



Innovation Policy Impact Assessment  
at Regional Level

*Syntens The Netherlands*

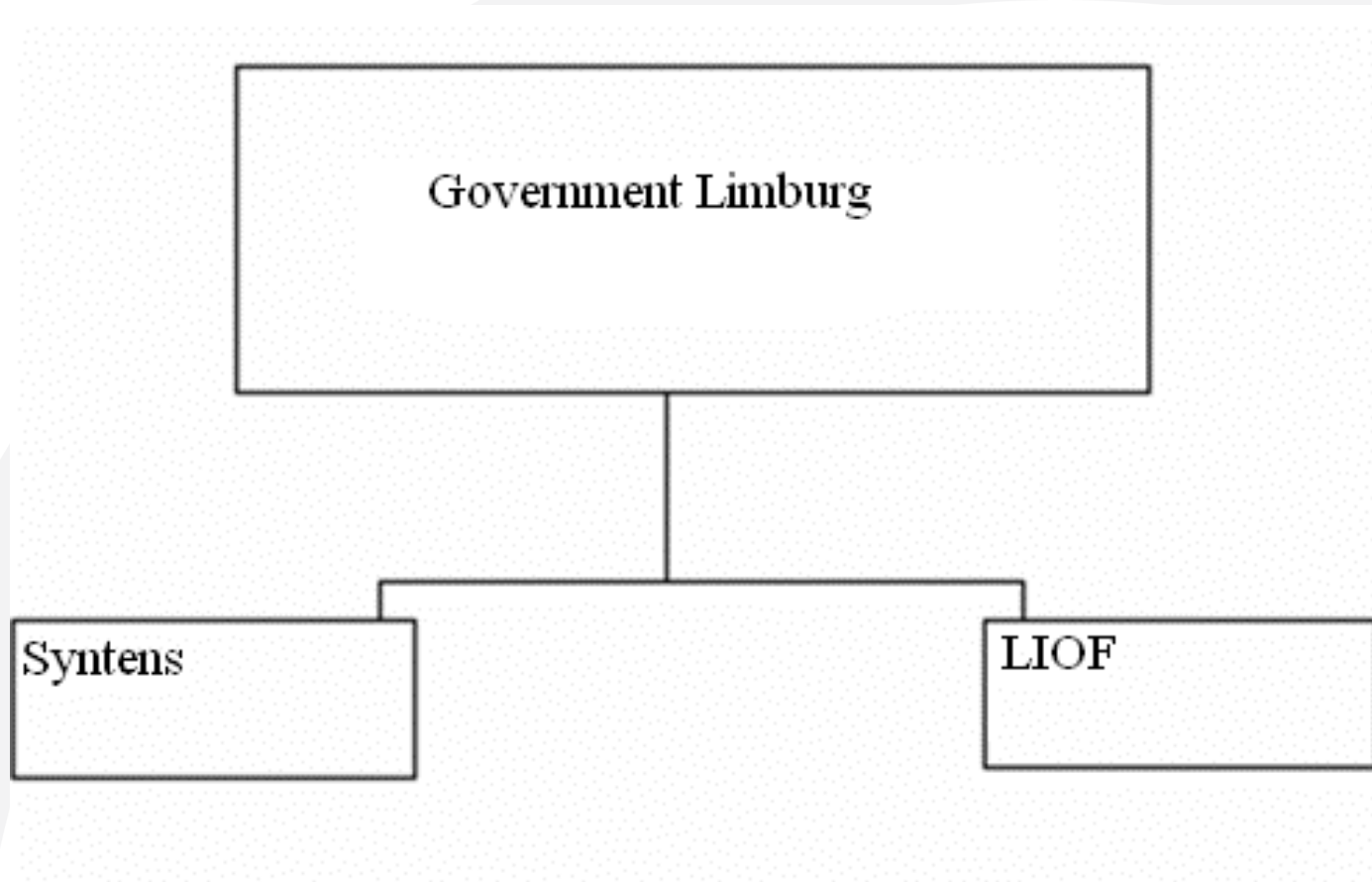
Kick-off meeting, June 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2005

*Author - Partner – Region | May 23rd 2005*

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# 1. Regional Government Scheme

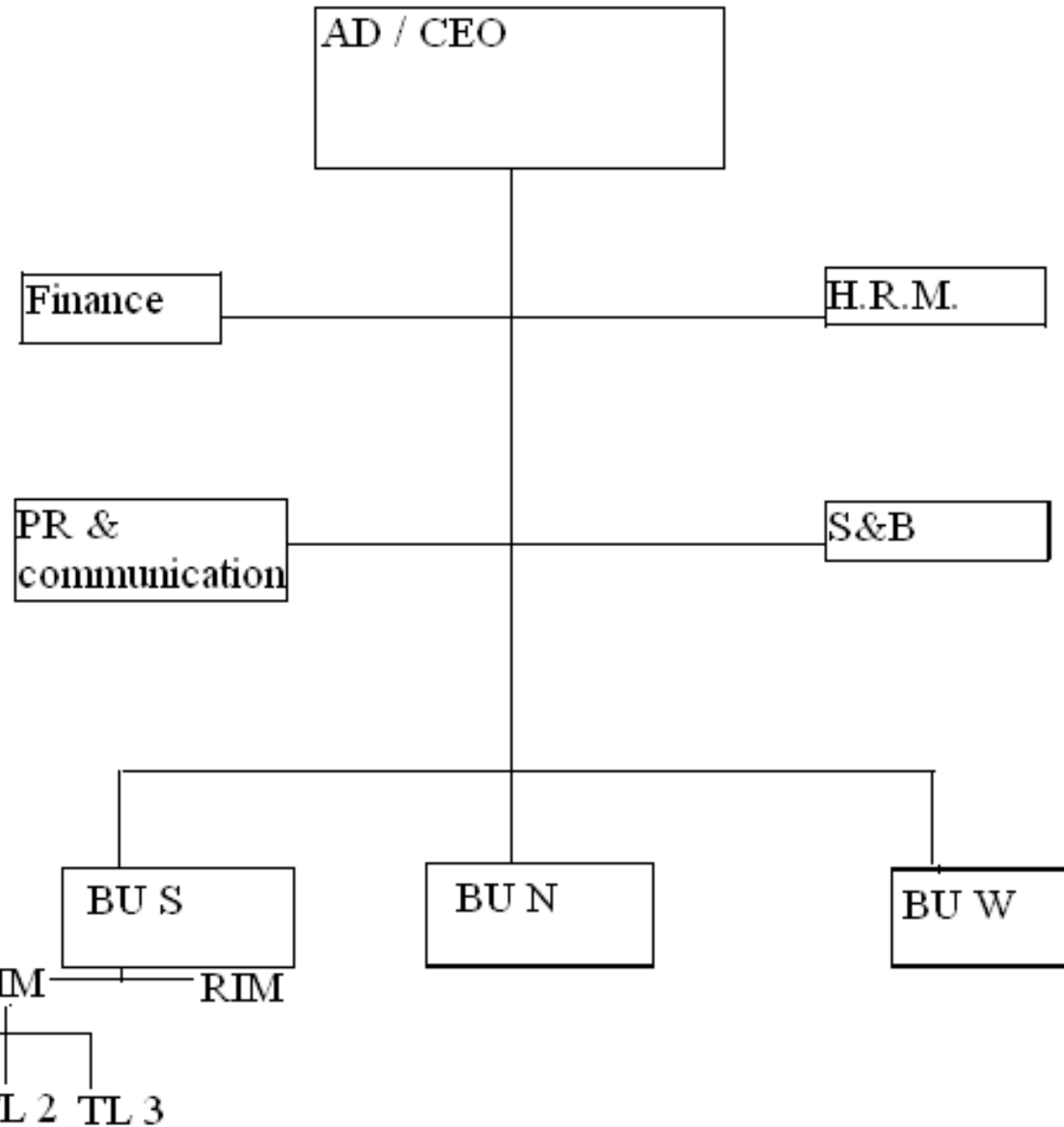


## 2. Syntens Structure

- *Syntens is a non profit making organisation,*
- *Syntens is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs*
- *Syntens has 450 employees → 275 advisors*
- *Syntens organises more than 1000 meetings & 20.000 consultations per year*
- *Sources of income (€50 million): 70% from MEA. Remainder regional and local partners*



## Organisation chart



### 3. Mission and Services

Syntens stimulates successful innovation, reinforces the innovative capacity of enterprises in The Netherlands and contributes visibly to lasting growth

*Syntens main activity is the distribution of innovation advice to Dutch businesses in the category SME*

*The core-competences are:*

- *Know How of innovation*
- *knowledge of SME's*
  - ✓ *The needs*
  - ✓ *The possibilities*
  - ✓ *The opportunities*

## 4. Activities and target groups

- *Information & Communication technology*
- *Social Innovation*
- *Cooperation*
- *Product- & Process development*
- *New entrepreneurship*
- *Marketing & strategy*

*Target group is: SME*

## 5. SWOT

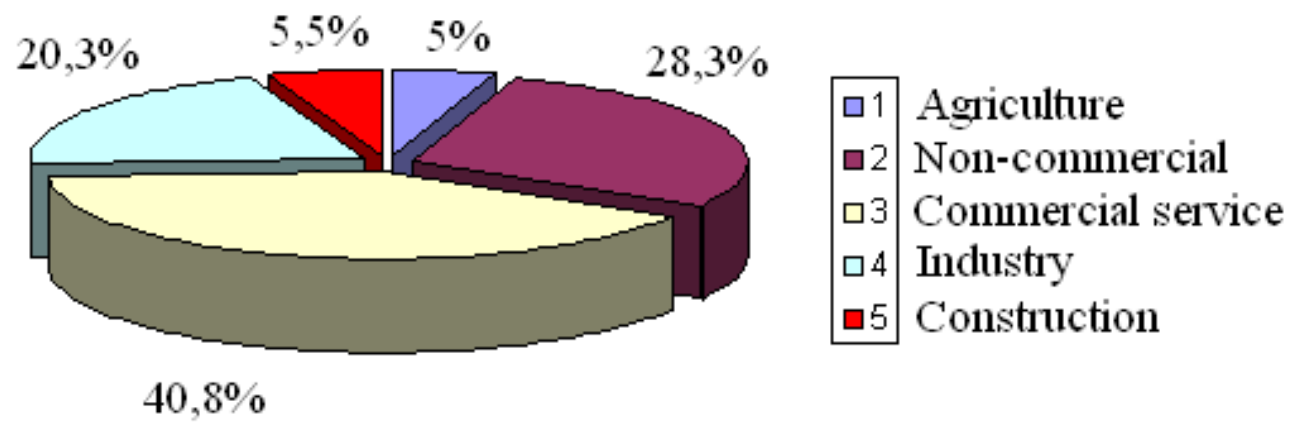
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>STRENGTHS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fundamental and focused research.</li><li>• Application in the market.</li><li>• Circulation of knowledge.</li><li>• Strong network.</li><li>• IAP.</li><li>• Combination of research and creativity.</li><li>• Individualisation in the process.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEAKNESSES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Limited time.</li><li>- No possibility to be involved the actual process.</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribution to the Dutch international competition position.</li><li>• Permanent investment in new development and knowledge.</li><li>• Cooperation between SME's.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THREATS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- European law.</li><li>- Dependent on political situation.</li></ul>

## 6. Regional factors

- ✓ 1.139.335 inhabitants
- ✓ 2.209 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ Main towns are Maastricht, Venlo, Heerlen, Sittard-Geleen, Kerkrade

## Economic Position

Employment rate



## Economic Position

- ✓ Unemployment rate 10,5%
- ✓ GDP per capita: 24.000 + (2002)
- ✓ Main industrial sectors are food, chemicals, metal & electronics
- ✓ Number of companies: 58.700 (= 6,1 % of the Dutch total)
- ✓ Percentage of SME's is 90%
- ✓ 80% of SME acknowledges the importance of innovation.
- ✓ In 2004 Limburg SME's invested 4% of their total turnover in innovation.

## Institutional settings

- R&D expenditure as percentage of GDP for
  - public sector is 0,5%,
  - business enterprise sector 2% and
  - high education sector is 1,5%.
- R&D employment as percentage of the total work force:
  - in public sector 0,2% ,
  - in business enterprise sector 1% and
  - in high education sector 1%
- Main research centres: Océ, DSM, University Maastricht
- Universities → 1 (Maastricht)
- Higher education institutes → 2 main institutes (Fontys & Zuyd)
- Main transfer centres and technical centres in innovation → 3 (Syntens, ELC, Knowhouse)
- Number of science and technology parks → 2

## European Projects

- RISS
- RITTS
- Fifth Framework Programme € 14,9 billion
- 193 companies and institutes participated € 29,3 million

## 7. Reason for participation

- *Why are you interested in participating in this consortium?*
  - *Learning from other partners to improve the stimulation of innovation*
- *What are your expectations regarding the outcome of the project?*
  - *Learning Best Practises for stimulation of innovation*
  - *Benchmarking of stimulation tools*
- *What is the expected impact on the policy making in your region?*
  - *More dedicated stimulation programmes*
- *Which effects are aimed through this project for the benefit of the region?*
  - *Increasing Innovation Performance of our SME,s*

