



*Flemish-Dutch HLTD policy:  
evolving to new forms of collaboration*

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# Overview

- common Fl/Nl HLTD policy
- ST&I policy
  - backward / retrospective elements
    - STEVIN final evaluation
  - forward / prospective elements
    - EWI HLTD forecast
    - NTU policy recommendations
- joint Fl/Nl HLTD activities
- conclusion

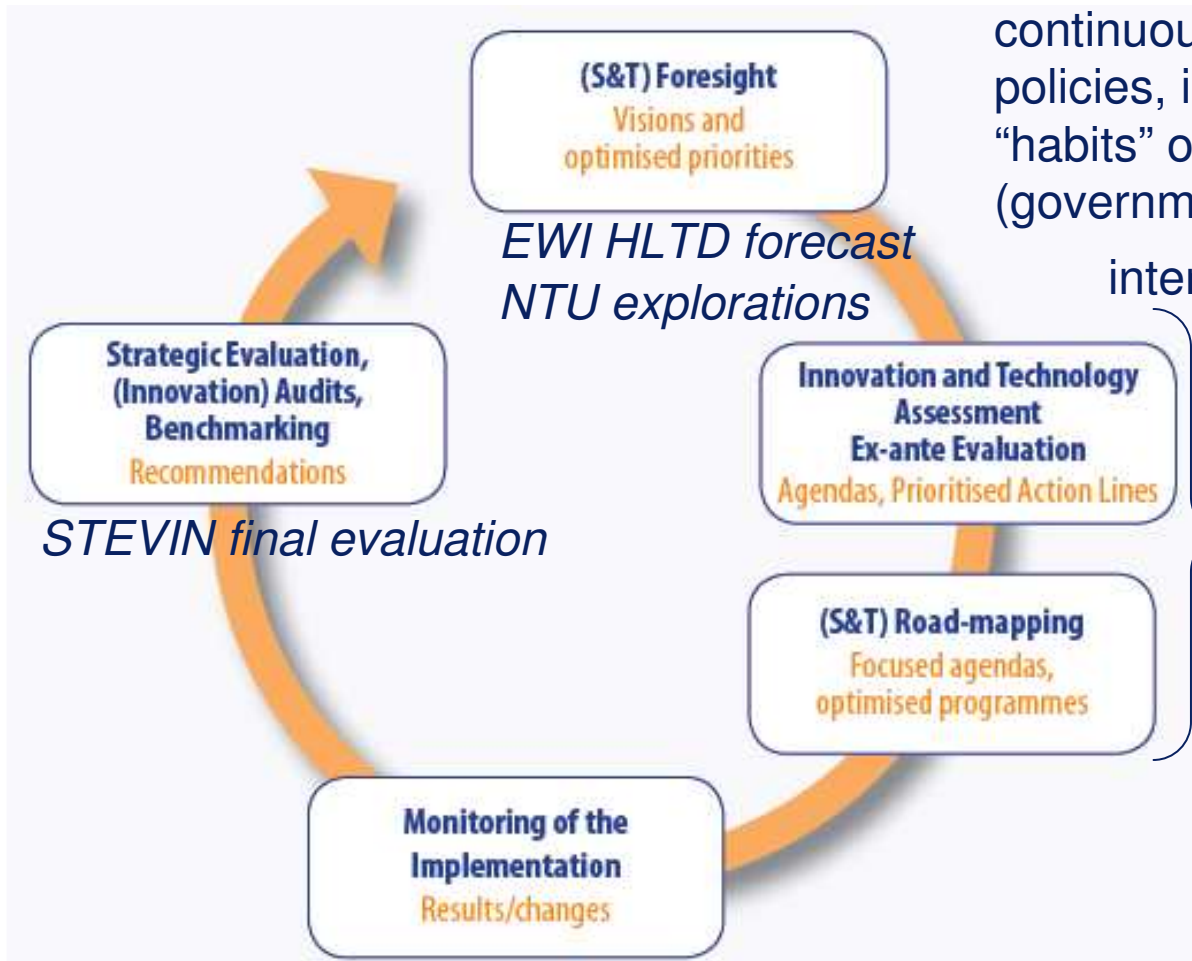
# Governance

- NTU [Dutch Language Union]
  - intergovernmental policy organisation for matters related to Dutch (currently celebrating its 30th anniversary !)
  - structurally funded by depts. of (mainly) education and culture
  - ultimate goal: all language users of Dutch are able to use Dutch in all situations
  - language of 23 million people (the 8th EU language)
- Flemish & Dutch governments agreed to
  - improve and secure the position of Dutch in the information society
  - set up a common governmental platform hosted by the NTU
  - provide programmatic funding by depts. of economy and science
  - goal: stimulate HLTD sector (academia and industry) to develop resources and tools and integrate Dutch in ICT applications

# STEVIN

- jointly funded by the Netherlands (7,6 M€ - 66%) & Flanders (3,8 M€ - 33%): 11,4 M€
- from 2005 till 2011
- organisational essentials
  - coordinated by the NTU
  - common pot funding scheme
  - common governance: same submission, evaluation, monitoring, acceptance, funding, IPR, ... procedures for all participants
- common policy goals
  - promote strategic research and develop essential resources for Dutch that were/are missing (aka BLARK)
  - raise awareness of HLTD results and stimulate the (economic) demand for HLTD products
  - support the maintenance and distribution of HLTD resources

# The policy cycle

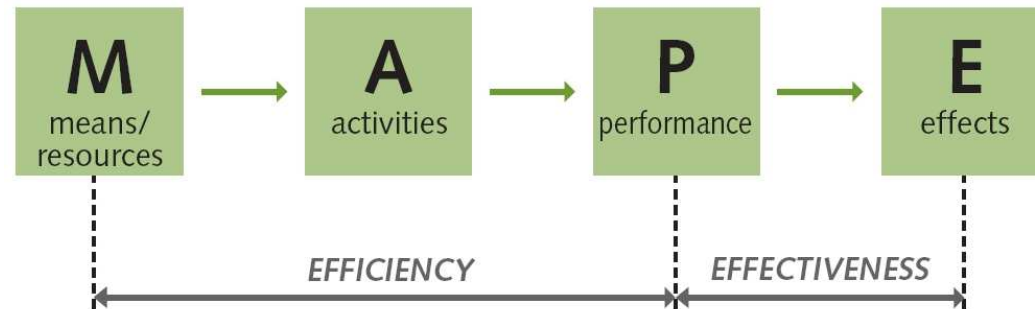


continuous institutional challenge: align policies, instruments, timing and overall “habits” of the Dutch and Flemish (governmental) stakeholder organisations

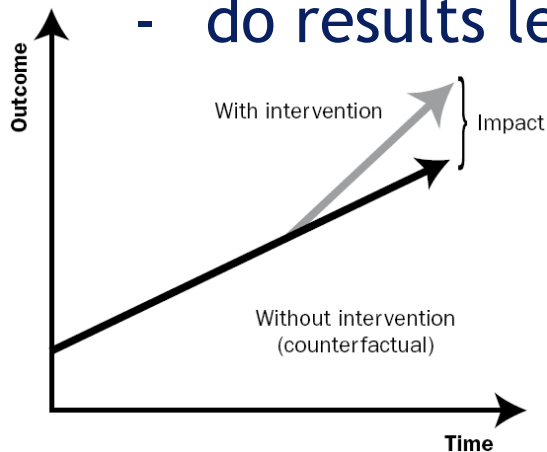
intermediating role for NTU

*to be done for new activities*

# Value for taxpayer's money ?



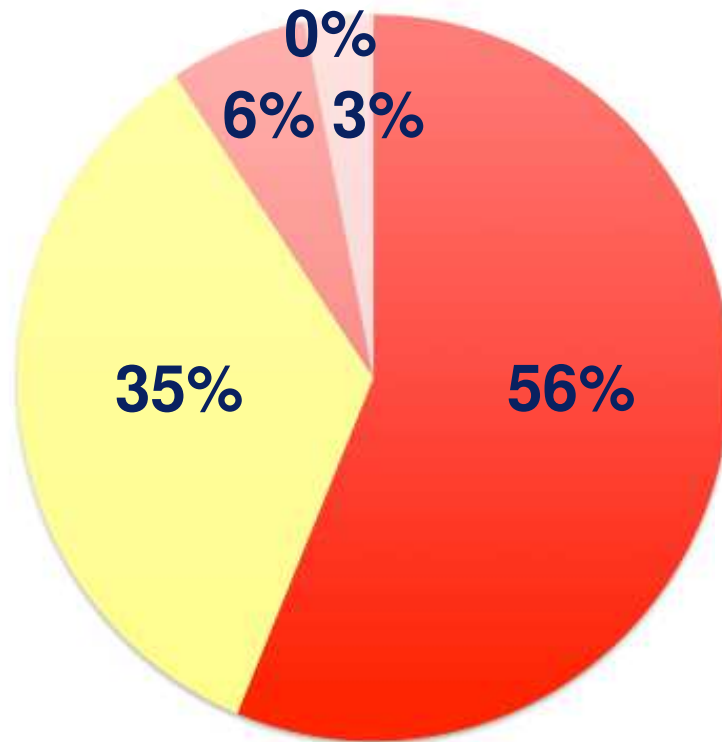
- are means appropriately spent on activities ?
- do activities generate (concrete) results ?
- do results meet (pre-set) criteria and standards ?
- do results lead to a lasting impact on society ?



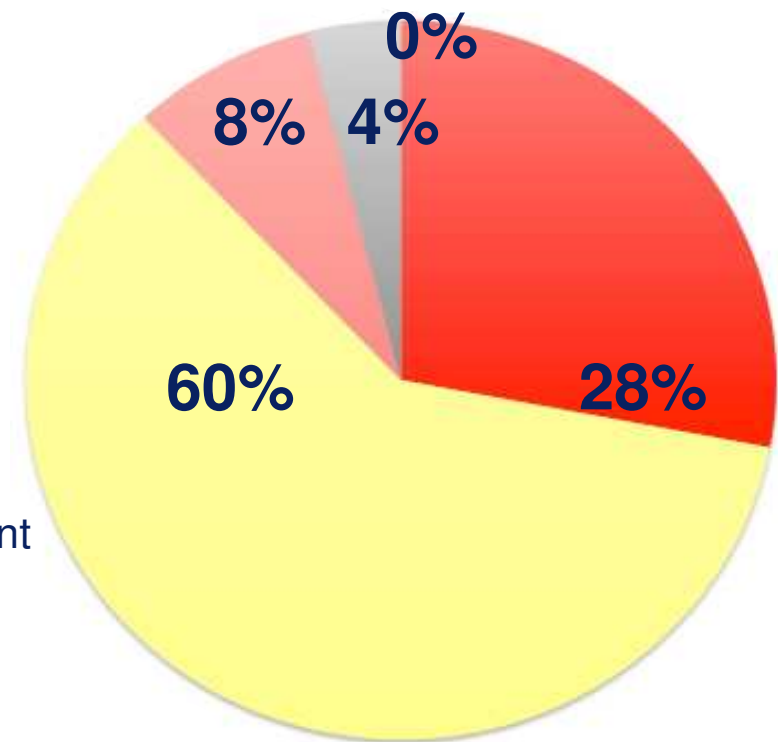
use an appropriate, comparable reference sample  
beware of wrongly attributed effects

# Importance of STEVIN for HLTD

knowledge institutions



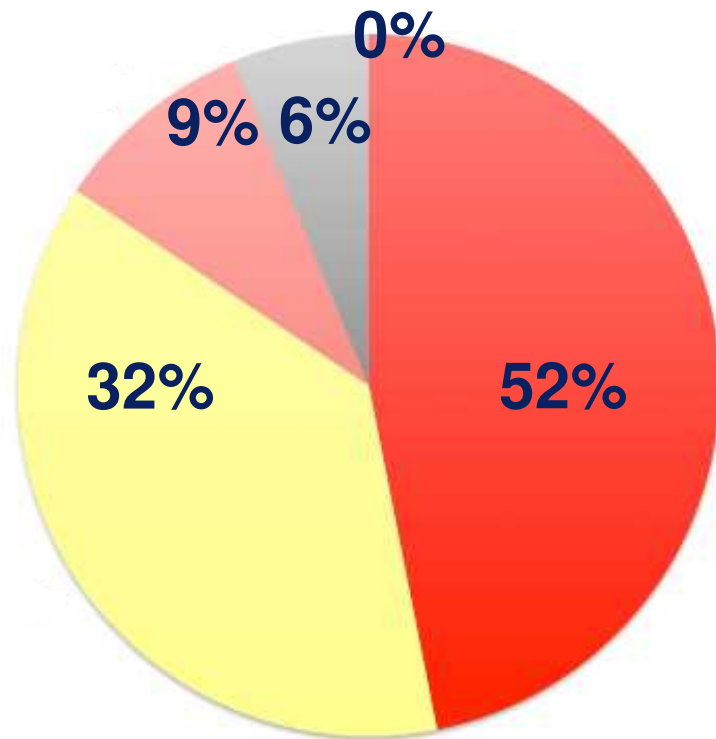
companies



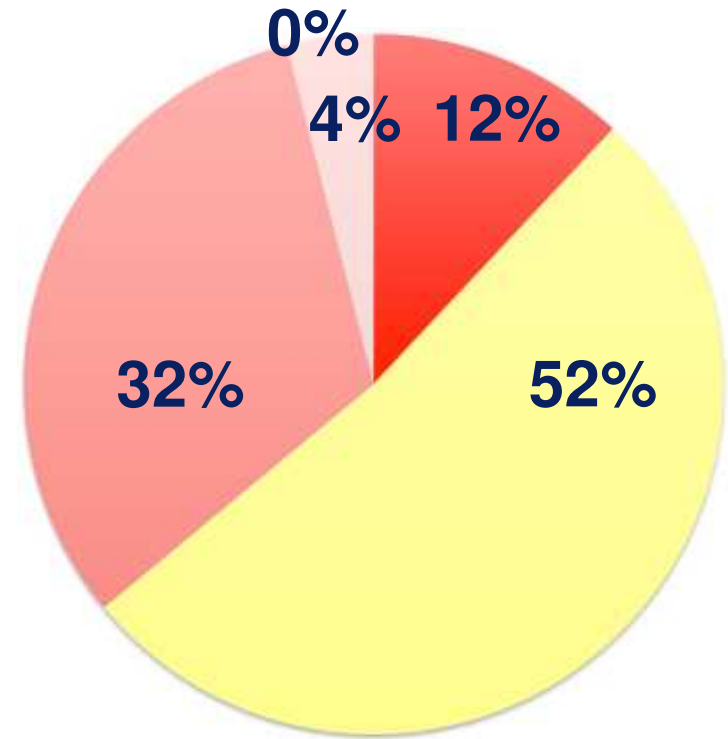
- very important
- important
- neutral
- insignificant
- very insignificant

# Impact of STEVIN on HLTD

knowledge institutions

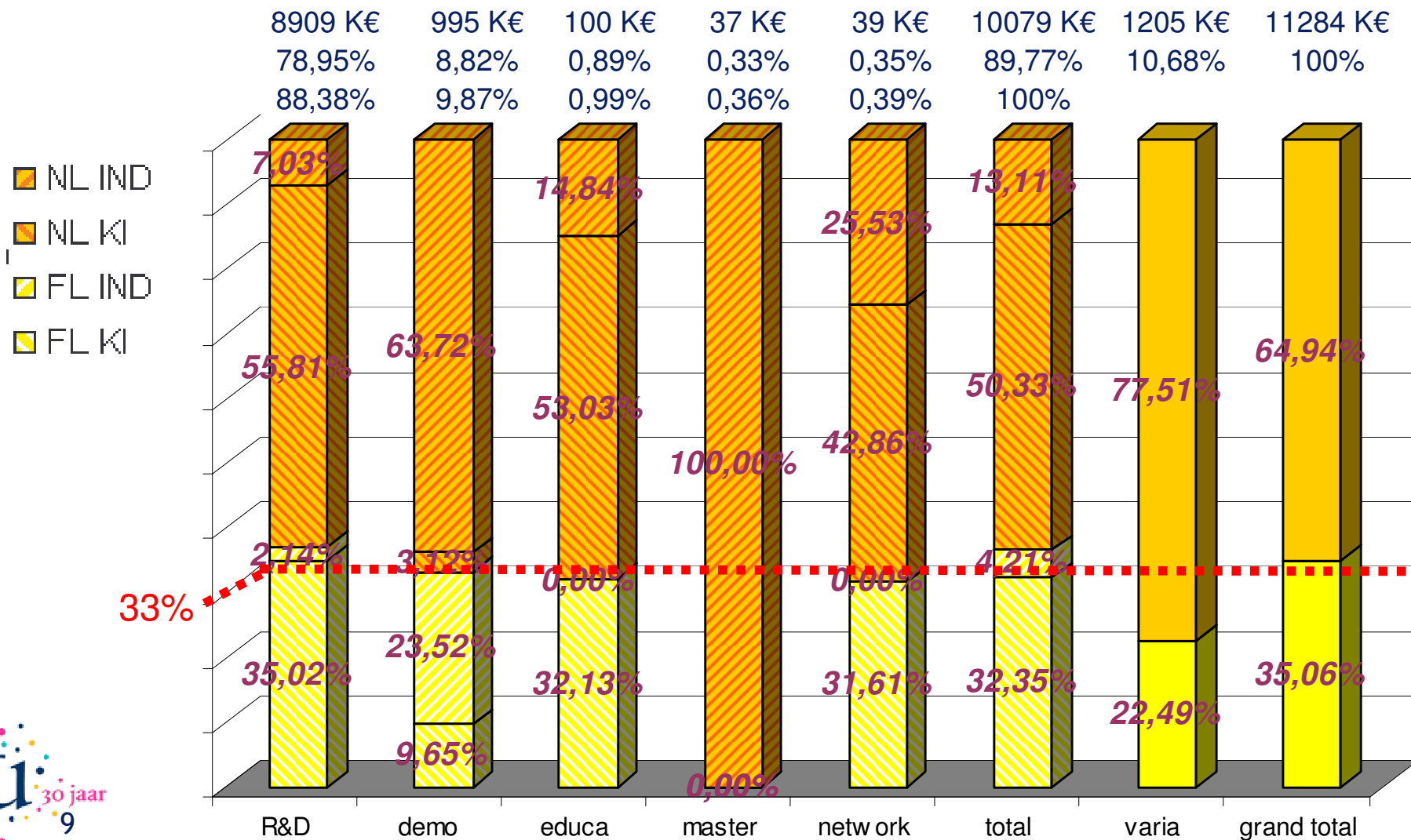


companies



- very important
- important
- neutral
- insignificant
- very insignificant

# Budget distribution



# Delphi exercise

45 statements & 157 invited experts

**R1**

*New media, (serious) gaming and leisure*  
The Flemish government should invest in HLTD because

Statement 1.2:  
HLTD can automate the generation of metadata and indices needed to access multimedia sources

74 participating experts

**R2**

I do not agree at all  
 I do not agree  
 Neutral  
 I Agree  
 I totally agree  
 No opinion

Your argument:

63 participating experts

**R3**

*OVERHEIDSBELEID*

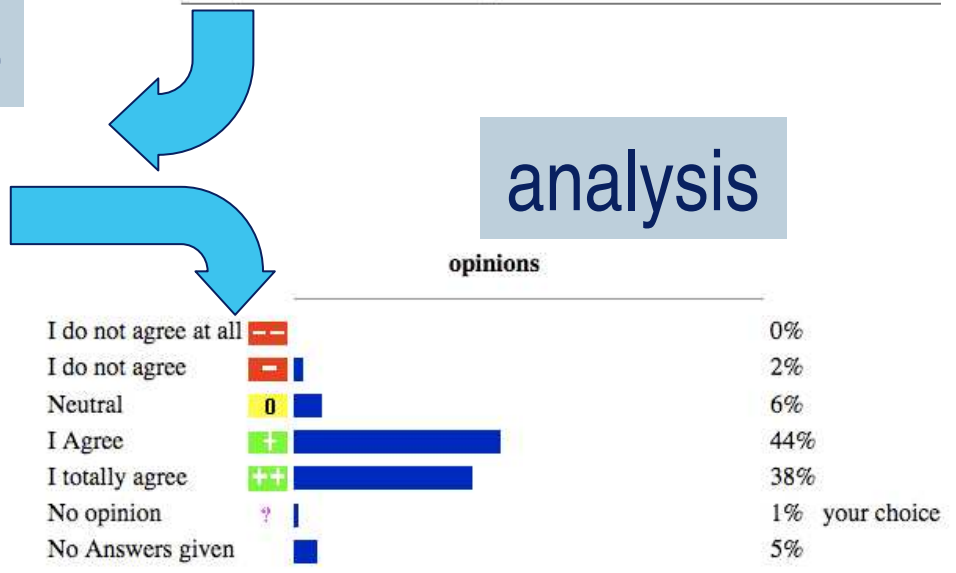
De Vlaamse overheid moet investeren in onderzoek en ontwikkeling rond TST voor het Nederlands omdat

(Stelling 10.1) TST een (bedrijfs)sector is met voldoende potentieel.

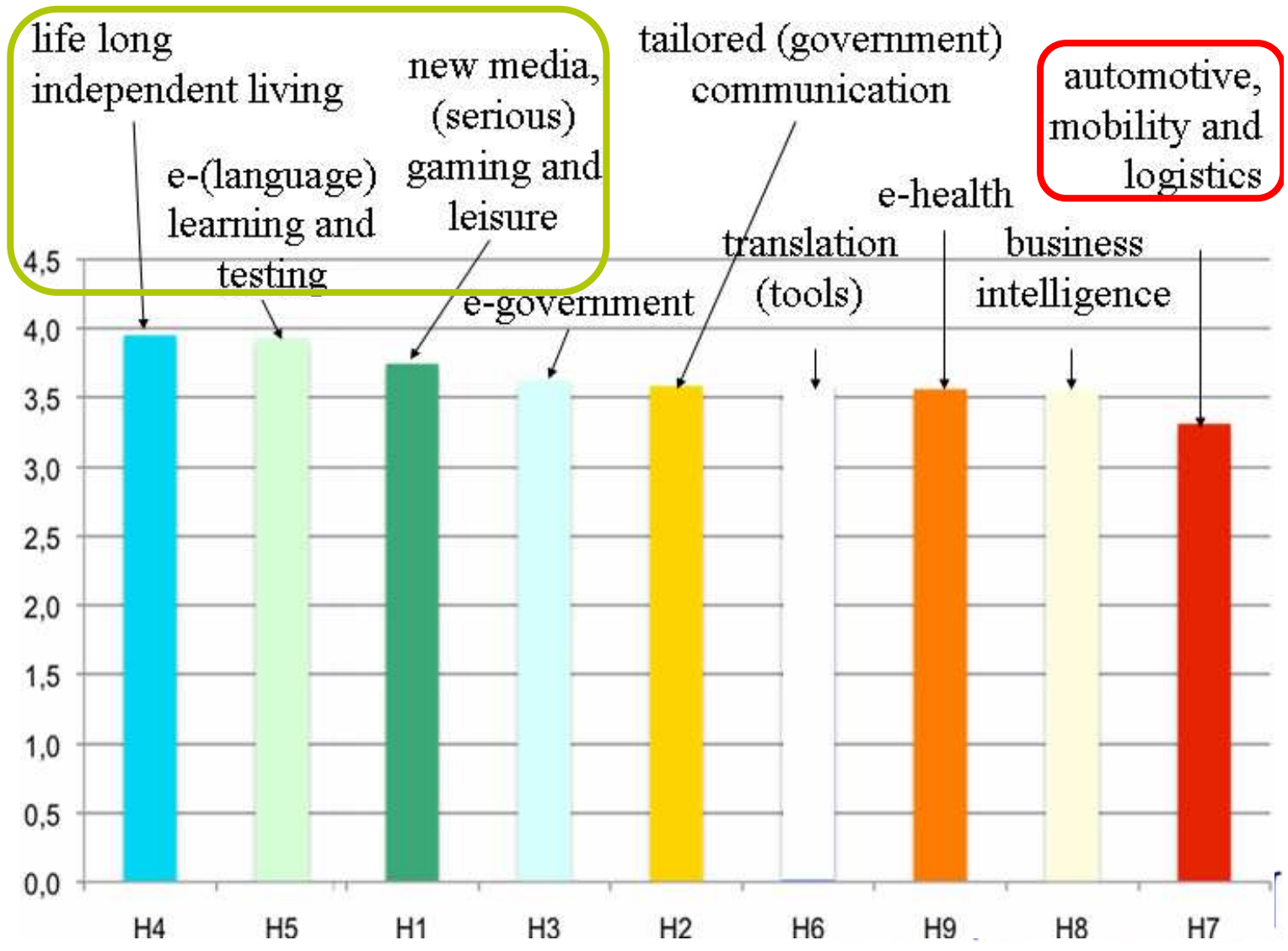
Round 2

-  
 - Het is niet omdat er voldoende potentieel is dat de overheid ook een investering moet doen. Specifiek voor het Nederlands en in bepaalde gebieden is overheidssteun misschien wel nodig.  
 0  
 0  
 0  
 0  
 0  
 0 De geschiedenis leert dat het niet evident is om deze technologie te commercialiseren. Er is m.i. zeker nog veel fundamenteel onderzoek om nieuwe toepassingen mogelijk te maken. Ik zou het potentieel dus eerder situeren in de academische sector - tenminste voor spraaktechnologie. Ik heb geen mening over taaltechnologie.  
 + Men moet geen hypes volgen zoals in de periode rond het jaar 2000, maar realistisch gesproken, heeft TST een groot potentieel als men goed plant en goed naar potentiële gebruikers luistert.  
 +  
 +  
 + net als bij ontologieën is wellicht de tijd aangebroken om meer toegepast onderzoek te doen. Dat sluit ook betere aan bij de (noden van de) bedrijven;  
 +

analysis



# Relative scores for themes



## Top 5 statements

- 1.2: HLTD can automate the generation of meta data and indices needed to accessing multimedia sources (score 4,38);
- 5.2: language interfaces can support language teaching (score 4,27);
- 4.6 HLTD can help to guide visually impaired persons to their destination (score 4,19);
- 4.3: personal synthetic voices can help (in particular young) speech impaired persons (score 4,18);
- 6.4: translation software can offer opportunities in the EU-context (and its enlargement) (score 4,12);
- 1.3 HLTD enables passage retrieval in audiovisual material (score 4,12).

# Dutch without barriers

- Reports on HLTD and communicative disabilities (2005 and forthcoming)
- Report on HLTD for (language) education (in preparation)
- Policy recommendation on HLTD within government organisations

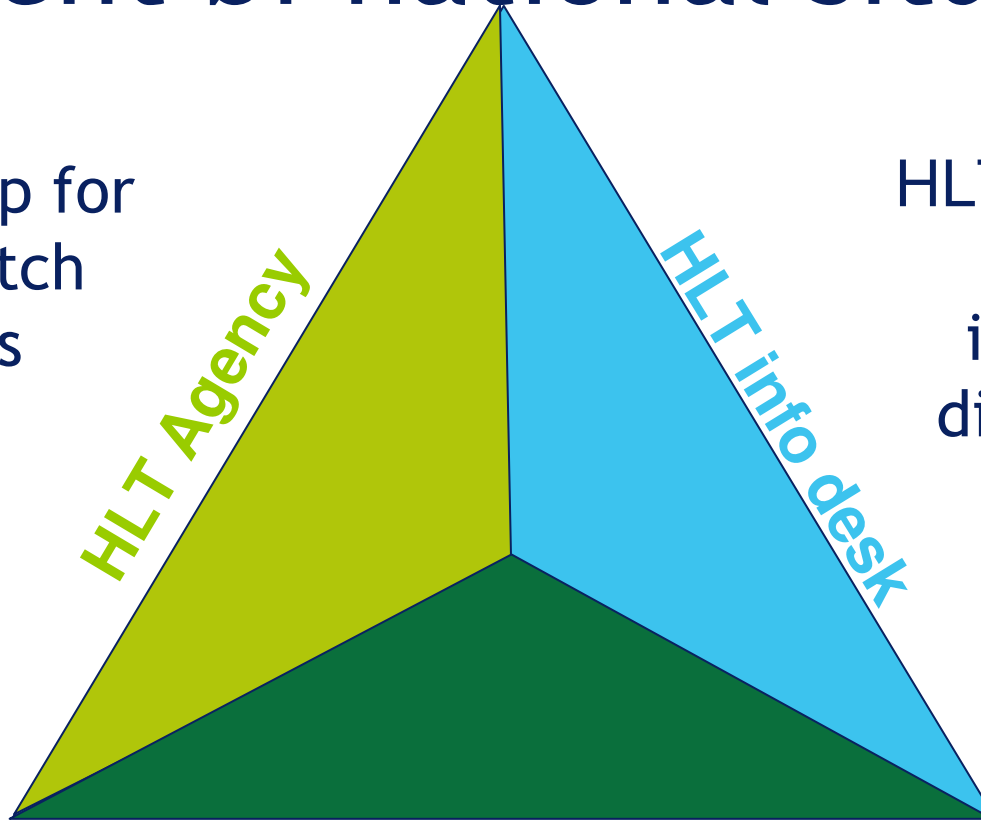
synthesising various ideas, wishes, suggestions

... for joint Fl/Nl post-STEVIN HLTD activities

# Current bi-national situation

one stop shop for  
HLT for Dutch  
resources

*funded  
by the NTU*



HLTD awareness  
raising and  
information  
dissemination

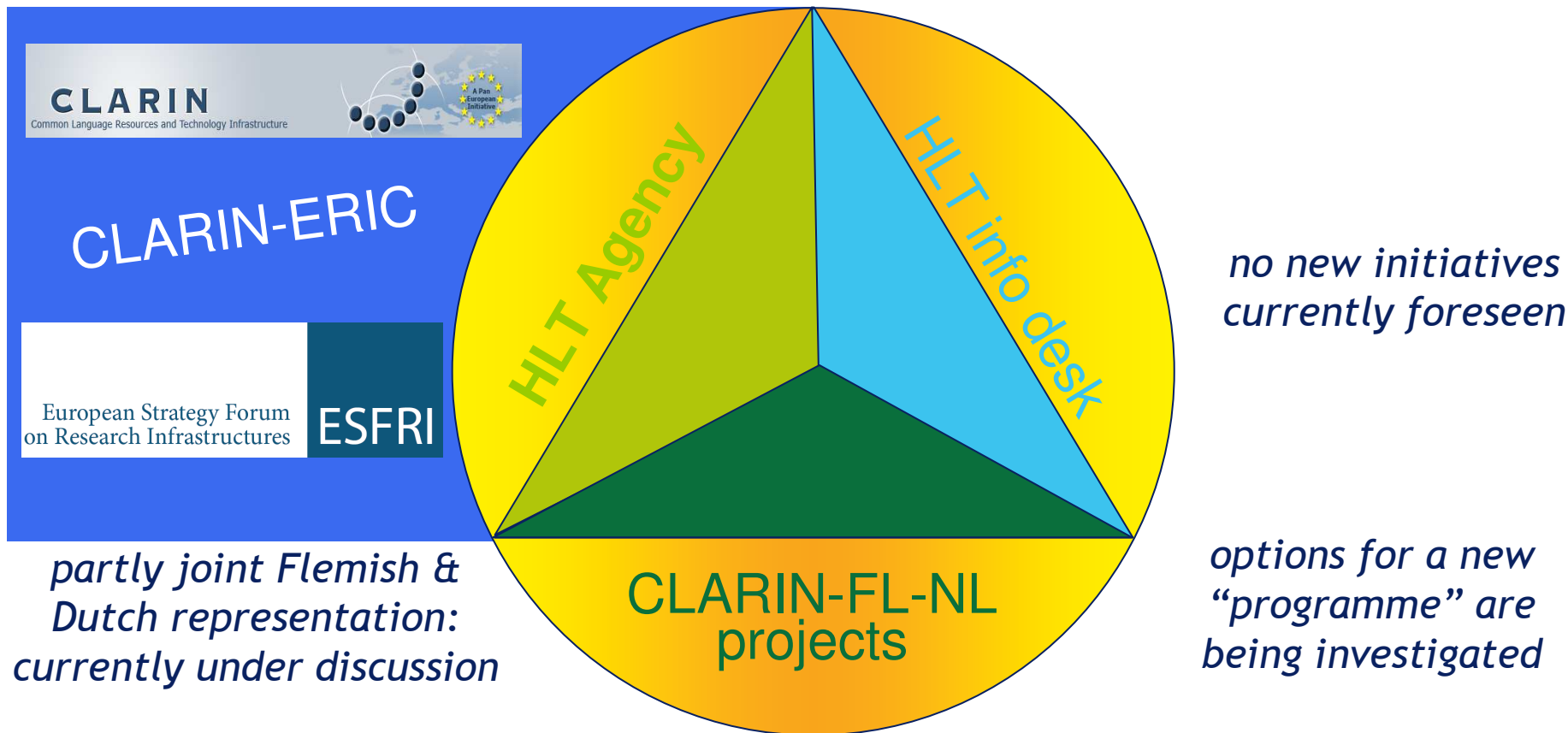
*funded  
by the NTU*

STEVIN R&D programme  
creating HLT for Dutch resources and tools

*funded by EWI, (IWT, FWO) [FL]  
& EZ, OCW, NWO [NL]*

joint  
HLTD

# Future internationalisation



adapting and expanding STEVIN resources to CLARIN standards and workflows  
funded by EWI [FL:792K€] and the CLARIN-NL consortium [NL: 1584K€]

# Conclusion

- STEVIN is moving towards its end (end 2011)
    - no “STEVIN II” programme scheduled nor being prepared
    - smaller national(?) thematic initiatives, maybe overseen by some HLTD “liaison function” or common platform instead ?
  - CLARIN-EU is preparing for its ERIC (mid 2011?)
    - joint funding for a (partly) common representation for Dutch
  - CLARIN-FL-NL (2010 - mid 2012)
    - separate Flemish and Dutch demonstrator projects with one joint standards and workflow project
    - no common pot, no common “governance” (no NTU)
  - an (intended ?) shift from a common policy vision with a centrally organised governance to a “bag” of hopefully concurrent and synergetic (mainly scientific) projects
- + a declaration of intent of collaboration on HLTD (and CLARIN in particular) signed by (former) Flemish and Dutch S&I ministers

