



CIRCULAR ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM

COCON
Circular. Sociaal. Creatief.

Cocon is een project dat tot stand komt met de steun van:

AGENTSCHAP
INNOVEREN &
ONDERNEMEN



EFRO
EUROPEES FONDS
VOOR REGIONALE
ONTWIKKELING



Europese Unie

Mede gefinancierd
in het kader van de
respons van de Unie op
de COVID-19-pandemie

 provincie
Oost-Vlaanderen



Vlaanderen
is sterke steden



SCHAKELN VOOR GROEI



Sint-Niklaas

Oh zo verrassend

STRATEGIC PROJECTS LEGISLATION 2019-2025

Renewal of the Market Centre



Cocon: a social and circular hub



Swimming Pool Watermill and Sportpark



THE BUILDING (HARDWARE)



THE ACTORS IN THE BUILDING (SOFTWARE)



THE ECOSYSTEM CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE "WAAS" REGION





What you do
for me
without me
you do
against me

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

**“Start where
the energy is”**

If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far,

GO TOGETHER.

African Proverb



THE BIRTH OF THE ECOSYSTEM



CO-CREATION EVENT mai 2022

SURVEY: Febr – mar 2022

10 (more or less) specific projects

- 1 Inspiration and network moments for companies and students
- 2 Primary care on circularity
- 3 Materialbank reuse of building materials
- 4 Structural repair

➔ First ideas of what a knowledge centre / network on circularity can be



"There is a lot of energy in the local community! Especially among businesses and entrepreneurs"



The birth of the network and inspiration sessions

“Entrepreneurs of Waasland have their say on circular economy”

Wase ondernemers aan het woord

PETER VAN HOECKE



FREDERIK VERSTRAETE

Wase ondernemers aan het woord



BRUNO DE SMET,
HANS BROKKEN EN
PIETER DONDEYNE
SVK & CIRCULAR MATTERS



AARON THIERENS
RESOUND



24 November 2022 (47 participants)
Binnenwerk Sint-Niklaas

2 June 2022 – Week of the Impact of the Province - 27 participants
‘t Landhuis Sint-Niklaas



waas
circulair



Samen
circulair
waas
maken



2024 Change of name and
more professional approach

Working together with
different organisations on
the content of the 5
sessions

The ecosystem grows

Circulair werk(t)

12 hubs voor circulair en sociaal ondernemerschap + 4 nieuwe

Van Brugge tot Genk, van Oudenaarde tot Leuven, kan je terecht bij de 12 regionale sociaal-circulaire hubs. Ze bieden je inspiratie, matchmaking en ondersteuning.





EVENTS

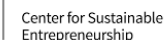
On circular economy
e.g. Waas Circulair!

Cocon as a **SHOWROOM** for circular
innovations of companies and on CIRCULAR
BUILDING

KNOWLEDGE CENTRE OR NETWORK
ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR THE
WAAS REGION

ADVICE and **MATCHMAKING** for
circular economy collaborations and innovations +
connecting with knowledge institutions

COMMUNICATION and
INFORMATION





WHAT is THE ADDED VALUE of the ecosystem?

Bringing people together

- Commitment on the circular transition
- Community created
- Push forward Sint-Niklaas
- Open conversation
- Inspiring each other
- Searching together

Connection with funding

Positive perception

New kind of network in the region

- Still a lot of challenges though!

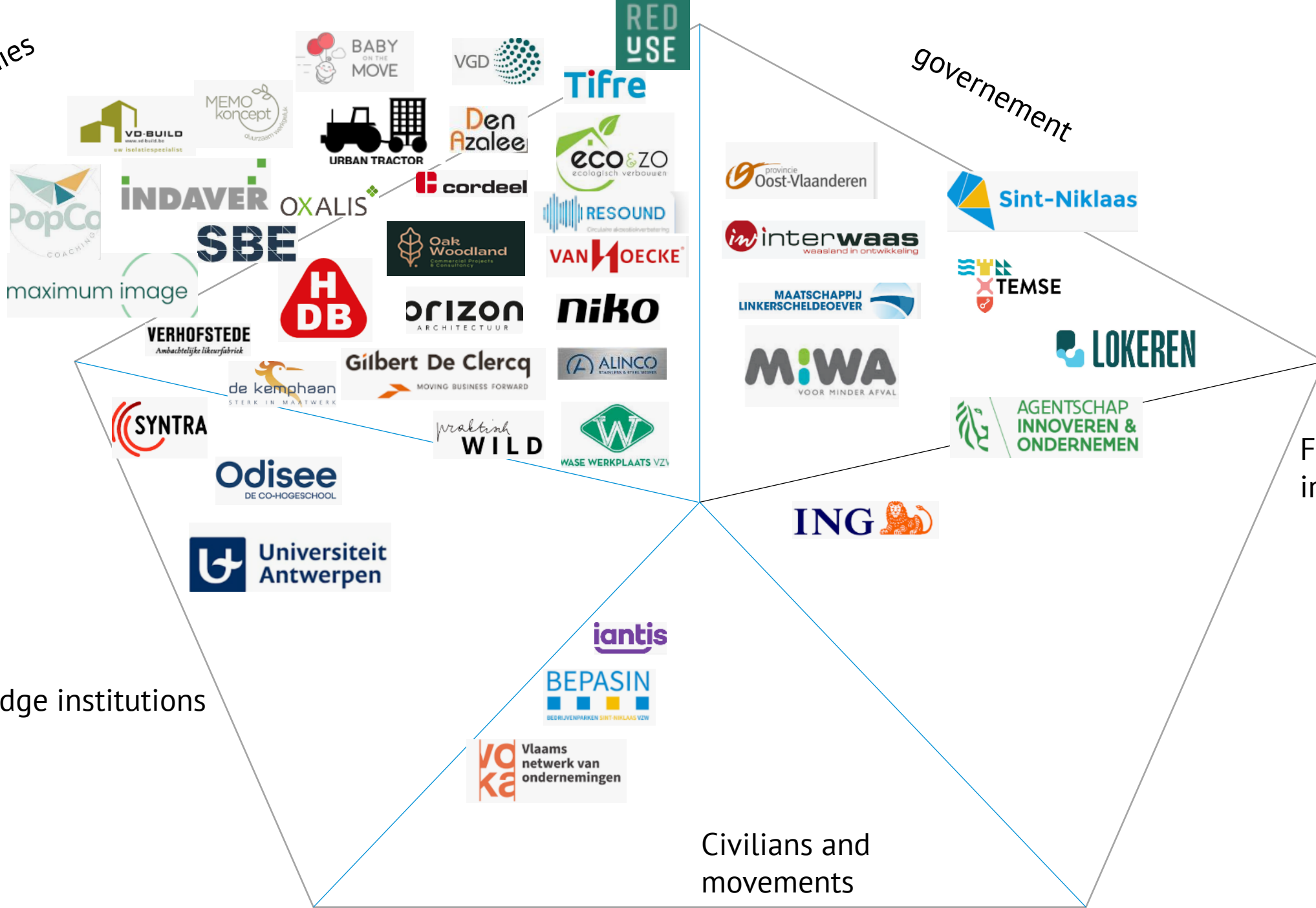
Companies

gouvernement

Financial institutions

Knowledge institutions

Civilians and movements



CHALLENGES ECOSYSTEM

How structuring the ecosystem?

How to make it more tangible?

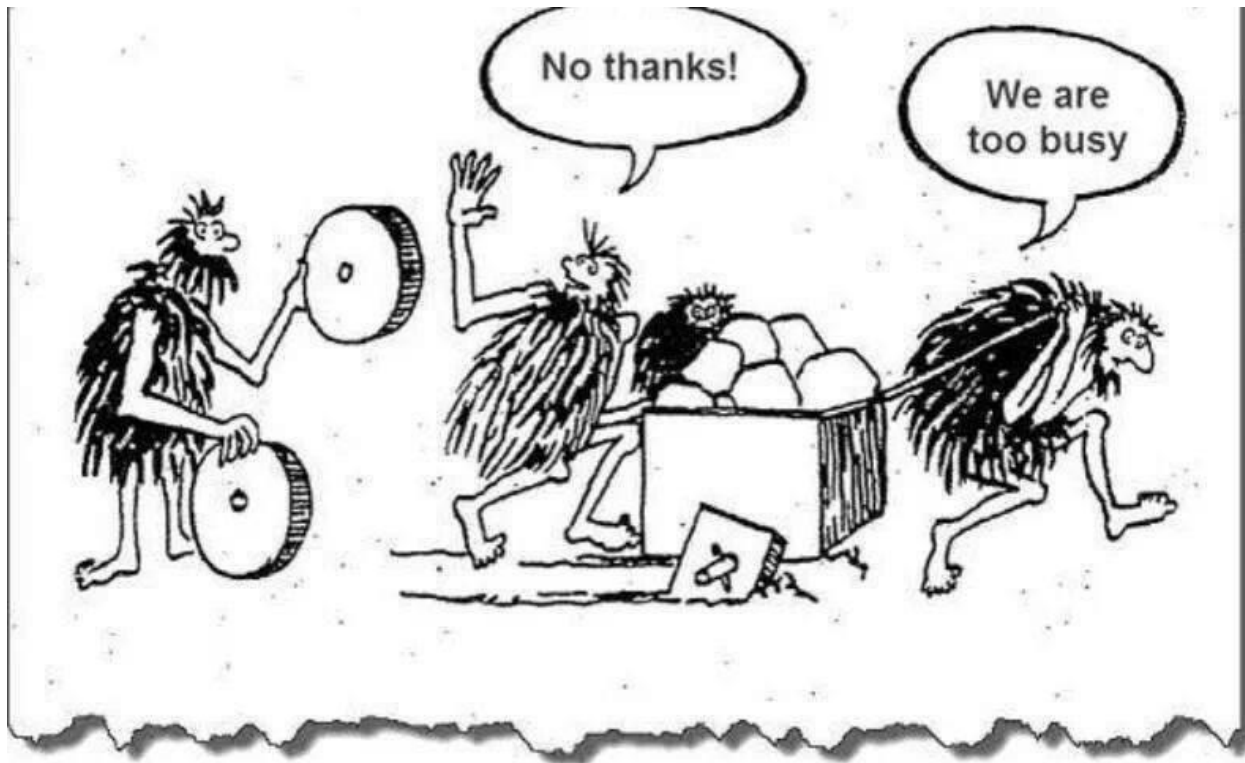
How facilitating action?

How to build a knowledge centre that is mainingful?

How to get Cocon up and running – a thriving place for circular entrepreneurship



CHALLENGES LOCAL GOVERNEMENT



- How to transcend the delusion of the day?
- Need of manpower and financial means?
- Role of the local government?

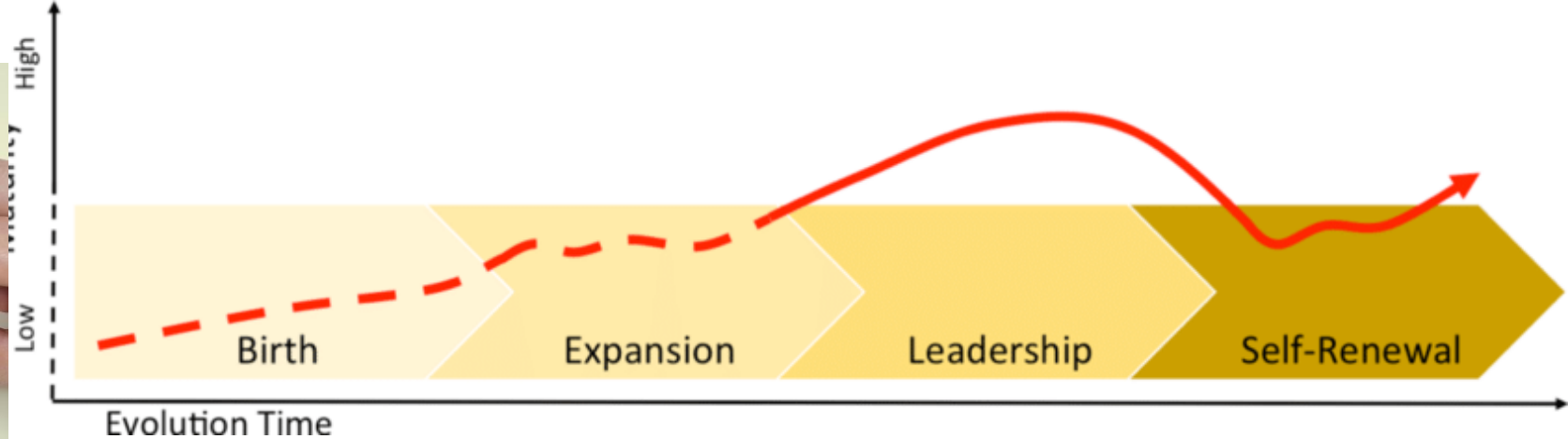
LESSONS LEARNED

- Connection between the BUILDING of Cocon and the ECOSYSTEM is “*a match made in heaven*”
- Administration and politics need to be convinced – What’s in it for us is not always clear
- Need to make the ecosystem tangible with **COMMUNICATION** and **STORYTELLING**
- “Embrace the chaos”



FUTURE

- Next fase in ecosystem
- Connecting with other ecosystems (like BAAS,...)
- Start-up ecosystem
- Coaching and funding?



CONTACT

YOKO VAN PRAET

Diensthofd economie

Yoko.vanpraet@sint-niklaas.be

ANNELIES DE GENDT

Adviseur circulaire economie

Annelies.degendt@sint-niklaas.be

!
IT IS WHAT
IT IS!

* //