



**KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
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Panel 2: Regions and Multi-level Interactions
Introduction

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*International workshop 'Regions and Sustainable Development: Comparative and International Perspectives'
Committee of the Regions, 24 June 2010*

Regions going international for SD

- **Flanders**
 "A higher visibility, an increasing presence and more policy of Flanders in Europe and at the global level with regard to sustainable development"
Policy document (2009-2014) of the Flemish Minister-president
- **Wales**
 "The Welsh Assembly Government has a role to play at the international level, both learning from others and in sharing our best practice"
Welsh Assembly Government Sustainable Development Scheme 'One Wales: One Planet' (2009)
 "A 'responsibility' to act globally"
Royles, 2010

Why? Some explanatory factors

- **A matter of competences**
 - "internally responsible? externally responsible!"
 - SD is a responsibility of all levels of government
- **Identity politics**
 - creating an international personality
 - raising the international profile

A multi-level governance perspective

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- Policy and decision-making for SD
 - cross-border and global problems
 - decided at the global level and needs to be brought home (SD as an 'outside-in policy')
 - multi-level: tackled and negotiated at all levels
 - multi-actor: governmental and non-governmental actors
- Important role for regions
 - operating in interconnected political arenas
- How?
 - regional routes to multilateral decision-making

Regional routes (1)

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	INTRA-STATE	EXTRA-STATE
INTRA-EUROPEAN	multi-level route	European route
EXTRA-EUROPEAN	national route	direct route

[Geeraerts et al. (2004); adapted by Van den Brande (2008)]

MULTI-LEVEL ROUTE: all levels involved

NATIONAL ROUTE: through the state, bypassing the EU

EUROPEAN ROUTE: through the EU, bypassing the state

DIRECT ROUTE: direct involvement

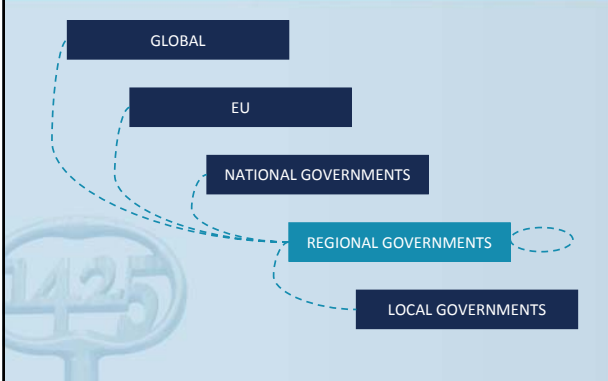
Regional routes (2)

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	EXAMPLES
MULTI-LEVEL ROUTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ participating in national delegation for EU and global negotiations ▪ appointing a regional attaché to national permanent representation to EU
NATIONAL ROUTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ influencing national decision-making
EUROPEAN ROUTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ approaching members of European Commission, Members of European Parliament and/or members of Committee of the Regions ▪ campaigning for direct representation in Council of Ministers ▪ establishing regional information offices in Brussels
DIRECT ROUTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ participating in transnational networks of regional governments ▪ appointing a regional attaché to multilateral organizations

Multi-level interactions

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Interactions at the national level

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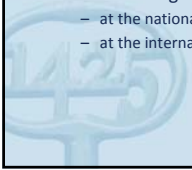
- Intra-state arrangements between regional and national governments
 - consultation
 - delegation and representation
 - information exchange/communication
 - conciliation procedure
- Formal or informal?
- Legally binding?



Examples of other interactions

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- Between regional governments and the EU institutions
 - European Commission as the principal actor to interact with
 - e.g. through consultation procedures or informal lobbying
 - Committee of the Regions
 - regional attachés to the national PR to the EU
- Between regional governments
 - at the national level
 - at the international level (e.g. nrg4SD)



Some points of interest

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- Complex multi-level decision-making process
- Actual regional involvement is the result of
 - intra-state arrangements
 - coordination and cooperation
 - investment of resources
 - political will
- Going international?
 - strenghtening international presence and profile!

Thank you!

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