



Analysis of transnational calls: Insights and lessons on systems approach integration

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System Approach in transnational call mechanisms



Why?

- Holistic view on complex problems
- Acknowledge interdependencies

What?

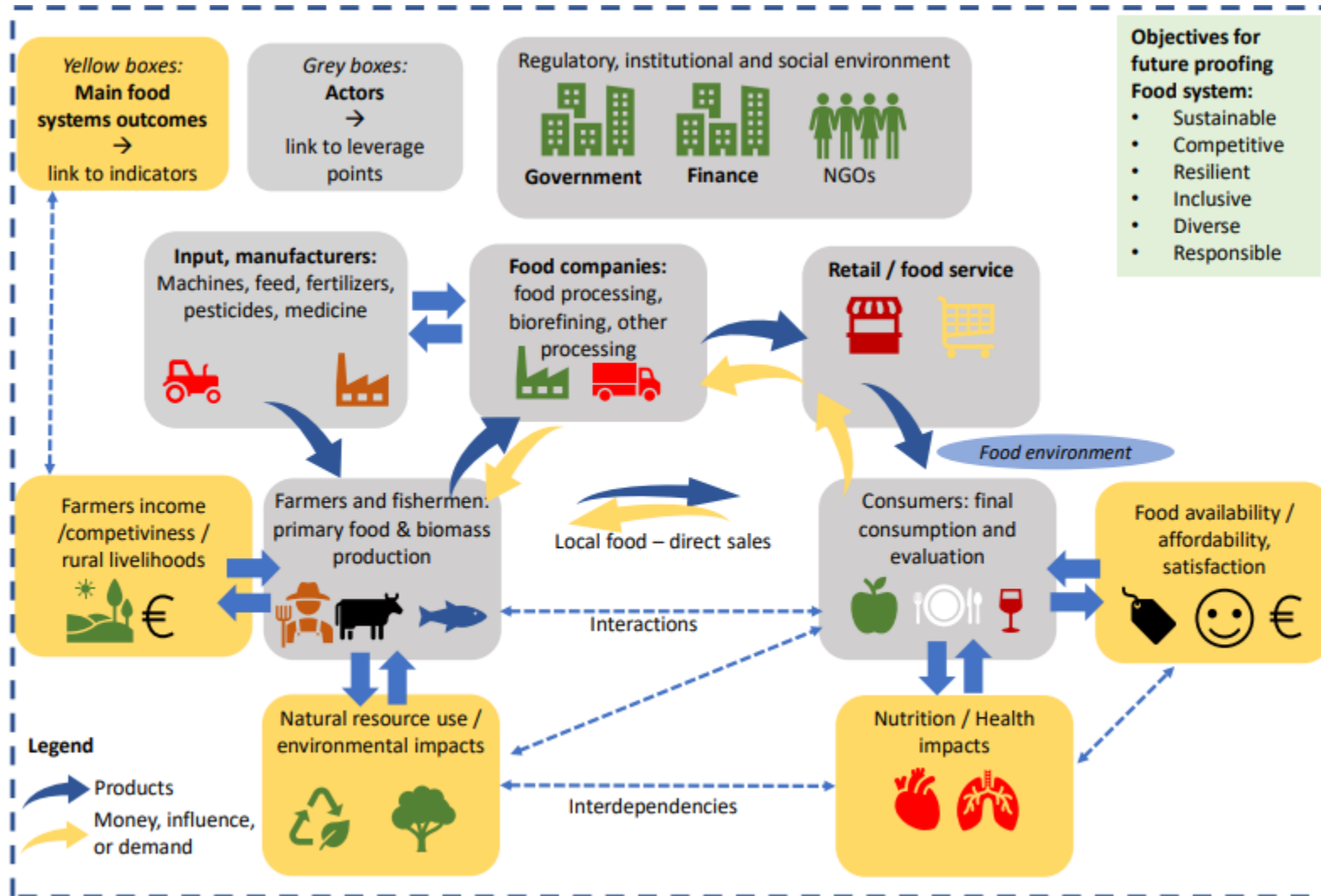
- Knowledge on integration of SA in calls
- Recommendations for future calls

How?

- Analysis of calls
- Consultation with funders and project coordinators



Understanding food systems



Operationalizing food system approach



System approach elements

- Multi-actor approach
- Cross-disciplinarity
- Synergies and trade-offs
- Geographic scale/widening
- And more...

Implementation of system approach

- Stakeholder engagement
- Dissemination and communication
- Networking activities

Call specific features

- Evaluation criteria
- Supportive actions
- Additional uploads
- Connections to future HEU Partnerships



Background info on selected call			
Name of example	e.g. SUSFOOD-CORE Organic joint call 2019		
Type of example	Describe example, e.g. transnational call for R&I projects; funders, countries involved; project duration		
Time scale	Publication date of call announcement/ start or duration of projects		
Thematic scope	E.g. title of call might suffice „Sustainable and resilient food systems“		
Source used for analysis (public/confidential)	e.g. call announcement, SRIA, proposal (confidential), website...		
Short description how the systems approach appears in the selected example			
Elements related to systems approach			
	Mentioned? (y/n)	Mandatory? (y/n)	short description
Is a definition of systems approach stated?			
Are specific objectives mentioned that are clearly systems related?			
Do the following keywords (or words with similar meaning) appear and in what context?			
- multi-actor-approach			
- multi/inter/trans-disciplinary			
- geographical balance/ widening			
- inclusiveness			
- theory of change/ transformation			
- Interconnections/ connections/ interlinkages			
- Synergies			
- Trade-offs			
- Co-creation			
- others			

Selected calls



No	Call abbreviation	Type of call
1	ERA-NET Circularity Call 2021	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
2	ERA-NET CO 2021	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
3	ERA-NET HDHL Knowledge Hub 2019	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
4	ERA-NET SF-CO 2019	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
5	ERA-NET SF-FOSC 2021	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
6	ERA-NET SINO-EUROPEAN CALL 2022	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
7	Food-Water-Energy Nexus 2017	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
8	HEU Citizens' science	HEU Framework Programme
9	HEU Environmental impacts	HEU Framework Programme
10	HEU FOODITY 2023	HEU Framework Programme
11	HEU TITAN 2023	HEU Framework Programme
12	Interreg Aurora	Regional focus
13	Interreg Baltic Sea	Regional focus
14	JPI Water 2018	ERA-Net schemes (co-funded and free)
15	NATIONAL Agropolis 2020	Foundations
16	NATIONAL Foody Zero Sprechi 2021	Foundations
17	PS BioDivMon 2022	PS schemes, co-funded
18	PS CBE JU 2023	PS schemes, old formats (co-programmed)
19	PS DUT 2023	PS schemes, co-funded
20	PS PRIMA 2023	PS schemes, old formats (co-programmed)
21	PS SBEP 2023	PS schemes, co-funded

- Agri-food, water or urban call
- Transnational calls
- System approach elements
- Types of calls
 - ERA-NET Schemes: 8 calls
 - HEU Framework Programme: 4 calls
 - Interreg: 2 calls
 - Foundations: 2 calls
 - HEU Partnerships: 5 calls

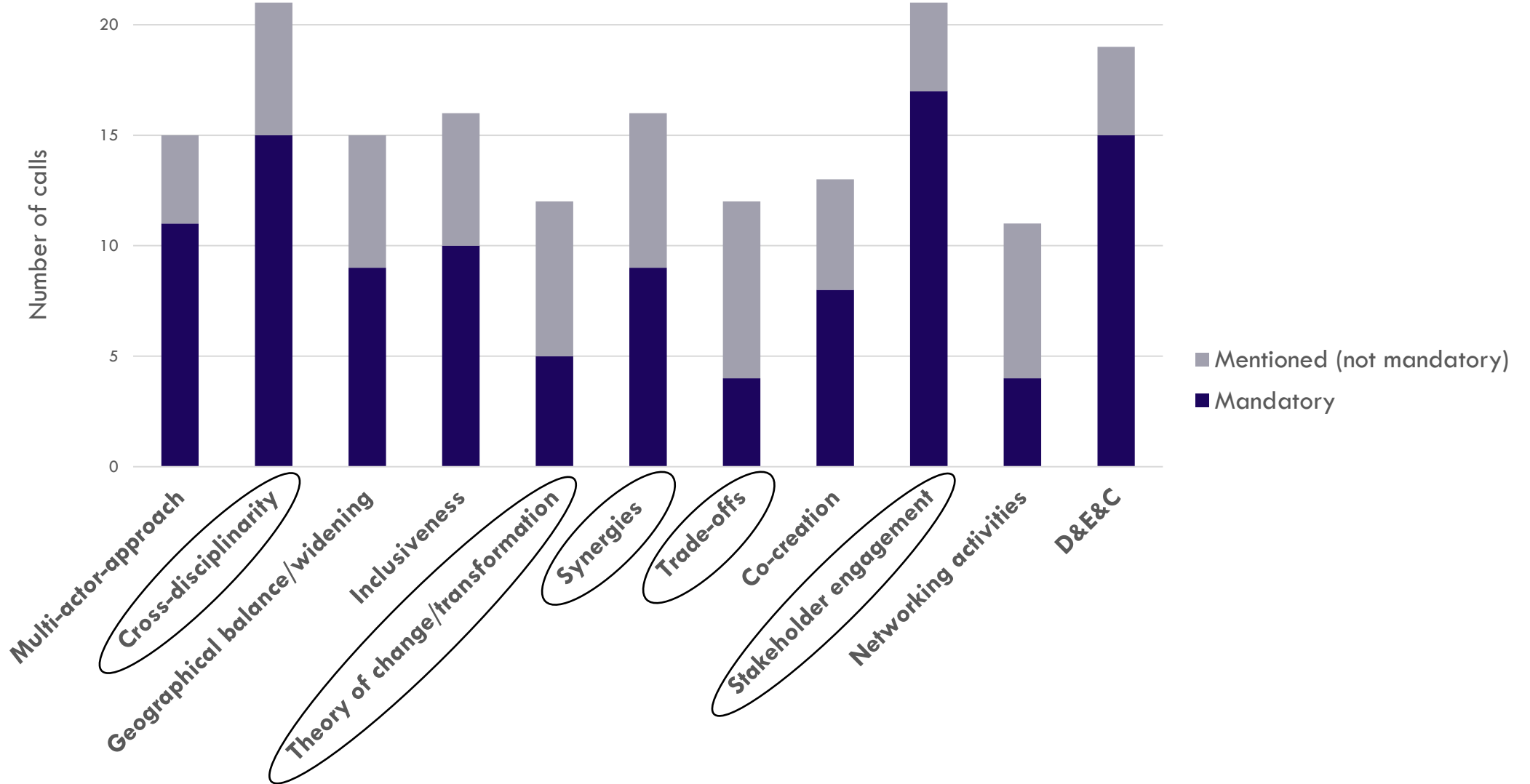
Definitions/descriptions of system approach



- **13 calls mention food systems or systems**
 - 6 calls describe system approach
- **Short and limited descriptions**
- **Leaves (too much) room for interpretation?**
- **Need to create clear framework for applicants**



Quantitative overview



• 1 call ← **Cross-disciplinarity**

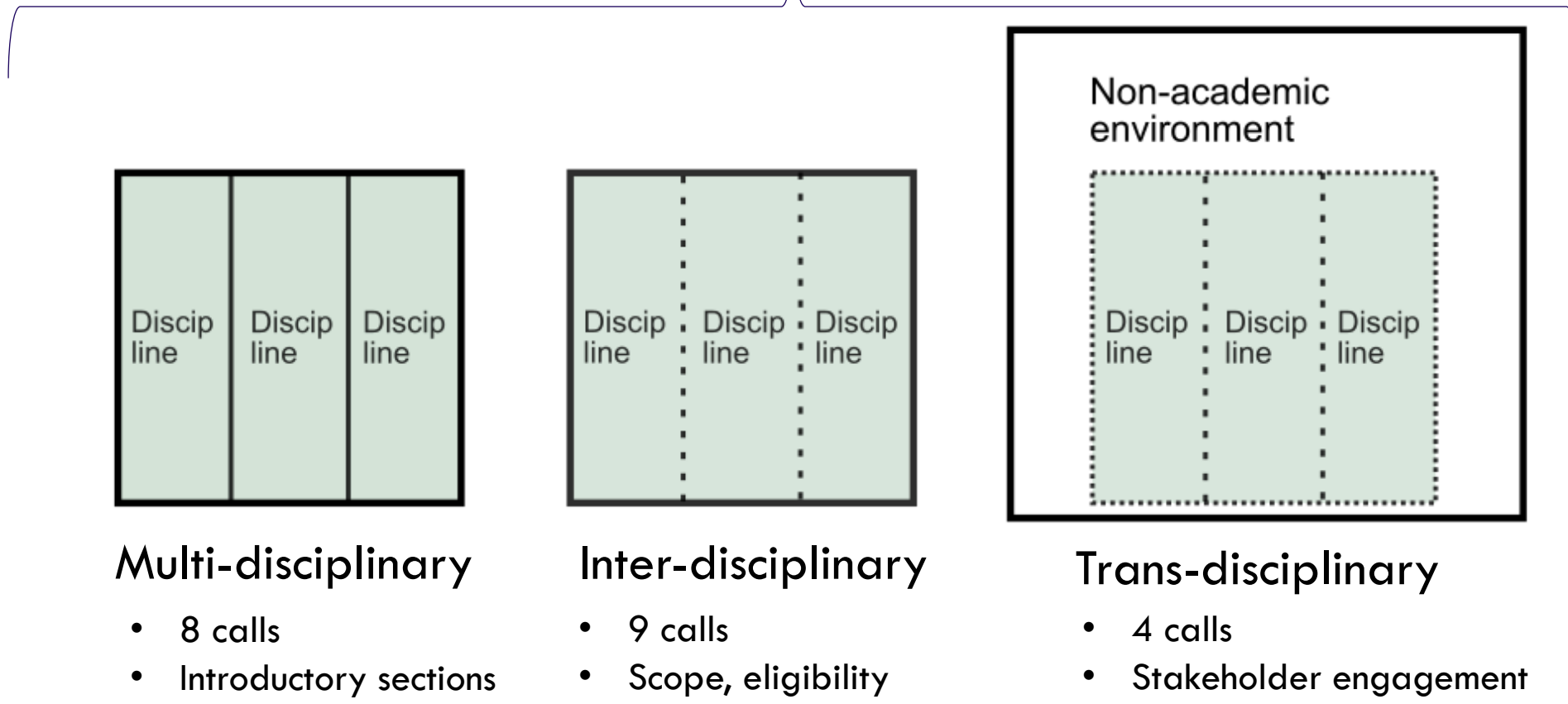


Figure: Broerse, 2018 (modified)

Synergies and Trade-offs



• Synergies and trade-offs

- Mentioned conjunction with one another
- Mentioned in key sections sections (e.g. scope, objectives, expected outcomes)

• Synergies:

- Mentioned independently
- Encourage synergy with existing initiatives
 - Build upon existing knowledge
 - Guide direction of projects

Synergies:

- Mentioned: 16 calls
- Mandatory: 9 calls

Trade-offs:

- Mentioned: 12 calls
- Mandatory: 4 calls



Stakeholder engagement

- **Focus of stakeholder engagement**

- General focus
- Private companies
- Foundations
- Consumers

- **Where in the call text**

- Throughout call text
- C&D plan
- Impact plan

- **Stakeholder Engagement vs Multi-Actor Approach**

- Consider difference between approaches
- Stakeholder engagement: Individuals/groups with vested interest
- Multi-actor approach: Broader range of actors

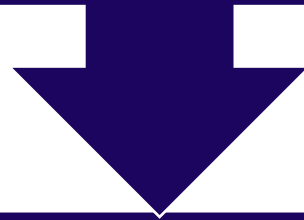
Stakeholder
engagement

- Mentioned: 21 calls
- Mandatory: 17 calls.

Theory of Change/Transformation



Impact: Intrinsically transformative focus
in the calls



Rationales:

Transnational
collaboration

Cross-cutting
topics

Consumer driven

UN SDG and
three
sustainability
dimensions

Impact pathway
approach

Theory of
Change/Transfor
mation

- Mentioned: 12 calls
- Mandatory: 5 calls

Evaluation Criteria

5 calls with explicit SA criteria

Cross-disciplinarity,

- 70% of calls
- Excellence and quality

Multi-Actor Approach,

- 40% of calls,
- General criteria

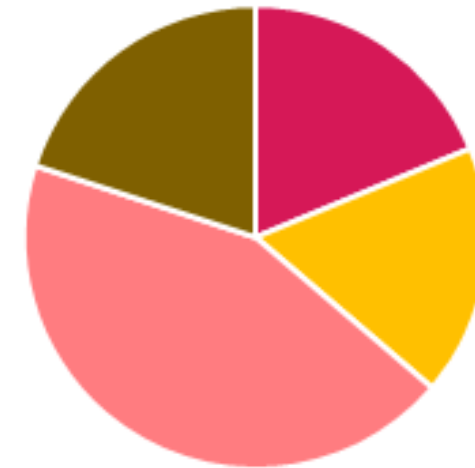
Stakeholder engagement,

- 90% of calls
- Impact, general criteria or excellence

Theory of Change, interconnections, synergies, trade-offs,

- <20%,
- Impact criteria

Where are systems approach related elements appearing in evaluation criteria?



■ Excellence criteria ■ Quality criteria ■ Impact criteria ■ General criteria

Final messages



Be mindful of terminology and definitions



Evaluation criteria to reflect desired approach



System approach support mechanisms for applicants



Facilitate knowledge exchange



Support synergies with relevant initiatives



Thank you!

food|paths



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the European Union

Interactive session



- **Intro:** Split into groups, select rapporteur, introduce yourselves
 - **1st round:** Important system approach elements
 - **2nd round:** Definitions of system approach element
 - **3rd round:** Evaluation criteria
 - **Wrap up:** Rapporteurs present interesting outcome
-

Interactive session



- **1st round: Important system approach elements**

- *"Which system approach elements do you see as most important to integrate in FutureFoods calls? Are any elements missing in current call mechanisms?"*
 - All write elements they consider most important
 - Group vote/chooses ~3 elements
 - 10 min
-

- **2nd round: Definitions of system approach element**
 - *"How will you define each of the chosen elements?"*
 - All write their definition of chosen elements
 - Mindmap, grouping and discussion of definitions
 - 35 min
-

Interactive session



- **3rd round: Evaluation criteria**
 - **Consider following questions**
 - How can the applicant live up to expectations of this element?
 - How can we guide/support/help the evaluators of the applications?
 - Would funders need any support to implement this?
 - Do you see any other kind of possible support?
 - **10 min per element**
-

System approach elements

- Multi-actor-approach
- Cross-disciplinarity
- Geographical balance/widening
- Inclusiveness
- Theory of change/transformation
- Interconnections/connections /interlinkages
- Synergies
- Trade-offs
- Co-creation
- Other?

Implementation of System Approach

- Stakeholder engagement
- Dissemination, exploitation, communication (DEC)
- Networking activities

Call specific features

- Evaluation criteria
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- Additional uploads
- Connections to future HEU Partnerships