

Local partnerships : a way to achieve a sustainable solution for LILW

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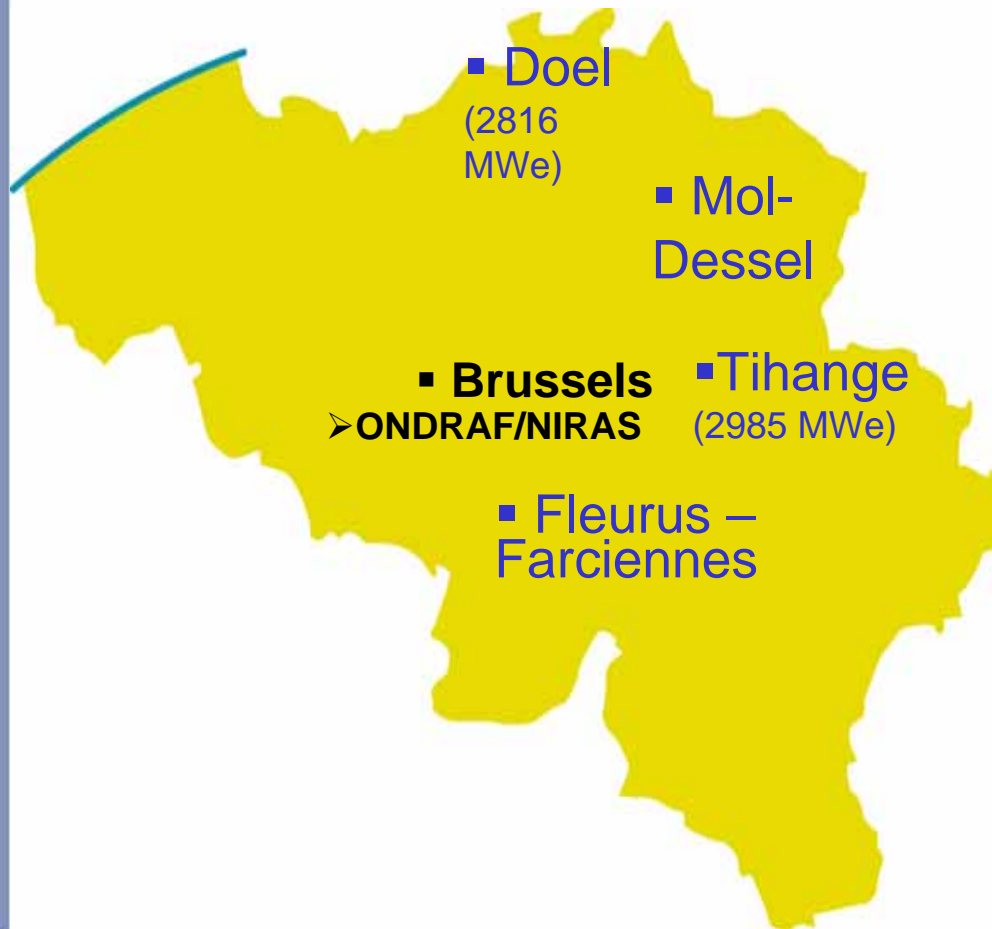




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- Key messages :
 - The former criteria approach was replaced by a system approach – all concepts are safe.
 - The projects were developed by representatives of the local population with the help of experts – they meet the local needs and are socially justified.
 - Direct participation of the stakeholders in developing a project works leads to project proposals that are justifiable technically and socially.
 - The choice of the project to be taken into consideration is a political choice : for ONDRAF/NIRAS all projects are equally safe and socially justified

Nuclear Belgium in a nutshell



Population density:

- Belgium 339
- Flanders 443
- Dessel 318
- Mol 287
- Fleurus 375
- Farciennes 1092

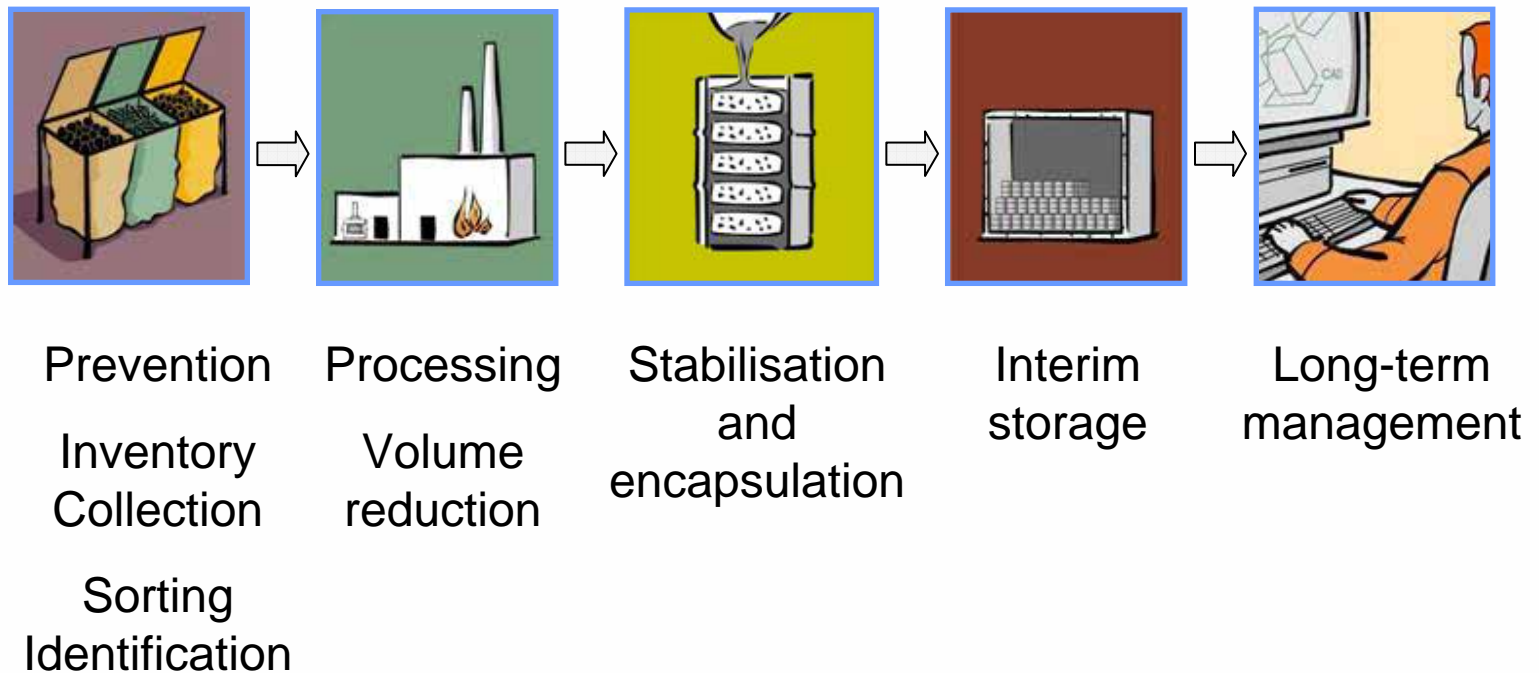
Federal state:

- Cultural communities: 3
- Econic regions: 3

ONDRAF/NIRAS Management System

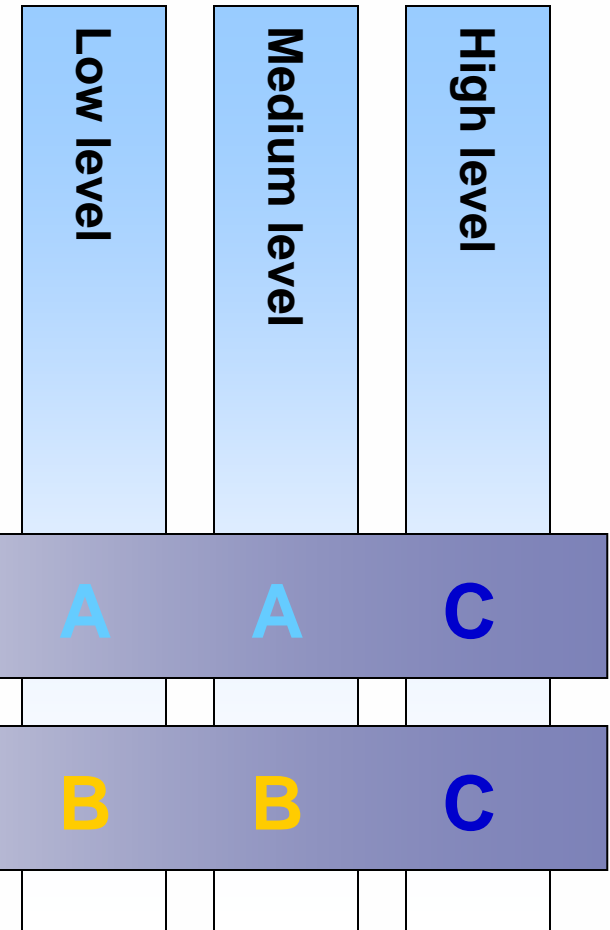
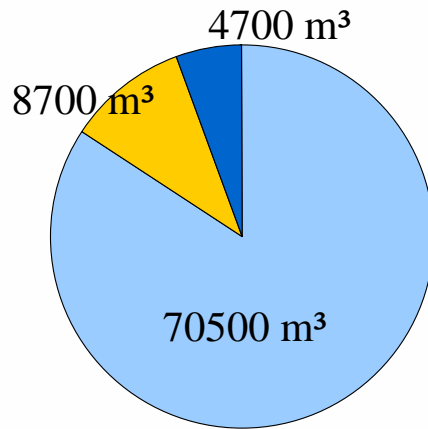
Status:

Public institution with legal personality for the management of radioactive waste in Belgium



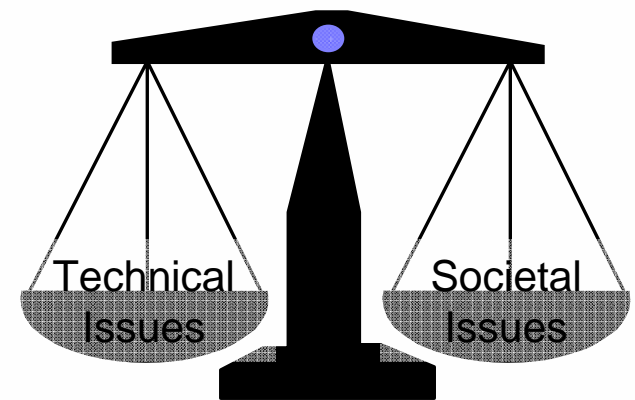
Radioactive waste

Three categories: A, B and C



Long-term management of radioactive waste

The former criteria approach was replaced by a system approach



Necessity of a balance



Long-term management of low-level radioactive waste

Council of Ministers of January 16th, 1998

- DISPOSAL IS THE CHOICE
 - Final (or liable to become final)
 - Reversible
 - Progressive and flexible
 - Either surface or geological
- Concentrate on existing nuclear sites
- Co-operate with local actors to integrate disposal in local socio-economic structure

THE ANSWER:

Public participation in decision-making processes through the creation of local partnerships



The Local Partnership Concept :

PRINCIPLES

- Is representative of the local collectivity
- Possesses a mode of democratic autonomous functioning
- Possesses total decision taking autonomy
- Has its seat in the centre of the locality
- Receives a budget that is managed independently
- The system approach replaces the criteria approach.

KEY FEATURES

- Involvement of all stakeholders at early stage of decision making process
- Participation through representation
- A representative democracy at micro level
- A non-profit organisation

The Local Partnership Concept :

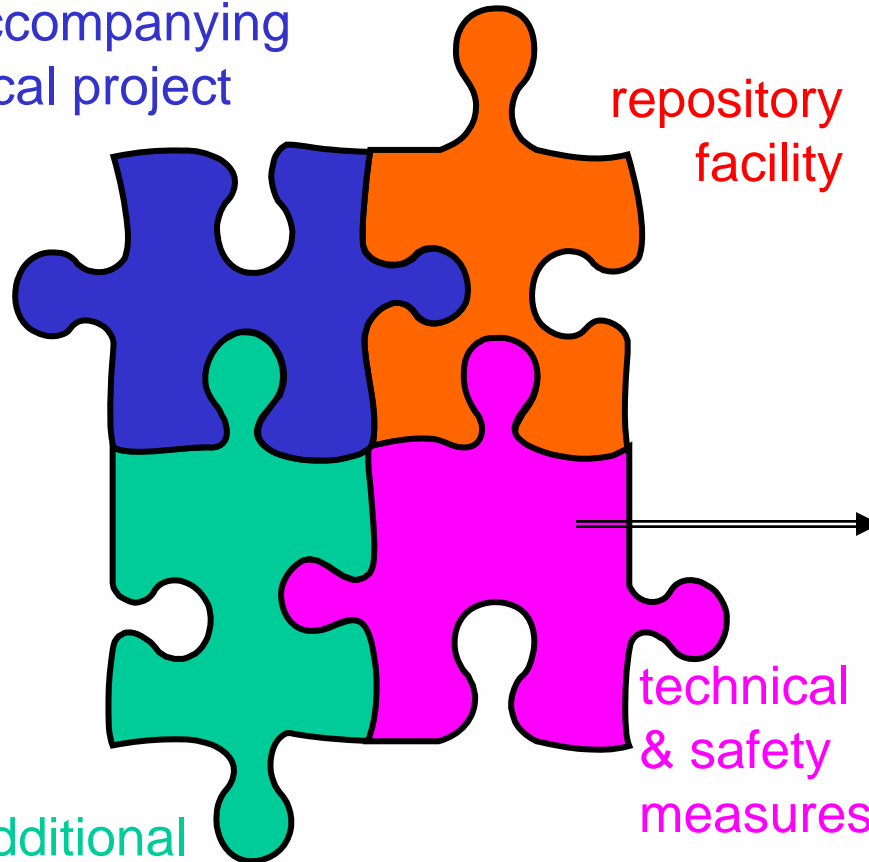
THE CORE BUSSINESS :

- Interaction between all stakeholders on the definition of the issue and how to deal with it.
- Develop a repository concept, and an integrated project fitted for its environment, and bringing added value in community life, that is acceptable for all parties.
- Assess the project's feasibility.
- Decide on the desirability and acceptability of the integrated project.
- Organise consultation and provide information.

Mutual Project Development

accompanying
local project

repository
facility



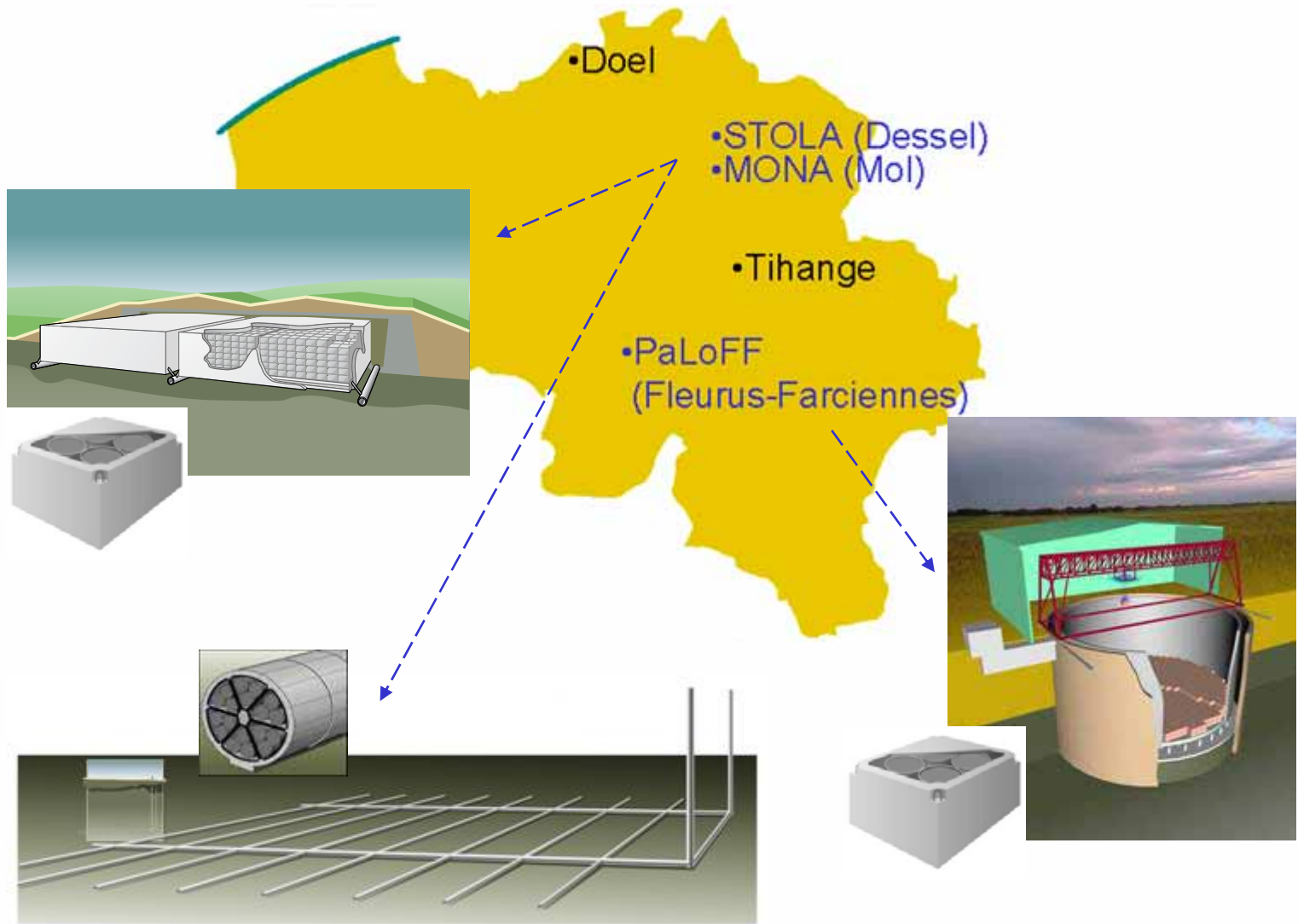
additional
local conditions
(environment & public health)

technical
& safety
measures

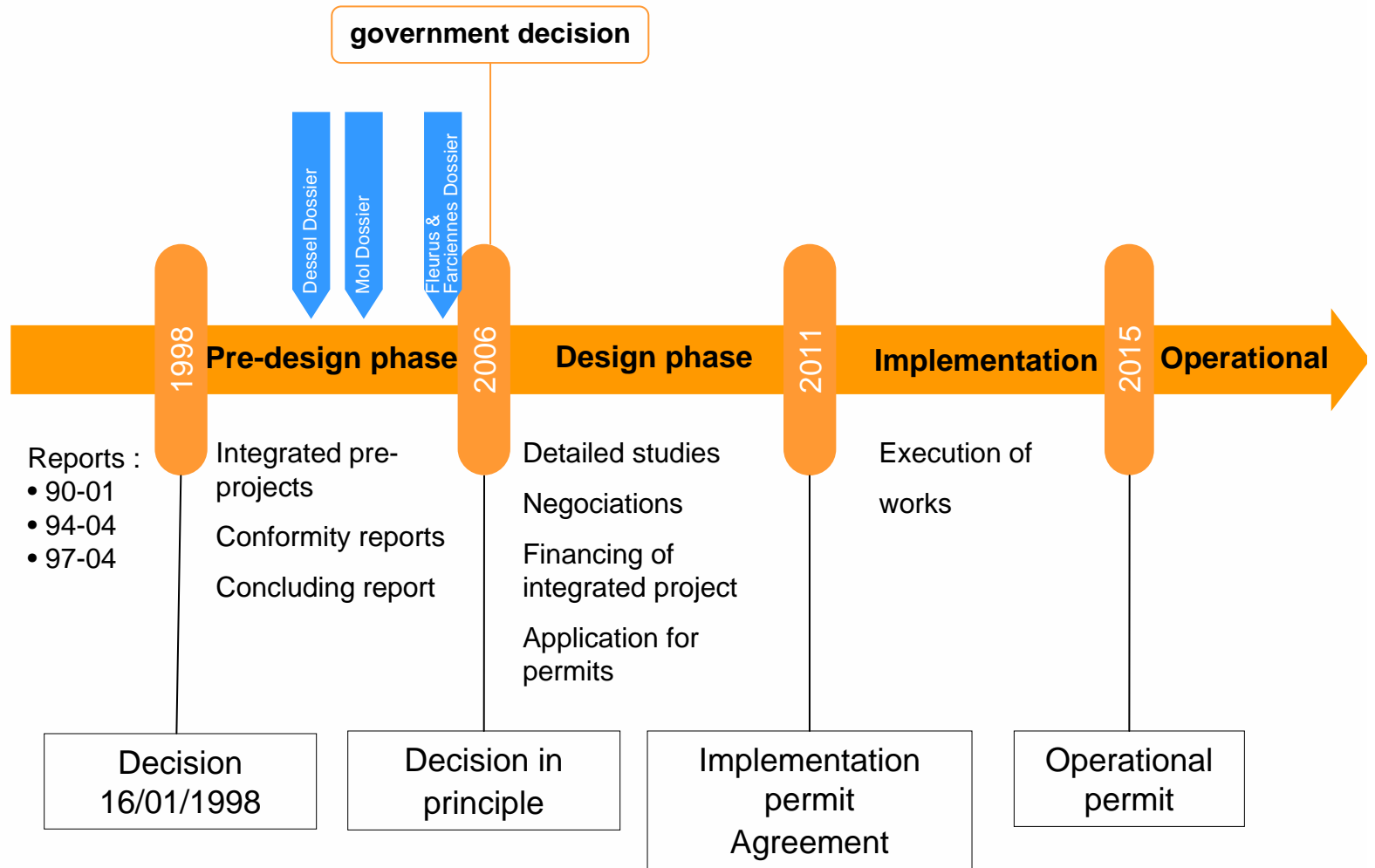


1 global project, or
no project at all

Current Situation



Current Situation and Developments





Lessons drawn so far

Integration of scientific, technical and societal factors

- It is a demanding and time consuming process where continuity in the approach is vital
- Participative and co-decision making is a dynamic process and means a close interaction and permanent dialogue with local stakeholders on how to realise a project
- The real question is not one of acceptance but of integrating a repository project in the social and cultural context of a specific place
- The Belgian methodology of the local partnerships is certainly not THE way to do it, but it is a tailor-made concept, which meets the needs of the Belgian programme.

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