Think2Impact™ - A Practical Application of Systems Science
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http://www.concept.ntnu.no/english/

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THINK2IMPACT

Think2Impact

A Practical Application of Systems Science

Better Governance

Initiating and managing projects

Identifying effective leverage points

Deepening community engagement

Opportunities in designing and delivering effective programmes

❖ Defining **policy** and **performance** frameworks

❖ Ensuring projects reflect **national interests** and **priorities**

❖ Leveraging **development drivers**

❖ Delivering outcomes that are **innovative** and **impactful**

❖ Creating **sustainable growth**

❖ Identifying strategic partners and including all stakeholders

❖ Measuring **accountability, transparency** and **effectiveness** of programmes

Context - our world is complex

- We live in a **fragmented** and dynamically changing time characterised by rapid evolution and **uncertainty.**

- **We face:**

- Globalisation of economies

- Food safety and security

- Alleviation of poverty - improving quality of life

- Business & Organisational systems

- Sustaining & enhancing natural resources

- Population health

- Dealing with climate change

- Quality of life issues

Complex problems

❖ Complex problems are **multidimensional, ambiguous, non-linear** and **interdependent** with **multiple stakeholders** who have **diverse agendas, objectives and backgrounds**

❖ **No quick fixes** or silver bullets for complex problems

❖ Solutions for complex problems must be inclusive and relevant with an eye on **sustainability** and **innovation**

❖ There is a need for **a different kind of intelligence** and knowledge base to deal with the challenges of complex problems
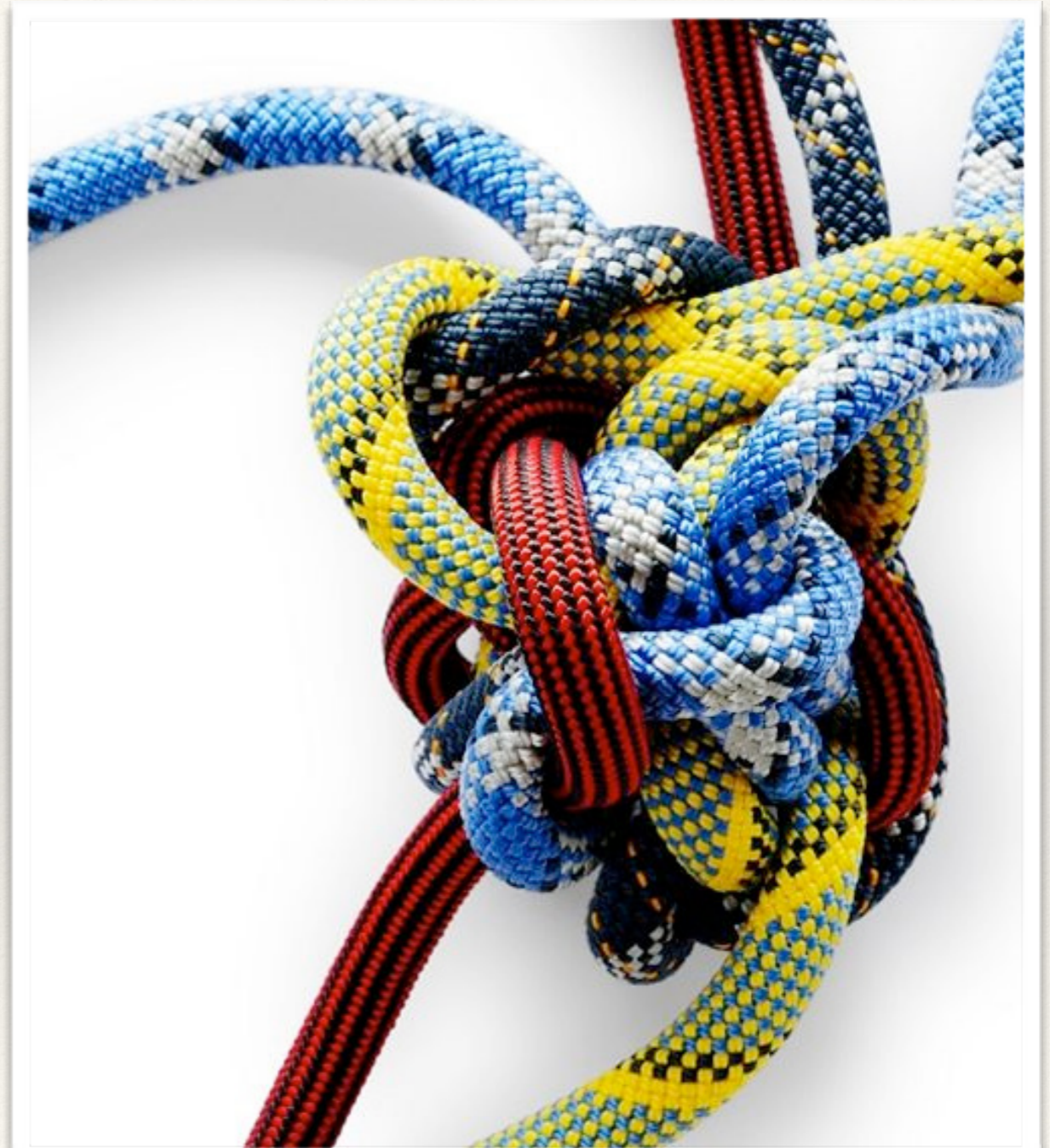
Systems thinking

- Cuts through complexity

- Analyses a problem based on its various parts and their **interconnectedness**

- Synthesises perspectives from multiple stakeholders to build a **comprehensive big picture**

- Identifies symptoms, **root causes** and consequences

- Aims to resolve issues by affecting a change in mindset and **creating a new paradigm**
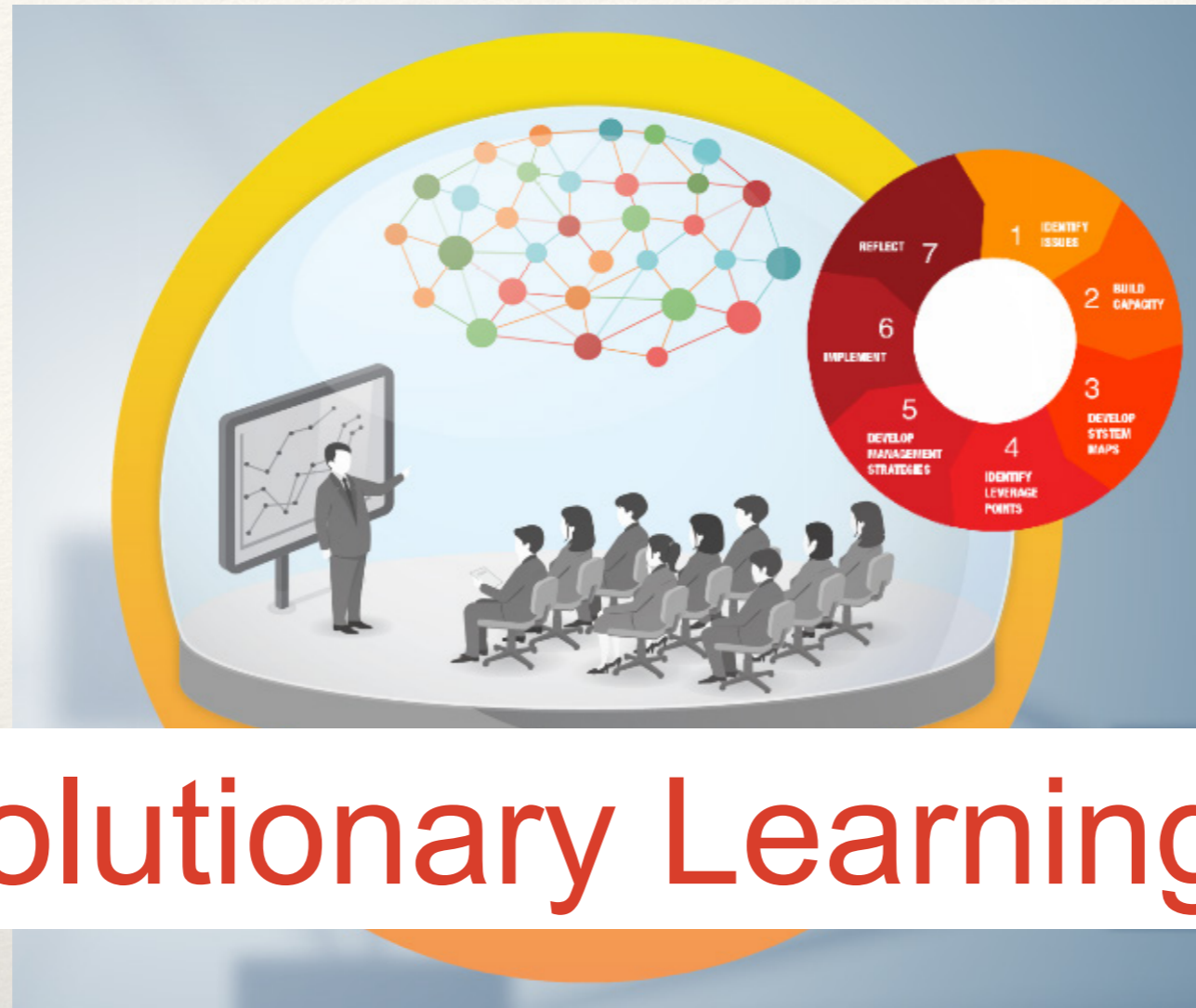
Systems Thinking and Innovation

❖ **The North Karelia Project, Finland**

❖ In the early 1970's Finland had the highest Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD) mortality rate in the world. The North Karelia Project was started in 1972 as a national pilot and demonstration programme for CVD prevention.

❖ A collaboration between local authorities, people, experts and the government towards reducing heart disease

❖ An initiative that resulted in community based interventions

❖ Combining policy, science and behavioural change it led to the Karelia Health Service being reorganised around prevention

❖ Now used to demonstrate this pioneering practice all over Finland
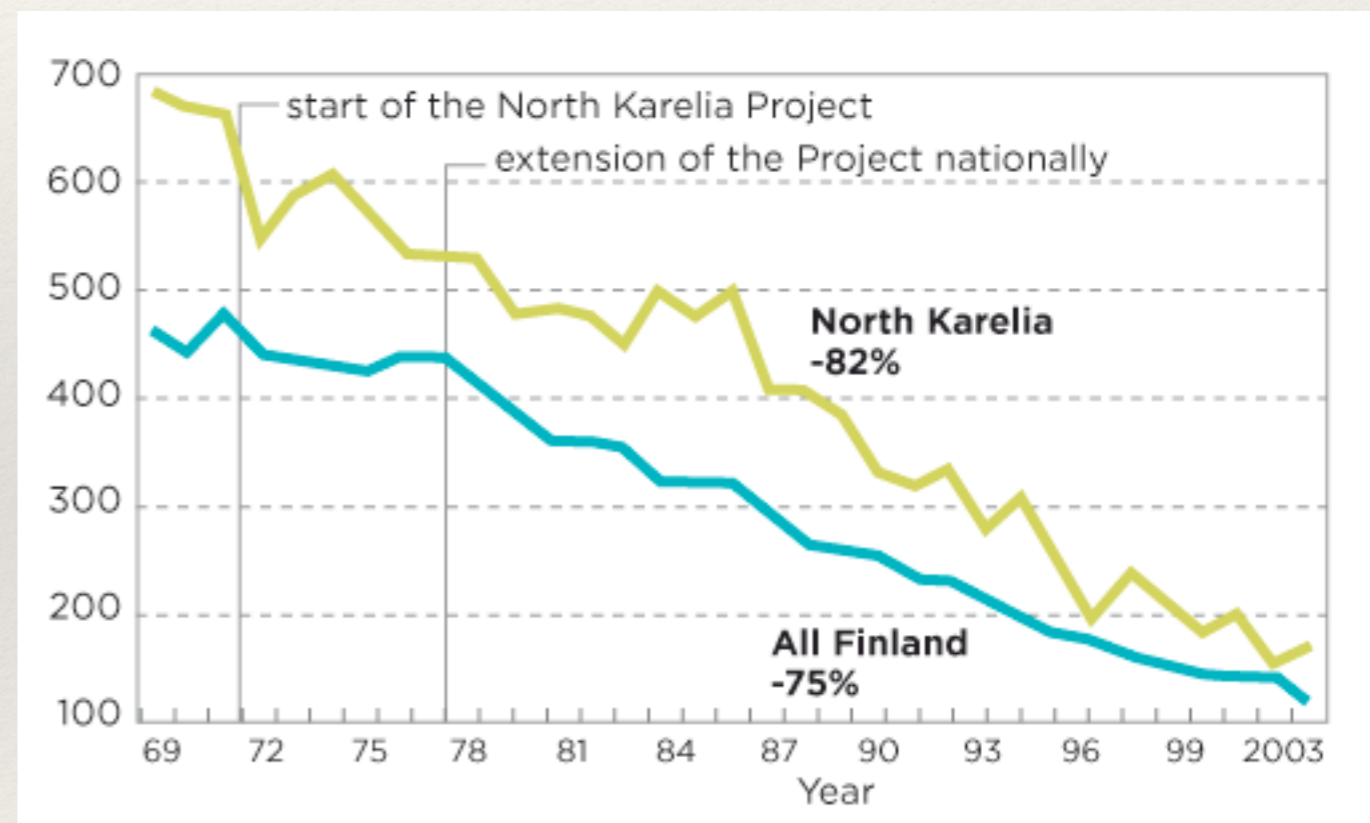
Evolutionary Learning Labs

Non linear problem solving to cut through complexity

Evolutionary Learning Labs

- Non linear problem solving to cut through complexity
- A unique synergy of academic rigour and real world application of systems thinking
- A model that impacted problem solving in global contexts.
- Demonstrated success in different scenarios.

The ELLabs

❖ The Evolutionary Learning Labs have a seven step systemic framework that has enabled people in diverse geographies **address complex multi-dimensional problems**

How ELLabs work

TRADITIONAL THINKING

REFLECT

IMPLEMENT

IDENTIFY ISSUES & GATHER MENTAL MODELS; DEVELOP A SHARED UNDERSTANDING

1

SOLUTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN
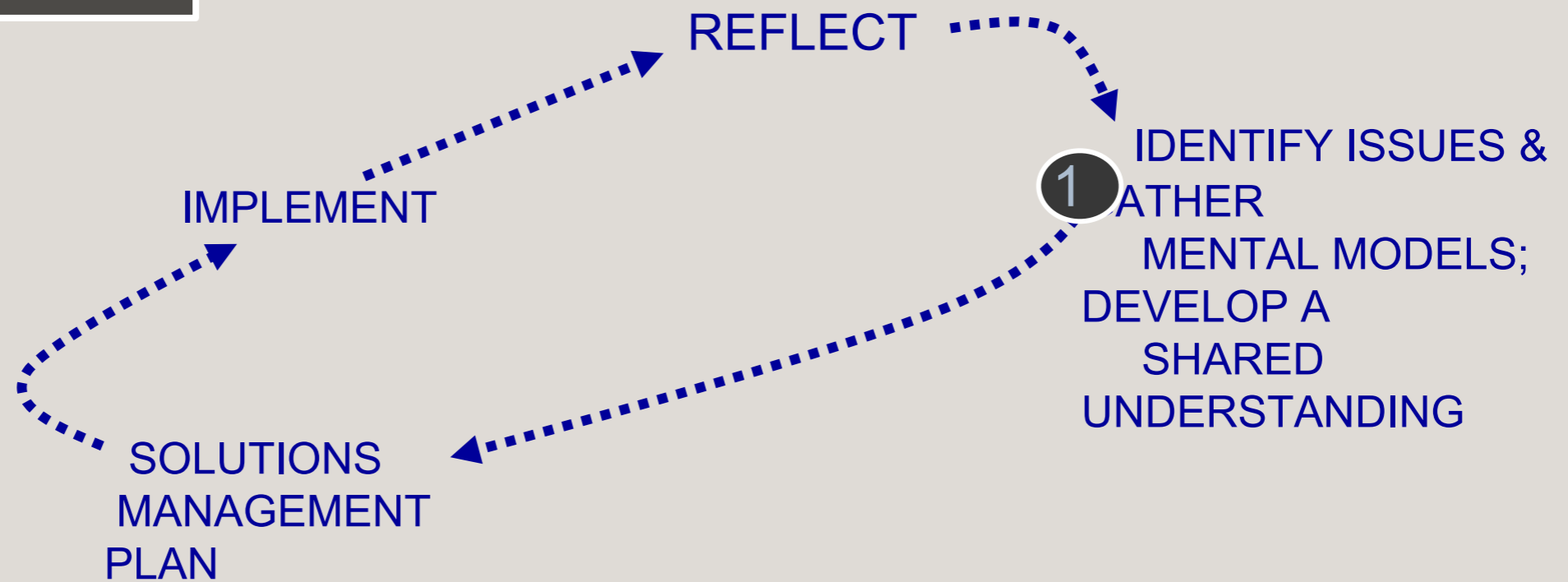
EVOLUTIONARY LEARNING LABORATORY
FOR MANAGING COMPLEX ISSUES, PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMS

REFLECTION

7

IMPLEMENT

Environmental

IDENTIFY ISSUES &
GATHER

6

Stakeholders'
Mental Models

MENTAL MODELS;
DEVELOP A

1

Economic

Systems
Structure

Social

SHARED
UNDERSTANDING

2

SOLUTIONS
MANAGEMENT
PLAN

5

Patterns &
Relationships

3

Cultural Values

4

A NEW WAY OF INTERCONNECTED THINKING
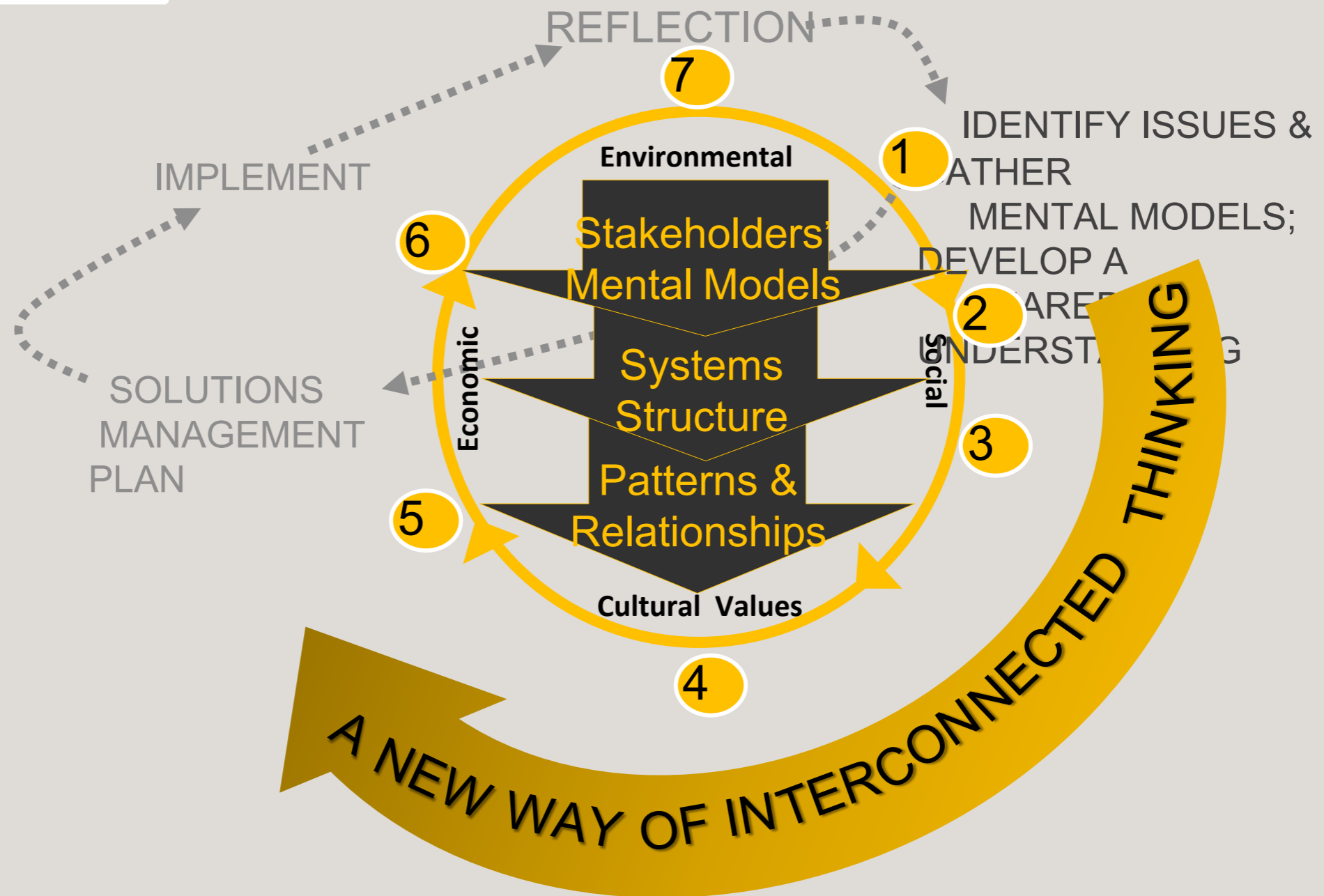
Example - ELLab Application in Governance

Collaboration

Sharing

Integrated Systemic Master Plan for Governance

Agric. & Rural Development

Natural Res & Environment

Culture, Sport & Tourism

Planning & Investment

Training & Education
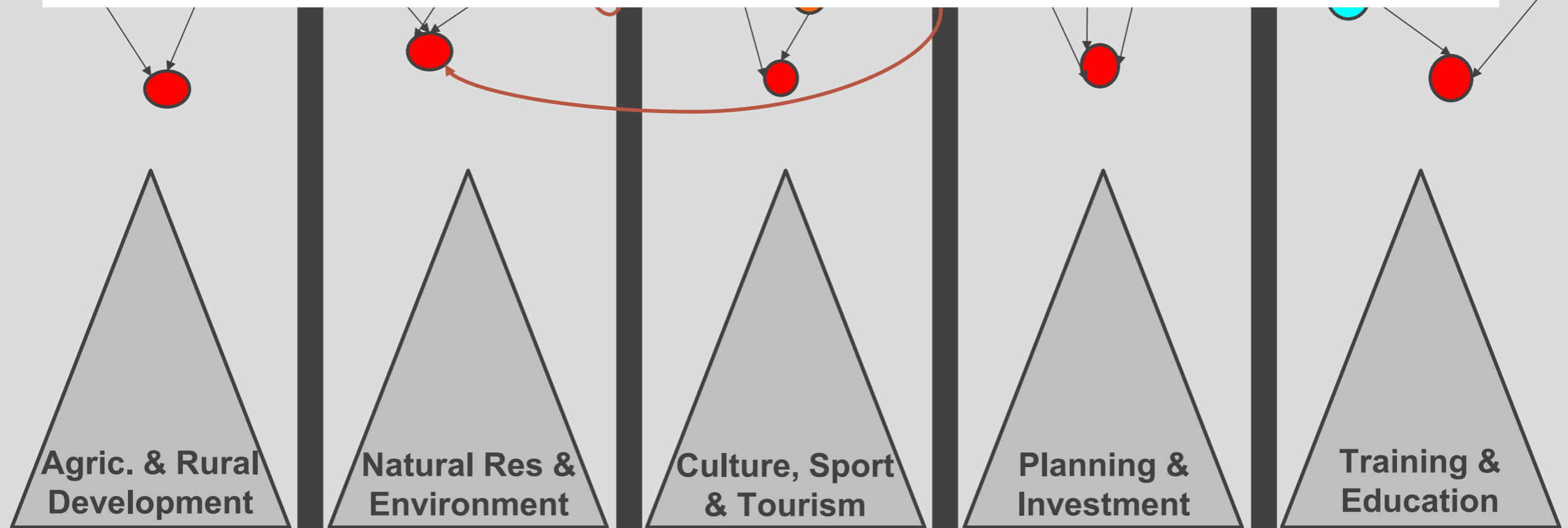
Departments of Haiphong Province, Vietnam

Lack of Funding

Geo Locations & Nat. Conditions

Conservative thinking

Population Pressure

SD Awareness

Intnl. Assist.

Infrastructure

Environment

Labour force

Weakness in R&D

Economic Development

Social Issues

Revenue

History & Trad. Cultures

Cross-Depart. Coordination

Policies & regulations

Livelihood of People

Lack of transparency

Skilled HR

Bureaucratic Admin

Sustainable Development

© Professor Ockie Bosch and Dr Nam Nguyen

THINK 2 IMPACT

Identifying Long-term Systemic Interventions

BAYESIAN MODELLING SYSTEM

Environmental

Economic

Social

Cultural Values

Stakeholders' Mental Models

Systems Structure

Patterns & Relationships

7

6

5

4

1 IDENTIFY ISSUES & GATHER MENTAL MODELS; DEVELOP A SHARED UNDERSTANDING

2 OF IMPACTS

3 INTEGRATE MENTAL MODELS INTO A SYSTEMS STRUCTURE/MODEL
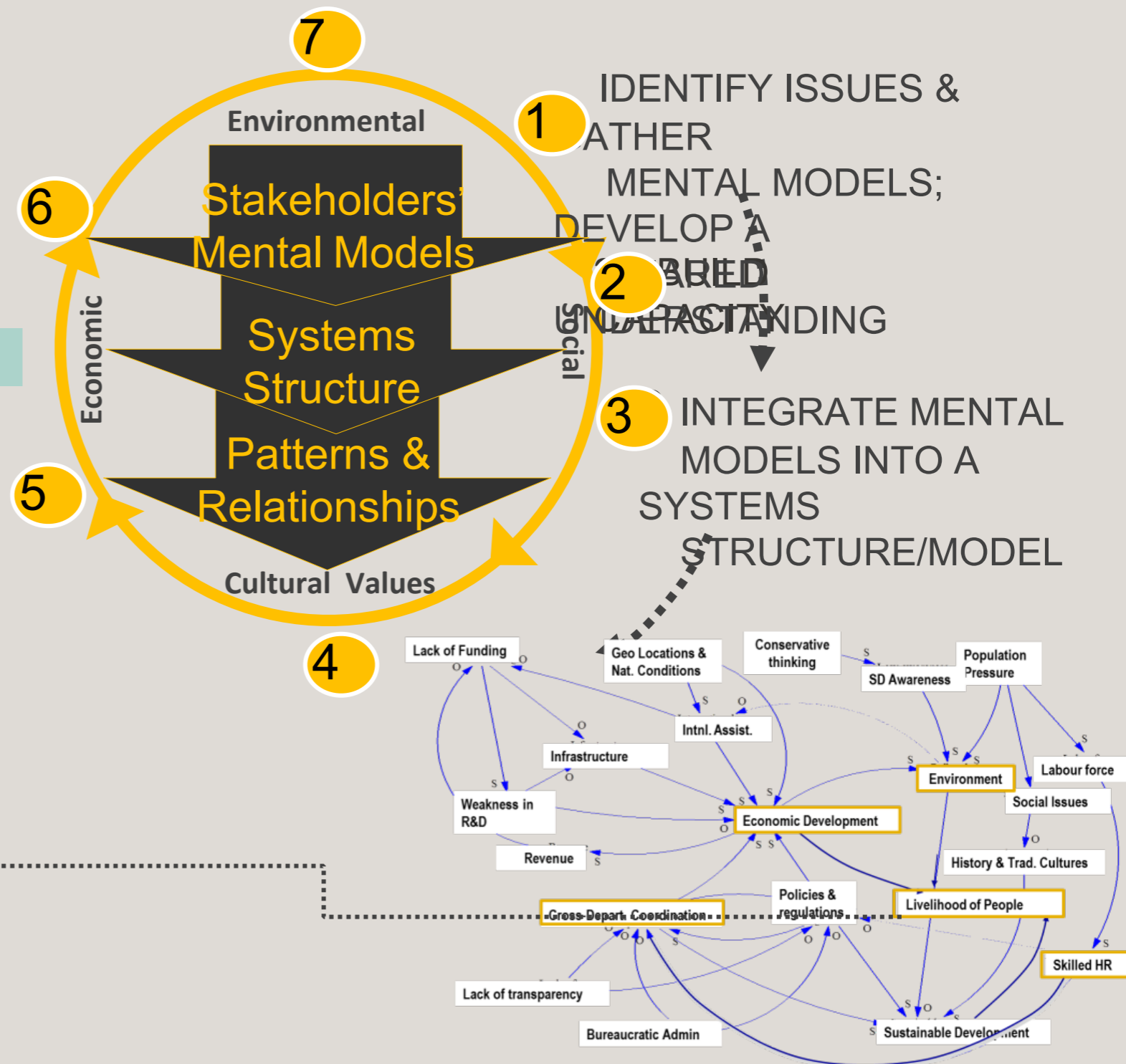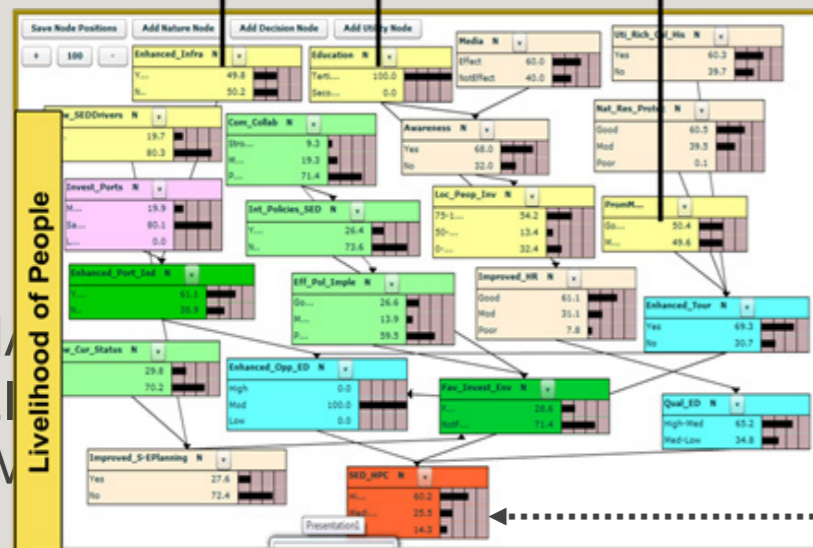
BAYESIAN BELIEF NETWORK MODELING

- Participatory Systems Analysis
- Easy to construct
- Link qualitative and quantitative
- Quantify uncertainties

- Easily updateable
- identify Systemic Interventions
- Useful for developing strategic and operational plans
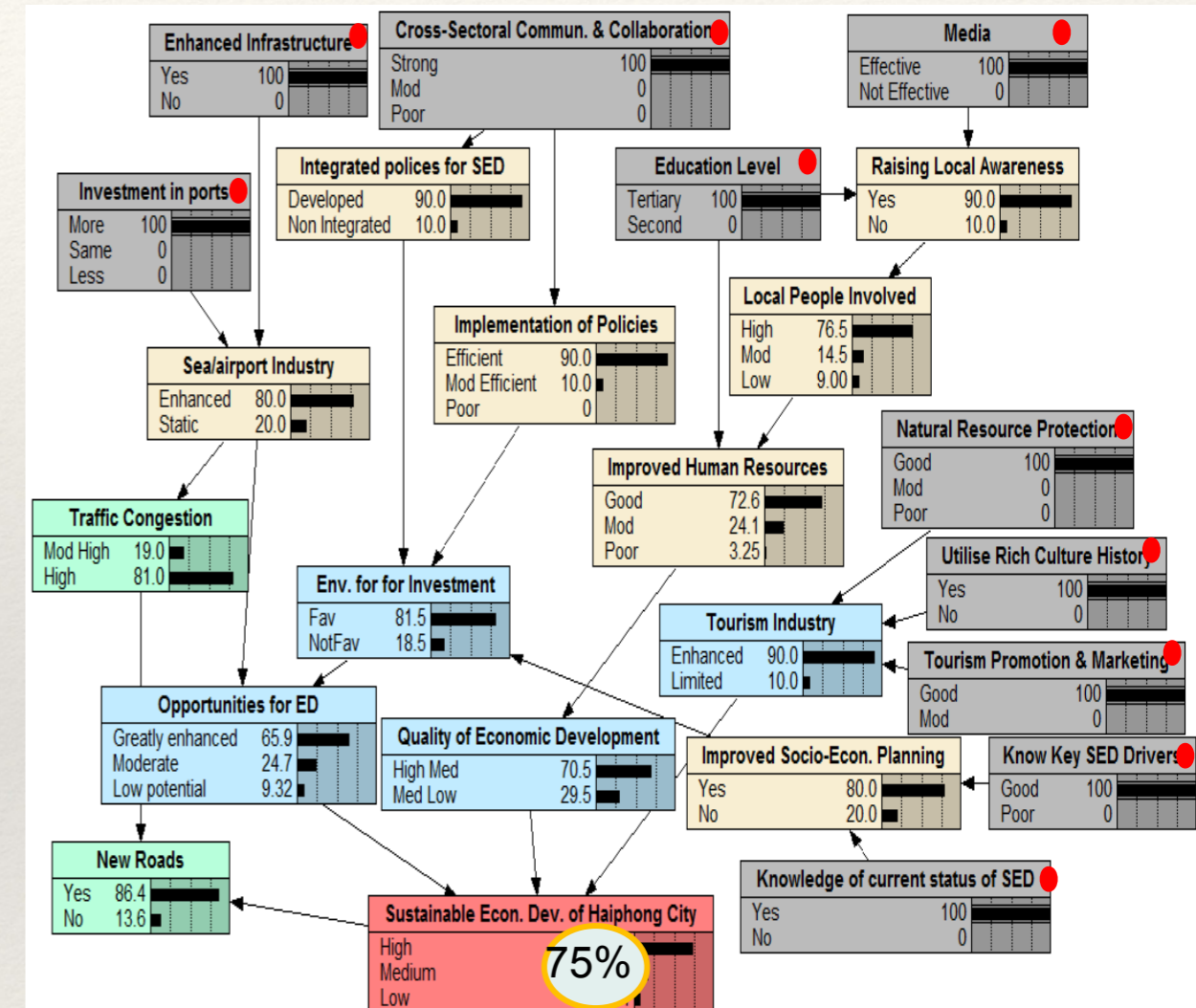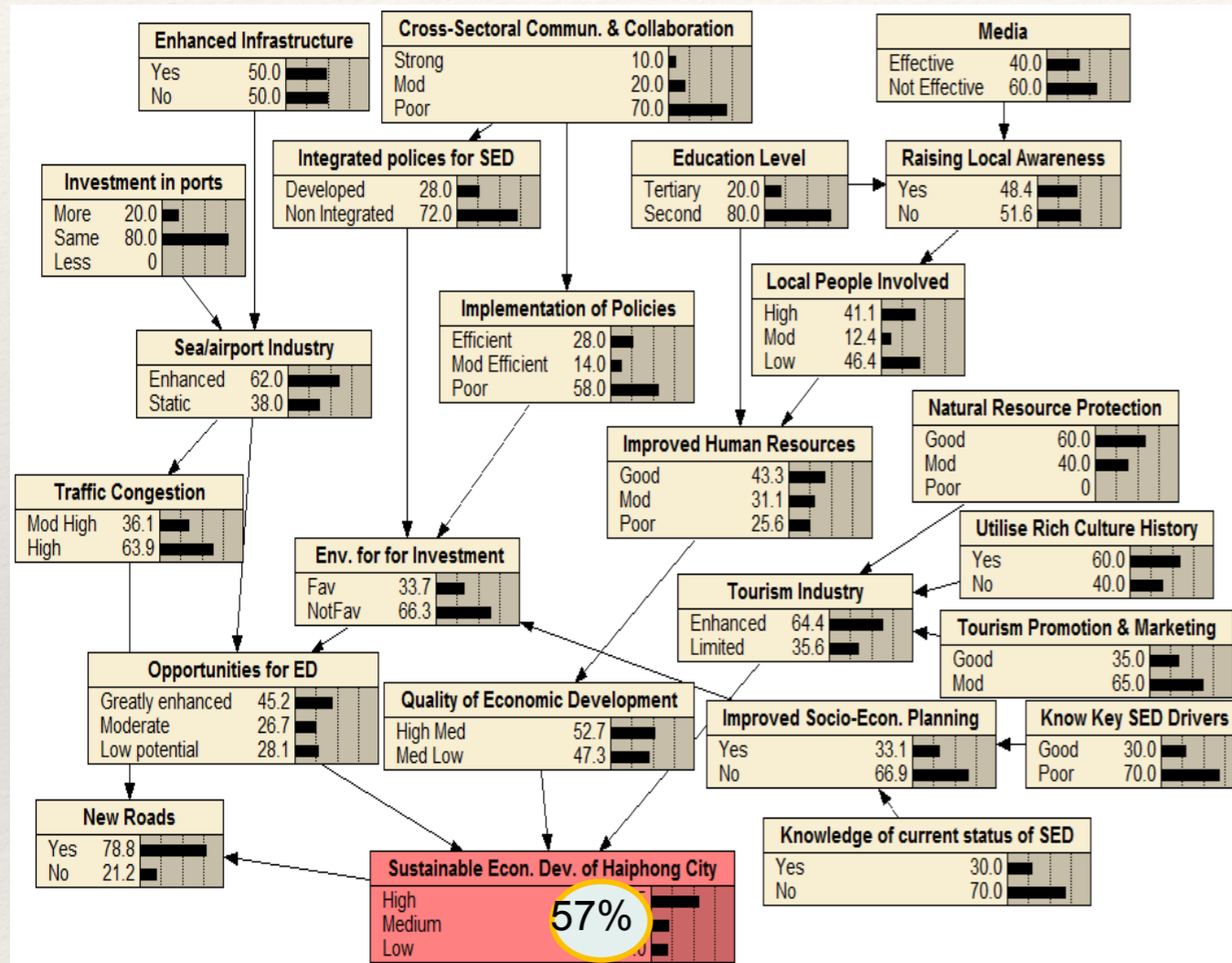
Identified Systemic Interventions increasing the probability for high SED

CO-LEARNING & NEW LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE

REFLECTION

IDENTIFY ISSUES & GATHER MENTAL MODELS; DEVELOP A SHARED UNDERSTANDING

1

2 BUILD CAPACITY

3 INTEGRATE MENTAL MODELS INTO A SYSTEMS STRUCTURE/MODEL

IMPLEMENTATION

INTEGRATED LONGTERM SYSTEMIC MASTER PLAN

Cross-Sector collaboration

Environmental

Stakeholders' Mental Models

Systems Structure

Patterns & Relationships

Economic

Social

Cultural Values

Environmental Management

Economic Development

Livelihood of People

SYS

4

5

6

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Lack of Funding

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Bureaucratic Admin

Sustainable Development

© Professor Ockie Bosch and Dr Nam Nguyen

LOCAL ELLABS EXTENDING WIDER

Local ELLab

New Levels of Learning and Performance at LOCAL Level ⬆

7. REFLECTION

Environmental

1. IDENTIFY ISSUES

6. IMPLEMENT

Stakeholder Mental Models

Economic

Systems Structure

Social

2. BUILD CAPACITY

5. DEVELOP OR ADAPT INTEGRATED STRATEGIC & ACTION PLAN

Patterns & Relationships

Cultural Values

3. DEVELOP OR REFINE SYSTEMS MAPS OR MODELS

4. IDENTIFY LEVERAGE/ SYSTEMIC INTERVENTIONS
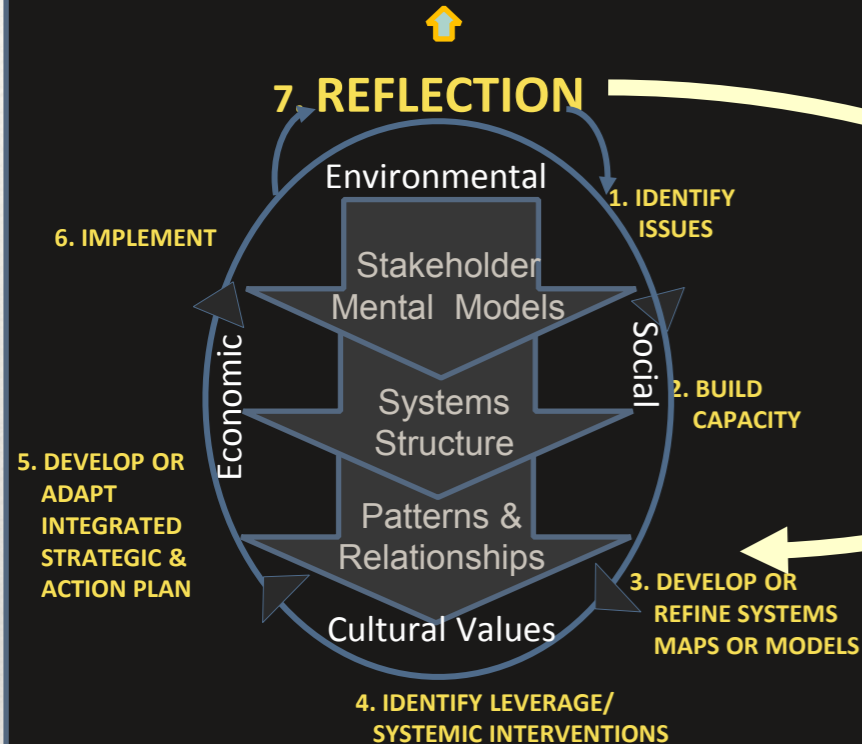
Evolutionary Learning Laboratories

- Sustainable Development of UNESCO Cat Ba Biosphere, Vietnam

- Enhancing Systems Education

- Integrated Systemic Governance, Haiphong Province, Vietnam

- Improving Child Safety, Japan

- Labour Saving Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia

- Systems Transformations, for Governance in Remote Areas of Australia

- Building Reputation of Systems design Graduate School, Keio University, Japan

- Economic Development of South Australia

THINK 2 IMPACT

New Levels of Learning and Performance at GLOBAL, REGIONAL, CITY Level

⬆ T2I

SHARING REFLECTIONS
Creating a collaborative learning environment

Think2Impact

A global online platform for systems thinking, the Think2Impact platform facilitates **non-linear problem solving** aimed at **building sustainable solutions**

Based on the 7-step systemic framework of the **Evolutionary Learning Labs**, this approach has **successfully addressed complex problems in diverse global contexts**

It **brings together all the stakeholders** in a system (identifying even latent ones) to enable dialogue and **collaboration around a shared unified vision**

Uses the **collective knowledge** of everyone in the system to help evolve solutions

Promotes **higher degree of ownership over solutions** and implementation due to collaborative nature of problem solving

Helps understand critical issues within a system and **analyses interrelationships** between them to yield critical insights

Identifies **leverage points** for systemic intervention

Monitors and tracks systemic interventions for impact and effectiveness

Promotes **transparency and accountability** within the system

The evolution of Think2Impact

- ❖ The need to take the systemic framework to a larger population of people and contexts

- ❖ Increase and diversify the collective global systems community

- ❖ Knowledge sharing

- ❖ Innovation focus

- ❖ Create an easily accessible systems hub with worldwide reach and global audience

- ❖ Improve accountability and enable tracking
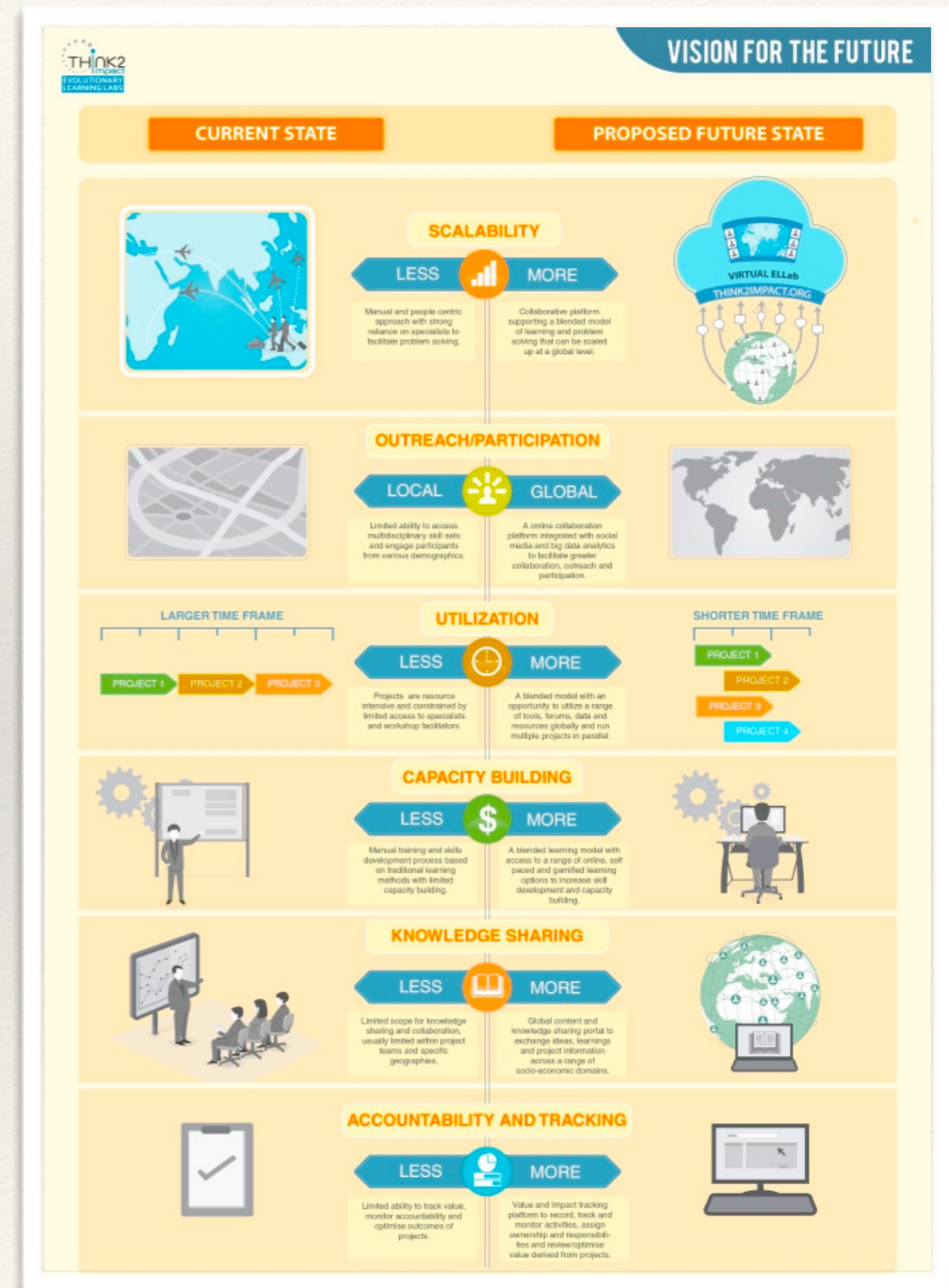
Think2Impact Ecosystem

THINK2IMPACT TAKES SYSTEMS THINKING TO GLOBAL COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS TO HELP SOLVE COMPLEX PROBLEMS

INPUTS

CURRENT STATE

Inability to see the interconnectedness between issues

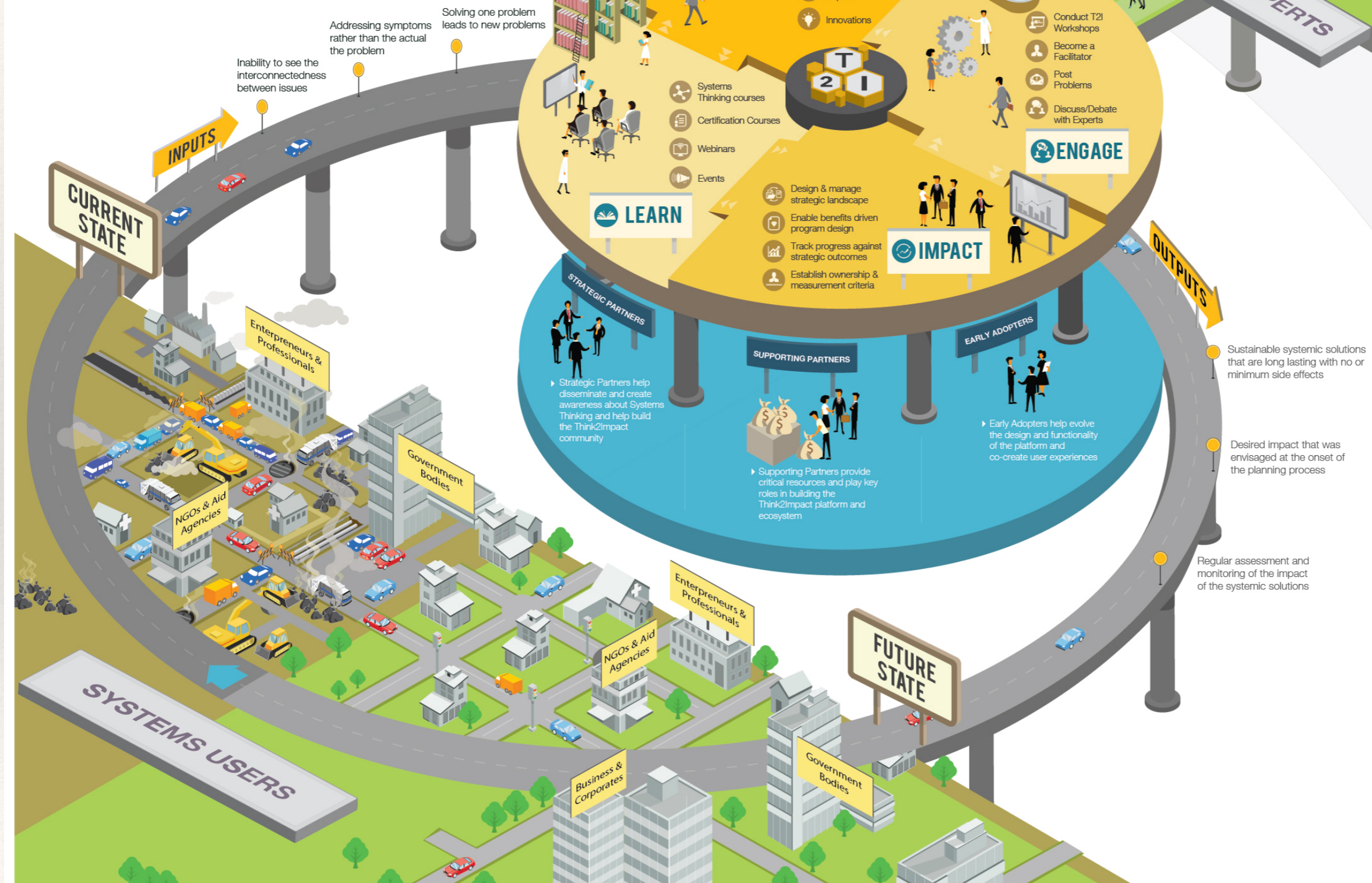Addressing symptoms rather than the actual the problem

Solving one problem leads to new problems

ACCESS
- Project Reports
- Case Studies
- Research Papers
- Innovations

ENGAGE
- Conduct T2I Workshops
- Become a Facilitator
- Post Problems
- Discuss/Debate with Experts

LEARN
- Systems Thinking courses
- Certification Courses
- Webinars
- Events

IMPACT
- Design & manage strategic landscape
- Enable benefits driven program design
- Track progress against strategic outcomes
- Establish ownership & measurement criteria

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

▶ Strategic Partners help disseminate and create awareness about Systems Thinking and help build the Think2Impact community

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

▶ Supporting Partners provide critical resources and play key roles in building the Think2Impact platform and ecosystem

EARLY ADOPTERS

▶ Early Adopters help evolve the design and functionality of the platform and co-create user experiences

OUTPUTS

Sustainable systemic solutions that are long lasting with no or minimum side effects

Desired impact that was envisaged at the onset of the planning process

Regular assessment and monitoring of the impact of the systemic solutions

FUTURE STATE

SYSTEMS EXPERTS

Educational Institutes & Academia

Consultancies

SYSTEMS USERS

Enterpreneurs & Professionals

Government Bodies

NGOs & Aid Agencies

Business & Corporates

NGOs & Aid Agencies

Enterpreneurs & Professionals

Government Bodies

The anatomy of Think2Impact

ACCESS

A repository of systems knowledge gathered and curated by the global systems community. Access project reports, case studies, research papers and journals. View innovations that have evolved from projects undertaken around the globe.

Project Reports

Case Studies

Research Papers

Innovations

ACCESS

LEARN

New to Systems Thinking? Start with the basics and learn from the experts. The Think2Impact™ Academy guides you through a step-by-step process that helps you understand the systems framework and it application in diverse contexts.

Systems Thinking
Courses

Certification
Courses

Webinars

Events

LEARN

ENGAGE

Be a part of the action here at Think2Impact™. Start a new project, participate in conversations and collaborate with systems experts and users. Contribute to new knowledge creation or post a problem that needs systemic intervention.

Conduct Think2Impact™ Workshops

Become a Facilitator

Post Problems

Discuss/Debate with Experts

IMPACT

Achieve greater accountability at micro and macro levels with the ability to track the impact of systemic interventions against intended policy and strategic outcomes. Use impact tracker
to drive informed decision-making and track/report against outcomes during and post implementation, to ensure optimal impact.

Design & manage
Strategic Landscape

Enable benefits
driven program
design

Track progress
against strategic
outcomes

Establish
ownership &
measurement
criteria

IMPACT

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