

TOWARDS A WALLOON "HYDROGEN VALLEY"

While hydrogen sometimes raises some concerns, it is necessarily part of the solution of the energy mix of the future in its carbon-free version.

This is why the Strategic Innovation Initiative (SII) e-WallonHY has embarked on an ambitious programme combining research, development of technologies and skills and support for their implementation. E-WallonHY brings together researchers, industrialists and public partners to develop solutions that meet safety requirements and improve the competitiveness of companies, while helping them to decarbonise their activities. Want to participate?



Why an initiative on decarbonized hydrogen?

Whether it is used as is, transformed into other molecules (ammonia, e-fuel,...) or electricity, carbon-free hydrogen is one of the solutions to be deployed to meet climate challenges. In addition, recent crises (Covid, war in Ukraine) have brutally highlighted the problem of our regions' dependence on foreign supplies, especially for essential products such as energy resources. In this context, the production of green and local energy, combined with decarbonisation objectives, is becoming more than ever an imperative for the future.

By capitalising on Wallonia's skills in the production of carbon-free hydrogen, prototyping and testing infrastructure and on the strategic geographical position of the Region, the consortium is developing synergies and promoting expertise in new Walloon or European projects.



e-WallonHY in concrete terms

The IIS e-WallonHY aims to develop a Walloon decarbonised hydrogen economy that covers the entire value chain. This economy includes: production, transport, storage and uses in a multitude of fields (mobility, stationary, industry, including technical components useful to the sector, maintenance, training, R&D and test benches).

This ambition involves setting up local production and use chains, developing partnerships, supporting research and innovation and training projects, strengthening the competitiveness and visibility of Walloon players and contributing to regional, Belgian and European hydrogen policies .

The strategy favours the multiplication and pooling of production capacities in connection with targeted applications, to reduce investment costs on each project, to facilitate and accelerate the deployment of hydrogen in the territory and to achieve the ambitious objectives set by Europe, Belgium and Wallonia.

The IIS action plan includes the development of a "Made in WallonHY" label for the decentralised production of green hydrogen and its local use, but also for the promotion of Walloon know-how that differentiates the hydrogen sector.



SOME FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

- **MaterHYum**: new services and prototype tools to study the impact of hydrogen on materials in representative environments.
- **TiNTHyN**: creation of a Walloon network of high-level scientific expertise available to the industrial fabric through support for 12 doctoral theses developed in Walloon universities in collaboration with approved research centres in order to prepare the technologies of tomorrow for the hydrogen sector. The project is based on 3 work packages: the production of carbon-free hydrogen, the transport, distribution and storage of hydrogen, and its use for mobility, industry and stationary transport.
- **Valhywal**: support for the creation of a Walloon "Hydrogen Valley" connected to other "valleys" on a national and international scale by 2026. A "Hydrogen Valley" is a geographical area where several hydrogen applications are combined to ideally cover the entire value chain hydrogen: production, storage, distribution and end-use.
- **VKHyLab**: construction of an infrastructure for the realization of semi-industrial tests for the hydrogen value chain, open to the entire ecosystem of the sector (universities, research centers and industries).
- **H2ITC**: Creation of an independent test center to optimize the use of hydrogen and hydrogen-derived e-fuels in road mobility, river or even air.



THE MAIN PLAYERS OF THE IIS E-WALLONHY:

Leader: CRM Group

IIS initiators: CRM Group, UCLouvain and TWEED

Some 85 partners and associates: representatives of SMEs and large companies, research centres, universities, training centres, public actors, representatives of competitiveness clusters.

See next page for complete list of the actors !



Learn more

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