

FOSTERING COMMONS-ORIENTED PLANNING WITH RESEARCH THROUGH DESIGN, THE WORK OF THE BSI-BCO.

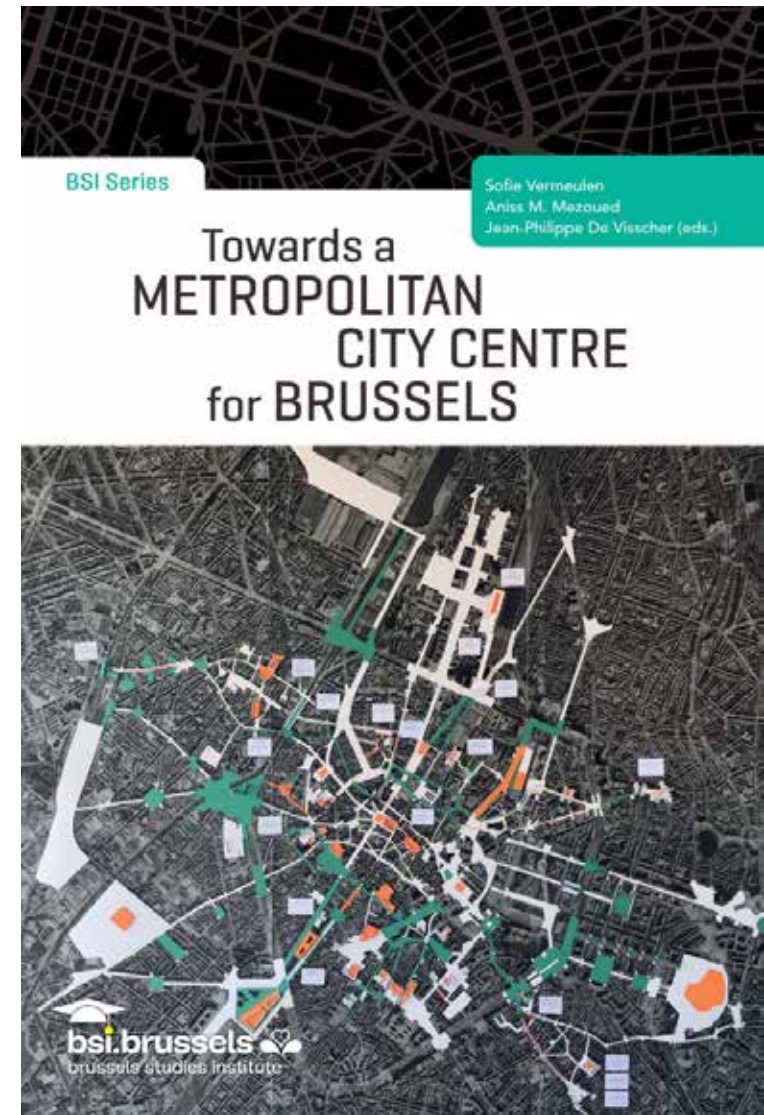
Jean-Philippe De Visscher, Aniss Mezoued, UCLouvain_LAB

T9 Session 4 | 'The role of university in the transformation of the city' | 14h | Room 16



I. Context

Towards a metropolitan centre for Brussels



Controversies about the pedestrianization of the central boulevards

2014



Pictur of Anspach Bvd
1996



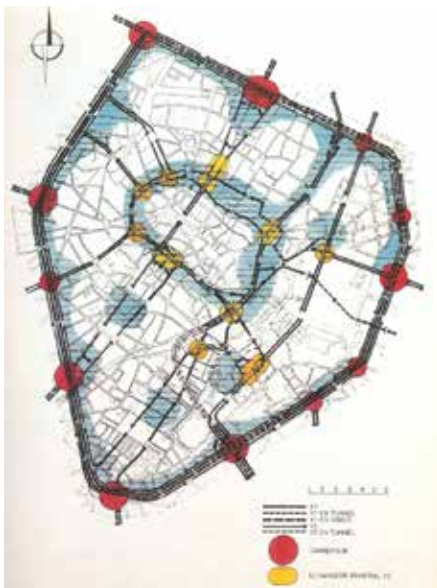
Pic nic the streets
Photo C.Braschi, 2012



Rendering of the pedestrian zone
SumProject, 2014



Closure announcement
Actu de Bruxelles, 2019



Mobility plan
Bureau Teknè, in Habiter/Wonen,



Brussels 2040
51N4E-BBS-l'AUC, 2012



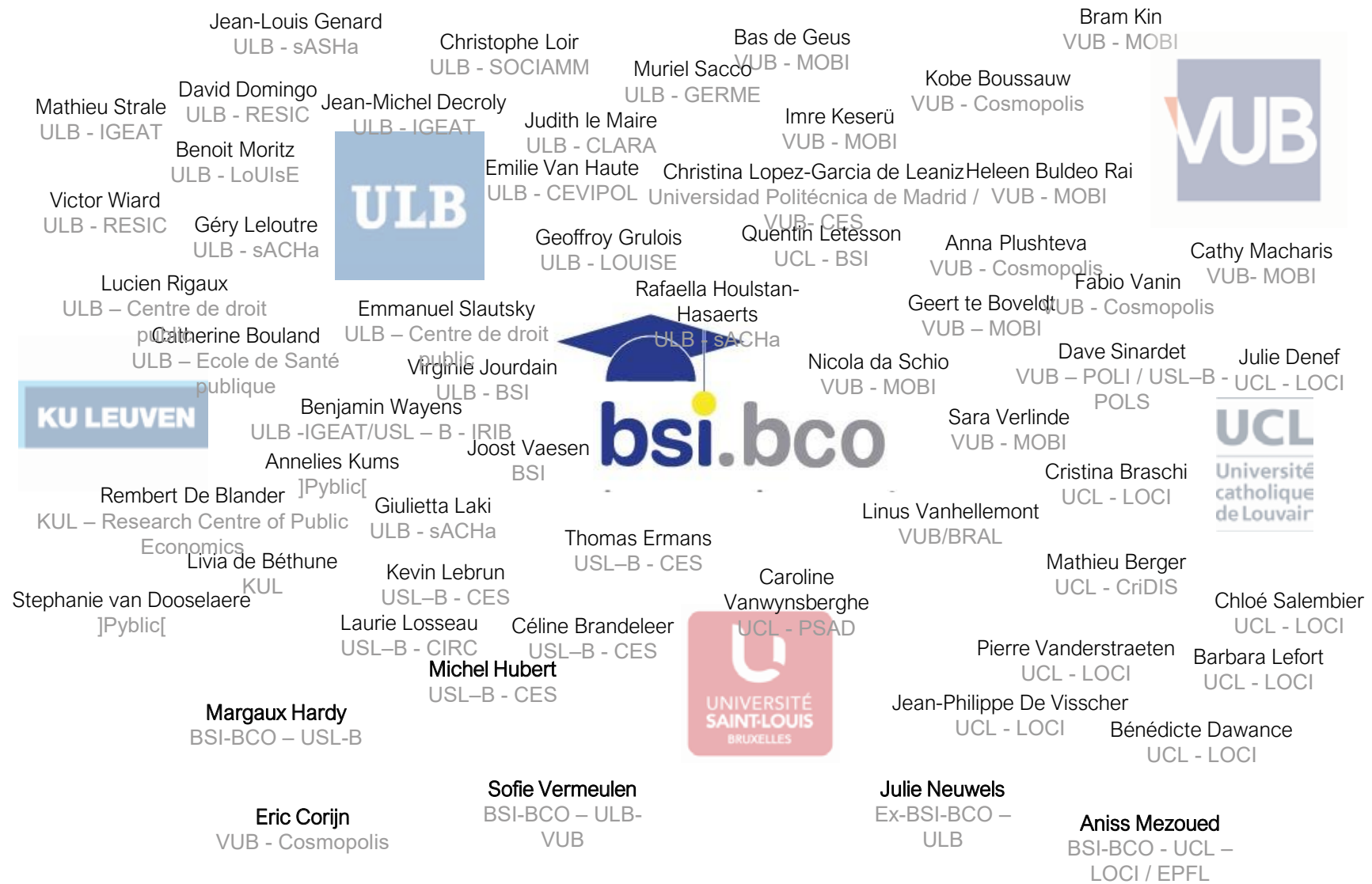
Mobility map
Ville de Bruxelles, 2014



Le piétonnier pour les nuls
Arau, 2014

Setting up the Brussels Studies Institute - Brussels Centre Observatory

April 2016



Setting up the Brussels Studies Institute - Brussels Centre Observatory

April 2016

TEAM

Direction

*Eric Corijn (VUB), sociologist
Michel Hubert (USLB),
sociologist*

Coordination

*Sofie Vermeulen, social geographer
Aniss Mezoued, architect-urban
planner*

Steering Committee

*Catherine Bouland (ULB),
biologist
Kobe Boussaou (VUB), urban
planner
Nicolas da Schio (VUB), political
scientist
Jean-Michel Decroly
(ULB), geographer
Bas de Geus (VUB),
physiotherapist
Jean-Philippe De Visscher
(UCL), engineer-architect
Jean-Louis Genard (ULB),
sociologist
Rafaella Houlstan (ULB),
architect
Imre Keseru (VUB), transport
planner
Giulietta Laki (ULB), architect*

*Christophe Loir (ULB), historian
Cathy Macharis (VUB),
economist*

*Alain Malherbe (UCL), art
historian, urban planner
Elisabetta Rosa (UCL), architect
Pierre Vanderstraeten (UCL),
sociologist, urban planner
Fabio Vanin (VUB), architect
Benjamin Wayens (ULB),
geographer.*

BUDGET

Coordination

*Sponsor : Ville de Bruxelles,
2x50% FTE senior researchers
for the coordination
Administrative support from de
Brussels Studies Institute (co-
funded by ULB, USLB, VUB,
UCL, KUL)*

Affiliated research projects (non-exhaustive)

*Steenweg: préparation et
accompagnement d'un concours
d'idées visant à déterminer un
vision pour le futur du 'Steenweg',
Dir. Jean-Philippe De Visscher
(UCL-LOCI), , ongoing.
Sponsor: Perspective.brussels*

*(Regional administration for
territorial development)*

*p-lab, Repérer et amplifier des
nouvelles formes de participation
urbaine, Le piétonnier du centre-
ville comme laboratoire. Dir.
Judith le Maire (ULB- Sasha),
Jean-Louis Genard (ULB-Sasha)
Steven Devleminck (Luca),
ongoing.*

*Sponsor: Innoviris (Regional
scientific research fund)*

*Brumarg — Bruxelles à
travers ses marges. Les sans-
abri entre transformations
urbaines et pratiques de la ville,
Elisabetta Cinzia Rosa, Alain
Malherbe, 2017-2020.*

*Sponsor: Innoviris (Regional
scientific research fund)*

*Centre-ville, piétonnisation et
modes de vie, Dir. Michel Hubert
(USLB), 2018-2020
Sponsor: Forum des vies mobile
(France)*

*Aircasting Brussels Living Lab,
Dir. Bas de Geus, Kobe Boussaou,
Ongoing.*

Sponsor:

*Impact of the pedestrianisation
project on travel behaviour in the
Brussels Metropolitan Area, Dir.
Cathy Macharis (VUB-MOBI),
ongoing.*

*Sponsor: Cabinet of the Minister
for Mobility and Public Works
and Brussels Mobility,*

*Relevé des flux et enjeux en matière
de logistique sur le piétonnier, Dir.
Alix Sotiaux (ULB-IGEAT),
2017*

Sponsor: Bruxelles Mobilité

PARTNERSHIPS (non- exhaustive)

*Brussels Academy, Urban Citizens
University
Pyblik, Regional training academy
on public spaces
Brussels Studies Journal
Perspective.brussels, Regional
administration for territorial
development
Bozar, Centre for Fine Arts
Brussels
LABR, International Architecture
Biennale Rotterdam*

Understanding the issue

April 2016 - April 2017

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LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PIETONNIER

Study day Cosmopolis BRAL, 2016

FIVE CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS

Nuit du Savoir - Nacht van de kennis, 2016

PORTFOLIO #1

BSI_BCO 2016

Reframing the question

May 2016 - December 2017



< >



What difference between a common and a public good?

Quilligan J.B., ‘Why distinguish common goods from public goods ?’, wealthofcommons.org, accessed 18/09/2018.

Reframing the question

May 2016 - December 2017



To what urban project does the ‘piétonnier’ contribute?

Jean-Philippe De Visscher, Julie Neuwels, Brussels Academy, 2016
Photomontages, JPDV 2016

II. Theoretical framework

Research through Design as a tool of commoning

Research through design

« In research by design, the architectural design process forms the pathway through which new insights, knowledge, practices or products come into being. It generates critical inquiry through design work. Therefore research results are obtained by, and consistent with experience in practice.»

EAAE Charter on Architectural Research, 2012

Research through design

Problem-solving



Sense-making

Forester, 1984, Till, 2005

Reframing wicked problems with Design thinking

Use of visual design-patterns and abductive reasoning as critical devices allowing to reframe ill-defined wicked problems and to find acceptable solutions

Alexander, 1977
Cross, 1982
Duchhart, 2011



Empowering communities with Co-design

Design sessions where larger communities of designers and/or non-designers are trained to co-design innovative solutions facing new challenges

Martin, 2007
Dorst, 2011



Impacting societal systems with Design Labs

Collaborative networks where design-based research process seek to influence the system and create resilience

Awan, Schneider, Till, 2011
Manzini, 2015
Dorst, 2019

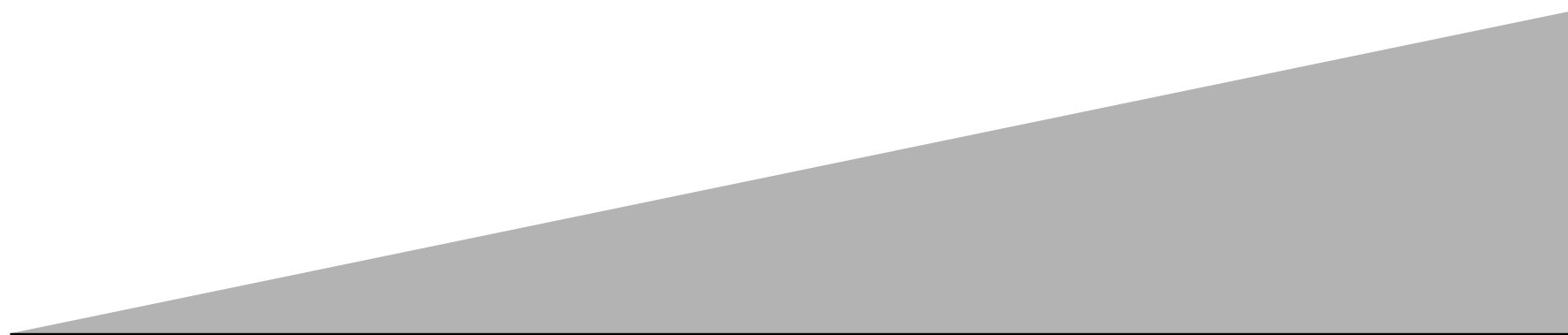
Jean-Philippe De Visscher 2022

after Alexander 1977, Cross 1982, Forester 1984, Till 2005, Martin 2007, Schurz 2008, Duchart 2011, Dorst 2011, Awan, Scheinder, Till, 2011, Lenzholzer 2013, Manzini 2015, Dorst 2019

Research through design

Issue

Vision



Co-city Cycle, LabGov

Cheap talking

Mapping

Prototyping

Testing

Modeling

Design for social innovation, E. Manzini

Making things visible & sensible

Making things possible & probable

Making things effective & relevant

Making things replicable & connected

The Great Transformation Action Plan, AWB

Harvest & assemble

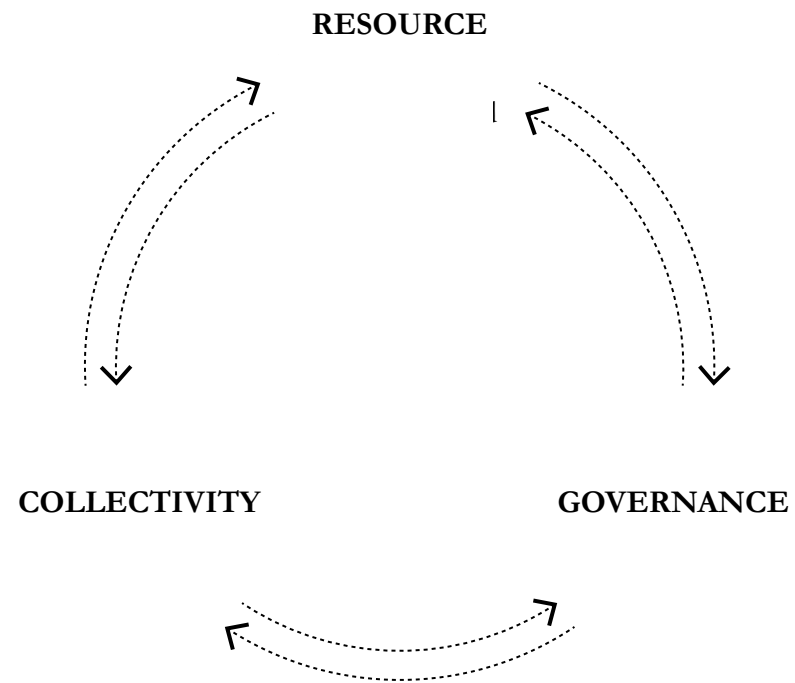
Provoque a breakthrough

Design Acceleration

Learn by doing

Replicate

Urban Commons

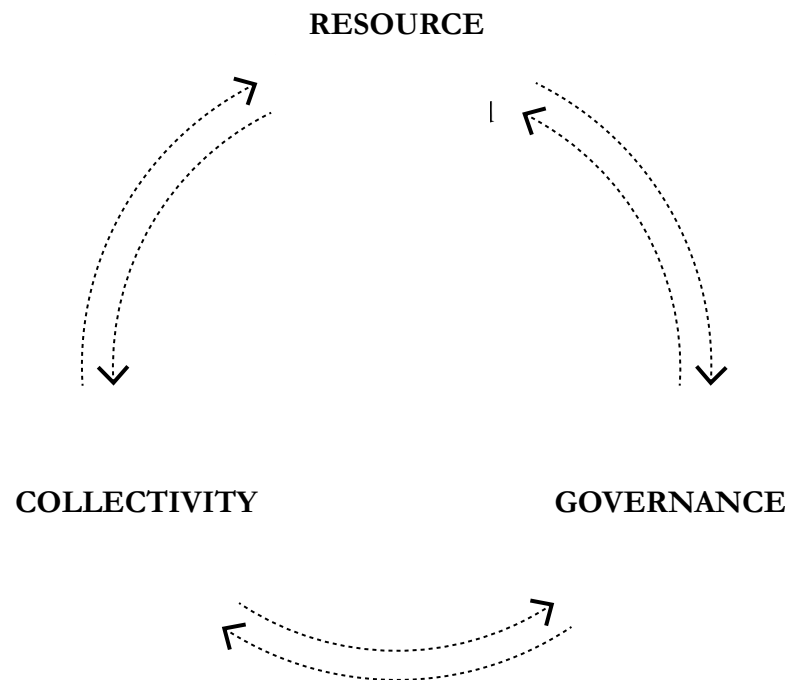


Urban Commons

“The definition of the community/ owners, its limits in terms of the number of people and the degree of openness or closure of the commons is not easy in a context of high mobility and high density, and often marked boundaries between what is fully public (open) and what is private (closed).”

“Cities are incredibly complex and socially diverse systems which bring together not only many different types of resources but also many types of people. Because of this diversity and the presence of often thick local (and sublocal) politics, social and economic tensions and conflicts occur at a much higher rate and pace than many natural environments. The economic and political complexity of cities also means that governance of urban commons cannot be just about communities governing themselves.”

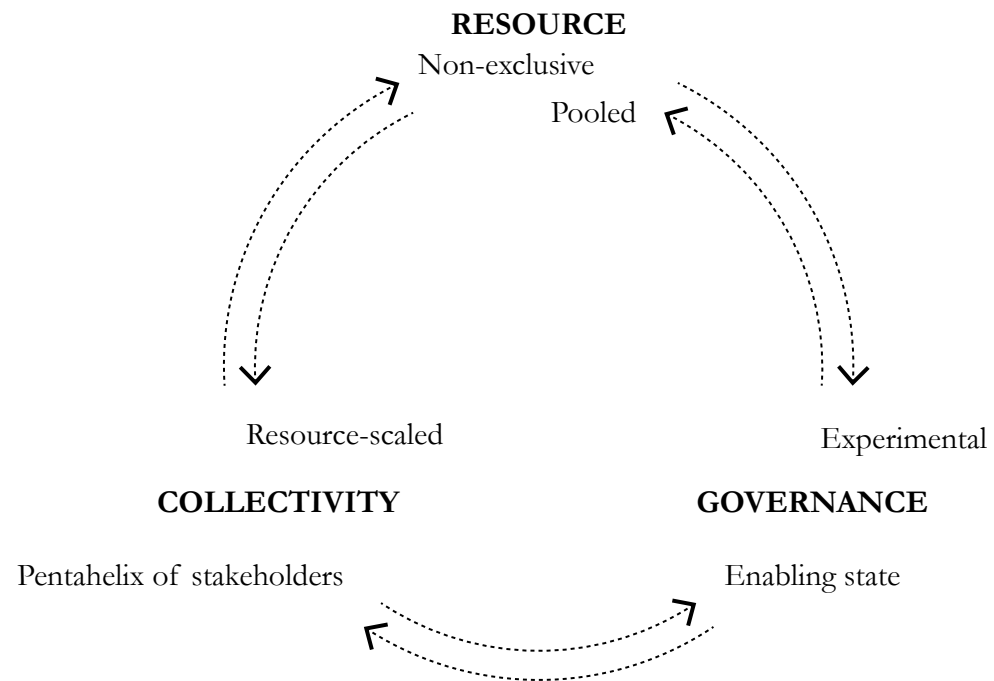
“The process of constructing a commons—what some refer to as “commoning”—involves a collaborative process of bringing together a wide spectrum of actors that work together to co-design and co-produce shared, common goods and services at different scales.”



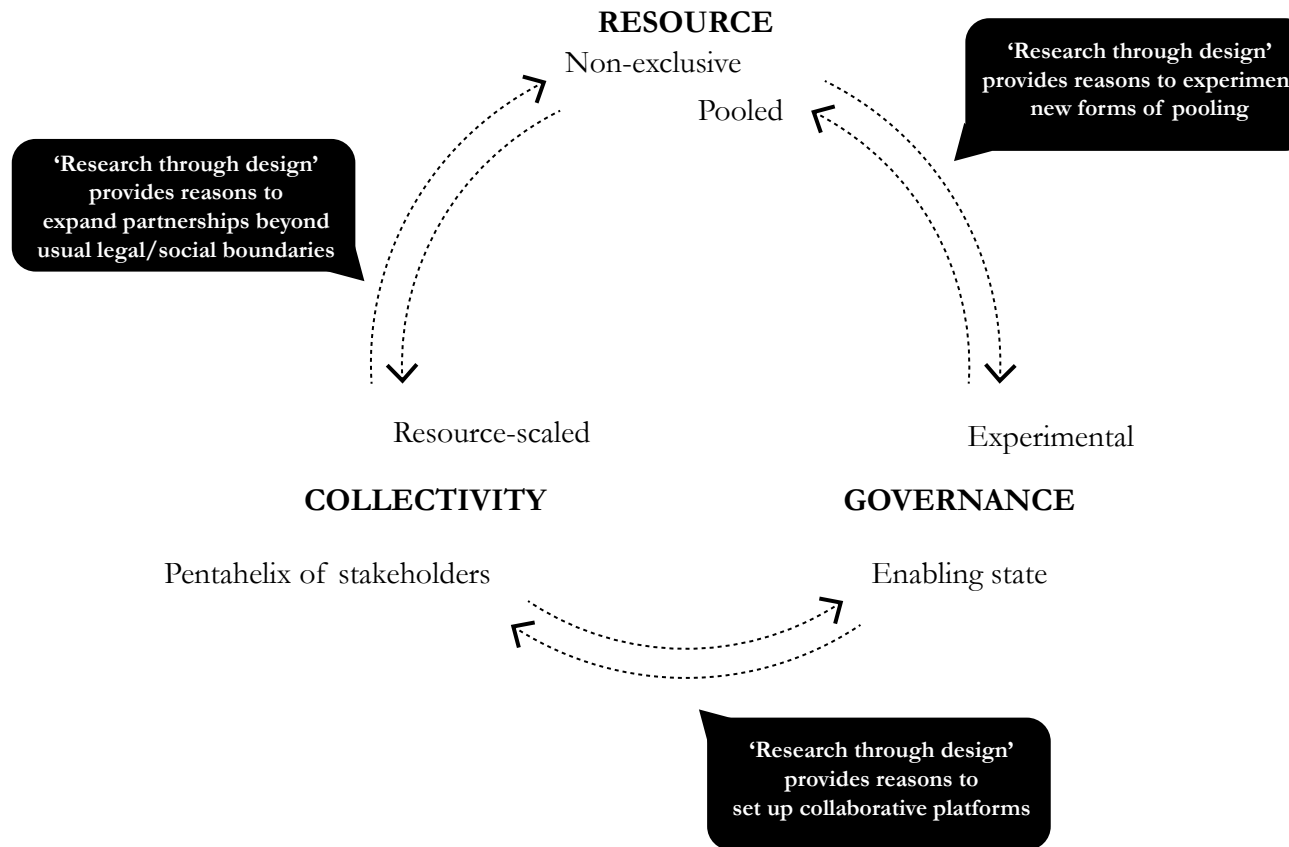
“Cities are heavily regulated environments and thus any attempt to bring the commons to the city must confront the law and politics of the city.”

“Creating urban common resources most often requires changing or tweaking (or even hacking, in a sense) the regulation of public and private property and working through the administrative branches of local government to enable and/ or protect collaborative forms of resource management”

Urban Commons



Research through design as a tool of commoning

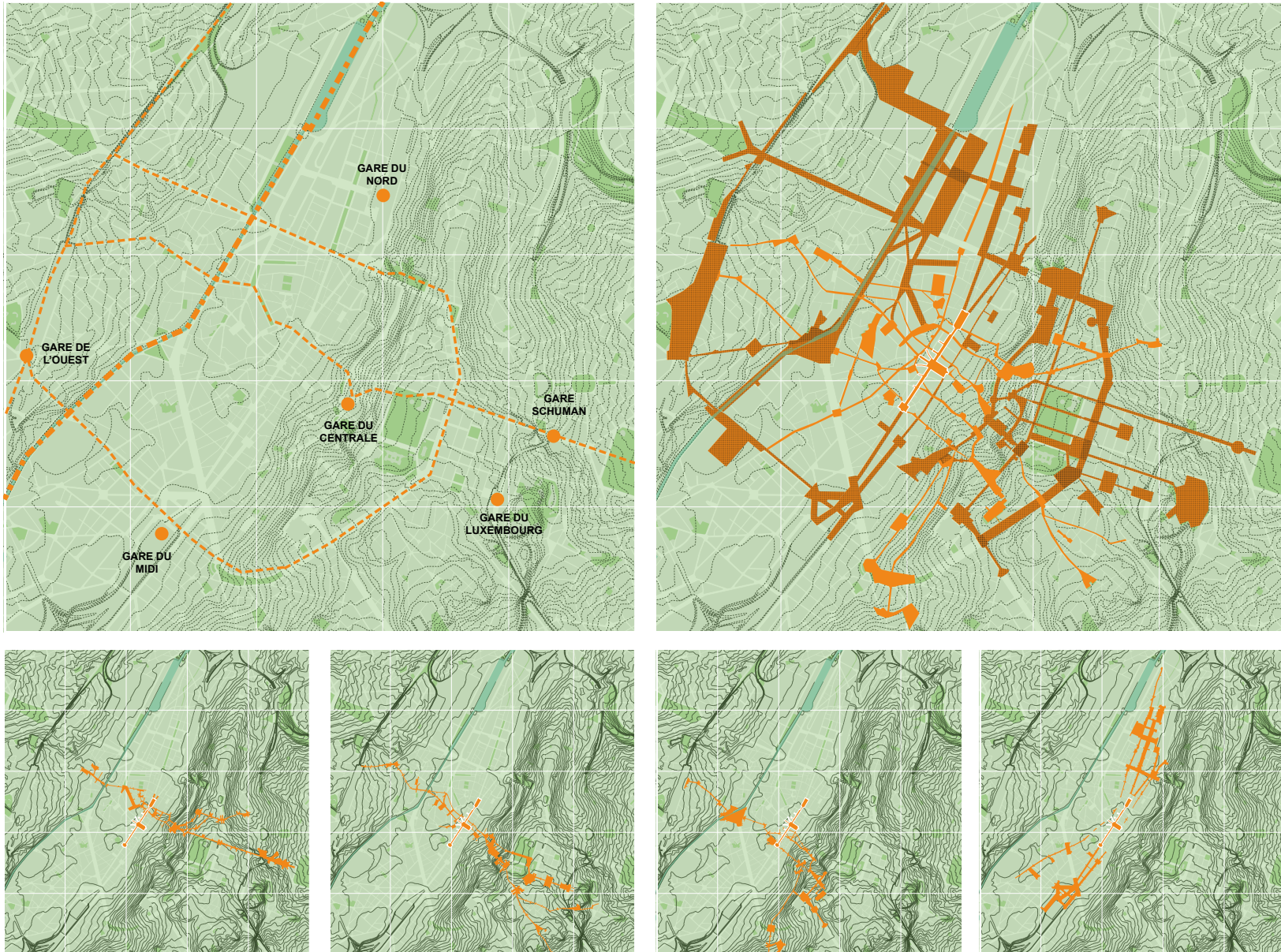


III. Case-study

The work of the Brussels Studies Institute_Brussels Centre Observatory

Developping a vision

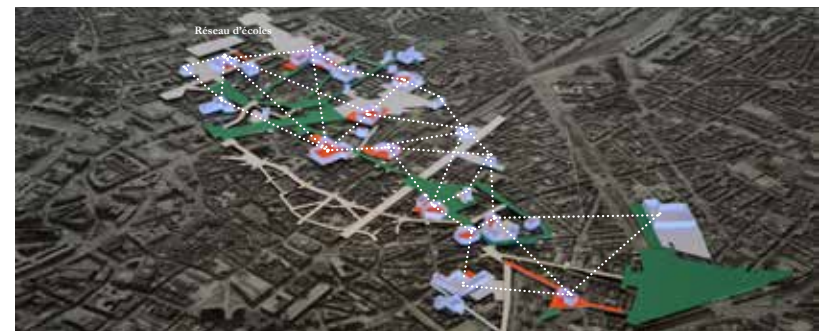
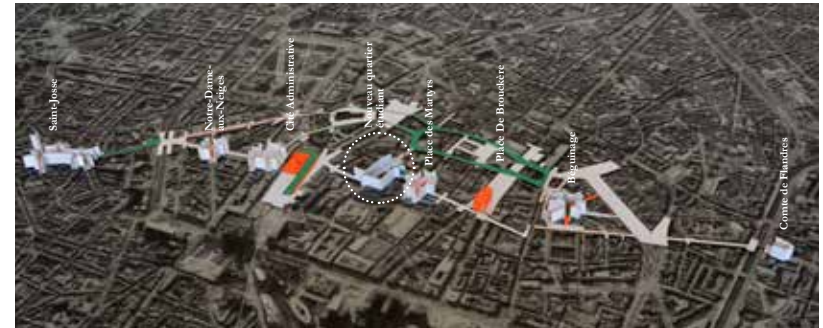
May 2017 - February 2018



Masterclass «Brussels hypercenter: from pedestrian area to urban project», BSI_BCO, 2018

Developping a vision

May 2017 - February 2018



Expanding partnerships

February 2018 - Décembre 2018



BEYOND THE PENTAGON
Exhibition + 4 Workshops + Book launch
Perspective.brussels, April-May 2018



SHARED MOBILITY, SHARED SPACES
Bye Bye Petite Ceinture + BSI_BCO
Exhibition + 4 Workshops + Book launch
You Are Here, IABR, June-November 2018



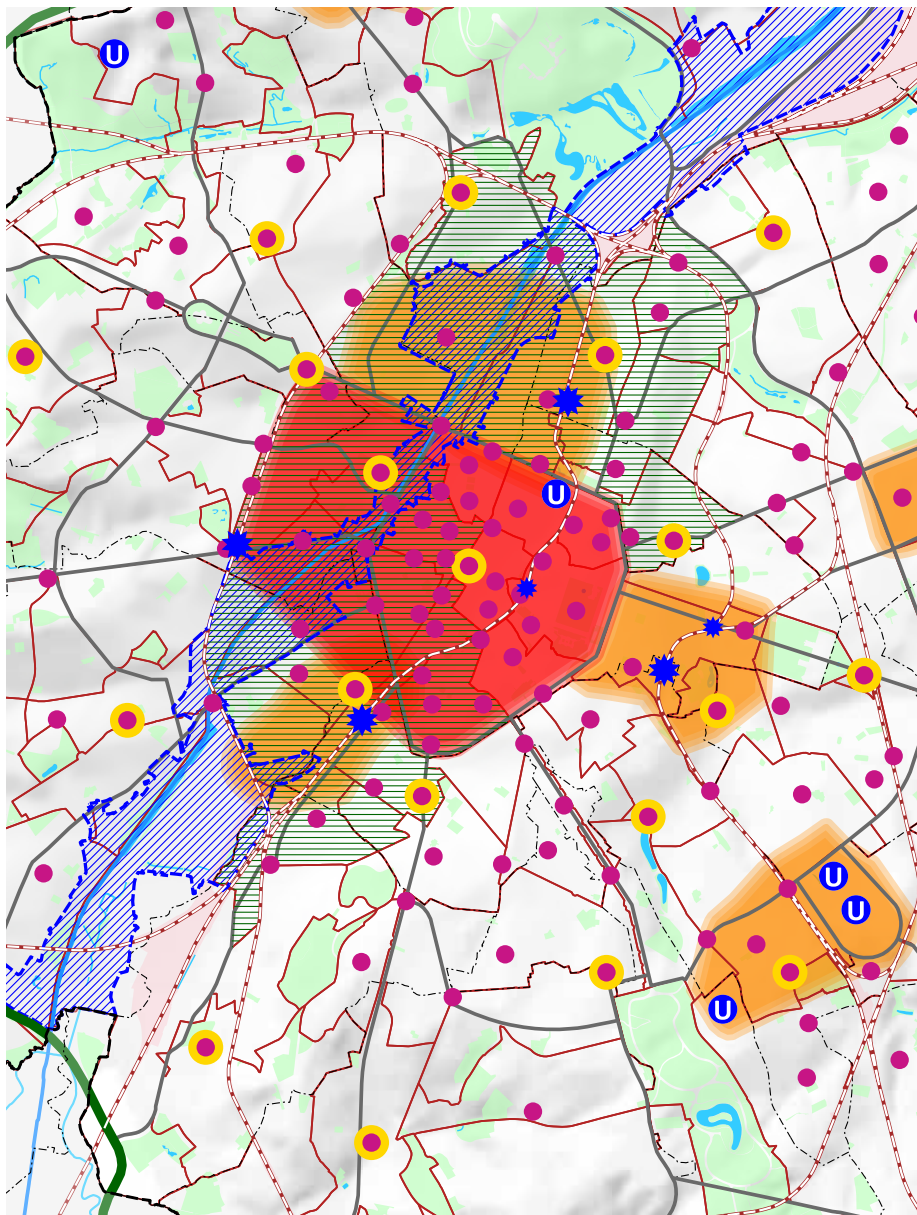
FROM PEDESTRIAN AREA TO URBAN PROJECT
Exhibition + Public debate with public stakeholders
BOZAR, February 2018



PENTAGONE SUD
Workshops
You Are Here, IABR, September-November 2018

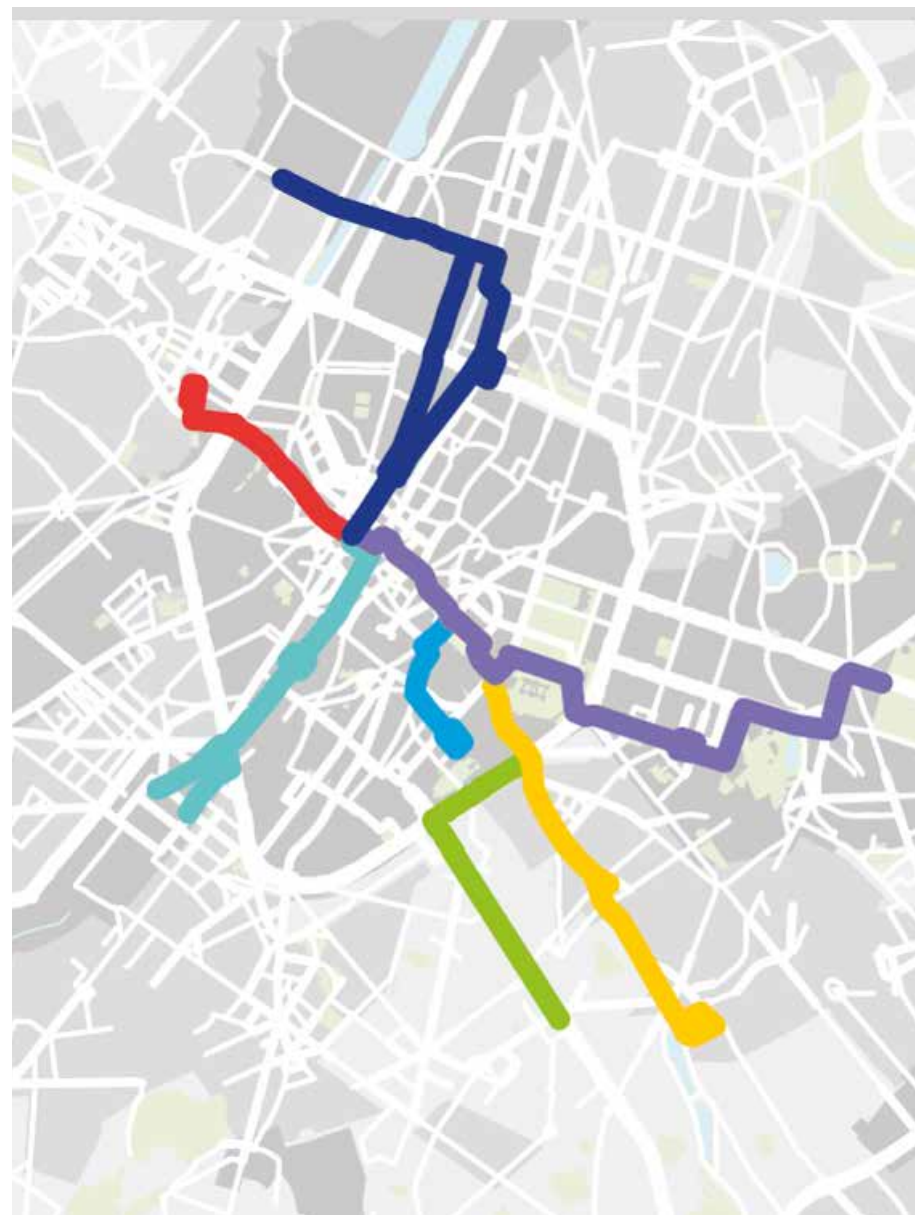
Impacting planning

2018 - 2019



Spatial structure and vision for Brussels

Map 01 PRDD 2018



Pedestrian axis

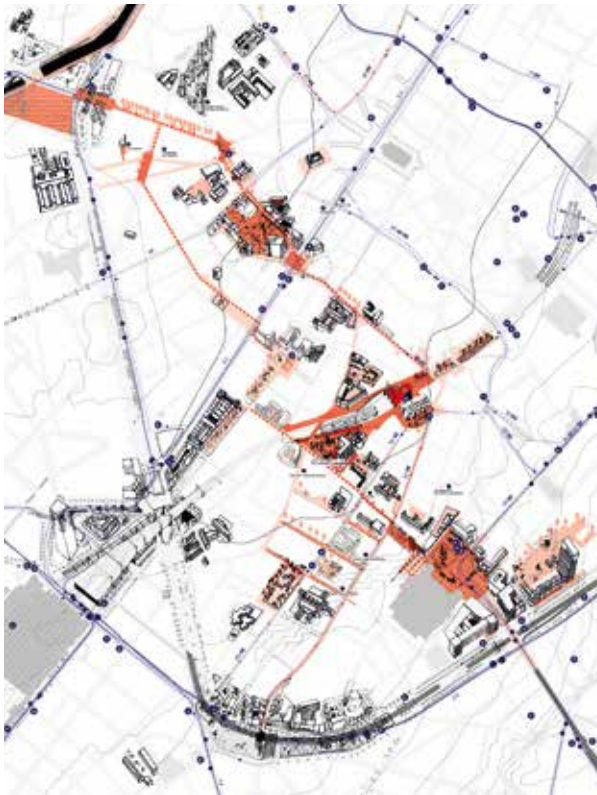
Plan régional de Mobilité 2019

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing

Een stadsproject voor de zuidelijke Vijfhoek

Via ontwerpend onderzoek en co-design naar een stadsproject voor de zuidelijke Vijfhoek van Brussel



Architecture Workroom Brussels
BRAL
BSI - Brussels Centre Observatory
Bye Bye Kleine Ring
Brussels Academy

PENTAGONE SUD

Architecture Workroom Brussels, BRAL, BSI_BCO,
CafeFiltré

Sponsor: Vlaamse Gemeenschap Commissie,
(+City of Brussels ?)



STEENWEG

BSI_BCO (coord. JP DeVisscher)

Sponsor: Perspective.brussels



VISIT/INHABIT

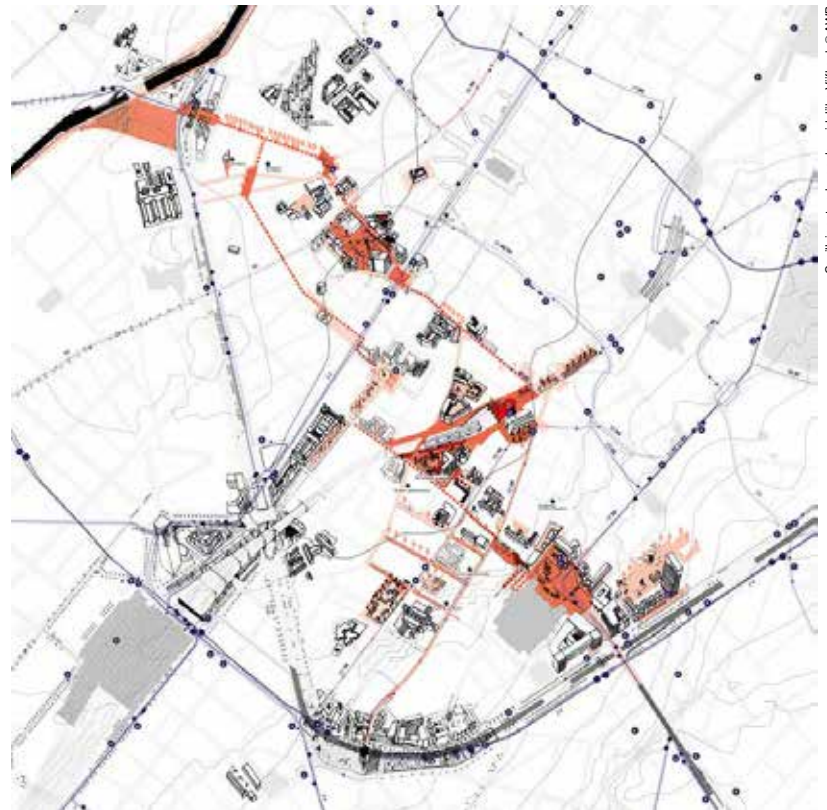
UCLouvain (JP De Visscher, C Salembier),
in partnership with the City of Brussels
Innoviris Grant Submission,

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing

Een stadsproject voor de zuidelijke Vijfhoek

Via ontwerpend onderzoek en co-design naar een stadsproject voor de zuidelijke Vijfhoek van Brussel



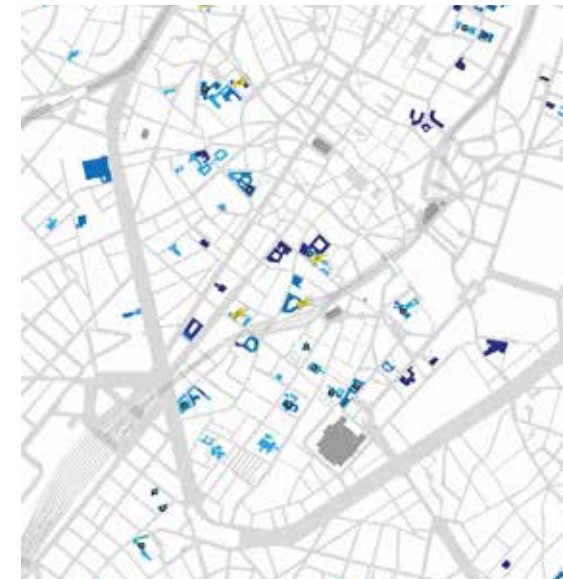
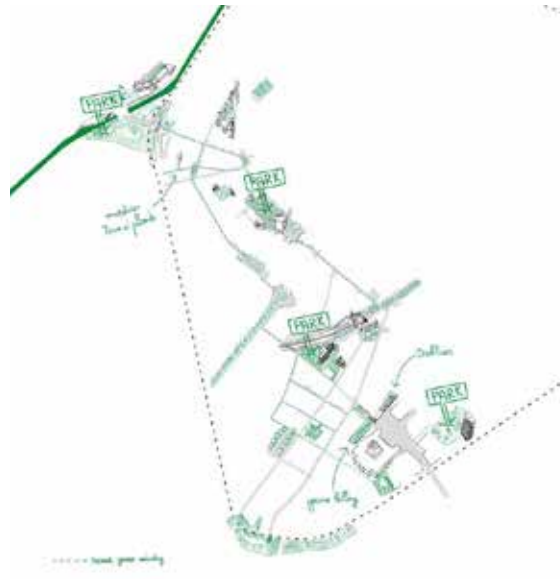
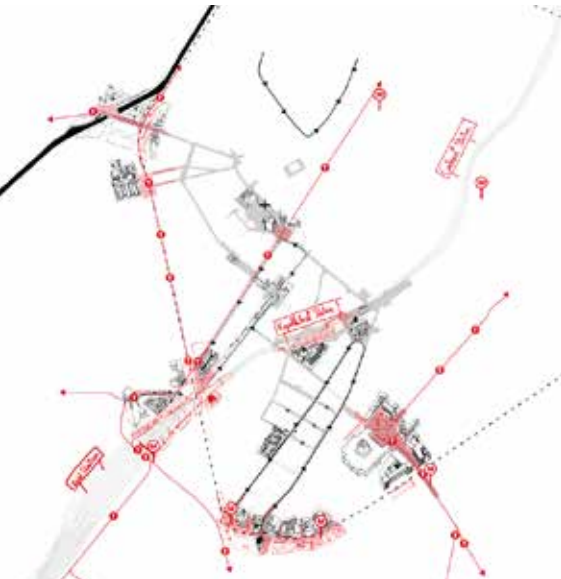
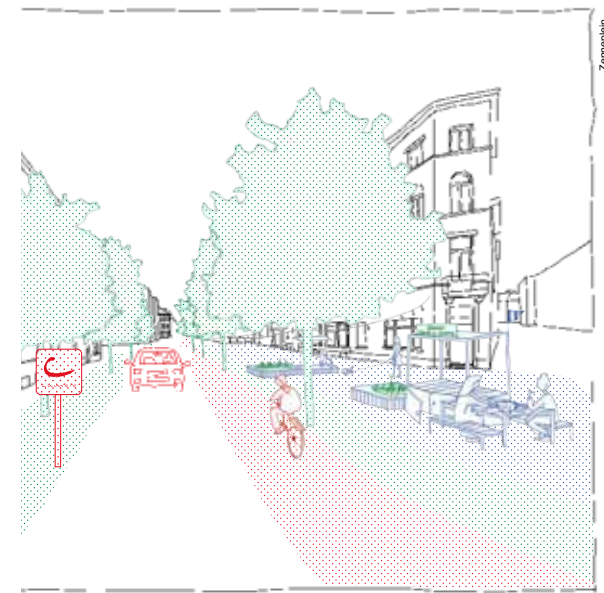
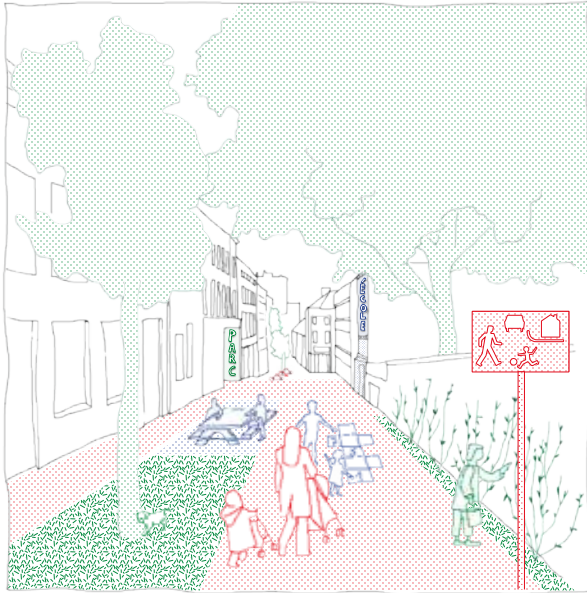
Architecture Workroom Brussels
BRAL
BSI - Brussels Centre Observatory
Bye Bye Kleine Ring
Brussels Academy

An urban project for the Southern Pentagon

Architecture Workroom Brussels - BRAL - BSI-BCO - Bye Bye Kleine Ring - Brussels Academy

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



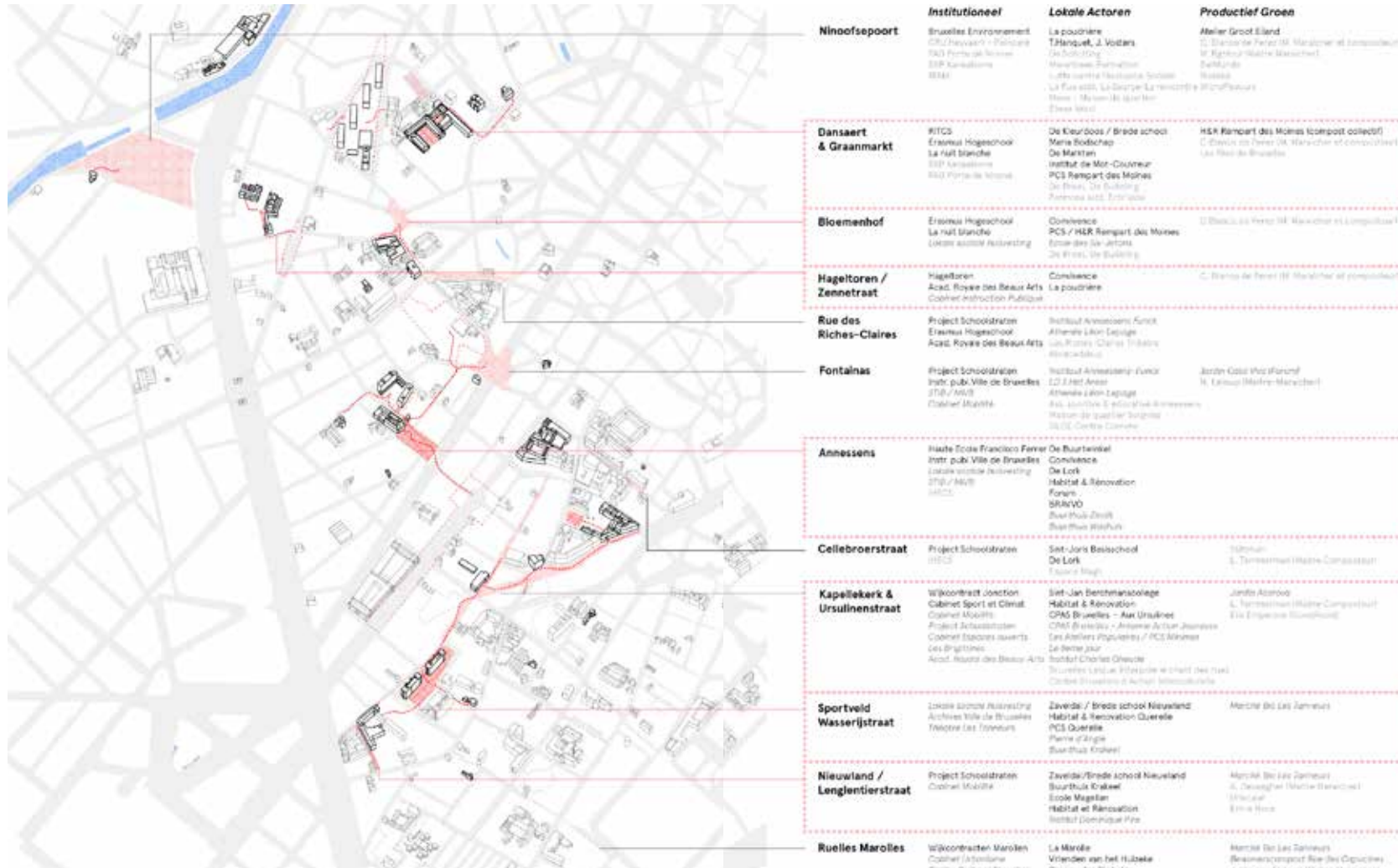
An urban project for the Southern Pentagon

Architecture Workroom Brussels - BRAL - BSI-BCO - Bye Bye Kleine Ring - Brussels Academy

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing

C. Participatie en Co-Design
C.1. Verkennend onderzoek rond actoren

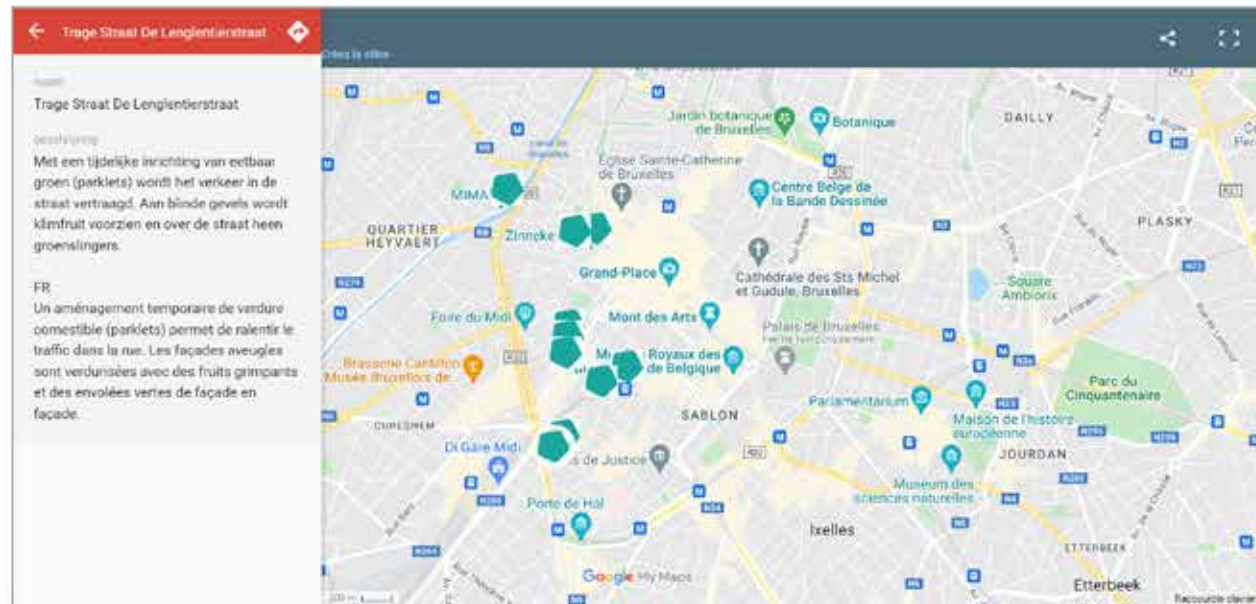


Green and Blue in the City

Atelier Groot Eiland -Architecture Workroom Brussels - BRAL - BSI-BCO

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



Green and Blue in the City

Atelier Groot Eiland -Architecture Workroom Brussels - BRAL - BSI-BCO

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



0 0,5 1 km

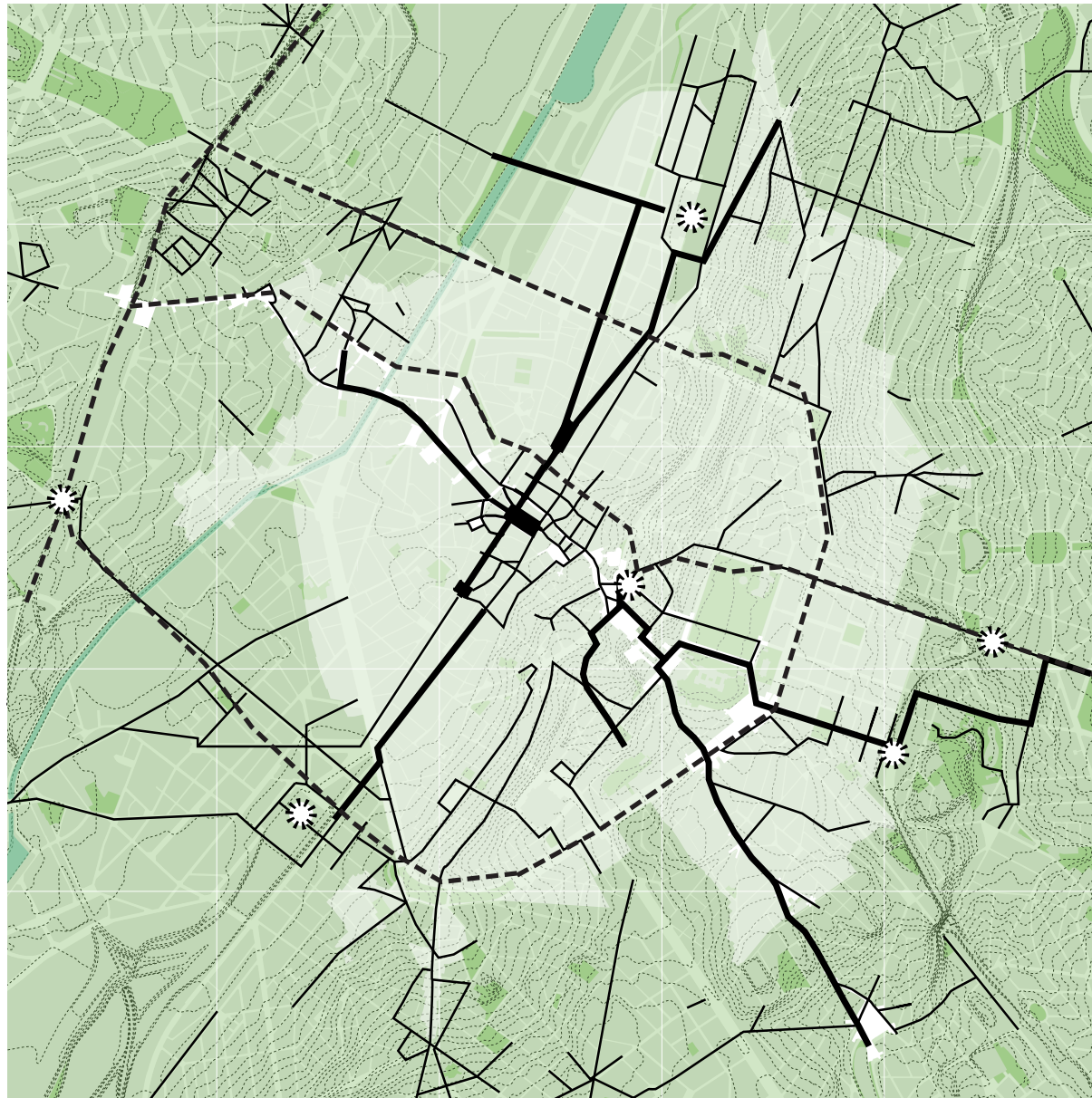
-  Surface blanche transparente : limite de la ville constituée en 1866, antérieurement au
-  Surface noire : emprise du Steenweg pris en considération pour le diagnostic
-  Trait axial noir : ligne ferroviaire ouest et axe de la vallée du Maelbeek.

Spatial definition of the Steenweg

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



0 0,5 1 km

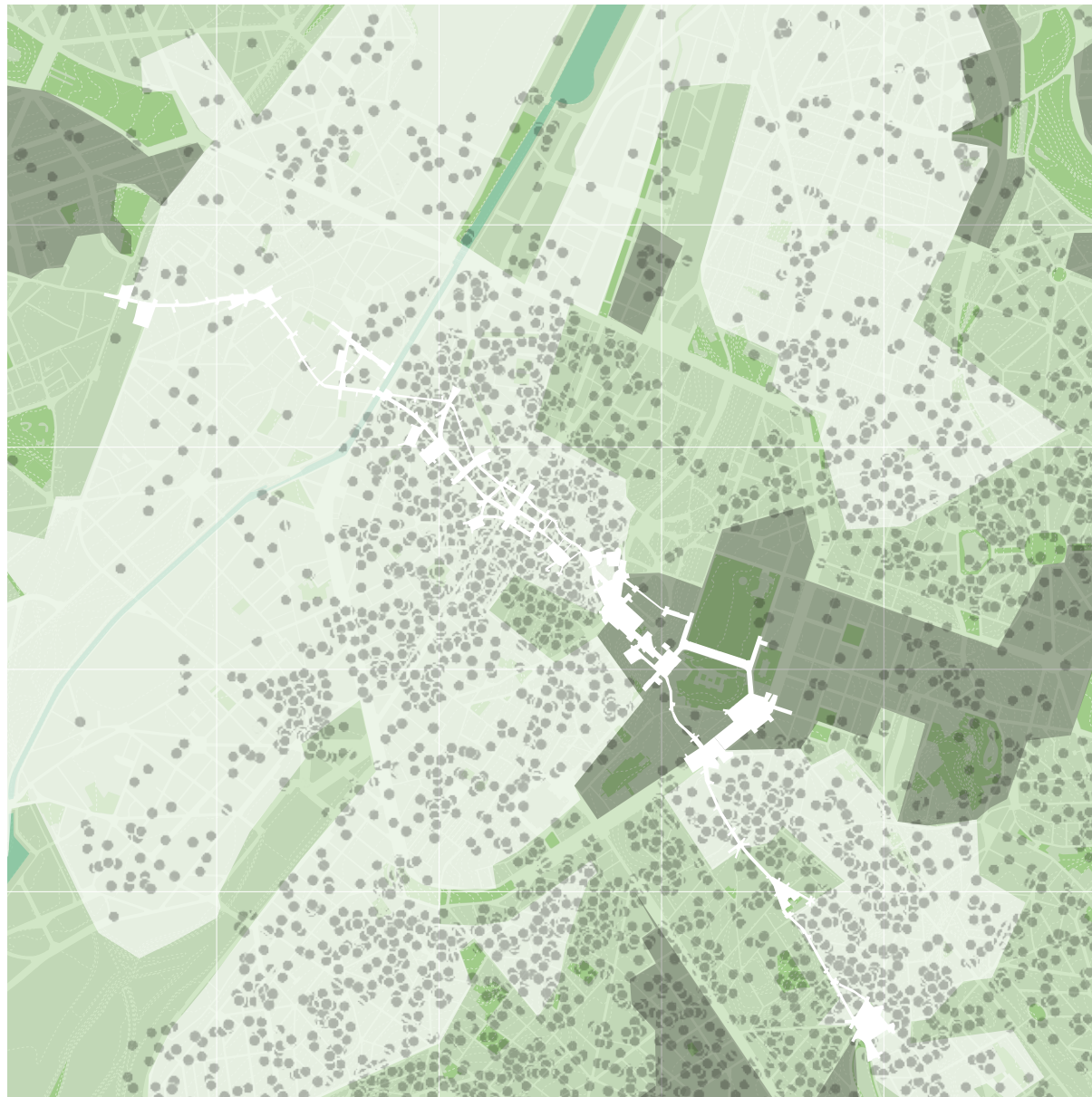
Surface blanche transparente : limite de la
ville constituée en 1866, antérieurement au
Trait noir pointillé : lignes de métro
Trait noir épais : espaces publics à
aménager comme «magistrales piétonnes» ,
source : GoodMove

Towards a pedestrian axis

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



0 0,5 1 km

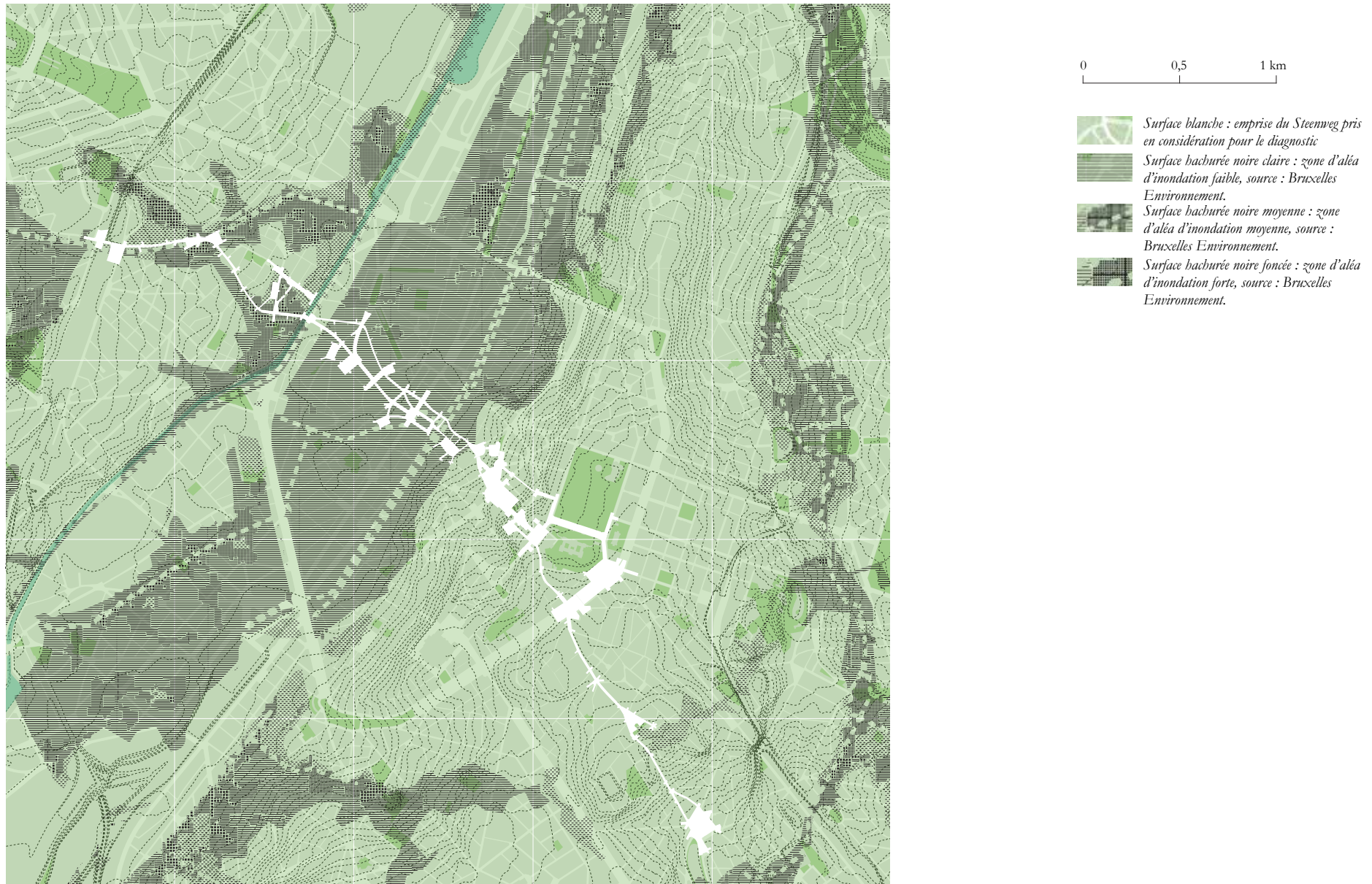
-  Surface blanche : emprise du Steenweg pris en considération pour le diagnostic
-  Surface grise transparente : revenu annuel médian par habitant supérieur à 20300 euros. Source : Observatoire de la Santé et du Social à bruxelles, 2014
-  Surface blanche transparente : revenu annuel médian par habitant inférieur à 17100 euros. Source : Observatoire de la Santé et du Social à bruxelles, 2014
-  Points gris transparents : logements en location courte durée type Airbnb 2018, source insideairbnb

Towards an inclusive axis

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing

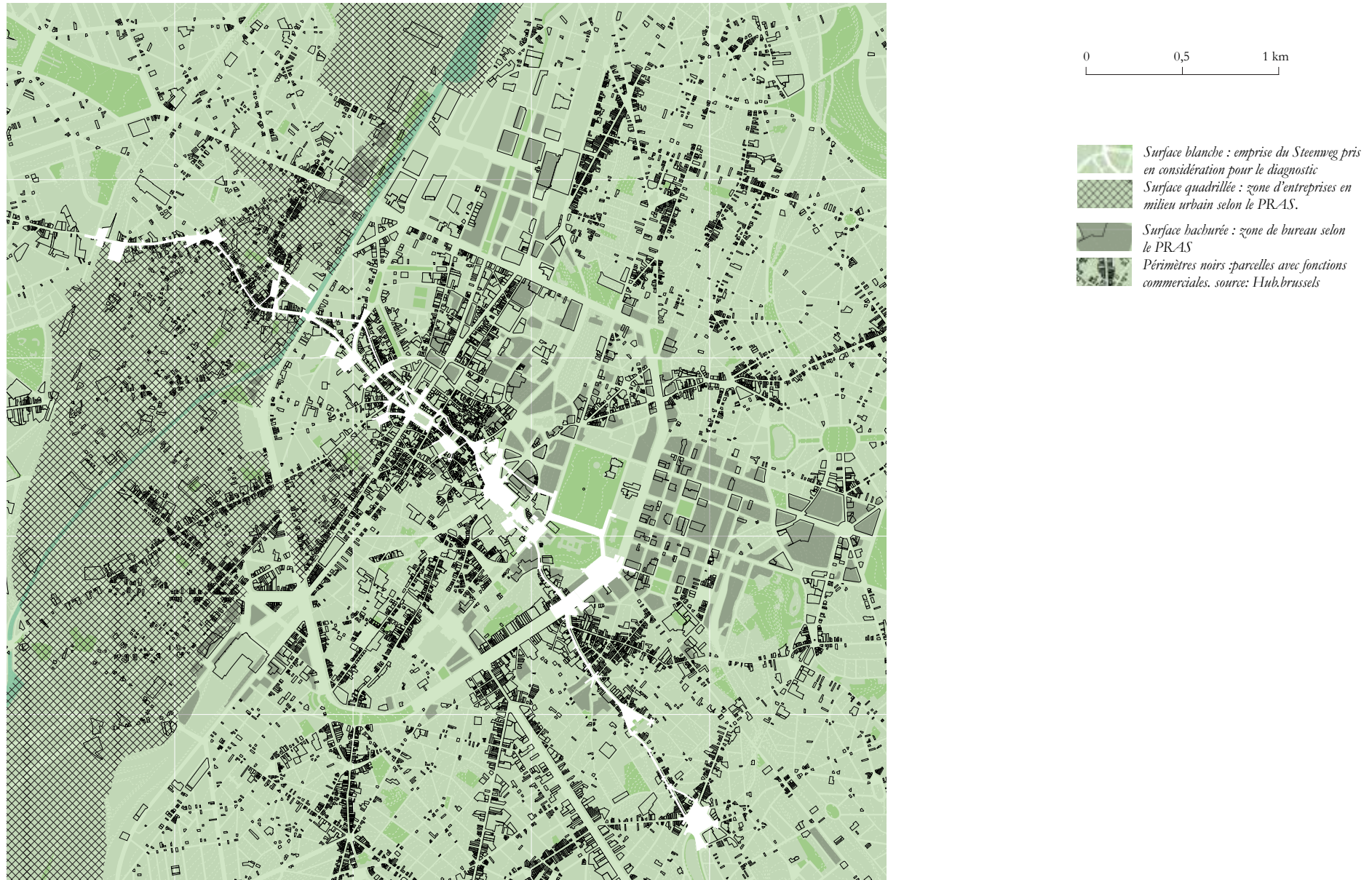


Towards an ecological axis

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing

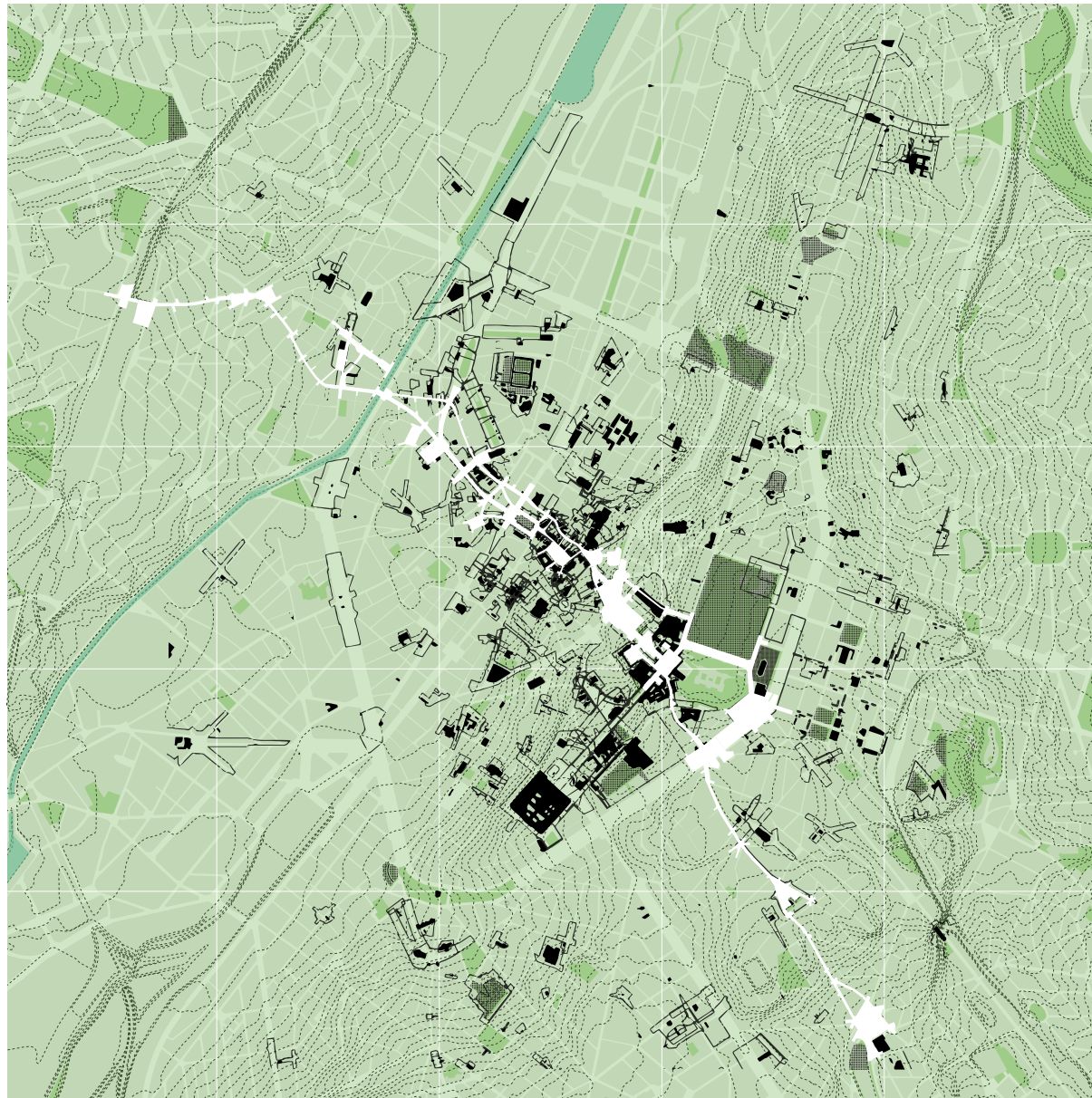


Towards an economic axis

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



0 0,5 1 km

-  Surface blanche : emprise du Steenweg pris en considération pour le diagnostic
-  Lignes grises : périmètres de protection du patrimoine
-  Surface noire : biens et ensembles classés et protégés
-  Surfaces hachurées : sites classés et protégés

Towards a cultural axis

BSI-BCO, Steenweg, synthèse du diagnostic, 2020

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



Le Steenweg est un **lieu d'expérimentation et de modèle urbains** qui a pour objectif de **rassembler les dynamiques socio-éco-culturelles dans une logique de lieux apaisés propices à tous les déplacements** ('toutes les vitesses piétonnes'), **aux diverses destinations** : la flânerie, le déplacement domicile-travail, la compréhension du contexte urbain, l'activité économique et consumériste, le tourisme, les activités culturelles, ...

Mais c'est également un **lieu de planification** (avec le PRDD, GOOD MOVE et le Plan Canal par exemples) et **de l'émergence récente ou à l'agenda d'une série de projets urbains**, parmi lesquels le PAD Gare de l'Ouest ; les Contrats de quartier autour de la gare de l'Ouest, Rive Ouest, Etangs-Noirs ; le réaménagement de la place communale de Molenbeek ; le piétonnier (espace partagé) ; le Beer Palace ; le Masterplan Jonction ; la rénovation de la KBR ; la place Royale ; la petite ceinture (Toison d'Or et Boulevard de Waterloo) ; la chaussée d'Ixelles ; ...

Ce contexte bouillonnant est une opportunité unique pour agir de manière de cohérente sur cet axe transversal et stratégique, en intégrant les différentes dynamiques en cours.

Ce processus passe avant tout par une **collaboration permanente avec Bruxelles Mobilité** (en charge de la coordination de GOOD MOVE), **Urban** (octroi des permis et connaissance des projets), le **BMA** (qualité paysagère et gardien de la cohérence) et **les 3 communes concernées** (Ixelles, Molenbeek et la Ville de Bruxelles), **avec pour objectif de dépasser le ressenti mental du lien entre le bas et le haut en construisant un véritable axe urbain métropolitain.**

Concrètement, dans un premier temps ...

Des premières pistes pour créer cette évolution ont déjà été évoquées, dans une **logique d'urbanisme tactique et de volonté de préparer la magistrale piétonne** qui sera concrétisée par Bruxelles Mobilité (le processus Steeweg pourrait de ce fait devenir un modèle pour l'ensemble des magistrales).

La gestion de la cohérence de la 'section de vallée' nécessite une **planification** et la **constitution d'une 'taskforce Steenweg' en charge du suivi**, afin de fournir un cadre de référence pour prendre des décisions cohérentes à l'échelle des nœuds et des quartiers. Inversement, ce cadre doit être suffisamment souple et évolutif pour pouvoir être adapté au fur et à mesure des expériences menées localement.

Nous proposons que cette 'taskforce' travaille sur 4 dimensions complémentaires :

1. **Faire l'inventaire des projets en cours** avec l'ensemble des acteurs (qui ont participé au processus d'élaboration du diagnostic) et de **les rendre cohérents**, avec l'ambition de mobiliser les énergies.
2. Créer de manière provisoire/temporaire/transitoire et souvent symbolique une 'logique Steenweg' par des **événements sur l'espace public**, comme par exemple une course à pieds (voir 'be running').

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3. **Organiser des groupes de travail** qui ont pour mission d'approfondir la question/problématique des nœuds (Portes de Flandre et de Namur) et de lieux spécifiques (Monts de Arts, chaussée de Gand ...), qui regroupent les acteurs communaux en particulier et d'autres acteurs concernés par les différentes dimensions qui ont émergé dans le diagnostic.
4. **Soutenir la création de la magistrale piétonne en proposant la mise en place de 'bons outils'** ('contrats d'axes' ?, un BKP sur le modèle du Plan Canal ?, un Masterplan aux différents scénarios ?, ...) élaborés dans le cadre des programmations/planifications urbaines, qui confirmeraient le statut pluriel des magistrales.
5. ... à débattre avec les acteurs concernés pour faire du Steenweg un lieu de dynamique permanente.

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Steenweg, note de synthèse

perspective.brussels, 2021

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



Exploring morphologies of 'inclusion in urbanity' along the Steenweg

Original drawing by Pauline Cap and Magali Hertoghe, directed by Jean-Philippe De Visscher (UCLouvain).

Other contributors: Gabrielle Fenton, Margaux Legrand, Nesrine Benali, Pierre-Alexandre Lesuisse, Maria Akar, Maria Tabbal (UCLouvain)

Learning through pilot-projects

January 2019 - ongoing



Programme de la Brussels2030 Summer Assembly

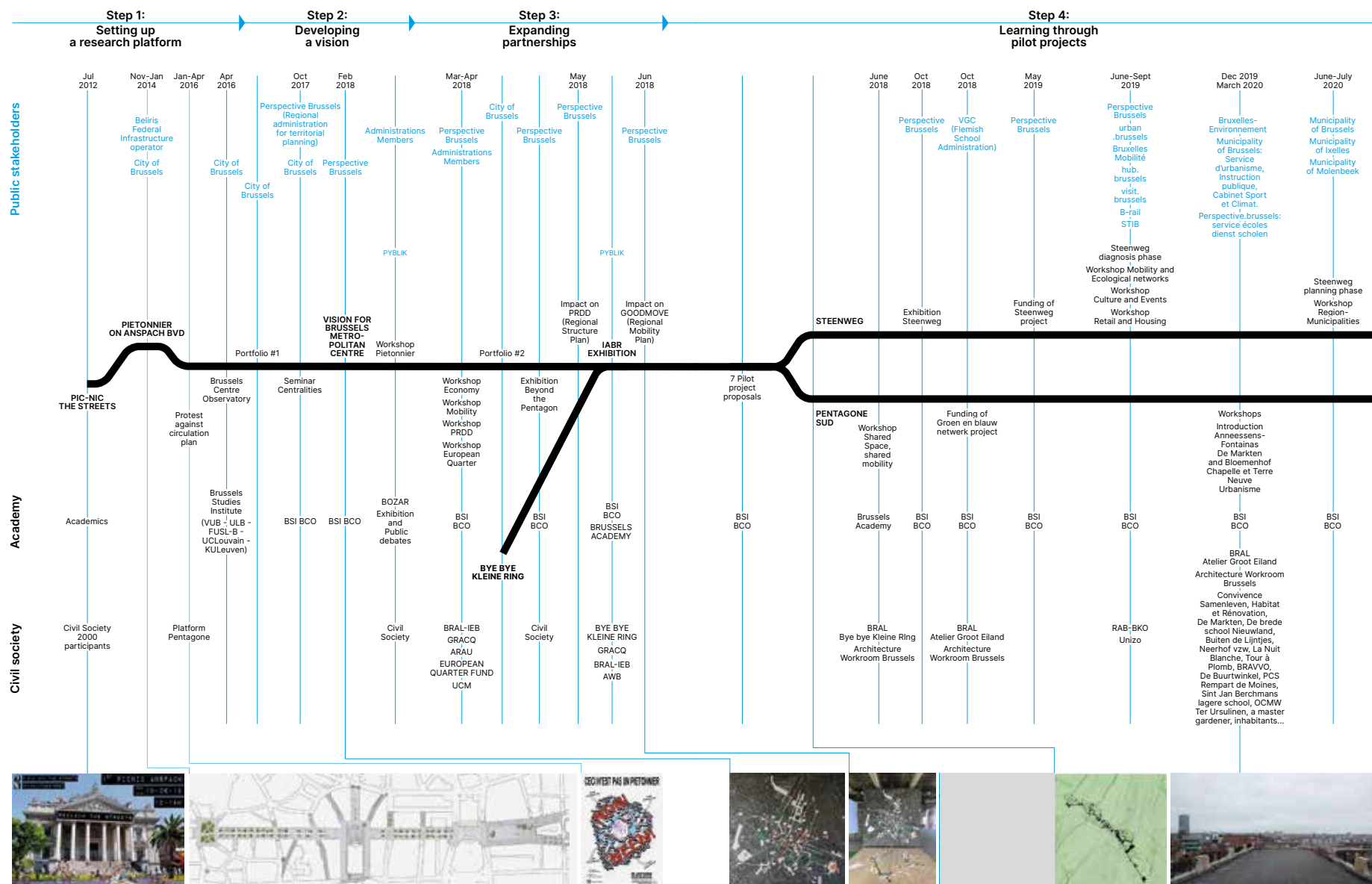
4 – 8 juillet 2022, Tour à Plomb, Bruxelles

Vous pouvez également [télécharger le programme en français en pdf](#) (clic droit > "Enregistrer sous")

TOUS LES ÉVÉNEMENTS					DISCOURS & DÉBATS					LABS DE CRÉATION COLLABORATIVE					SALADES					ACTIVITÉS EN SOIRÉE				
Monday 04.07	Tuesday 05.07	Wednesday 06.07	Thursday 07.07	Friday 08.07																				
Brussels: X-ray of a unique city 10:00 - 11:15 Annabelle Van Nieuwenhuyse	The great renovation: Brussels and its sustainable transitions 10:00 - 12:00 Dr. Jean-Philippe De Weert (ULB) & TNS	Mobilizing the population, coproducing the city 10:00 - 12:00 White Communications (ULB) & Nicolas de Schryver (TNS)	Re-imagining Brussels: telling another story 10:00 - 12:00 Johanna Queney (ULB) & TNS	Jongeren maken de stad 10:00 - 12:00 Wendy Van der Vliet (ULB)																				
The Brussels of witches: fumes and garden walk 10:00 - 12:00	Vietje du bocage en future L'ÉCUM 10:00 - 12:00 Léa De Weert (ULB) & TNS	Stedenbouw als een L'ÉCUM 10:00 - 12:00 Léa De Weert (ULB) & TNS	STEENWEG - a culture of metropolitan ground floors: Walk 10:00 - 12:00 Jean-Philippe De Weert (ULB)	Cartografie van een Levende stad 10:00 - 12:00 Johanna Queney (ULB) & TNS																				
The Bi-side of Brussels 10:00 - 12:00 Léa De Weert (ULB) & TNS	Arts and culture as leverages in city-making? 11:45 - 13:00 Contributors to be confirmed	Arts and culture as leverages in city-making? 11:45 - 13:00 Contributors to be confirmed	Brussels Open Living Lab 10:00 - 12:00 Johanna Queney (ULB) & TNS	Brussels Open Living Lab 10:00 - 12:00 Johanna Queney (ULB) & TNS																				
LUNCH 13:00 - 14:00 You can buy drinks and snacks at Tour à Plomb, or bring your own food and beverages.	LUNCH 13:00 - 14:00 You can buy drinks and snacks at Tour à Plomb, or bring your own food and beverages.	LUNCH 13:00 - 14:00 You can buy drinks and snacks at Tour à Plomb, or bring your own food and beverages.	LUNCH 13:00 - 14:00 You can buy drinks and snacks at Tour à Plomb, or bring your own food and beverages.	LUNCH 13:00 - 14:00 You can buy drinks and snacks at Tour à Plomb, or bring your own food and beverages.																				

IV. Discussion **Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design**

Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design?



Timeline of the research process

Brussels Studies Institute - Brussels Centre Observatory, 2021

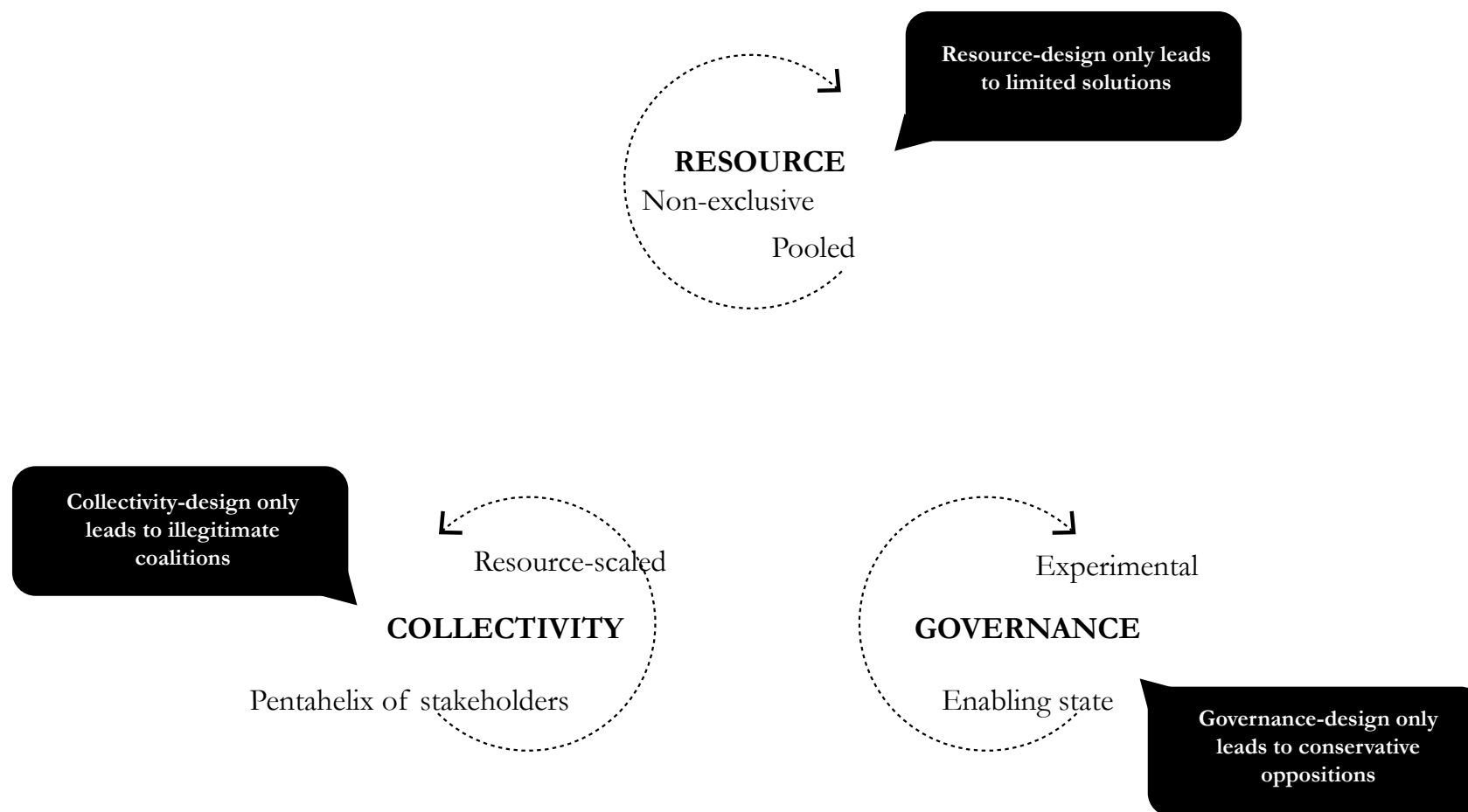
Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design?

		Vision for the metropolitan centre		Steenweg		Southern Pentagon	
		Clues of success	Clues of failure	Clues of success	Clues of failure	Clues of success	Clues of failure
Resource	Inclusion	Inclusion of the low-income and multicultural neighbourhood of 'Historic Molenbeek' in the spatial definition of the hypercentre adopted in the Regional Sustainable Development Plan (PRDD).	No inclusion of the trainstations neighbourhoods in the spatial definition of the hypercentre adopted in the Regional Sustainable Development Plan (PRDD).	Adoption of the east-west 'Steenweg' axis connecting neighbourhood with contrasted socio-cultural characteristics as one of the main pedestrian of the Regional Mobility Plan (GoodMove).		Experiments of open school courts and shared gardens in the public space are ongoing.	
	Pooling			A Nolli-style map of the expanded public realm along the Steenweg has been drawn, and will be used for workshops with owners/managers of these spaces			
Community	Pentahelix	Masterclass & exhibition and debates have been co-organized by perspective.brussels (public) and the BSI_BCO (Knowledge), with partnership with Bozar (Knowledge), Brussels Academy (Civil Society), AWB (Social Innovator).	Recurrent but not institutionalized collaboration between perspective.brussels (public), Brussels Studies Institute (knowledge) and Brussels Academy (Civil Society)	Partnership between perspective.brussels (public) and BSI-BCO (knowledge), collaborations with Brussels Academy (civil society).	Difficulty to engage with private stakeholders and citizens on a large scale and long term project without clear local and short-term goals and means	Project team composed of Atelier Groot-Eiland (social innovator), BRAL (Civil Society), AWB (social innovator), BSI (Knowledge), with sponsors of the municipality of Brussels and the Flemish Community Commission (Public)	
	Scale	Joint exhibition of the results of the masterclass and the work of Bye Bye Kleine Ring (civil society). Book published with various contributor (public, civil society, knowledge, social innovators).	Few collaborations with private stakeholders. Few direct relations with citizens (not represented through associations).				
Governance	Enabling state	Support of the BSI to the newly created PerspectiveLab by providing content, methods and human resources for the organisation of collaborative workshops	Difficulty for elected leaders (Municipality of Brussels, Mobility Minister) to accept recommendation emerging from the collaborations between research platforms, administrations and civil society.	Diagnosis report approved by the three municipalities of Brussels, Ixelles and Molenbeek, and Bruxelles-Mobilité	Difficulty to engage with a wide variety and large numbers of stakeholders	Series of local stakeholders act are brought to act at the scale of the metropolitan center, with the support of the municipality	
	Experimentalism	Co-organization of co-design charettes, exhibitions, workshops and public debates by perspective.brussels (public) and the BSI-BCO (knowledge)	Rejection to fund research platforms without controlling research objectives and outcome, trend to reduce research platforms to public study offices.	Co-organization of workshops, urban walks, lectures and exhibitions by perspective.brussels (public) and the BSI-BCO (knowledge), with the aim of developing further the general concept of 'magistrale piétonne' mentioned in the Regional Mobility Plan.	Bruxelles-Mobilité willing to manage the implementation of a fixed plan, not to engage into an experimental process.	Transfer of responsibility from public services towards local stakeholders (schools, citizens, local associations). Public funding of an innovative, experimental and hands-on project	

Retro-analysis of success and failures

Jean-Philippe De Visscher, 2022

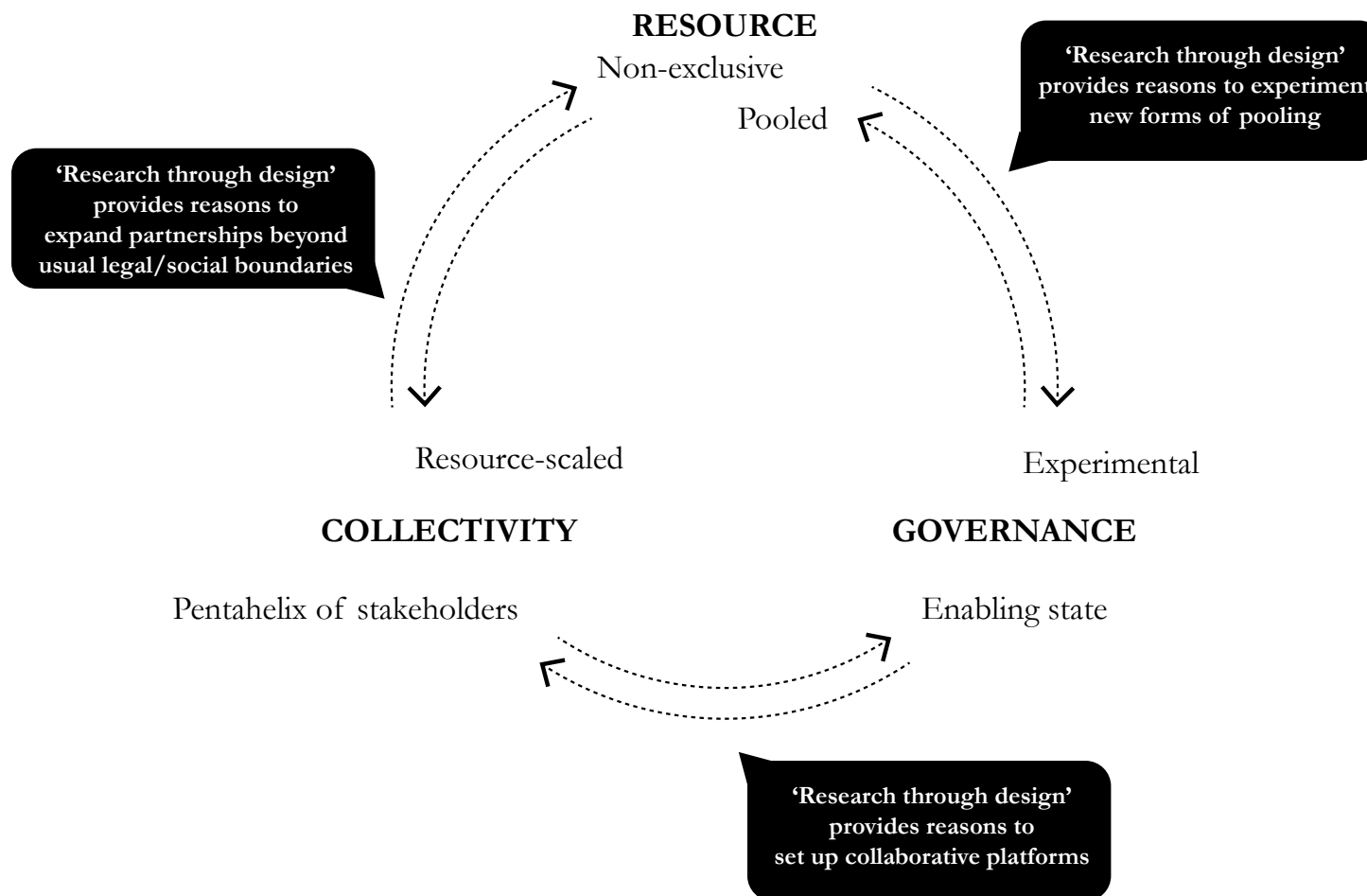
Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design?



Failure of problem-solving approaches

Jean-Philippe De Visscher, 2022

Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design?



Success of systemic approaches

Jean-Philippe De Visscher, 2022

Thank you !

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UCLouvain



LAB