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# The Societal Incubator and nanofood A solution for “waiting games”?

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*Workshop 'Paris Risk Group', Berlin 2-3 June 2016*

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# Structure presentation

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- NanoNextNL:
- What is a Societal Incubator?
  - Brief description
- Why do we need a Societal Incubator?
  - “Waiting Game”
  - Uncertainties
- Societal Incubator in action: ChocoFe
- What did we learn from our exploration?

# This is NanoNextNL

NanoNextNL is a Dutch consortium of more than one hundred companies, universities, knowledge institutes and university medical centres, aimed at research into micro and nanotechnology.

130

## Partners

NanoNextNL's partners are companies, universities, knowledge institutes and university medical centres, all using micro and nanotechnology to create new solutions.

750

## Researchers

Nanotechnology experts from academia and industry collaborate to develop new technology for innovative solutions and together train over 200 highly skilled young scientists.

250  
million

## Finance

The total budget of NanoNextNL is 250 million euros: half of which is contributed by the 130 partners, the other half by the Government of the Netherlands.

2016  
2011

## Timeframe

NanoNextNL will contribute to solutions for major societal questions such as keeping an ageing society healthy and keeping our environment liveable in a changing climate.

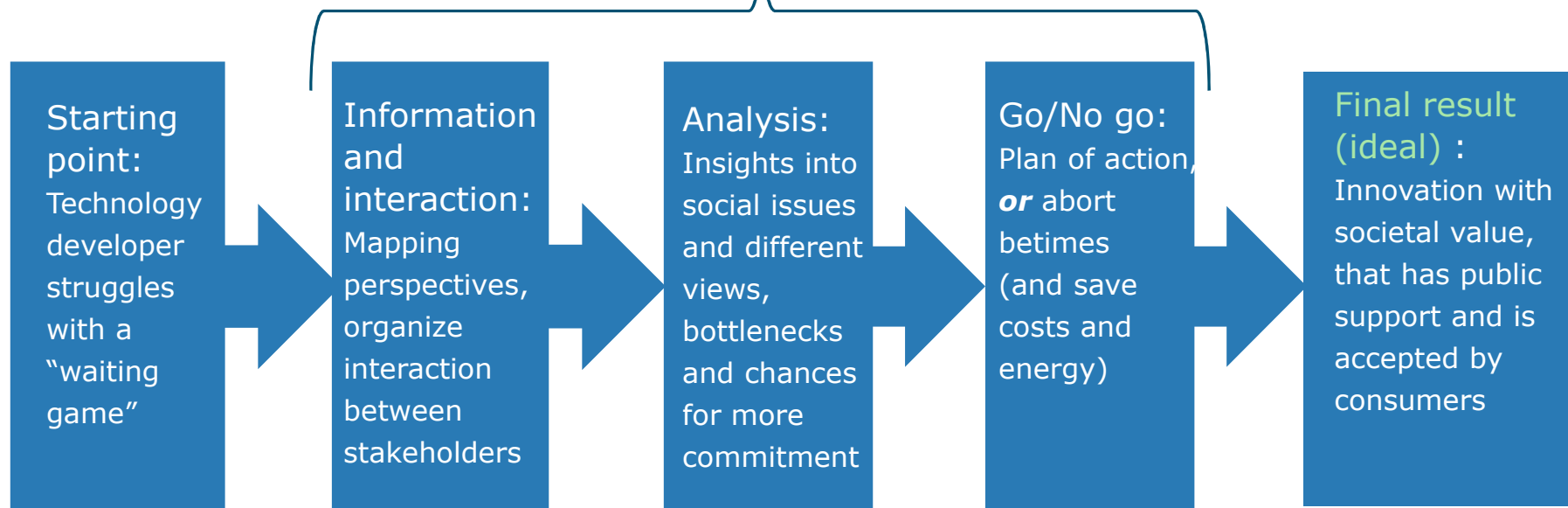
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# A Societal Incubator builds on cTA-tradition and relates to Responsible Research and Innovation.

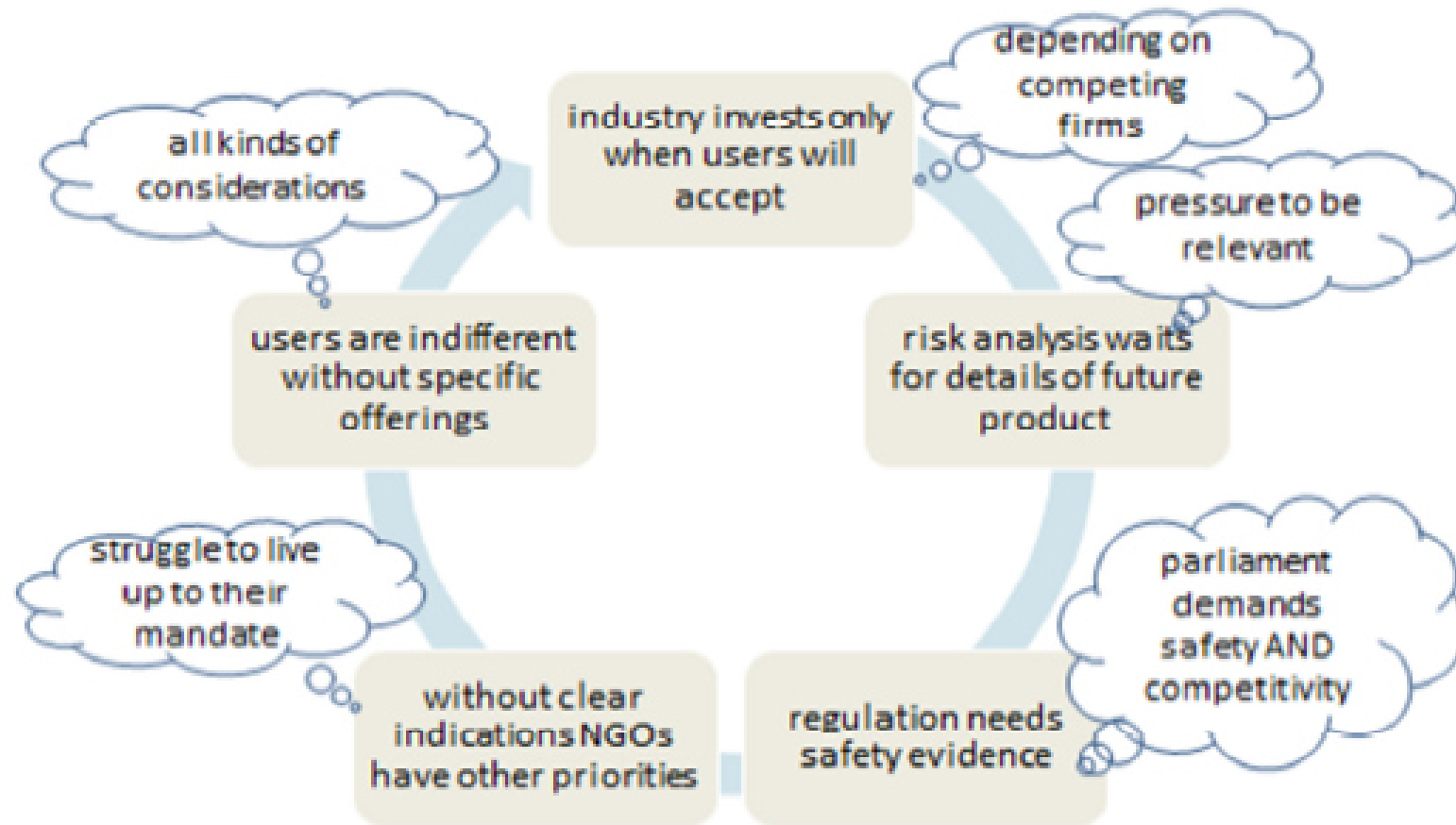
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“A Societal incubator creates conditions for an open and participatory learning process and aims to speed up RRI and its chances on popular support”

## Societal Incubator




# Why a Societal Incubator? To tackle waiting games



Source: Harro van Lente 2015

## A Societal Incubator addresses uncertainties

<b>Strand of uncertainty</b>	<b>Evaluation criterion</b>	<b>Possible tools</b> e.g. NanoNextNL
Technological-scientific	Does it work?	Research and education
Business economics	Is there a good business model?	Business incubator
Administrative-regulatory	How does it relate to policy/regulation?	 <p><b>Societal Incubator</b></p>
Societal-Ethical	Societal acceptance and desire?	

# Societal Incubator and business incubator

<b>Incubator type</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Protected space</b>	<b>Coaching</b>
<b>business incubator (specific innovation; one firm)</b>	venture capital; office support; ICT and other infrastructure	small scale pilots; possibilities for trial and error	peer efforts; business consultancy
<b>societal incubator (range of innovations in a sector; more firms and other actors)</b>	technical background studies; actor mappings; foresight / roadmapping	mutual trust; suspense of judgment	collective learning; learn from similar cases

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# Societal Incubator: different motivations

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<b>Technology developers</b>	More chances on success Societal Responsible Innovation
<b>Firms / business</b>	Economic profit Societal Corporate Responsibility
<b>Government / policy-makers</b>	Realizing policy objectives, more insight into quality and effects of regulation
<b>Societal organisations</b>	Exercising influence, keeping a critical eye on the development of new technology



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# Pilot: Business case ChocoFe (March 2016)

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- Not easy to involve NGOs and to find a business case
- Chocolate product fortified with iron fortification, encapsulated with nanotechnology, that can help to solve the iron deficiency of teen aged girls
- Uncertainties on all strands:
  - Technological-scientific
  - Business economics
  - Administrative-regulatory
  - Societal-Ethical
- Chatham House Rule

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

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# What did we learn from our exploration?

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- More preparation needed
  - Business case should have substantial clarity on technological and economic uncertainties
- Beware for a too narrow case oriented approach?
  - Tendency innovators to focus on consumer acceptance
  - Provide room for discussions on societal values
- Collective learning processes are also possible when NGOs/CSOs do not (or are not able to) participate
- Trust remains and will remain an important focal point

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# Questions?

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