



Informing social policies through research

The context of ex-ante and ex-post approaches

Christian Boehler, Rahel Kahlert
20 October 2020

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

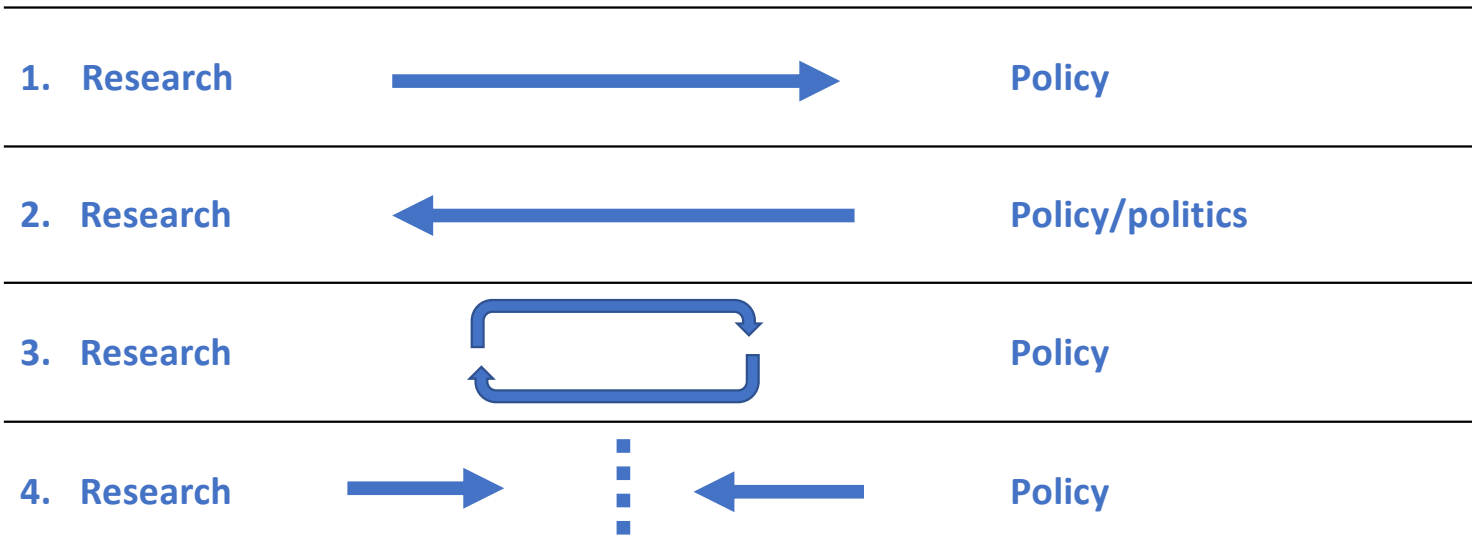


2020

Informing social policies through research, but when and how?

- When during a policy cycle are research and evaluation effectively conducted?
- What kind of research is most suited to inform policy?
- How is research effectively conducted?

Models of how research relates to policy

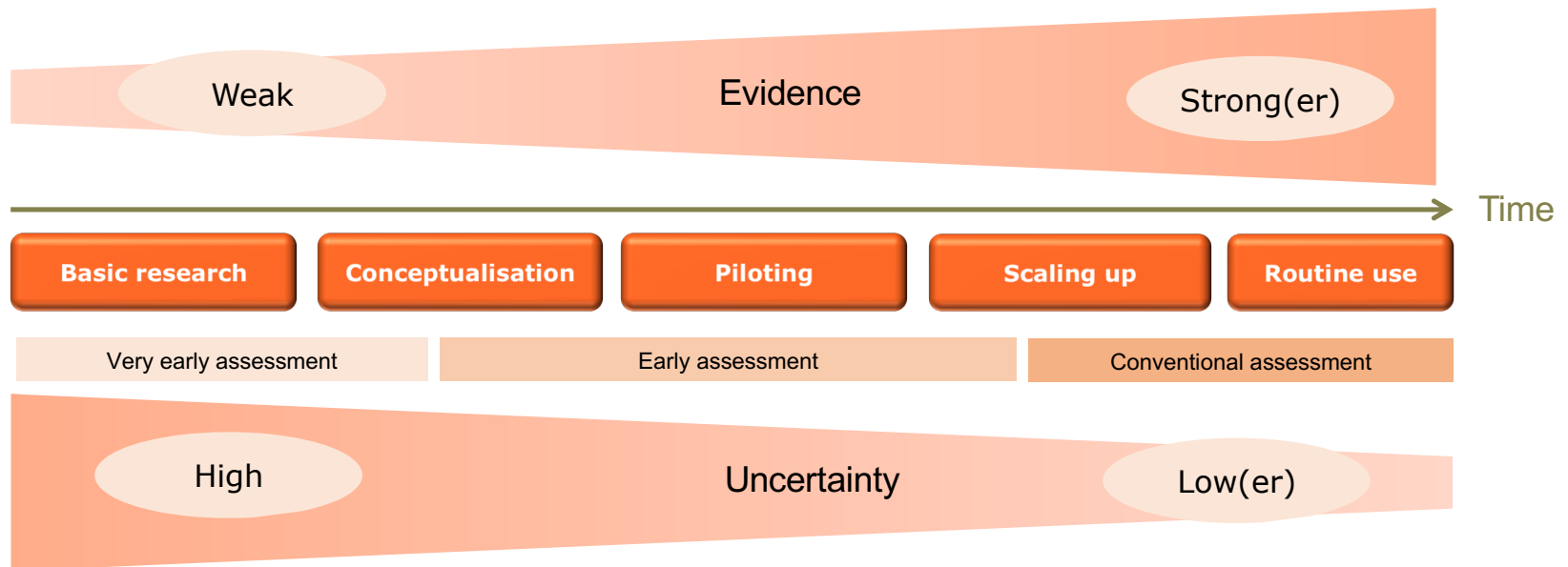


Source: Boswell C & Smith K (2017) Rethinking policy ,impact': four models of research-policy relations, Pelgrave Communications 3.44.

Scientific support along the (social) innovation life cycle

GAM 2020

Informing social policies through research



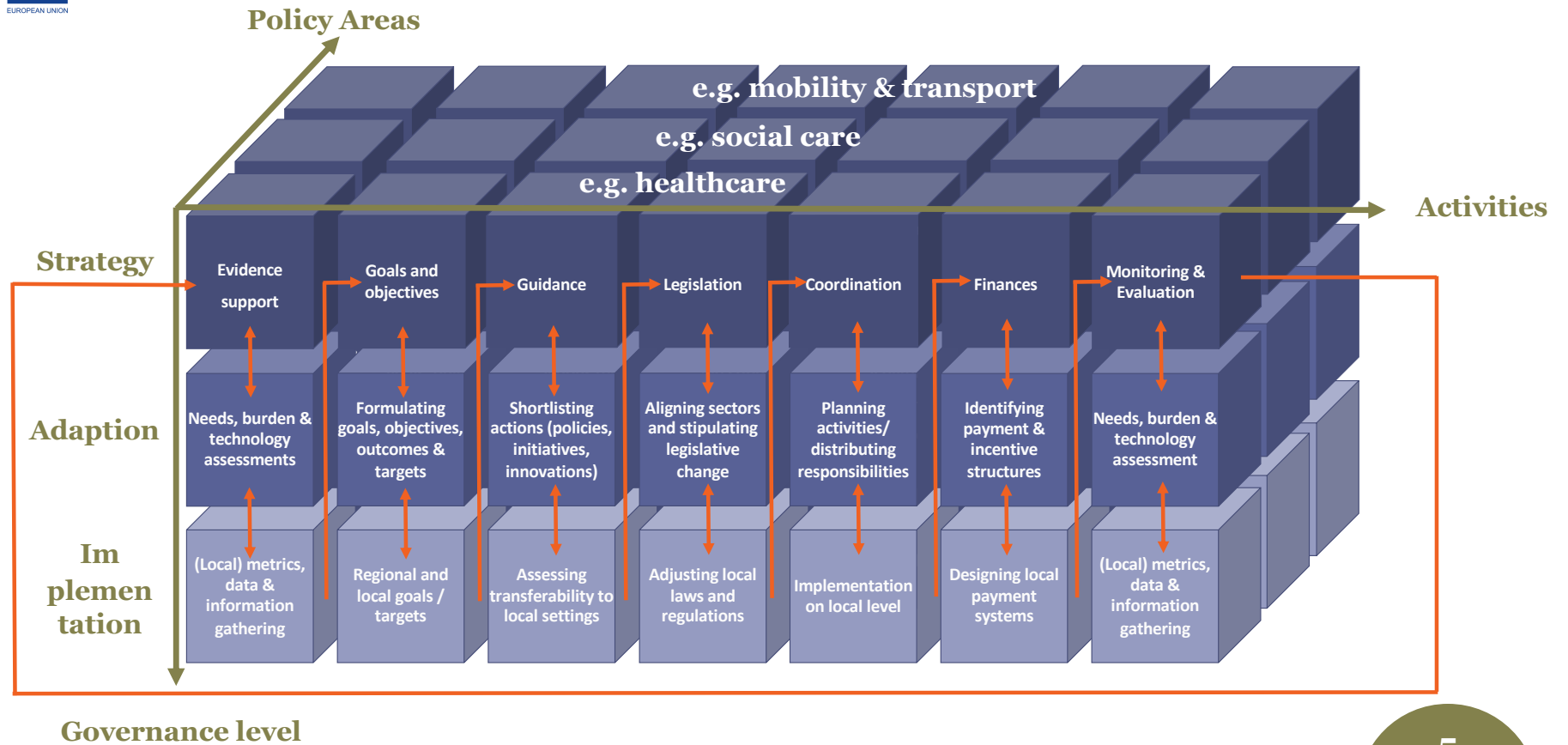
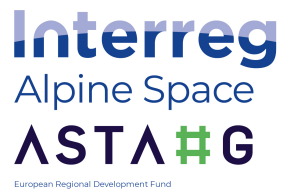
- Scientific policy support should start early on and continue in an iterative fashion
- This process could be combined with 'horizon scanning' to identify promising social innovations

*Own figure adapted from IJzerman & Steuten, Appl. Health Econ & Health Pol.2011

Scientific support along the policy cycle within multilevel governance

GAM 2020

Informing social policies through research

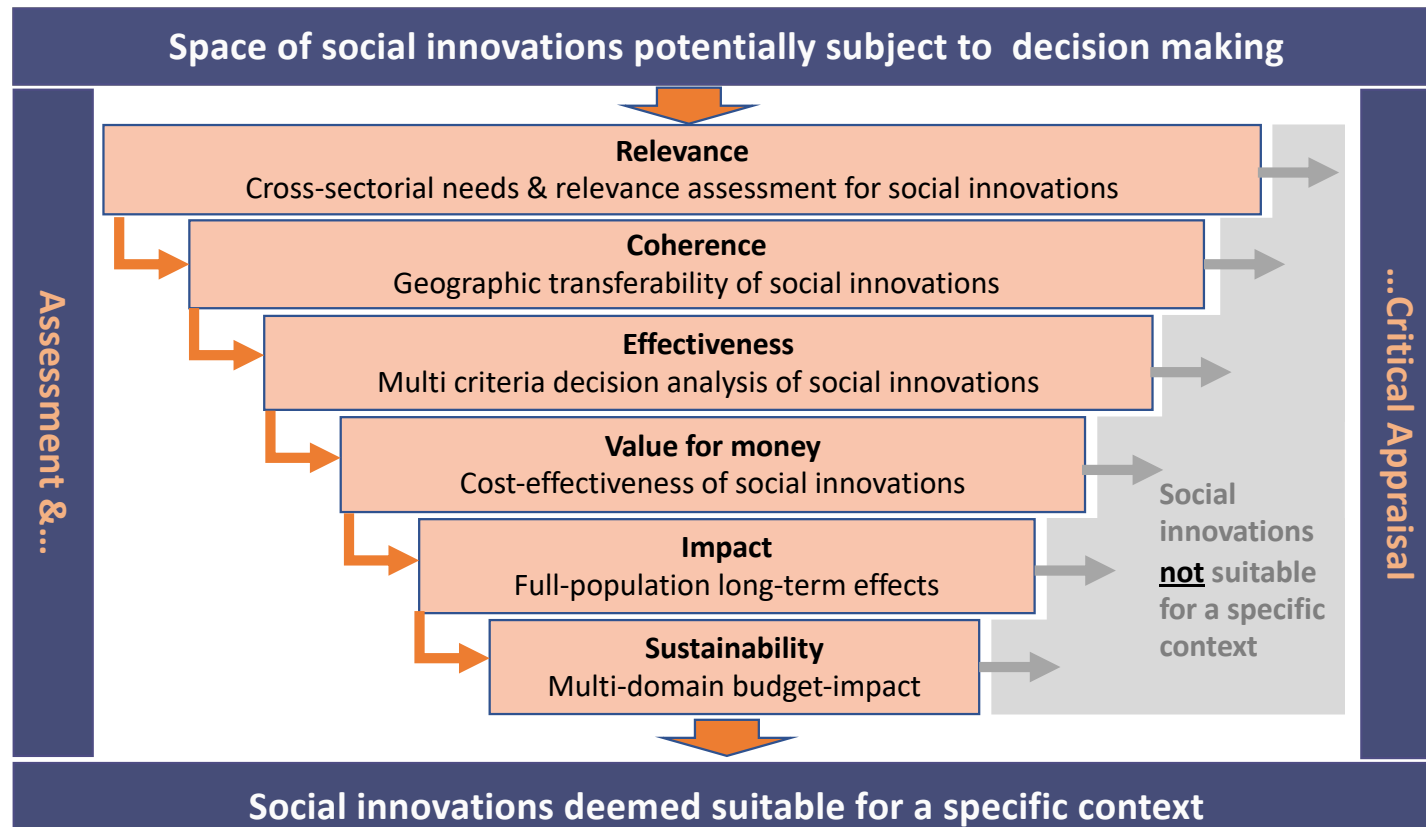
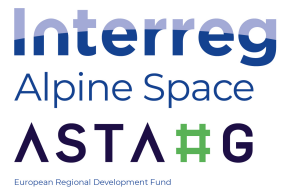


*Figure from Geyer & Boehler et al., 2019

Scientific support for cross-sectorial decision-making across traditional silos of governance

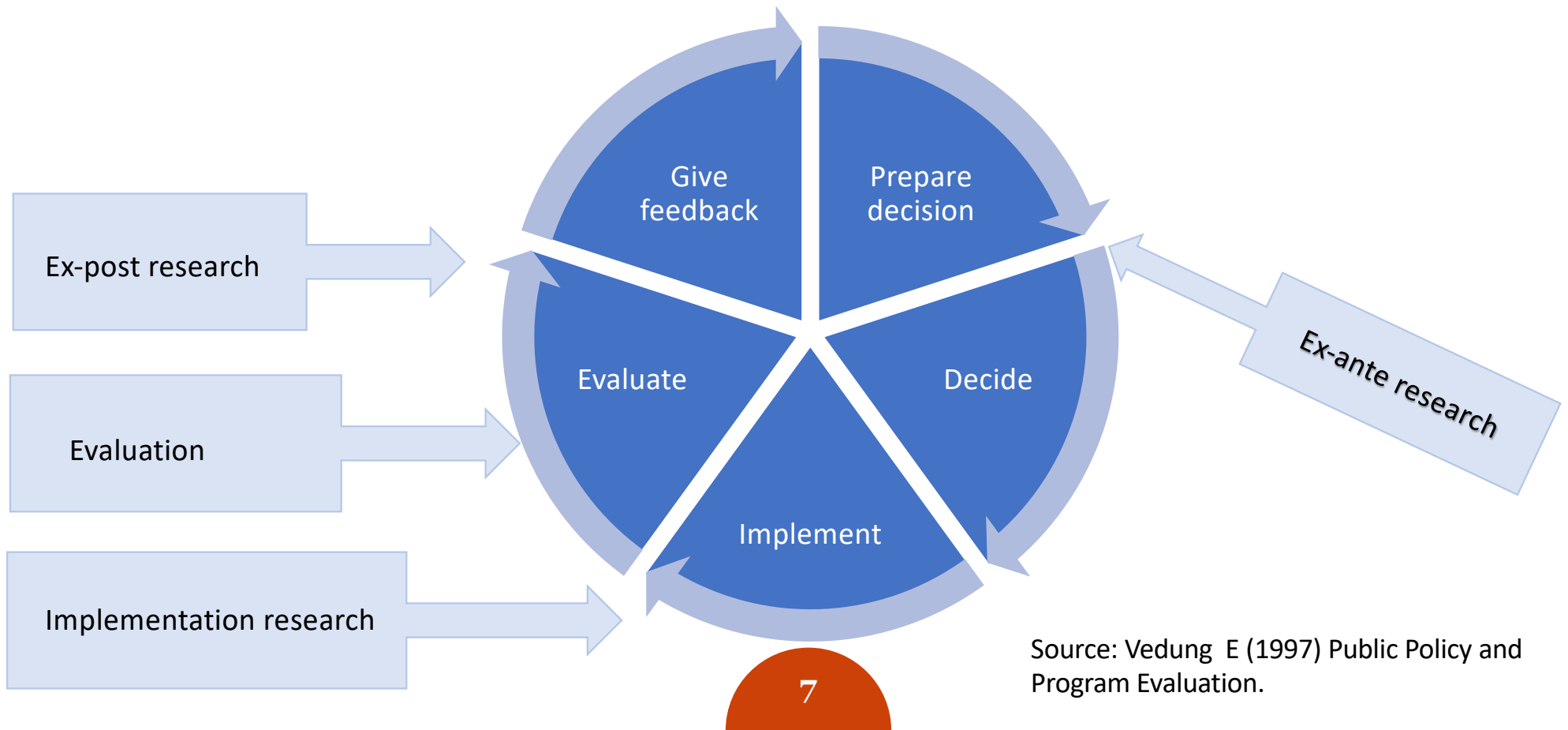
GAM 2020

Informing social policies through research



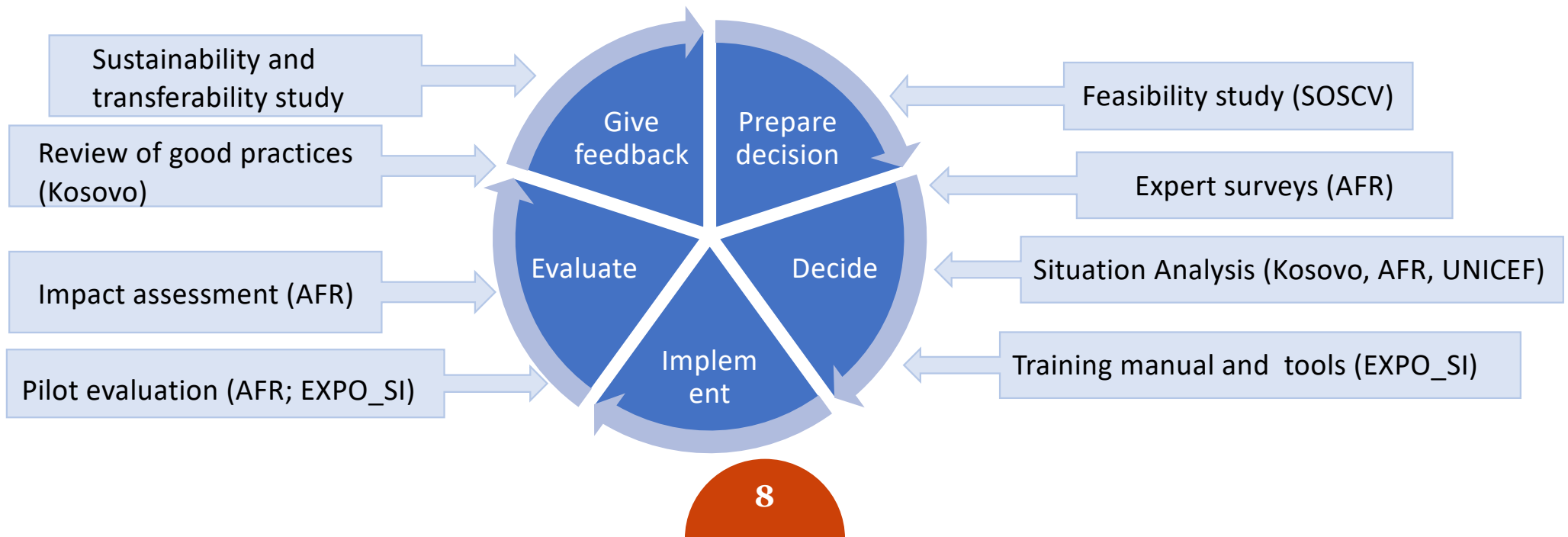
*Figure adapted from Boehler et al., 2020

Research and policy process (spinning top model)



Project examples

- Interreg Age-friendly Region (AFR)
- Kosovo social services for the most vulnerable
- Implementation of an integrated system for long-term care (LTC) in Slovenia (EXPOSI SI)
- Feasibility study (SOSCV)
- Situation analysis Croatia (UNICEF)



Take aways to maximise research use

- Consider timing!
- Let research methods be driven by policy questions
- Stakeholder-participatory approach
- Do not forget to thoroughly plan dissemination!
- Follow-up even after project ended!

Kahlert@euro.centre.org

boehler@euro.centre.org