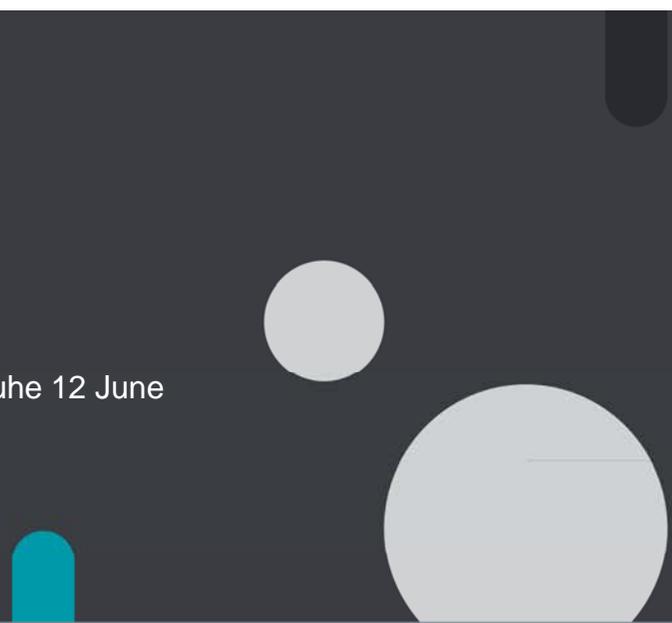


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An abstract graphic consisting of several geometric shapes: a small cyan rounded rectangle, a medium grey circle, a larger grey circle, and a dark grey rounded rectangle, all positioned above a thin white horizontal line.

**2012 Eu-SPRI– Conference**

*Towards Transformative Governance, Karlsruhe 12 June*

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# ***Challenge-driven priorities in European research and innovation policy***

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# “Challenges” in STI policy: “new mission-orientation”?

- Disclaimer: no plagiarism, either way
- Challenges in STI policy:
  - New term for old, and barely changed or changeable realities?
  - A non-object? future object? emerging object ?
  - If it is an emergent object, how do we recognise it, empirically, if and when it appears?
  - Cannot assume that something “there” simply is an evident, good example of an STI challenge, fulfils all core criteria
  - Hence, a preparatory phase: delineate a sketchy outline of what a challenge-driven priority/challenge-driven approach would or should look like, according to the STI challenge discourse itself

# “Challenges” in STI policy – what is new?

- A novel term, that has become salient in international STI policy discourse over the last few years
  - No attempt to trace the origin and full trajectory of the term
  - Point of departure: has become a key, structuring term/notion in highly influential STI policy discourse (OECD, EU)
  
- Challenges: “societal”, “grand”, “global”
  - Synonymous, interchangeable terms?
    - Societal vs economic? Growth an objective of its own, or one of the challenges?
    - Grand vs narrow, small, “thematic”?
    - Global vs national? International collaboration at a higher level of funding and coordination?

# Research Design and methods

- Document analysis of key policy texts
- Major European policy documents in research and innovation policy were selected
- Analysed to determine:
  - Which challenges were defined
  - How challenges were defined
  - What reasons were given for using the term
  - What the were the writers of the various documents trying to achieve?

# Challenges identified

- Most of the papers refer to similar challenges
- Recurrent examples of Grand/Global Challenges:
  - Climate change
  - Clean water
  - Food
  - Energy
  - Security
  - Population change
  - Loss of biodiversity

# “Challenges” in EU STI policy

- The rationale report (2008) – a new rationale for ERA
  - Addressing the failure of the 2000 Lisbon strategy and ERA policy
  - “Capture the minds of the European public and stakeholders”
  - Challenges-driven R&D “already there” in FPs, but in need of scaling up
  - Societal vs economic: difference in emphasis, not essence
- The Lund declaration - “the grand challenges of our time”
  - Decline, crisis, shocks, challenges as opportunities
  - ...“turn challenges into opportunities”
  - encompassing “excellence”

# “Challenges” in EU STI policy 2

## ● Implementation

- The structure of Horizon 2020
- Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI)

## ● A new structure – “a new beginning” (ERAB)

- Sea-change, a new renaissance, a new paradigm?
- What is really new?
  - A development of the OMC agenda: funding the European agenda with national resources
  - Building on earlier programmes within FPs

# “Challenges” in EU STI policy – different from national and the OECD?

## ● National:

- Relabelling of extant priorities and objectives, apparently adding an international, “global” dimension in name only, without changing the organization nor the funding of research in terms of higher emphasis on research taking place within collaborative frameworks
  - Norway: climate and clean energy, a strategy for the national energy business community; participation in all ten JPIs

## ● OECD:

- Explicit about the “global” dimension; a “societal” take on globalization
- Focus on governance issues within international collaborative frameworks (STIG)
- Point of departure: existing international collaborative projects/programmes (GEO, IPCC, Gates, CGIAR, IEA, IAEA, ...)
- ..and then beyond: scale up funding, relax national “return” considerations, more effective coordination/collaboration of international projects/programmes, develop models of governance

## ● EU

- Grafting the challenge notion on the OMC/Eranet agenda
- “Global” – expanding collaboration with third countries (part of regional competition in the new configuration of the multipolar world?)

## “Open questions – to be answered in emergent policy practice rather than research on extant practices

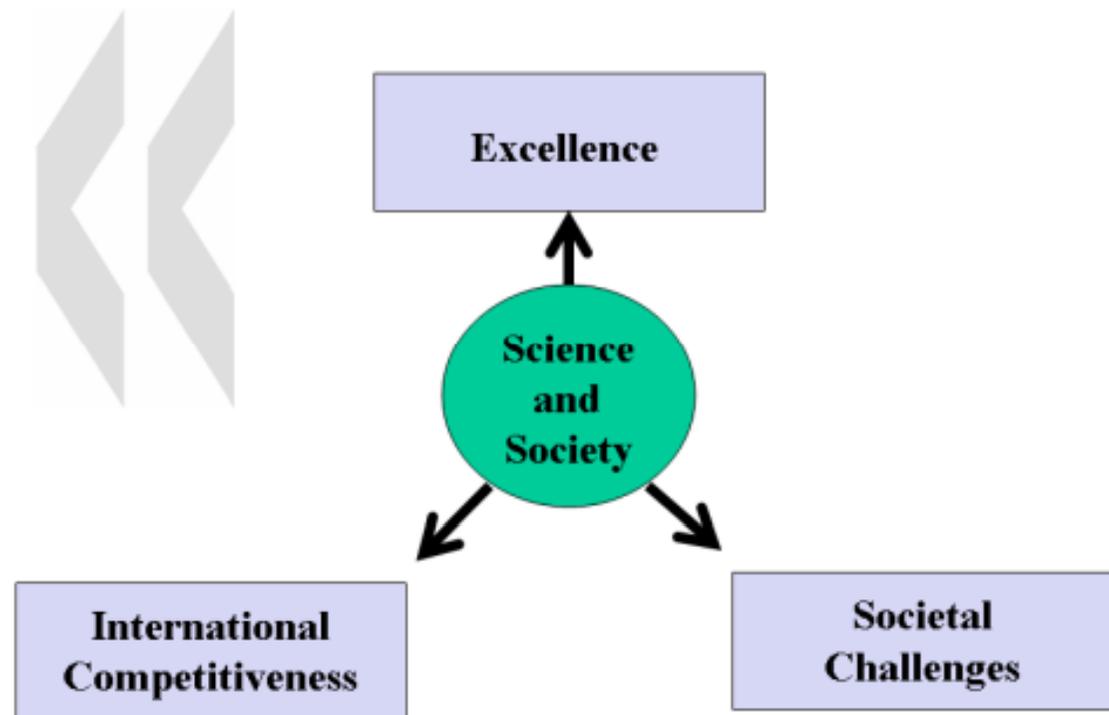
- Rationale, relabeling “only” or platform for new policy practice?
  - Another “garbage can”? i.e., old solutions in search of novel problems/wrappings?
  - JPIs – *truly* grand challenges? Or merely an opportunity to take the OMC approach one step further?
- A “new paradigm”?
  - “new mission-orientation”?
  - Cfr. “social priorities paradigm” (problemsolving, 1970s style)
  - Different from/opposed to “systemic innovation policy”, or part of it? (part of the “demand turn” of innovation policy”?)
- Reconciling differences and (potential) divisions and conflicts?
  - Challenges (decline, shocks, crises) are (business, research) opportunities: the notion of conflict-free “win-win” policies
  - “truly” holistic STI policy, at last?

## Challenges - part of seamless (conflict-free?) whole?

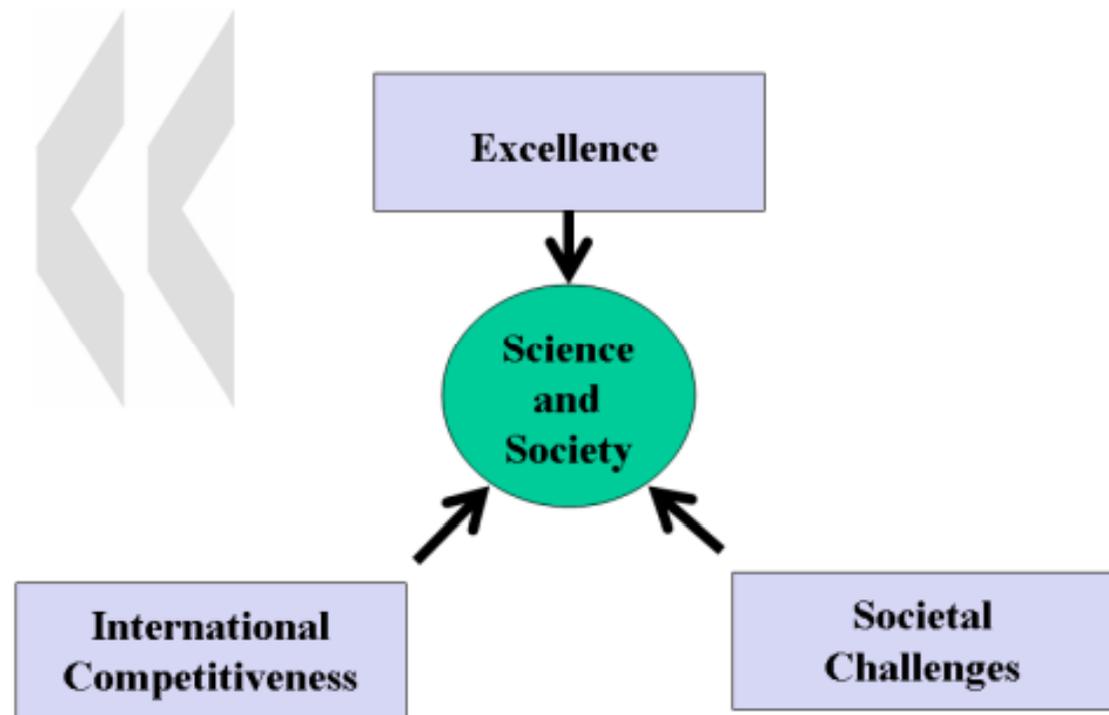
- This is plagiarism!!

- *Ken Guy, Head of the Science and Technology Policy Division, OECD, Oslo 29 May 2012*

Challenges - part of seamless (conflict-free?) whole?



# Challenges - part of seamless (conflict-free?) whole?



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