

ASSESSING THE SOCIETAL VALUE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES: TOWARDS A HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731049

CURRENT STATUS

- Lack of clearly defined impact assessment guidelines from policy makers/funding agencies
- Stakeholders have different understanding in the way they define and describe impacts
- Different methodologies and approaches are used to scope and measure impacts

No agreed uniform framework on how to approach this increasingly important topic



RI-PATHS PROJECT

H2020 funded project that aims to **develop tools** for RI managers, policy makers and funders to assess RI impact on the economy and contribution to society. The goal is to improve understanding of long-term **impact pathways**.




SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IS A COMPLEX ISSUE

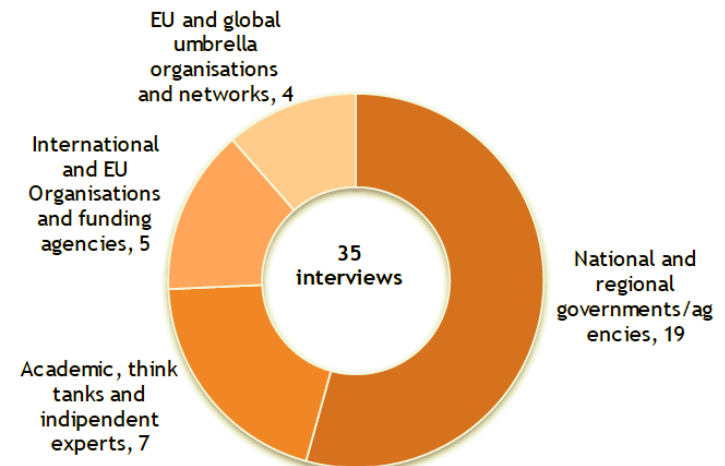
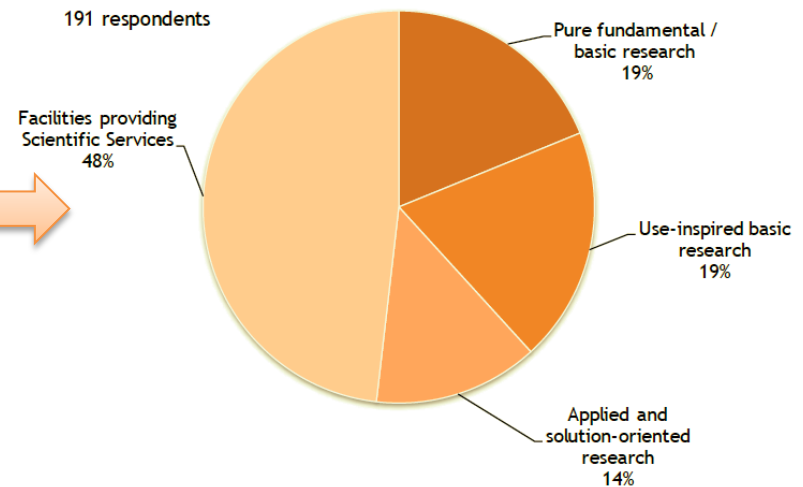
- Need to avoid fixation on indicators and counting ‘numbers’: **impact as a process/story**
- Impacts **occur through interactions** and depend on right ‘enabling conditions’
- Impacts may only materialise over a medium to **long time-span**
- **Intangible (non-monetary) nature** of many impacts - but of high societal or policy value
- RIs are **diverse** (type, mission) and embedded in specific scientific, institutional and socio-economic systems



Activities/results to date

- Paper on typology of RIs - tested in survey - 60% found it useful ! 
- Literature review of approaches to RI-IA
 - Economic (multipliers and I-O analysis, PFA and CBA)
 - Multi-methods, multiple (partial) indicators
 - Theory-based models
 - Case studies (impact cases)

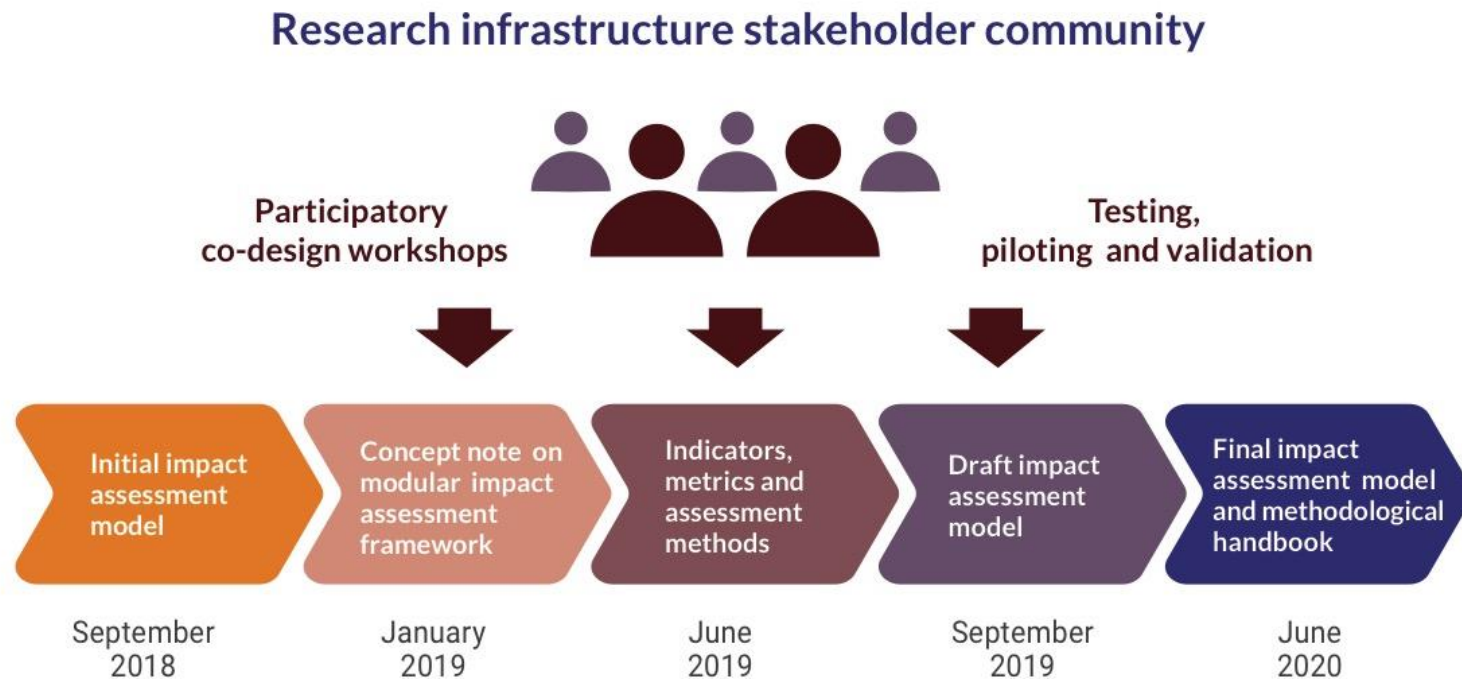
Survey of RI stakeholders



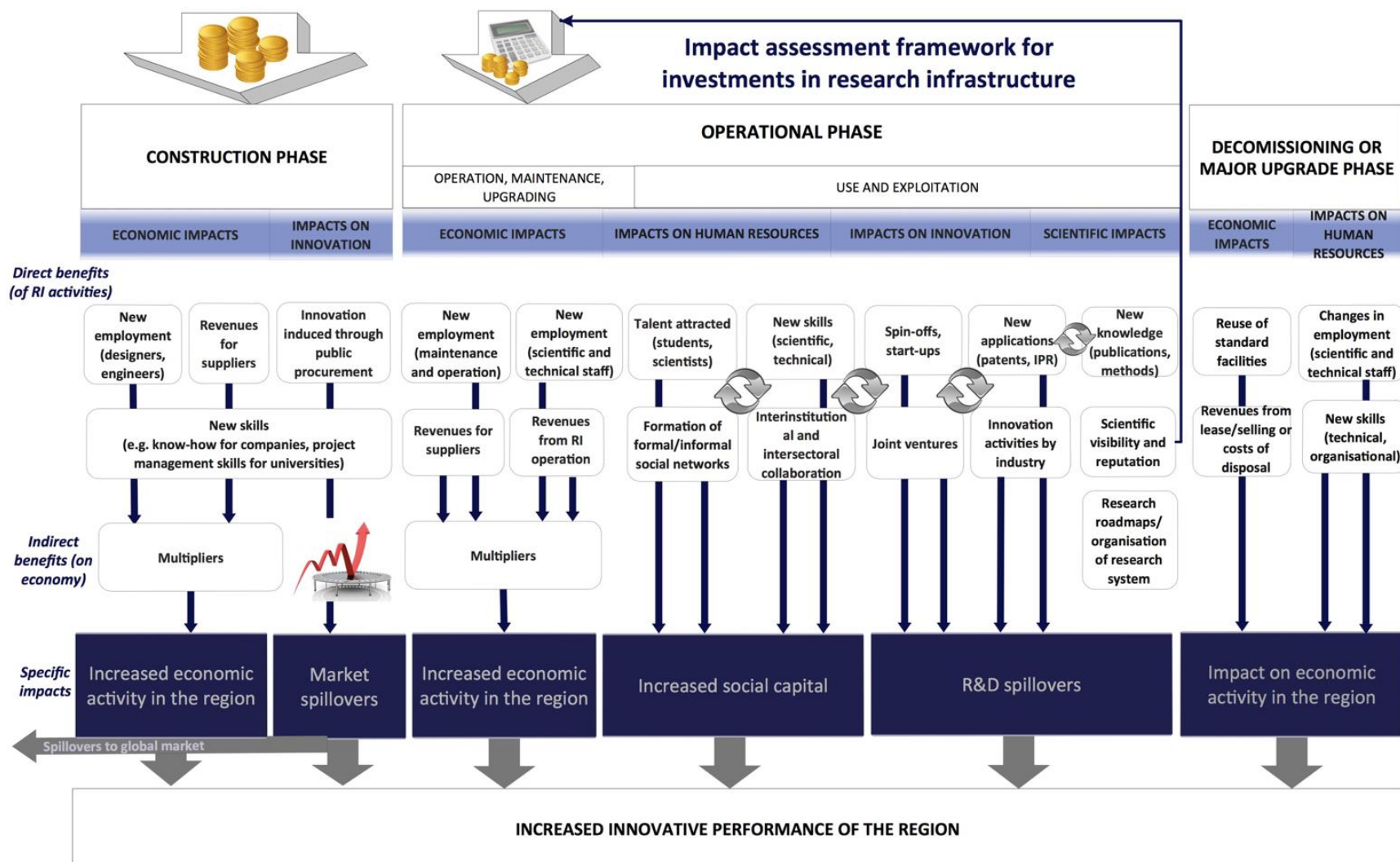
KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM INTERVIEWS

- The interpretation of the impact assessment of RIs should be in line with their **core mission**
- Impact assessment framework cannot be too prescriptive and should be **viewed as common guidelines**
- The framework should allow **flexibility in its adoption**
- A balanced mix between **quantitative and qualitative methods** should be promoted
- RI **resource and staffing issues** must be tackled for impact assessment implementation
- **Data gathering routines** should be established or aligned (e.g. for international RIs info to participating countries).

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS



EXAMPLE OF AN IA MODEL



RI-PATHS WORKSHOPS

- **13 November** at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland
- **28 November** at ALBA in Barcelona, Spain
- **4 December** at ELIXIR in Cambridge, UK

Registration via website: www.ri-paths.eu



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