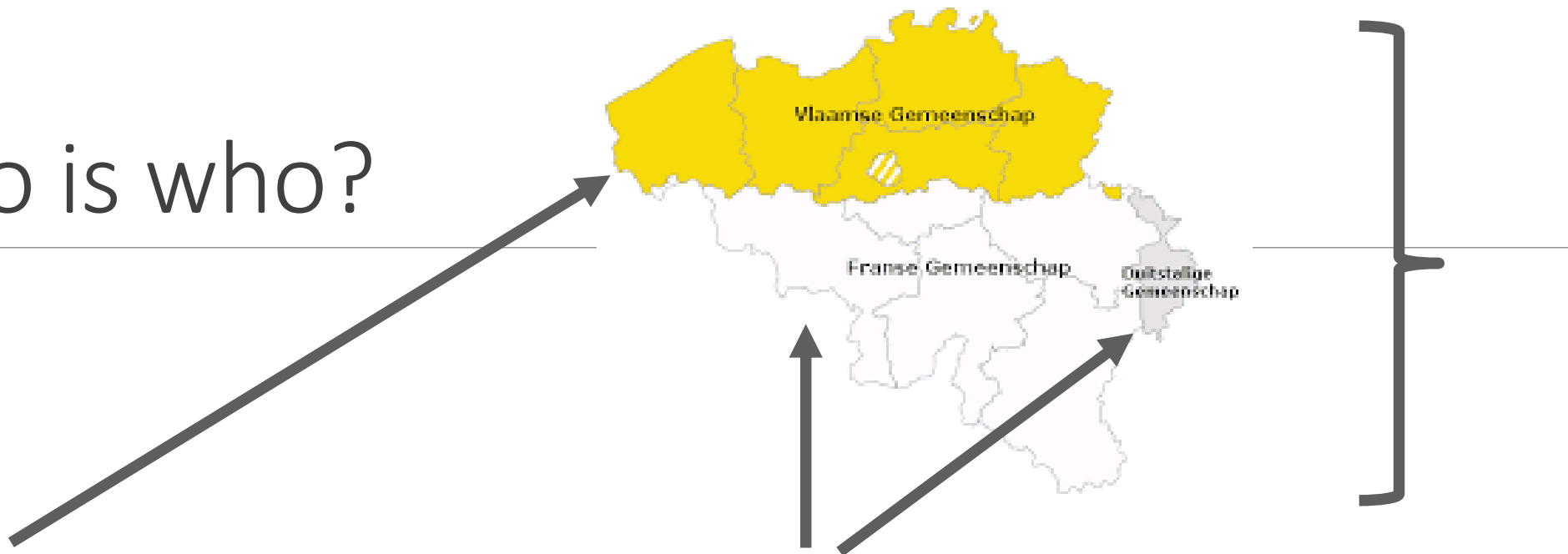


# Mandatory IATI-publication: what can we learn from the first publication cycle of Belgian CSOs

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IATI MEMBER'S ASSEMBLY  
COPENHAGEN, 10TH OF JULY 2018

# Who is who?



= 55 CSOs of which 38 publishers  
= Dutch



= 79 members (CSOs) of which 57 publishers  
= French and German



= 9 members (institutional actors), all publishers  
= Dutch and French

# Political and legislative framework

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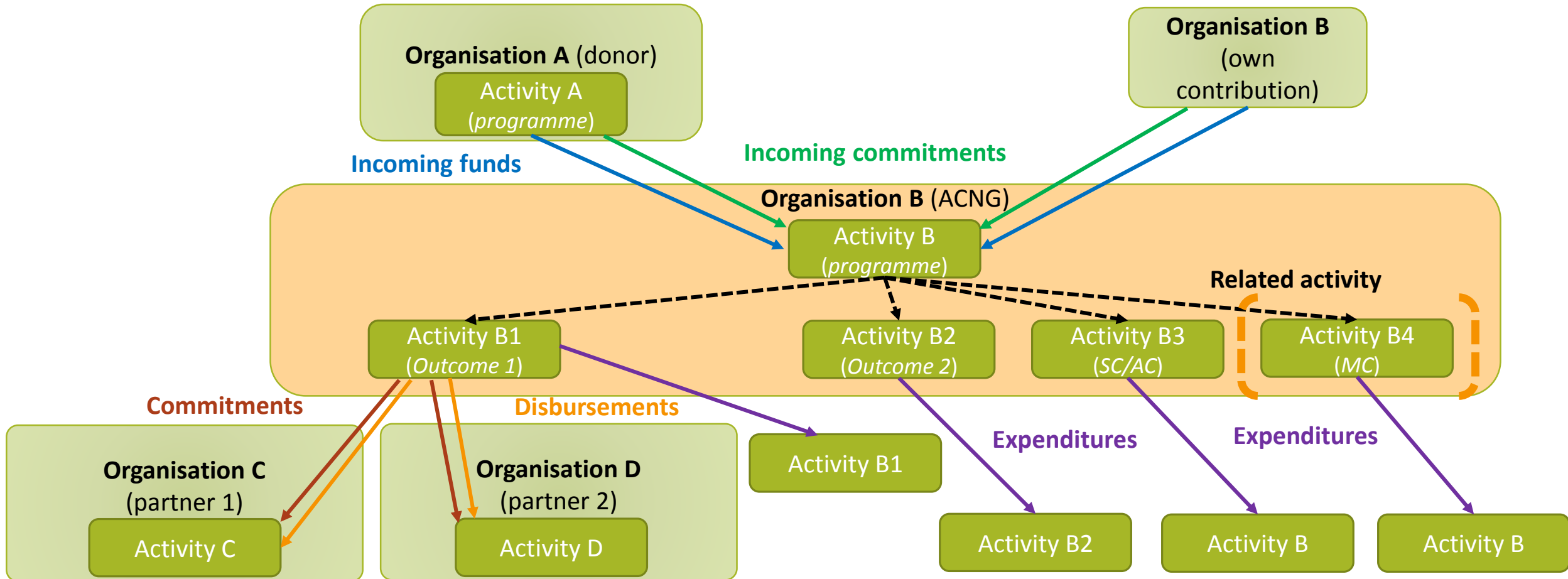
- 2012 : adheres to IATI
- 2014: first publication by DGD (also for ENABEL, former-BTC)
- 11/09/2016: new legislation on non-governmental development cooperation => introduction of IATI as a **mandatory** tool for “**moral justification**” (= narrative reporting)
  - 4 elements:
    1. IATI-publication
    2. Performance scores
    3. Lessons learned
    4. Evaluations and management responses on institutional websites
- 2 important actors from the side of the government: Ministry of Development Cooperation and Directorate-General Development cooperation (DGD)

# Political and legislative framework

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- Annual (30/04/Y about previous year = situation on 31/12 of Y-1!)
- Outcome level: 5 year programmes => indicators in Y3 (2020) and Y5 (2022)
- Only accredited actors of the non-governmental cooperation (also umbrella organisations) ↔ humanitarians, other budget allocations, etc.  
= 85 organisations
- Only subsidised part = mandatory (sector: also own contribution + structural costs)

# Structure of the publication

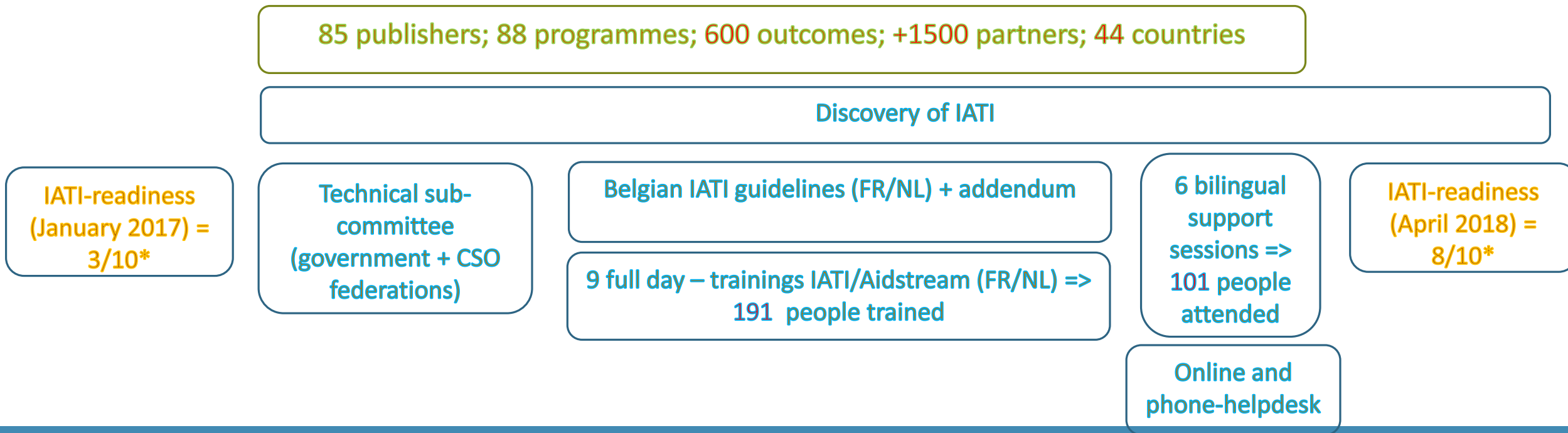


# Our IATI process: pre-publication

**2014-2015** : idea of IATI as reporting tool came up

**2016**: negotiations about **new legislation** for non-governmental development cooperation (11/09/2016)

**2017 - 2018**: getting the sector ready by very first deadline on **30/04/2018**



# Our IATI process: post-publication

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**2018:** after 30/04/2018

## We are working on...

- Problems visualisation D-portal:
  - double counting of country and sector budgets; inflation of budget in Belgium through the structural costs
  - No visualisation of regions!
  - 'Hidden' visualisation of development awareness budgets
- Quality check: search for the most efficient method
- Problems with the insertion of the data into the government's system
- Lessons learned: based on feedback board, transparency advisory group, individual organisations, survey.

## In the pipeline...

- Integration IATI-publication with Belgian CSO transparency tool
- Sectorial Transparency Strategy
- Membership IATI?
- Adaptation of guidelines/addendum (~ new Q&A)
- Helpdesk

# What did we learn from the first publication...

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One sentence = a far greater investment of means (time, human resources) than initially expected by the actors involved...

At least **1146.75\*** man days (699,5 (preparation) + 447,5 (insertion data)) went to getting the publication done

At least **271\*** people involved (median = 3 per organisation); mainly directors, finance directors/officers, programme officers and M&E officers

Only **18%\*** agrees that it was a good measure of administrative simplification

Tension between **harmonisation** (with the standard and within our sector) and telling your own story

⇒ It is important to have a realistic view of what publishing in IATI entails and prepare in accordance

⇒ When making political/legal decisions, have a clear view of the operational consequences



# What did we learn from the first publication...

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Very little to none operational IATI-knowledge on government and CSO-side when law came into place...

⇒ it was fundamental to create from the beginning a consultative, technical committee with mandated representatives of CSOs and government to:

- create a common understanding of the standard
- reflect on the best way to translate the Belgian realities through the standard
- identify problems and find solutions
- assure the expertise on IATI
- centralise the information on IATI
- have a clear view of the process from both sides

⇒ learning attitude!

# What did we learn from the first publication...

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It requires a titanic effort to have a whole sector ready for a publication that serves donor reporting purposes...

⇒ fundamental to have a central, representative structure to be able to accompany and support the CSOs closely through the whole IATI-publication process

- Building and centralization of IATI-expertise
- CSO-consultation
- IATI-community consultation
- Production of guidance tools (Belgian guidelines, addendum, trainings, support sessions, email/phone helpdesk)
- Sectoral strategic reflections

# What did we learn from the first publication...

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Important to take into consideration that introducing the IATI-standard does not only brings in technical challenges, but also sectoral strategic ones for CSO's.

⇒ It is crucial to provide enough time for consultation processes since strategic issues require that mandated representatives of CSO's can finetune with their constituencies before taking decisions

# What did we learn from the first publication...

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It is a challenge for organisations to strategically prepare for publication (risks, opportunities, informing and receiving consent of partners, etc.) in such a short period of time

19%\* explicitly identified the risks of publication

23%\* explicitly identified the opportunities of the publication

38%\* informed all partners; 16%\* informed some

18%\* had to anonymise part(s) of the publication of which

33%\* published an information exclusion policy; 17%\* published a general comment

=> enable organisations with sufficient advance to prepare

=> identify good practices within the IATI-community

# What did we learn from the first publication...

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Working with xml-files is a challenge for organisations big and small...

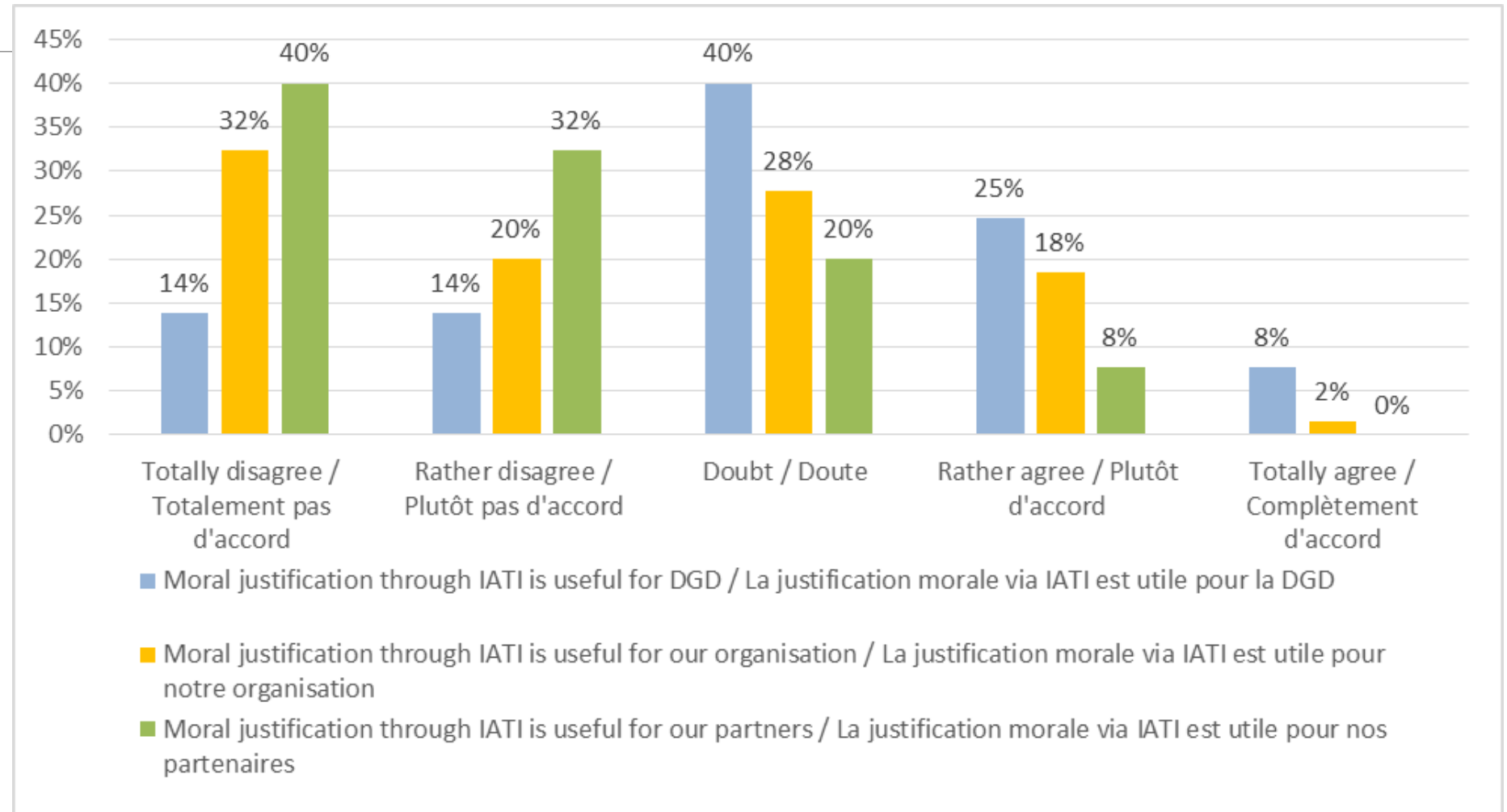
98% of organisations used Aidstream

Score Aidstream = 7/10\*

- ⇒ Having a ready-to-use tool for the creation of the XML-files (Aidstream) was of capital importance to get the publications done.
- ⇒ Provide on time the expertise necessary to give Aidstream trainings adapted to your reality

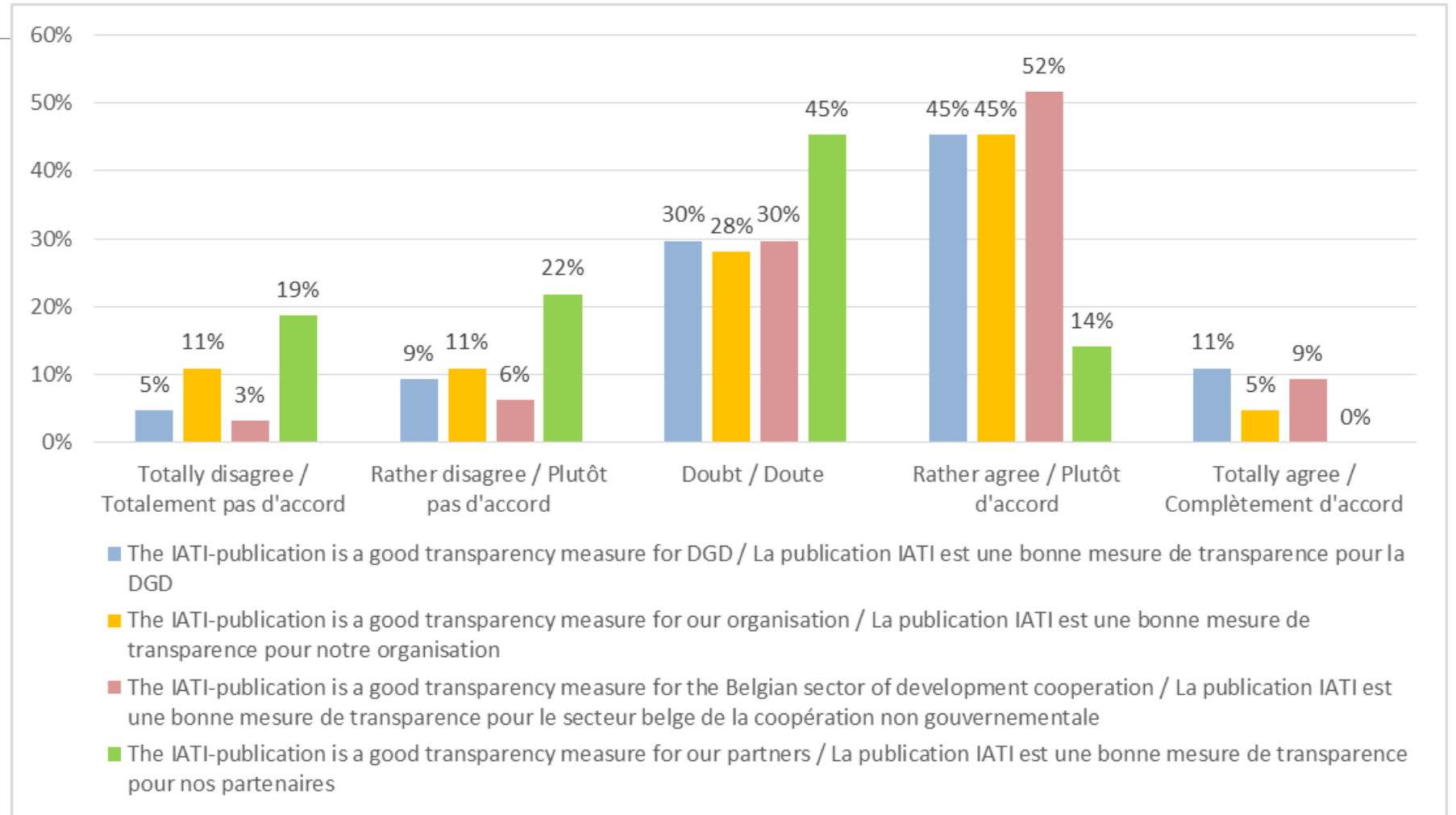
# What did we learn from the first publication...

CSOs are sceptical about IATI as a reporting tool...



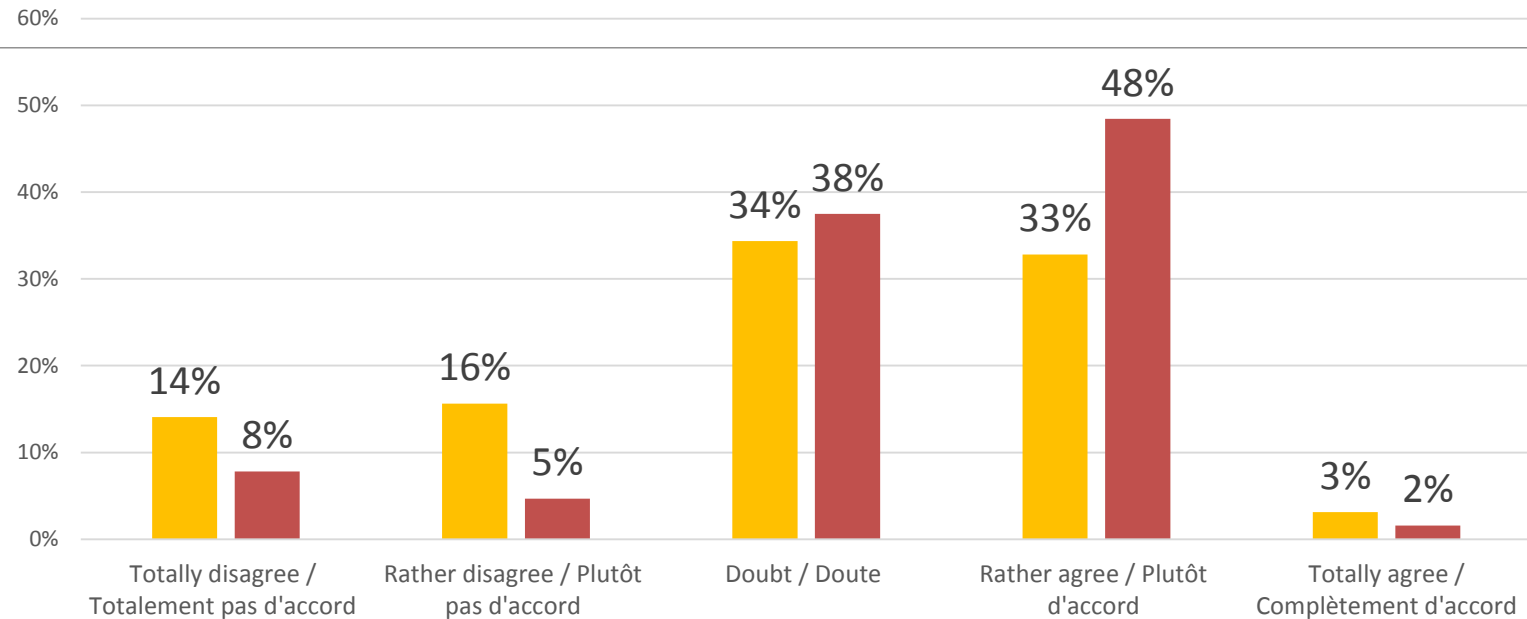
# What did we learn from the first publication...

CSOs are more positive about IATI as a transparency tool...



# What did we learn from the first publication...

CSOs are more positive about IATI as a transparency tool...



- The IATI-publication has an added value for the other transparency instruments of my organisation / *La publication IATI apporte une valeur ajoutée aux autres instruments de transparence de mon organisation*
- The IATI-publication has an added value for the other transparency instruments of the Belgian sector of development cooperation / *La publication IATI apporte une valeur ajoutée aux autres instruments de transparence du secteur belge de la coopération non*



# What did we learn from the first publication...

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D-portal plays a great role in revealing all IATI-data to the great public, BUT...

It has problems dealing with hierarchies (double counting!)

It undervisualises data (development awareness) or not at all (regions)

It doesn't always give clear explanations where numbers come from

It doesn't show nuances and narrative explanations

⇒ Invest in D-portal!!!

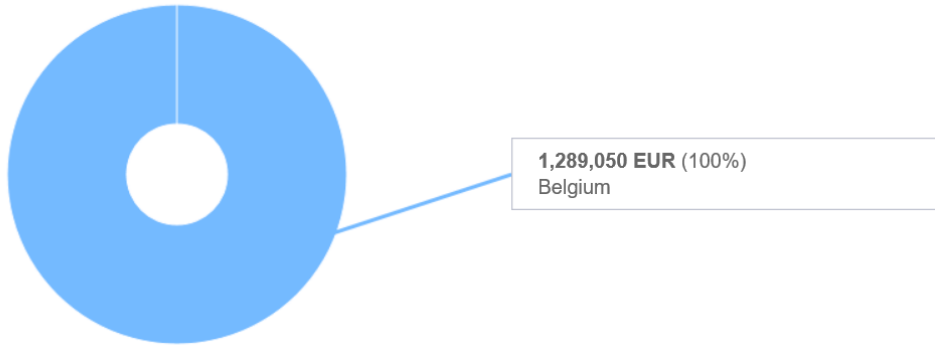
⇒ Make IATI known to partners

COUNTRY	IATI SPEND (EUR)			IATI BUDGET (EUR)	
	2015	2016	2017	2017 allocated	2017 total
Belgium	0	0	488,605	791,173	0
Burundi	0	0	118,033	375,201	0
Benin	0	0	418,239	979,622	0

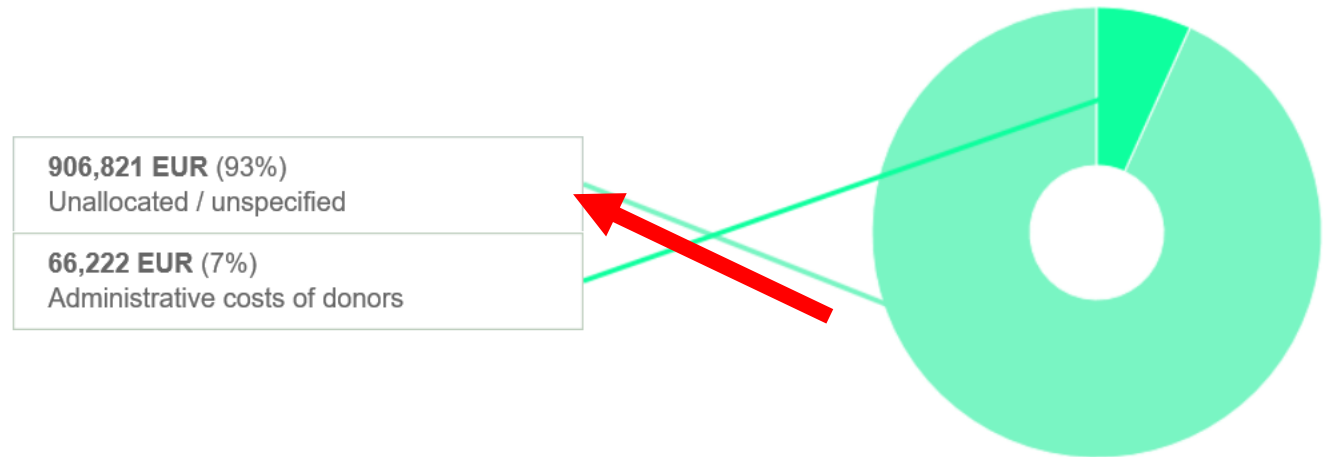
= 3,982,551 (EUR) ↓ CSV

	Amount
an water, voor een duurzame	3,468,890 EUR
eldwijs met Water: verbetering van k en-gedrag in 5 gemeenten in	286,724 EUR
structure pour le programme	226,937 EUR

Funding went to 1 countries (in all years)



Where does the money go? (IATI all years)



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# Thank you for your attention!

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