EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Country factsheet

Belgium

An initiative of the European Union

Contents

Introduction

This document presents an overview of the cluster policy in Belgium. Given the importance to contextualise the cluster policies (and related) analysed in the factsheets, a comprehensive outlook of the country in socioeconomic terms can be [consulted in the European Semester Country Report for Belgium](#).

The European Semester was an instrument introduced to coordinate the EU Member States' economic policies and address the economic challenges faced by the EU. Its goals are "to ensure sound public finances, to prevent excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the EU, to support structural reforms to create more jobs and growth, and to boost investment". Thus, it focuses on the following areas: business environment; financial and fiscal stability; green economy; public administration; labour market and skills; and, social protection and cohesion.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, European, as well as global economies, have been subject to severe output losses. In response, policymakers at the EU and national level have acted decisively and at short notice to make available very significant financial resources, notably through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, to tackle the threat of a prolonged downturn. National recovery and resilience plans have been drafted in each Member State to ensure a recovery that addresses the challenges identified in the European Semester. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine has also taken its toll on EU companies and industrial ecosystems, highlighting the significance of policy efforts in supporting SMEs and clusters.

Belgium's recovery and resilience plan[1] is structured around six pillars: climate, sustainability, and innovation; digital transformation; mobility; social and inclusiveness; economy of the future and productivity; and public finances. Clusters are mentioned in the National recovery and resilience plan and will be an important stakeholder for the implementation of those pillars. In Belgium, industry, research, and innovation aspects as well as cluster support is handled by the regional authorities.

In the following, a succinct overview of the cluster policy in Belgium will be provided. The structure of this factsheet generally encompasses:

1) an overview of the industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape in Belgium
2) an overview of the Flemish and Walloon regional cluster policies,
3) an assessment of the state of play of the national cluster policy.

[1]Belgium's recovery and resilience plan, https://dermine.belgium.be/sites/default/files/articles/FR%20-%20Plan%20national%20pour%20la%20reprise%20et%20la%20re%CC%81silience.pdf

01

Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape

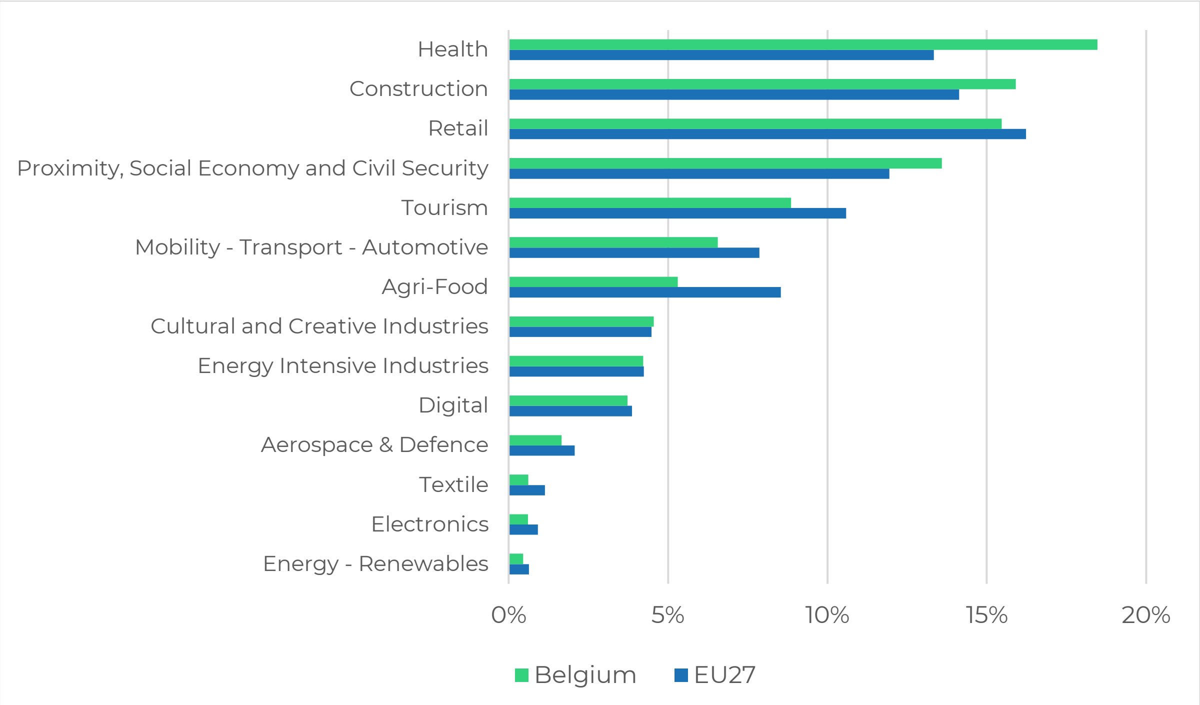
1. Industrial ecosystems and cluster landscape

Employment in the 14 ecosystems in the country

As part of its Industrial Strategy (March 2020), the European Commission has selected 14 industrial ecosystems that are particularly relevant in Europe and encompass all players operating in a value chain.[2] The classification of the 14 industrial ecosystems have been calculated by aggregating NACE 2 -digit activities, following the methodology established in the European Commission.[3]

In the following figure, the employment share of Belgium and the EU27 in each industrial ecosystem is shown relative to the number of all employed persons in the 14 industrial ecosystems. The ecosystems are ordered, from top to bottom, according to the amount of employment in the country. When the bar for the country is higher than that of the EU27, it indicates that the country is more specialised in that ecosystem. Here, the three main ecosystems by employment for Belgium are "Health", "Construction" and "Retail". In a number of industrial ecosystems ("Health", "Construction", "Proximity, Social Economy and Civil Security") Belgium has employment shares higher than the EU27 average which indicates the relative strength of the country in those industrial ecosystems.

Figure 1: Employment in the ecosystems



Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

[2] see here for more information https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/industrial-ecosystems (last access 09.01.2023).

[3] see European Commission (2021): Annual Single Market Report, SWD(2021)351.

Regionally relevant nodes (agglomerations)

Economic activity, and therefore employment, is not equally distributed in all regions. Specialisation can be measured through Location Quotients (LQ) that reflect the relative specialisation of an activity in a region compared to the EU average. If the LQ for a given activity-region combination is above 1.5, it is considered a specialisation node, and if the activity accounts for at least 1 % of total employment in the region, it is considered regionally relevant.[4] The following tables shows the total number of regionally relevant specialisation nodes (agglomerations) in each region in the country and identifies the top five most specialised of these nodes. The first table focuses on the 88 NACE 2-digit activities or sectors, totalling 24 in the country, while the second table is based on the 14 ecosystems, which total 3 in the country.

Table 1: Number of regionally relevant sectoral nodes and Top 5 nodes by region (NACE)

Region	# of nodes	Node 1	Node 2	Node 3	Node 4	Node 5
BE1: Brussels Region	11	U99 – Activities of extraterritorial organisations	K66 – Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance	M70 – Activities of head offices	J61 – Telecommunicatio ns	K65 - Insurance, pension funding
BE2: Flemish Region	6	U99 – Activities of extraterritorial organisations	M70 – Activities of head offices	N78 - Employment activities	C20 – Manufacture of chemical products	N81 – Services to buildings and landscape activities
BE3: Walloon Region	7	C21 – Manufacture of basic pharma-ceutical products	Q88 – Social work activities	Q87 – Residential care activities	N78 - Employment activities	M70 – Activities of head offices

Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

Overall, there are fewer numbers of ecosystem nodes compared to the regionally relevant sectoral nodes by NACE sectors. This more concentrated agglomeration can at least partially be linked to the methodology of measurement of the 14 industrial ecosystems. For the Walloon region (BE3), their ecosystem node is clearly linked to their strong NACE node in Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations (C21). For the capital region of Brussels (BE1), the picture is less clear, but its digital ecosystem hub is reflecting its NACE nodes in telecommunications (J61) and its auxiliary activities to financial services and insurance (K66), while its health ecosystem node is connected to strengths in insurance and pension funding (K65) and , less obviously, to activities of head offices (M70), considering that Belgium is one of the major European hubs for multinational corporations in the pharmaceuticals sector.

Table 2: Regionally relevant ecosystem nodes

Region	Number of ecosystem nodes	Node 1	Node 2
BE1: Brussels Region	2	Health	Digital
BE2: Flemish Region	0	-	-
BE3: Walloon Region	1	Health	-

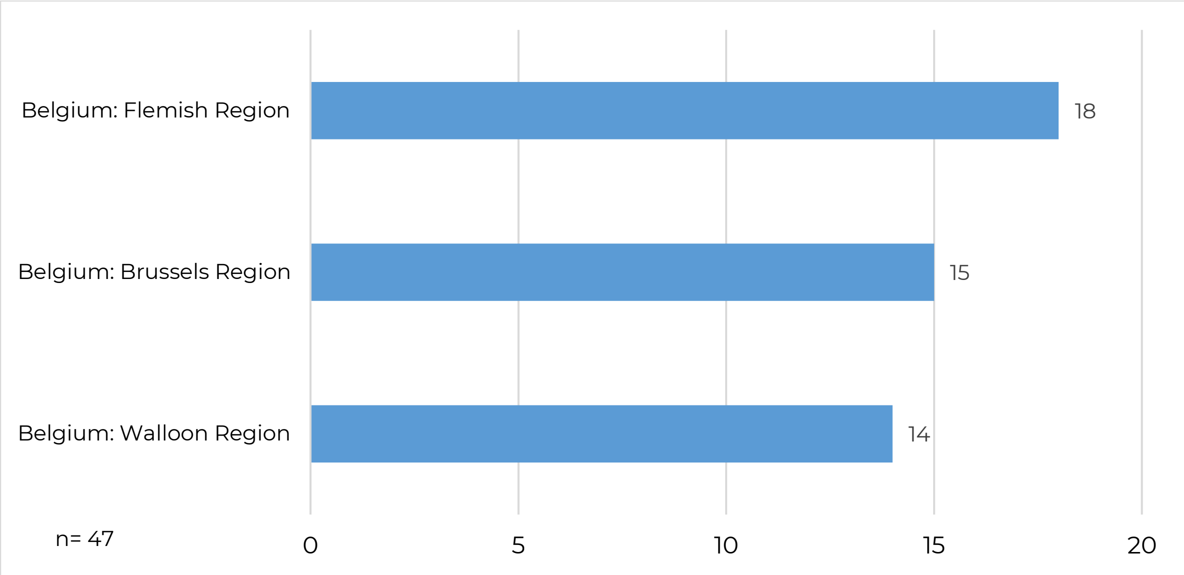
Source: ECCP (2022), own elaboration from Eurostat.

[4] for more information on the methodology please see the methodology note: https://clustercollaboration.eu/in-focus/policy-acceleration/country-factsheets-on-cluster-policies-and-programmes (last access 09.01.2023).

Cluster organisations in the regions

There are 47 cluster organisations registered on the ECCP from Belgium. With 18 cluster organisations the majority of Belgian cluster organisations registered on the ECCP are located in the Flemish region followed by 15 cluster organisations in Brussels and 14 in the Walloon region. The following figure shows the presence of cluster organisations in the different regions.

Figure 2: Cluster organisations profiled and active on the ECCP



Source: ECCP (2022). Note: the data for the analysis was extracted on 14/10/2022.

SMEs (77%, EU: 84%) followed by large enterprises (14%, EU: 9%) and research organisations (9%, EU:7%) constitute the majority of member organisations of Belgian cluster organisations with profiles on the ECCP. From a thematic perspective, these Belgian cluster organisations are operating in the following industrial ecosystems. Since not all cluster organisations on the ECCP provided this information, the number of cluster organisations with an allocated industrial ecosystem is lower than the overall number of cluster organisations in the country.

- Health (5 cluster organisations)
- Digital (4 clusterorganisations)
- Renewable Energy (3 cluster organisations)
- Agri-food (2 cluster organisations)
- Construction (2 cluster organisations)
- Tourism (2 cluster organisations)
- Energy Intensive Industries (2 cluster organisations)
- Mobility-Transport-Automotive (1 cluster organisation)
- Aerospace & Defence (1 cluster organisation)
- Creative & Cultural Industries (1 cluster organisation)

02

National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives

2. National cluster policy, programmes and initiatives

In this section, we provide an overview of the existing Belgian cluster policies at the regional level. In Belgium, industry, research, and innovation aspects as well as cluster support is handled by the regional authorities. The breakdown is presented in the form of a table, with the first column showcasing information on the aspects which constitute the policy (beginning with 'Policy Objectives', following with 'Policy Focus', etc.). The second column represents the case of the Flemish cluster policy, whilst the third represents the Walloon cluster policy. Furthermore there is the case of Hub.Brussels in the Brussles-Capital Region demonstrates 'Hub.Brussels', which collaborates with different actors and clusters involved in a variety of industries and sectors. Nevertheless, Hub.Brussels qualifies more as a regional agency for business support in Brussels but not as a cluster policy, which is why it will not be elaborated on in greater detail, in parallel to the Regional cluster policies in Flanders and Walloon, respectively..

Within the table, the text presented in bold (black) depicts standardised categories across country factsheets (56 in total for 2022), which are applied for comparative purposes. This is followed by a complementary descriptive text to provide more insights into the cluster policy in Belgium.

Policy type:	Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:	Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
POLICY OBJECTIVES	**Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors** **Increasing competitiveness and boosting scale-up of SMEs** **Supporting internationalisation activities** **Fostering R&D activities, technology development and implementation** **Promoting entrepreneurship, start-ups and spin-offs** **Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences** **Strengthening the network of cluster organisations/cross-clustering**	**Strengthening cooperation between companies or industry and RTDI actors** **Supporting internationalisation activities** **Enhancing the visibility of clusters** **Fostering R&D activities, technology development and implementation** **Fostering innovation and strengthening innovation ecosystems** **Promoting employment and upgrading skills and competences** **Cluster analysis and support for policymaking**

Policy type:	Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:	Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
	Connect to global supply chains	
	Policy objectives are to increase collaboration amongst researchers, industry, and businesses, as well as improve competitiveness of businesses.	Walloon region has two cluster policies, Business and Competitive Cluster policies. Business clusters are bottom-up development and sector initiated, public support being ensured by a regional decree. Competitive clusters are developed through a top-down approach, Walloon region having set 6 prior sectors. For this study, the focus is on Competitive Clusters because they were initiated by the government. Policy objectives of Competitive clusters are to encourage R&D cooperation projects between research institutions, academia and industry, encourage knowledge transfer between industry, training and skills upgrading of personnel involved in innovation, promote Walloon businesses locally and internationally, and cluster development.
POLICY FOCUS	**Sectoral**	**Sectoral**
	The policies focus is on organisations operating in Flanders in 7 spearhead domains, in line with the regional Smart Specialisation Strategy: agro-food, sustainable chemistry and synthetics, logistics and transport, new materials, energy, biotech, medical and digital technologies and blue economy. In addition, 20 innovative business networks have been operating and were supported by VLAIO over the last 5 years. Business networks are a specific type of Flemish clusters having a different scale, maturity time horizon and ambition level than the spearhead clusters. The projects are having a smaller scale and were only supported for three years.	The Walloon region has set 6 prior sectors which are (1) health, (2) green chemistry, innovative and sustainable construction and building materials, environmental technologies and cleantech, (3) transport, logistics and mobility, (4) mechanical engineering, (5) aerospace and (6) agrifood industry.
	Both drafting and implementation **Provides funding**	**Both drafting and implementation** **Provides funding**

Policy type:	Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:	Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES	**Oversees the implementation**	**Oversees the implementation**
	Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO) is responsible for drafting and implementing the cluster policy. This is based on the Decree of the Flemish Government March 4th, 2016. The agency is also responsible for funding the cluster organisations (50% funding + 50% private contributions from business).	The policy was designed by the Walloon Government through the Public Service for Economy, Employment and Research (SPW EER) which is also the managing authority. Each Competitiveness cluster is managed by a Board composed by academics and industrialists. The government oversees and aids the projects selected by the clusters int the framework of their own strategy. The government also provides funding to cover part of operational costs through the government agency Public Service of Wallonia.
BENEFICIARIES	**SMEs** **Cluster organisations** **Research organisations** **Academic institutions** **Large firms** **Technology centres** **Start-ups**	**Cluster organisations** **Research organisations** **Academic institutions** **Large firms** **SME's** **Technology centres**
	The policy targets two types of clusters, spearhead clusters and Innovative Business Networks. Spearhead clusters are large scale, ambitious initiatives, while Innovative Business Networks are smaller scale initiatives that take a bottom-up approach to implement initiatives in upcoming domains. Both clusters target SMEs companies operating in Flanders, knowledge centres, and large firms.	Based on a governmental initiative, Competitive clusters are mainly an industry-driven approach to encourage collaboration between industry, academia, and research institutions, it mainly targets research larges firms, SME's, knowledge centres, , clusters organisations, and academia.
Financial	**Funding collaboration initiatives (GBER art. 27)**	**Funding collaboration initiatives**

Policy type:		Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:		Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
INSTRUMENTS		**Support to R&D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc.** **Financing start-ups**	**Support to R&D projects, SMEs becoming cluster members, etc.** **Subsidies to hire personnel** **Subsidies for cluster infrastructure (e.g. offices, equipment)**
	Technical assistance	**Infrastructure: incubation and accelerator spaces, research centres, technology parks etc.** **Support for hard skill development: knowledge transfer, intellectual property, entrepreneurship, export advice, market intelligence** **Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling** **Support for networking and partnership building (at national and/or international level)**	**Infrastructure: coworking spaces, offices, incubation and accelerator spaces, research centres, technology parks etc.** **Support for soft skills development: coaching, management training, upskilling/reskilling** **Support for networking and partnership building (at national and/or international level)**
	Explanation	The policy offers support for cluster organisations and for R&D projects, business support, business creation, investments, starting incubators, entrepreneurship support and opportunities to network with knowledge sharers.	The Competitive Cluster policy offers support for R&D, attraction of foreign investment and exports, investment subsidies, infrastructure and equipment, and hard skill and soft skills training.
HISTORY	Period	**Limited period**	**Unlimited period**
	Ending year *(for policies with limited period)*	Spearhead Clusters =2026 Business Innovative Networks = 3 years after start of each individual project	No indication that the policy is limited

Policy type:		Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:		Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
	Starting year	2016	2005
	Explanation	The policy was put in place by the Flemish Government March 4th, 2016. Spearhead Clusters have a maximum financing of up to 10 years. Ending year= 2026. Business Innovative Networks have a maximum financing of 3 years. Ending year= 3 years after start of each individual projects.	The Competitive Clusters policy was launched in 2005 by Walloon Region on the basis of a study of the leading sectors in Wallonia. Their mission is to initiate innovative projects resulting from the synergy between companies, universities, and research centres and centres of competence. Competitive Clusters are mainly supported to carry out investment, research and development or training projects in line with their own strategy, with a view to valorisation, particularly at the international level.
BUDGET	Overall	Total agency (VLAIO) budget is EUR 600 million of which EUR 100 million earmarked for cluster projects and cluster organisations.	EUR 946 million as of 2021 (public)
	Annual	No data available	Data not available
	Source of funding	For the cluster organisations, 50% of funding comes from Flemish Government and 50% from private investors.	Part of the funding is provided by the Walloon government through the implementing Agency Public Service of Wallonia. Private Investors also contribute towards the programme.
POLICY EVALUATION	Availability	**in-itinere**	**in-itinere**
	Results	Every second year the cluster organisations are subject to an intermediary evaluation. This consists of a self-evaluation and an update of the work programme. Together with an evaluation of results and impact, this will motivate the decision on the continuation of the financial support to the cluster organisation by VLAIO.	Over 467 projects out of which 335 were R&D projects. Projects led to over 187 international collaborations, over 190 patent applications and 13 licenses sold. This has led to creation of over 4,205 jobs and 27 companies created. In terms of knowledge transfer and training, there have been difficulties reaching the main target audience (employees of SMEs) because trainings did

Policy type:	Regional cluster policy	Regional cluster policy
Policy name:	Flanders Innovation Clusters Policy	Walloon Region Competitive Clusters Policy
	After five years, the number of companies involved in cluster organisations grew over 3.000; 302 cluster projects were initiated and raised EUR 291 million in support, complemented with EUR 122 million from private companies. An evaluation of the yearly impact of the cluster policy revealed that the cluster programme contributed in 2021 to EUR 34 billion additional turn over cluster members also see the added value of participating in a cluster: 70% of the member companies sees or expects to see a contribution to their competitiveness in the short term due to their involvement in the cluster activities.	not always correspond with their needs and there was not an overall strategy.
POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH THE EU PRIORITIES	**Green economy** **Digital economy** **Resilience**	**Green economy** **Digital economy** **Resilience**

03

State of play of cluster policy

3. State of play of cluster policy

This section presents an overview of the state of play of the Belgian cluster policy in the form of a quantitative and qualitative assessment. While the data below normally illustrates how the country ranks in terms of **maturity of cluster policy at the national level, the following ranking illustrates the ranking of regional cluster policy due to the absence of a national cluster policy in Belgium.** The maturity assessment is based on a combination of factors presented in Chapter 2, which receive a score based on the existence or absence of a given element in the cluster policy.

Note: the maturity assessment does not reflect the performance of a country, but only the degree of development of their national cluster policy at the moment of data collection (Q3 2022). The assessment illustrates how the country scores for each of the four criteria (policy scope, continuity of cluster policies, evidence of performance, cluster support instruments,) compared to the maximum score that they can reach. Please refer to the **Annex** for a detailed overview of the categories and the scoring system.

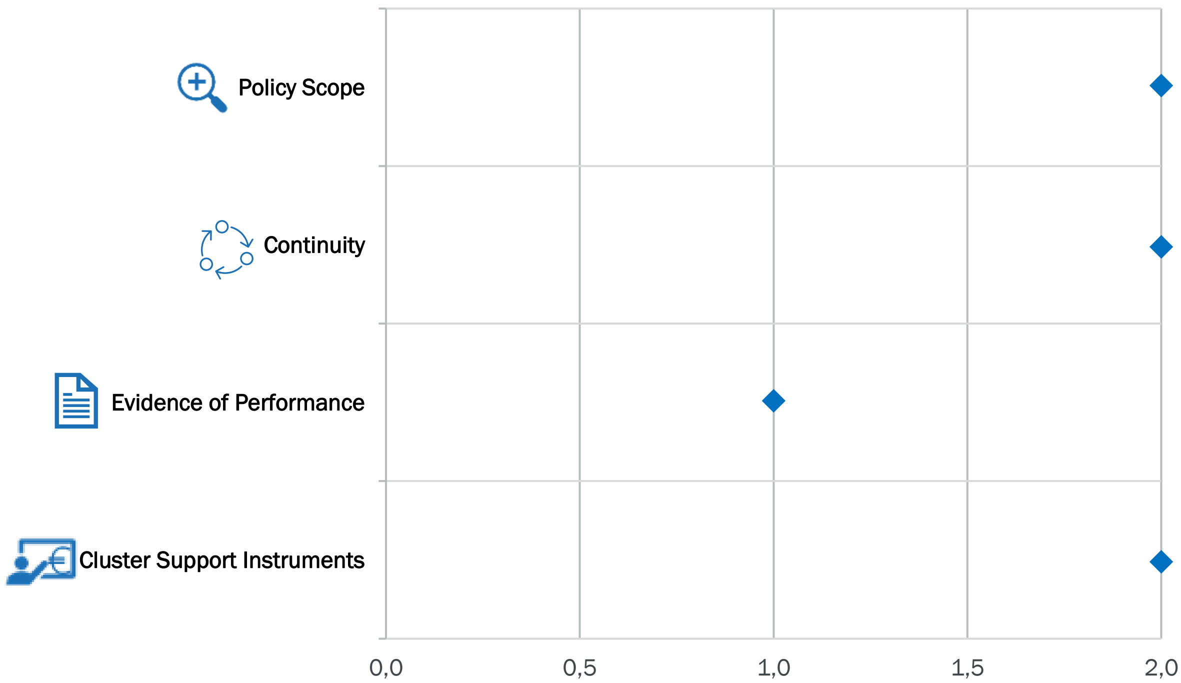
The table below presents an overview of the **maturity assessment for Belgium (Wallonia & Flanders)** for 2022. The total score of Belgium (Wallonia & Flanders) is 7 points out of 8.

Belgium	MATURITY ASSESSMENT	Max score	Actual score
POLICY SCOPE	Absence of cluster policy	0	
	Broad policy	0,5	
	Sectoral policy	1	
	National and/or regional cluster policy	2	**2**
CONTINUITY	No cluster-specific policy available	0	
	Cluster policy established recently	0,5	
	Cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years	1	
	Cluster policy established over 10 years ago	2	**2**
EVIDENCE OF PERFORMANCE	No evaluation and / or monitoring available	0	
	Existence of evaluations of past policies	0,5	
	Existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation	1	**1**
	Existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation	2	
CLUSTER SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS	No instruments for cluster development	0	
	Financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy	0,5	
	Financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	1	
	Financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy	2	**2**
	TOTAL (8)		**7**

Source: ECCP (2022)

Drawing from the table above that showcases the scored points in Belgium's cluster policy, the Figure below portrays the **degree of maturity** across four categories related to the national level cluster policy.

Figure 3: Maturity index of cluster policy - Belgium (Wallonia & Flanders)



Source: ECCP (2022).

The text below provides a **qualitative description** of the state of play of the cluster policy in Belgium, which is complementary to the maturity assessment presented above.

<u>Policy scope</u>

Belgium does not have any national cluster policies; it however has several regional cluster policies. Belgium is divided into three Regions: Flemish Region, Walloon Region and Brussels-Capital Region. Each of these regions have developed cluster policies based on industries in their regions.

For example, the Flemish Region has cluster policies dating back to the late 1980s/early 90s with clear continuity through the years and through several government changes. Walloon Region has the Competitive and Business Clusters Policies (both in progress but pursuing different goals: networking and support of collaborative RDI projects).

<u>Continuity</u>

The Flemish government developed the earliest cluster policies in Belgium. In the late 1980s- 90s, the government developed a top-down cluster policy that designated six clusters to encourage collaboration amongst the different sectors. In 1999, cluster initiatives were integrated into the "Innovation Decree," which gave the Flemish government authority to expand the R&D policy to include more organisations such as SMEs and research organisations. From this came demand-driven cluster networks or "Competence Poles" in 2005. In 2006, the government developed the "Flanders in Action" programme policy targeting smart specialisation. Building upon the "Flanders in Action" Programme, Flanders has the "Flanders Innovation Clusters" policy today.

As with the Flemish Region, Walloon Region also has a history of cluster policies dating back to the early 2000s, with the implementation of pilot projects clusters in 2001, the emergence of competitive clusters in 2005. From 2007 onwards, the Business and Competitive Cluster policies was initiated. Cluster policies in Belgium do not appear to have gap periods, with each terminated policy, a new policy has been implemented almost immediately.

Evidence of performance

Regional cluster policies are constantly monitored by the implementing body. In Flanders, every second year the cluster organisations are subject to an intermediary evaluation. After five years, the number of companies involved in cluster organisations grew over 3.000; 302 cluster projects were initiated and raised EUR 291 million in support, complemented with EUR 122 million from private companies. An evaluation of the yearly impact of the cluster policy revealed that the cluster programme contributed in 2021 to EUR 34 billion additional turn over cluster members also see the added value of participating in a cluster. In Wallonia, 467 projects out of which 335 projects were R&D projects, have been completed. Projects led to over 187 international collaborations, over 190 patent applications and 13 licences sold. This has led to creation of over 4,205 jobs and 27 companies created.

Cluster support instruments

In the Flemish as well as the Walloon regions of Belgium, non-financial and financial support instruments are offered in the context of the regional cluster policies. As financial and non-financial instruments, the Flemish region offers support for R&D, business support, business creation, investments, starting incubators, entrepreneurship support and opportunities to network with knowledge sharers. The Walloon Competitive Cluster policy offers support for R&D, attraction of foreign investment and exports, investment subsidies, infrastructure and equipment, and hard skill and soft skills training. Business clusters are also supporting the development of SMEs and their integration into ecosystems.

Cross-regional / international cooperation

In the 2014-2020 funding period, the European Cluster Partnerships and the INNOSUP-1 initiative have been launched by the European Commission to encourage clusters from Europe to intensify collaboration across regions and sectors.. Belgian cluster organisations have been involved in 42 consortia of the European Strategic Cluster Partnerships out of which 33 partnerships were focusing on internationalisation (ESCP-4i), six partnerships were on cluster management excellence (ESCP-4x) and three partnerships were on smart specialisation (ESCP-S3). Consortia partners came from 21 different EU member states (FR, DE, LT, PL, CZ, PT, SE, ES, IT, EE, DK, HU, TR, AT, UK, BG, NL, SK, LV, RO, EL). 21 Belgian cluster organisations participated in the INNOSUP-1 initiative with partner organisations coming from 21 countries (FR, NL, ES, IE, PL, PT, IT, SI, CZ, NO, HU, DE, UK, RS, LU, EL, LT, AT, DK, SE, GR).

In the 2021-2027 funding period, the Single Market Programme supports clusters as part of the Joint Cluster Initiatives (Euroclusters) for Europe's recovery. From Belgium, six clusters are part of eight Euroclusters with partners from 18 countries (FR, ES, GR, EE, DE, NL, PL, IT, LT, HU, RO, SE, DK, NO, PT, LV, HR). These Euroclusters are B-Resilient, BioMan4R2, CREATHRIV-EU, DREAM, ELBE Eurocluster, GEMSTONE, LEVIATAD and SocialTech4EU. Collectively, they cover all nine industrial ecosystems which are "Aerospace and Defence", "Renewables", "Digital Industries", "Cultural & Creative culture industries", "Mobility, transport and automotive", "Energy-intensive industries", "Agri-food", "Proximity and social economy" and "Health".

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Annex

Criterion of maturity assessment	Description	Scoring (points between 0 and 2)
Policy scope	assessment whether the country has a dedicated cluster policy, or cluster creation and/or development is targeted through broader policies, e.g. foreign trade policies, labour and social policies or specific sectoral policies, e.g. industrial policy tourism policies, agriculture policies	**absence of cluster policy = 0** **existence of broader policies = 0,5** **existence of specific sectoral policies = 1** **existence of targeted cluster policies = 2**
Continuity of cluster policies	assessment of the duration and experience of the country in carrying out cluster policies. This criterion assesses only existence of targeted cluster policies and not broader policies or sectoral policies	**absence of policies supporting cluster development = 0** **cluster policy established recently (within the last 2 years) = 0,5** **cluster policy established between over 2 and 10 years = 1** **cluster policy established over 10 years ago = 2**
Evidence of performance	assessment whether there are evaluations of past and ongoing policies and a monitoring system in place. The existence of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms determines the degree of policy development in the country	**no evaluation and / or monitoring available = 0** **existence of evaluations of past policies, e.g. ex-ante = 0,5** **existence of monitoring or an ongoing / interim evaluation =1** **existence of monitoring and ex-ante or ongoing / interim evaluation =2**
Cluster Support Instruments	assessment whether the policies provide any instruments to support the policy implementation, being these financial and/or technical support	**no instruments for cluster development =0** **financial support for cluster development in the broader and / or sectoral policy = 0,5** **financial or technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 1** **financial and technical support for cluster development in dedicated cluster policy = 2**

Source: ECCP (2022)