

A systemic approach to research dissemination and the use of research in society as a provision for public innovation and change

Jesper W. Simonsen, Division director
The Research Council of Norway



The role of The Research Council of Norway



Mandate 1993

- Advisor
- Funder
- Meeting place

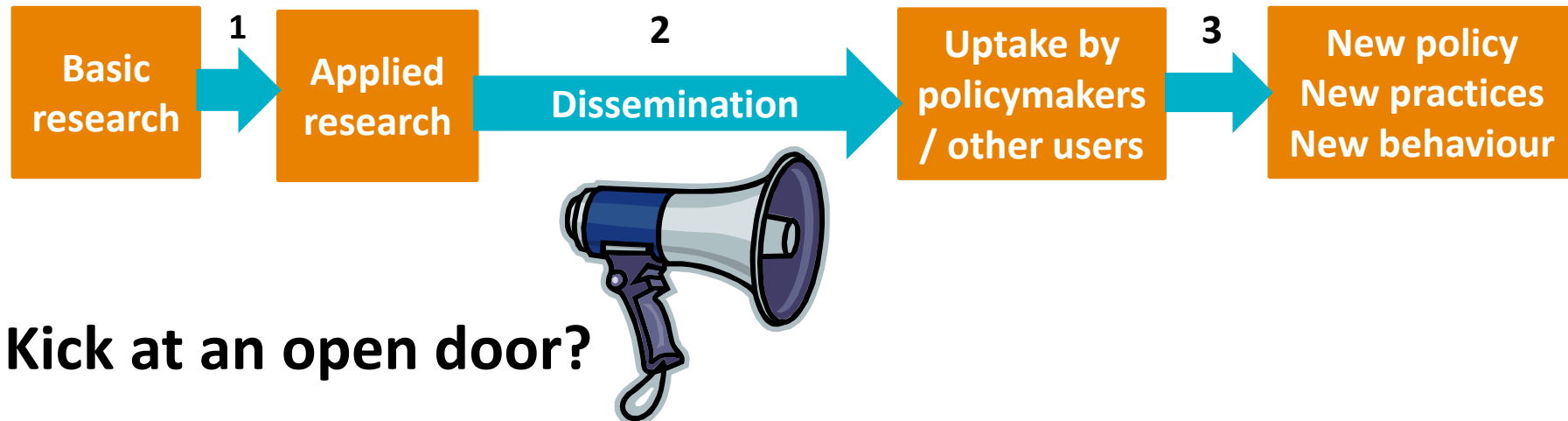
Dimensions

- Select the best projects
- Build critical mass (2002)
- Structure (2009)
- Disseminate results
- Push for results (2009)
- Create impact (2010)

Areas

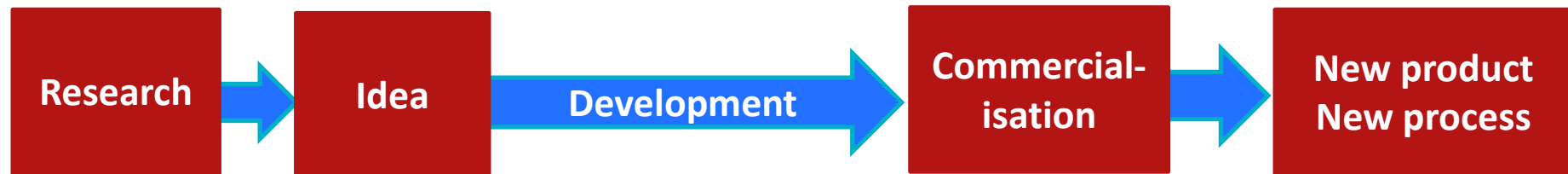
- Research
- All disciplines / themes
- Research in innovation
- In business (1993)
- In public sector (*de facto* from 2012)

The linear approach in science



- 1) Main research policy discussion in Norway: Curiosity driven “high quality” vs. strategic “mediocre” research
- 2) Main criticism from ministries: Disseminate more, Get the researchers to disseminate more
- 3) Scientific knowledge is basically the only knowledge logic relevant for change

The linear approach in innovation



Kick at an open door?

Research based innovation !

Many drivers for innovation

Demand / problem driven innovation

Researcher can contribute

- Include and qualify external knowledge and ideas
- Solve problems and support decisions
- Detect and document effects and risks
- Draw on international networks
- Disseminate results through journals & education



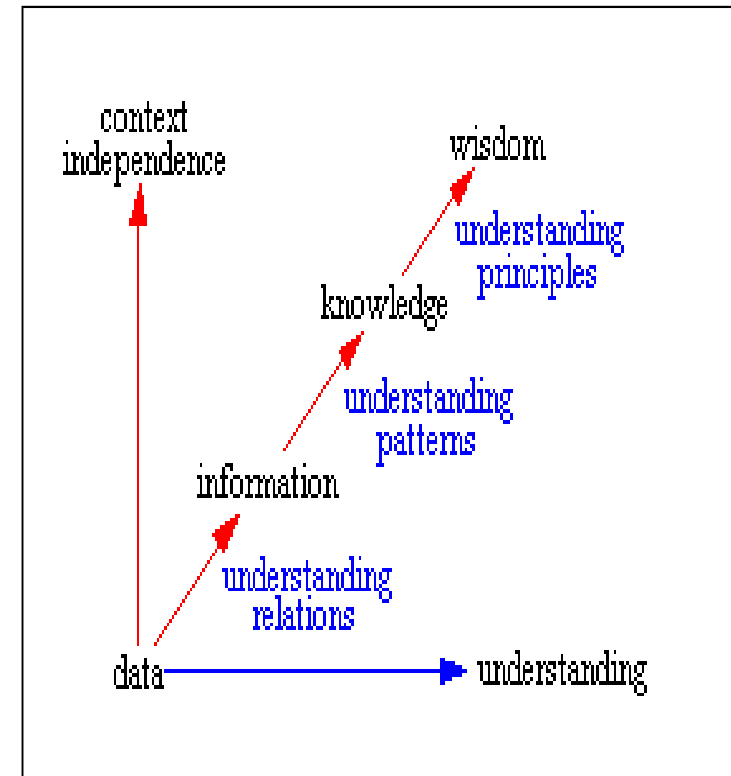
Research based innovation

Innovation processes with researcher contribution

Research communication – not only by megaphone



- The knowledge society
- Research informed knowledge necessary: in more fields, to more actors, in more contexts
- But research based knowledge / insights is not the same as research results/findings.
- The tsunami of research results is formidable
- The capacity to transfer this information into knowledge is varying, but often insufficient

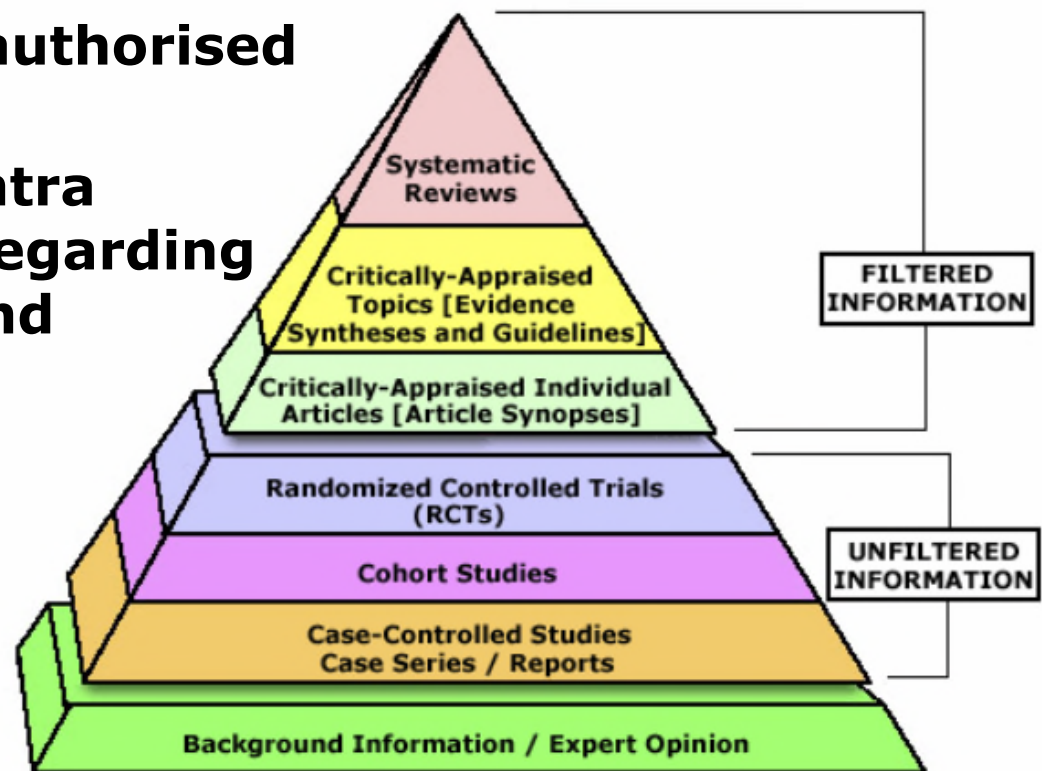


What do we do? (1/4)

Synthesise research

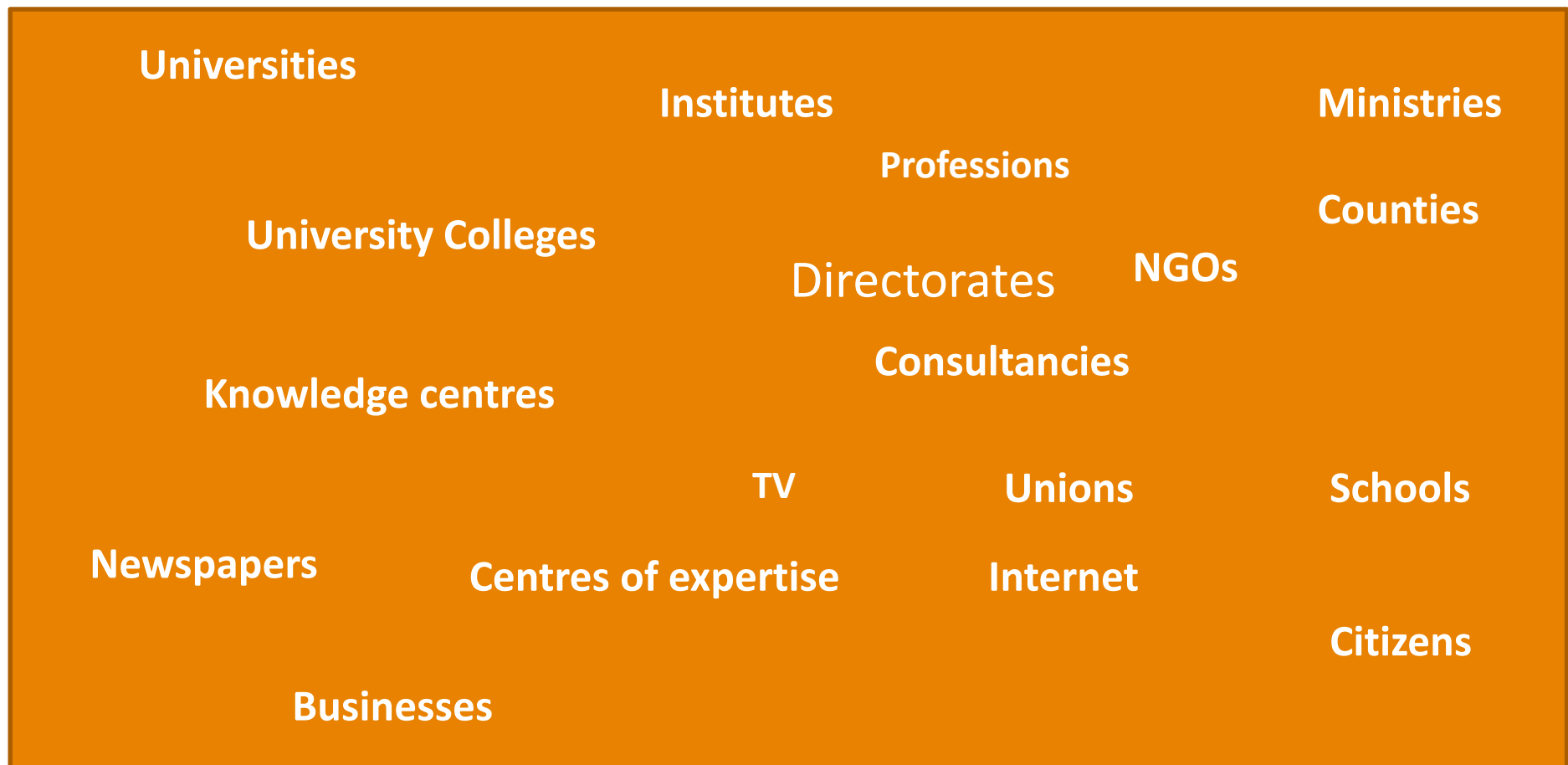
Careful: The idea of authorised knowledge
Could be contra productive regarding credibility and renommé

Still: The linear approach



What do we do? (2/4)

Map and organise the knowledge system



What do we do? (4/4)

Develop capacity for absorption

Practice oriented research

Student active research

Public sector PhD

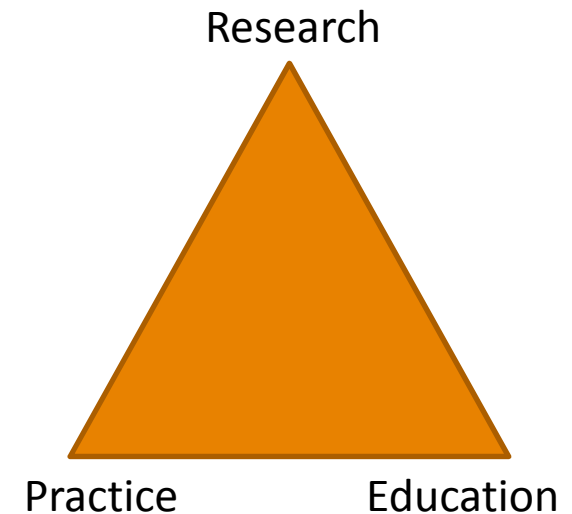
Partnership between research and public sector

Increase the knowledge about how research works

Develop innovation design in research

Balance supply side vs. demand side:
possibility/research driven vs.
problem/challenge driven innovation,

- to ensure implementation
- to develop the old and new disciplines



What could WE do?

- Change the rules of the game
- New obligations → New roles
→ Reconfiguring the system
- Example Health sector:
 - Hospital has a legal obligation to undertake and fund research
 - Huge effect on clinical research
 - Municipalities has a legal obligation to assist research
 - Marginal effect
 - HealthCare21 → Municipalities should have more effective obligations
- Education sector?



**Thank you for your
attention !**

