

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

BELGIAN EXPERIENCES

1

SIA4Y Convention in Brussels

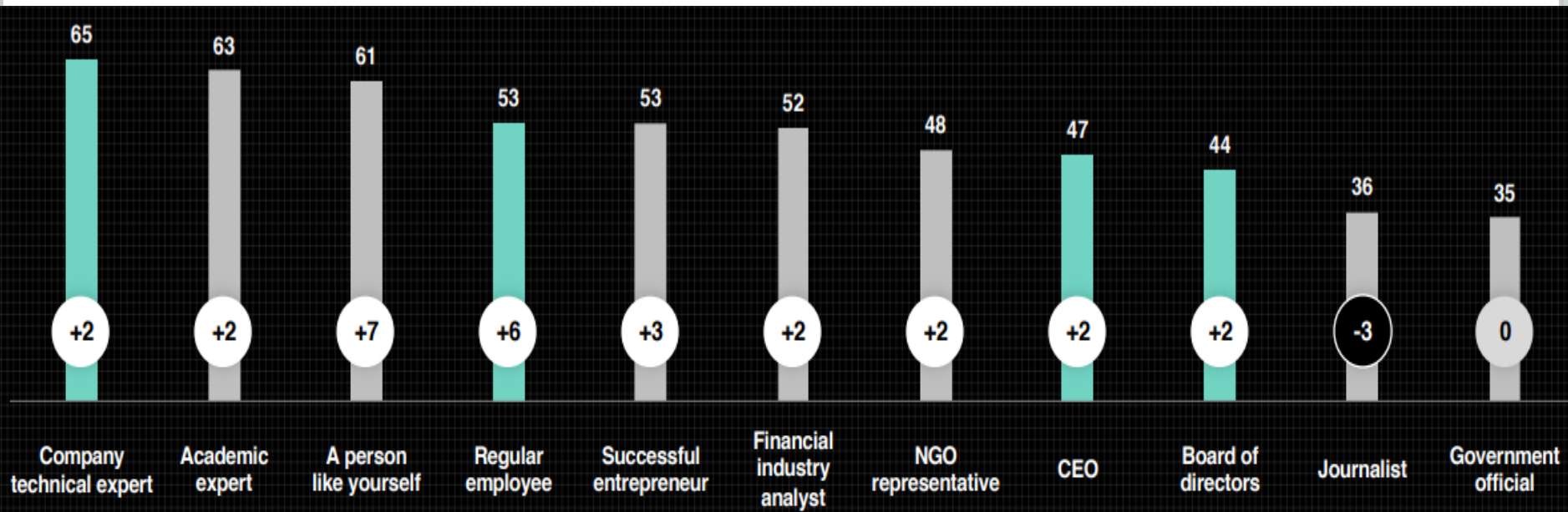
Jean-Paul PINON

7 November 2019

FINDINGS AND CHALLENGES

Edelman Trust Barometer 2019

Percentage who rate each spokesman as very credible



2019 Edelman Trust Barometer. CRE_PPL. Below is a list of people. In general, when forming an opinion of a company, if you heard information about a company from each person, how credible would the information be—extremely credible, very credible, somewhat credible, or not credible at all. 4-point scale; top 2 box, credible. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, 26-market average.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION ≠ CITIZENS' CONTROL

Citizens' participation

- Referendum
- Consultation
- Participatory budget
- « Citizens' parliament » : randomly selected
- Use of collective intelligence

Citizens' control

- Access to public sector information
- Petition
- Best Politician's Award
- Whistleblower
- Publish a transparency index
- Political Directory
- Improve transparency, e.g. infographics
- Black book of state wastes



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EXPERIENCES IN BELGIUM RELATED TO FOI

- Personal initiative to investigate the accounts
Cédric Halin discovered the « Publifin-gate » (presented yesterday)
- Ranking
Index of Transparency of political parties (presented yesterday)
- Portals to facilitate questioning public authorities
ASKtheEU.org , Transparencia.be
- Academic reasearch
Tropico
- Quality information
Infographic of taxes
- Databases of politicians
PoliticiansOnline.be , Cumuleo.be



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Transparencia est un service d'Anticor Belgium



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Votre droit de savoir

Chaque citoyen a le droit d'accéder aux informations détenues par les autorités publiques. Légalement, les autorités publiques doivent répondre.

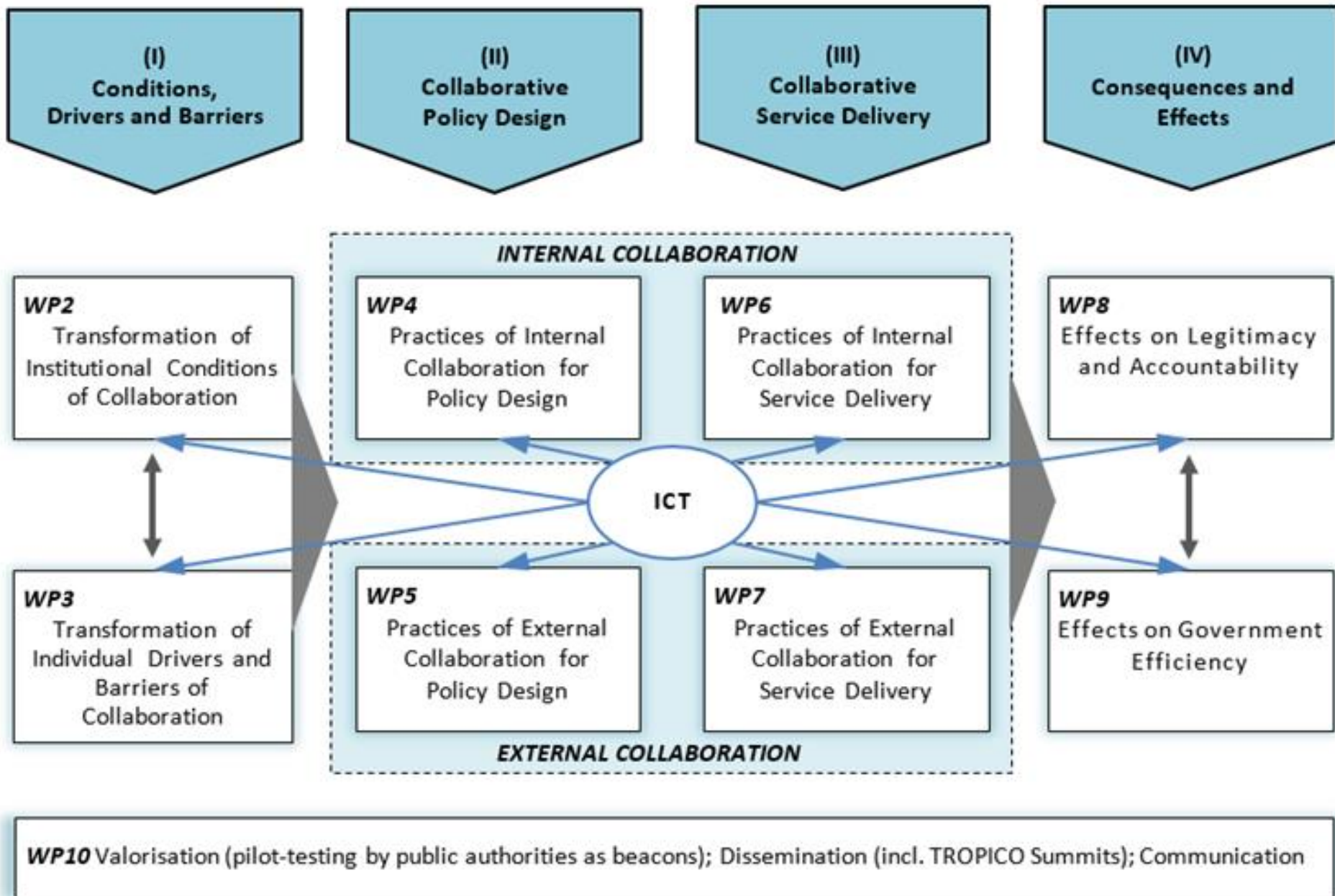
Parcourir les **1 573 demandes** aux **1 214 autorités publiques**

Une question à poser à une autorité publique ?

Lancez votre propre demande

[Faire une demande »](#)

TROPICO (A H2020 RESEARCH PROJECT)



TROPICO (A H2020 RESEARCH PROJECT)

How to enhance citizens participation in public consultations (collaborative policy design)?

- The influence the process will have on the final decision must be explicit
- The issue at stake must be topical and/or relevant
- The process must be followed by one or more committed leaders (political or not)
- The involvement of organized actors (associations) enhances participation



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DATABASE OF POLITICIANS : CUMULEO

2017	Les mandats, fonctions et professions exercés par Sophie Wilmès en 2017			
	Nombre maximum de mandats, fonctions et professions cumulés :			
	⇒ Tous : 4 ⇒ Rémunérés : 3 ⇒ Non rémunérés : 1			
Base : Déclaration fédérale de mandats				
Fonction	Institution		Début	Fin
Ministre	Gouvernement fédéral, Budget et Loterie nationale	€	⇐	⇒ 2018
Conseillère communale	Commune de Rhode-Saint-Genèse	€	⇐	⇒ 2018
Membre du conseil de police	Zone de police Rhode	€	⇐	⇒ 2018
Présidente	MR Périphérie	•	⇐	⇒ 2018

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POLITICIANSONLINE.BE

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PoliticiansOnline

a transparency tool by WeCitizens

Find and get for free information concerning a Belgian politician

"Type a politician's name"



18260 political players

ADVANCED SEARCH



Filter with combined selection criteria



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POLITICIANS ONLINE.BE

Goal:

- Become THE reference with our interactive and participatory database for politicians
- Register of political opinions
- Attach to this 'skeleton' many other transparency initiatives.

Presently around +20 000 politicians registered:

- 6 674 active politicians:
 - All ministers
 - All members of 7 parliaments (for Belgians)
 - The parties
 - Mayors, aldermen and provincial deputies
- Many former politicians and candidates to elections

<http://directory-test.wecitizens.be>



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PROFILE

PRIORITIES & ACHIEVEMENT

POLITICIAN'S OPINIONS

Position of Virtuelle Personne

All

80 Answered Questions

				Quand l'islam est majoritaire, le discours change...	
7	Unemployment allocations should diminish according to the duration of unemployment.	Rather yes	11/06/2015	Il faut éviter le parasitisme. La sécurité sociale est toujours assurée grâce au CPAS.	
8	A minimum service in public services (such as public transport) should be set up in order to limit the effects of strikes penalizing citizens.	Fully agree	01/09/2015	Pourquoi les chauffeurs de bus doivent-ils pouvoir perturber le pays alors que les fonctionnaires p.ex. n'ont pas ce pouvoir?	
9	My pension should not be paid by the next generation.	Fully agree	13/08/2015	Je ne trouve pas correct de laisser des boulets aux autres et encore moins vis-à-vis de mes enfants.	
10	Sooner or later, Flanders must become an independent country.	Rather no	11/06/2015	Au-delà de la surenchère politique et de l'égoïsme nationaliste, il y a plus d'avantages à rester ensemble.	

CONCLUSION

- The problem of citizen control is not so much of a technical nature
- Importance of civic education
- Importance of communication / marketing
- $1 + 1 = 3$
- Signs of positive evolution in the political world.



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WECITIZENS – WIJBURGERS - NOUS CITOYENS A.S.B.L.

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