University-driven innovation for inclusive development: South African studies
Introduction to the session

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OECD

Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation

Innovation for In...

The OECD Project **"Innovation for Inclusive Growt**... policies on inclusive growth. It also focuses o... development. Addressing the needs of policymakers...

- **Provide evidence on the impacts of innova**... focusing on social, industrial and territorial i...

- **Develop concrete policy solutions** to suppo... inclusive development agendas.

A "policy diagnostics toolkit" in support of more i... the OECD-World Bank Innovation Policy Platform to...

CWTS

HOW READY IS SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY FOR 'INNOVATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT'?

INNOVATION KNOWLEDGE EDUCATION

INNOVATION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (IID) POLICY SEMINARS

science & technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

Innovation for Inclusive Development

- **Related concepts**: inclusive innovation, frugal innovation, social innovation, Bottom of the Pyramid innovation

- **Innovation for inclusive development (I4ID)** refers to the improvement of living conditions and creation of employment opportunities for the poor through the development of **new products, services, processes and business models** aimed at resource-poor communities

- Conceptualisations and operationalisations of I4ID processes may include **problem statements, process of innovation, adoption or absorption of innovations, socioeconomic inclusion** of local community member or businesses

History of current studies

2014-2015 (phase 1)

Launched as a small-scale, exploratory research project within the inter-university research program by "*Center for Frugal Innovation in Africa*" (Leiden University, Delft University of Technology, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

2014-2015 study

Our interest: role of universities in South African innovation networks

- Universities as hubs of knowledge /skills creation and dissemination

- South Africa: high inequality and socioeconomic transformation

Our perspective: local innovation systems

- Investigating the role of universities in local or regional innovation systems

- University innovation in context

  • Interaction with local communities, other universities, business, government, NGOs

- Starting point: university-specific innovations

  • Idea initiation, innovation design & development, value chain integration, technical support

Empirical study at
South African universities in the Cape

Research-active universities in the **Western Cape**:

– University of Cape Town (UCT)

– University of Stellenbosch (US)

– University of the Western Cape (UWC)

– Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

University-Driven Technology-based Inclusive Innovations (**UDTII** projects)

On-going **university projects** as starting point and unit of analysis

Research team: Marjolijn Dijksterhuis, Sara Grobbelaar and Robert Tijssen

University-driven inclusive innovations in the Western Cape of South Africa: towards a research framework of innovation regimes

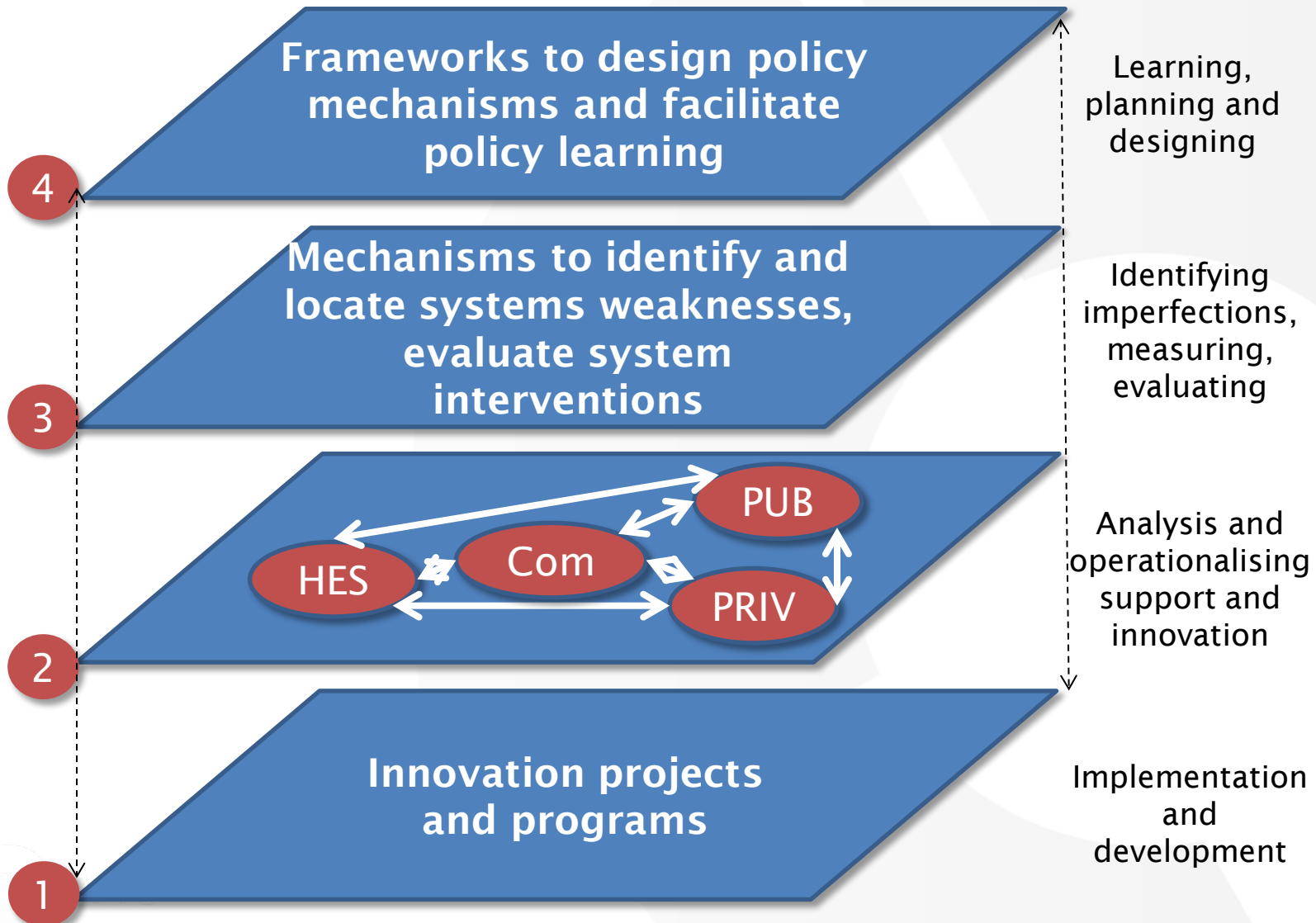Sara Grobbelaar, Robert Tijssen, Marjolijn Dijksterhuis

Generating impact takes time

- The time that passes between successful UDTII projects and ultimate socioeconomic impacts can be **long and is always uncertain**

- Looking for impacts at any point in time subsequent to completion of a project always risks **missing impacts** that have yet to occur

- UDTIIs that create significant impacts will typically be **undervalued** in their initial aftermath

- Partial solution to this problem is the identification of **intermediate outcomes**, supported by the application of **impact monitoring systems**, that may be indicative of the likelihood of eventual societal benefits or economic impacts

Overarching analytical framework

4 Frameworks to design policy mechanisms and facilitate policy learning — Learning, planning and designing

3 Mechanisms to identify and locate systems weaknesses, evaluate system interventions — Identifying imperfections, measuring, evaluating

2 HES / Com / PUB / PRIV — Analysis and operationalising support and innovation

1 Innovation projects and programs — Implementation and development

Presentations in this session

Marjolijn Dijksterhuis

Analysis of UDTII projects at the universities (part 1):

- contributions and role of university

- university missions and functions, and how they relate to I4ID

- innovation paradigms around funding/business models and user involvement

Louisa Botha

Analysis of UDTII projects at the universities (part 2):

- monitoring and Evaluation of UDTII projects

- outcomes and impacts

Sara Grobbelaar

- innovation platforms in Africa

- case study of Fort Hare University in South Africa

- Major focus: broad research agenda, current project and next steps

Follow-up projects in South Africa in 2017-2018