



The role of R&I policy labs in boosting food system transformation

*Jolien Wenink & Chrissie Brierley,
ZonMw/JPI HDHL*



Partners: AIT, OsloMet, VU University, FACCE JPI, JPI Oceans



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

Meeting Etiquette



- If not speaking →  
- Questions and technical problems – write in a private chat to *HOST: Matt Flourakis, ILSI Europe* or to *HOST: Michela Miani* 
- The session is being recorded 
- You can rename yourself in ZOOM to show your name and organization you are coming from 

Twitter
@SciFoodHealth
#FIT4FOOD2030
#FOOD2030EU



First some questions to you -
please join us at www.menti.com
Code: 44 84 942



- Which country are you from?
- What field do you work in?
- What would you like to learn more about during this session?



Which problems are we dealing with?



Our food systems face complex and persistent problems



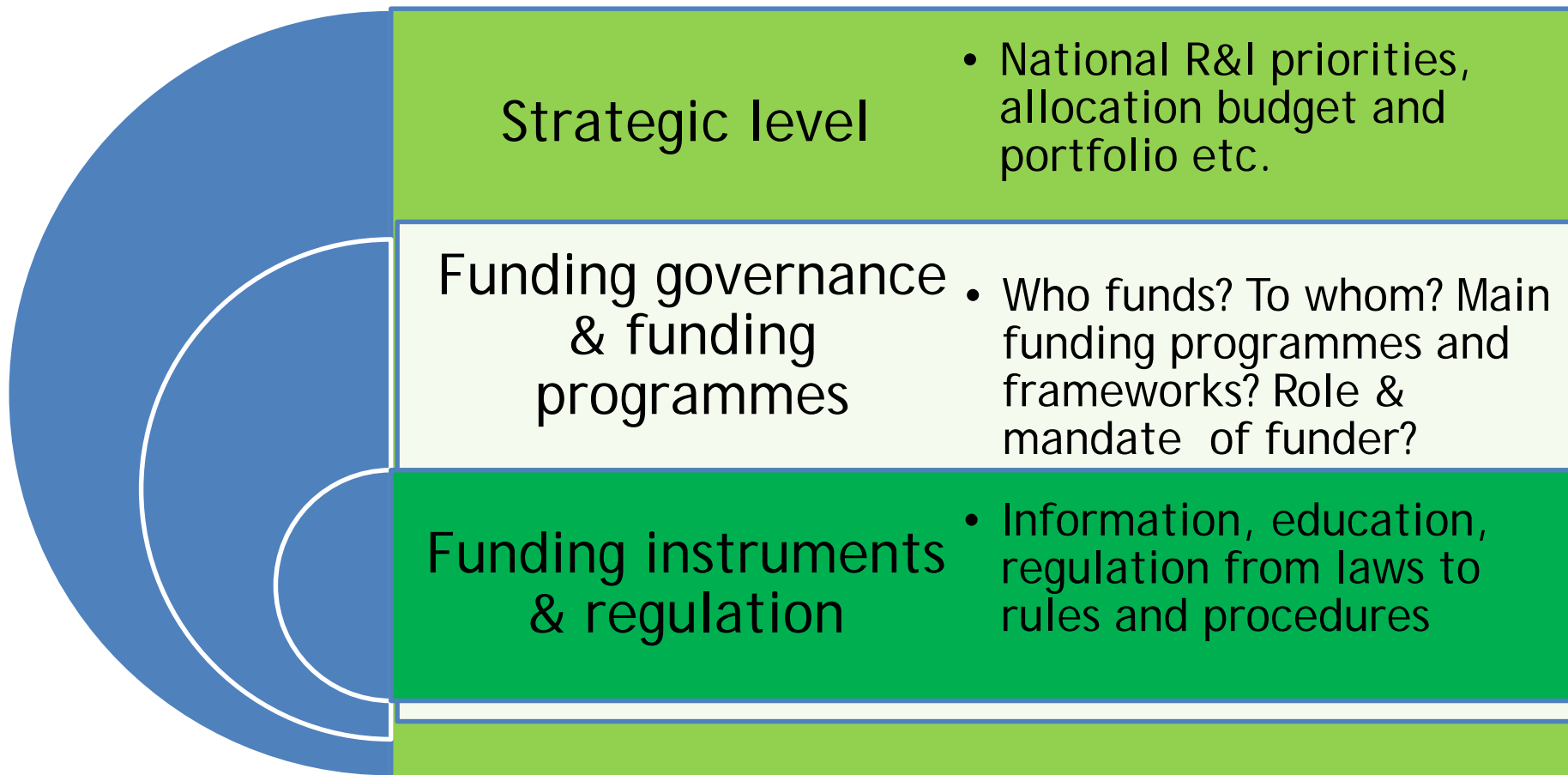
Research and Innovation (R&I) can and should be a catalyst, but...



R&I has it's own complex and persistent problems



R&I policies





Barriers in R&I systems

Fragmented
R&I landscape
across
disciplines &
sectors

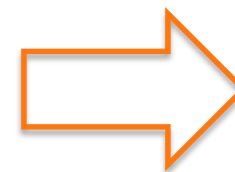
Low
involvement
of citizens,
CSOs, users

Relatively low
private sector
investment

Little support
for inter-/trans-
disciplinary
research (RRI)

More knowledge
and awareness
needed of the
importance of
R&I for FNS

National
research call
systems with
'open calls'



Future proof
European
food system





Food 2030 platform - creating transformative networks

EU think Tank: linking member states and EC

Policy Labs: to align R&I policies and programmes

City Labs: to link to engage with the local stakeholders (students, professionals, educators, young people)

Strengthened R&I
Policy

Built Competences
on Food Systems R&I
and RRI

Raised Awareness in
support of initiatives
and action plans



What is a policy lab for transformative change?



tackle complex
public/social
problems



participatory &
experimental
space in which
stakeholders
collaborate to
develop & test
novel policy
approaches



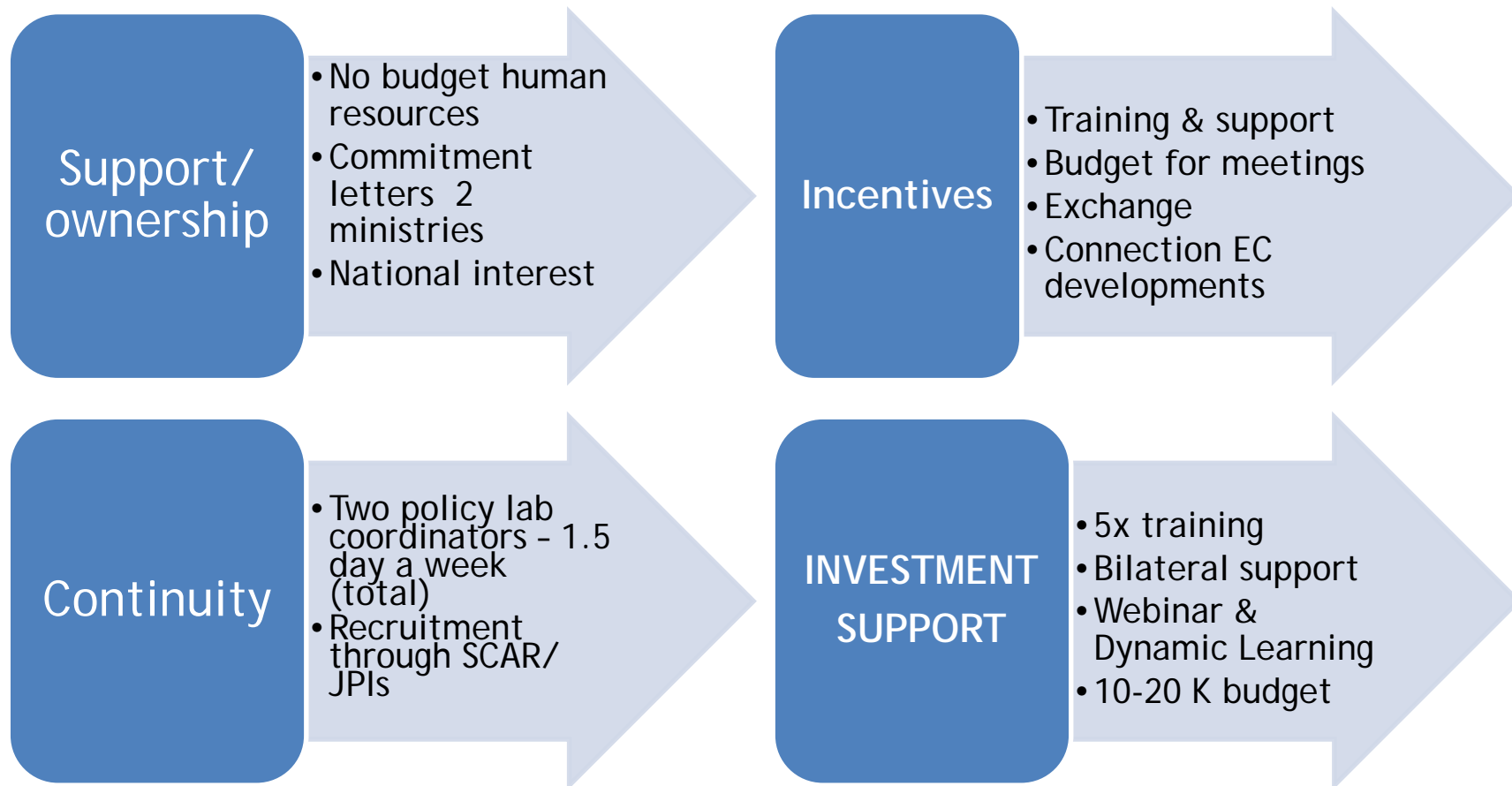
should have
direct
connections
with the public
(policy) sector



long term
commitment &
open-ended
design






Framework



11 policy labs in total



FOOD 2030 Platform

-  EU Think Tank
-  Policy Lab countries
-  City Labs



- Flanders (Belgium)
- Hungary
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Norway
- Romania
- The Netherlands
- Austria
- Basque Country (Spain)
- Estonia
- Ireland

Goal of the R&I policy labs



Strengthening R&I policy and practice to increase its impact on the food system transition.



Awareness, network, system approach, alignment, coherence, system approach, experiments, concrete output, innovation.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU

POLICY COHERENCE



The systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies, creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives (OECD).



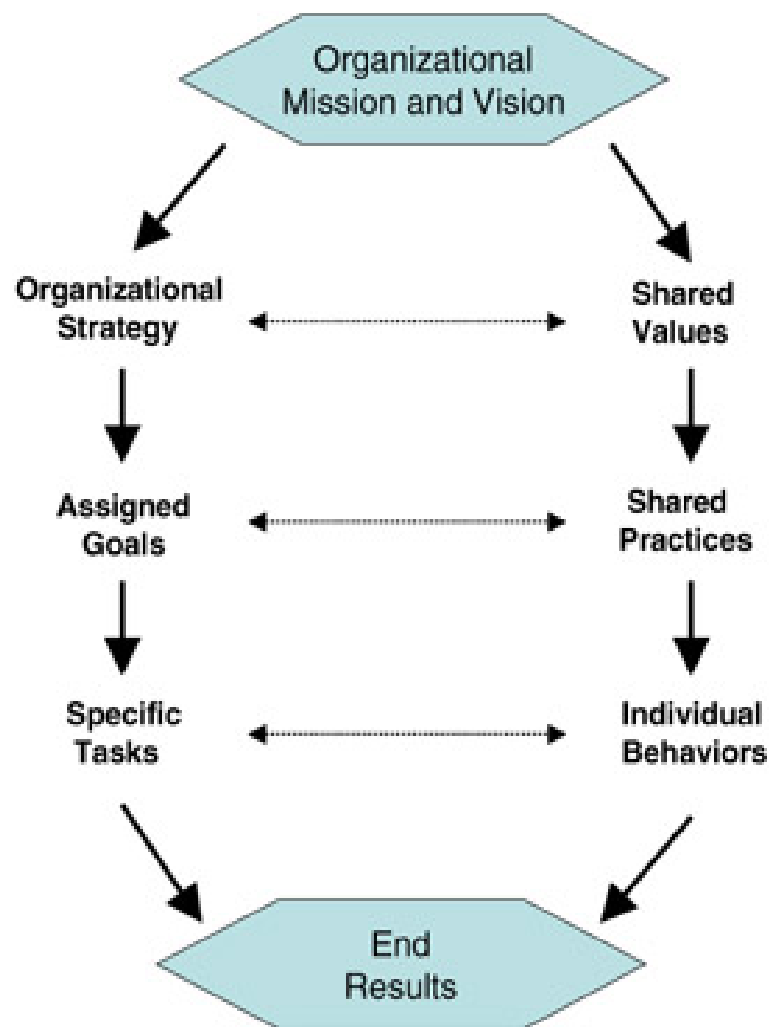
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU

Working towards coherence

Image: Organisational Alignment Model, Tosti and Jackson, 2003

Organization's Strategic Path



Organization's Cultural Path

Alignment between corporate strategy and values is critical to organizational success.



...some challenges

- Complexity, time, money
- Reaching and engaging certain stakeholders (consumers, health, industry)
- Sustaining or broadening political support
- Diversity of local contexts
- What is place of lab in case of full national landscape?
- Foreseen timeline
- Sustaining labs; keeping topics on agenda and maintaining network
- Covid-19





agenda setting
nordic food system transformation
establishing networks
multi-stakeholder dialogues
collaboration
deliberative democracy
align ment
disciplins
establish network for nordic food systems
connecting
influencing policy
publishing articles
identifying showcases
identifying policy processes
policy brief



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu

[#FOOD2030EU](https://twitter.com/FOOD2030EU)

General structure: the honeycomb



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU



Phase 1: System awareness & analysis

- Understanding of the food system
- Understanding of the main challenges and knowledge questions of the key players in the food systems
- Overview of existing research agendas, research programmes
- Do you miss any stakeholders?





From theory to practice

Building their stakeholder network

The first meetings: system awareness and analysis

Identified strengths varied a lot:

good food safety, food system based on tradition, good recycling of raw materials, trust between actors



More commonalities in weaknesses and challenges:

Lack of sustainable or circular production, issues around food waste, lack of cooperation between actors and policy coherence, low involvement of consumers



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU

Impression of participants



	Agriculture/ Food production and distribution	Oceans	Food production and distribution	Health	Environment	Other
NGO/CSO						
Business						
Policy Maker	15*			5		2
Knowledge centers (incl. R&D inst.)	6**				6	
Funding agencies	15*			5		2
Consumers/citizens						
Other	8					



Phase 2: Future outlook & agenda setting



- Discuss and agree upon collective vision of the food system
- Make an assessment of the R&I landscape → for example a SWOT analysis
- Start to draft a roadmap to improve the R&I landscape, to work towards your vision (or ultimate goal)



Second meetings: visioning and drafting of roadmaps

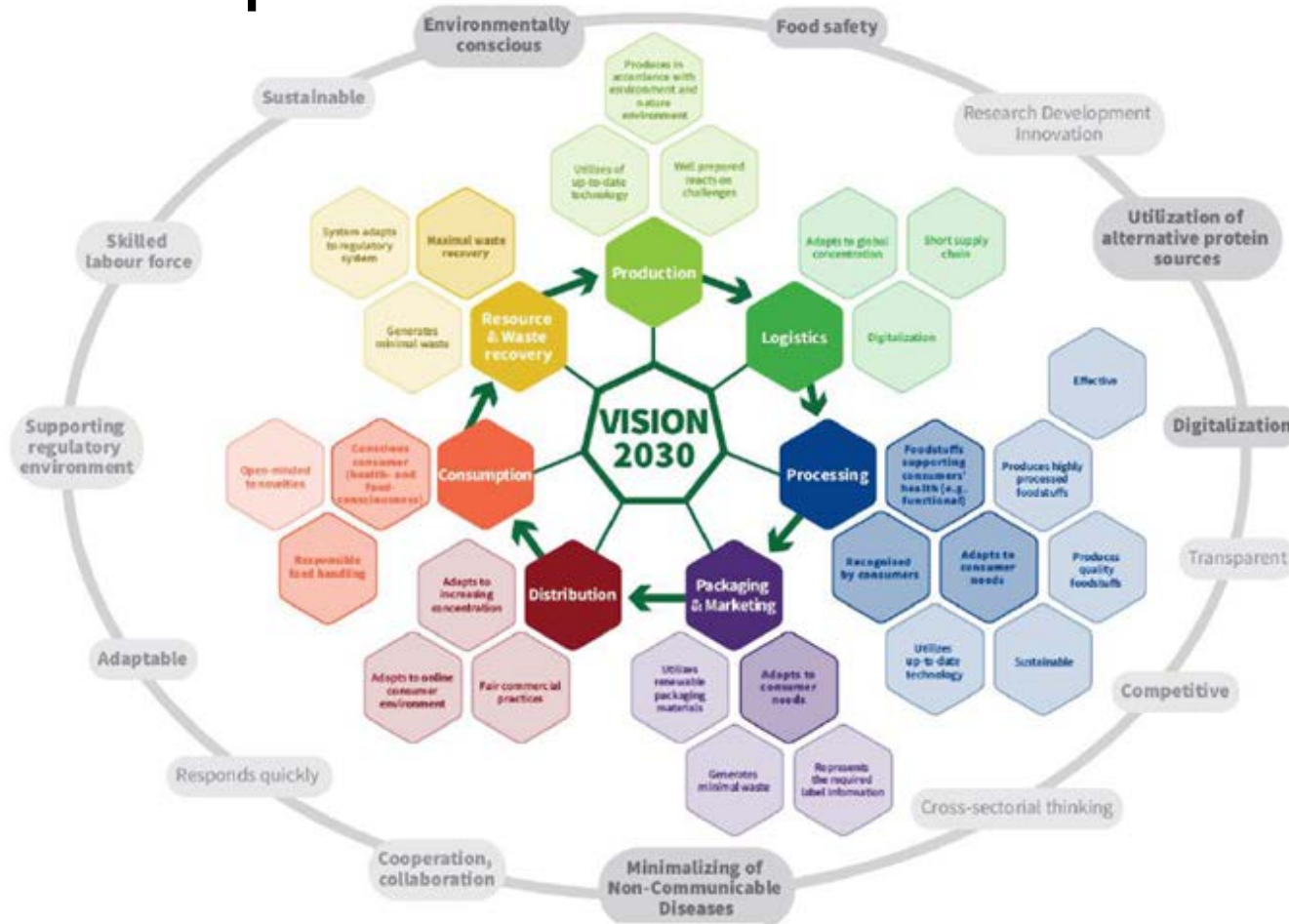


Figure 1. Hungarian vision for a future-proof food system



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU

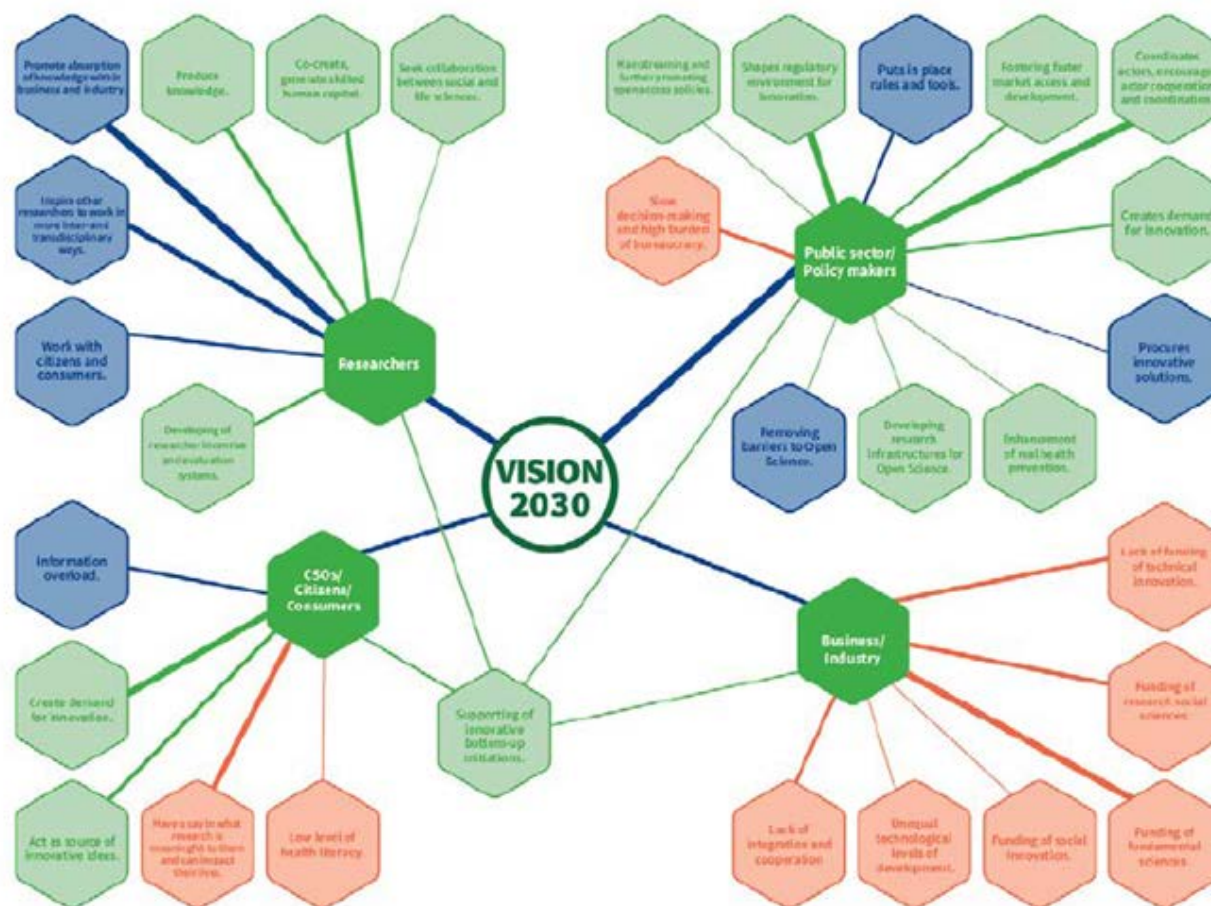


Figure 2. R&I factors that hinder and support the envisioned Hungarian food system per stakeholder

A question to you: please join us
at menti.com, code 44 84 942



What barriers and
opportunities for the
R&I system do you
see in your context?



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020
research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU



Phase 3: Experimentation & innovation

- Deciding on promising ideas and how to put these into action during the next +/- 12 months (for example different ways of funding research to stimulate a systems and/or RRI approach; better connecting regional and national activities; developing a multi-stakeholder research programme/policy brief/etc)
- Agreeing on expectations, indicators and monitoring. When is an experiment a success? How could the outcome contribute to a sustainable change in food systems R&I?
- Who will be involved in the experiment(s) and how?



Experimentation and innovation: examples

Flanders - integrated
food systems research
agenda

Romania - uptake of
outcomes in research
programmes and
projects, more
ministerial interaction



Phase 4: Continuity & legacy



- Evaluate what the impact and lessons learnt of the lab have been so far.
- Discuss what will or could happen with the outcomes. What should be done in terms of communication and dissemination?



- How will the work of the lab continue, and what will happen to the stakeholder network? Are there funding streams available, can it be embedded in an existing structure or connected to a different initiative?



Summary



- **Outcomes and impact:** awareness, networks, dedicated calls & R&I agenda's, uptake in national strategies, increased contact between ministries and food system actors
- **Challenges:** resources, complexity, specific stakeholder support, sustaining political support, foreseen timeline -> getting round to *policy coherence* and innovation
- **Added value of policy lab:** the structure and process, methods and tools, positive response from participants, access to what happens elsewhere in Europe and connection to EC

'Without Fit4Food and the policy lab, we would probably not have done this type of work'



A question to you: please join us at menti.com, code 44 84 942



Do you see scope for a food systems R&I policy lab in your country or region?



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU



Documents of interest

- Policy lab handbook
- Guideline for implementing RRI principles in funding practice, to increase impact of research on societal challenge
- EU Think Tank policy briefs

Fit4Food2030 Knowledge Hub:

<https://knowledgehub.fit4food2030.eu/tools-for-transformation/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU



Thank you!

Questions?



Contact us @:

Wenink@zonmw.nl

Brierley@zonmw.nl



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088

www.fit4food2030.eu
#FOOD2030EU