

FWO-SBO on operationalization of transport poverty in Flanders/Belgium

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Introduction

The FWO-SBO proposal aims to generate and implement knowledge on transport-related social exclusion, which is the inability to qualitatively partake in our society due to mobility constraints or socio-economic barriers linked to an individual's mobility options. The current trends such as the Mobility as a Service (MaaS), digitalization, the transition from basic mobility to basic accessibility (and, related, *Vervoer op maat*) or the increasing range of mobility options carry both opportunities and threats for people at risk. Both citizens and governments are aware of this issue, but lack the information to operationalize specific actions and support decision-making to counter these exacerbating effects of social exclusion. To date, governments have specifically focused on examining transport demands rather than the underlying transportation issues, rendering a clear view on inclusive and equitable transition virtually impossible. Moreover, the link between mobility and social exclusion will become even more apparent, as population growth and rising housing prices in the city continue to push lower-income households to the urban fringe or periphery. The project aims to fill the knowledge gap on transport-related social exclusion in Flanders/Belgium through close cooperation and participation with a large group of stakeholders, and eventually validate the knowledge in clear equity standards, pilot actions and living labs, and a decision support tool.

The proposal defines three major objectives (with five possible work packages):

- Documenting the causes, scales and effects of transport-related social exclusion (WP1), translated into equity standards and transparent, dynamic open data monitors to be used by planners, practitioners, and external actors (WP3)
- Assessing existing, planned and considered local and regional transport initiatives (WP2), resulting in future-proofing possible new mobility technologies for living lab pilots through data analysis and pattern recognition (WP4)
- Establishing transition arena's for stakeholders through a decision support tool that combines systemic monitoring, pathways for transition and citizen participation (WP5)

Workplan

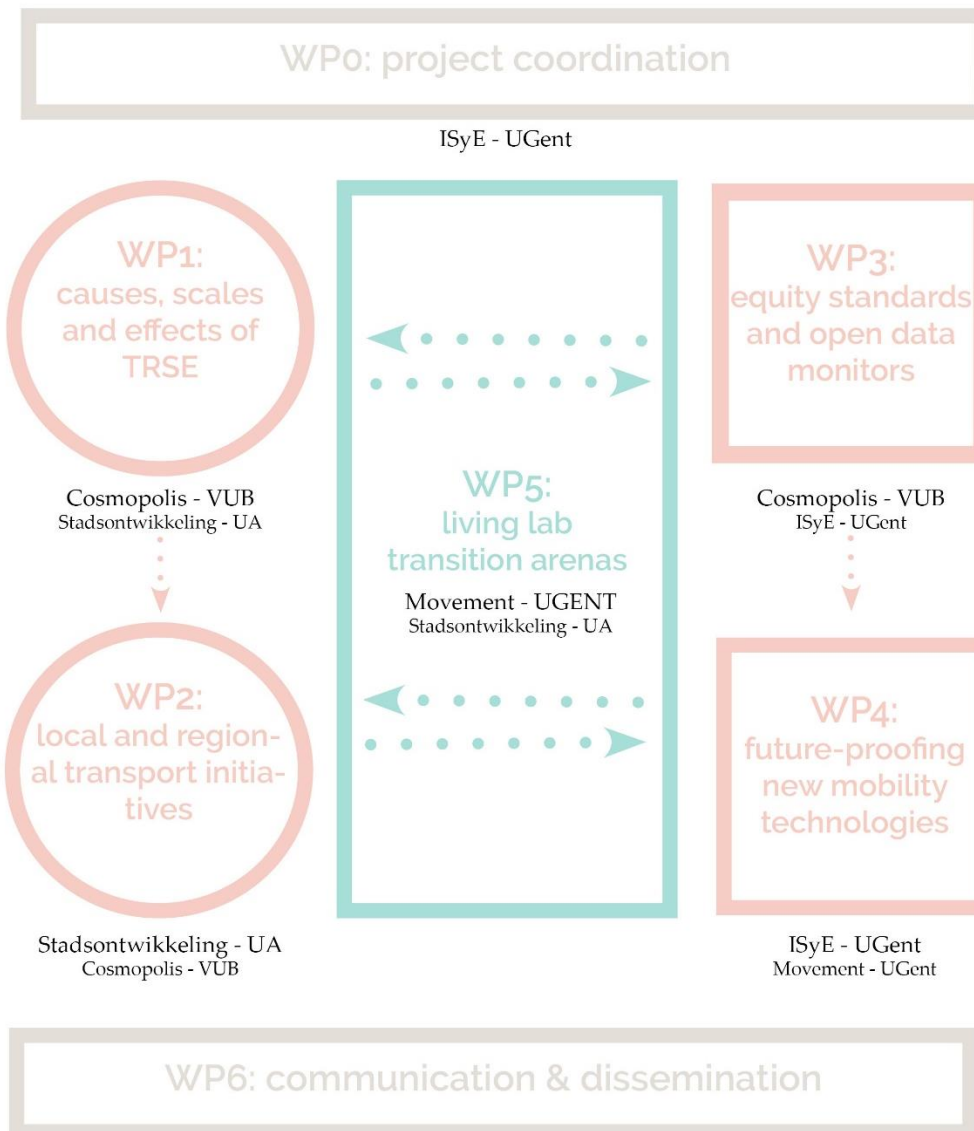


Figure 1. Workplan FWO-SBO operationalizing transport poverty

Necessary actions stakeholders

- Bilateral talks: needs and questions
- Letter of support: range of possible support
- Reference to other relevant actors