VERA - FORWARD **V**ISIONS ON THE **E**UROPEAN **R**ESEARCH **A**REA

Welcome to the

VERA Final Conference

Brussels

21/22 January 2015

Forward Visions on the European Research Area

Fraunhofer ISI

VERA - FORWARD VISIONS ON THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

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VERA Final Conference

Brussels

21 January 2015

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VERA is about…

… the **ERA** (European Research Area)

   …. Which we understand

   not just as a political idea

   but as the **landscape of Research and Innovation** in Europe

      including

      the strategic orientation of R&I,

      the programming and other instruments, and

      the performance of R&I.

VERA focuses on the future **governance** of these activites
(and less on practices of R&I).

© istockphoto.com/Shelly Au

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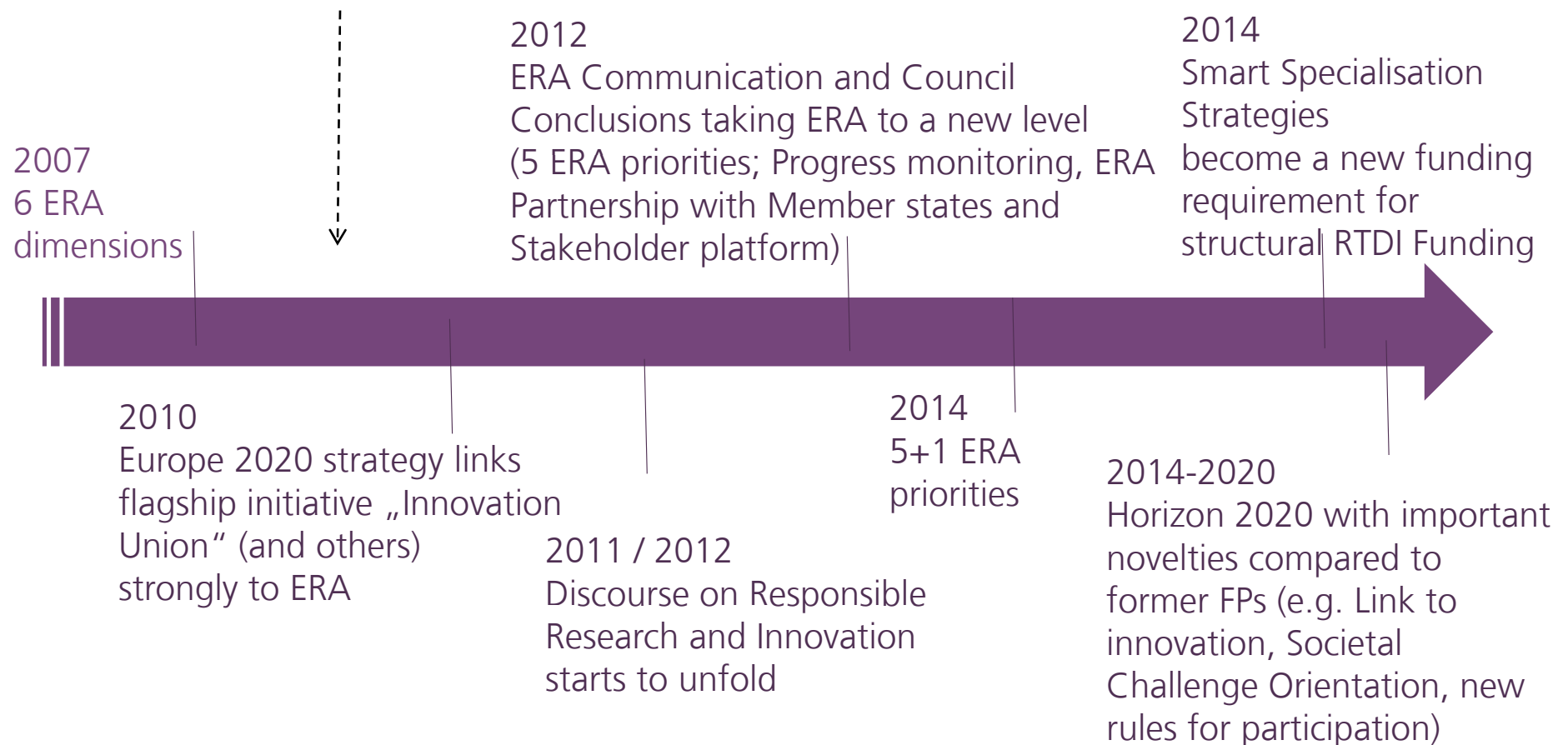European Research Area

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VERA Objectives

- **Exploring** systematically the **futures** of the research and innovation (R&I) system in Europe

- Setting up a **strategic conversation** with stakeholders in order to establish shared learning platforms and distributed anticipatory intelligence

- Providing relevant **strategic knowledge** for the governance and priority-setting of the R&I system in Europe

- and thereby ultimately to

Strengthen the capability of the European R&I system to respond to evolving requirements in a reflexive and forward looking manner

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ERA – a moving target

The call SSH.2011.7.1-1. Forward looking for ERA was published in July 2010.
Since then, the ERA has developed considerably.

2007
6 ERA dimensions

2012
ERA Communication and Council Conclusions taking ERA to a new level (5 ERA priorities; Progress monitoring, ERA Partnership with Member states and Stakeholder platform)

2014
Smart Specialisation Strategies become a new funding requirement for structural RTDI Funding

2010
Europe 2020 strategy links flagship initiative „Innovation Union" (and others) strongly to ERA

2011 / 2012
Discourse on Responsible Research and Innovation starts to unfold

2014
5+1 ERA priorities

2014-2020
Horizon 2020 with important novelties compared to former FPs (e.g. Link to innovation, Societal Challenge Orientation, new rules for participation)

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The **VERA** project has operated in a changing policy environment….

… where key issues of today's ERA discourse have not been self-evident at the time when the project started, e.g.
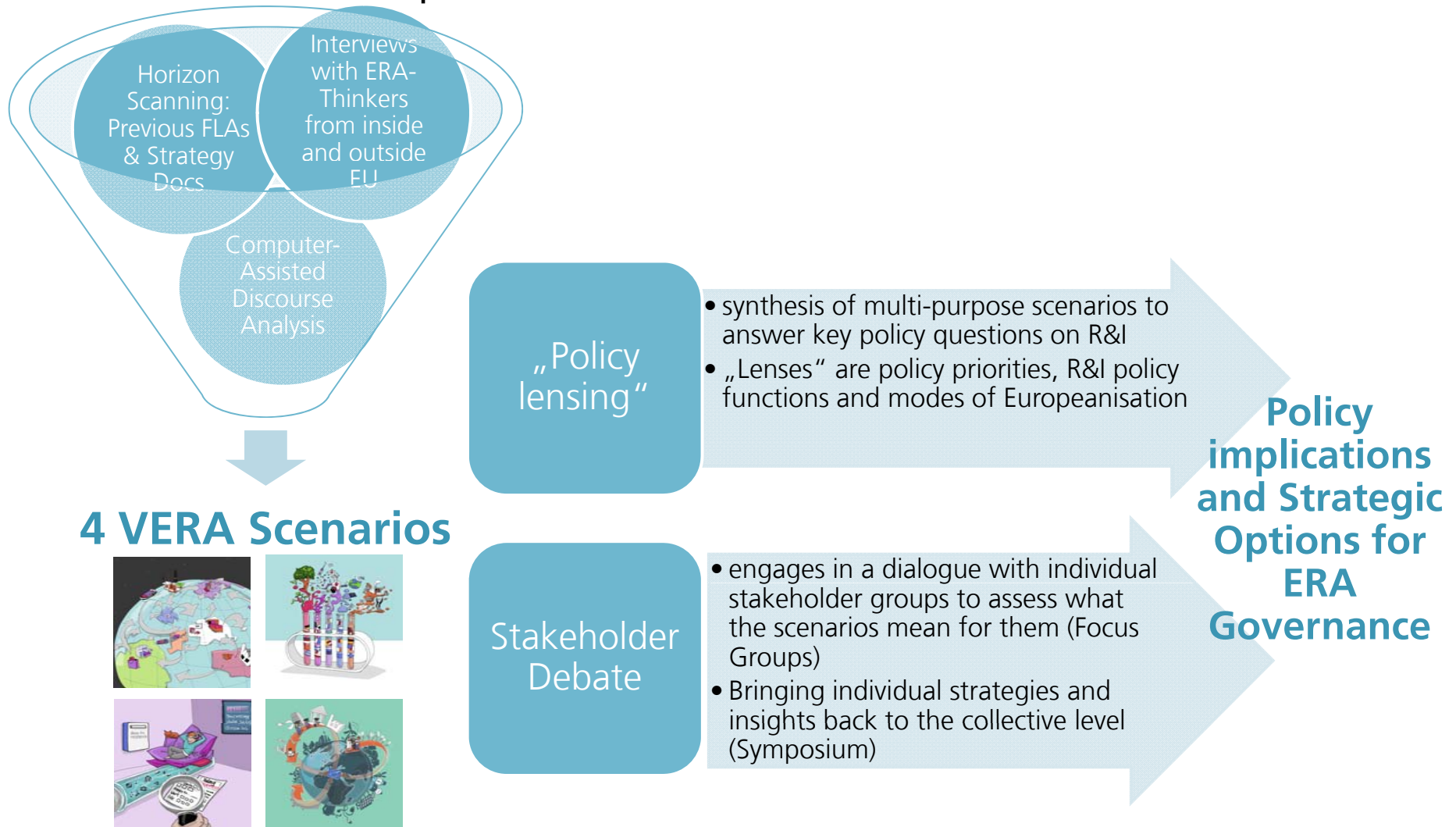
Industrial Leadership

Stakeholder Involvement

PLEASE DISTURB ME

Societal Challenges

VERA has a great team

Participant no.*	Participant organisation name	Part. Short Name	Country
1 (coordinator)	Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI	FHG-ISI	Germany
2	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii	UEFISCDI	Romania
3	University of Twente	UTwente	Netherlands
4	L'Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation et Société	IFRIS	France
5	Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	AIT	Austria
6	Manchester Institute of Innovation Research	UNIMAN	United Kingdom
7	VTT-Technical Research Centre of Finland	VTT	Finland
8	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	CSIC	Spain
9	EU Joint Research Centre Institute for Prospective Technological Studies	JRC-IPTS	Spain
10	Centre for Social Innovation	ZSI	Austria

VERA: a simplified flowchart

Horizon Scanning: Previous FLAs & Strategy Docs

Interviews with ERA-Thinkers from inside and outside EU

Computer-Assisted Discourse Analysis

4 VERA Scenarios

„Policy lensing"

- synthesis of multi-purpose scenarios to answer key policy questions on R&I
- „Lenses" are policy priorities, R&I policy functions and modes of Europeanisation

Stakeholder Debate

- engages in a dialogue with individual stakeholder groups to assess what the scenarios mean for them (Focus Groups)
- Bringing individual strategies and insights back to the collective level (Symposium)

Policy implications and Strategic Options for ERA Governance

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VERA Scenario Approach

- They are profoundly different **alternative possible developments**, not meant to be visions for ERA.

- They are **extreme** to inspire our thinking about the future.

- For the analysis of shapers (factors), a **wide range of sources** has been scanned.

- They are developed jointly by **stakeholders and experts** and meant to be used by many different stakeholders.

Two main **factors shaping** VERA Scenarios on European Governance of R & I

External factors shaping the context:

- State of **public finance**: Recovery from the 2008 financial crisis (scenarios 2 and 4) or still trying to recover (scenario 1 and 3)

- Dominating **rationale for societal progress**

  - Growth / Competitiveness in Scenarios 1 and 2

  - New lifestyles (well-being, self-optimization) in Scenario 3

  - Sustainability in Scenario 4

- In **consistence** with the scenario logic provided by theses shapers we have developed the projections for **Internal Factors**. These are factors describing

  - Policy and Governance,

  - The Research and Innovation Activities.

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VERA Scenarios at a glance

Scenario 1: Private Knowledge – Global Markets

R&I expenditure dominated by firms and philanthropic organizations; knowledge production takes place in globally interconnected knowledge hubs.

Scenario 2: Societal Challenges – Joint Action

Joint Actions at EU-level to tackle societal challenges emerge as large public programmes complemented by NGO investment and activities.

Scenario 3: Solutions apart – Local is beautiful

A paradigmatic shift towards new lifestyle and self-optimization entails a preference for local solutions to social problems and influences the attitudes towards R&I heavily.

Scenario 4: Times of Crises – Experts at the Wheel

A new sense of 'deep sustainability' on which all economic, political and societal activities are based requires targeted scientific adaptation solutions.

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THRUST: Need to Recover from financial crisis

POLICY CONCERN: Growth

EU-LEVEL POLICY: Innovation Ecology

R&I LANDSCAPE: firms, universities, science clusters

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This project is funded under the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities theme of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

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Scenario 2: Societal Challenges – Joint Action

THRUST: Maintain way of life

POLICY CONCERN: Addressing societal challenges

EU-LEVEL POLICY: Joint thematic Actions

R&I LANDSCAPE: large programmes, networks
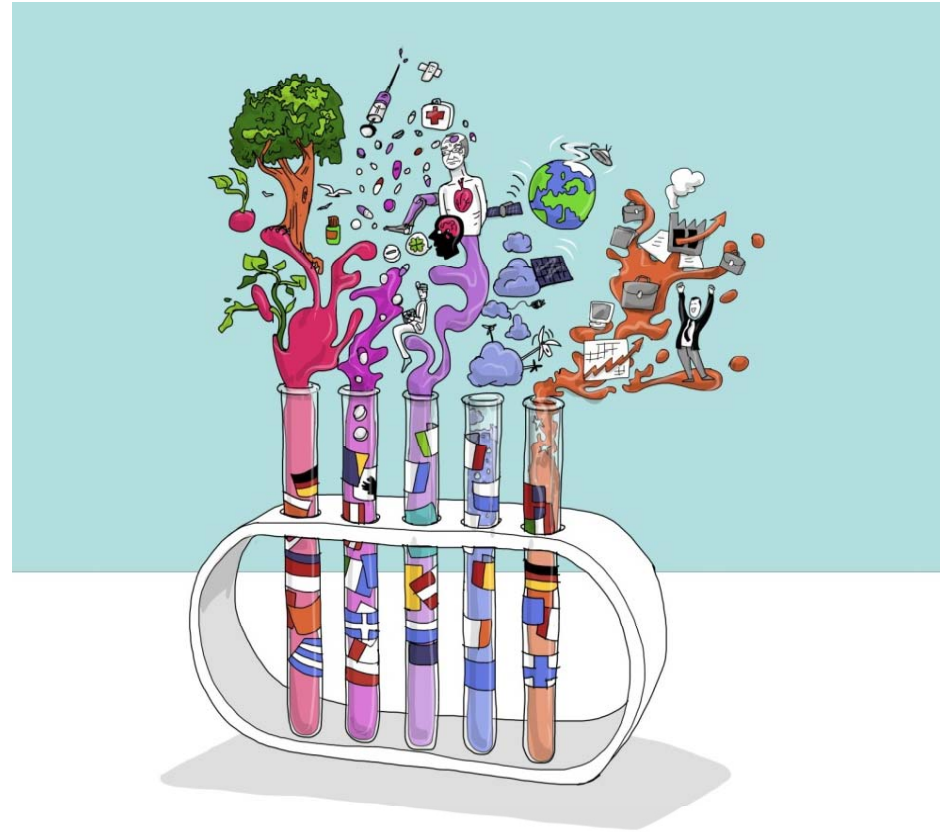
Scenario 3:   Solutions apart – Local is beautiful

THRUST: mistrust in higher-level policy

POLICY CONCERN: Local handling of problems

EU-LEVEL POLICY: Sharing good practice
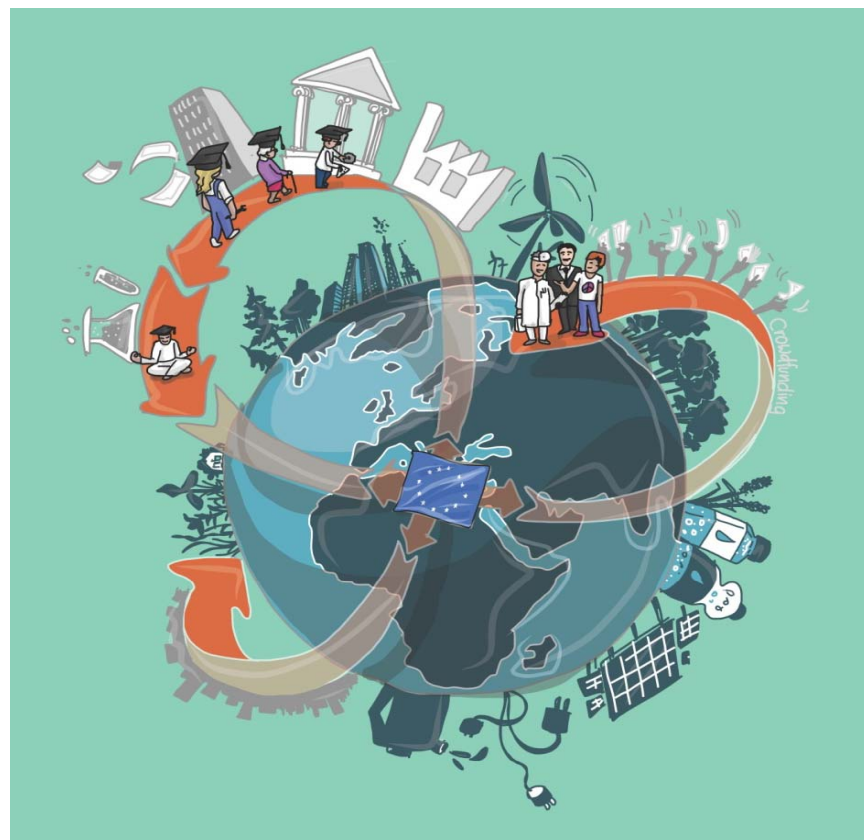
R&I LANDSCAPE: open, citizens involved

THRUST: „Deep Sustainability"

POLICY CONCERN: Mitigation, Adaptation

EU-LEVEL POLICY: Expert-based, integrated

R&I LANDSCAPE: large programmes, new approaches

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Two ways of sense-making from scenarios

„Policy lensing" analysis

Expected *Product benefits*:

Better policies for the ERA:

- Future-oriented and robust
- Structuring choices

LIMITATIONS: no „solutions"

Expected *Process Benefits*

"Policy Lensing" of future scenarios as a tool in the elaboration of strategic policy intelligence:

Strategic Debate with Key Stakeholders

Expected *Process benefits*:

Better Stakeholder Involvement in the ERA:

Not only „dominant" stakeholders, but identify „affected" and „dormant" and give them a voice.

„Adaptive"to the needs of individual stakeholder groups.

Reflexive dialogue instead of consultation.

2-level process combining stakeholder specific and collective strategic discusissions.

Learning by repeated engagement.

New networks, linkages between actors.

LIMITATIONS: Representativity, Weak organisational degree

Expected *Product Benefits*

Strategic perspective on future-oriented policies

New insights and qualifications for ERA policy discourse (Evolving Dimensions)

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A actor-centered perspective on identifying potential stakeholders in the ERA

Policy-making / Programming:
EC, EP, Council / ERAC
Funders, agencies (at EU and national level)
JPIs, JTIs, ….

Dominant: Actual power and legitimacy

The Power to…
Set the agenda,
Amend the agenda,
veto.

Some are consulted in the policy process:
e.g. Stakeholder platform, Industry

Affected: Actual legitimacy, but no power

See VERA Communication Strategy on http://eravisiions.eu
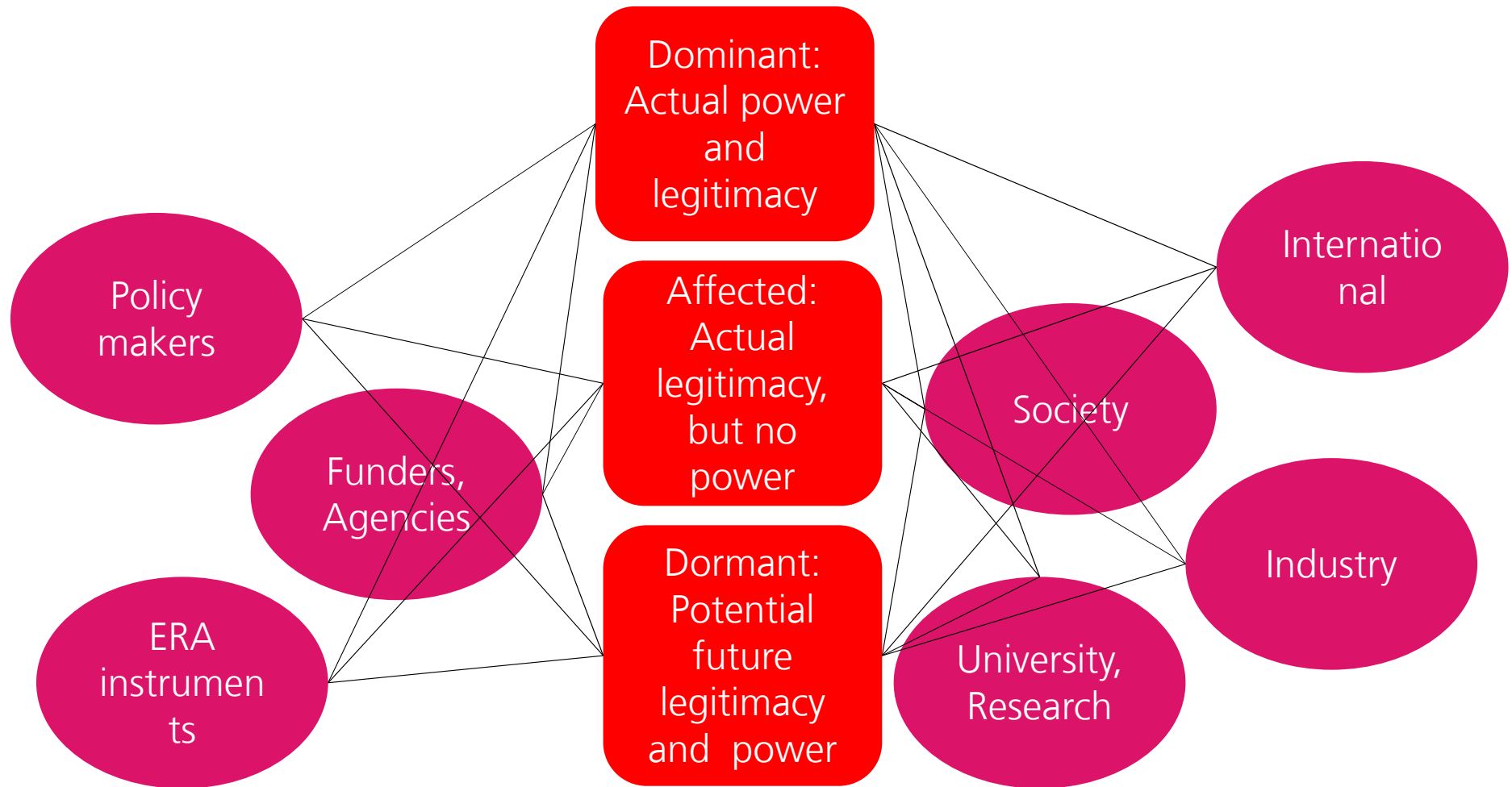
Actors might fall into different categories, depending on which aspect (e.g. priority) of ERA is in the focus

Some are not.

In most cases not consulted in the policy process.
In some cases only weakly organised.

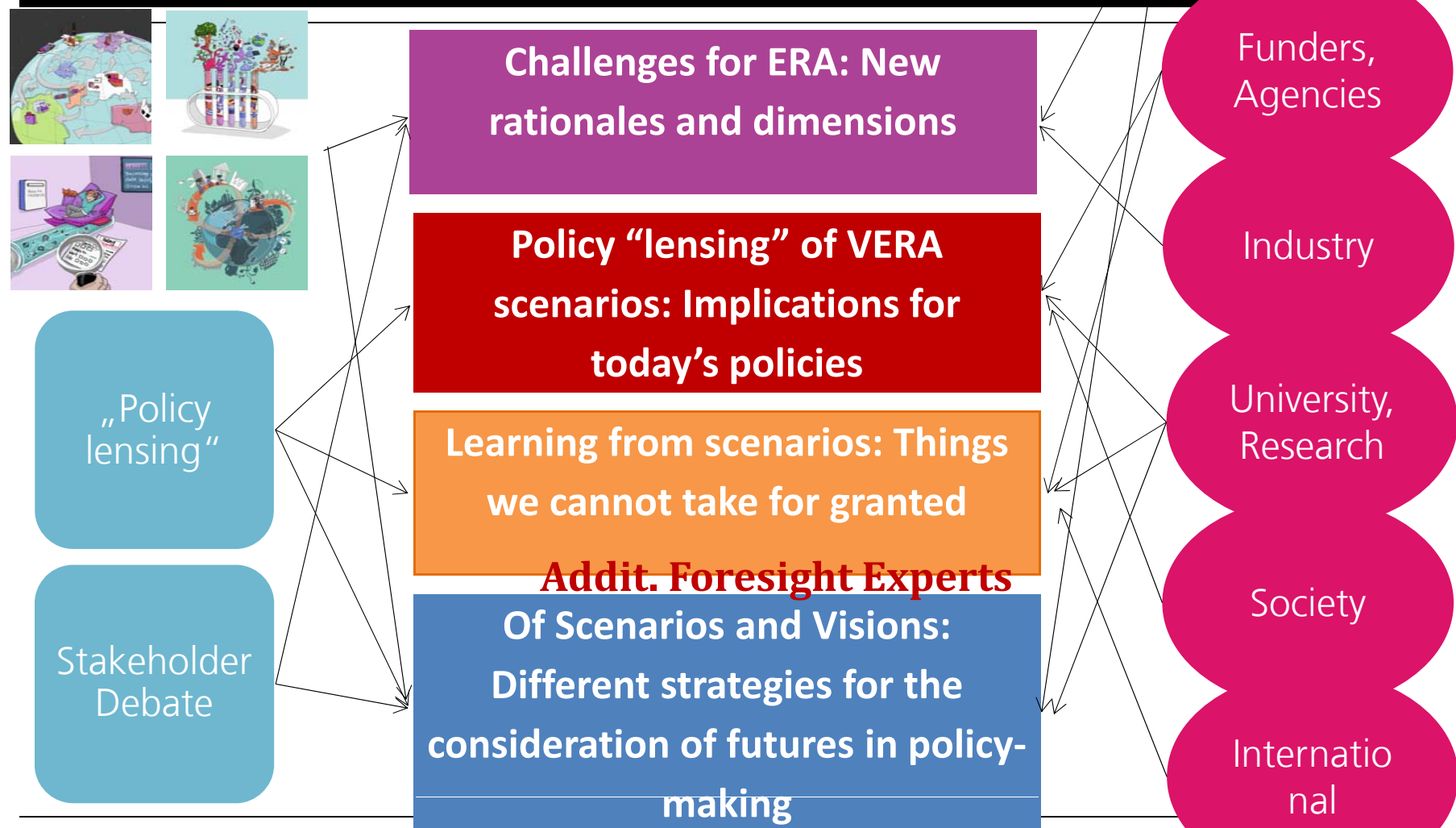**Dormant: Potential future legitimacy and power**

VERA Scenario Analysis allows a further investigation of dormant stakeholders

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For the VERA focus groups, we targeted representatives from all categories

Dominant: Actual power and legitimacy

Affected: Actual legitimacy, but no power

Dormant: Potential future legitimacy and power

Policy makers

Funders, Agencies

ERA instruments

International

Society

Industry

University, Research

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Outlook on the programme

Policy makers

Funders, Agencies

Industry

University, Research

Society

Internatio nal

Challenges for ERA: New rationales and dimensions

Policy "lensing" of VERA scenarios: Implications for today's policies

Learning from scenarios: Things we cannot take for granted

Addit. Foresight Experts

Of Scenarios and Visions: Different strategies for the consideration of futures in policy-making

"Policy lensing"

Stakeholder Debate

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Expectations for the final conference

We want

to discuss the insights from three years of forward-looking activity within VERA
and reflect this on the basis of your experience and viewpoints.

We want to focus with you on the issues that should be relevant for today's policy-making
and things that are useful to take away for your work.

And of course, any other feedback to the VERA project is highly welcome.

THANK YOU