



# Helping polar bears talk about icebergs: **communication and impact strategies**

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# Our perspective



- H2020 / Horizon Europe
- Competitive proposals
- Driven by funder needs (SOCIETAL)
- Demand IMPACT
- IMPACT needs COMMUNICATIONS
- But .....Polar bears?



# The Polar Bear and the Academic

- Reputation
- Focused on immediate concerns
- Sometimes a limited view of IMPACT
  - Inwards – career focus
  - Outwards.... to other polar bears
- Do not always see “depth and value”
- Societal interactions...limited
- Competition
- Practicalities – not always easy to meet



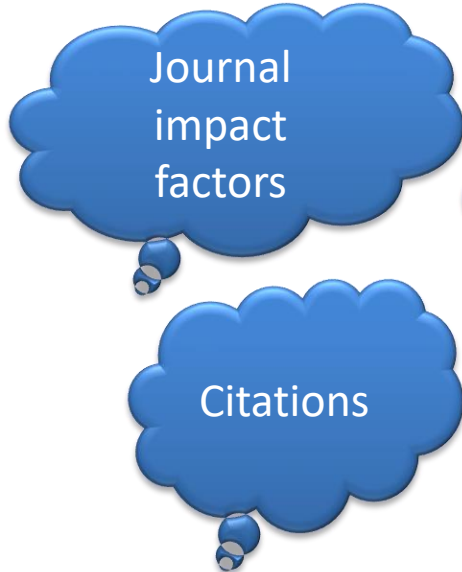
# IMPACT

- Increasing demands to demonstrate IMPACT
  - Politicians
  - Funders and policy makers
  - Societal actors
  - Citizens
- Academic priority
  - Peer review papers
  - Conferences
  - Change is slow!

**SOCIETAL IMPACT  
INCREASINGLY  
CRITICAL**

*How research results  
are used to create  
change*

*Horizon Europe  
EC looks to increase  
indicators*



Career – hiring, tenure, advancement

National assessment exercises

European Impact assessment exercises

Wider society?

# Communications and Impact: Evaluation

## EXCELLENCE

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
- Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology;
- Extent that proposed work is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches), and demonstrates innovation potential
- Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension in research and innovation content.

## IMPACT

- The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work programme under the relevant topic;
- Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work programme, that would enhance innovation capacity; create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, protect the environment or bring other important benefits for society.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to:
  - Exploit and disseminate the project results (incl. management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant
  - Communicate the project activities to different target audiences .

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management
- Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role

# Call Text – Topic Description Analysis

**Specific Challenge:** Regenerative medicine offers hope for untreatable disease and the ageing population, improved quality of life and reduced medical costs. However, so far, regenerative medicine has not yet proved itself in the clinic beyond rare diseases or conditions of limited public health importance. With recent scientific discoveries opening up new approaches to regenerative medicine, the challenge is to use these to extend the regenerative approach to major diseases and conditions.

**Scope:** Regenerative medicine replaces or regenerates human cells, tissue or organs, to restore or establish normal function. Projects should focus on innovative translational research to develop regenerative processes towards the ultimate clinical goal of addressing unmet clinical needs of large patient groups. Proposals should be based on new approaches such as genome editing or gene therapy, transdifferentiation or *in vivo* reprogramming, cell therapy and transplantation, 3D bioprinting, organoids or use of combined products (non-exhaustive list for illustrative purposes only). In all cases, proposals should explain in what way their approach is regenerative. Research on improved methods of tissue and organ transplantation is included on the condition that there is a clear regenerative step in the process. The project may focus on any step(s) on the innovation chain, from early testing and characterization of regenerative mechanisms to preclinical research, proof of concept or clinical trial. Sex and gender differences should be investigated, where relevant. Projects should include a section on the proposed therapy's exploitation potential, regulatory and commercialisation strategy and how it would be made available and delivered to patients.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of between EUR 6 and 8 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

## Expected Impact:

- Potential new regenerative therapies to address unmet clinical needs of large patient groups identified.
- Europe's position in translational regenerative medicine strengthened.
- New therapies for major human diseases and conditions, and new approaches for therapy taken further in the development pipeline.

Cross-cutting Priorities: [Open Innovation](#); [Gender](#)

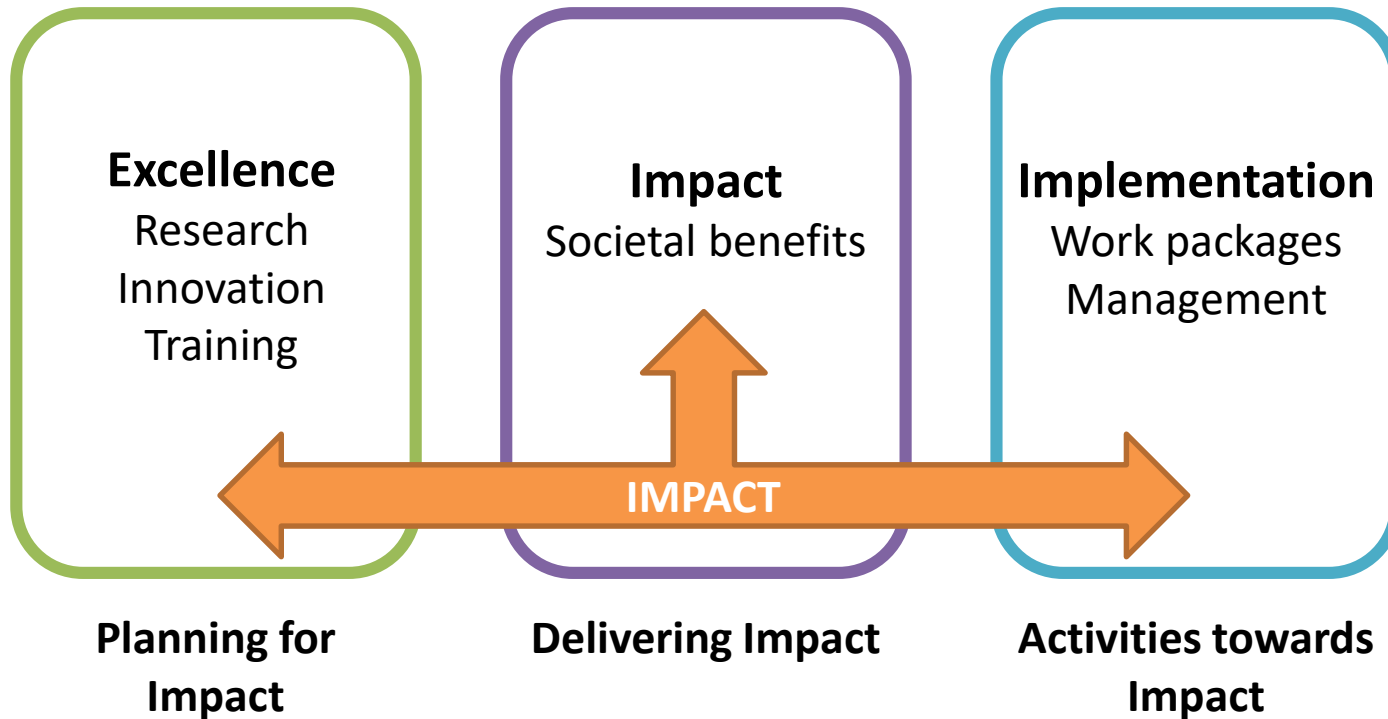
# Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work programme



- enhance innovation capacity;
- create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies,
- protect the environment
- bring other important benefits for society (e.g. Health and well being)

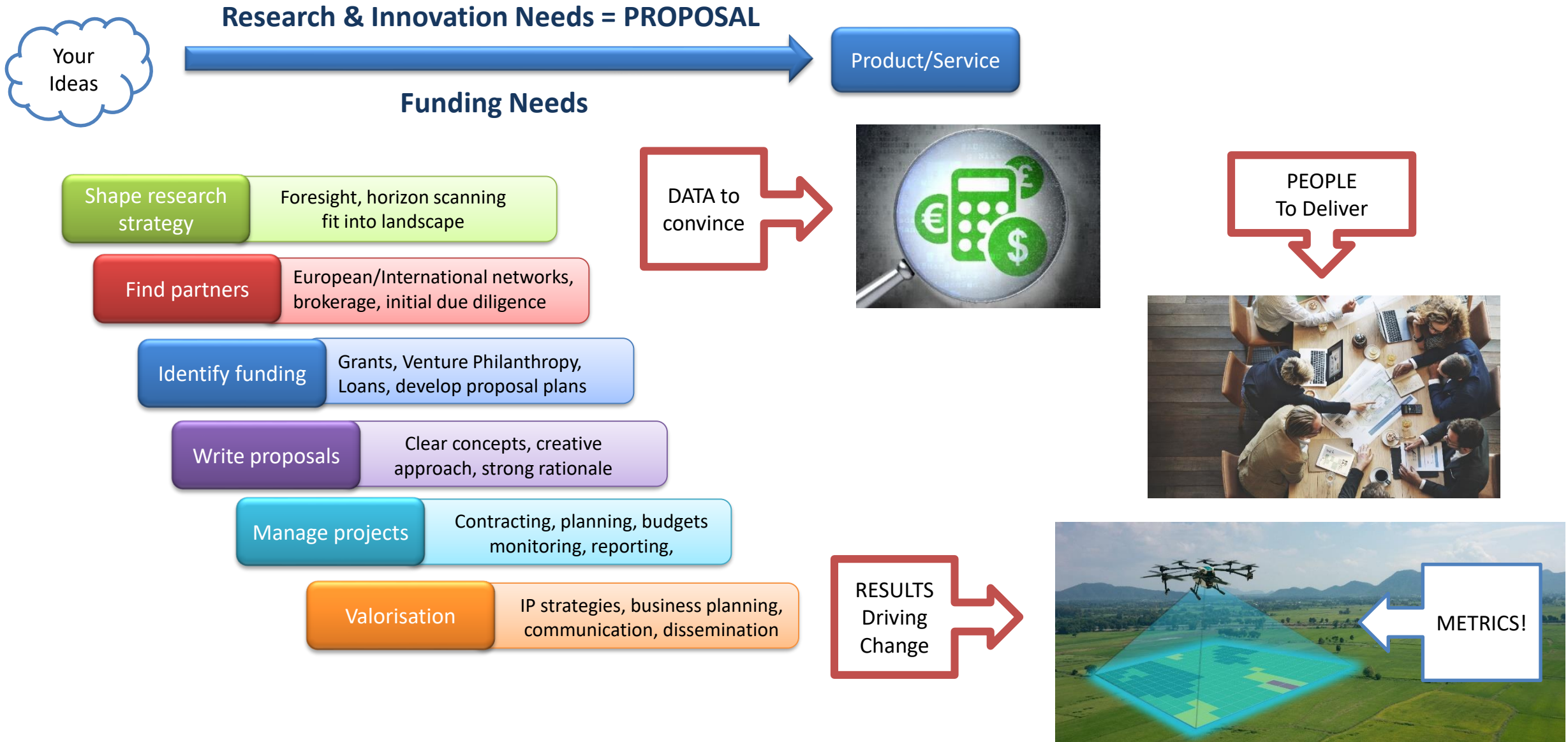
# Writing European Projects

- Research and innovation Actions
- Innovation Actions
- MCSA Training Networks





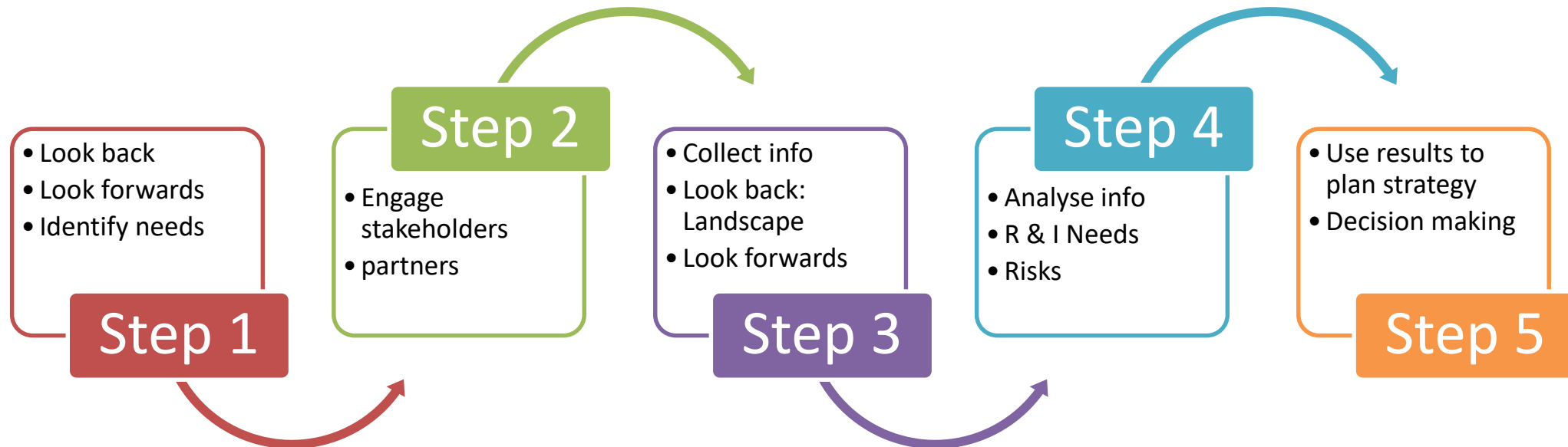
# Challenge Led: From inception to completion



# Tools to help

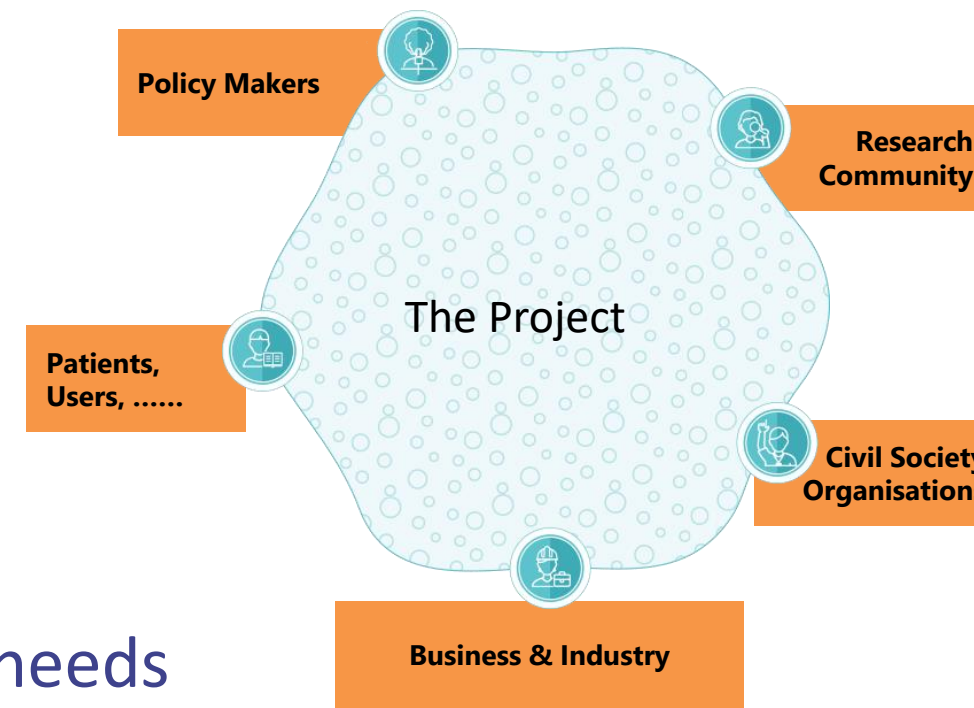
# Creative Horizon & Landscape Scanning

- Long-term forward looking
- Planning and priority setting
- Participation
  - Partners
  - Stakeholders



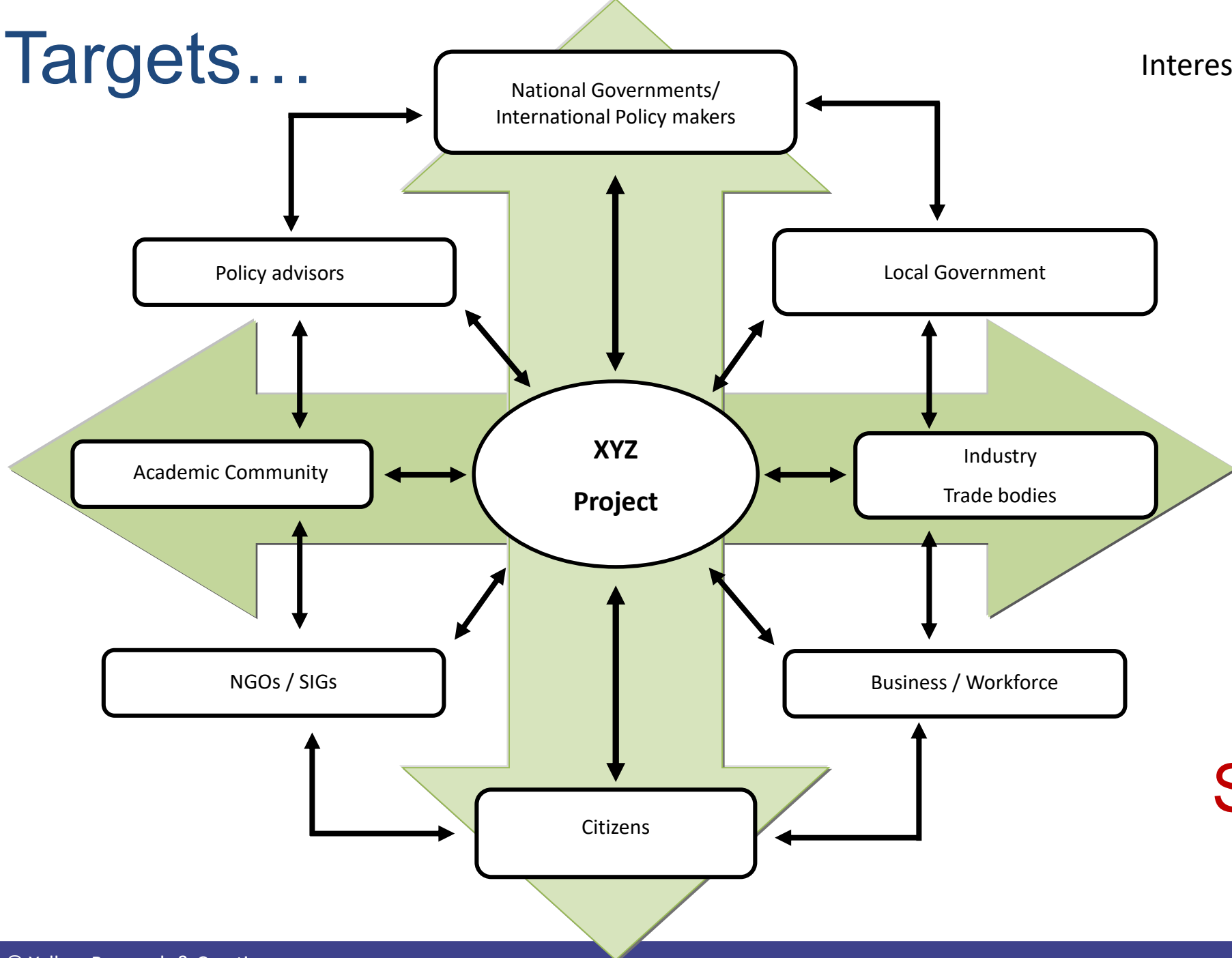
# Challenge-led Research Direction

- Analysis of future potential of technology
- Priority setting for R&I (knowledge gaps)
- Identified unmet or emerging need
- Supporting future policy or strategy planning needs
- Network building
- Capacity building / methodologies
- Others
- ACTIVITIES CONTINUE THROUGH THE PROJECT

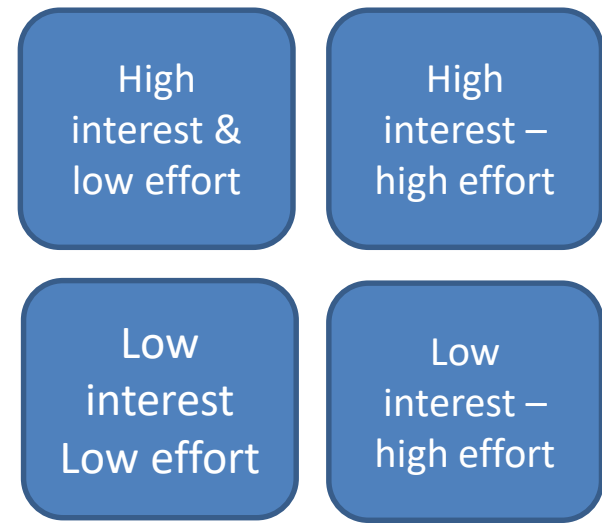


Multiple voices  
not just academic led

# Targets...



Interest



Effort

Various channels

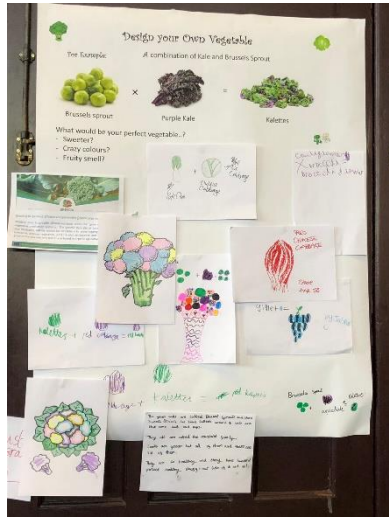
Specific channels

# Simple opportunities – complex audiences?



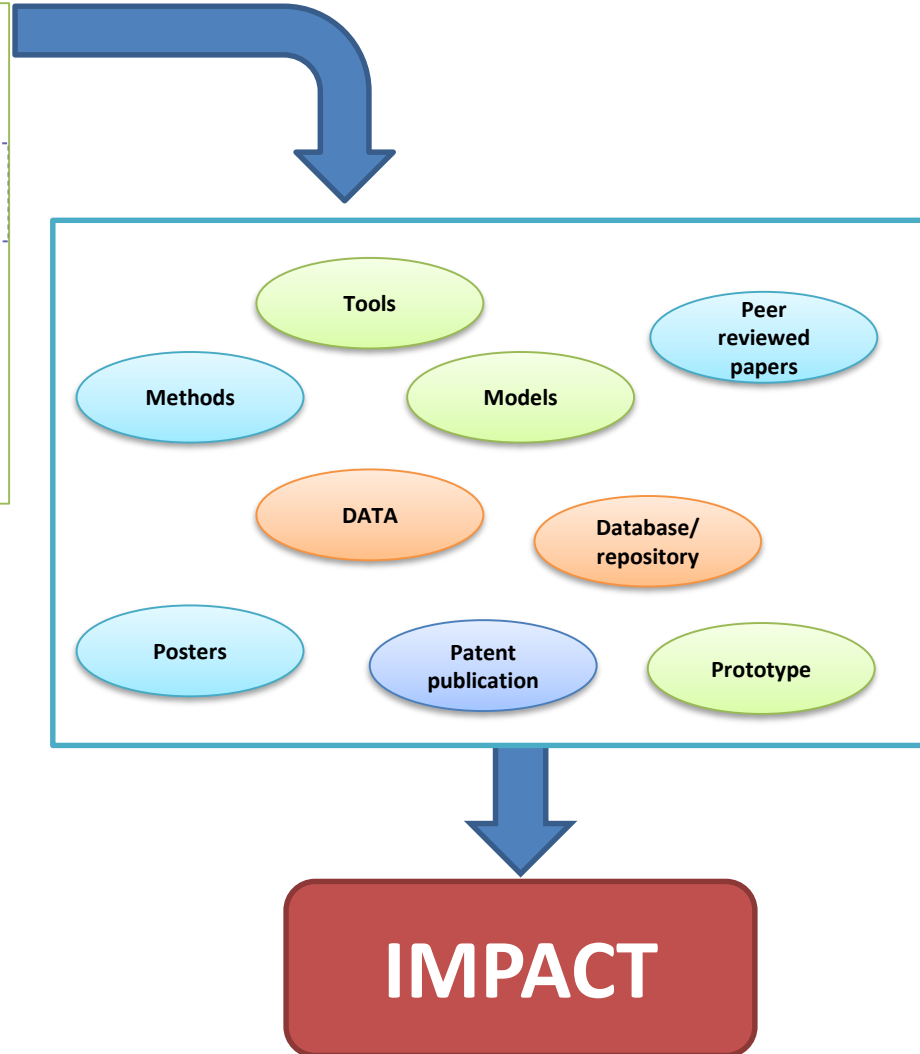
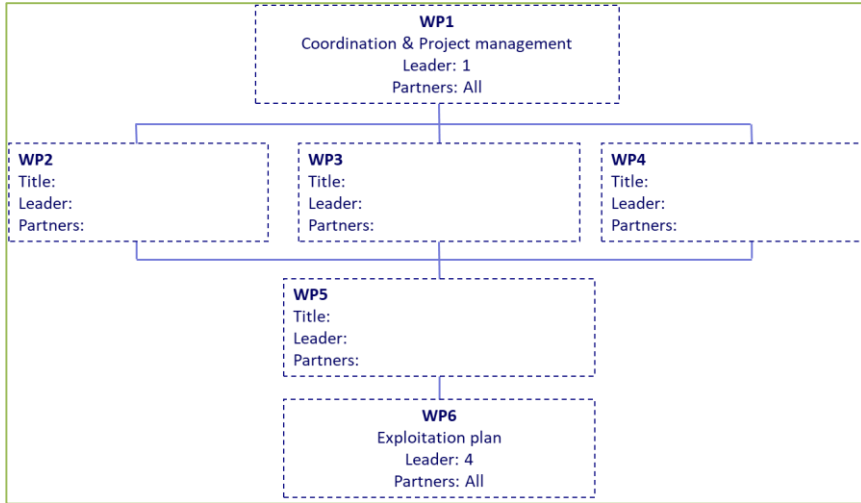
Shaping the future of organic breeding & farming

- Lots of interest
- Children enthused
- Adults suspicious
- **PLANT SCIENCE IS GMO**
  - Capturing attitudes
  - Rethinking outreach
  - Audience complex!



# Design Tools

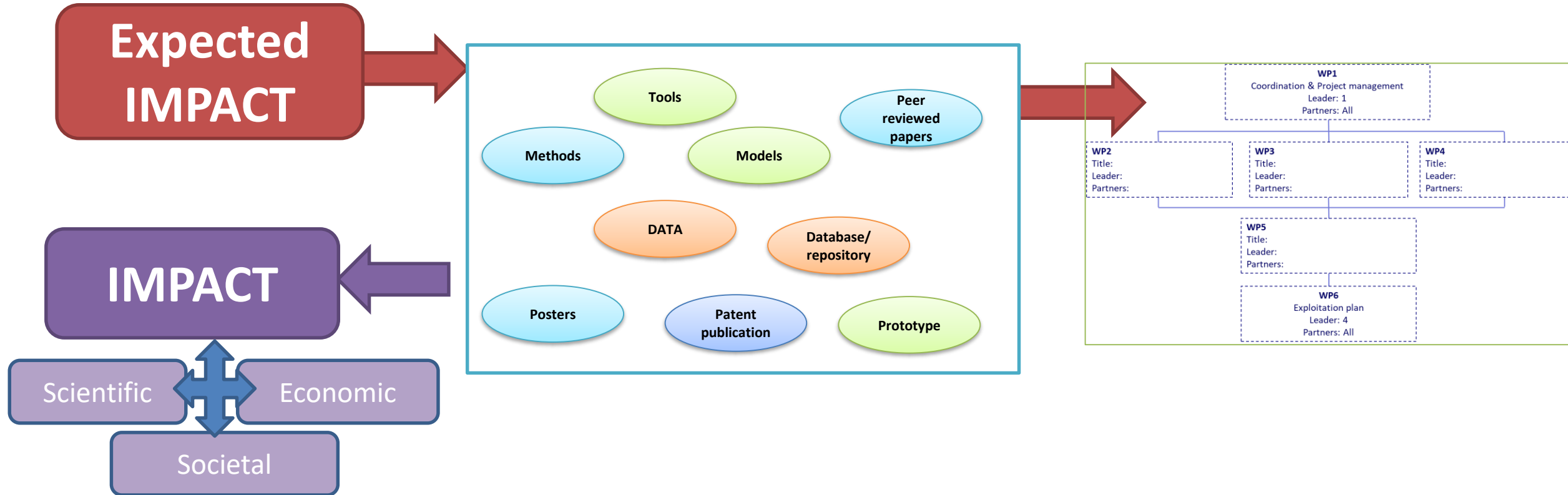
# Traditional Project Design



- Dissemination
- Exploitation
- Communication
- Business Plan (?)
- *What comes after the project*



# Reverse-engineer Project to be challenge led



# Practical Design Framework

Target Impact goals	Who is interested?	Key results	Activities to deliver result	Who is needed ?	Timing of tasks	What background is required	Steps after the project	Budget and future planning

Stakeholders  
Actors  
Citizens

What is needed?  
How are results taken up – by whom?

What is the state of the art? Unmet need  
Market potential?

What impact?  
(Intermediary)  
Specific & Measurable

What work package tasks are needed

Project Partners  
Expert panels  
Endusers/beneficiaries

# Results mapping tools

# Exploitation pathways per result => commercial/non commercial

Results and outcomes	Targeted Users (users, buyers, policy-makers....)	Exploitation strategy: Free, Open, (non) or (co-) exclusive	Publication strategy Protect or Open science/data	Potential Use and Rights: Research or Commercial Non commercial.	Time to market or TRL	Next steps and Involvement of value chain	Barriers and risks
Measurements on.....	Who cares?						
Product / technology		Commercial value – Research vale					
Standard				Who will use? Partner or external? Are the IP rights clear			
Platform					Planning table – use table or well structured text and graphics		

# Dissemination and Communication Plan



Target Audience	Outputs and Message	Channel	Benefit	Success indicators
Academics: - which community - PhD students	Result A	Scientific publications; Methods, techniques	State-of-the-art Action-Using	
Public Sector users: - -	Recommendation 1	Policy reports Workshops Intermediary?	Awareness; Interest; Decision; Action-using	How do you show take up and use?
Public	Message 1	Press releases information about website/social media	Why? When?	
Patients	Information 1	Newsletter of patient organisation Workshops		

Generic statements  
ARE NOT  
COMPETATIVE

# Summary – tools structure discussions and thinking

- 90% of an iceberg volume is underwater
- Your Polar bear stands on a lot of knowledge
- Tools to stimulate Conceptual Thinking and structure discussions
  - Design and reverse engineer
  - Mapping Tools
  - What steps could happen outside the project?

# Thank you



**RIA/IA Proposal Writing  
Writing Impact**

**Amsterdam**

May 14<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Tool examples**

Provide contact details