



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMY
SCIENCE &
INNOVATION


Flanders, a health(y) ecosystem

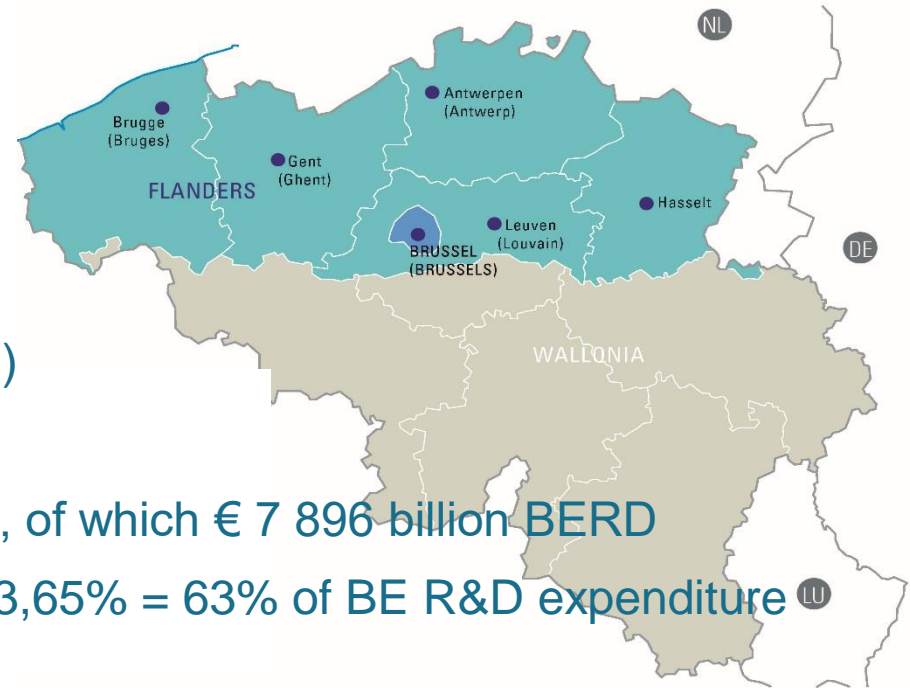
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FLANDERS: Key Figures report 2024

a high-income region

with an open economy in the core of Europe

- **Population:** 6,77 million (= 58% BEL)
- **Language:** Dutch (NL)
- **Surface:** 13 521 km² (= 44% BEL)
- **GDP:** € 296 billion (= 59%; BE € 502,3 bn)
- **Export :** € 300 billion (BE € 370 bn)
- **GERD:** € 10 816 billion (+/- 2/3 of BEL), of which € 7 896 billion BERD
- **Research intensity - % GERD/ GDP:** 3,65% = 63% of BE R&D expenditure 
- **Total public budget STI policy:** € 3 246 million, of which € 2 149 million R&D



The region has constitutional competences on research, innovation and economic policy

Flanders = "innovation leader" in RIS 2023

- 3RD BEST INNOVATIVE SYSTEM in the world (2020 ZEW innovationsindikator)
- 3RD IN EUROPE for innovative SMEs collaborating with others

Health(y) ecosystem Flanders



Access to funding



imec background



The imec R&D center and tower in Leuven, Belgium.
Photographer: Olivier Matthys/Bloomberg

Since 1984

- To be a center of excellence in semi-conductor technology, nano-electronics, nanotechnology, design methods and technology platforms for ICT systems, health and sustainable energy;
- To generate an optimal impact on the Flemish economy and society.

- **>5500** international R&D top talents
- **>€3.5Bn** invested in **leading-edge semiconductor fabs**
- Focus on industry-relevant technology solutions for **health and life sciences**, mobility, industry 4.0, agrifood, smart cities, sustainable energy, etc.
- 2023: € 920M revenue (>70% industry funded) 162 patent applications, 1,300 Web-of-Science publications

VIB : Flanders Institute for Biotechnology

Since 1995

frontline biomolecular research in life sciences for the benefit of scientific progress and the benefit of society.

VIB	2015	2023
Funding (M€)	44.57 (2016)	85.09
Revenue (M€)	87.20	166.71
Employees*	1,470	1,920

* Intra muros and extra muros;

► Output

- > 700 publications/yr
- 31 running ERC grants, 31 running MSCA in 2023
- 795 patent applications, 283 active patent families (total in 2023)
- Income from industry 2023: 27.94 M€ (272 partner agreements in 2023 (>1500 TOTAL))
- Attracting international biotech companies to Flanders
- 37 start-ups; 1,84 Bn€ capital investment (2023); > 1000 employees
- V- Bio Ventures (2015): life sciences investment fund
- Bio-incubators/ accelerator (Ghent, Leuven, Brussels): > 25000 m²; 45 companies



VIB: Flanders Institute for Biotechnology

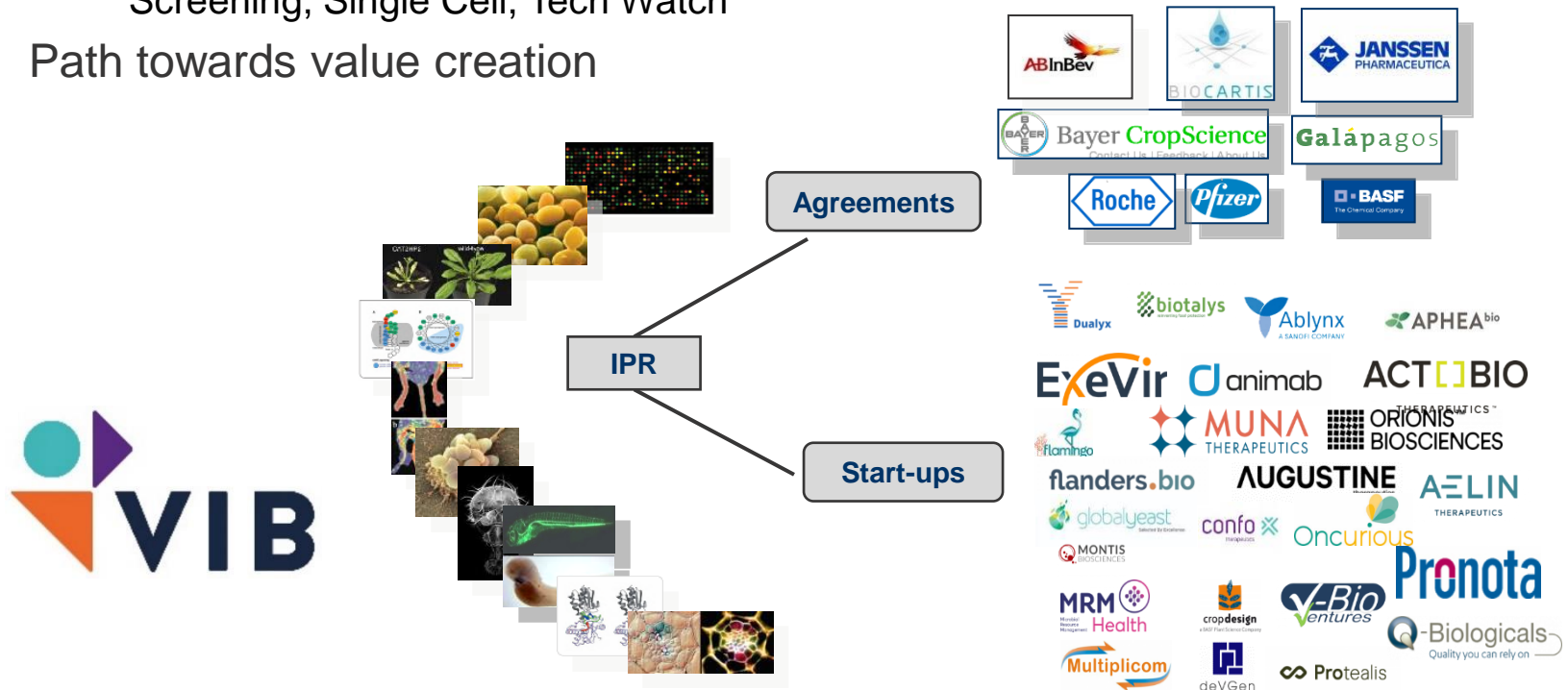
▶ 8 research areas (10 research centres, 90 research groups)

- [Immunity & Inflammation](#)
- [Cancer Research](#)
- [Medical Biotechnology](#)
- [Neuroscience](#)
- [Plant Biology](#)
- [Microbiology](#)
- [Structural Biology](#)
- [Computational Biology](#)
- [Center for Cancer Biology](#)
- [VIB.AI: Center for AI & Computational Biology](#)
- [Center for Inflammation Research](#)
- [Center for Medical Biotechnology](#)
- [Center for Microbiology](#)
- [Center for Molecular Neurology](#)
- [Center for Structural Biology](#)
- [Neuro-Electronics Research Flanders - NERF](#)
- [Center for Plant Systems Biology](#)
- [Center for Brain & Disease Research](#)

▶ 14 core technology facilities and services

→ Bioimaging, Data, Flow, Metabolomics, Nanobody, Nucleomics, Protein, Proteomics, Screening, Single Cell, Tech Watch

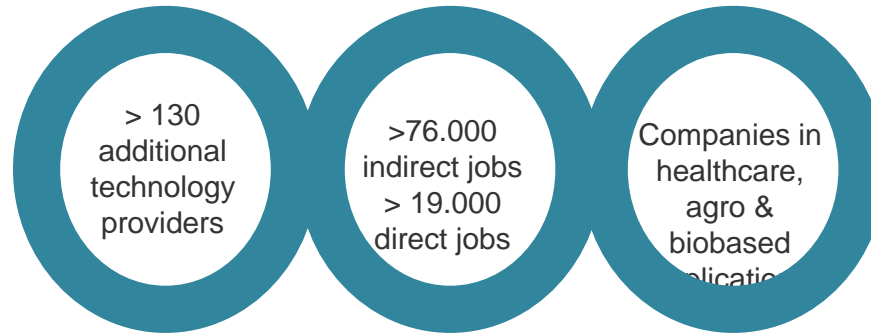
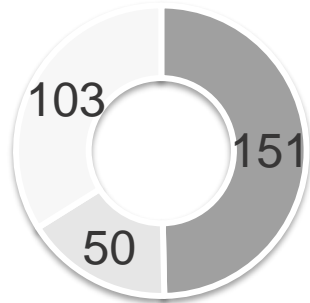
▶ Path towards value creation



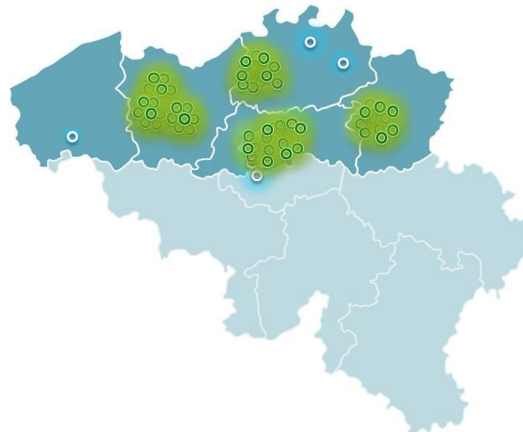
Biopharma concentration is unique

- Within 1 hour drive:
Janssen Pharmaceutica (Johnson & Johnson), Pfizer, GSK vaccines, UCB, Roche Diagnostics, Novartis, Sanofi, Baxter...
- Large R&D centers in addition to HQs and manufacturing facilities

300 + organizations → coming from 31 in 1995!



- with R&D activities
- with production activities
- dedicated competence providers



Dense cluster of

- Universities
- Academic Hospitals
- Research centers
- Biocubators and science parks
- Pharma
- Life Sciences companies

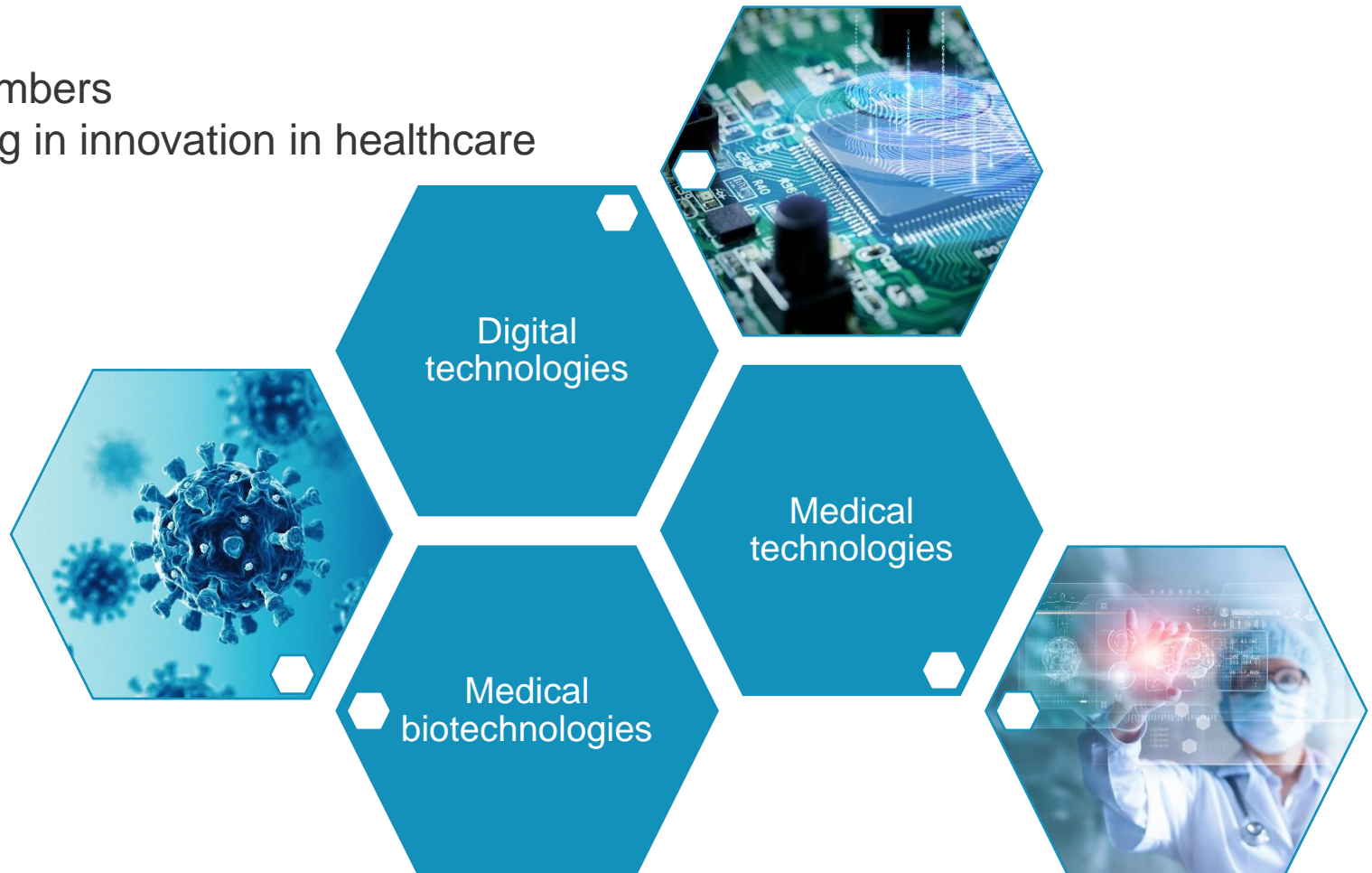
MEDVIA

Spearhead cluster

- The innovation cluster paving the way to better health

150 members

Investing in innovation in healthcare



Interregional / pan-European initiatives

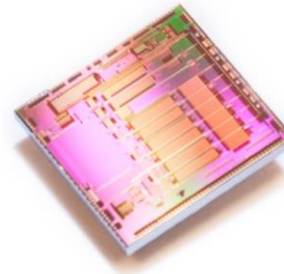


THE STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK for SMART SPECIALISATION in FLANDERS

Policy Note of the Department Economy, Science and Innovation (rev. 12/2014)

► smart specialisation priority domains

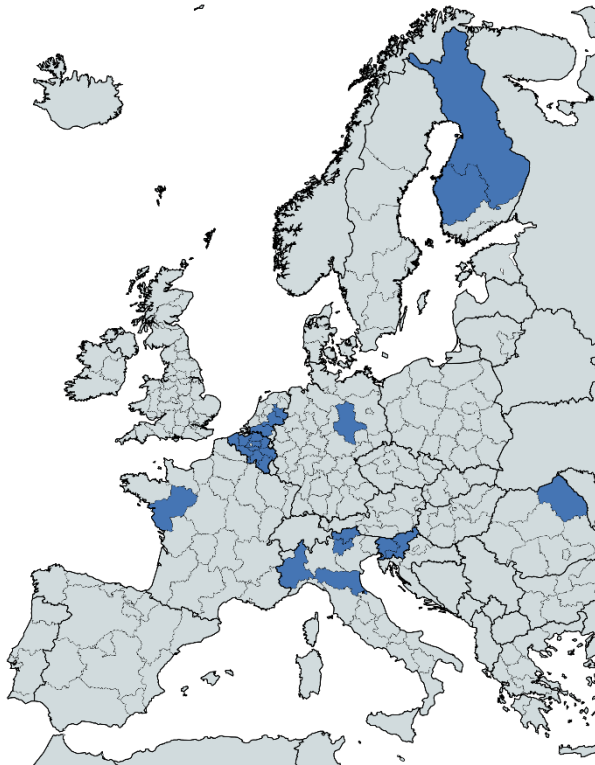
- Advanced materials
- Sustainable chemistry
- Smart manufacturing
- Value added logistics
- Specialised agro-food
- Building-environment-cleantech
- Energy
- ICT -platforms
- Personalised cure and care



► Focal areas

- Personalised health
- Data
- Biobanking
- Cell & Gene

Vanguard Initiative Smart Health



- ▶ Flanders, South NL, East NL
 - Emilia-Romagna, North-Est Romania, East & North Finland, Piedmont, Slovenia, Trento, Tampere, Wallonia, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol, Pays de la Loire, Saxony-Anhalt, Catalonia
- ▶ EIT Health
- ▶ **Open for new regions**

Bring regional ecosystems together

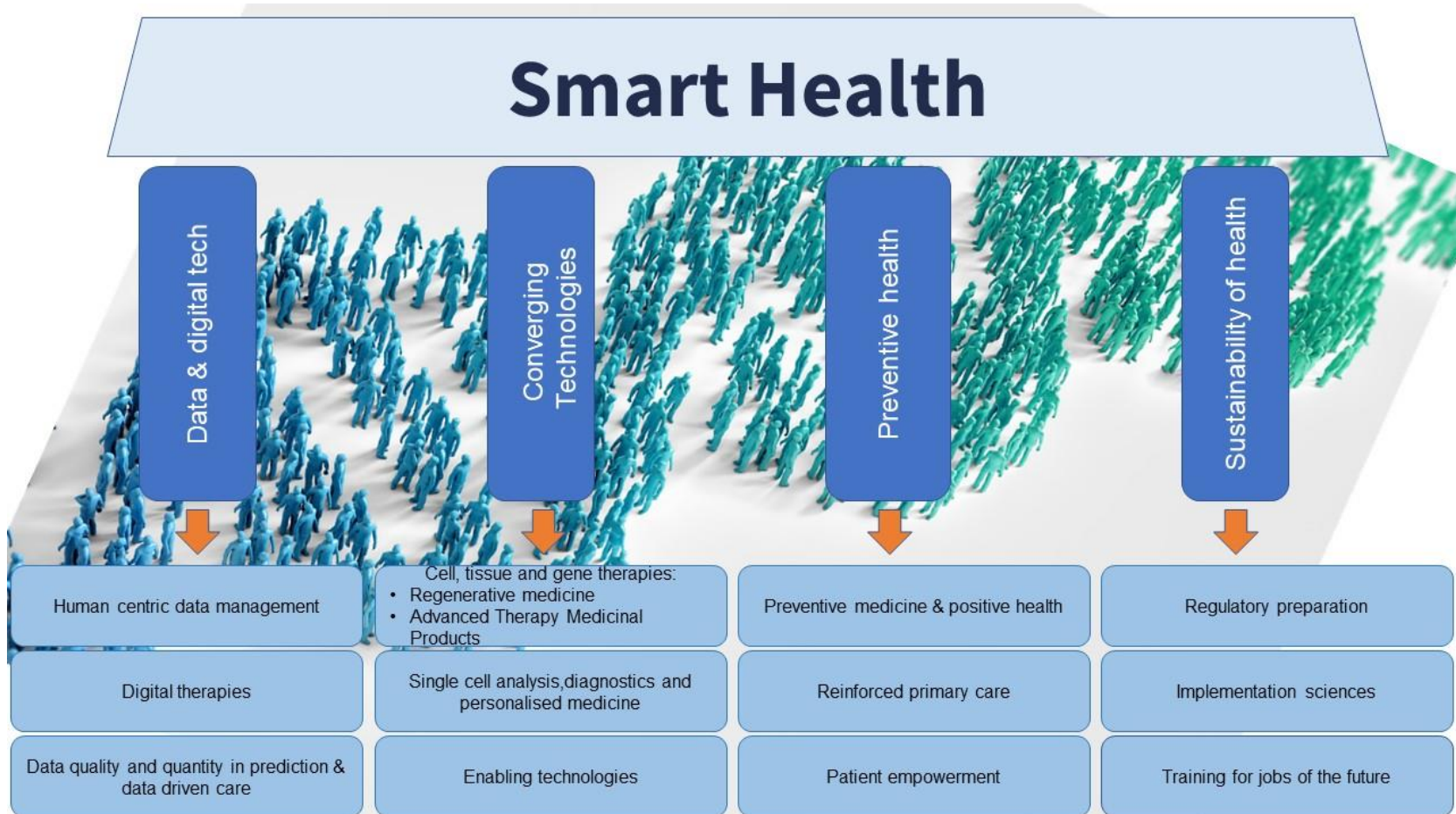
Boost implementation of personalised medicine and smart health across Europe

Investable interregional co-creation projects

More info on:

<https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/pilots/smart-health>

VI Smart Health Scope





Thank you



Vlaanderen
is economie,
wetenschap & innovatie

<https://www.ewi-vlaanderen.be/en/sti-in-flanders>