

# Development and deployment of renewable energy technologies: approach and examples from Flanders

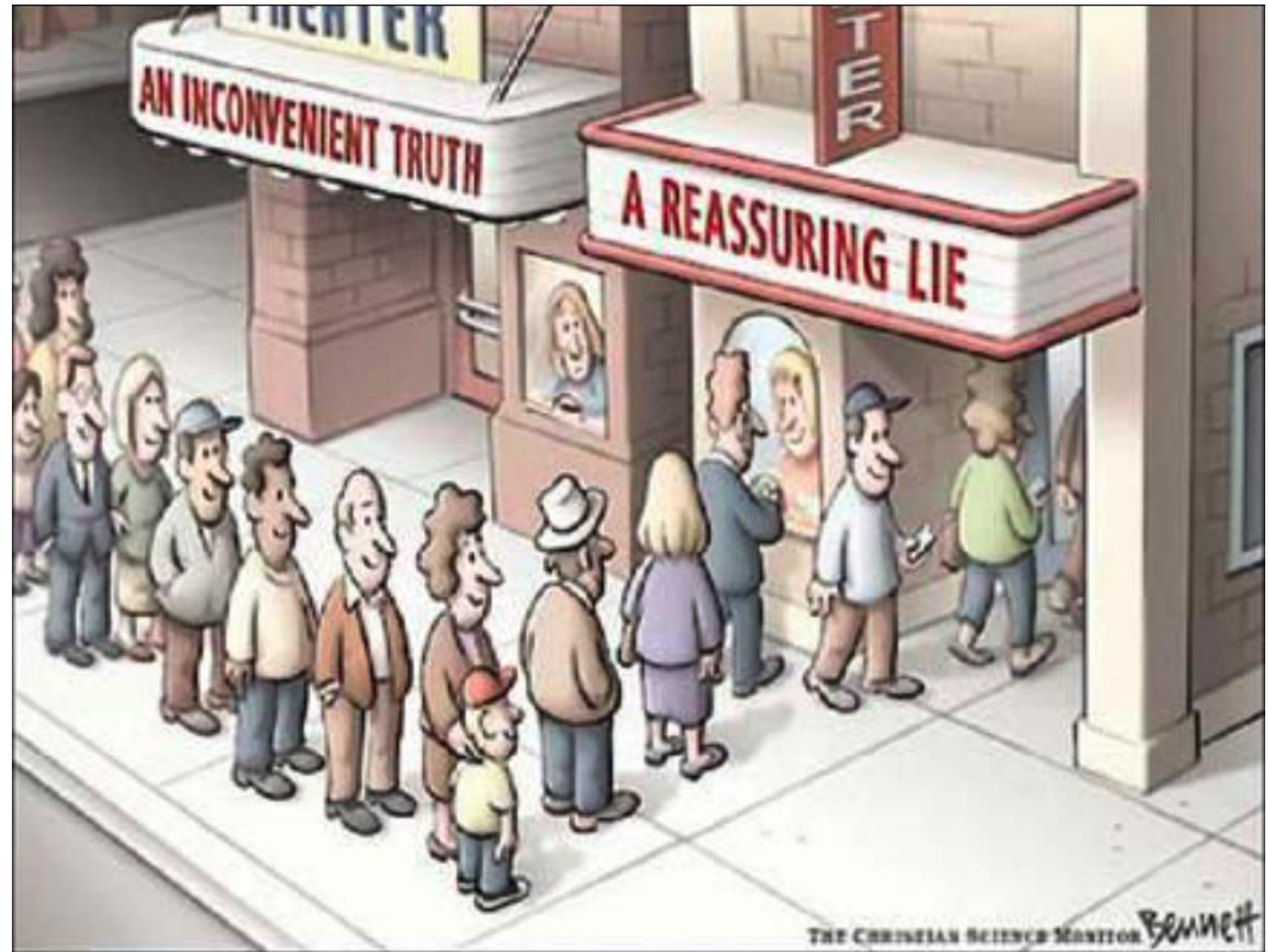
10<sup>th</sup> UNCTAD multiyear conference on Trade and Development  
Geneva, 27 September 2023

Frans Snijkers

# Our common challenge...

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A reassuring truth: clean technology will be part of the solution...



# Flanders

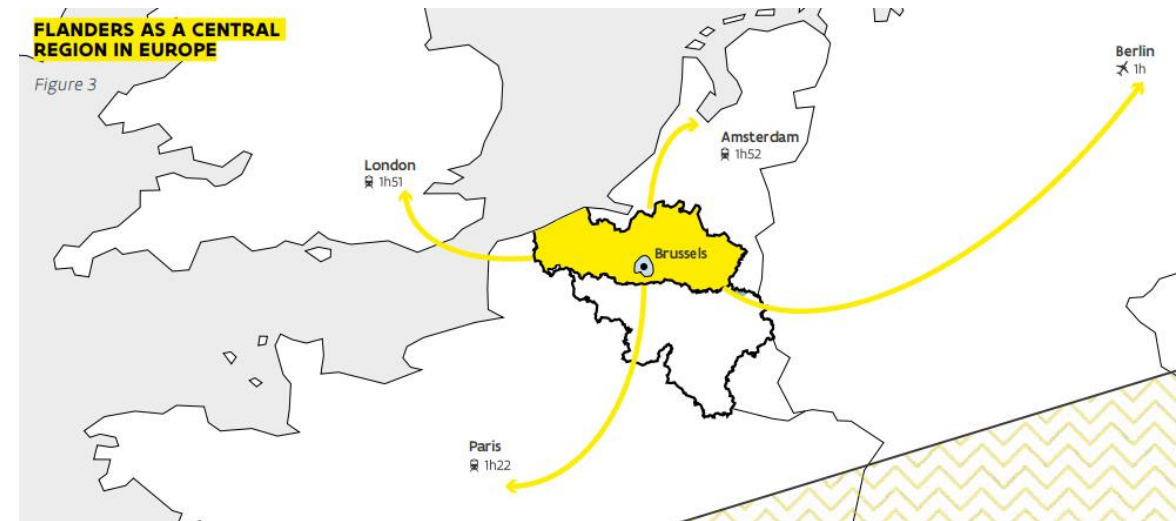
In the heart of Europe

Densely populated & heavily industrialized....

Part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest chemical cluster in the world after Houston, TX

Hosts an innovative ecosystem

Ports as energy- and CCU-hubs, economic engines



# Elements of Flanders' innovation model

Based on a long term vision, VISION 2050

Translation of SDG's to objectives for Flanders for 2030

- Implementation of objectives using adequate governance models
- Stakeholder management, adapted monitoring and reporting,,...

Apply quadruple helix approach: knowledge institutes, industry, governments, citizens and midfield organizations collaborate, aiming at maximal economic and societal impact of R&D&I.

- mission oriented innovation: stimulating innovation across sectors, actors and disciplines, enabling bottom-up solutions and experimentation
- collaborative and transformative systems innovation -> systemic solutions

Apply principles of transition management

- Partnerships and co-creation, cooperation with cities and municipalities
- Cluster policy (SPC's), for selected sectors, 10yr reach
- Living labs/low regulation zones

R&D-intensity of 3,6% of GDP, 3<sup>rd</sup> best innovation system, 3<sup>rd</sup> most innovative economy in the world, innovation leading region in Europe,...



# VITO, a strategic Flemish knowledge institution

- A multidisciplinary R&D center with over 1000 experts (45 countries, including 100 PhD-positions) with focus on clean technologies and sustainable solutions, accelerating the systemic transition towards a sustainable industry and society.
- Research domains: focus on energy, land use, materials, sustainable chemistry and health
- Uses quadruple helix approach, multi-stakeholder involvement and management:
  - ✓ participates in mission-oriented innovation across sectors
  - ✓ systems approach – science based – data driven – integrated solutions – adopting enabling (digital) technologies: AI/drones/blockchain/big data/sensors/IoT/...
  - ✓ collaborative innovation in EnergyVille with IMEC, KULeuven and UHasselt
  - ✓ collaborates in the HYVE-consortium
  - ✓ collaborates with Spearhead Clusters (SPC's):
    - E.g. moonshot for the chemical sector led by spearhead cluster Catalisti
  - ✓ (co-)develops and participates in LL/testbeds/low regulation zones
- Presence in Flanders, China and the Middle East
- Founder of **G-STIC**, the Global Sustainable Technology Innovation Community



**ACTION-ORIENTED COMMUNITY BUILDING IN THE QUADRUPLE HELIX**

-  ANNUAL G-STIC CONFERENCE
-  OUTREACH TO POLICY FORUMS
-  INSPIRATIONAL EXPERT STORIES
-  CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

**REACH IN 2022**

**GLOBAL REACH**

  
**7,900**  
PARTICIPANTS

  
**80,000**  
VISITORS WEBSITE

  
**22,000**  
PARTICIPANTS

  
**320,000**  
VISITORS WEBSITE

  
**10,000**  
SUBSCRIBERS

  
**6,900**  
FOLLOWERS

**CO-HOSTS**



**G-STIC CONFERENCES: UNITING 11,000 UNIQUE PEOPLE FROM 140 COUNTRIES WITH 1,500 SPEAKERS**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**



# International collaboration in the energy domain

## Examples of deployment of sustainable solutions:

- G-STIC Climate Action Programme
  - CAP-projects in Kenya and in Tanzania
- Living Lab/Low Regulation Zone
- Battery testbed CSIR in South-Africa



# G-STIC CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

### RESULTS PROJECT CALLS

	 PROJECT PROPOSALS	 APPROVED PROJECTS	 SUBSIDY	 TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET
2021	65	13	€3.2 MILLION	€4.7 MILLION
2022	109	19	€15.7 MILLION	€29.3 MILLION
2023	102	-	€17,6 MILLION	-



### EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS

**KENYA**



**GENERATING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WITH HYDROPOWER IN REMOTE REGIONS**

**COORDINATORS:** TURBULENT, HydroBox

**PARTNERS:** enubian

**SURINAME**



**SOLAR-POWERED DECENTRALIZED DRINKING WATER PRODUCTION**

**COORDINATORS:** BOSAQ, howest

**PARTNERS:** vito

**INDONESIA**



**DEVELOPMENT OF A SCALABLE, CIRCULAR URBAN AGRICULTURE MODEL**

**COORDINATORS:** rikolto

**PARTNERS:** hidrokolaborasi



**COORDINATORS**

**G-STIC** | **DEPARTEMENT OMGEVING**

**PARTNERS**

**FINANCED BY**

**CTCN** | **Flanders State of the Art**



# G-STIC Climate Action Programme

- **Following from a clear choice made by the Government of Flanders to meet their engagement in International Climate Finance**
- **Started in 2021: a new, young programme**
- **Coördinated by the Department of Environment, in collaboration with G-STIC**
- **In line with climate policy & actions of the country where the project is executed**



# G-STIC Climate Action Programme: ins and outs

- **Projects 'on the ground' by a Flemish organisation in a developing country**
- **Both climate adaptation and mitigation**
- **Climate accountability of projects: Riemarkers handbook of the OECD**
- **Project types:**
  - **Dissemination focuses on the dissemination and/or roll out of research and/or policy results.**
  - **Capacity building focuses on strengthening knowledge, skills and/or resources.**
  - **Demonstration projects focus on the demonstration and/or upscaling of market-ready innovative solutions in the local context.**
- **Themes: energy, environmental policy, water & sanitation, transport, biodiversity, agriculture, education & research**



**Flanders**  
State of the Art

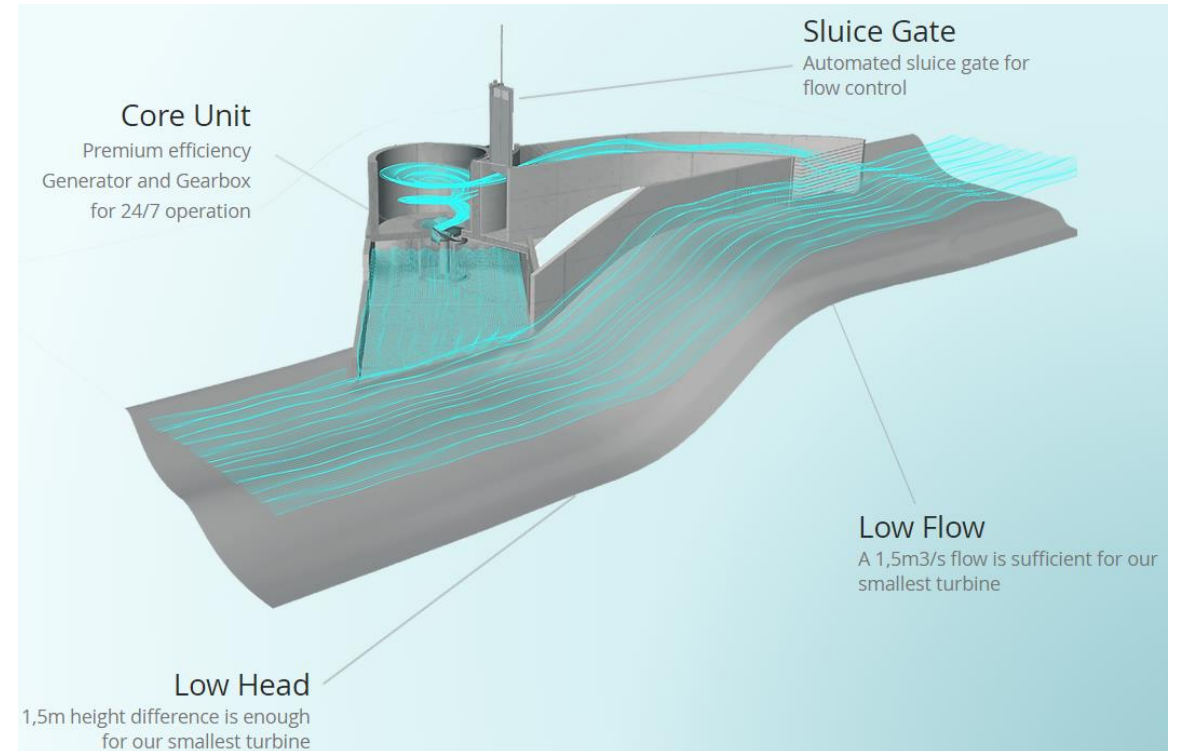


**G·STIC**

# CAP PROJECT 1

## Demonstration project

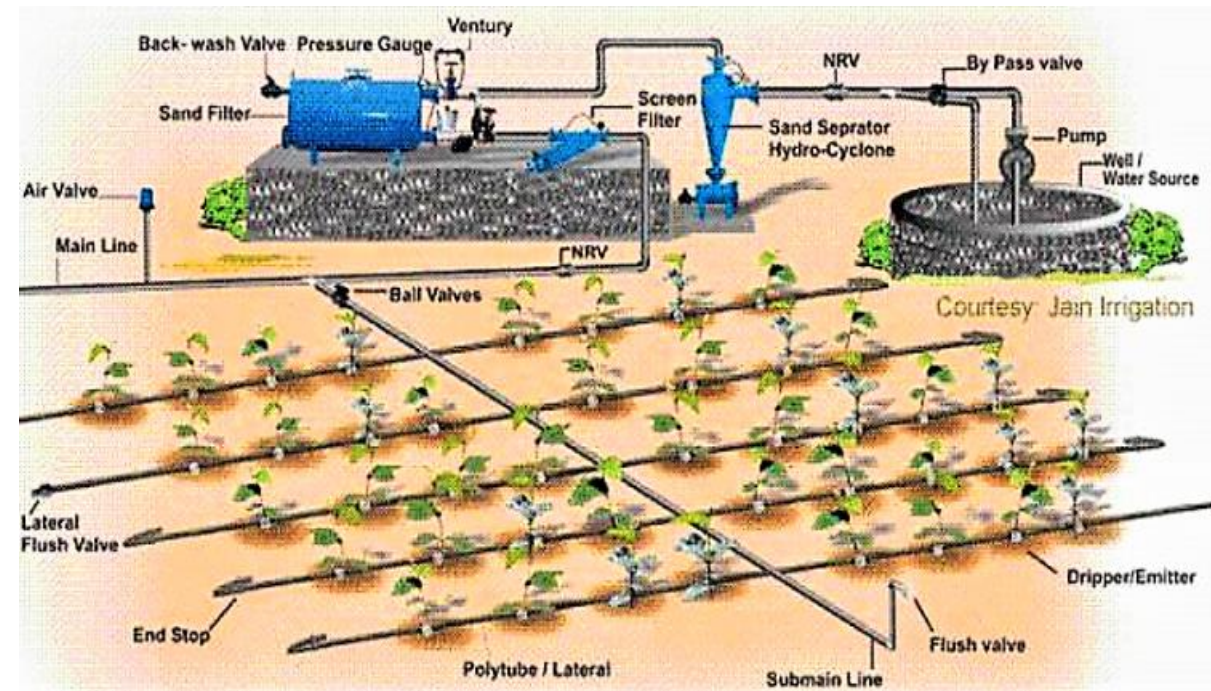
- development of a sustainable source of electricity in Mathioya Subcounty in Kenya
- 3 Flemish companies: Turbulent, HydroBox and ByNubian.
- hydroelectric mini-grid turbines have the capacity to deliver 210 kW, day and night, without harming river ecosystems.
- elimination of 840 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year
- the minigrid will connect 500 households, 10 schools, 10 businesses and 3 hospitals,



# CAP PROJECT 2

## Demonstration project

- executed in Tanzania by Rikolto and Simusolaren,
- major draughts and erratic meteorological conditions
- major problem of water scarcity in combination with increasing water demand
- the use of integrated solar-powered drip irrigation systems will be demonstrated and scaled up.
- save water, energy and labor of small farmers.
- training sessions and demonstrations will be given on methods to retain water, and on financial management
- at least 700 vegetable and fruit producing households in four regions and 9,000 farmers will be trained
- reduced dependence on fossil fuels



# Thor Park: Low Regulation Zone and Living Lab

- 1<sup>st</sup> low-regulation zone in Flanders early 2020, Thor Park in Genk
- Evolution from a centralized, top-down energy system to a more distributed system, where end users are also producers (prosumers)
- Collaborative research of transformative energy technologies and future energy systems
  - with sufficient freedom
  - in a safe and controlled environment,
  - to support and develop future policy and regulation.
- Thematic restriction: ‘exception regime’ applies to ‘energy’ only
- Time constraint: for five years – with the possibility of an extension by another five years.
- Fits in closely with the concept of the local energy community or ‘LEC’,
  - Produces, stores and consumes energy
  - Formed by a cluster of buildings and companies with locally coordinated and optimised energy management.
  - Allows research into future energy markets and how they might be organised and regulated.



# Battery testbed in South-Africa

- CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research), co-host of G-STIC
- Collaboration since december 2020 between CSIR and VITO to provide support and guidance for companies in the local battery value chain
- Financial support by the Government of Flanders for the indoor battery testbed and funding of the project activities, through training and capacity building, and the required testing infrastructure.
- Battery testbed in full operation supports South African stakeholders across the whole value chain, from battery producer to end user.
- Procurement of key components for the indoor testbed: battery tester and climate chamber
- Additional testing and measuring equipment by VITO.



# Thank you for your attention



**FRANS SNIJKERS**

*Program Director G-STIC*



[frans.sniikers@vito.be](mailto:frans.sniikers@vito.be)



+ 32 473 34 12 16



**Boeretang 200  
2400 MOL  
Belgium**