



Accompanying and assessing transdisciplinary research

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NEOH - Transdisciplinary Research Evaluation

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EKLIPSE H2020/CSA 2016-2020

Science-Policy-Society-Interface



EKLIPSE supports to
set up a sustainable and innovative entry point to
knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem
services for decision-makers in Europe.

It aims to:

- Answer key questions from policy and/or society by mobilising and synthesising the best available knowledge and experts
- Identify current and future emerging issues of policy makers and citizens related to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Create a responsive and active network of experts and knowledge holders across Europe that get acknowledged for providing their knowledge

Formative Evaluation

Aim & Concept



Aim

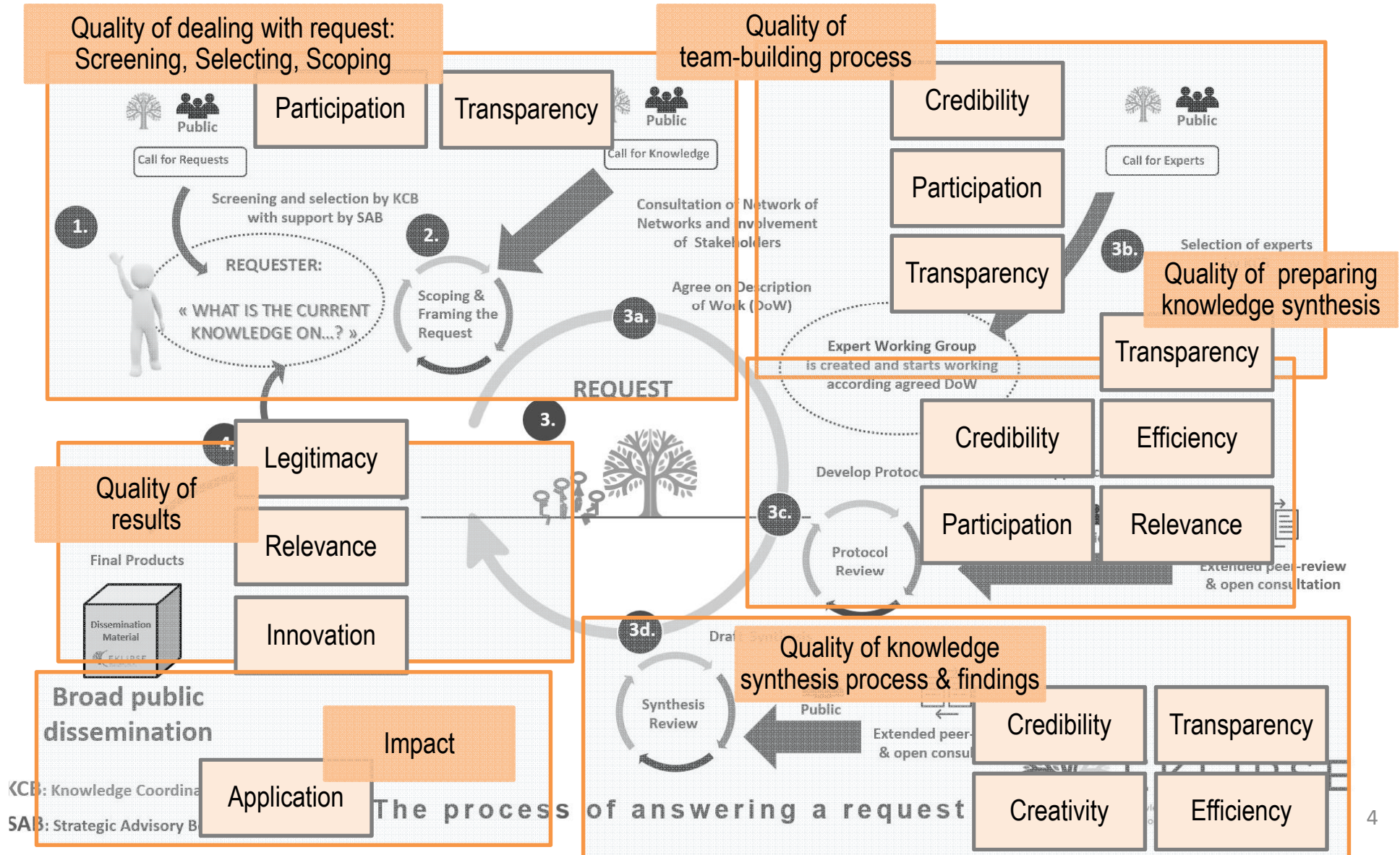
- facilitate self-reflection of EKLIPSE team in an iterative feedback for a process-oriented view on building processes for and governance structures of the EKLIPSE mechanism

Concept for the formative evaluation

- Identifying criteria
 - Building on td expertise and expectations concerning performance
- Identifying evaluation 'segments'
 - Handling requests: Distinguishing six main processes
 - Governance structure: Main bodies that will endure
- Matching criteria and segments
 - What aspects are important for which segment?

Evaluation Criteria for the Request Process

Based on Lux/Mehring (2016)



Formative Evaluation: Formats



Evaluation symposia

- First symposium: focus on the expectations (Oct 2016)
- Second symposium: assess the efforts made when comparing the current state with the expectations (in 2019)

Questionnaires (in various waves)

- For all responders provided via an online tool
- The results are directly incorporated into the intervention workshop or the evaluation symposium, respectively.

Intervention workshops “Take one step back and allow to think forward”

- regular events serve to evaluate selected process steps within the mechanism

In future: Website tool

- Get feedback on the overall structures by website visitors (perhaps linked to Sci-Pol-Soc Forum)
- capture the societal perspective

Based on Lux/Mehring (2016)

TransImpact – Impactful Transdisciplinary Research (BMBF, 2015–2018)



Are there concrete practices, derived from the observation and generalized analysis of transdisciplinary projects, that can generate a high degree of impact potential?

Analytical core: evaluate 16-20 finished projects regarding their expected, realized and not realized impacts

⇒ unveil their fostering and hindering conditions and procedures

⇒ translate them into requirements and connect them to suggested methods and practices

Community exchange:

⇒ Development of joint Quality Standards within the community

⇒ Establishing real and virtual rooms for exchange

Empirical Process within the TransImpact Project



Project Selection: completed td-projects, diverse topics and funding conditions, different approaches



Data basis: application documents, final reports, selected publications and questionnaires for coordinators and partners



Analysis:
Case descriptions,
first systematizations and comparisons

Project Forum: Feedback on the first steps of the analysis, discussion and focusing => with scientific and practice partners of the analyzed projects

Validation Platform:
Discursive validation of the abstracted findings with td research experts → Online-Plattform td-academy.org

Forms of Impact

Learning Processes (conceptual impact):

mainly relating to system and target knowledge: enables adjustments in future measures and targets

Capacity Building:

extending practical (transformation) knowledge but also ‚soft skills‘

Network Effects:

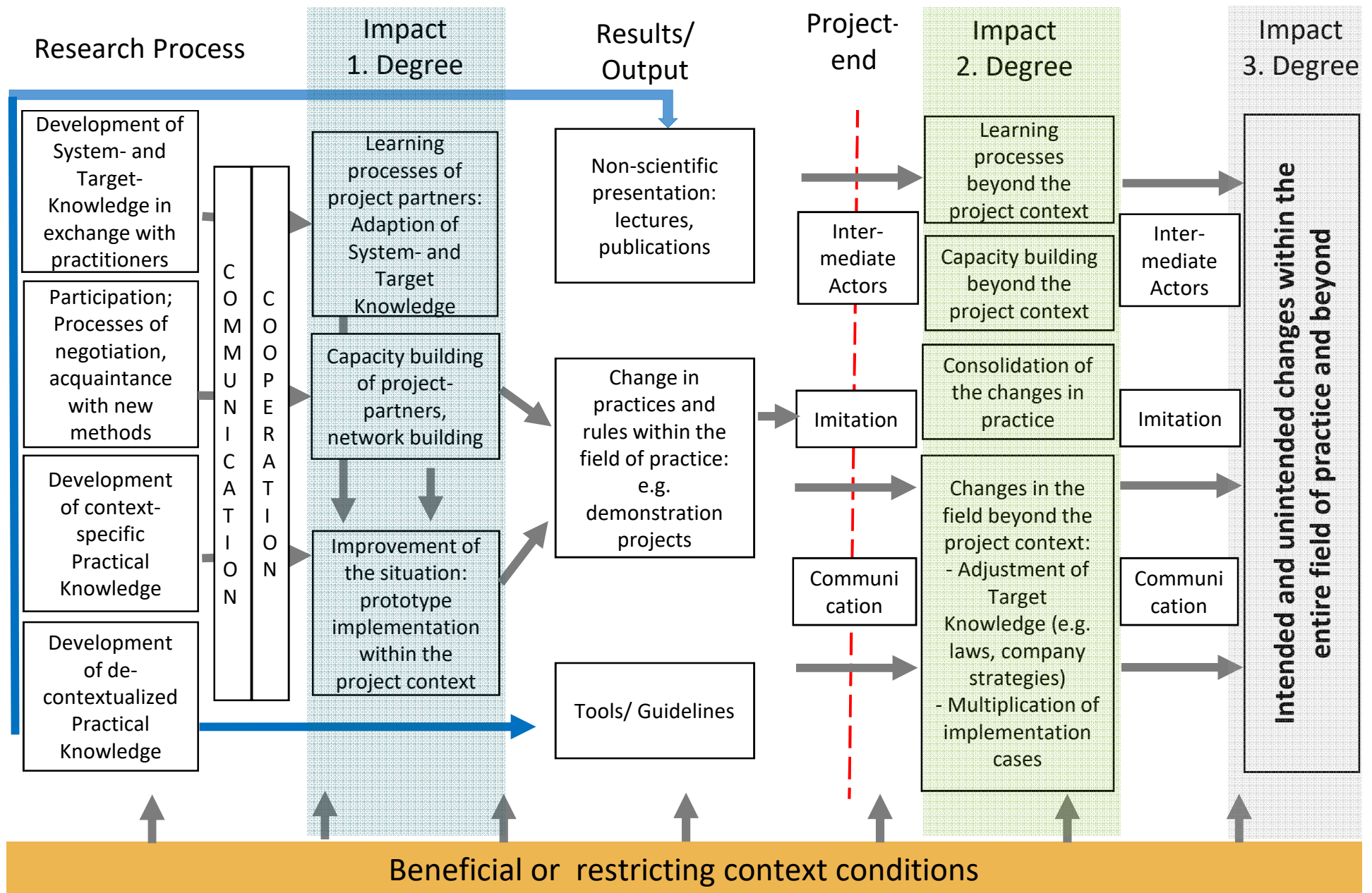
development of new relationships and trust among different actors

Improvement of the Situation (instrumental impact):

concrete changes in the field such as (infra-)structural adjustments, introduction of new technologies or products, changes in practice, the adjustment of laws and rules etc.

(cf. Bergmann/Schäfer/Jahn 2017, based on: Mitchell et al. 2015, Wiek et al. 2014, ERSC 2011, Walter et al. 2007)

Heuristics for the Impact of Transdisciplinary Projects



Based on Bergmann/Schäfer/Jahn (2017), www.td-academy.org

From quality criteria to assessing impacts

■ Formative approaches

- support ongoing research efforts
- learning about the specifics of various td research formats

■ Qualitative approaches

- Taking specifics serious and adapt evaluation to this
- Seeking for reasons, not for numbers

■ Future prospects

- comprehensive understanding of how to approach impactful td research
=> community exchange www.td-academy.org
- Systematic overview of the preconditions and implications of understanding science-policy-society-interfaces as a td exercise
- Indicators matching criteria to describe “good td research practice” vs. prioritizing key elements?



Thank you for your attention!

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