

2023 Oct. 26 (Thu) - STI Policy with Impact



Dr. Jakob Edler

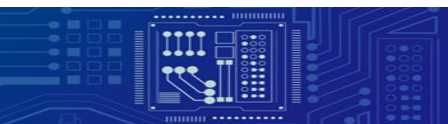
**14:10 - 14:40** (Online)  
(AM 8:10-8:40 German Time)

任務導向創新政策：期許、挑戰與成功要素

Mission-oriented innovation policies:

Promise, challenge and requirements

德國Fraunhofer創新系統與政策研究所主任  
Executive Director , Fraunhofer ISI





Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and  
Innovation Research ISI

Prof. Dr. Jakob Edler  
Executive Director

International Conference on Industrial Technology Innovation (ICITI, 2023)

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# Mission-oriented innovation policies: Promise, challenge and requirements

# Fraunhofer ISI

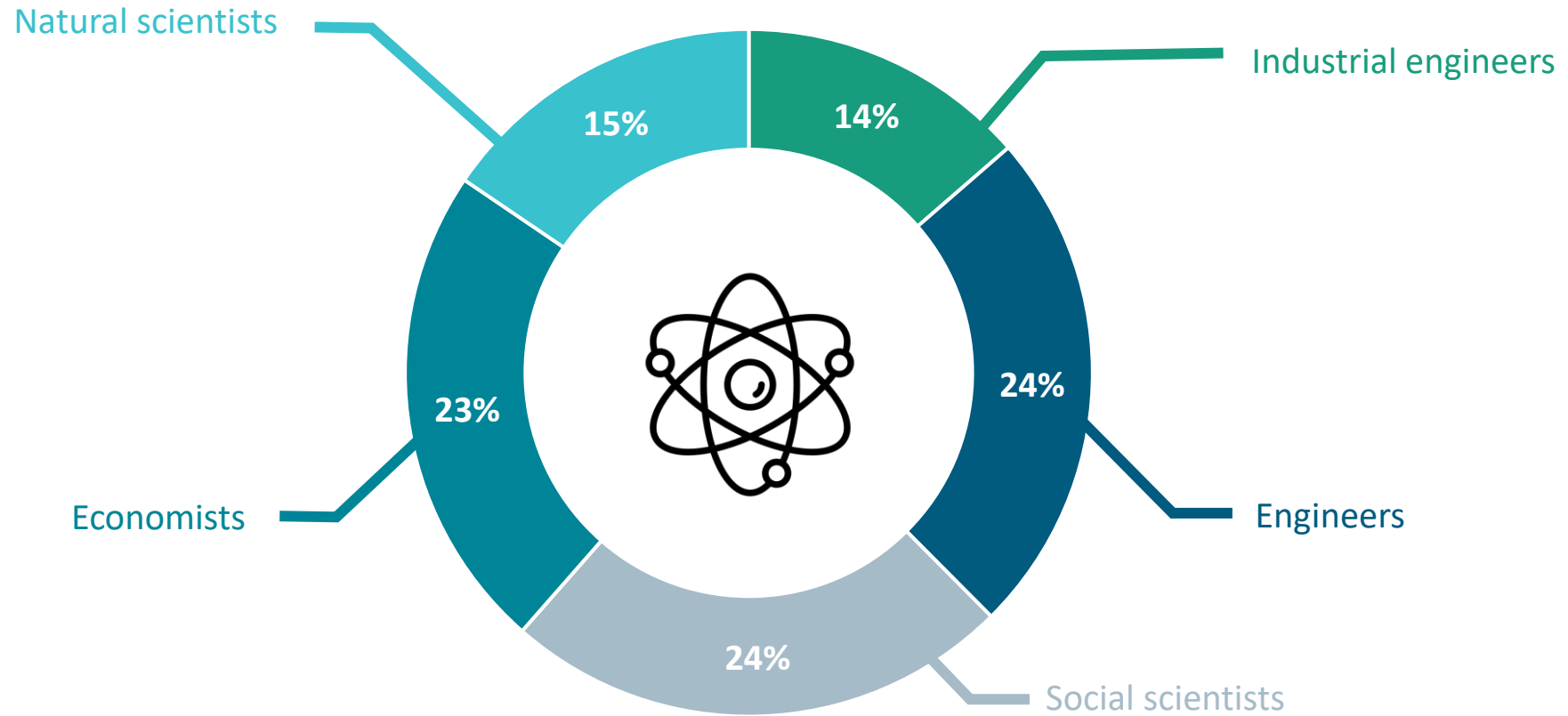
## Where I come from

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- Part of the **Fraunhofer Society** – Contract Research (72 institutes)
- **Supports** decision-makers in politics, industry and society with
- Works on around **400 research projects** per year
- **Has influenced** the German innovation (policy) landscape for over 50 years
- Supports the next generation through a tailored **Doctoral Programme**
- **Budget 2023**: 38,5 Mio. €
- **Staff**: 307 (as of July 2023)



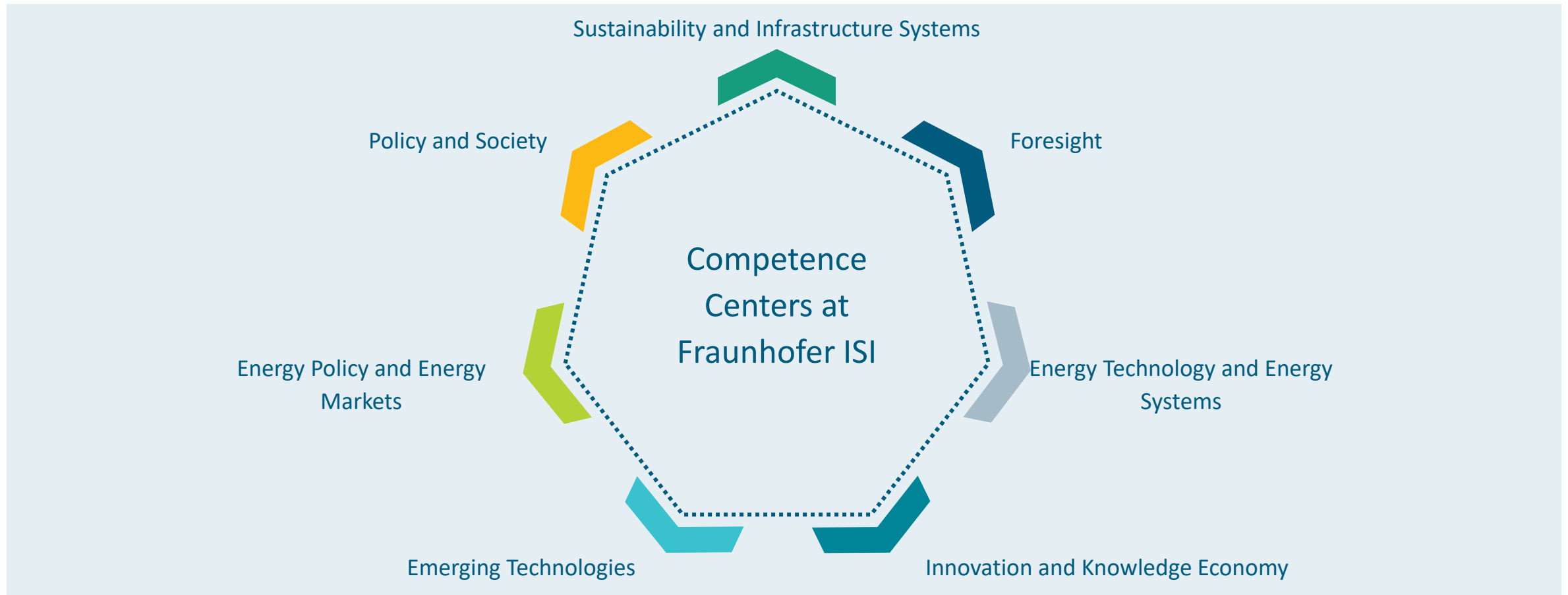
# Interdisciplinarity



10/2022



# Broad Research Areas



# Eu-SPRI Forum

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- European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation
- 19 member organisations across Europe
- Activities
  - Next generation: early career conferences and mobility
  - Structuring the field: annual conference
  - Exploratory workshops and publications



<https://euspri-forum.eu/>



# Mission-oriented innovation policies: Promise, challenge and requirements



1. Rationales and forms of *Innovation* Policy
2. Supporting Innovations for Transformation: Missions and mission policy
  1. Missions and mission policy
  2. System transformation and the role of the state
3. New Challenges for the state

# 1. Rationals and forms of *Innovation* Policy



# Innovation

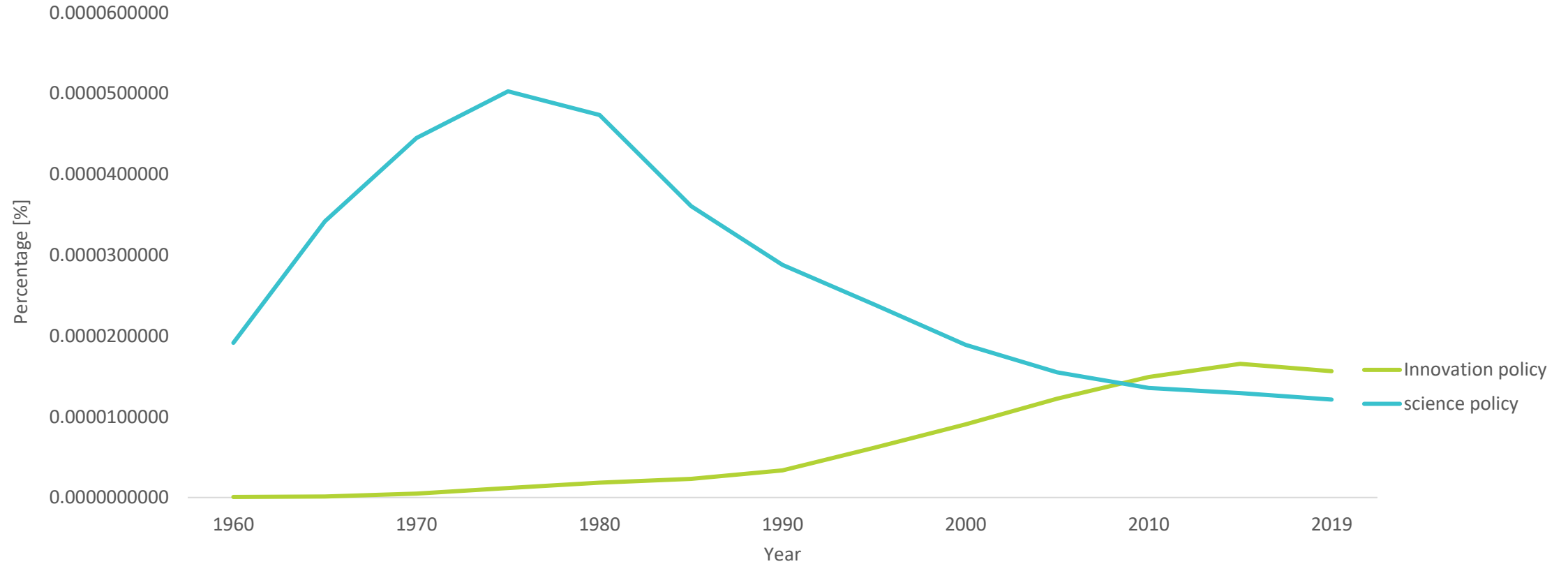
- a novelty put to use
- introduction of new opportunities or solutions to problems (or challenges) that arise in the social and/or economic system (Edler/ Fagerberg 2018)

## Variety of forms of innovation

- Products, processes, business models...
- Technological, social, architectural, systemic



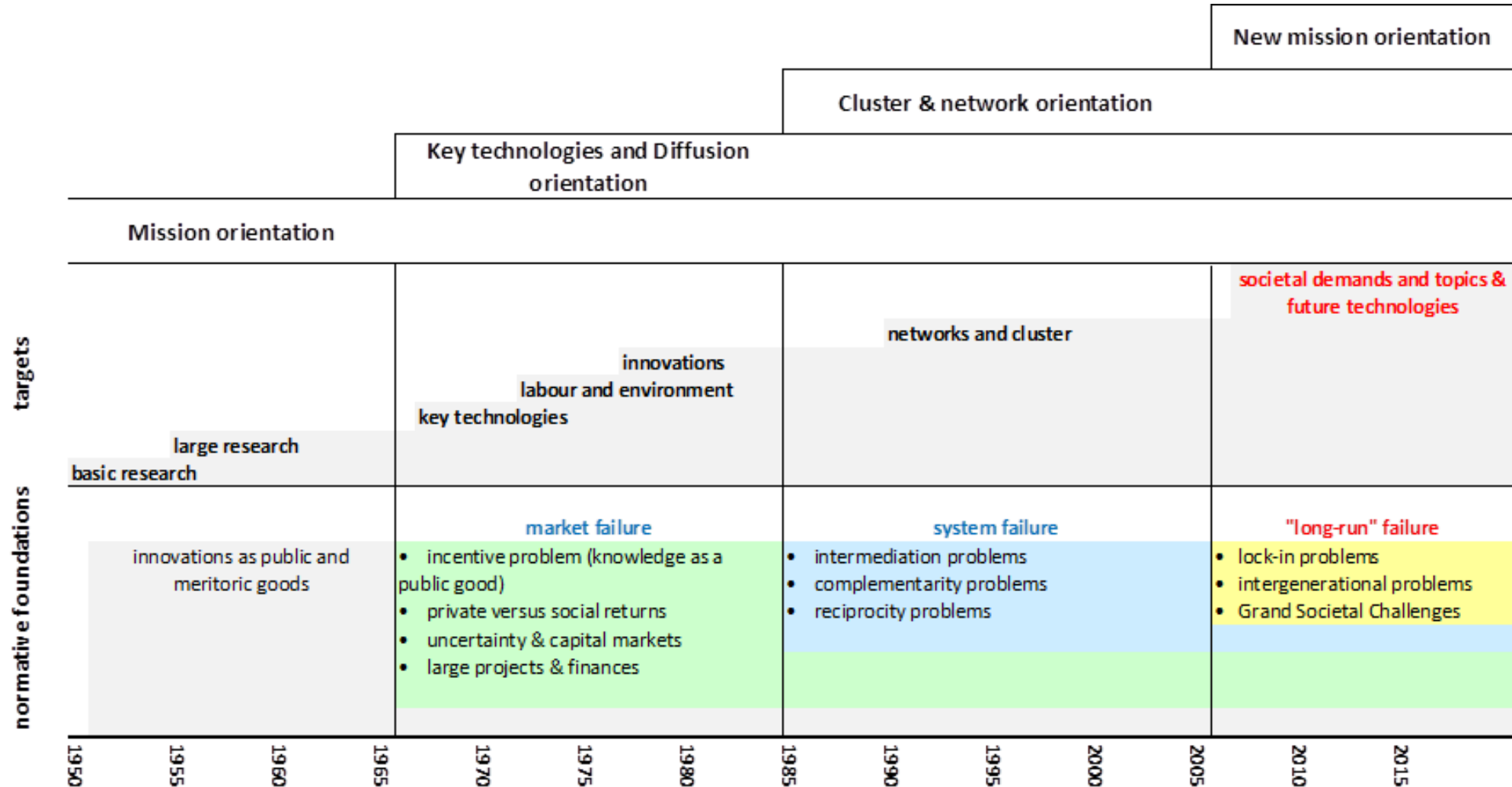
# The slow rise of innovation policy



Google Books Ngram Viewer, 2023

# Innovation policy Development

## Rationales and Targets



Cantner et al (2018), Cantner (2012), based on Fier/Harhoff (2002), modified

# Innovation Policy Instrumentation

Chapter Title and Instruments	Overall orientation		Goals						
	Supply	Demand	Increase R&D	Skills	Access to expertise	Improve systemic capability complementarity	Enhance demand for innovation	Improve framework	Improve discourse
1 Fiscal Incentives for R&D	●●●		●●●	●○○					
2 Direct Support to Firm R&D & Innovation	●●●		●●●						
3 Policies for Training and Skills	●●●			●●●					
4 Entrepreneurship Policy	●●●				●●●				
5 Technical Services and Advice	●●●				●●●				
6 Cluster Policy	●●●					●●●			
7 Policies to Support Collaboration	●●●		●○○		●○○	●●●			
8 Innovation Network Policies	●●●					●●●			
9 Private Demand for Innovation		●●●					●●●		
10 Public Procurement Policies		●●●	●●○				●●●		
11 Pre-Commercial Procurement	●○○	●●●	●●○				●●●		
12 Innovation Inducement Prizes	●●○	●●○	●●○				●●○		
13 Standards	●●○	●●○					●○○	●●●	
14 Regulation	●●○	●●○					●○○	●●●	
15 Technology Foresight	●●○	●●○							●●●

Taxonomy of innovation policy instruments  
 ●●● = major relevance, ●●○ = moderate relevance, and  
 ●○○ = minor relevance to the overall orientation and stated innovation policy goals of the listed innovation policy instruments

Source: Adapted from Edler, Gök, et al., 2016, p. 11

## 2. Supporting Innovations for Transformation: Missions and mission policy



# The turn to innovation for transformation:

## Mission orientation

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- Missions are ways to frame the challenges into **concrete problems** ...missions not just galvanise but also **transform** production, distribution and consumption patterns across various sectors in new directions (European Commission (2017), ESIR Memorandum).
- Missions....can provide the means to **focus** our research, innovation and investments on **solving critical problems**, while also spurring growth, jobs and resulting in positive **spill-overs across many sectors** (Mazzucato, 2018)
- “But we do offer a set of principles: **missions** should **privilege impact**, they should define a **clear goal** which **captures public imagination**, and they should **mobilise many different actors**” (Pascal Lamy, 2017)
- “It should be possible, within the appropriate timeframe, to ascertain to what extent the mission has been **accomplished**” (EU HL Group, Lamy Report, 2017)

# The Transformation and Mission turn in Innovation Policy

Research Policy 41 (2012) 1087–1097

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Research Policy

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/respol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/respol)

## Legitimizing research, technology and innovation policies for transformative change

### Combining insights from innovation systems and multi-level perspective in a comprehensive 'failures' framework

K. Matthias Weber<sup>a,\*</sup>, Harald Rohrer<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>UT Austrian Institute of Technology, Department of Energy & Policy Development, Denso City Straße 1, 2201 Vienna, Austria

<sup>b</sup>ITZ, University of Klagenfurt, Schloßgasse 2, 9000 Klagenfurt, Austria

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ABSTRACT

The recent policy debates about orientating research, technology and innovation policy towards societal challenges, rather than economic growth objectives only, call for new lines of argumentation to systematically legitimize policy interventions. While the multi-level perspective on long-term transitions has attracted quite some interest over the past years as a framework for dealing with long-term processes of transformative change, but the innovation systems approach is still the dominant perspective for devising innovation policy. Innovation systems approaches stress the importance of engineering innovation capabilities of firms and the institutional settings to support them, but they are less suited for dealing with the strategic challenges of transforming systems of innovation, production and consumption, and thus with long-term challenges such as climate change or resource depletion. It is therefore suggested to consider insights from transition studies more prominently in a policy framework that is based on the innovation systems approach and the associated notion of 'failures'. We propose a comprehensive framework that allows legitimizing and devising policies for transformative change that draws on a combination of market failures, structural system failures and transformational system failures.

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## Mission-oriented innovation policies: challenges and opportunities

Mariana Mazzucato\*

UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK. e-mail: [m.mazzucato@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.mazzucato@ucl.ac.uk)

\*Main author for correspondence.

### Abstract

This article focuses on the broader lessons from mission-oriented programs for innovation policy—and indeed policies aimed at investment-led growth. While much has been written about case studies on missions, this has not resulted in an alternative policy making toolkit. Missions—in the least—require those tools to be just as much about market co-creating and market shaping, as they are about market fixing. The article reviews the characteristics of mission-oriented programs, looks at key features of those programs that can provide lessons, and discusses how to choose and implement mission-oriented policies, with an example.

JEL classification: B52, O25, O33, O38

### 1. Introduction

Innovation has not only a rate but also a direction: the 21st century is becoming increasingly defined by the need to respond to major social, environmental, and economic challenges. Sometimes referred to as "grand challenges," these include environmental threats like climate change, demographic, health and well-being concerns, and the difficulties of generating sustainable and inclusive growth. These problems are "wicked" in the sense that they are complex, systemic, interconnected, and urgent, requiring insights from many perspectives. Poverty cannot be solved without attention to the interconnections between nutrition, health, infrastructure, and education, as well as redistributive tax policy. Grand challenge thinking is being applied both in developed and developing countries, with some of the most

more is needed than individual product or process innovations at firm level, but comprehensive system innovations, i.e. novel configurations of actors, institutions and practices that bring about a new mode of operation of entire sectors or systems of production and consumption.

Current innovation policies nevertheless still put their main emphasis on economic growth and the ability of national economies to think further momentum, and more importantly, the European debate about Grand Challenges has reinvigorated it (EU, 2008). It is widely recognized that innovation is a key driver for transformative change (Almonacid et al., 2011). Modifying a distinction introduced by Smith et al. (2010)<sup>1</sup>, we argue that "structural innovation policies" which focus on optimizing the structure of innovation and consumption are needed if either major threats to our

European Commission

## Mission-Oriented Research and Innovation

Inventory and characterisation of initiatives

FINAL REPORT

A study prepared for the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, by:  
The Joint Institute for Innovation Policy (JIIP), Joanneum Research, Tecnalia, TNO, VTI, and the Danish Technological Institute (DTI)  
April 2018

OECD publishing

## THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MISSION-ORIENTED INNOVATION POLICIES

A NEW SYSTEMIC POLICY APPROACH TO ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

OECD SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY POLICY PAPERS  
February 2021, No. 100

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### Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Observatory

The Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Observatory (MIPO) is an initiative by the Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development, Utrecht University. The observatory's objective is to enhance the understanding, monitoring and effective use of challenge-based innovation missions aimed at solving complex societal problems (related to e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals). To do so, the MIPO unites policy practitioners and scholars from innovation, transition and governance studies.

- > Scope and activities
- > Research agenda
- > Events
- > Expertise
- > Publications
- > Contact

## DEVELOPING AND ENACTING TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY

### A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Joanna Chataway, Chux Daniels, Laur Kanger, Matias Ramirez, Johan Schot, Ed Steinmueller

Science Policy Research Unit,  
School of Business, Management and Economics,  
University of Sussex

Paper prepared for 8th International Sustainability Transitions Conference,  
18–21 June 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden

CIRCLE LUND UNIVERSITY

An innovation system framework for system innovation policy:  
the case of Strategic Innovation Programs (SIPs) in Sweden

Lars Coenen (lars.coenen@circulo.se)  
CIRCLE, Lund University, Sweden & University of Melbourne, Australia  
Matias Ramirez (matias.ramirez@circulo.se)  
CIRCLE & Department of Human Geography, Lund University, Sweden  
Ed Steinmueller (ed.steinmueller@circulo.se)  
CIRCLE & Department of Human Geography, Lund University, Sweden  
Johan Schot (johan.schot@circulo.se)  
JiAaJing Business School & CIRCLE, Lund University, Sweden

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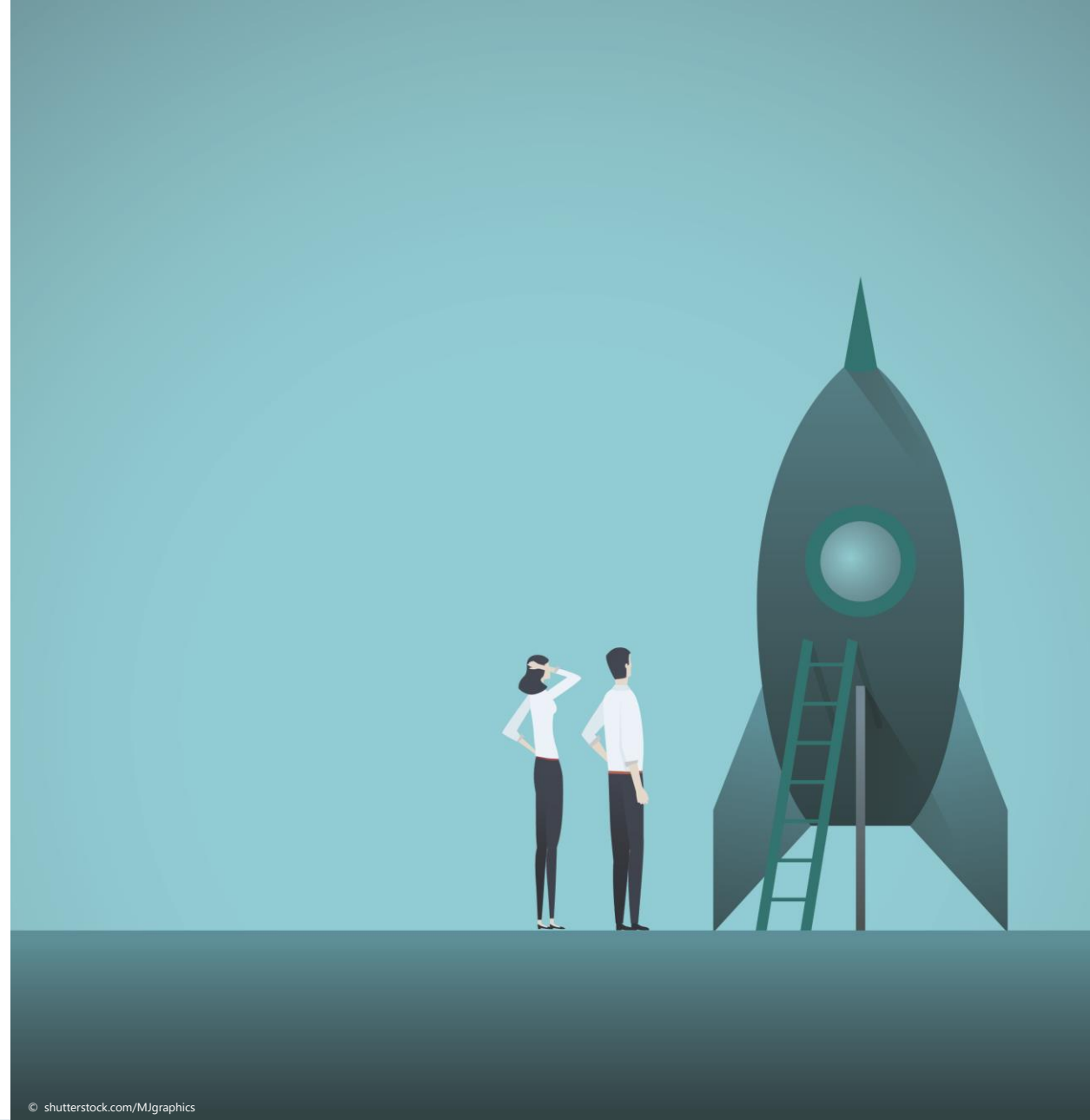
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Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE)  
Lund University  
P.O. Box 117, Sölvegatan 16, S-221 00 Lund, SWEDEN  
<http://www.circle.lu.se/publications>

## 2. Supporting Innovations for Transformation: System transformation and the role of the state

# Missions as system transformation

- Improvement of socio-economic conditions
  - Socio-technical systems: the actors, practices, technologies, institutions interacting to provide a specific societal function
  - Interplay: technological and non-technological innovations and societal behaviour
  - Mission oriented innovation policy = attempt for a conscious change of socio-technical system (u.a. Geels, Schot-Steinmuller, Borrás/ Edler, Dreher et al)
- Directionality – mobilisation – concertation of actors
- Knowledge and innovation only one aspect

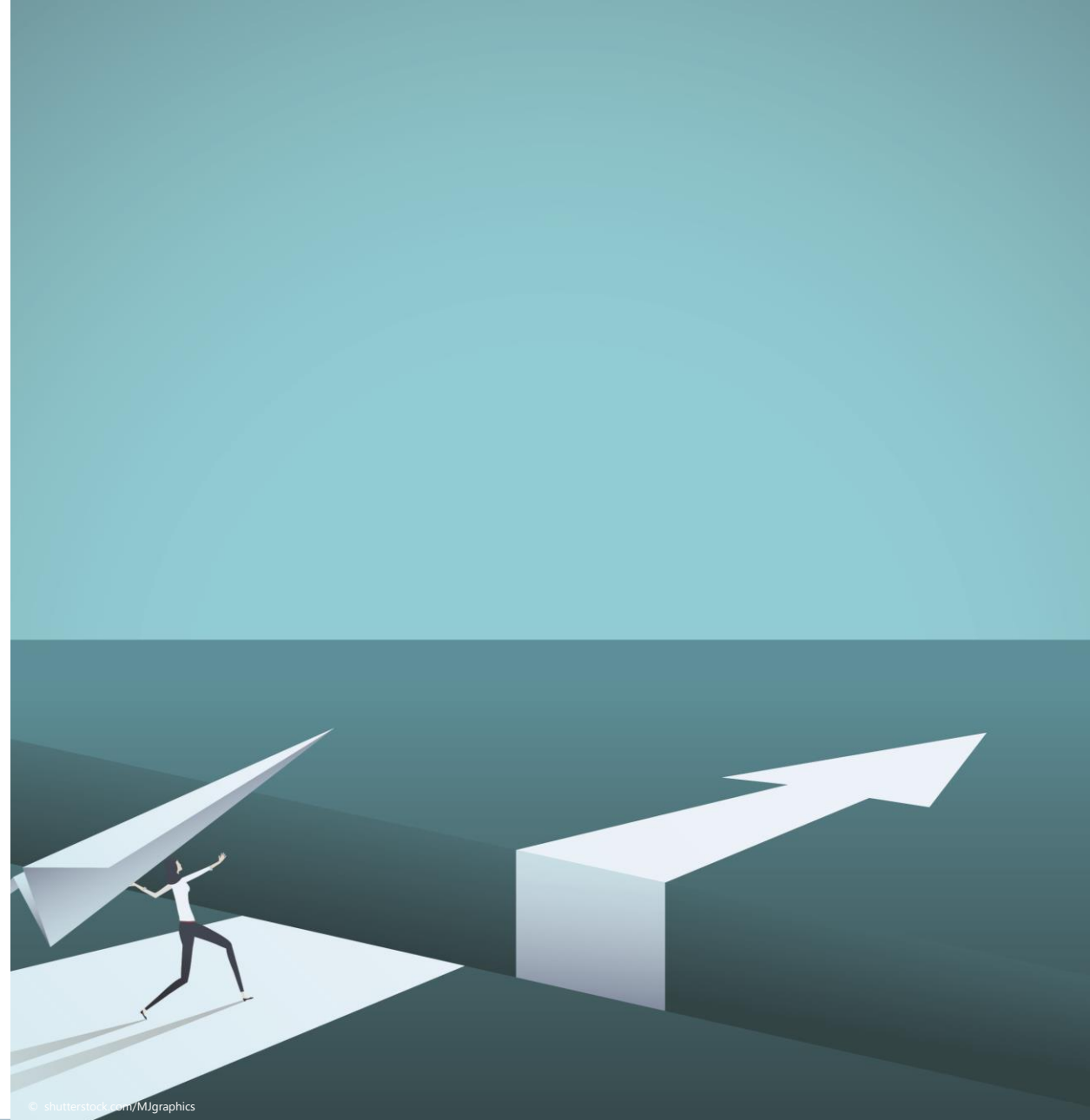


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# Achieving missions means transforming (sub-)systems


- System properties and characteristics of transformations determine...
  - likelihood of change,
  - likelihood of state intervention to lead to change and
  - the relative role of the state and STI policy
- Which properties matter?

Differentiation needed (SYSTRA, Fraunhofer ISI Project)





# Systems differ



▶ Level of uncertainty, system switching costs

▶ Nature of technological change, maturity

▶ R&D competencies, interaction

▶ Role of non technological innovation

▶ Need for new infrastructure

▶ Role of regulation

▶ Interdependencies with other systems, between sectors

▶ Routines, practices of consumers and firms

# New Governance Challenges

- Higher level of politicisation:
  - “Sense of urgency”: Consensus? Prioritisation?
  - Legitimacy challenge
  - Normative and material contestations
- Increasing complexity of actors - Alternative governance models?
  - Domain and STI policy: Inter-policy coordination
  - Strong institutional and cultural differences
- Beyond “STI”: So many other dimensions....

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# Governance rationales in mission policy

	Traditional innovation and “industrial” policy	Domain policy (energy, health etc.)	Mission policy
Rationality			
Output Legitimacy			
Input Legitimacy			
Strategic Intelligence			

# Governance rationales in mission policy

	Traditional innovation and “industrial” policy	Domain policy (energy, health etc.)	Mission policy
Rationality	Improving innovation system, market and system failures; technology, sector or actor focus		
Output Legitimacy	Innovation performance, economic performance		
Input Legitimacy	coordination with scientific organisations, economic groups, credibility in innovation system		
Strategic Intelligence	established methods for the evaluation of STI interventions gaps as for market and societal effects		

# Governance rationales in mission policy

	Traditional innovation and “industrial” policy	Domain policy (energy, health etc.)	Mission policy
Rationality	Improving innovation system, market and system failures;  technology, sector or actor focus	achieve domain aims supply/demand instruments STI support optional, erratic	
Output Legitimacy	Innovation performance, economic performance	achieve domain goals innovation performance only means	
Input Legitimacy	coordination with scientific organisations, economic groups,  credibility in innovation system	broad domain actor networks  credibility: domain knowledge	
Strategic Intelligence	established methods for the evaluation of STI interventions  gaps as for market and societal effects	Established methods to evaluate domain interventions	

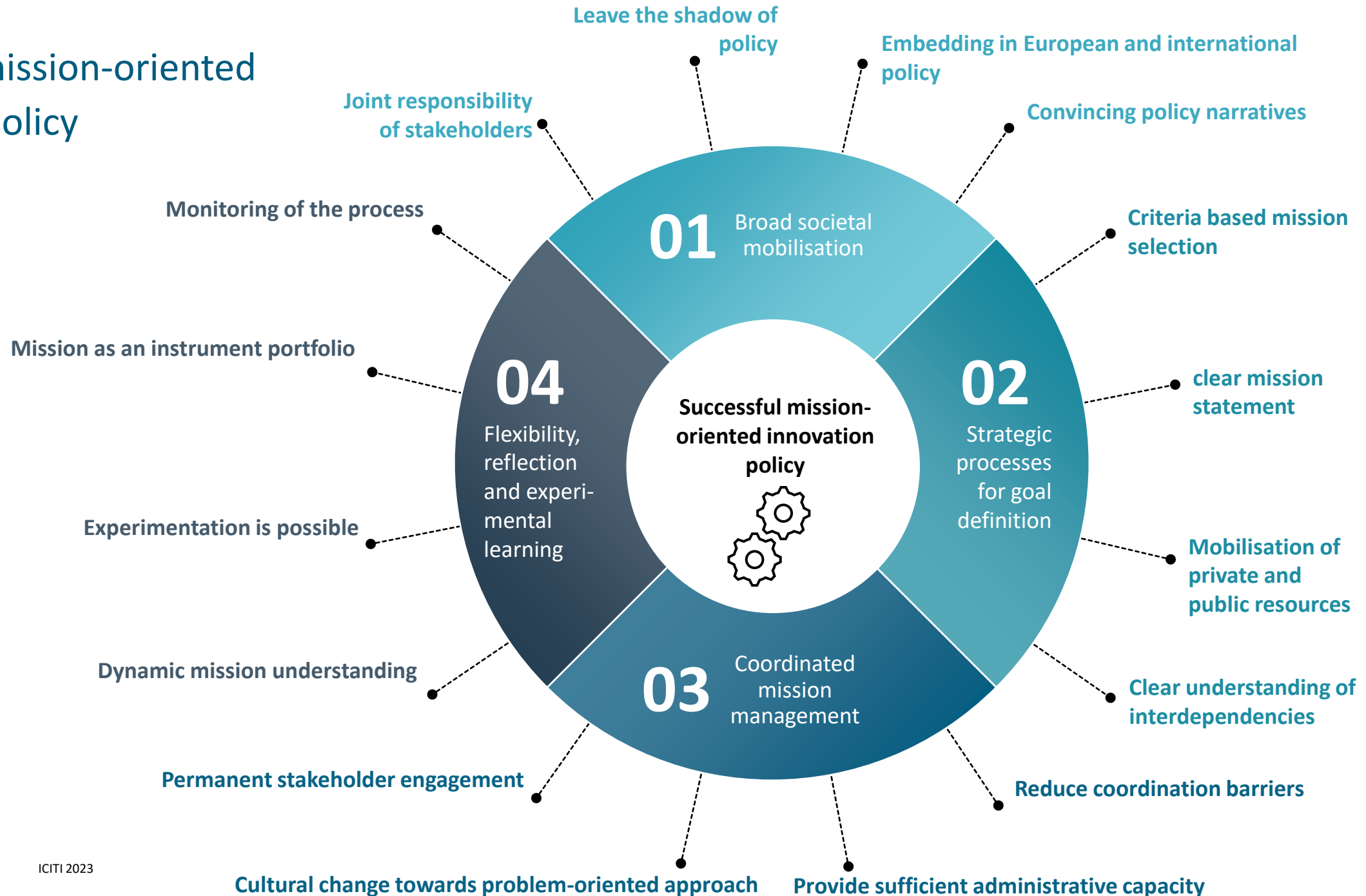


# Governance rationales in mission policy

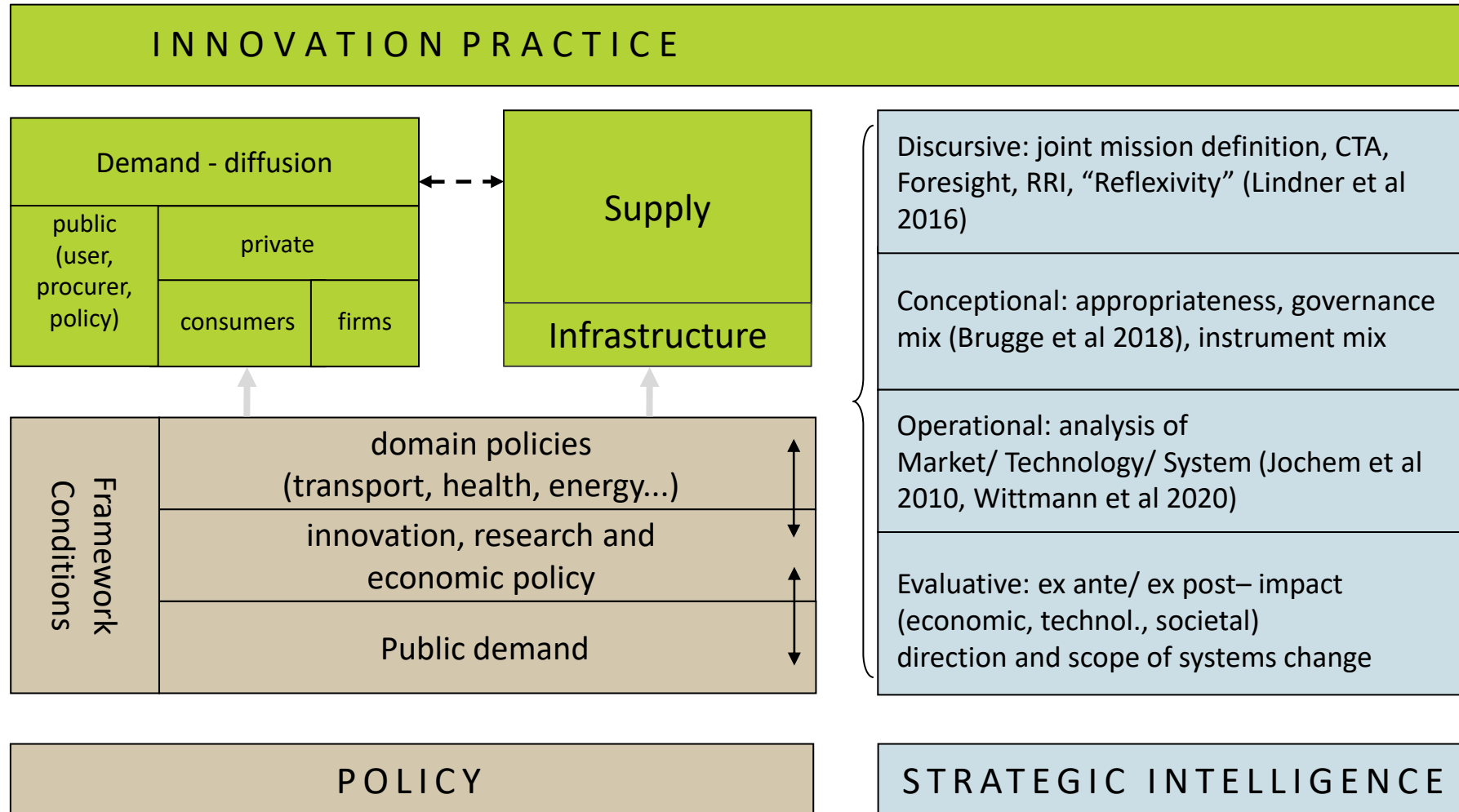
	<b>Traditional innovation and “industrial” policy</b>	<b>Domain policy (energy, health etc.)</b>	<b>Mission policy</b>
<b>Rationality</b>	Improving innovation system, market and system failures;  technology, sector or actor focus	achieve domain aims supply/demand instruments STI support optional, erratic	Directing innovation generation and diffusion to mission goal,  Can be horizontal to domains
<b>Output Legitimacy</b>	Innovation performance, economic performance	achieve domain goals innovation performance only means	Accomplishing the mission Announced technological economic and societal effects
<b>Input Legitimacy</b>	coordination with scientific organisations, economic groups,  credibility in innovation system	broad domain actor networks  credibility: domain knowledge	Mobilising complementary R&D actors and societal groups  Basis for credibility?
<b>Strategic Intelligence</b>	established methods for the evaluation of STI interventions  gaps as for market and societal effects	Established methods to evaluate domain interventions	Market and societal effects Holistic strategic intelligence: discursive, conceptual, evaluative (broad)

### 3. “New” Challenges for the State

# Successful mission-oriented innovation policy



# Holistic strategic intelligence



# Conclusion

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## Guiding principles for mission-oriented policy

Missions are not to be confused with societal challenges, but rather represent a step in specification based on specific problems.

Missions require thinking in the context of problems, not in the context of existing policy instruments and strategies.

Coordinated mix of instruments: research funding, regulation, public procurement, investment, social innovation, etc.

## Last but not least

Good intentions everywhere - but: numerous institutional and cultural obstacles

Persistent overestimation of coordination capacity: silo thinking and departmental egoism

Governance and steering mechanisms need to be seriously and fundamentally reformed.

Understand transformation not only as an innovation policy, but as a cross-sectoral, systemic process.



# Many Thanks!



Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and  
Innovation Research ISI

# Prof. Dr. Jakob Edler

Executive Director  
Fraunhofer-Institute for  
Systems- and Innovation Research ISI  
Breslauer Straße 48, 76139 Karlsruhe  
[www.isi.fraunhofer.de](http://www.isi.fraunhofer.de)  
[jakob.edler@isi.fraunhofer.de](mailto:jakob.edler@isi.fraunhofer.de)

Prof. of Innovation Policy and Strategy  
Manchester Institute of Innovation Research,  
University of Manchester

