

Innovation in Action: Clusters and Spin-offs The Experience of the European Social Survey

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What is the European Social Survey?

- Biennial cross-national survey of the general population since 2001
- Interviews 1500-2000 respondents face-to-face
- Data is deposited and archived within 12 months
- Access is non-privileged and free for non-commercial use
- Employs high standards of rigour in sampling, translation, questionnaire design and dissemination

1. Clusters

2. Spin-offs (Impact)



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SERISS: A Social Science Cluster for Consolidation and Innovation

A programme of knowledge exchange,
transfer and fusion between 2015 and 2019



This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020* research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 654221.



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A collaboration between:

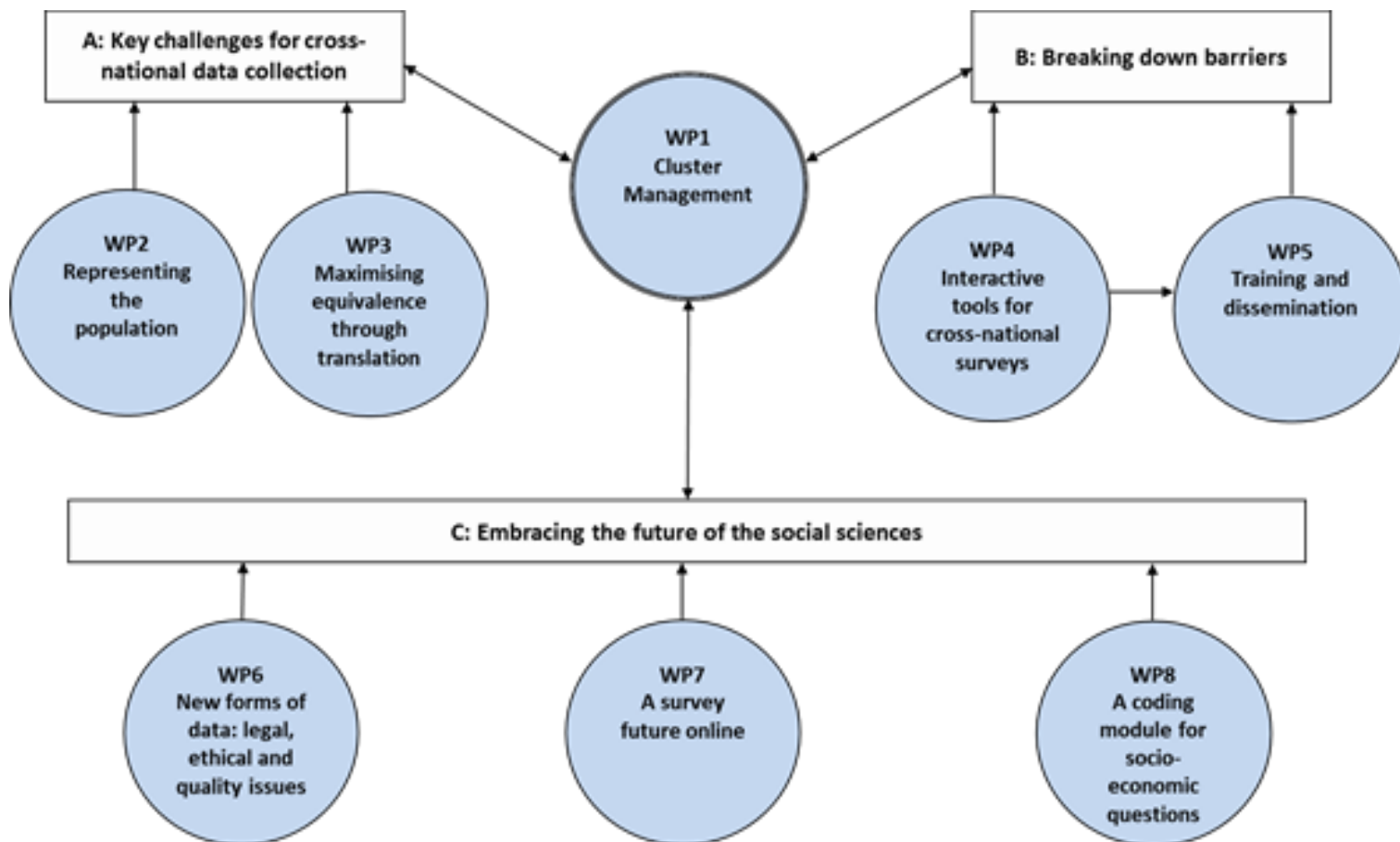
- European Social Survey (ESS ERIC)
- Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE ERIC)
- Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA AS)
- Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)
- European Values Study
- WageIndicator Survey



cessda



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Clusters and Spin-offs: Challenges

- Alignment and Synchronisation
- Superimpose innovation and experimentation on multiple operational cycles
- Not all knowledge transfers!
- Projects are unique: a cluster can become a crush
- Not so much 'spin-offs' as 'captured satellites'
- Limited central research, teaching and policy material – very bottom up
- Difficult to monetize data for non-commercial use!

Innovation and Impact: Challenges

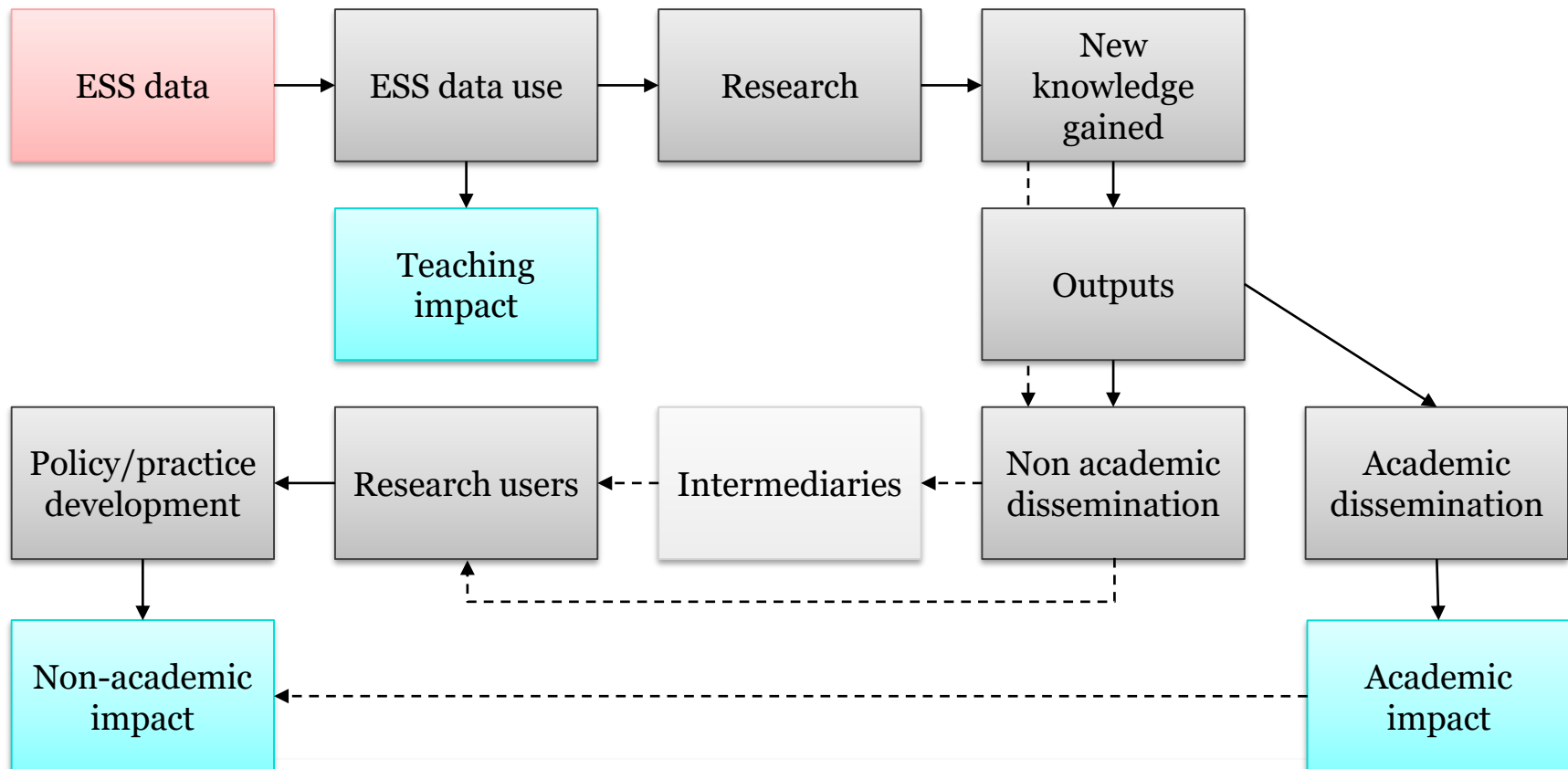
- Innovation is expensive. It is also slow.
 - Proof of concept
 - Feasibility studies
 - Piloting
 - Roll out, adoption
-
- Blueprint for European Social Survey from mid 90s

Innovation and Impact: Challenges

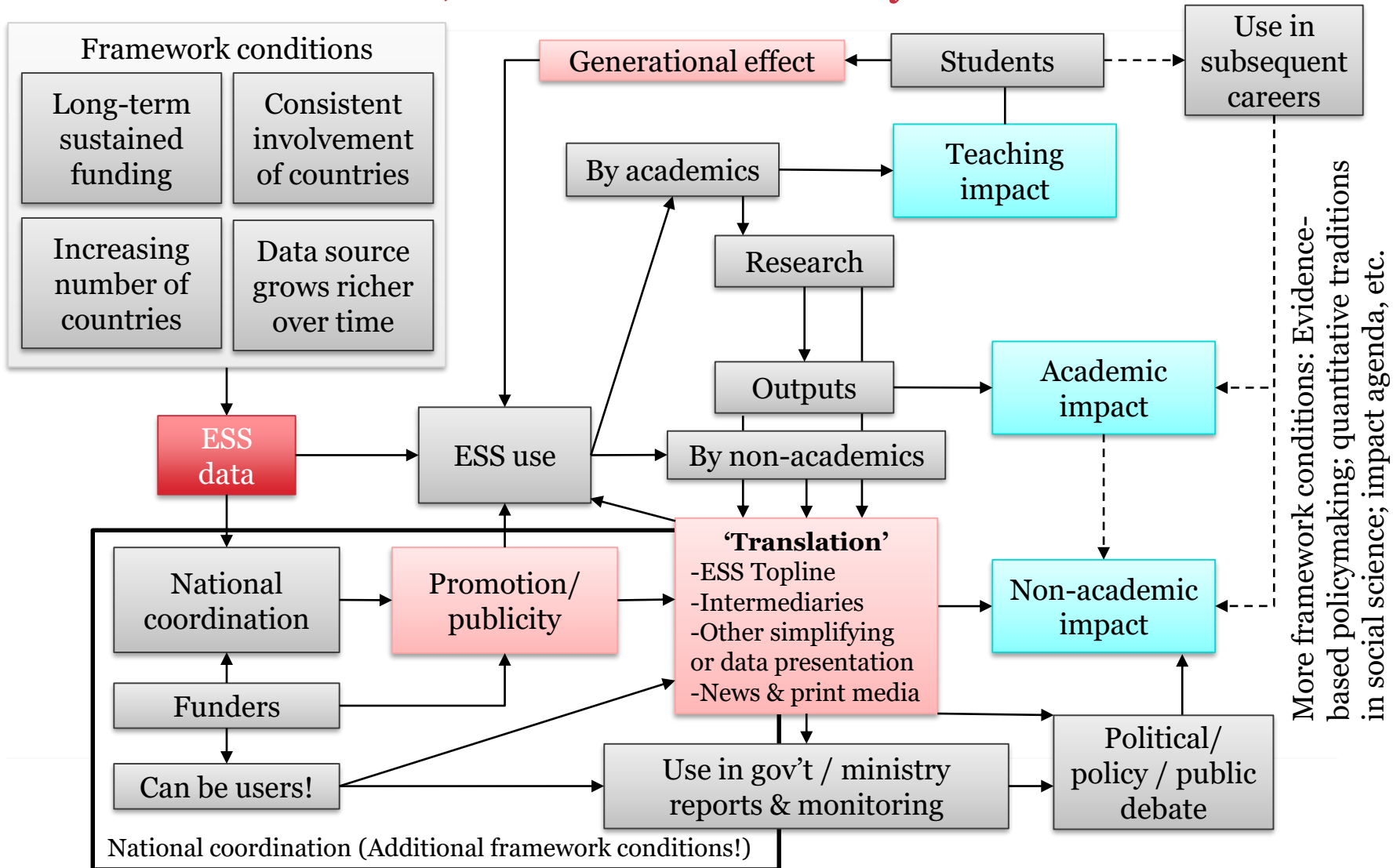
- Impact is expensive. It is also slow.
- Policy challenge – identify topic
- Open competition for survey time
- Design, data collection and delivery
- Dissemination in right form to right people
- Possible policy interventions
- Possible benefits evaluated
- Why were we interested in this again?

How to think about ESS impact...

The linear model:



Linear stories exist, but there is also a systemic level!





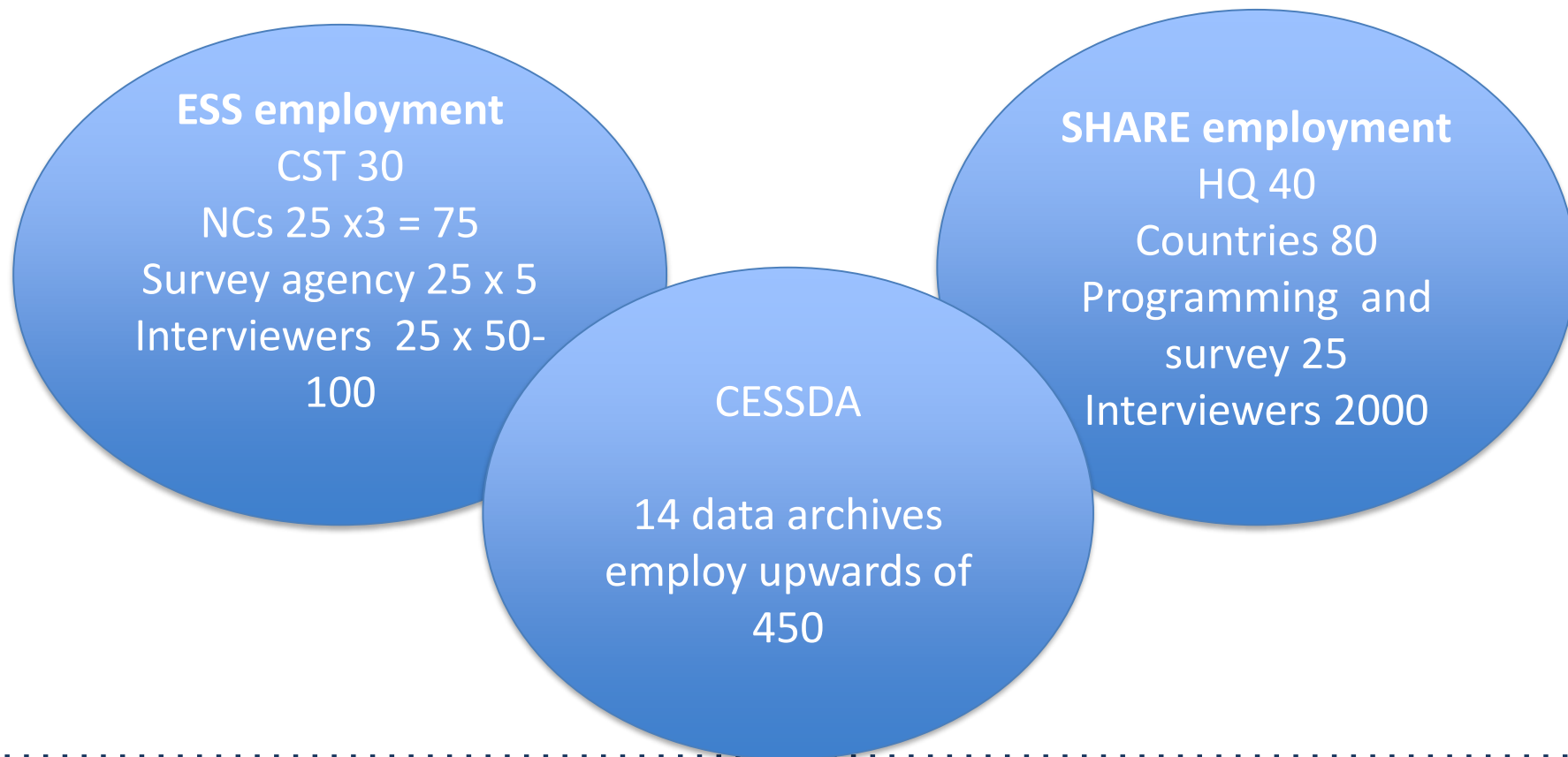
The Impact of Outputs

- Landmark research infrastructures with track records of policy engagement:
- ESS data helped develop EU indicators of public confidence in justice
- SHARE used by multiple DGs for policy development and expenditure prediction
- CESSDA influences national data strategies and sets the benchmarks for cross-national data use





And The Impact of Inputs...





In other words...

- In the region of 5000 persons – per round
- And because of labour turnover much higher number of individuals
- Then add in academics and students on courses using ESS/SHARE or any CESSDA-archived data
- 103,000 registered users of ESS alone





A Final Thought

- In social sciences, people are the data...
- Add ESS interviewees (350k)
- + SHARE panel (123k)
- Close to half a million Europeans touched by social science ERICs



**Thanks for the invitation.
Awaiting your questions.**

More at
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