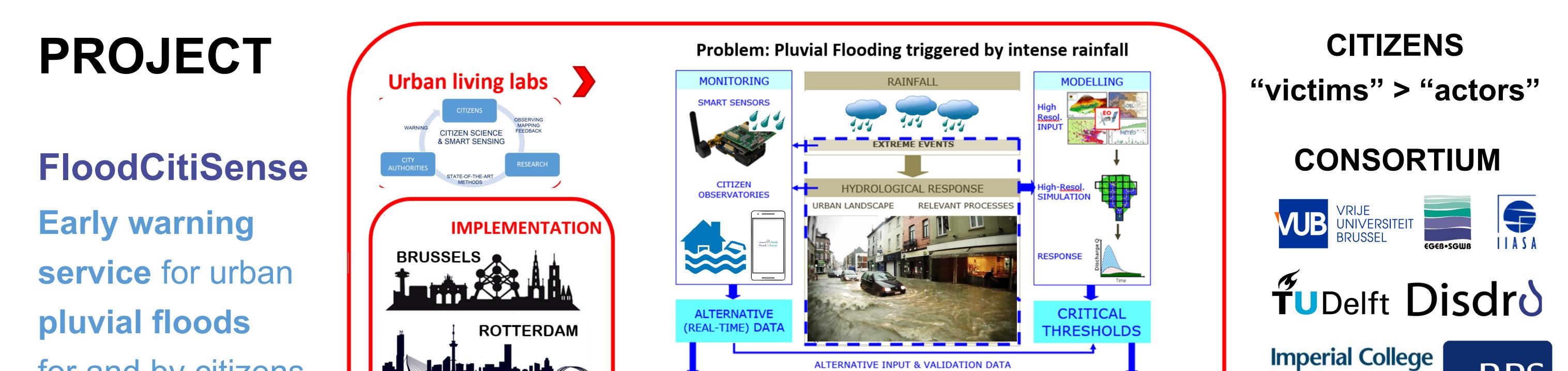
# FloodCitiSense

## **Exploring low-cost alternatives to obtain** higher density precipitation data collection in urban areas **Boud VERBEIREN**<sup>1,2</sup>, Solomon Dagnachew SEYOUM<sup>1</sup>, Ihab LUBBAD<sup>1</sup>, Patrick WILLEMS<sup>1,3</sup>

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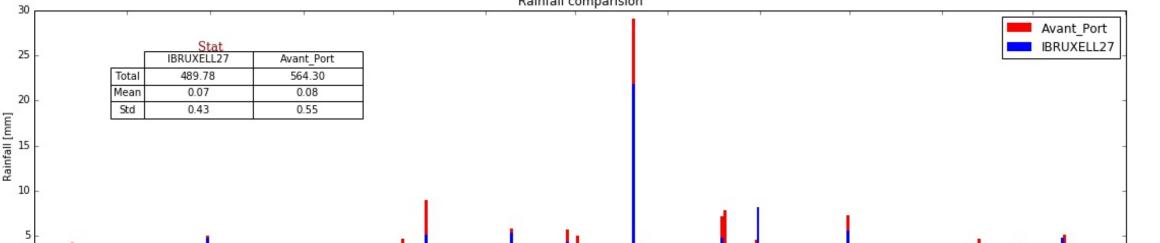


# DATA COLLECTION RAINFALL AND PLUVIAL FLOODING **VIA CITIZEN SCIENCE - THE BRUSSELS PILOT**

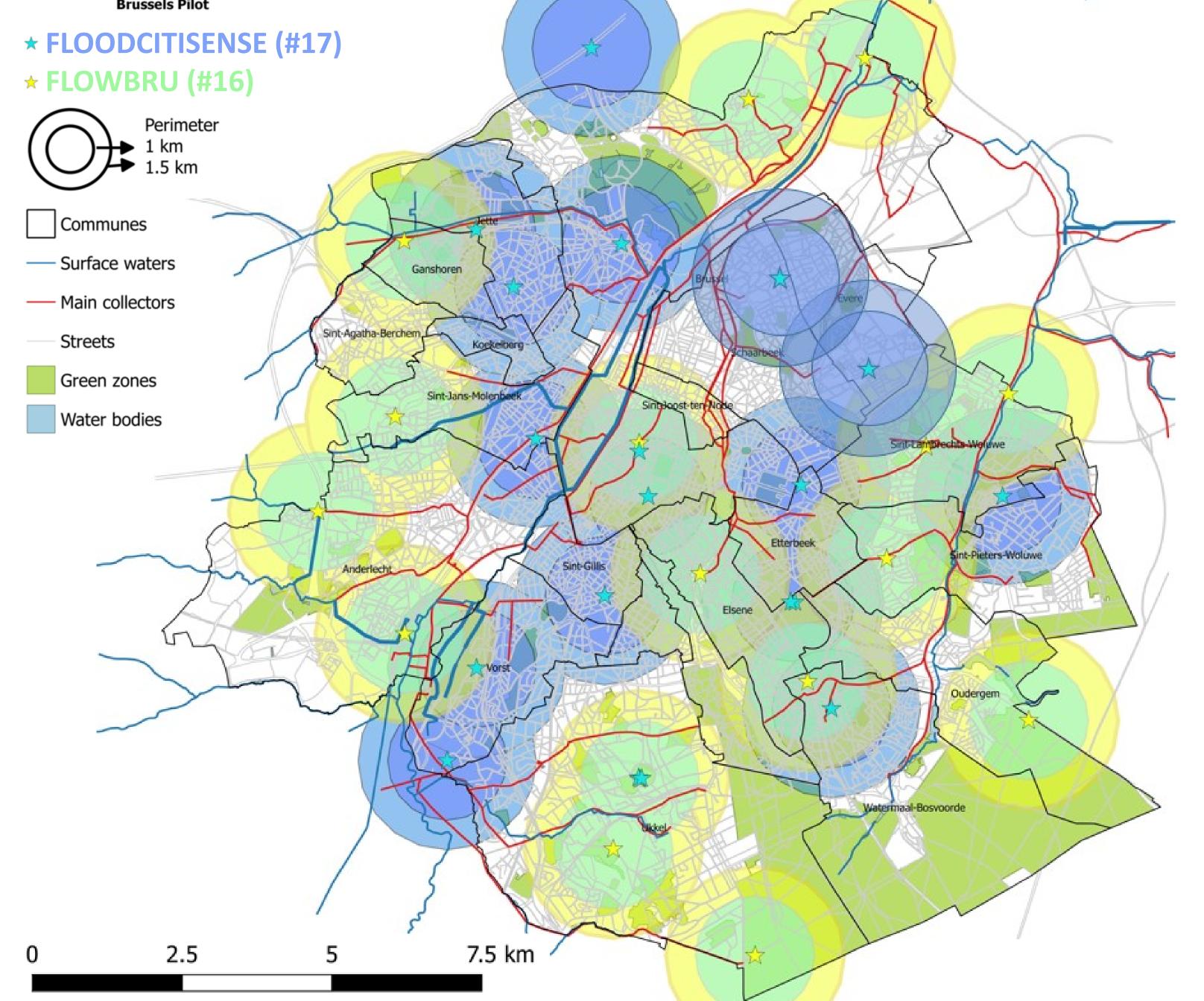
Whether an **intense and localized rainfall** event triggers a **pluvial flood**, highly depends on the precise location and intensity of rainfall at the local scale. In the **Brussels pilot** a relatively dense professional network of 16 rain gauges (Flowbru.be) – in green-yellow on map – provides open data in real-time. The specific topography of the Brussels Region can have a strong influence on the spatial distribution of the rainfall. Therefore **FloodCitiSense** explores the potential of alternative data sources for near real-time peak rainfall observation at ground level in urban areas via low-cost sensors and citizen science.

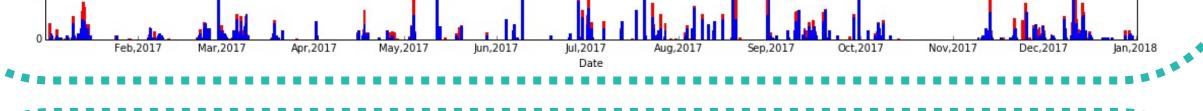
#### **NetAtmo: commercial rain gauges**

- <u>Comparison NetAtmo vs Flowbru</u> (radius: 2 km 1 year data = 2017)
- NetAtmo station unevenly distributed
- > NetAtmo often has missing data (30-35%)
- > NetAtmo shows high correlation with Flowbru (average: 0.7)
- > NetAtmo typically slightly underestimates rainfall



#### **Monitoring Network**





#### **Low-cost raindrop counters**

Measuring rainfall by simple counting drops hitting a piezo element

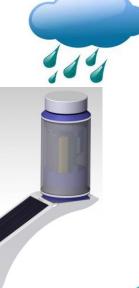
Citizen Science workshops #50 participants > Better spatial coverage achieved (blue on map) complementing professional (green/yellow)



> Issues 1<sup>st</sup> generation: batteries, leaking, huge counts & software! > 2<sup>nd</sup> generation will be launched in June 2019



- 2<sup>nd</sup> generation sensor LoRa technology
- **Efficient solar panel** for battery waterproof



Citizen observations via Mobile & Web App

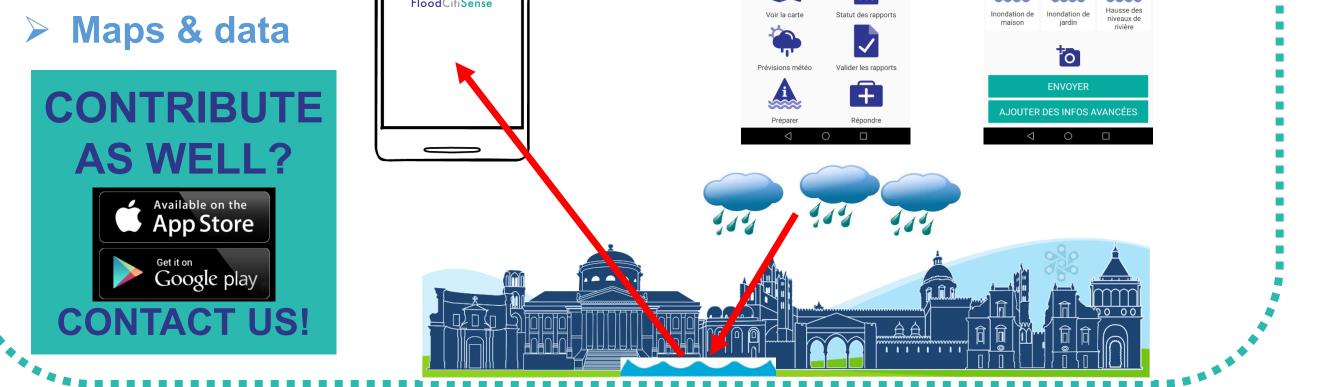
**Result of co-creation with various stakeholders in the pilot cities** 

- > Notifications > Reporting
- > Consulting





### **CONCLUSION: DENSER PEAK RAINFALL DATA? POTENTIAL = YES, OPERATIONAL = NOT YET**



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