

What is ACCORDS?

ACCORDS conducts pragmatic research in real-world settings to improve health care and outcomes, by providing:

- A multi-disciplinary, collaborative research environment to catalyze innovative and impactful research
- Strong methodological cores and programs, led by national experts
- Consultations & team-building for grant proposals
- Mentorship, training & support for junior faculty
- Extensive educational offerings, both locally and nationally



ACCORDS Upcoming Events

<p>May 18, 2022 3:00-4:00* PM MT</p> <p>*note time change</p>	<p>Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research Mini-Series: <i>Reporting and Presenting Data from Qualitative and Mixed Methods Studies</i></p> <p><i>Presented by: Allison Jaure, PhD</i></p>
<p>May 23, 24, & 25 10:00 -3:00 PM MT</p>	<p>COPRH Con 2022: <i>Disseminating, Scaling and Sustaining Pragmatic Research</i></p> <p><i>Registration NOW OPEN; visit COPRHCon.com</i></p>



The Swiss Learning Health System: A National Initiative to Support Evidence Uptake in Policy and Practice

Presented by: **Stefan Boes, PhD**



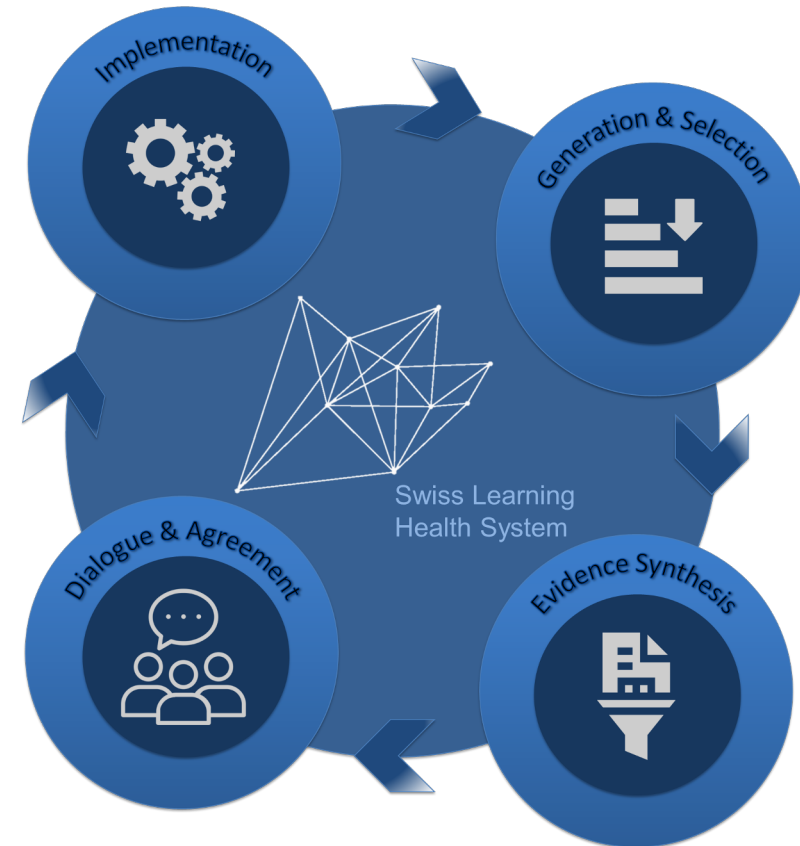


Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS): A National Initiative to Support Evidence Uptake in Policy and Practice

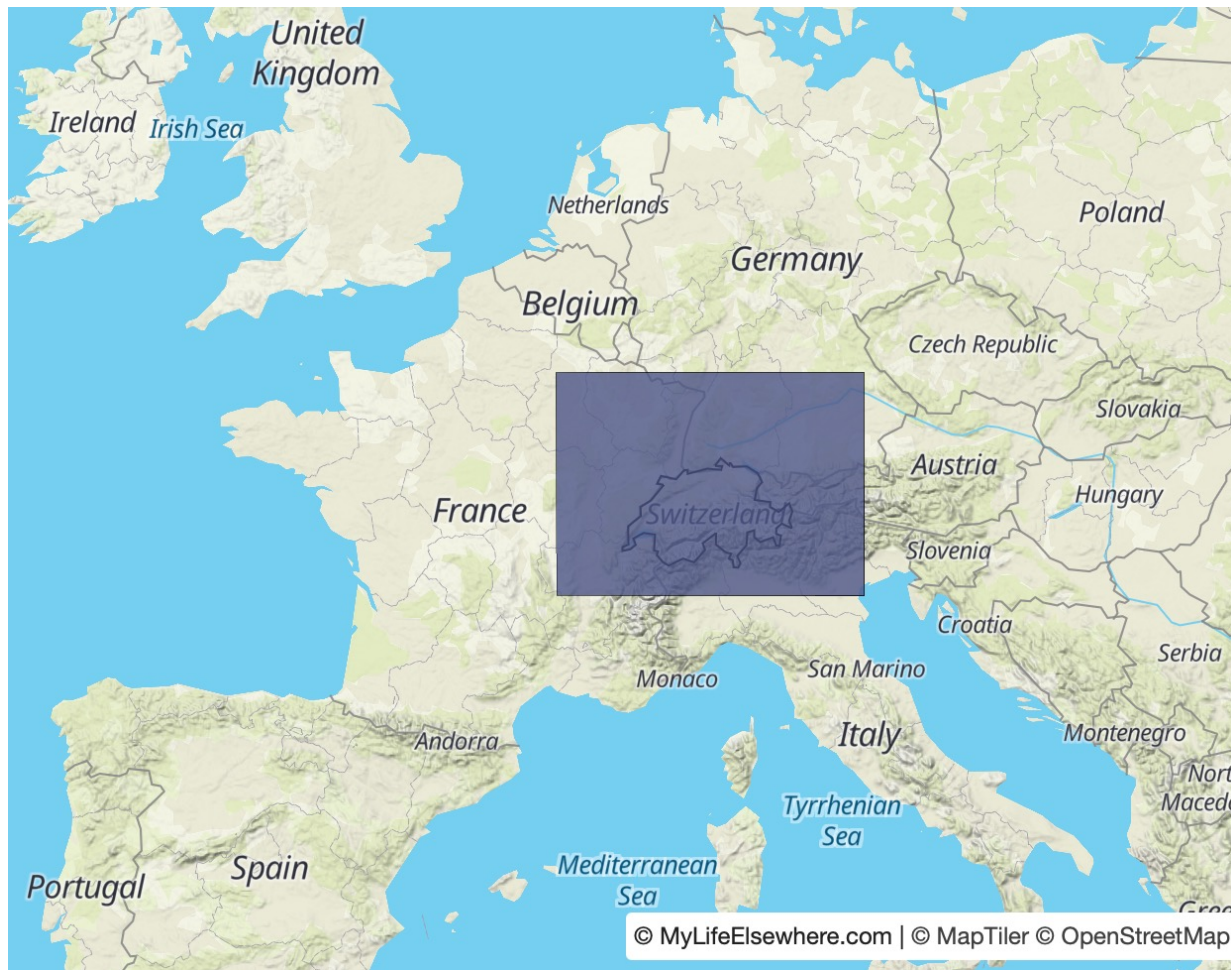
Stefan Boes - Dept Health Sciences & Medicine, U Lucerne, Switzerland

Outline of the talk

- Background
- Mechanisms of the SLHS
- Achievements and lessons learned (2017-2020)
- 2nd phase of the SLHS (2021-2024)



Switzerland At-A-Glance



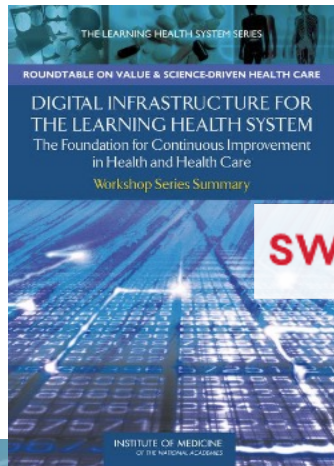
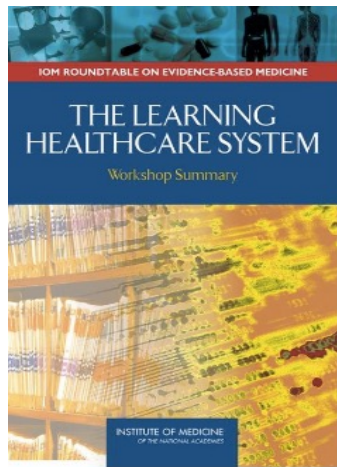
- Population: ~8.5 million
- GDP p.c.: ~72k USD PPP (6th)
- Federal state system with semi-direct democracy
- Size of health system: 12% / GDP
- Life expectancy at birth: ~84yrs

Background

Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS)

Started as Academic Network:
now 11 universities,
20 institutes/departments

1st funding: 2017 – 2020
2nd funding: 2021 - 2024



swissuniversities



Overarching objective

Strengthen the health system and create culture of shared decision-making in which sound scientific evidence is continuously integrated into the health system



Why was there a need for a «Swiss» Learning Health System?

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH 2012, FOPH 2015)

- need for strengthening health services research and funding
- missing coordination of activities, lack of a structured network

Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences

- need for development of health services research as a third pillar, complementing biomedical and clinical research (SAMS 2014)

Research funding of the Bangerter Foundation 2012-2016

National Research Program (NRP74) – Smarter Health Care

➔ **But no national infrastructure for knowledge translation!**



 SAMWASSM

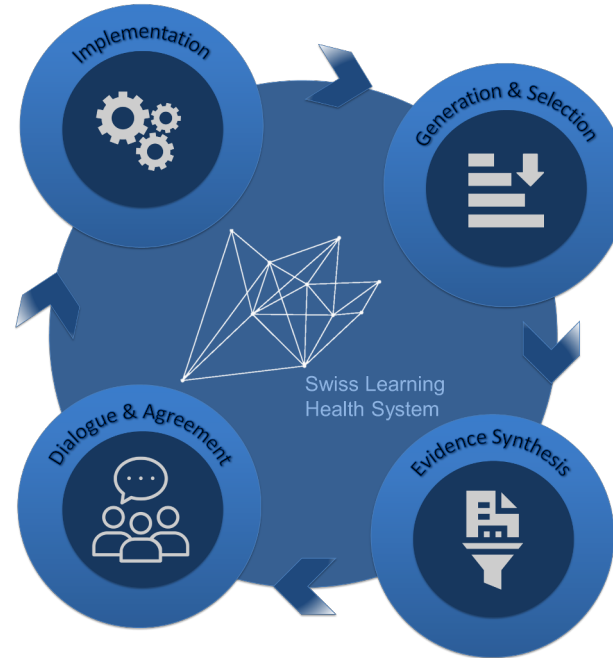
Gottfried & Julia
Bangerter-Rhyner
Stiftung



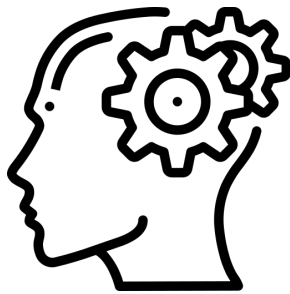
Smarter Health Care
National Research Programme

Mechanisms of the SLHS

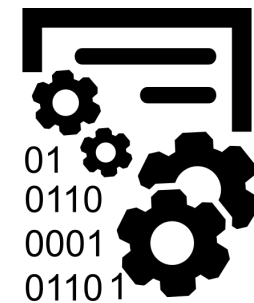
1. Bridging mechanism between research, policy, and practice



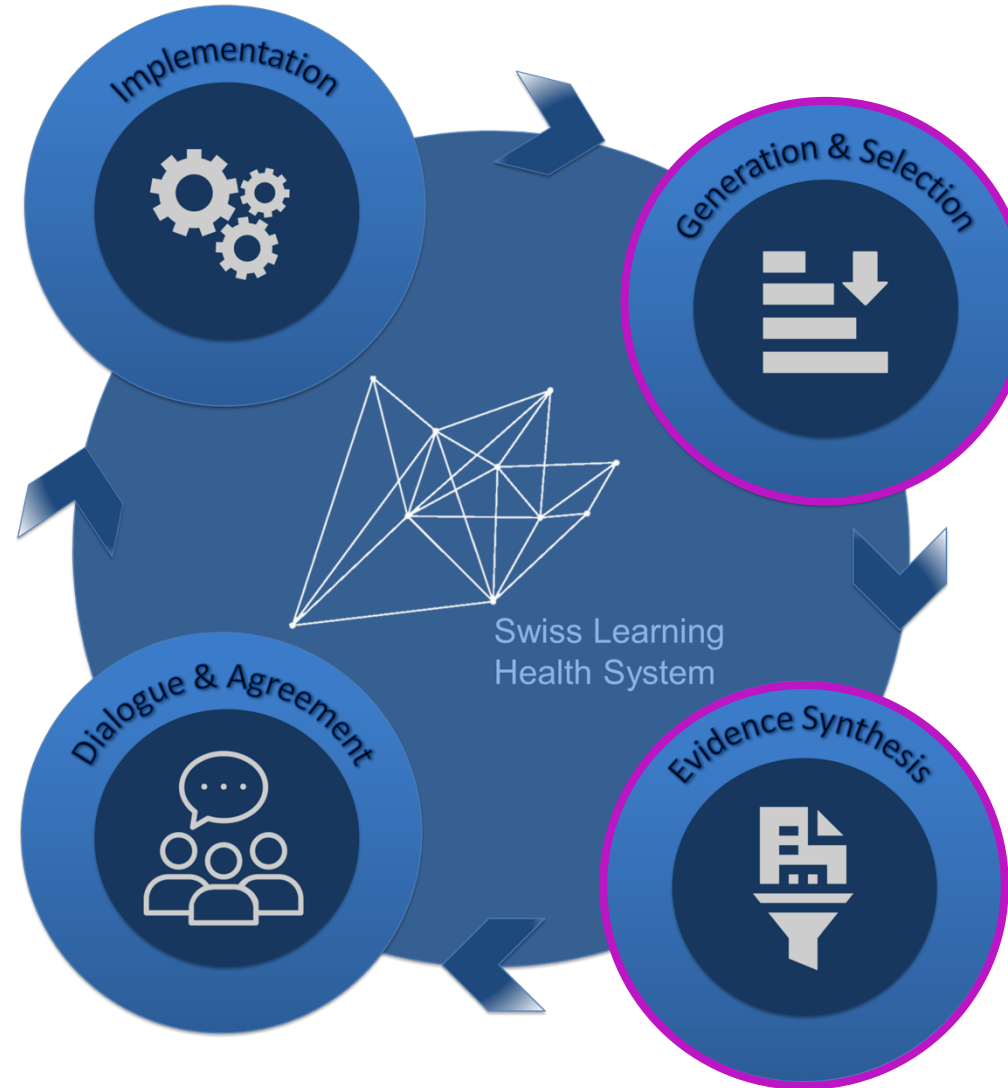
2. **Building scientific capacity** for health systems and services research



3. Developing standards for the **management of health information**



Bridging mechanism between research, policy, and practice



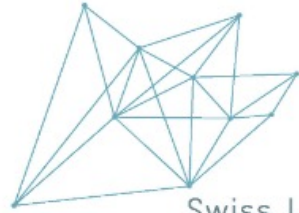
Issue Identification

The SLHS identifies and prioritizes pressing topics and challenges in the Swiss health system.

Policy Briefs

The SLHS produces evidence syntheses (Policy Briefs) as input for stakeholder dialogues.



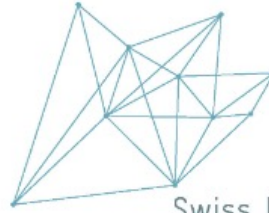


Swiss Learning
Health System

How can the international guidelines for knee osteoarthritis management be implemented systematically in Switzerland?

Lea Ettlin, MSc
Prof. Dr. Karin Niedermann

Policy Brief #6

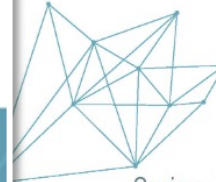


Swiss Learning
Health System

Giving patients a voice about cancer care: should Switzerland do more to collect patients' experiences of cancer care?

Chantal Arditi, Isabelle Peytremann Bridevaux

Policy Brief #8

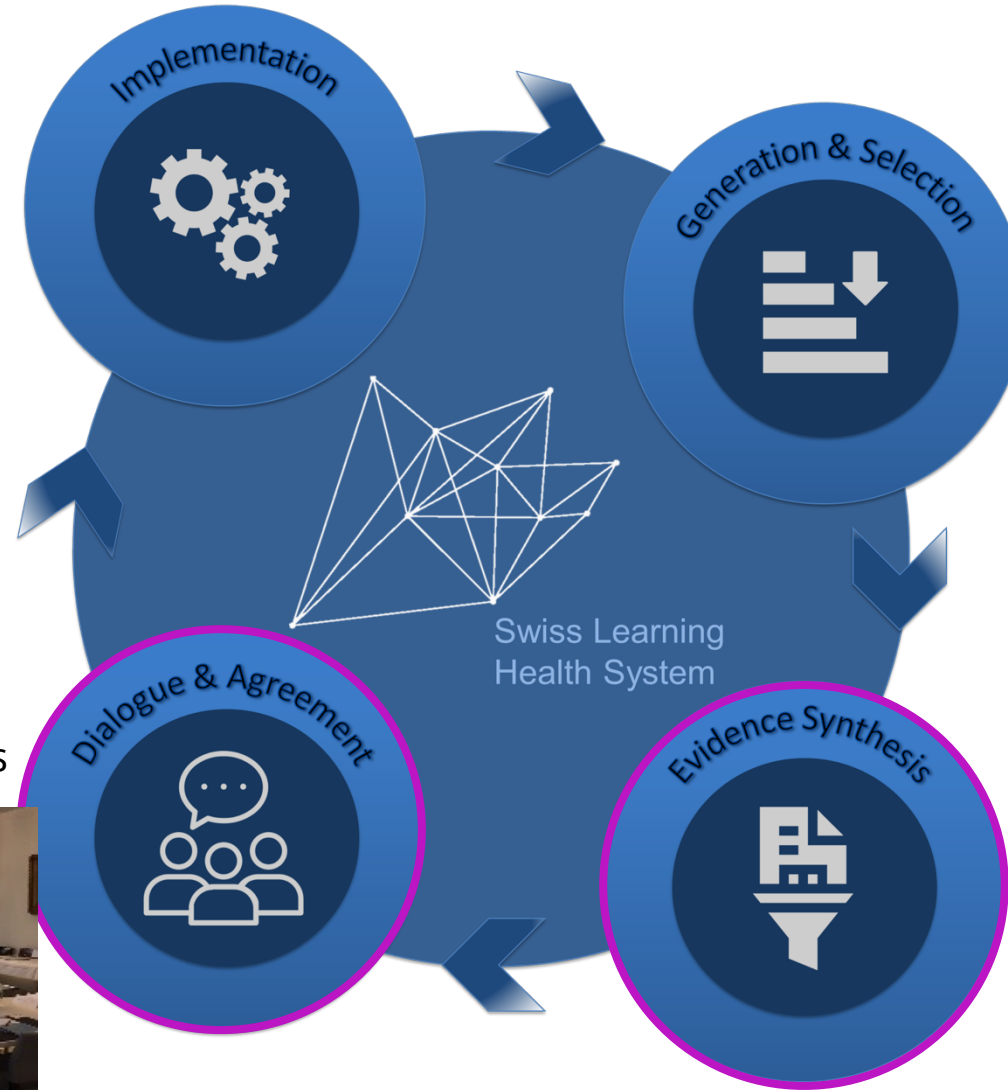


Swiss Learning
Health System

Professionalität in der Bildung

Policy Brief «Bildung»

Bridging mechanism between research, policy, and practice



Stakeholder Dialogues

Stakeholder work and discuss issues together to solve problems in the Swiss health system.



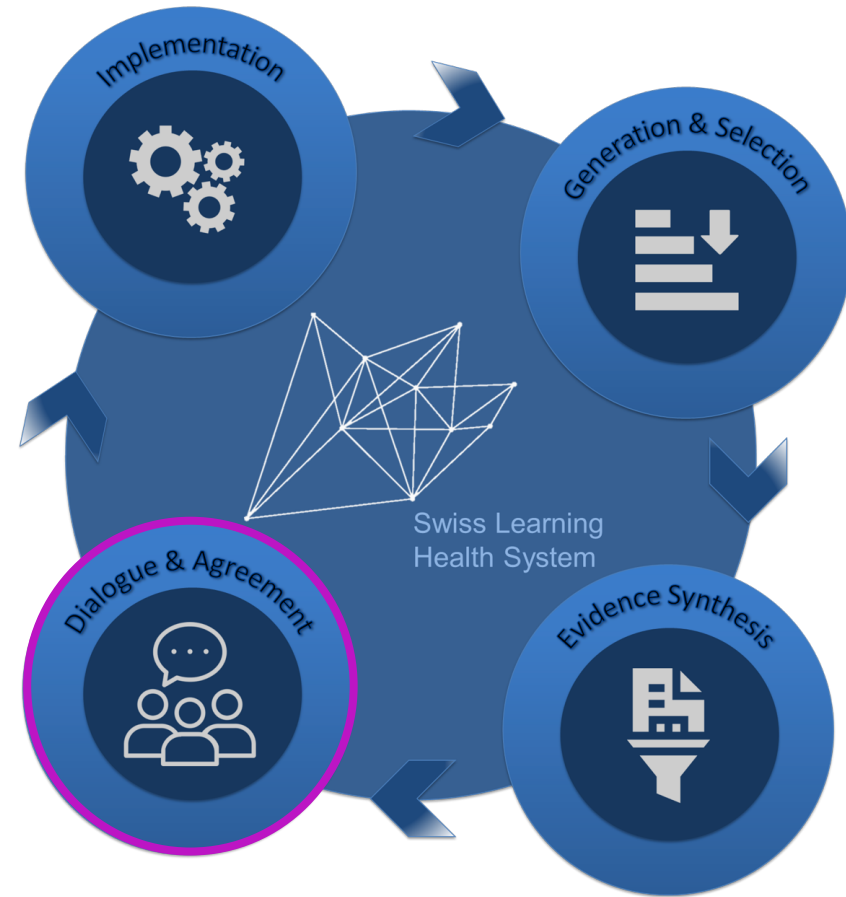
Policy Briefs

The SLHS produces evidence syntheses (Policy Briefs) as input for stakeholder dialogues.



Stakeholder Dialogue

- Structured communication process that uses a **deliberative dialogue** in which 2+ stakeholders work collaboratively toward a common goal
- **Policy Brief** serves as basis for discussion
- Dialogues follow the *Chatham House Rules*
- Different **outcomes** possible: (signed) agreements on a course of action, an action plan, a product (toolbox), further research necessary
- But no agreement is also a scenario, then the dialogue helps to understand the why



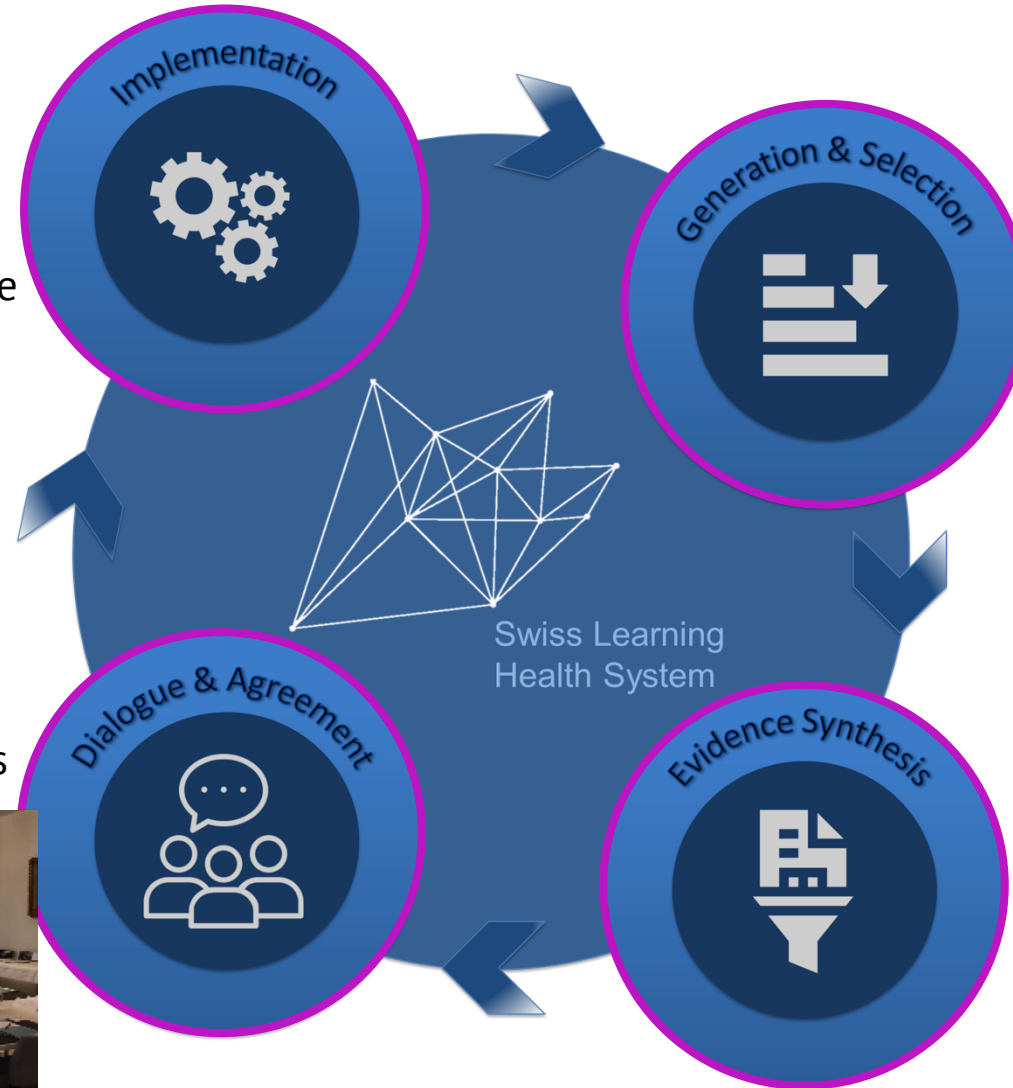
Bridging mechanism between research, policy, and practice

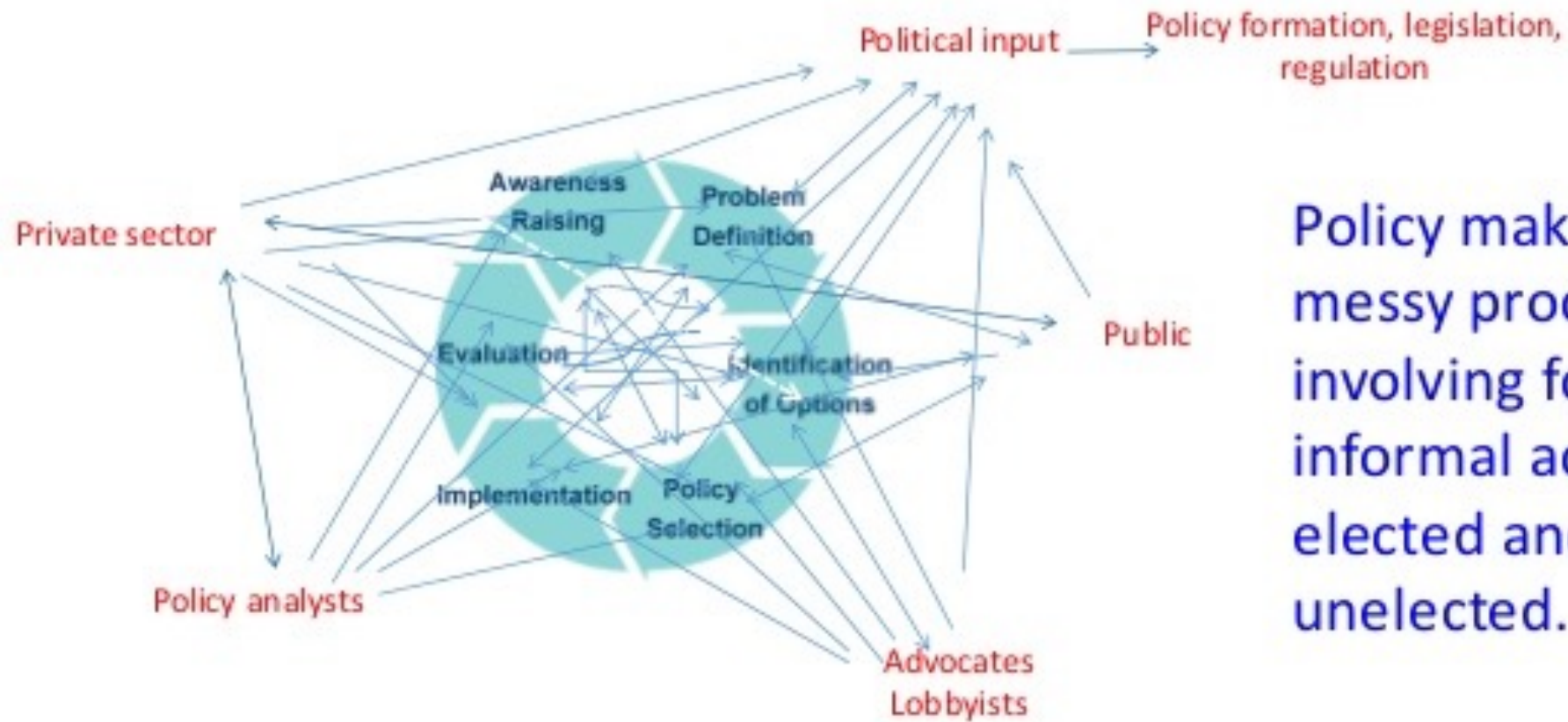
Monitoring and Evaluation

The SLHS monitors and evaluates implementation of measures to enhance the quality of health systems.

Stakeholder Dialogues

Stakeholder work and discuss issues together to solve problems in the Swiss health system.





Policy making is a messy process involving formal and informal actors, elected and unelected.

Source: Peter Gluckman - Governing better through evidence-informed policy making

Achievements and lessons learned (2017-2020)

Achievements in the first 4 years

- Implementation of **evidence synthesis platform**
- **20 Policy Briefs & Stakeholder Dialogues** and engagement activities
- **60+ publications** on current health system issues
- **Scientific capacity building** through structured course program
- Design and implementation of a **metadata repository**
- **Sustained network** across all partner institutions

Main success factors

- Strong network of partner institutions committed to strengthening the Swiss health system
- All SLHS partner institutions have a common understanding of:
 - principles of learning health systems, and
 - a shared methodology of health systems strengthening through learning cycles
- Official agreement on core values: person-centeredness, inclusiveness, transparency and accessibility, privacy, adaptability, integrity, quality and value for all
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of mechanisms; feedback of participants from policy and practice has been very positive throughout all aspects of the learning cycles

Main lessons learned

- Swiss health system highly complex and dynamic; creating awareness, interest and advocacy for a novel initiative such as the SLHS takes time
- Efforts are needed not only to further develop the network but also to make collaborations of mutual benefit to all partners (avoid stakeholder fatigue)
- Project mechanisms need to be further developed to make sure that the SLHS offers a set of tools that can effectively and efficiently support decision-making, on all levels, for different kinds of issues, and across different functions of the health system
- Implementation of learning cycles requires sufficient time and financial resources

2nd phase of the SLHS (2021-2024)

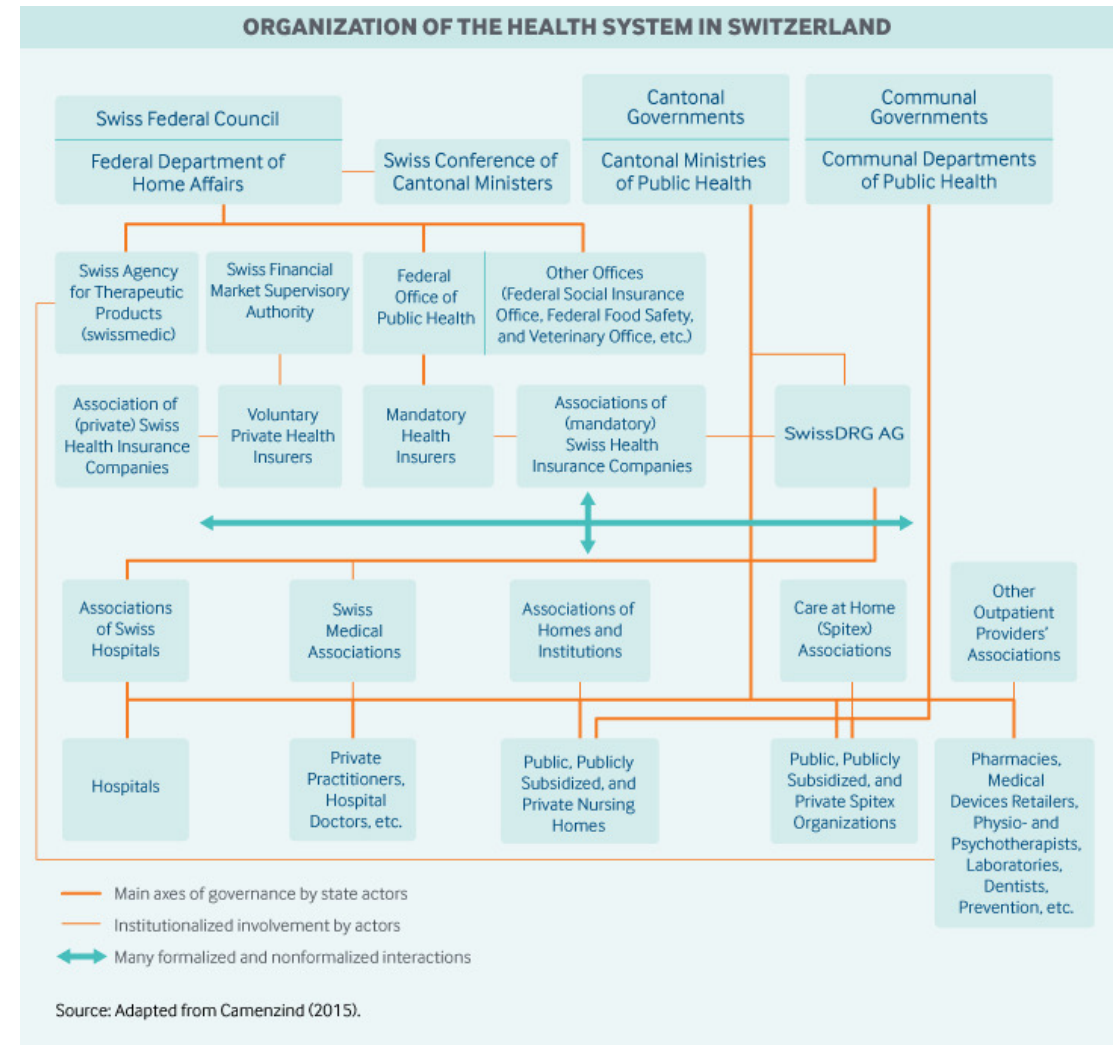
Expanding and strengthening the SLHS network

- For the 2nd funding phase, 4 new academic partner institutions joined
- Creation of working groups to foster collaboration within the network and continuously develop the SLHS

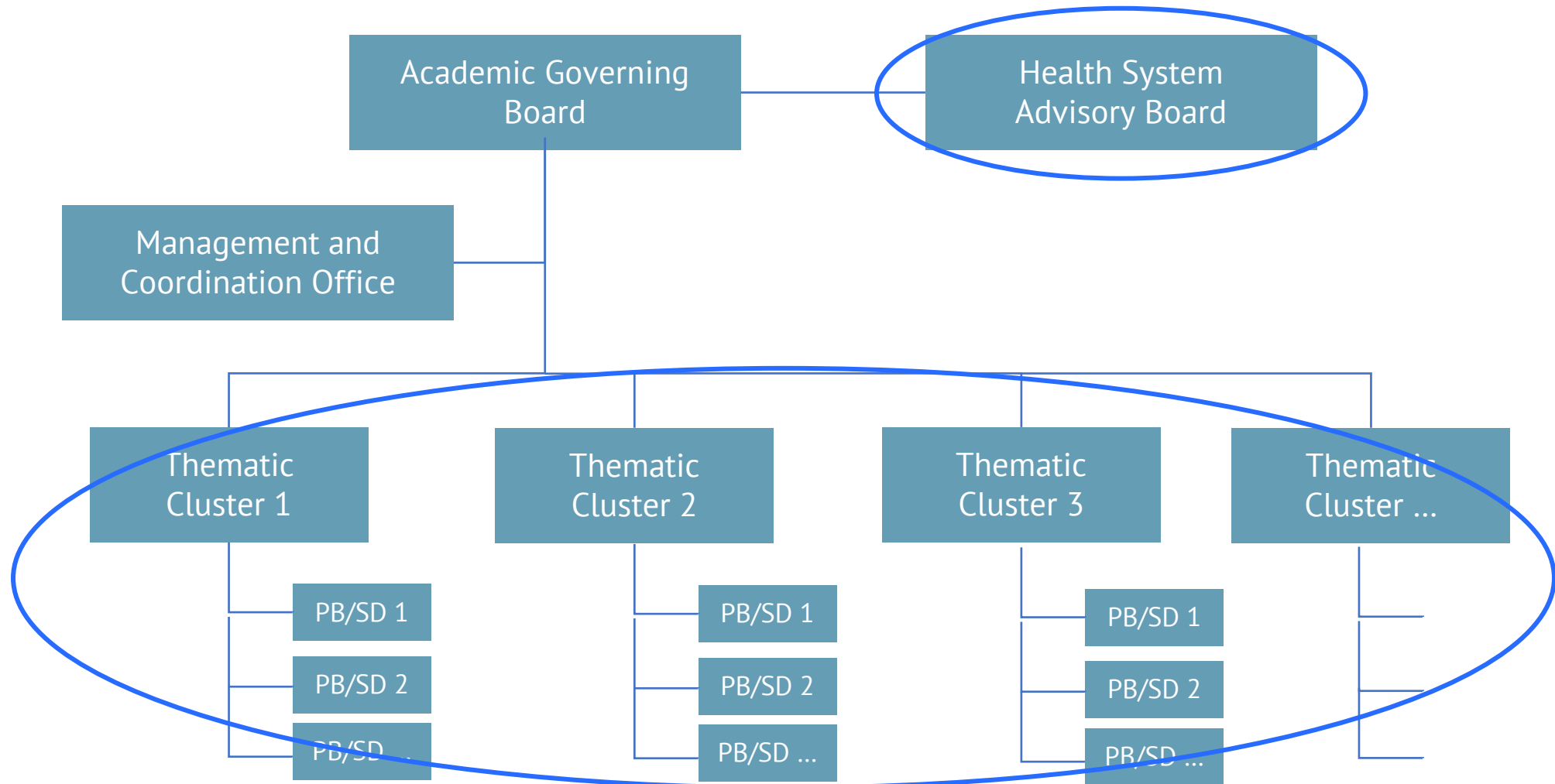


Creating awareness, interest and advocacy

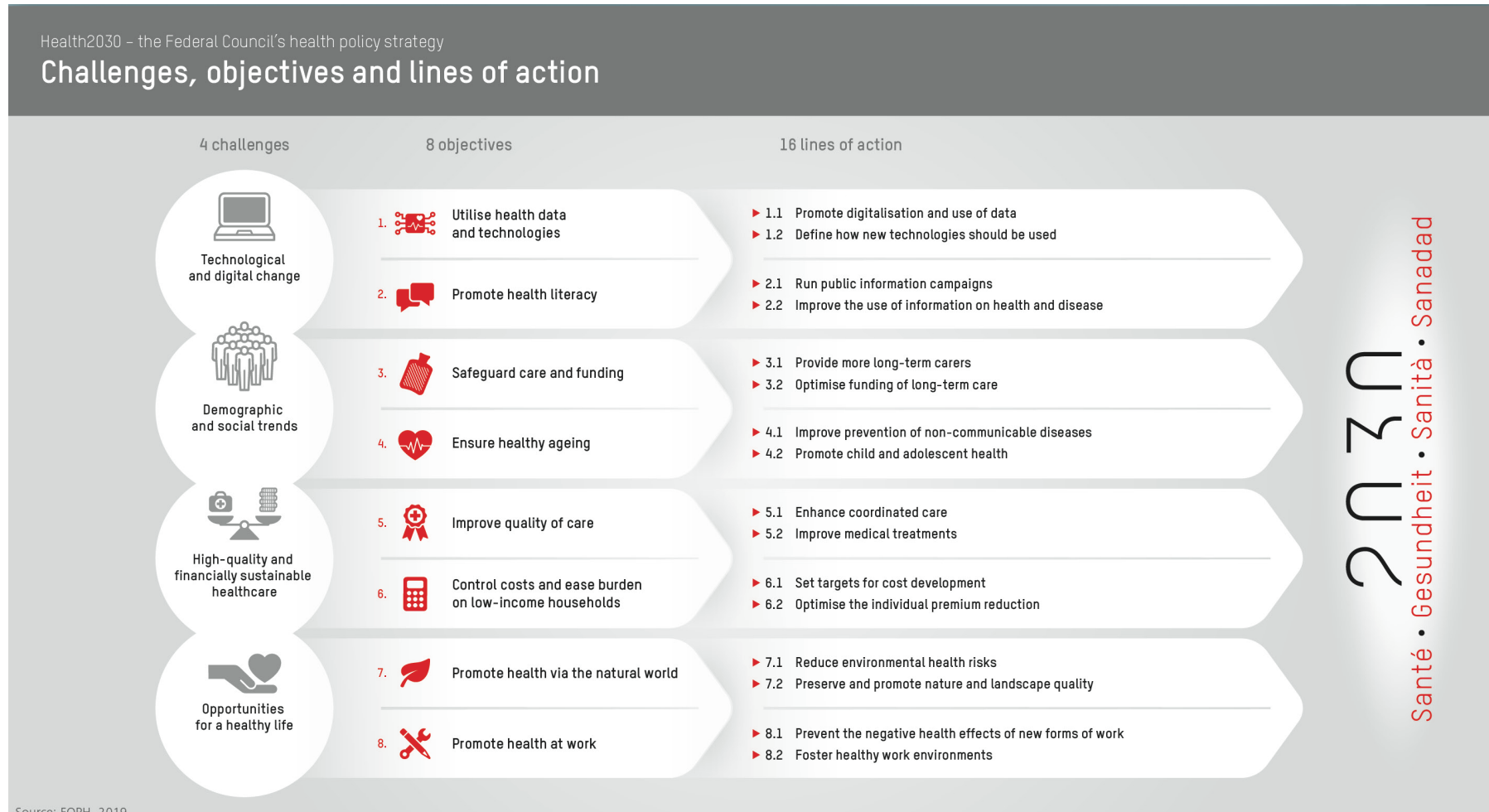
- Swiss health system is highly complex, with multiple actors, levels of governance, and centers of agency
- Implementation of a LHS takes time
- Coordination of engagement and participation of stakeholders
- Focus on thematic clusters



SLHS governance structure 2.0



Creating collaboration of mutual benefit



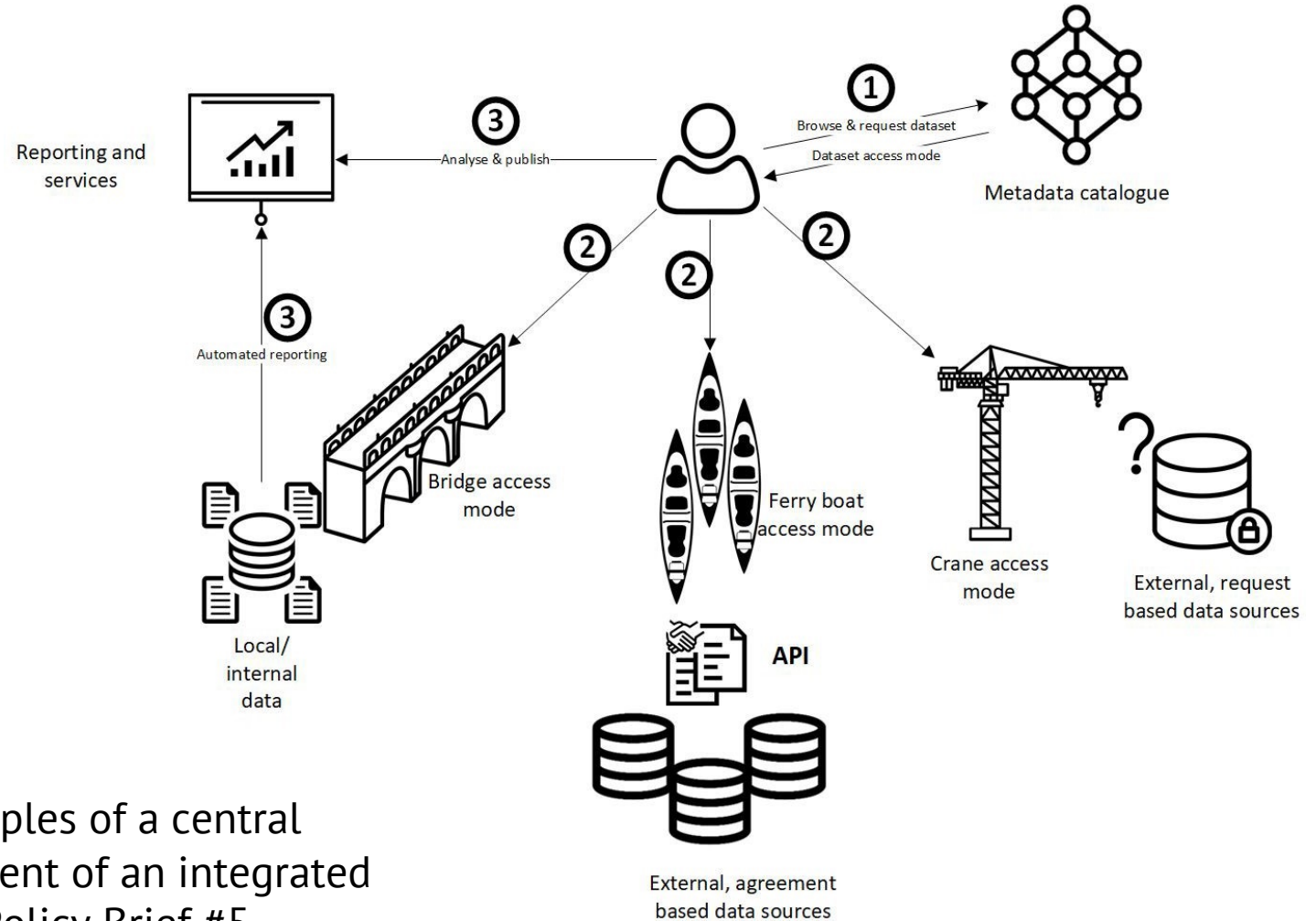
Calls for Joint Proposals

- SLHS will aim at generating at least 12 Policy Briefs through “***Calls for Joint Proposals***”
- To align calls with the needs of the health system, framed in “lines of action” of ***Health2030***
- Academic governing board in collaboration with the health system advisory board will steer the process and guide which “lines of action” of Health2030 shall be addressed in the calls
- SLHS partners collaborate in thematic clusters and contribute/respond to calls based on their availability, expertise, and interests
- Calls inform specific topics for PBs and SDs (e.g., ***consensus building workshop*** with stakeholders to deliberate and prioritize issues related to improving quality and delivery of care)

Digital infrastructure for the SLHS 2.0



Epic



Maalouf et al. (2020) Design principles of a central metadata repository as a key element of an integrated health information system. SLHS Policy Brief #5

Take-home messages

- Swiss Learning Health System – A National Initiative to Support Evidence Uptake in Policy and Practice
- Structured and cyclic mechanism to bridge research, policy, and practice:
issue identification – evidence synthesis – stakeholder dialogue – implementation – ...
- SLHS 2.0 – Fit for the future with
 - a) strong network and collaboration between partners
 - b) adaptive structure and alignment with health system needs
 - c) continuous effect to create awareness, interest, and advocacy for a LHS and related infrastructure to continuously improve the health system

Swiss Learning Health System

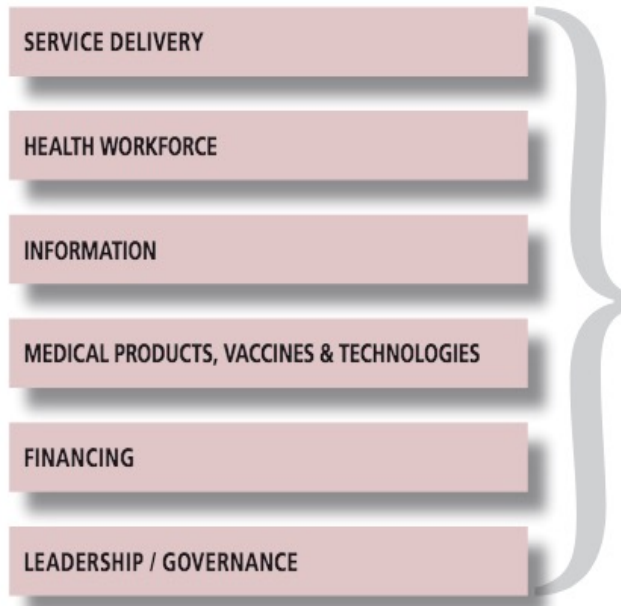
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Conceptual Framework



THE WHO HEALTH SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

SYSTEM BUILDING BLOCKS



OVERALL GOALS / OUTCOMES

ACCESS
COVERAGE
QUALITY
SAFETY

