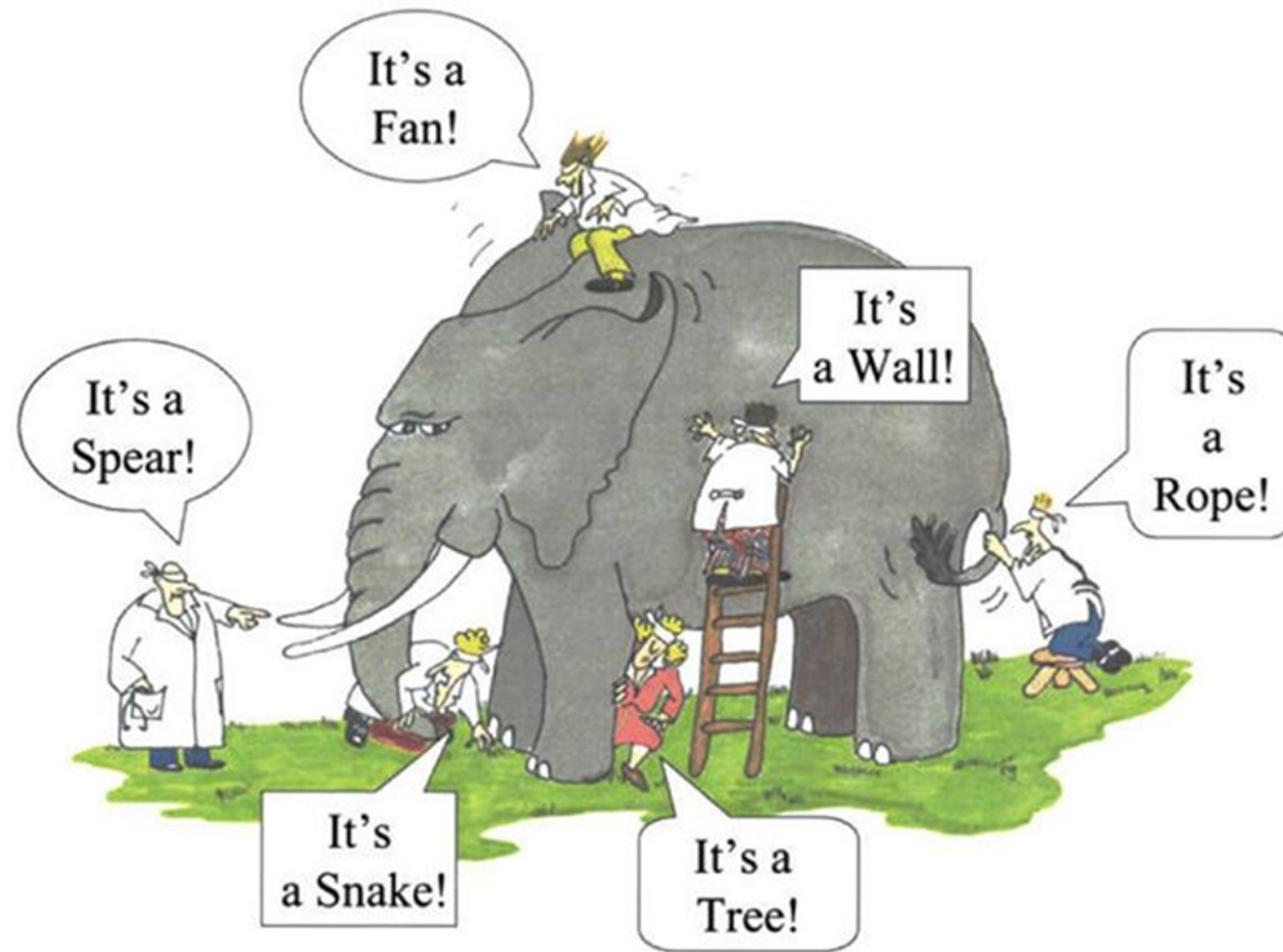


# **ACCELERATE** **societal impact of research infrastructures**

# A research infrastructure, its stakeholders and their perceptions



## ACCELERATE approach

- Approach contributes to improved governance, management and evaluation of societal impact of RIs
- Assumptions:
  - RIs can potentially contribute to many different societal impacts; however it is not in itself clear to which impacts
  - Societal impact is a complex process; it is not straightforward

## ACCELERATE approach

- Take the context into account, in which an RI operates
  - What organizations / stakeholders?
  - What perceptions or expectations?
  - What formal requirements?
  - What ambitions?

## ACCELERATE approach - II

- In general, impact is a major effect, or a change, that is preceded by a complex and iterative process.
  - What is meant by impact?
  - What is expected of an RI regarding an impact?
  - (in case of evaluation): is the focus on the process or on the impact?

## ACCELERATE approach - III

- Impact pathways describe the bigger story/narrative of the process towards impact
  - What is the overarching impact narrative?
  - The contribution of the RI includes the input the RI makes available, its activities, the results of these activities and the further use of the results towards the impact.
  - What is the sphere of control (of influence, of interest)?
  - What assumptions are included in the narrative?

## ACCELERATE approach - IV

- Evidence (indicators) substantiates an impact pathway
  - What indicators provide evidence?
  - What evidence do these indicators provide?
  - “Indicators” include case studies (of something specific), descriptions

**Table 1: Comparison between traditional and developmental evaluation (Patton, 2006, p. 30)**

<b>Traditional evaluations ..</b>	<b>Complexity-aware, developmental evaluations ..</b>
Render definitive judgements of success or failure	Provide feedback, generate learning, support direction or affirm changes in direction
Measure success against predetermined goals	Develop new measures and monitoring mechanisms as goals emerge and evolve
Position the evaluator outside to assure independence and objectivity	Position evaluation as an internal, team function integrated into action and ongoing interpretive processes
Design the evaluation based on linear cause-effect logic models	Design the evaluation to capture system dynamics, interdependencies and emerging interconnections
Aim to produce generalizable findings across time and space	Aim to produce context-specific understandings that inform ongoing innovation
Accountability focused on and directed to external authorities and funders	Accountability focused on learning and responding to what is unfolding
Evaluator controls the evaluation and determines the design based on their perspective of what is important	Evaluator collaborates in the change effort to design a process that matches philosophically and organizationally
Evaluation engenders fear of failure	Evaluation feeds hunger for learning



Thank you!

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