



**ALFRED-WEGENER-INSTITUT**  
HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FÜR POLAR-  
UND MEERESFORSCHUNG



**HELMHOLTZ**  
| ASSOCIATION



# Identifying and evaluating successful processes in knowledge transfer projects: first lessons

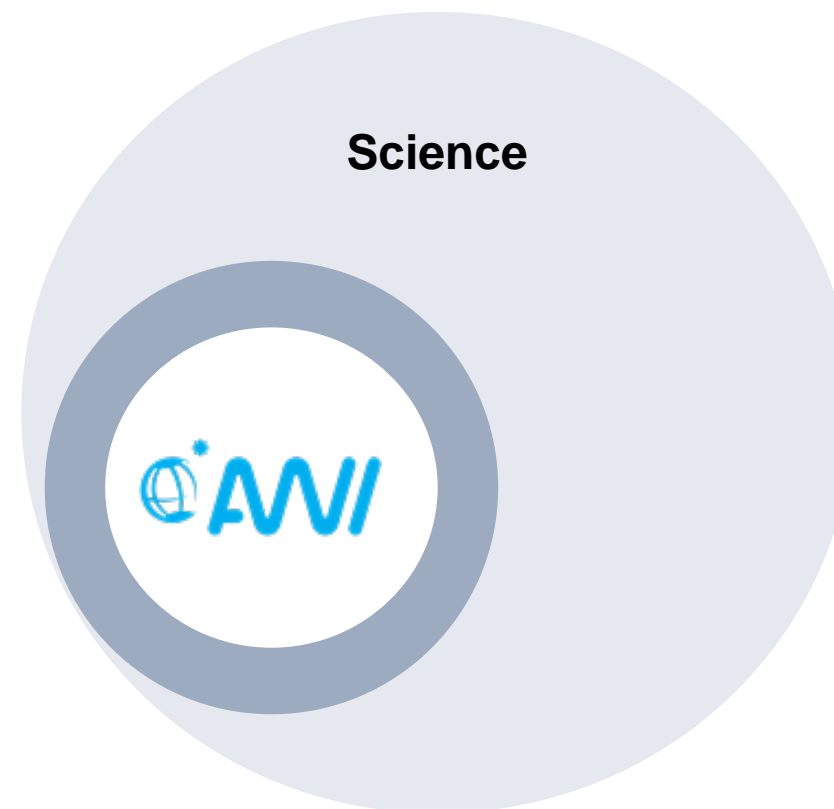
Gesche Krause & Maximilian F. Schupp  
Earth System Knowledge Platform (ESKP)

## Alfred-Wegener-Institut

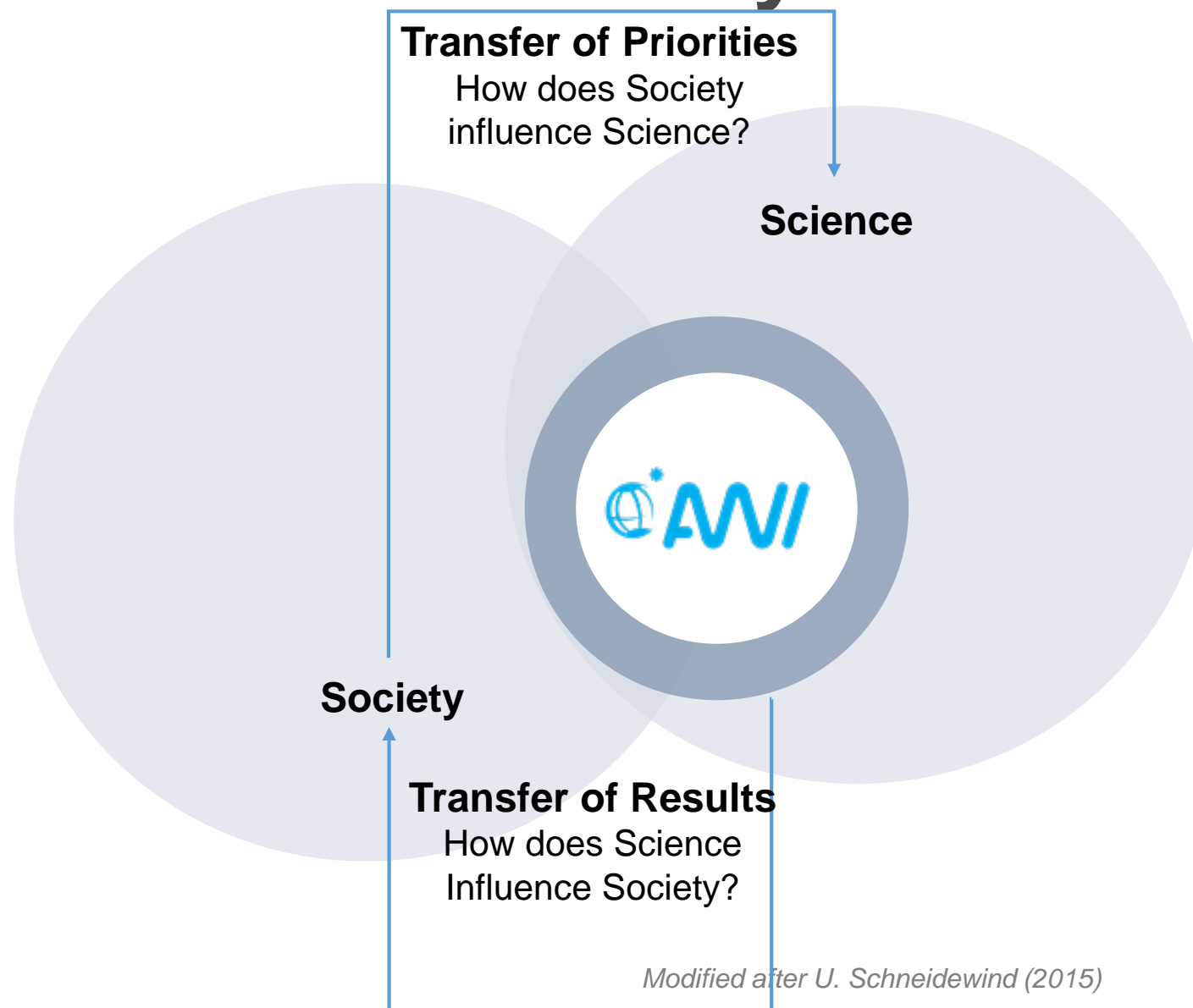
Helmholtz-Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung



# Science & Society



# Science & Society





# Mission

The Alfred-Wegener-Institute ...

- is an international leader in polar research
- in the context of climate and coastal research, makes significant contributions to promoting awareness of how our global environment and the Earth system are changing
- provides the scientific basis for political decisions
- provides essential polar and marine infrastructures

# Research Programme

## Polar Regions and Coasts in a Changing Earth System: PACES II (2014 - 2018)

- ① **Topic 1:** Changes in the Arctic and Antarctic
- ① **Topic 2:** Fragile coasts and shelf seas
- ① **Topic 3:** The Earth system from a polar perspective:  
Data acquisition, modelling and synthesis
- ① **Topic 4:** Interactions between science and stakeholders

# ESKP

## Earth System Knowledge Platform

- Funded by HGF
- 8 Research centers
- Topics encompassing all aspects of “Earth and Environment”-Sciences
- Knowledge transfer platform

## Lead Questions

- What constitutes a successful knowledge transfer?
- How can we optimize knowledge transfer processes?



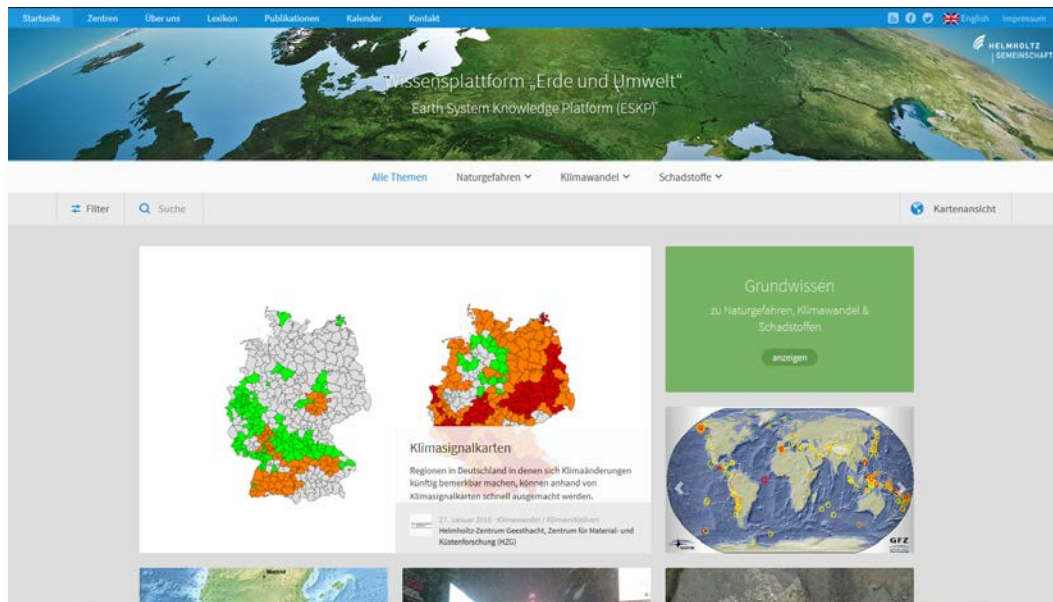
 Contribution

# ESKP at AWI – a two-track approach

## External: eskp.de

### eskp.de provides

- Journalistically curated scientific content
- Snapshots from cutting edge environmental research
- Providing baseline information to public stakeholders
- License free texts and infographics





# ESKP at AWI – a two-track approach

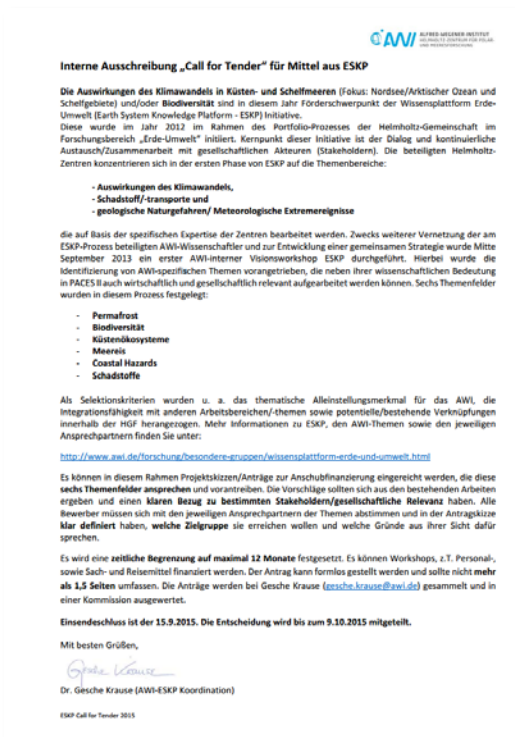
## Internal: ESKP Call for Tender

The annual Call for Tender offers an opportunity to

- Promote knowledge transfer projects inside and outside AWI
- Provide funding to pursue promising stakeholder cooperation's and support the co-creation of knowledge
- Test tailor-made knowledge transfer tools, methods and processes
- Incentivize the importance of knowledge transfer in times of increasing austerity

→ Should there be one general approach for all scientific disciplines to advance and demonstrate the success of knowledge transfer projects?

→ Where can we apply a generic standard and where do we need to create specialized standards per discipline?



# ESKP at AWI - Evaluation Concept

## Phase I

### Ex-ante

Mandatory survey to assess

- Concrete outputs
- Success indicators
- Impacted dimensions
- Stakeholders

## Phase II

### In-itinere

Semi-structured interview

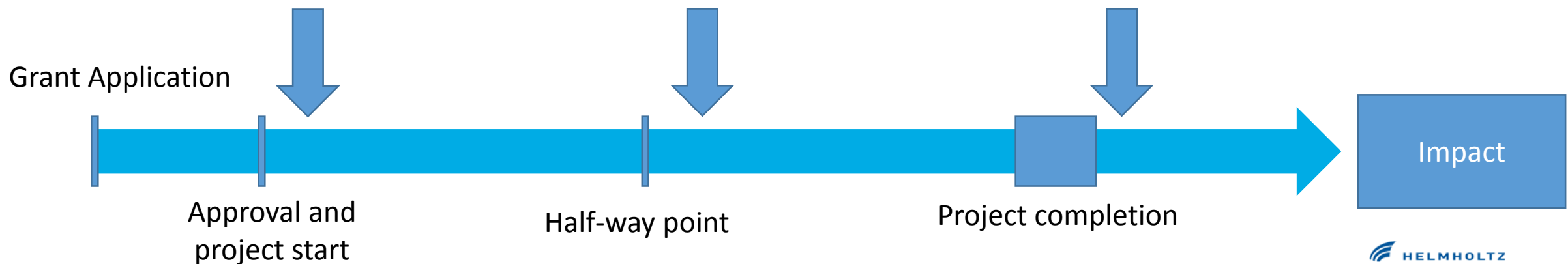
- Progress on outputs
- Methodology and problems
- Stakeholder communication

## Phase III

### Ex-post

Mixed method of previous phases

- Outputs
- Concrete impact indicators and metrics
- Stakeholder communication



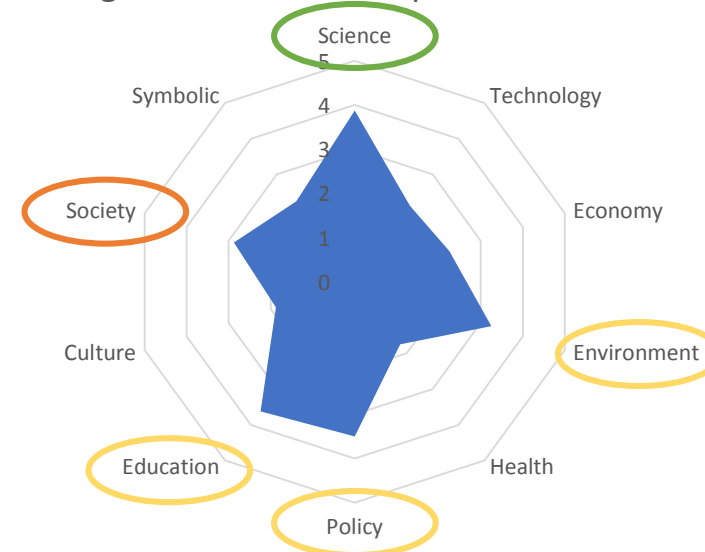


# ESKP Project self-assessment

## Self-assessment of impacted dimensions

- Science
- Technology
- Economy
  
- Environment
- Health
- Policy
- Education
  
- Culture
- Society
- Symbolic

Averaged self-assessment profiles 2015-2016



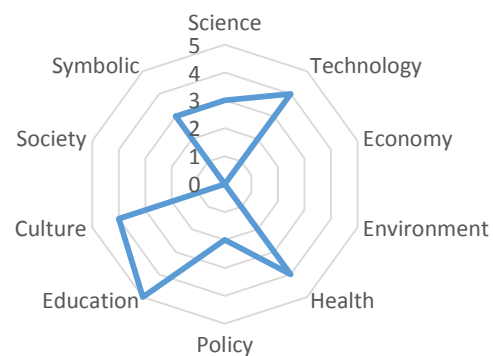


# ESKP Project self-assessment

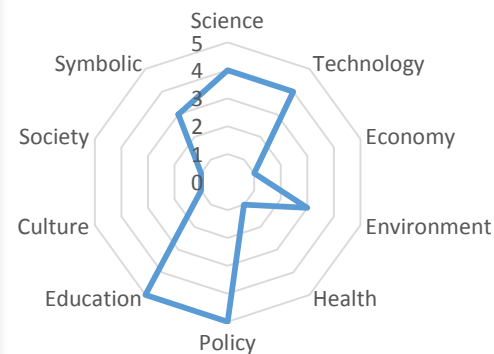
2015

2016

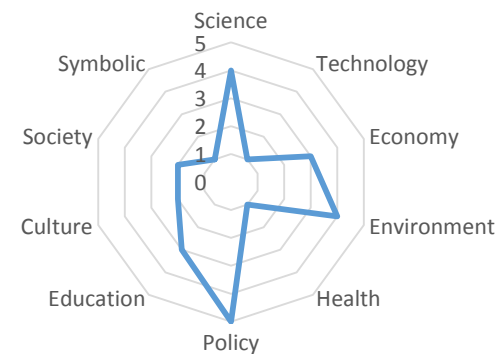
Tsunami warning systems



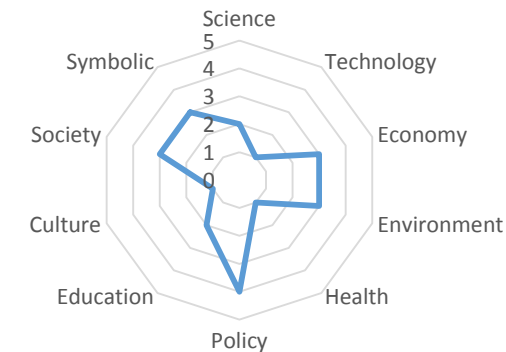
Benthic biodiversity



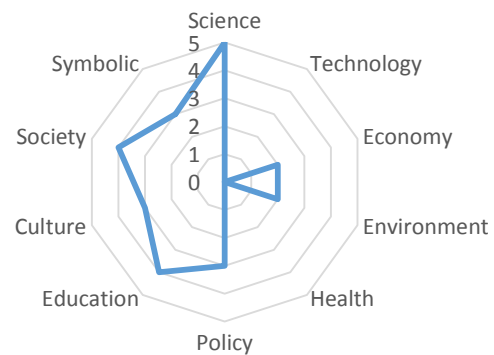
Climate change & biodiversity



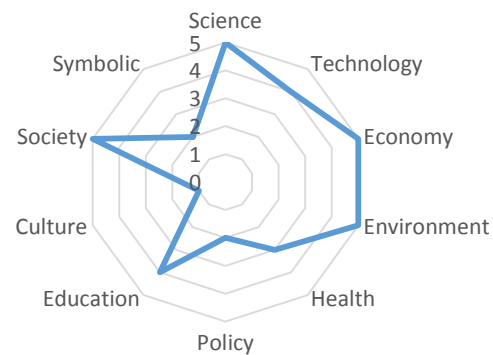
Polar climate prediction



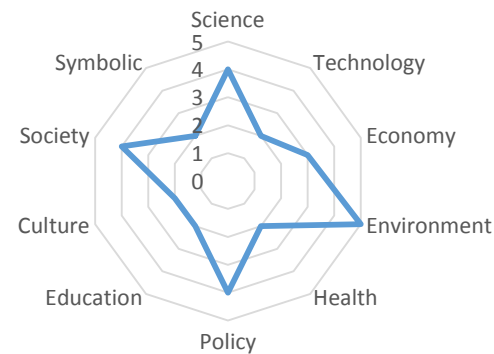
Sea ice forecasts



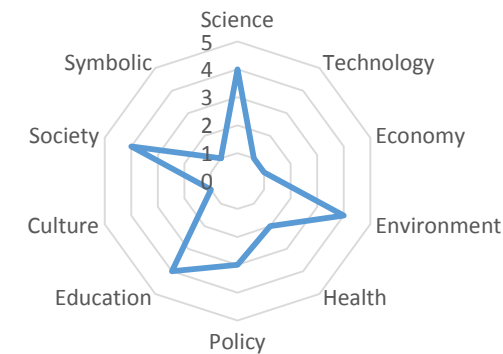
Flood prediction



Arctic governance



Marine litter



# Preliminary results

## Preliminary results show different problem areas

- Knowledge transfer tools of choice
- Time scales
- Stakeholder mapping and communication
- Difficulty recognizing value of “intangible” Impacts and non-traditional Outputs outside established academic realms

# Proposed evaluation concept

## Phase I

### Ex-ante

Potential impact is evaluated based on proposal and impact achieved by previous work.

## Phase II

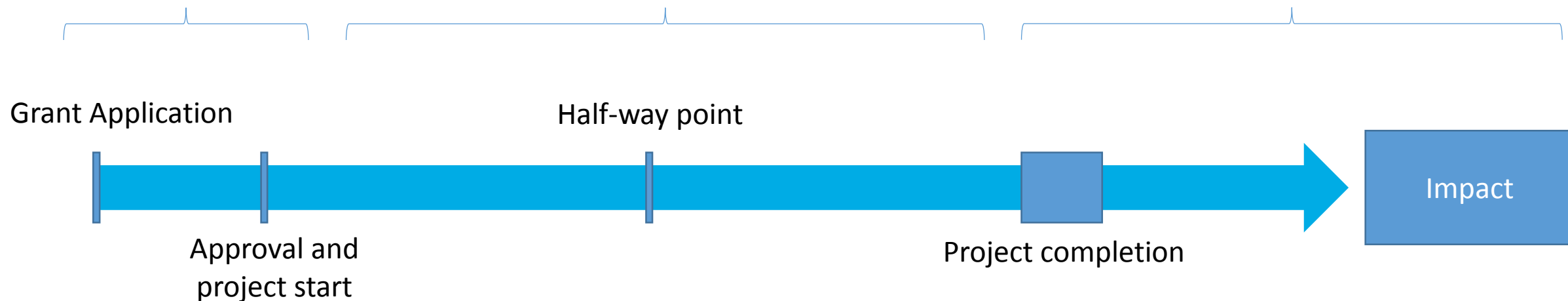
### In-itinere

Processes and methodology are evaluated to identify and prevent possible problems. Potential impacts metrics are compiled.

## Phase III

### Ex-post

Expected impacts are now tracked based on compiled metrics and showcased to show societal relevance.



# Lessons learned

## First lessons based on our current experience/knowledge/insights

- Responsibility not on shoulders of junior scientists trying to establish careers
- Experience promotes good communication
- Where clear metrics aren't feasible, anecdotal evidence of attributable impact has to suffice
- Don't hold too many meetings: risk of overstressing capacities of individual scientist, leading to exhaustion of the topic.

## Questions going forward

- Wie soll das AWI mit umstrittenen Themen oder Interessenskonflikten umgehen?
- How do we value and reward knowledge transfer?



# Outlook

