DIY* performance & impact — ELIXIR

* [learn to] 'do it yourself'

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Workshop on impact assessment, evaluation and monitoring of research infrastructures

Co-hosted by the ACCELERATE, ERIC Forum and RI-PATHS projects

Interactive parallel session 1 (case studies), 16 December 2020

Name: ELIXIR

Type: virtual, distributed

Operational: 2014

Headquarter: Cambridge, UK

Membership: 21 countries + EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute

Purpose: coordinates, integrates and sustains bioinformatics resources
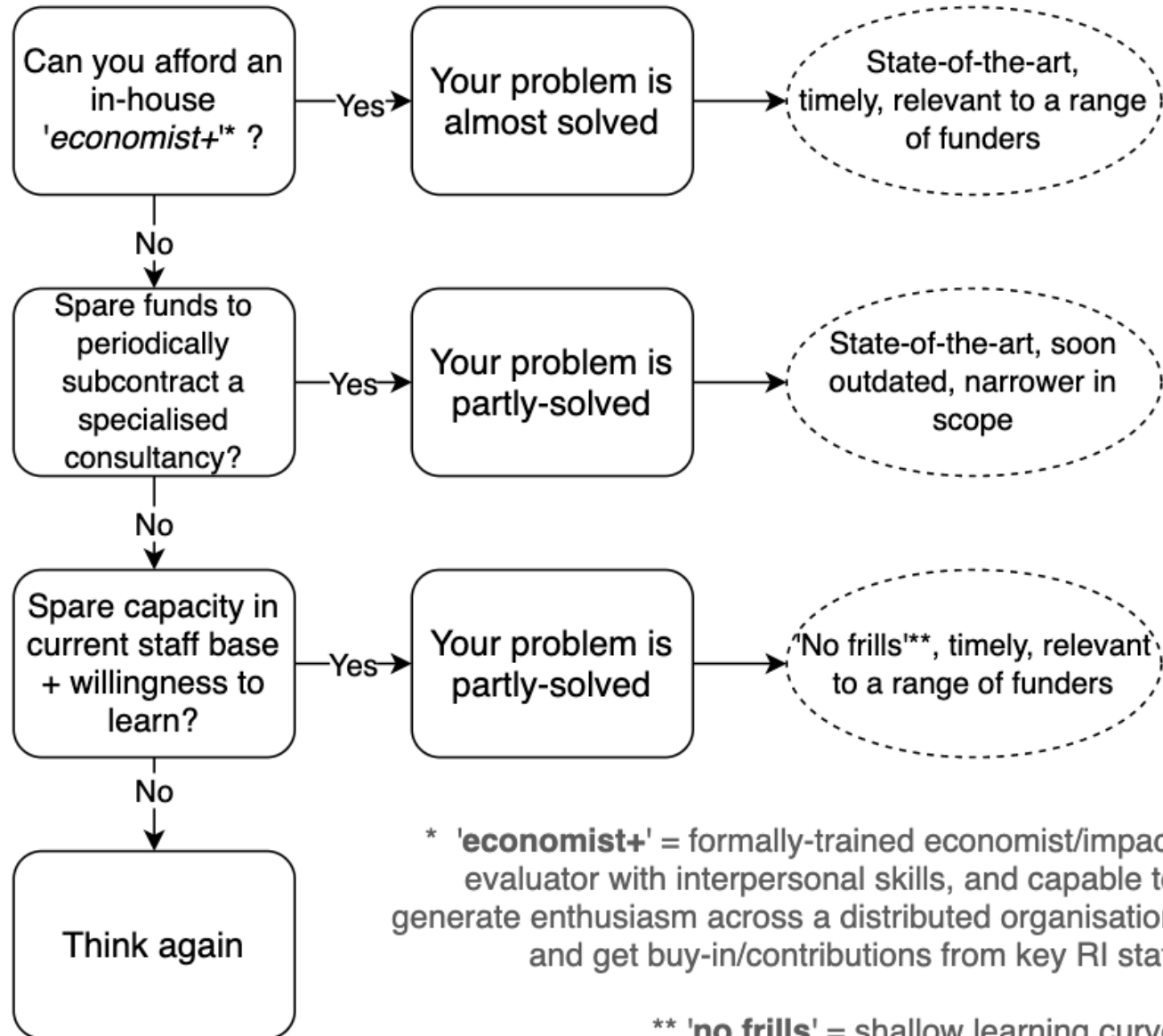
Key figures:
- 700+ people
- 220+ research institutes across Europe
- 300+ resources (*databases, tools, cloud computing, training, standards*)
- Millions of users globally
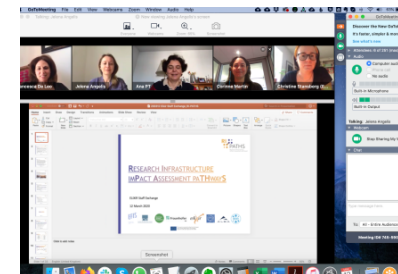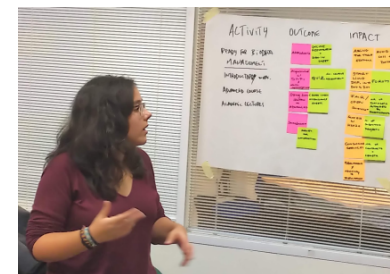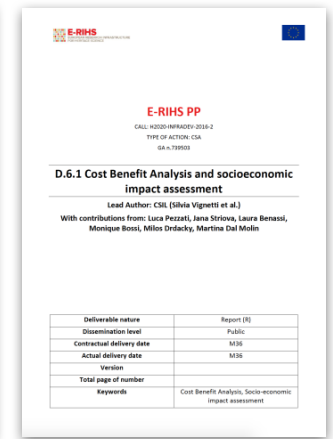
Favourite colour: orange

Recurring words in requests for information from our funders and other key stakeholders

Numerous and varied requests for evidence of public value

Evidence & message needs tailoring to each audience

Source: created from Table 1 (Supporting information) in Martin et al., *Demonstrating public value to funders and other stakeholders — the journey of ELIXIR, a virtual and distributed research infrastructure for life science data*, submitted to Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics

Evidence of performance and impact:

Can you afford an in-house 'economist+'* ? —Yes→ Your problem is almost solved → State-of-the-art, timely, relevant to a range of funders

No ↓

Spare funds to periodically subcontract a specialised consultancy? —Yes→ Your problem is partly-solved → State-of-the-art, soon outdated, narrower in scope

No ↓

Spare capacity in current staff base + willingness to learn? —Yes→ Your problem is partly-solved → "No frills"**, timely, relevant to a range of funders

No ↓

Think again

Examples?
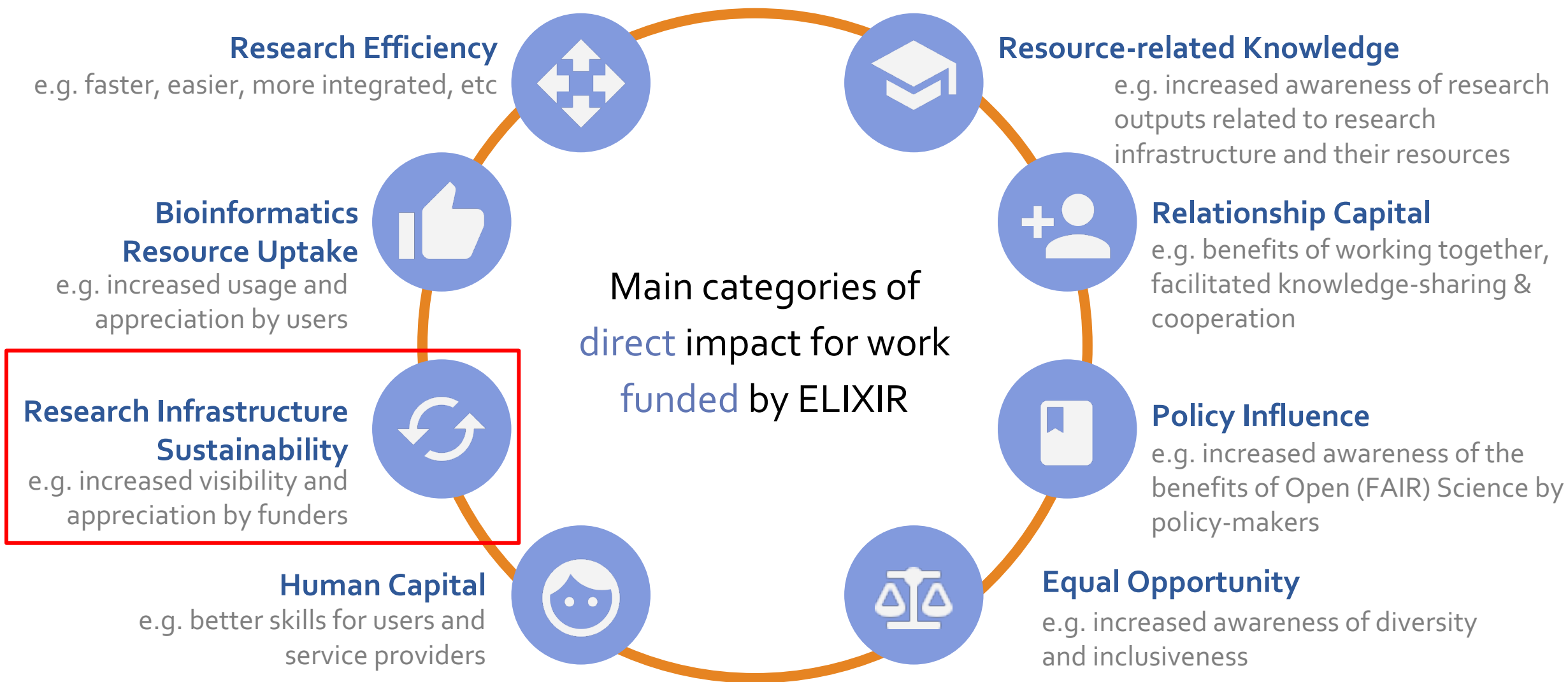
* 'economist+' = formally-trained economist/impact evaluator with interpersonal skills, and capable to generate enthusiasm across a distributed organisation and get buy-in/contributions from key RI staff

** 'no frills' = shallow learning curve

Main categories of direct impact for work funded by ELIXIR

Research Efficiency
e.g. faster, easier, more integrated, etc

Bioinformatics Resource Uptake
e.g. increased usage and appreciation by users

Research Infrastructure Sustainability
e.g. increased visibility and appreciation by funders

Human Capital
e.g. better skills for users and service providers

Resource-related Knowledge
e.g. increased awareness of research outputs related to research infrastructure and their resources

Relationship Capital
e.g. benefits of working together, facilitated knowledge-sharing & cooperation

Policy Influence
e.g. increased awareness of the benefits of Open (FAIR) Science by policy-makers

Equal Opportunity
e.g. increased awareness of diversity and inclusiveness

Source: Figure 1 in Martin et al., *Demonstrating public value to funders and other stakeholders — the journey of ELIXIR, a virtual and distributed research infrastructure for life science data*, submitted to Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics
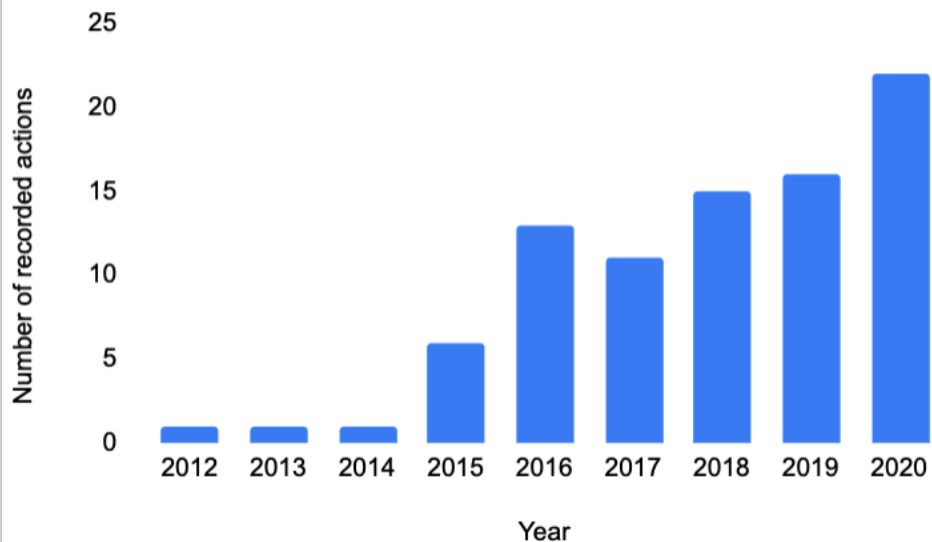
Simple categorised lists can be turned into rough indicators of efforts (*activities*) 👉
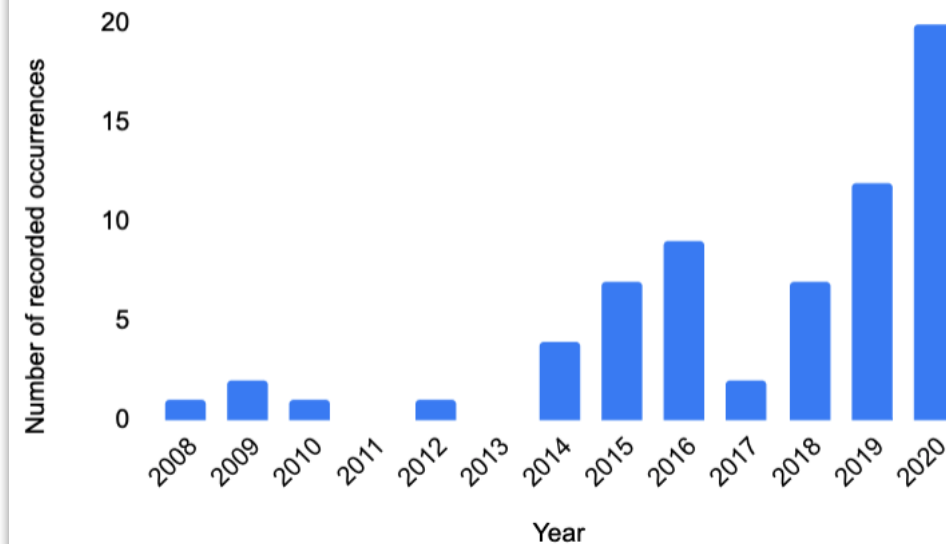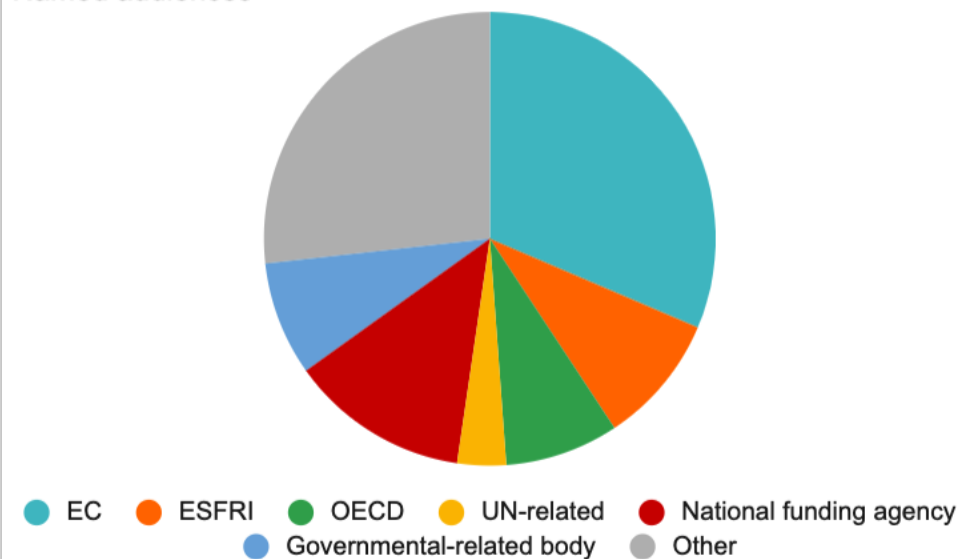
… and results (*outcomes*) 👉

… working towards **sustainability** (*impact*)

Thank you

RI PATHS
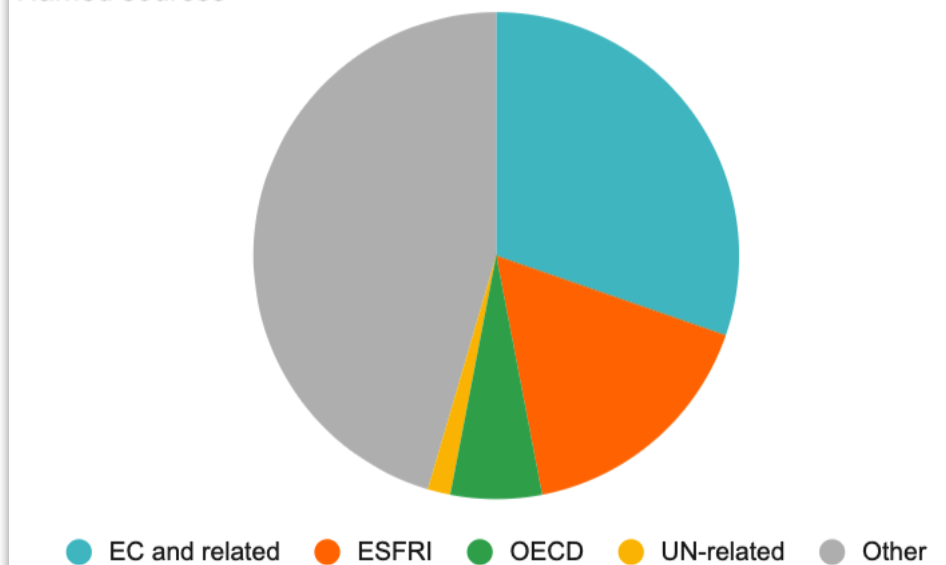
🙏 In particular, thank you to the organisers for the kind invitation 🙏

For questions / feedback 👉 corinne.martin@elixir-europe.org