



WORLD SCIENCE FORUM

Budapest 2024

*The science and policy interface at
the time of global transformations*



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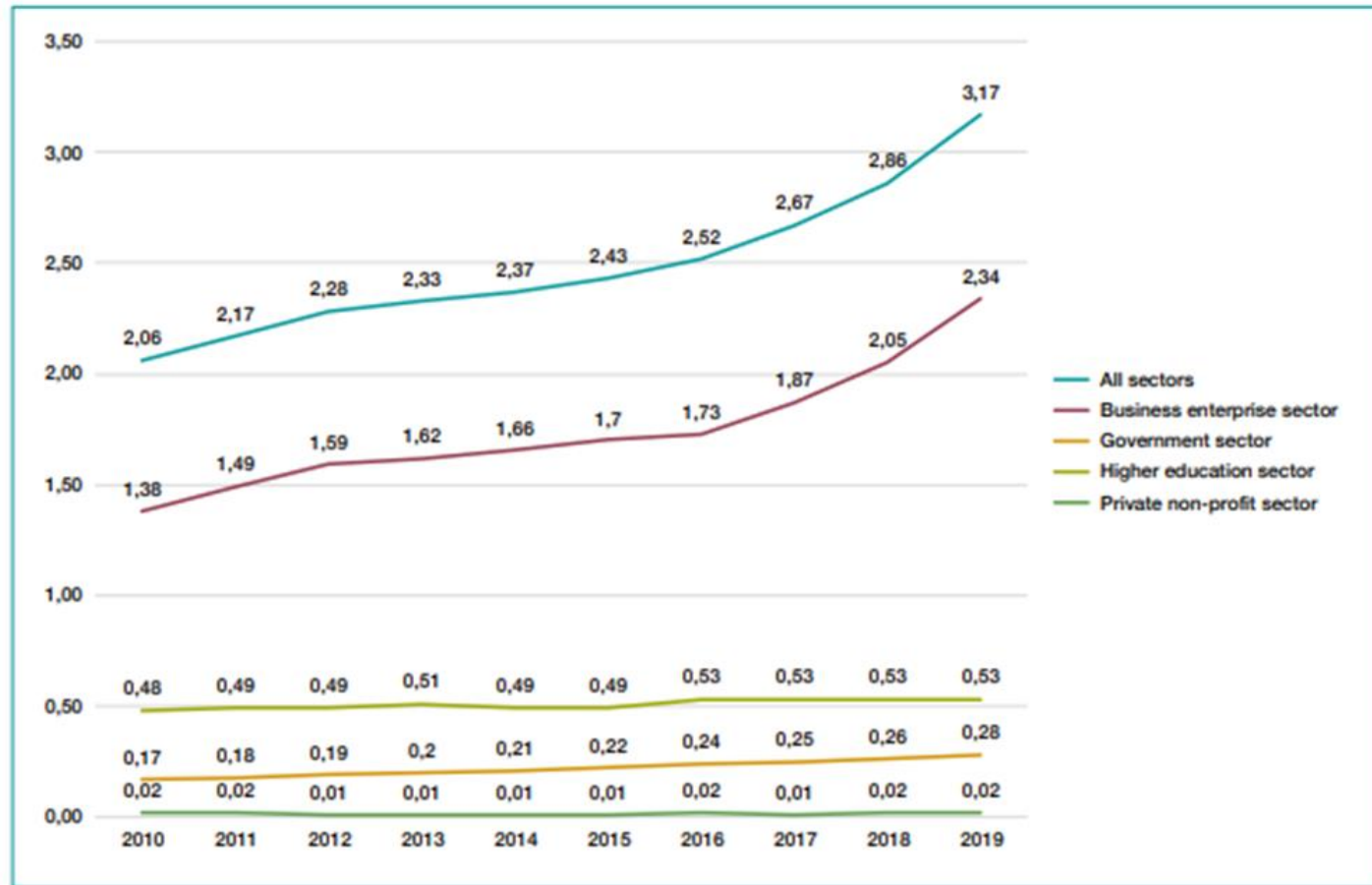
Belgium's SciTech Diplomacy: United in diversity

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Coordinator SciTech Diplomacy @ Brussels Diplomatic Academy



Federal Scientific Policy

Figure 7: Gross expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP, by sector of performance

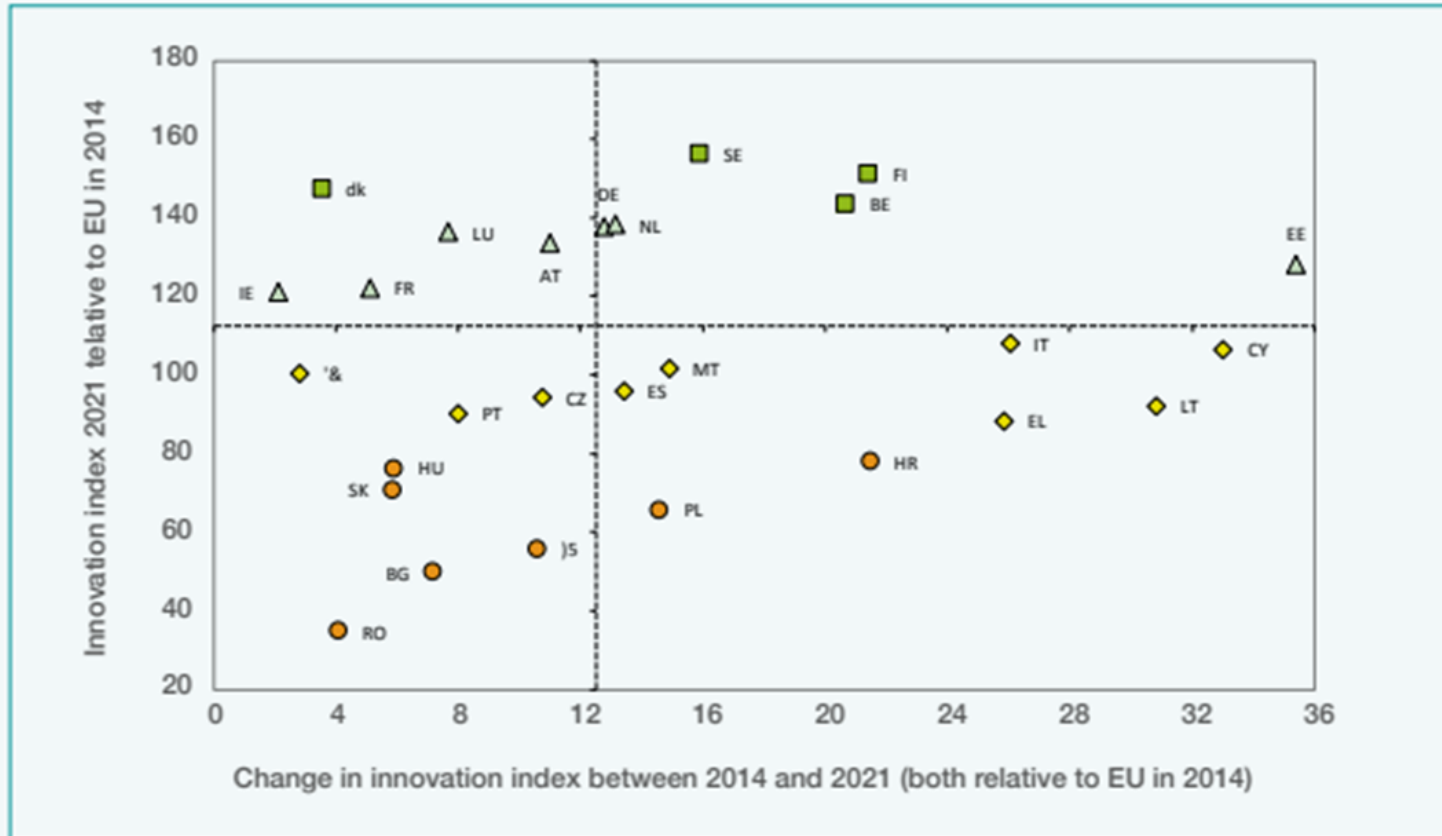


Source: Eurostat / RD_E_GERDTOT

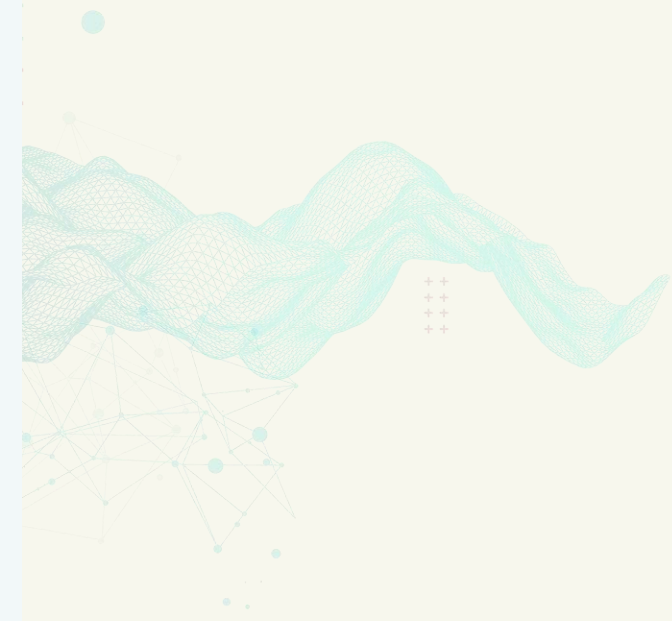


Federal Scientific Policy

Figure 6: Performance and performance change of EU Member States' innovation systems (2014-2021)



Source: European Innovation Scoreboard



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Belgium explained

Diplomatic Corps
Belspo



REGIONS

FLEMISH REGION



BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION



WALLOON REGION



Diplomatic Corps
FIT

Hub.Brussels

AWEX



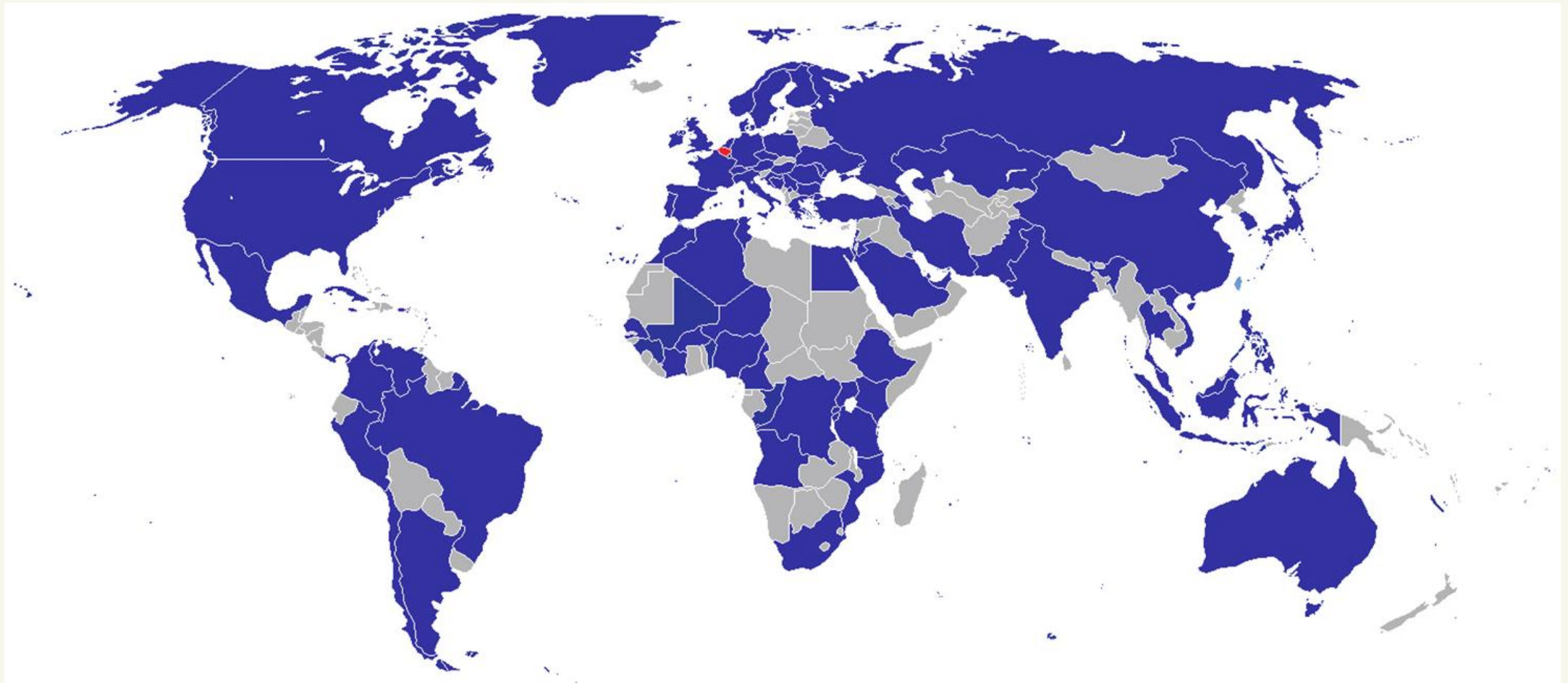
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Strategies and plans

Federal level

- Unofficially coordinated by Belspo
- STI diplomacy is part of a “Science & Heritage” strategy
- EU Science Diplomacy Agenda
 - SciTech strategy on federal level
- No special STI councilors at National Embassies
 - Special Envoys
- SciTech collaboration programs with India, China, Vietnam, South-Africa and Horn of Africa



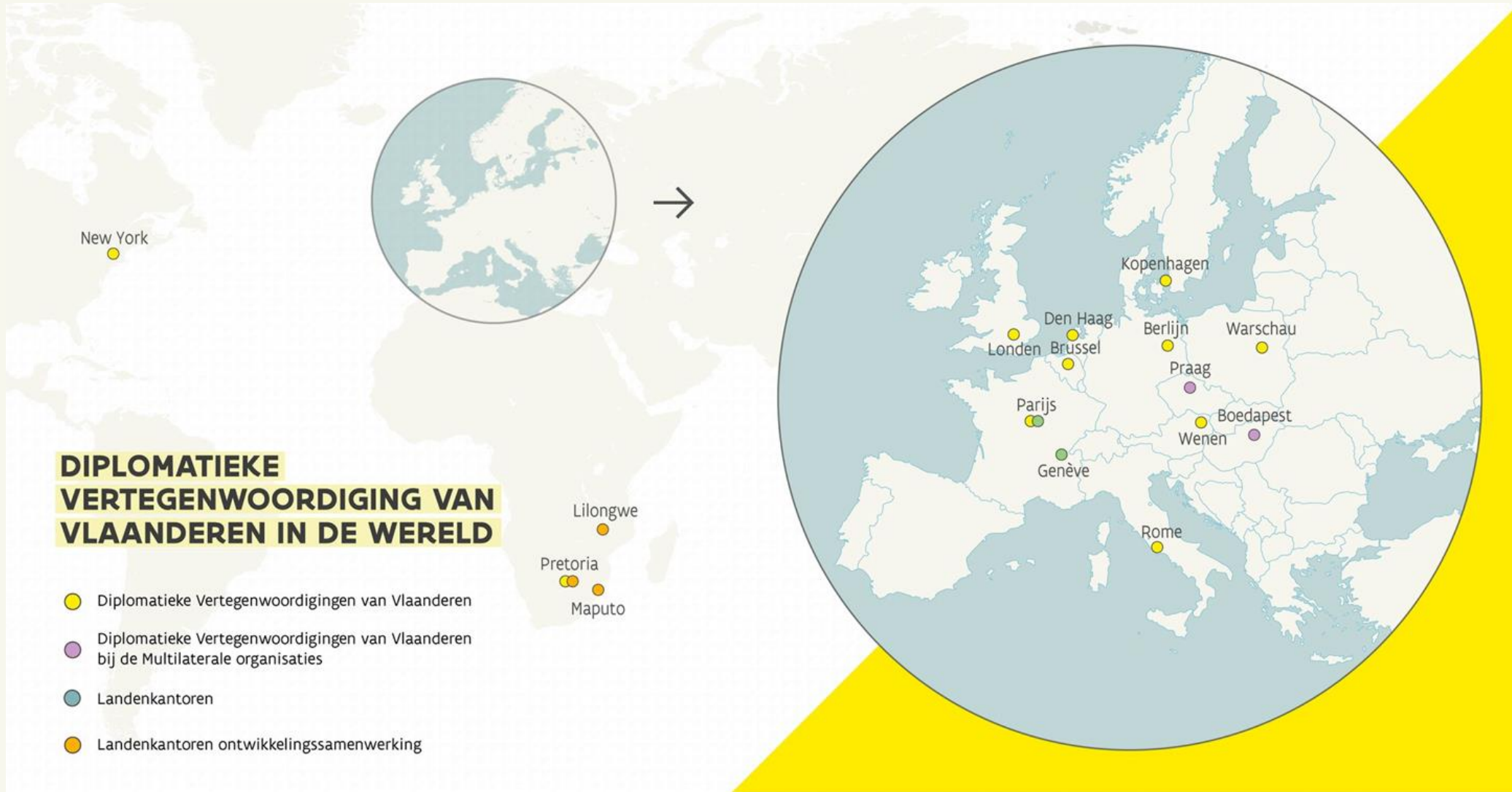
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Strategies and plans

Flemish Region

- Flemish Diplomatic Corps
- Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)
 - STI councilors (10 councilors in 9 countries)
 - Commercial and economic councilors (70 offices)





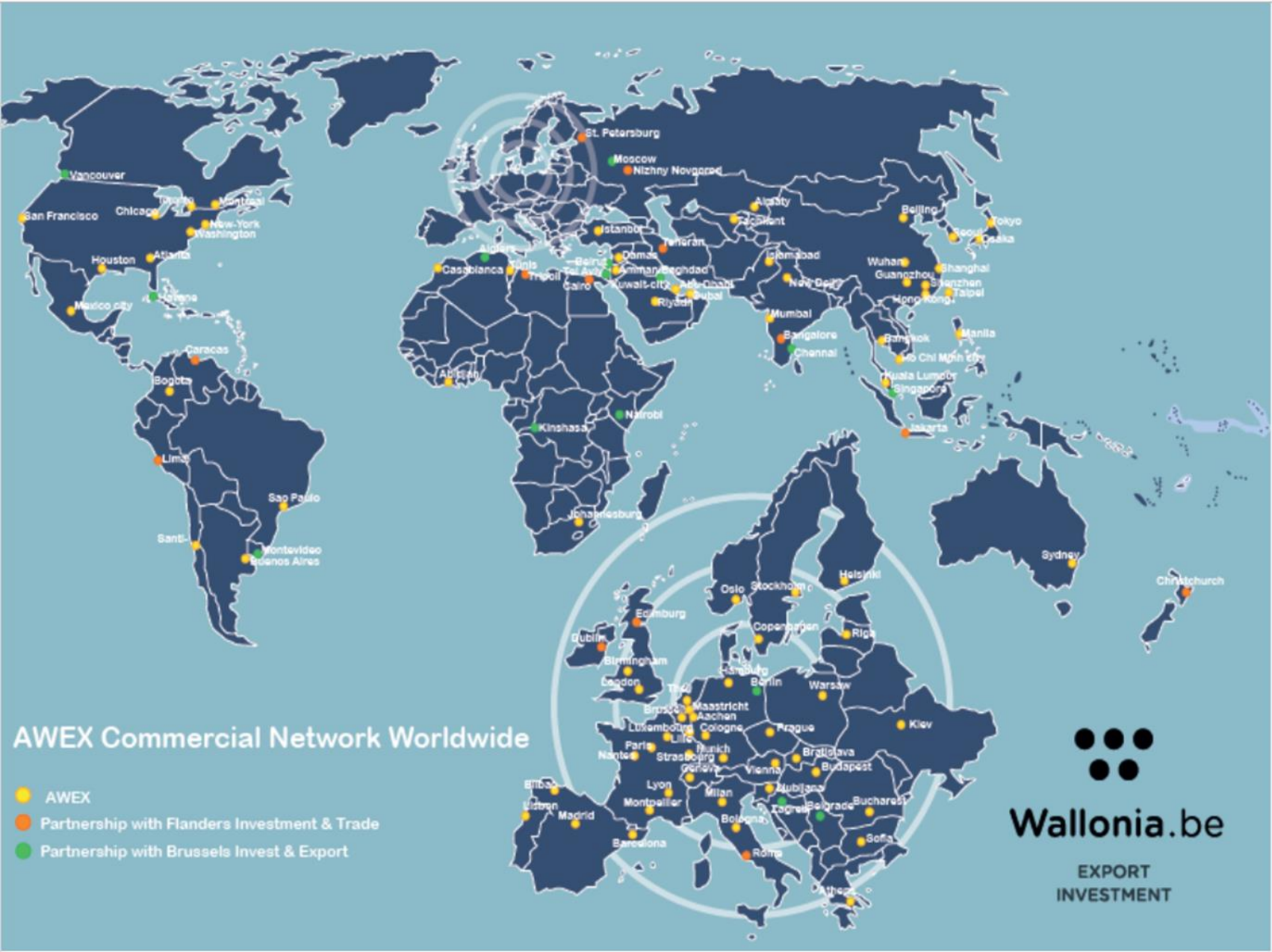
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Strategies and plans

Walloon Region

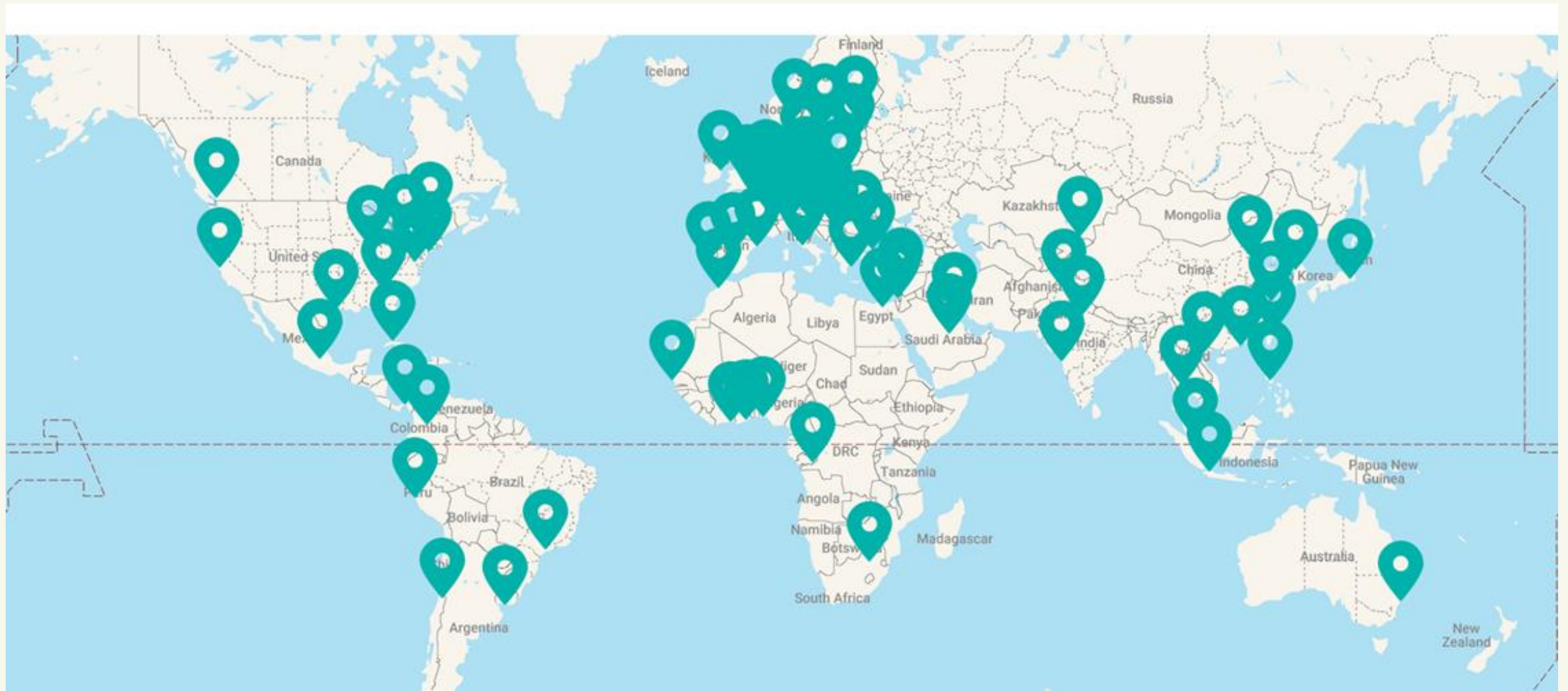
- AWEX (Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency)
- No diplomatic corps
 - 93 commercial and economic councilors in shared and own offices
 - No STI councilors



Strategies and plans

Brussels Region

- Hub.Brussels (Brussels Agency for Entrepreneurship)
- No diplomatic corps
 - 84 commercial and economic councilors in shared and own offices
 - No STI councilors



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Prioritized fields of STI in Belgium

Epicenter of Tech Industry in Flanders

- Chemical
- Pharmaceutical
- Biotech
- Infrastructural
- Environmental Engineering (blue cluster)
- Social Sciences (SMIT program)
- Nanotech (IMEC)



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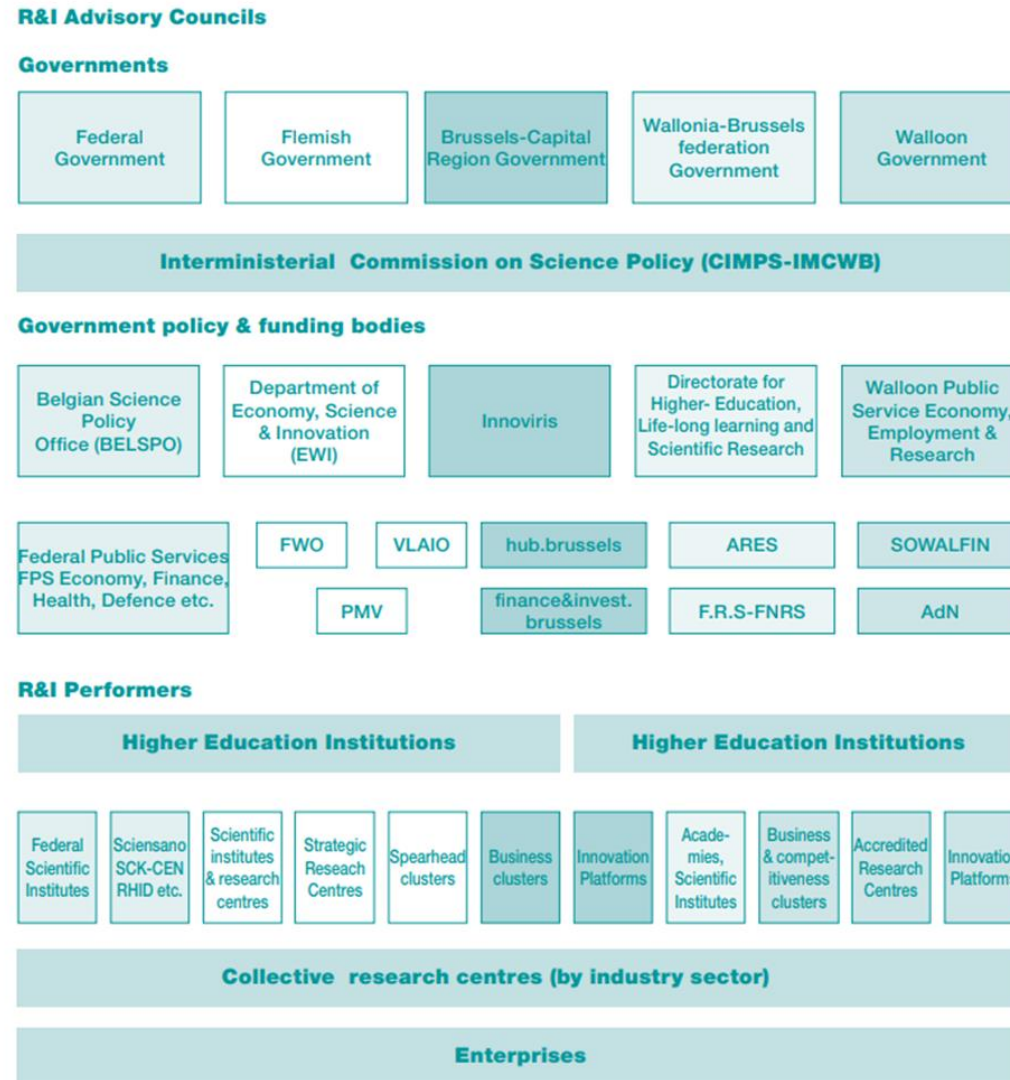
Industry defines SciTech Diplomacy

Impact of industrial players and individual employers

- Agoria – Belgium’s national federation of technology companies
 - Business Development Clubs
 - Automotive
 - Building & Infrastructure
 - Energy
 - Sports & Entertainment
 - Food & Beverages
 - Big Science
- VOKA – Flemish network of enterprises
- VBO – Belgian network of enterprises



Belgium's coordination mechanisms



Future outlook

Federal government

- Synergy between STI diplomacy and cultural-heritage diplomacy
- STEM (Science – Technology – Engineering – Mathematics) to STEAM (Science – Technology – Engineering – **Art** – Mathematics)
- Strategic guidance paper based on EU Science Diplomacy Agenda

Future outlook

Flemish government

- No new strategy since the establishment of a “STI councilor network” was the final step of the current strategy. This current strategy will mature for a while

Walloon & Brussels governments

- No new strategies to be reported

EU

- European Research Area (ERA) aka European Knowledge Area
 - Integrated approach with the European Higher Education Area

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