FIELD LABS FOR DIGITALIZATION OF INDUSTRY

RECENT POLICY EXPERIENCES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Tom van der Horst, June 14th 2017







QUESTIONS

Changing markets for innovation and new avenues for industry-research collaborations

- How are markets for innovation changing? What have been their impacts on new forms of collaboration in innovation?
- How does the digital transformation affect the importance of geography in industryresearch collaborations? What is the role of regional institutions?
- Are large emerging research consortia (involving both industry and research) the future of industry-research collaborations? Are these consortia conducive to innovation and job creation? What ownership model provides the best economic benefits to participants and the socioeconomic context at large?
- What role are universities and public research institutes playing in supporting business innovation in the digital economy? How is it different from the past?



DIGITIZATION CHANGE THE MARKET FOR INNOVATION; NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION

→ SMART INDUSTRY FIELD LABS

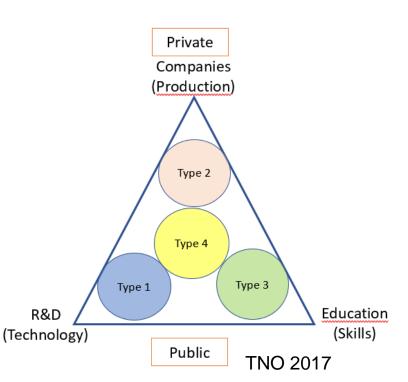
- Smart Industry: acceleration of digitalisation of industry
- Approach: bottum-up development of field labs.
- Field labs are an industrial environment where Smart Industry solutions are developed, tested, implemented as well as where people can learn to apply them.
- Close cooperation of companies, knowledge institutes and government (public private partnership).
- 30 fieldlabs has started up in 2 years.
- → Inspiration for regions and EU (digital innovation hubs)





FIELD LABS ASK FOR ADAPTIVE POLICY APPROACHES

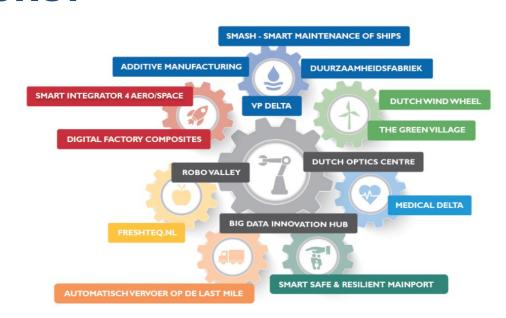
- The bottom up approach seems inevitable
 → digital innovations and the related
 business models are hard to predict
- Field labs ask for an adaptive approach: portfolio management
 - → are the most important ICT innovations covered? (TNO study for EZ / OECD)
- ▶ Professionalizing of the field lab approach itself → improving typologies and standards





GEOGRAPHY OF INDUSTRY-RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS; WHAT IS THE ROLE OF REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS?

- Dutch regions have adapted field labs as an attractive instrument for executing their innovation policy.
- The regional level seems to strengthen the adaptive approach; local networks, proximity
- But there is a risk for fragmentation, 'me-too' initiatives
- → national portfolio management



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DOES FIELD LABS CONTRIBUTE TO BUSINESS AND JOB

CREATION?

Increasing sustainability (health and production), efficiency and profitability of dairy farming by collecting real-time data of dairy cows and sharing this in the supply chain. Partners: Friesland Campina, CRV and Agrifirm. Location: Amersfoort.

→ the field lab has become a data company



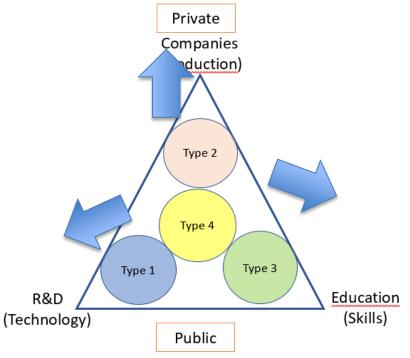
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THE OWNERSHIP MODEL OF FIELD LABS DEVELOP OVER TIME

- 1. The field lab become a company
- 2. Or become a knowledge institute
- 3. Or become an education activity

(No bias please)





ARE LARGE EMERGING RESEARCH CONSORTIA THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY-RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS?

- Yes; for international break through innovation initiatives large consortia (mass, scale) are needed, for example Qutech
- But other types of field labs needs to operate on a regional or national level; creating regional impact to assist SME's with digitization of their business model



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ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN SUPPORTING BUSINESS INNOVATION

- More adaptive
- Co development of roadmaps in public /private strategy processes
 - → regional, national and international portfolio management of public private partnerships

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