

# (Self)Evaluation of Research in Slovenia – Proposed Model and Approaches

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Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

# THE AGENCY: History and Development

- November 2004: **Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)**
- May 2023: **Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)**; legal successor of ARRS



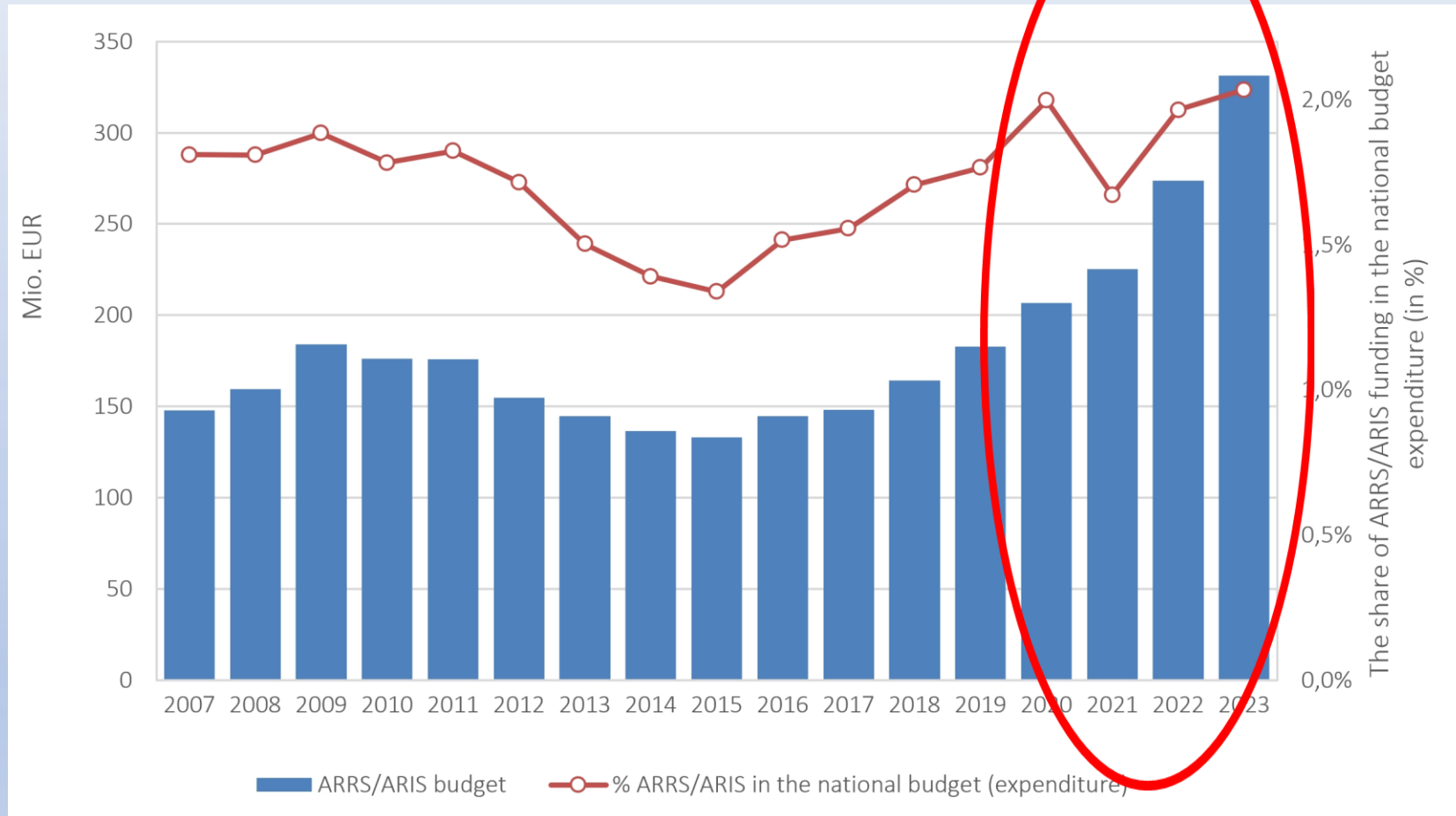
Novelty: „Innovation“ (originally managed by SPIRIT – Slovenia Business Development Agency)

- **Status:** legal entity governed by public law (established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and indirect user of its budget)

# ARIS – Basic Facts

- **Coverage:** all research fields
- **Types of research funded:** basic and applied research, innovation (in process)
- **Peer-review:** exclusively by foreign reviewers and international panels
- **Budget 2022:** 274 mio EUR (state budget) + 148.634 EUR (EU budget)
- **Budget 2023:** 329 mio EUR

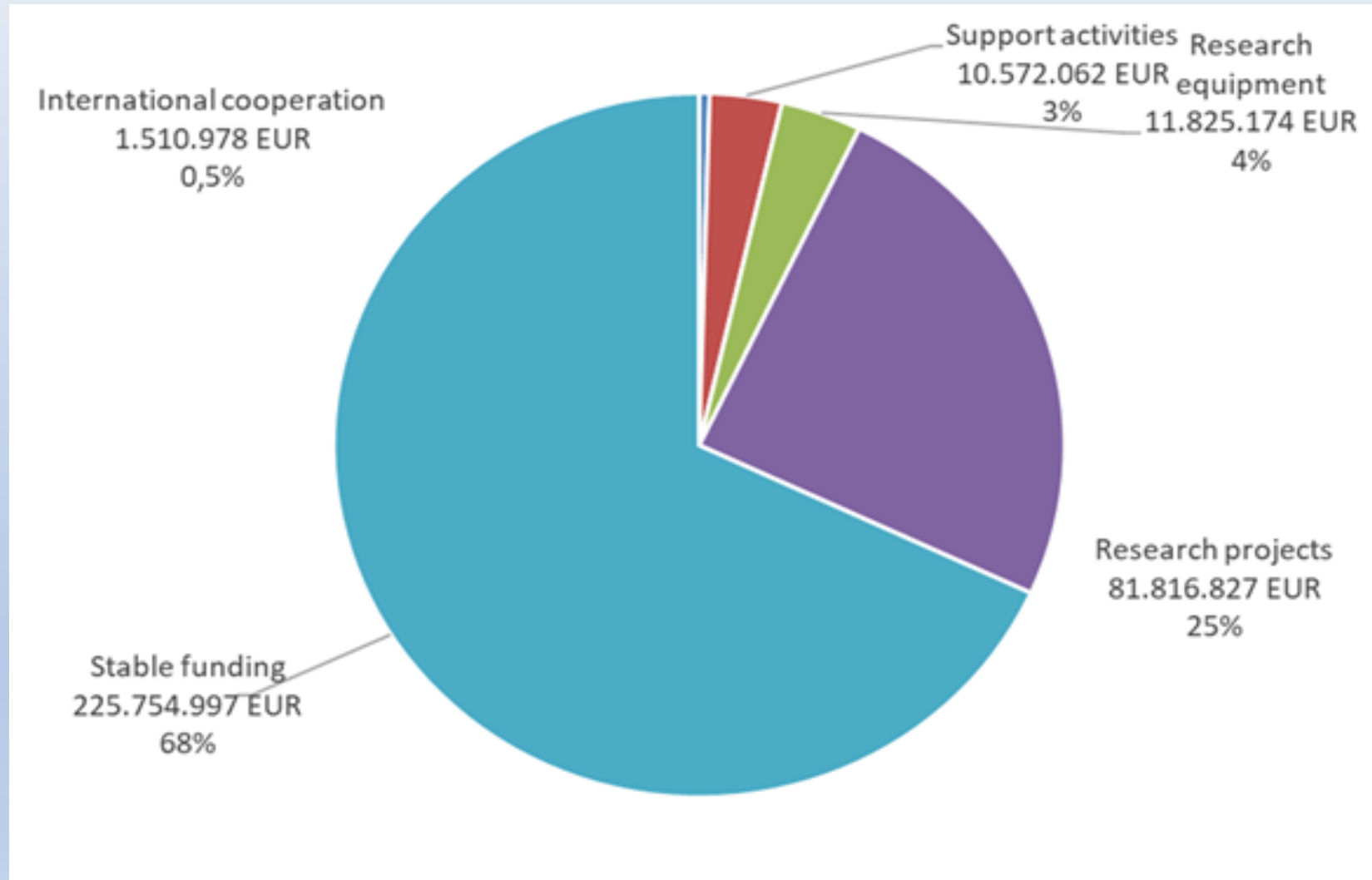
# Annual Budget of ARIS (State Budget in EUR)



*Increasing budget over the recent years due to a new act*

# ARRS Budget: Scope and Structure of Funding

(in EUR, 2023)

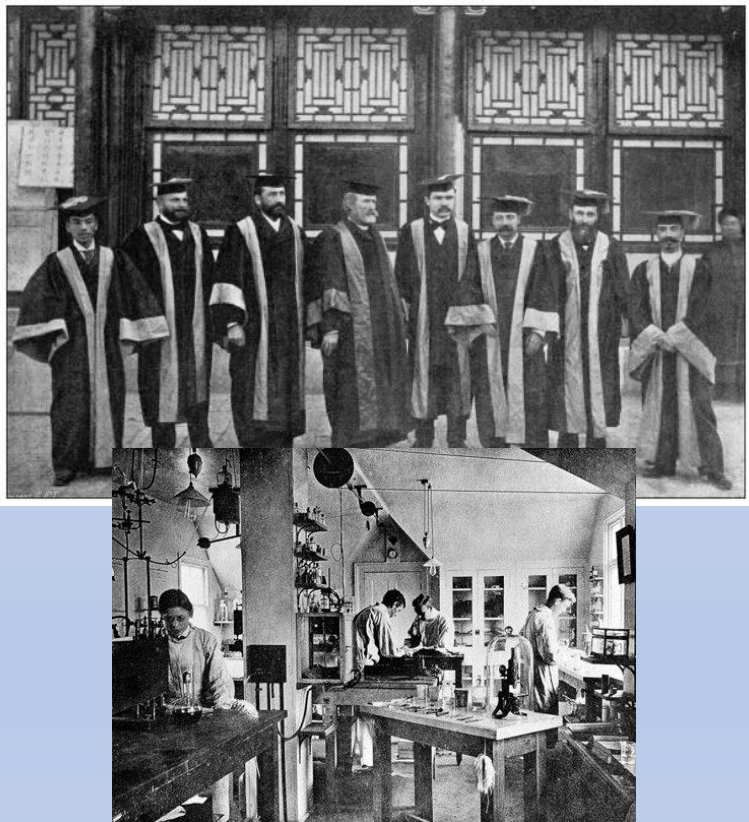


# Recent game-changers:

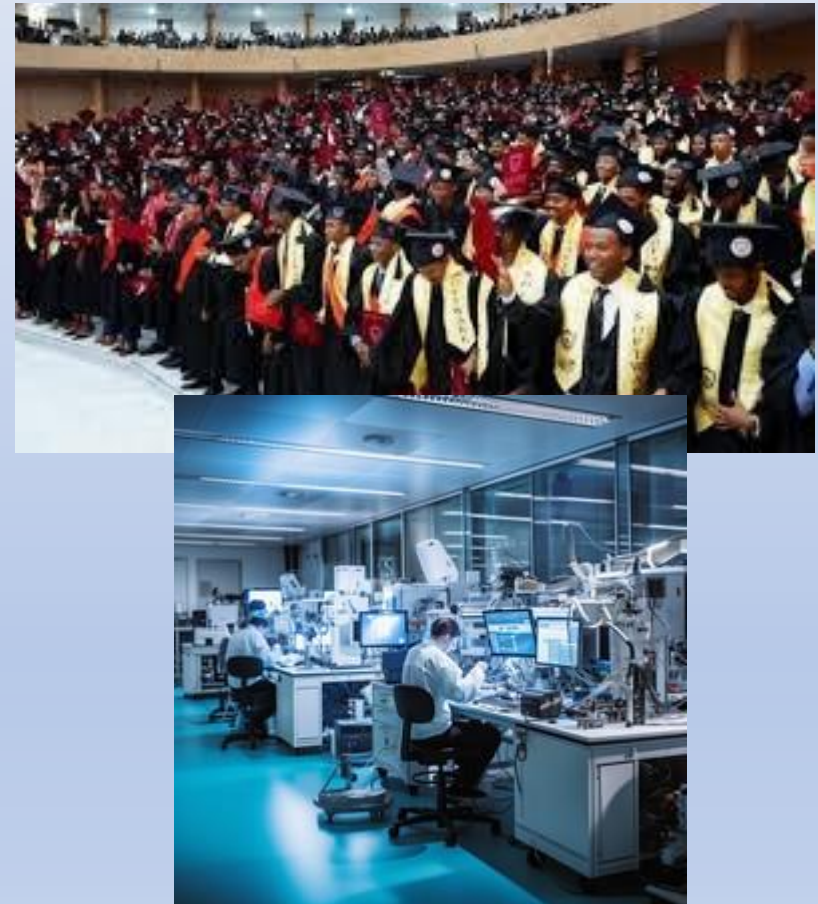
- **New** Scientific Research and Innovation Activities **Act** (2022)
- **New Ministry** for Higher Education, Science and **Innovation** (2023)
- **New Slovenian Research and Innovation activity – ARIS** (2023) legal successor of ARRS
- New approach to research funding: block funding, 6-year cycle
- New approach to research assessment

# Dynamic Research Area

Then



Now



# International Trends and Processes



## Declaration on Research Assessment (aka **San Francisco Declaration 2013**)

- **qualitative** assessment of scientific research activities
- **responsible** use of bibliometric indicators (≠ criteria for evaluating scientific research activities and (individual) researchers)
- **transparent** method of calculating metrics
- wider range of evaluation criteria
- **societal impact**

## Leiden Manifesto (2014)

- quantitative evaluation should **support** qualitative, expert assessment
- **open, transparent and simple** data collection and analytical processes
- performance is measured against the research **missions** of the institution, group or researcher
- encouraging publications in **quality scientific journals of local interest**
- **qualitative** assessment of individual researchers



The Leiden Manifesto  
for research metrics

## Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (2022)

- **academic freedom** and **autonomy** of research organisations
- **diversity** of research in science
- **quality** and **impact** of research in science and beyond
- **open science** principles and **accessibility** of results
- compliance with ethics, integrity and equal opportunities



REF2021

fwo



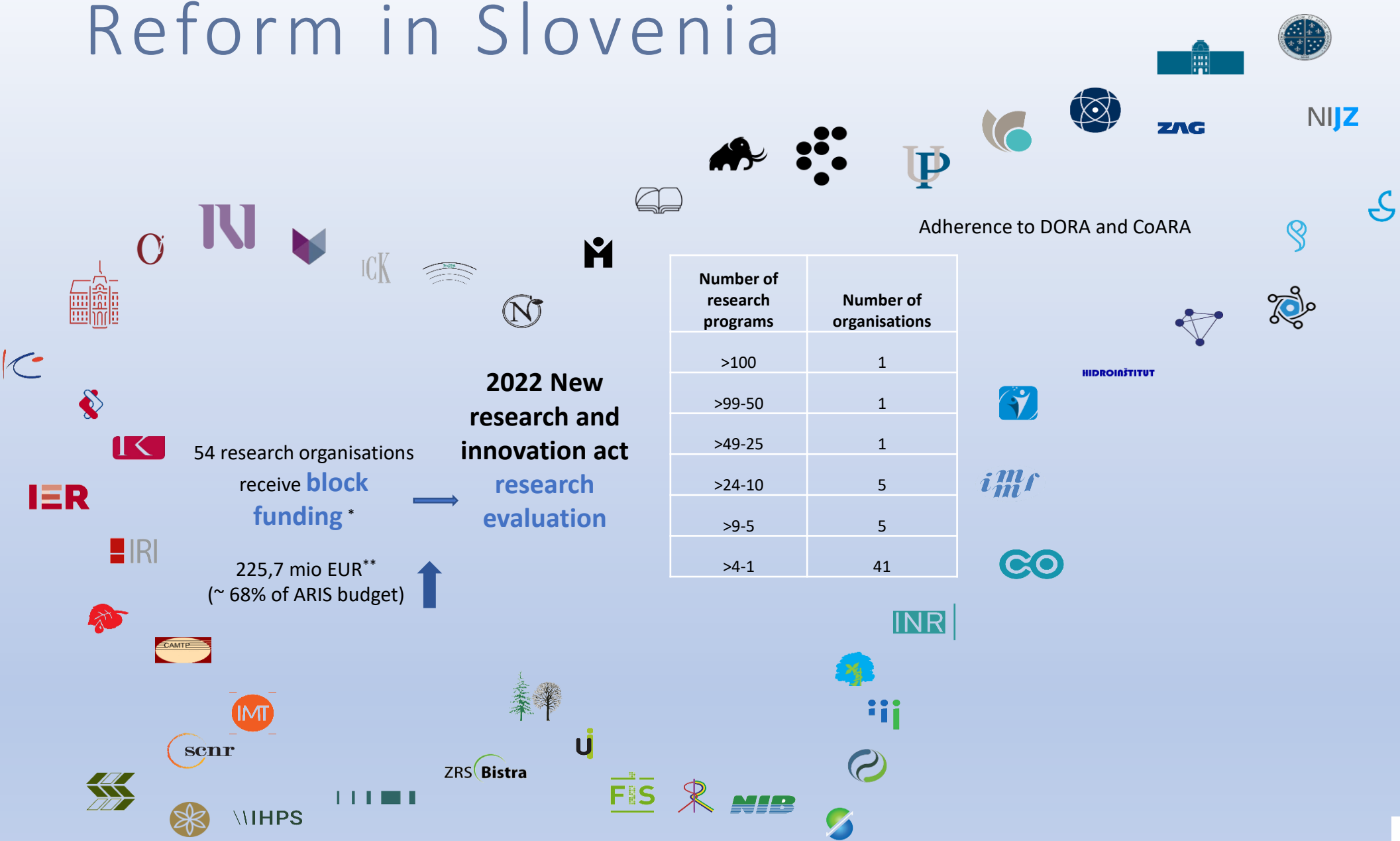


# Reforming Research Assessment in Slovenia

ARIS MODEL OF RESEARCH EVALUATION

within the scope of *block funding*

# Reform in Slovenia



# Evaluation of Research in Slovenia in Development

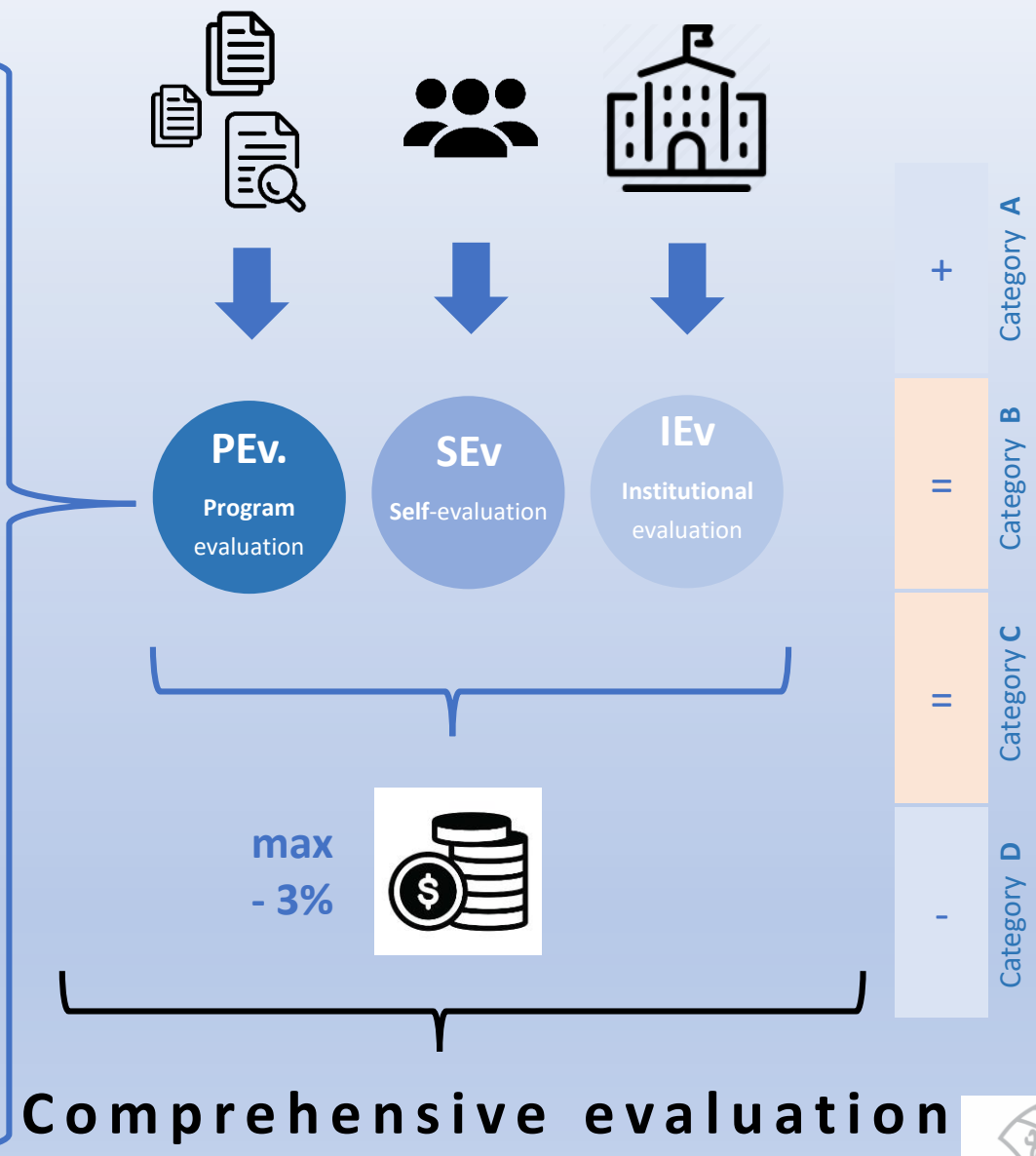
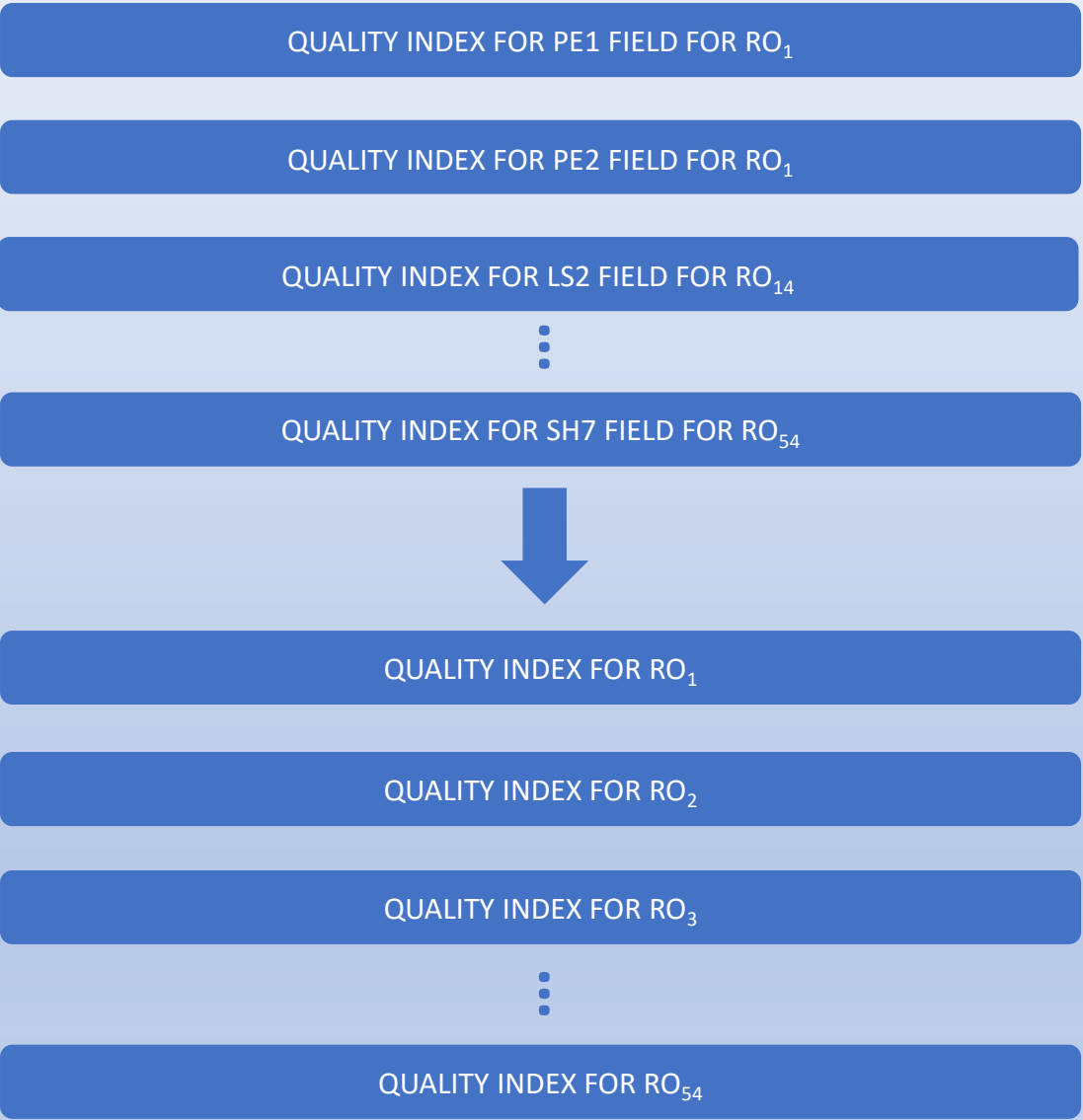
## BASIC CHARACTERISTICS:

- Six-year cycle (block/stable funding duration)
- Self-evaluation in the centre of the process
- 2 external evaluations
- Qualitative approach - Peer review
- Fitness for purpose (mission, aims, strategy)

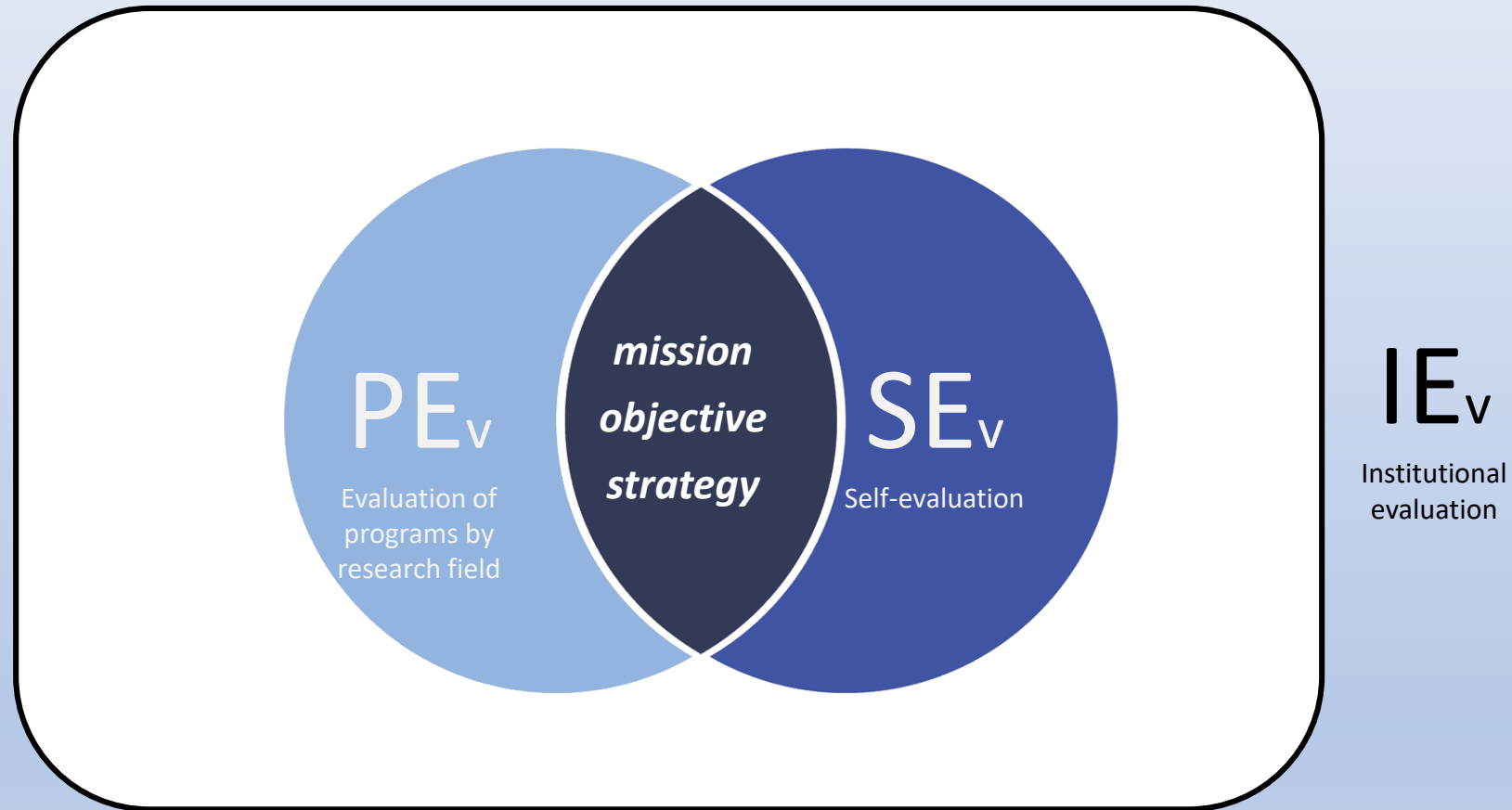
# 3 Types of Evaluation

## Six-Year Cycle of Block Funding

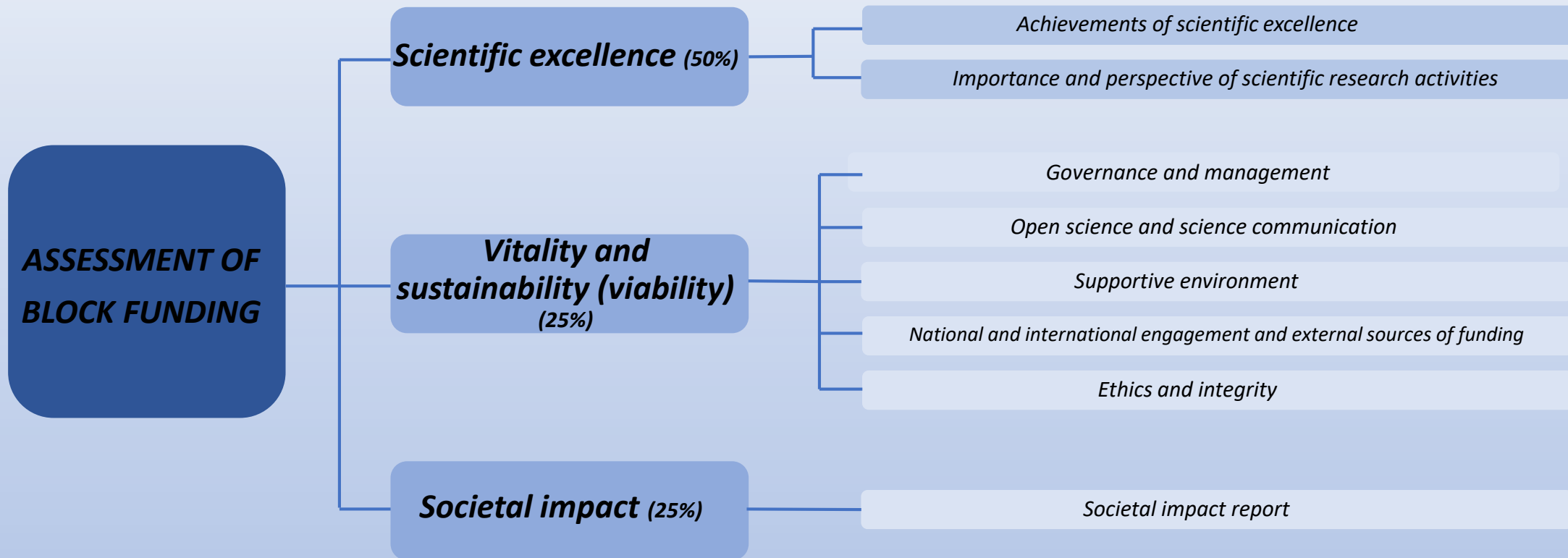
1. **SEv – Self-evaluation**
2. **PEv - Evaluation of research programs** by research field (ERC classification)
3. **IEv – Institutional evaluation**



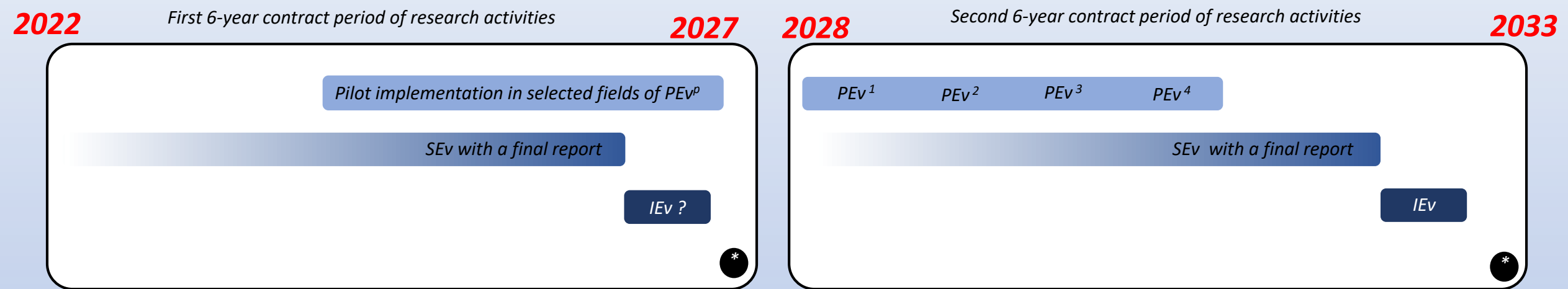
# Evaluation System (3 Types of Evaluation)



# Criteria and Indicators



# Schematic Representation of the Timeline of Evaluation of Research Activities



## WHAT?

**PEv** Evaluation of programs by research field

**SEv** Self-evaluation

**IEv** External institutional evaluation

**\*** Negotiations for the new contract period

## WHO?

ARIS (lead), external evaluators

Recipients of block funding

ARIS (lead), external evaluators

Minister responsible for science

## RESULT?

Quality indexes (by research field, by institution)

Self-evaluation report, quality assurance and verification system

Reallocation of funds

Block financing agreement for a new contract period

**PEv<sup>p</sup>** :PE6, PE7, PE8, PE11, SH1-SH7<sup>1</sup> **PEv<sup>1</sup>** :LS1-LS9; **PEv<sup>2</sup>** : PE1-PE5, PE9, PE10; **PEv<sup>3</sup>** :PE6-PE8, PE11; **PEv<sup>4</sup>**:SH1-SH7 \* negotiations are conducted by the minister responsible for science



# Thank you!

