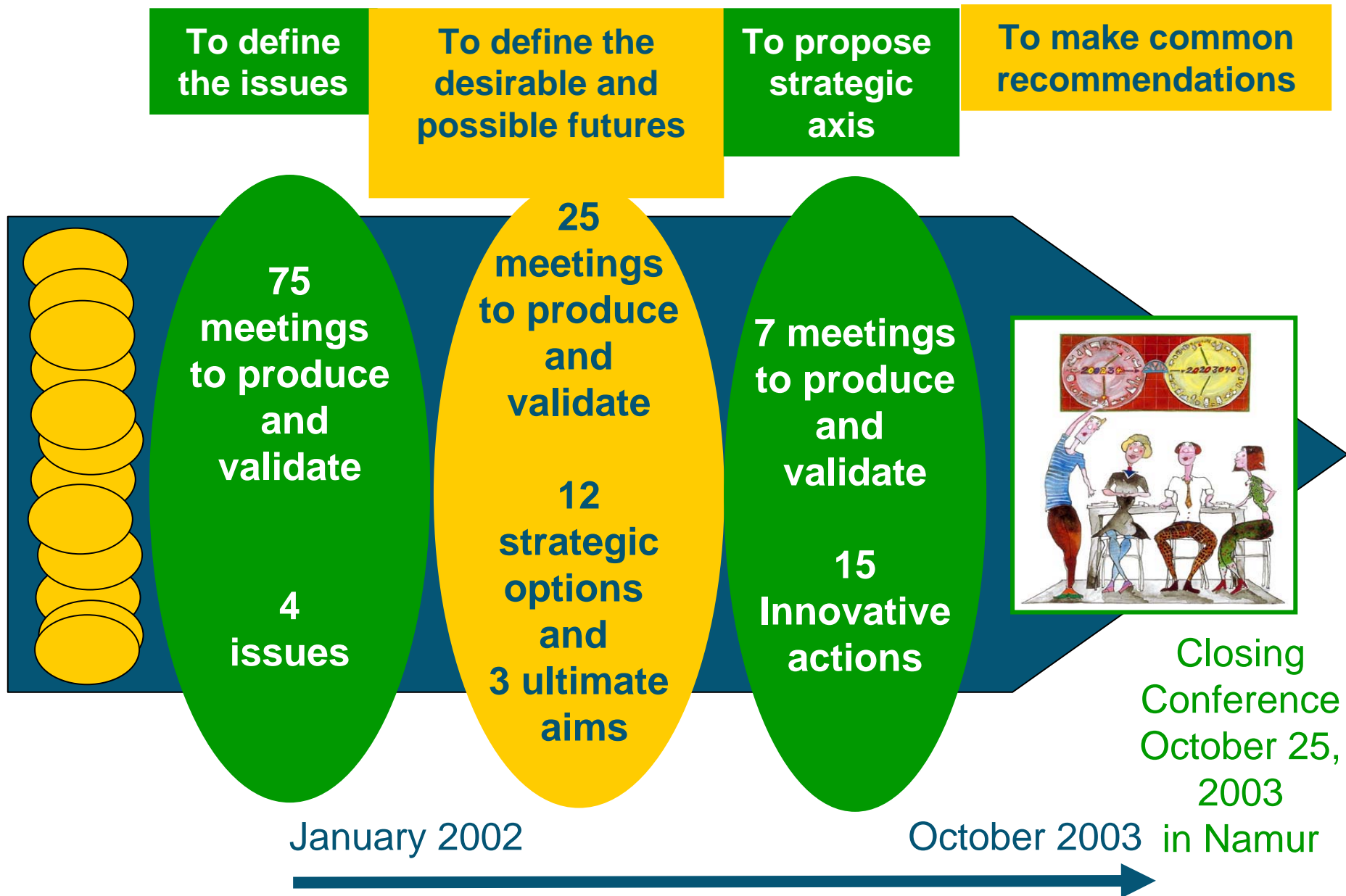
- 1. To foster the collective and participative mobilisation of civil society of Wallonia to the preparation of a common strategic project;**
- 2. To instil a foresight culture among the participants;**
- 3. To enrol the process in the framework of good regional governance;**
- 4. To coordinate this exercise with other ongoing works.**

# Three major characteristics of Wallonia 2020

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1. **A partnership foresight : 50 associated organizations (universities, democratic political parties, professional and trade organizations, administrations, NGO's, etc);**
2. **A citizen foresight : 400 volunteers willing to participate in the initiative;**
3. **A foresight exercise that associate young people : organization of working days in schools (secondary general, technical and professional schools).**

# The process of Wallonia 2020



Phase 1

Issues

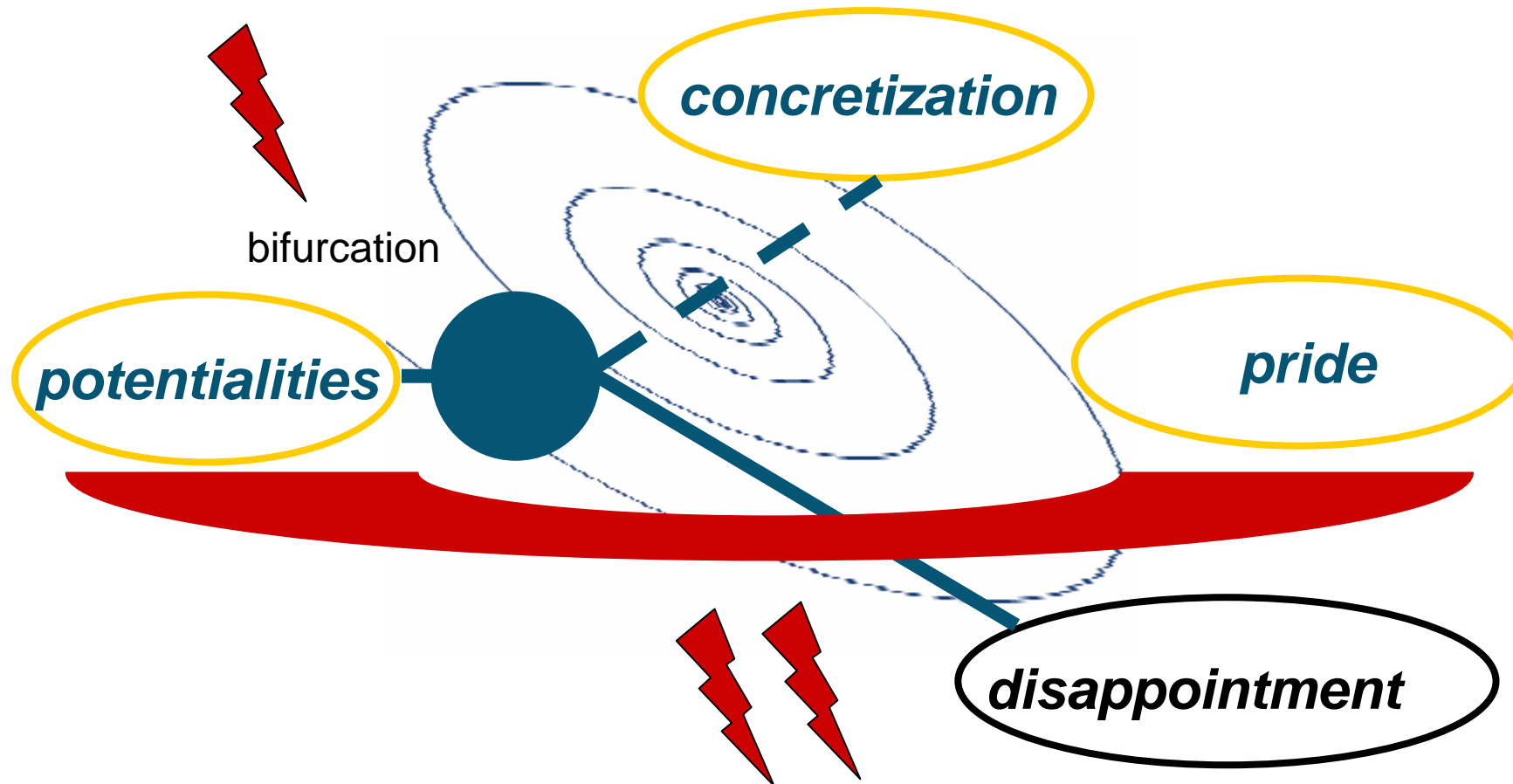
14 working groups  
to define the issues  
resulting from a  
work on the  
representations of  
the region



Wallonie 2020

# A bifurcation in a fundamental line of tension

2002-2020



Wallonie 2020

# Outputs of phase 1 : four structural issues

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- 1. *How to reconcile the trend towards individualism that incites the desintegration of society, but which, at the same time, means that more society is needed? (solidarity, society, cultures)***
- 2. *How to adjust the institutions and public actors so that, in a society in transition where the individual is undergoing accelerated change, the State can represent a recognised collective authority? (adjustment of the public spheres)***
- 3. *The inadequacy of the learning processes in relation to society's evolution raises questions about development, creativity, autonomy, as well as the capacity for entrepreneurship and being responsible (learning and entrepreneurship)***
- 4. *How to conceive a pro-active vision of one's long term future? A collective, federating permanent and mobilising project is required. Its conception, thus, its realization is long coming (strategy and pro-activeness)***

**The compass of 2020 to instill pride**

**solidarity, society  
and cultures**

**learning and  
entrepreneurship**

governance

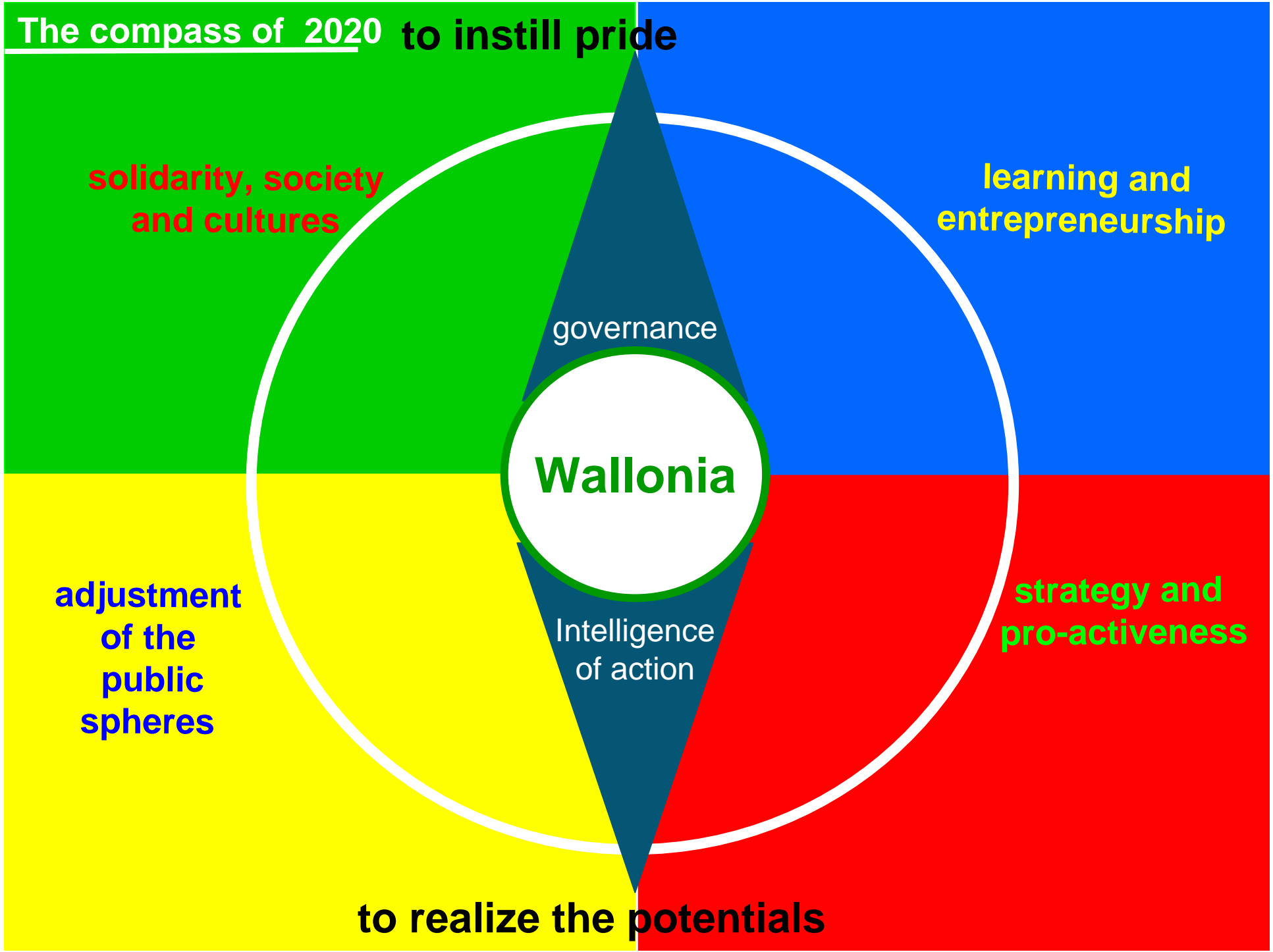
**Wallonia**

**adjustment  
of the  
public  
spheres**

Intelligence  
of action

**strategy and  
pro-activeness**

**to realize the potentials**



## Phase 2

### Desirable and possible futures

11 working groups  
to define strategic  
options and  
ultimate  
aims



# Strategic options for the issue

## ***Solidarity, society and cultures***

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*How to reconcile the trend towards individualism that incites the desintegration of society, but which, at the same time, means that more society is needed?*

**1. To recognize the individual, each person's diversity and role as actor in society;**

**1.2. To set the framework and to create new areas for the citizens' political involvement ;**

**1.3. To take the common good and general interest into account-from the local to the global level.**

# **The structuring desirables : vision and ultimate aims**

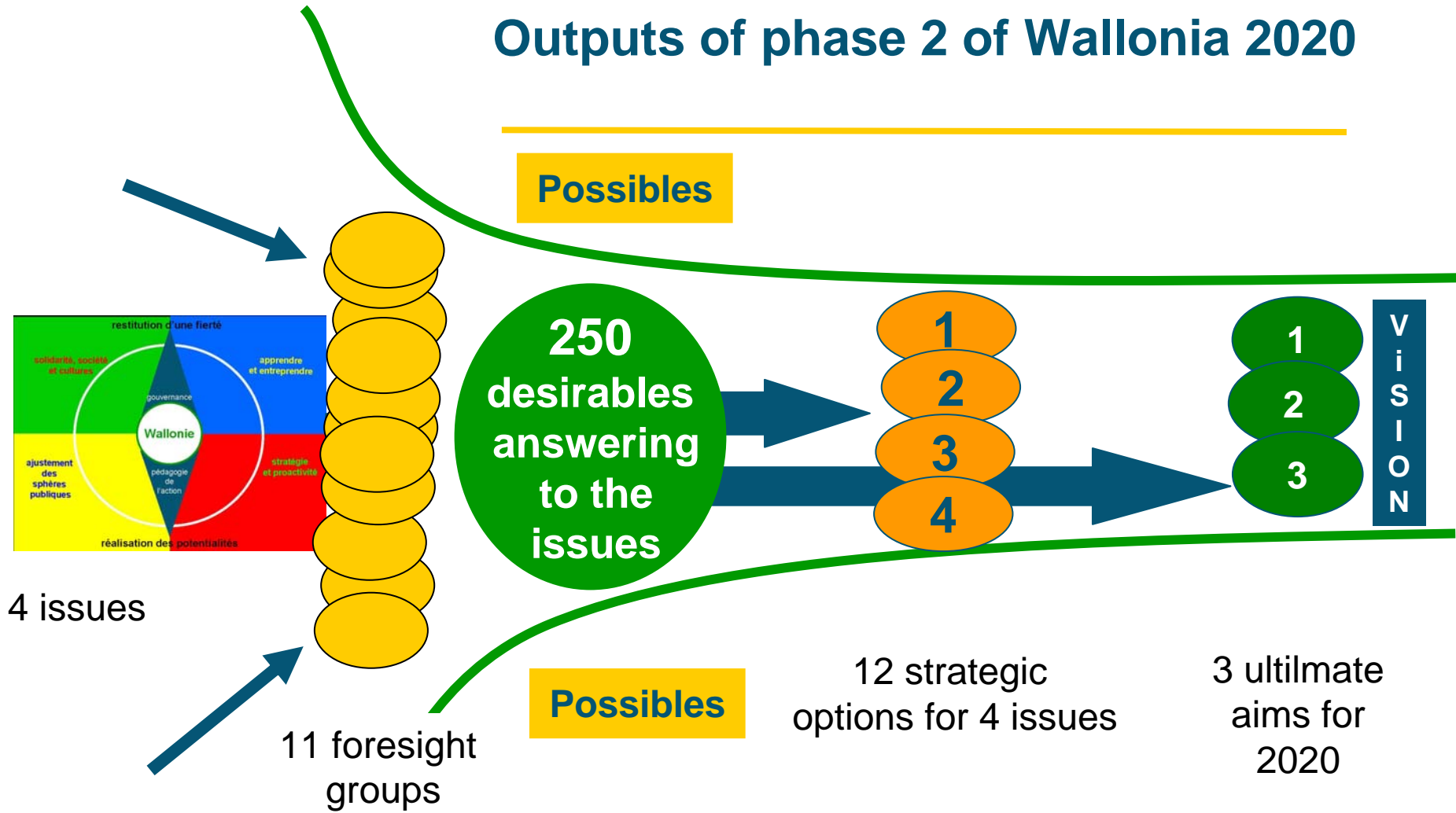
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# A vision for Wallonia 2020, three ultimate aims

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- 1. To build a strong regional economy;**
- 2. To reactivate political culture by the involvement and the participation of the actors;**
- 3. To answer to the vital needs of all and to contribute to the general and individual fulfilment.**

# Outputs of phase 2 of Wallonia 2020



4 issues

11 foresight groups

Possibles

12 strategic options for 4 issues

3 ultimate aims for 2020

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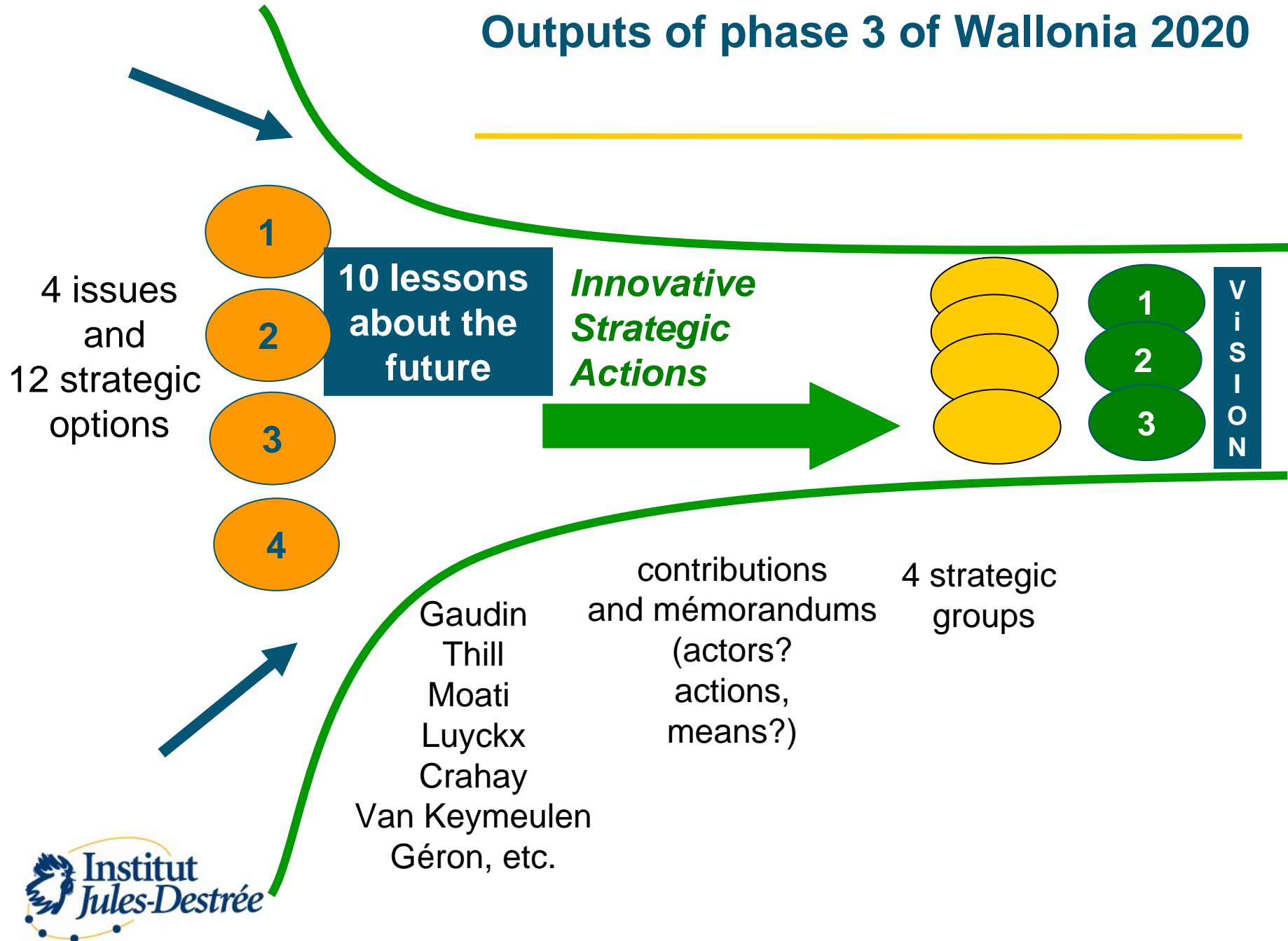
## Phase 3

### To propose strategic actions

4 working groups  
to define innovative  
actions



# Outputs of phase 3 of Wallonia 2020



# Learning and entrepreneurship

chairt : Jean-Louis Dethier  
v-chair : Daniel Collet  
rapporteur : Henry d'Anethan

**Strategic  
option**

**Design education that can measure up to the  
knowledge society**

**Innovative  
Strategic  
actions**

**To give pedagogical autonomy to the schools and  
to the teachers (creating a delegation system in  
order to construct a legal framework, to organize  
that autonomy,  
to replace the rule by the agreement**

**To make all the parts of the region aware of the  
impacts of the Knowledge Society**

**Actors  
And  
partners**

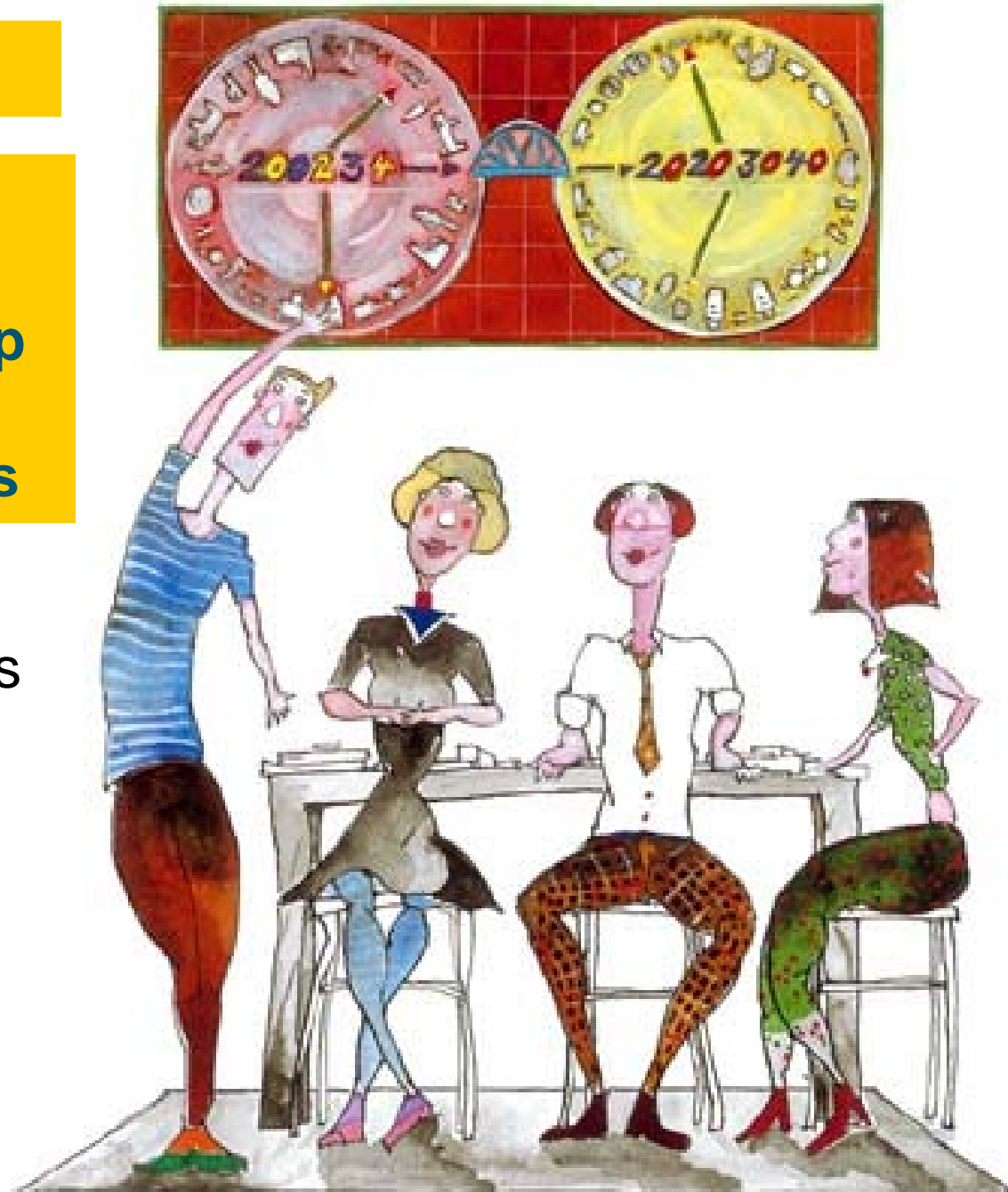
- Multi-level public stakeholders and civil servants**
- Actors of the civil society**

## Phase 4

**A dialog with the  
great decision  
makers to draw up  
common  
recommendations**

October 21, 2003 :  
4 dialog round tables  
about the 15  
innovative actions

Wallonie 2020



**Phase 5**

**Dissemination  
&  
evaluation**



**A free and  
organized  
Expression  
Of the citizens**



Wallonie 2020

**A strong  
dialog with the  
political decision  
makers**

Wallonie 2020

The need  
to involve  
young people

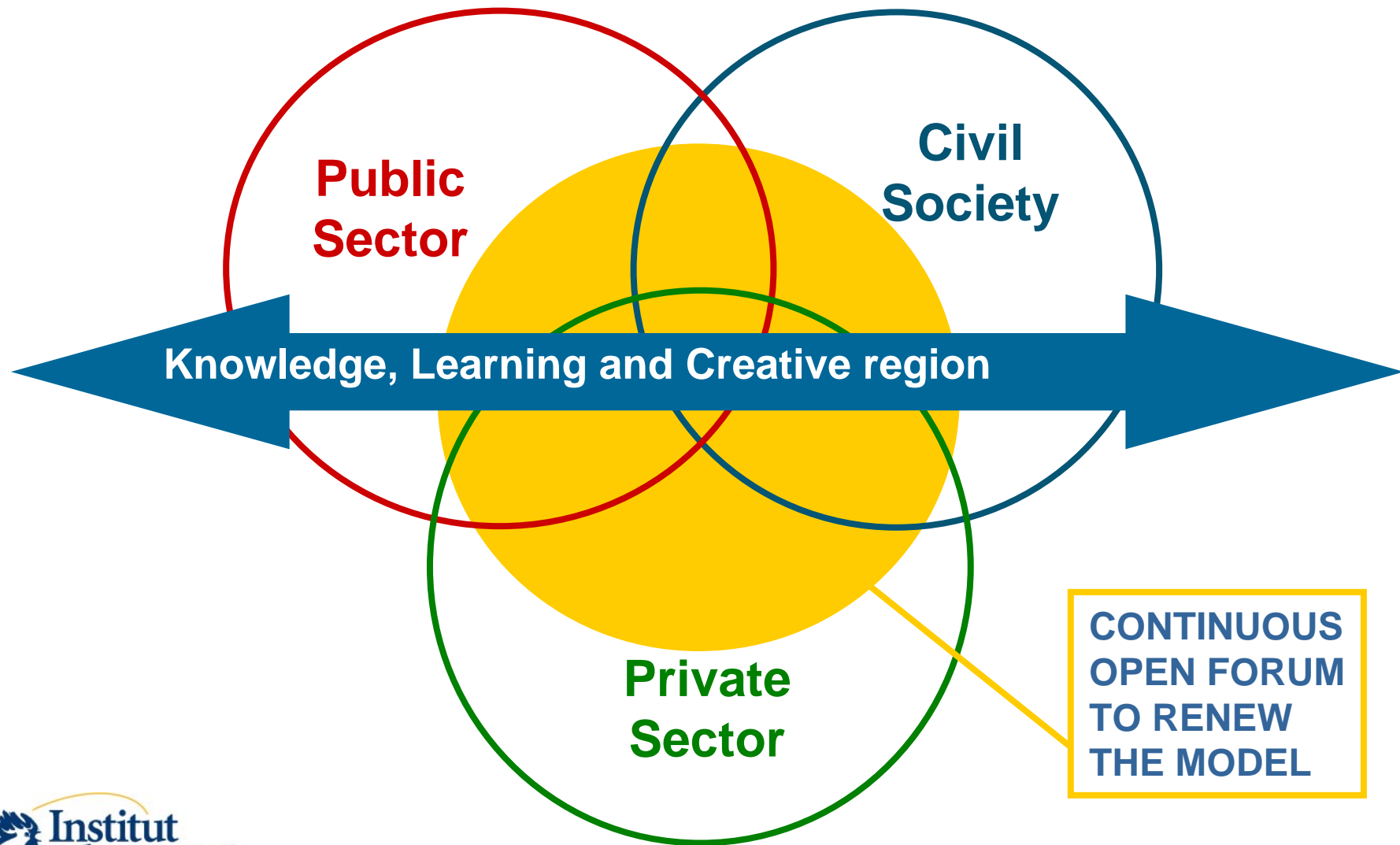
Wallonie 2020

## **2.Sustainable learning platform Regional Foresight College**

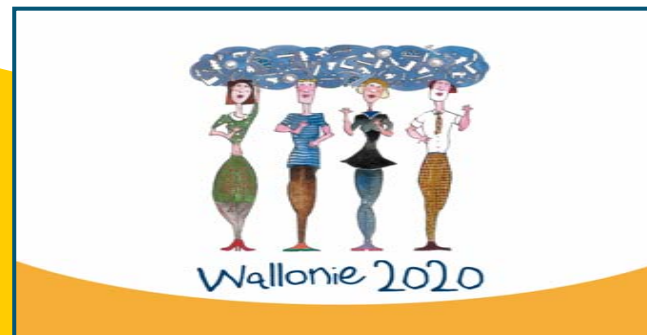
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# *The Regional Foresight College : A new process of collective learning*

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# Starting from the acquis of the foresight exercises conducted in Wallonia



**The State**

Exploratory foresight studies as the groundwork for a strategic vision involving the actors

Exercise of normative foresight to include citizen participation starting with the actors

**Civil Society**

**The Private sector**

Exercise of normative foresight, associating company directors, experts and public deciders



[www.wallonie-en-ligne.net](http://www.wallonie-en-ligne.net)  
[vandoren.pascale@destree.org](mailto:vandoren.pascale@destree.org)

