

Impact assessments: Are we in for the long ride?

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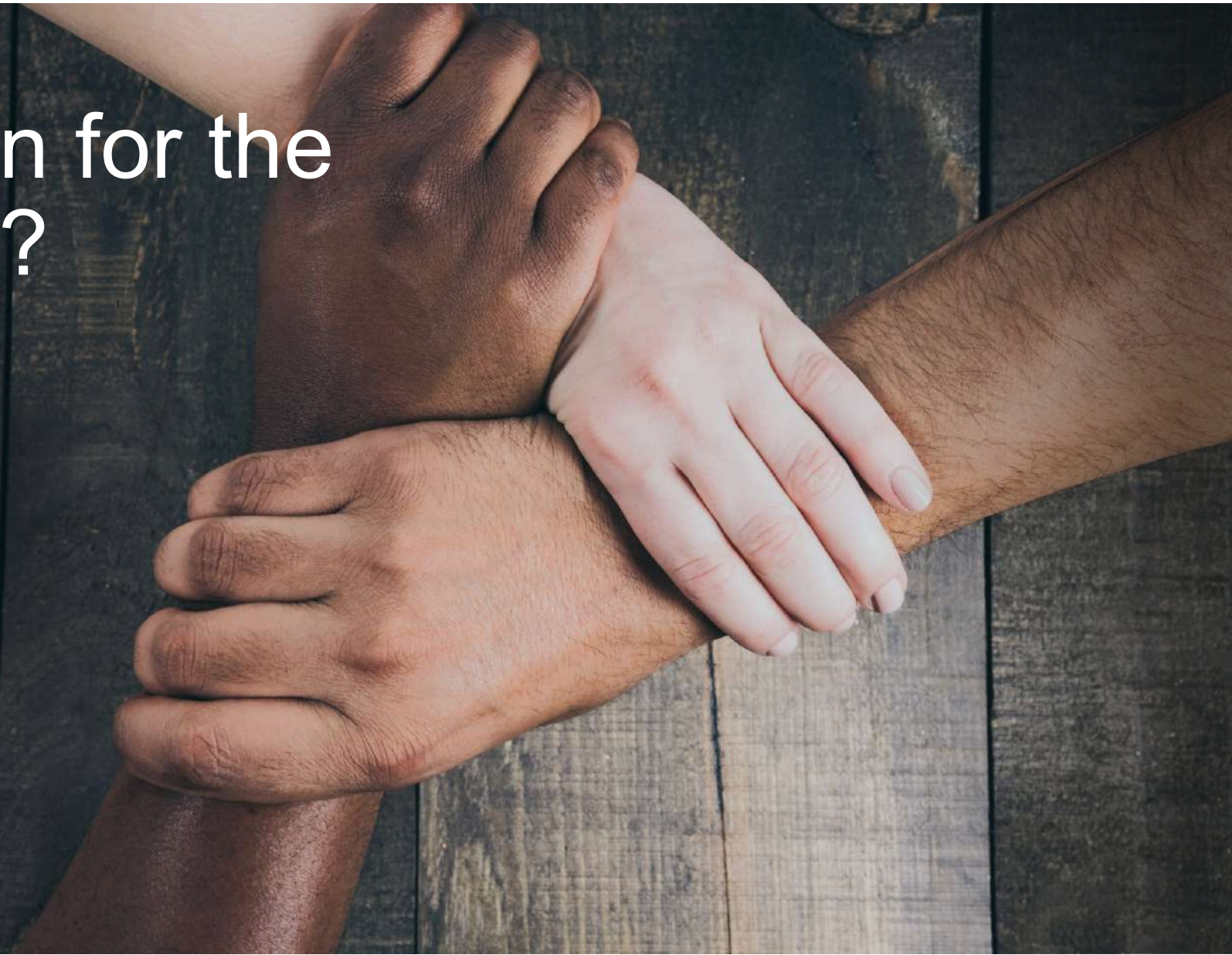
ARE we in for the
long ride?



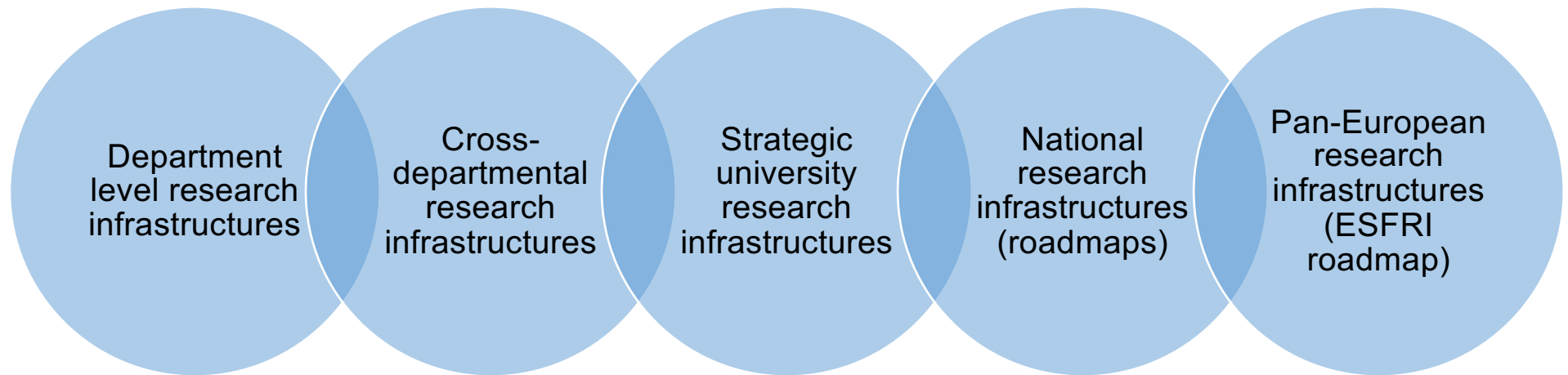
Research Infrastructures and impacts

- In the last decade different interpretations have prevailed on how to understand and define broader impacts, and diverse methodologies have been used to scope and measure these impacts
- Considerations about socio-economic impacts of RIs are gaining an increasing importance in policy decisions
- European Commission formulated the need for developing a **more unified framework** on how to approach this increasingly important topic

are **WE** in for the
long ride?



What is 'we'?



Source: EFIS Centre

And what about the national policy-makers?

A young girl with light brown hair and blue eyes is holding a green paper mask with a heart-shaped cutout in front of her face. She is wearing a blue and white striped dress with a large blue bow at the waist. She is standing in front of a brick wall. The text "are we IN for the long ride?" is overlaid on the image, with the word "IN" in green.

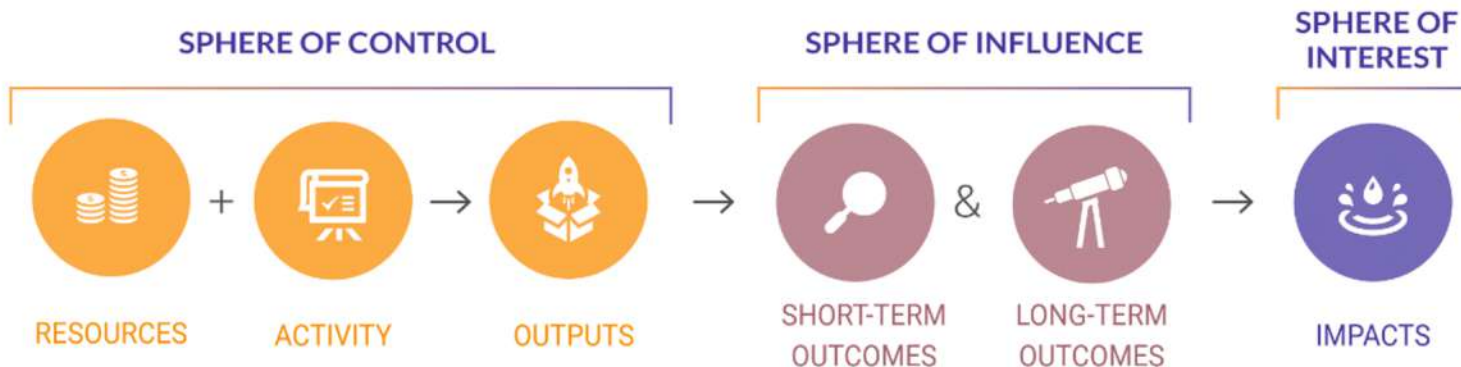
are we **IN** for the long ride?

are we in for the
LONG ride?



Three aspects to keep in mind

- **Impact** - Intended and unintended long-term effects of activities using the resources of a Research Infrastructure or work performed by Research Infrastructure staff
- **Justification** - a growing pool (who are 'we'?) + financial pressures, prioritisations = a need for evidence
- **Society** - wants to know why?





are we in for the
long RIDE?

GUIDEBOOK FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES



- Online Toolkit: <https://ri-paths-tool.eu>
- Accompanying Guidebook
- Pilot reports with use cases
- Peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and conference proceedings
- Give policy makers, funders and RI managers the **tools to assess RI impact** on the economy and contribution to society.

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Impact pathways

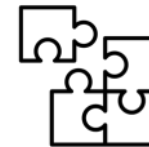
Enabling science

- P1 Publication-citation-recognition
- P2 Employment, operations & standardised procurement
- P3 Technology transfer and licensing
- P4 Learning and training through joint development of instruments and tools
- P5 Learning and training by using RI facilities and services
- P6 Training and higher education cooperation



Problem-solving

- P7 Interactive problem-solving for the private sector (industry)
- P8 Addressing societal and public-sector challenges
- P9 Provision of specifically curated/edited data



Science and society

- P10 Changing fundamentals of research practice
- P11 Creating and shaping scientific networks and communities
- P12 Promoting engagement between science, society and policy
- P13 Communication and outreach

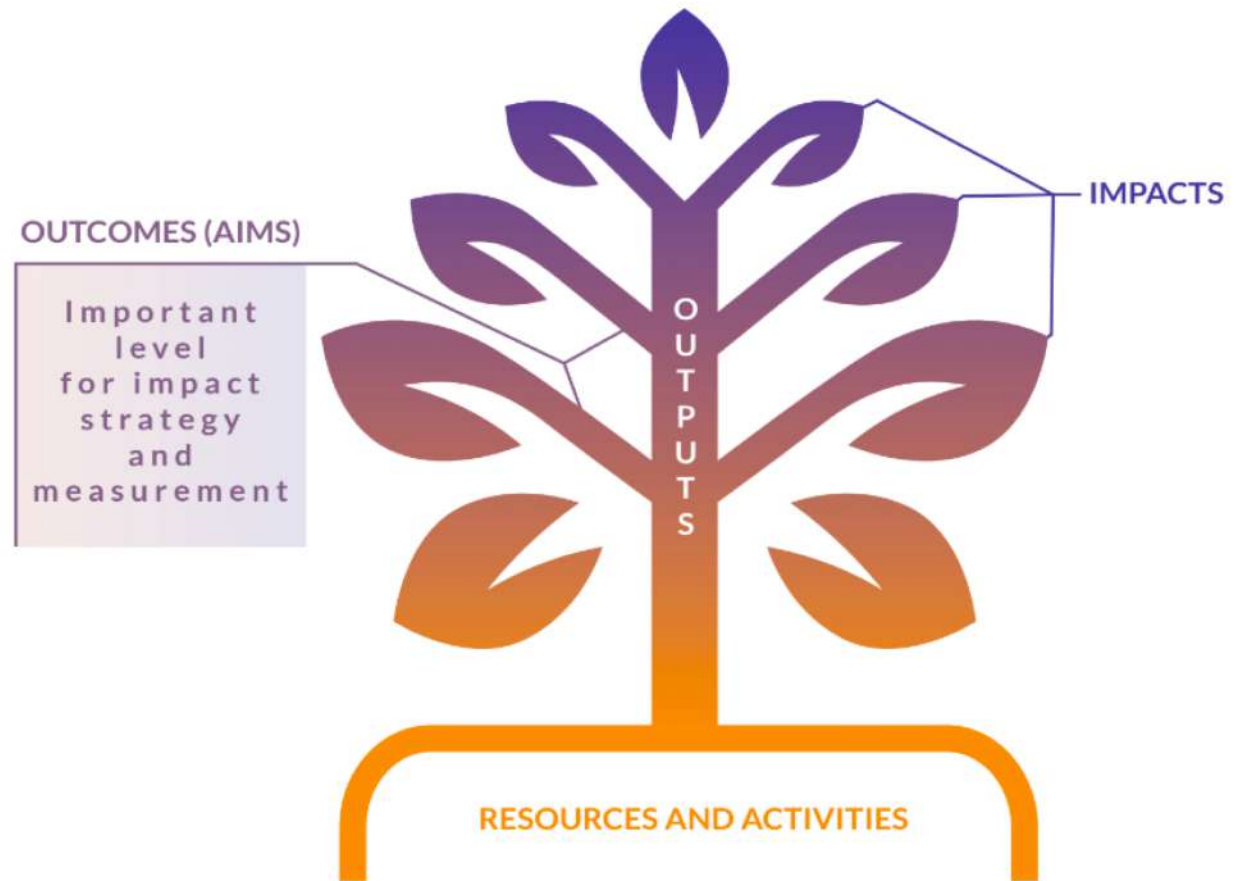


Identification of **13 generic impact pathways**
how investments in
Research Infrastructures
lead to various impacts on
the economy and society

Grouping pathways along
three high-level missions
of Research
Infrastructures

- **Enabling science**
- **Problem solution**
- **Science and society**

Intertwined nature of impact



Summary points

- Each RI is a complex system of interactions; impact assessment requires contextual understanding (a systems view) -> **no 'one-size-fits-all'**
- RIs need to understand in more nuanced ways their areas of impact and key corresponding impact pathways -> **a tailored 'impact framework'**
- The overall RI impact framework and strategic aims why the assessment is done shapes the selection of indicators and measurement approaches -> **prioritise understanding before measuring**
- No straightforward comparison or benchmarking of RI impacts is possible, but with an accumulation of assessment results more can be inferred about key impact areas and their scale -> **focus on evidence of the potential for impact instead of decontextualised numbers**

Thank you!



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RI-PATHS project

- Funded by the European Commission's R&I programme Horizon 2020
- Implemented from January 2018 to June 2020 (30 months)
- 8 core partners teaming up policy & evaluation experts with Research Infrastructures

