



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

INRAE



➤ Anticipatory policy engagement in transformative research programmes for creating societal impacts

Renée van Dis and Mireille Matt

Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences, Innovations et Sociétés (LISIS)

French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE)

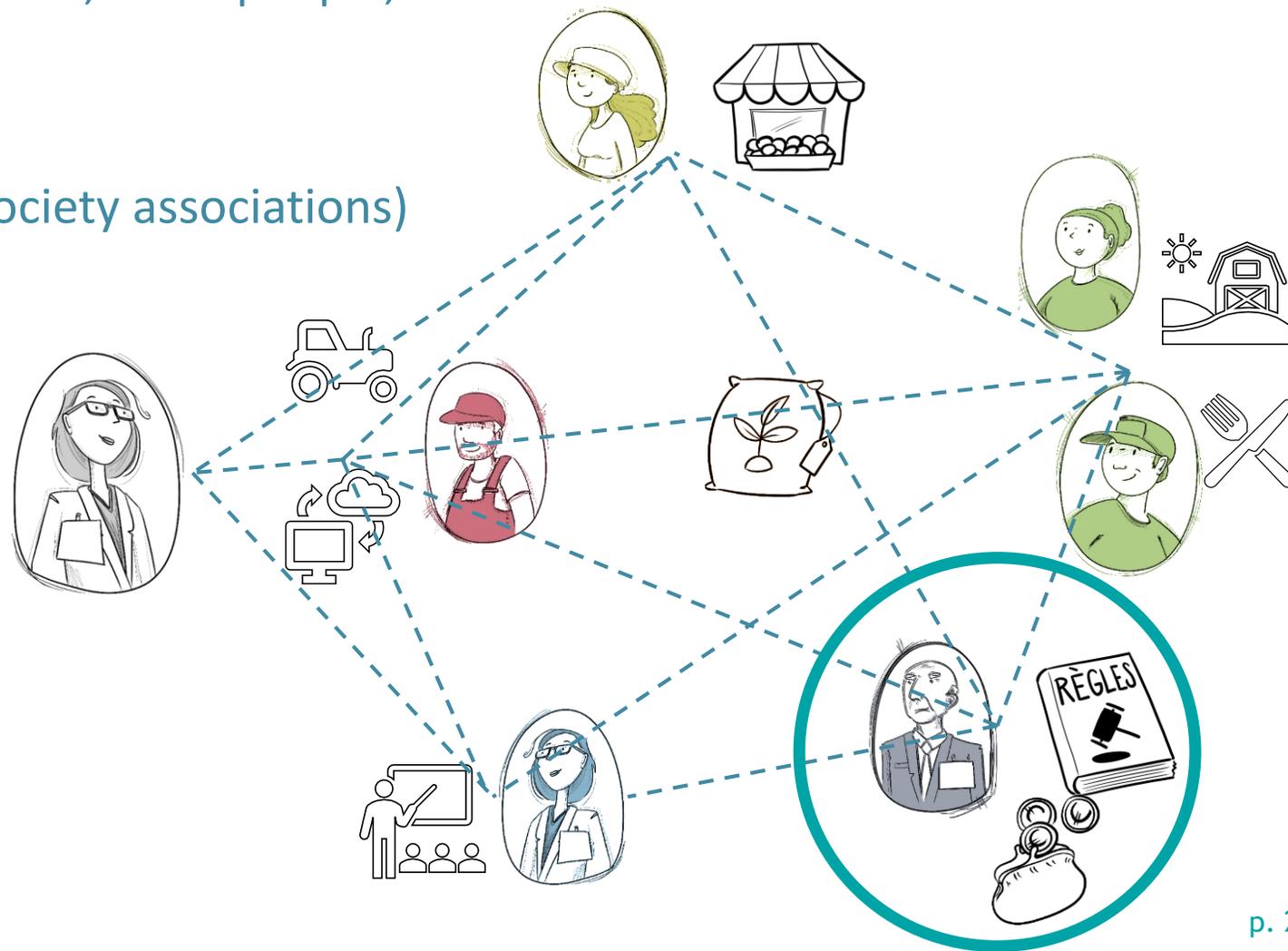
EuSPRI conference 2025

➤ The role of policy in achieving societal impact



Contribution of R&I to societal missions is a complex and uncertain process, which needs more time, more people, more resources

Anticipate network of actors (science-society associations)



The role of policy engagement in generating societal impact



➤ The complex Science-Policy interface

- **Constraints: Mobilisations of useable knowledge from science into policy making**
 - Need for co-productive models of science-policy relations, **BUT:** the linear model remains dominant, often failing to achieve societal transformations
 - Operationalising co-production model needs spaces where science and policy can engage
 - Anticipation of policy engagement directing towards societal impact
- **Mission-oriented R&I: going beyond the scope and level of research projects alone**
 - **The program** level has a role to play in anticipating policy engagement across the portfolio of funded projects

In (re-)directing R&I activities towards societal impact, how can the program level be guided in anticipating policy engagement?

➤ Anticipating policy engagement

- Contribution of R&I to Societal transformations

- The co-production model should go beyond the need of creating spaces to ease the circulation of knowledge between science and policy
- Instead, Policy engagement to facilitate **the development** and **societal embedding** of R&I based solutions

➤ **Anticipating policy engagement** embedded in a **(broader) network** that will enable the creation of “societal transformations”

- Building on literature on ‘**productive configuration**’ (ANT) and ‘**productive interaction**’

- Networks: Facilitate (co-)production of scientifically robust and societally relevant knowledge
- Anticipating future networks by supporting policy engagement

➤ French context of Mission-oriented research programs

- 2 national mission-oriented research programs:

PPR-CPA

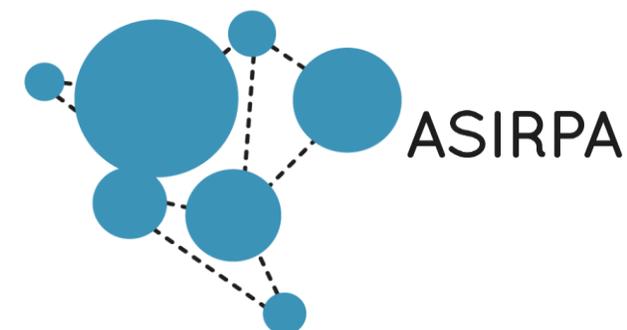


BRIDGES



- Both programs are guided by a formative evaluation approach – ASIRPA Real-Time (RT)

- Helps envisioning the programs' expected contributions to transformations needed to achieve their societal missions
- **Program level Workshops:** the program managers, funding agency, Ministry of research, and the project coordinators



➤ ASIRPA RT: facilitates the anticipation of policy engagement

- **Policy engagement** facilitates the **embedding of research-based solutions** into the broader **societal context**. Two reasons:

1. Shaping of the development of new TIP that help overcome key barriers in the (co-)production of knowledge

- → incl. facilitating the embedding of the projects' results into the mission' context

- E.g. the alignment with other national and EU R&I policies, like marine infrastructures

2. To anchor research findings within a broader societal context, e.g. through policies or legislation.

- → incl. regulatory needs, incentive systems, and education programs

- E.g. regulations to register and enable marketing of new seed varieties

➤ Going beyond the transfer of knowledge

- Key role of policy makers in facilitating the societal embedding of research-based solutions
- The anticipation of policy engagement is not merely a matter of transferring and exchanging knowledge between science and policy
 - a network where **political needs can be articulated** alongside the **constraints** that must be addressed **to embed research results into society** and generate the desired impacts
- Program has the capacity to create synergies between projects and to interact with the external context to anchor and scale up research-based solutions
 - However: Researchers indicated their difficulty in reaching policy makers and other stakeholders

➤ Conclusion and next steps

- Formative evaluation (ASIRPA RT) helps anticipating research-policy engagement in addressing societal challenges
 - Guides the development of an impact pathway and a detailed action plan
→ empowering program managers in associating with a variety of stakeholders, and thereby anticipate policy engagement.

This consists of an iterative learning processes and activates reflexivity through repeated and timely monitoring or assessment for adaptive decision-making.

INRAE



Thank you for your attention

Contact: Renee.van-dis@inrae.fr
Mireille.matt@inrae.fr