

# An example of career in policy

Dr Vincent Reillon

LA3NET Scientists Go Industry Workshop

Helmholtz Association HQ – Berlin, November 17 2014

# Introduction



# From PhD in Physics to Science Policy



Research  
Teaching



PhD



What's next?

# From PhD in Physics to Science Policy



# From PhD in Physics to Science Policy

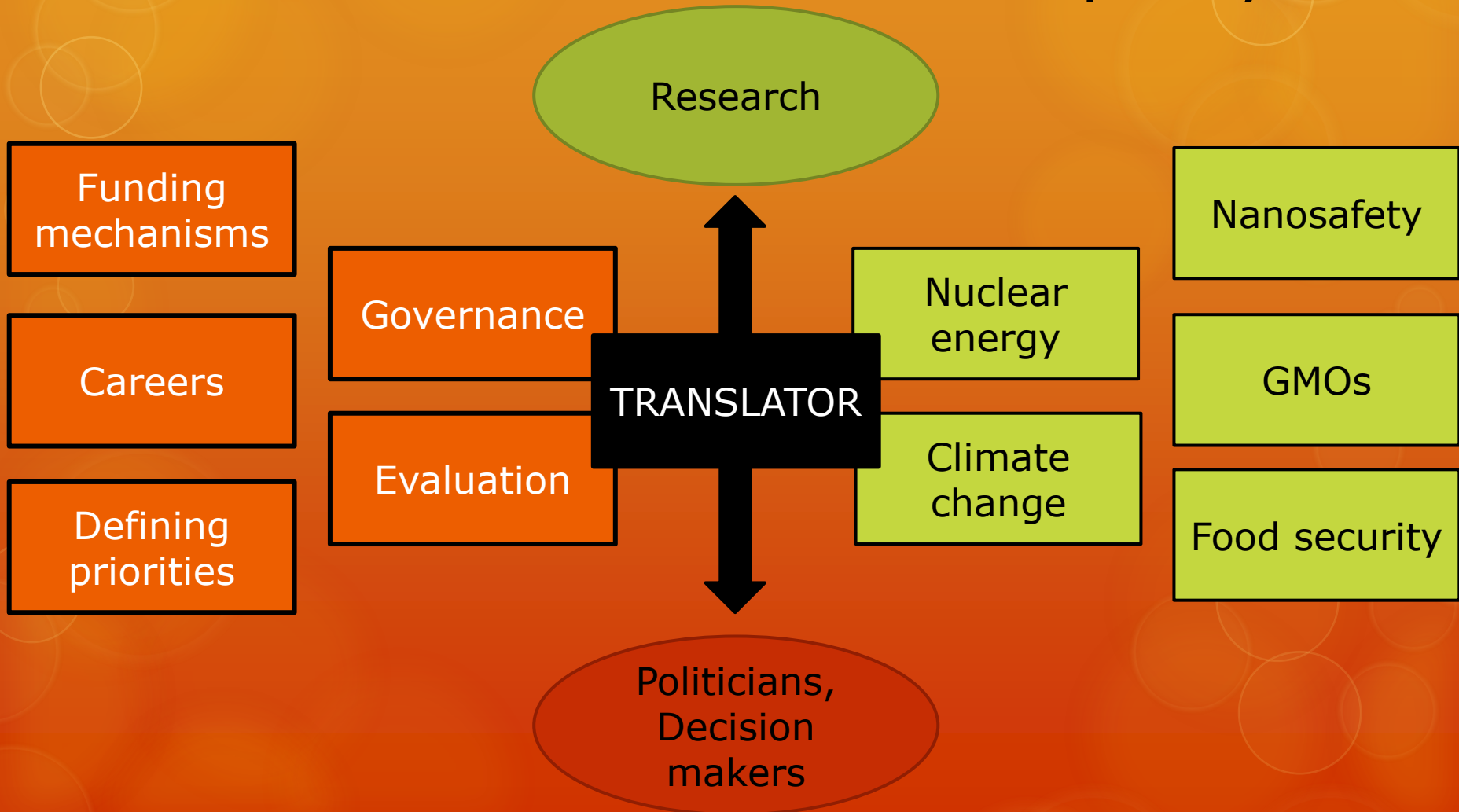
- 53 national research funding or research performing organisations from 27 countries
- Focus on science policies at EU level
  - Cross border collaboration, Integrity, Evaluation, Careers, Data, Open Access, Gender...
- Support the activities of a Committee composed of 15 researchers in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics
  - Impact of the policies for researchers in these fields
  - Impact of EU legislation
  - Foresight activities to define potential priorities

# From PhD in Physics to Science Policy



# Science policy

# Evidence based policy



# Science policy and evidence based policy

- To be an intermediary, a translator, a connector
  - Understand the research activities
  - Understand the policy processes
- Understand complex issues
- Design possible solutions
- Implement these solutions



# Career paths and opportunities

- There are opportunities, more and more
- National level: Universities, Research Organisations, Founders, Evaluation organisations, administration (state, region)
- European level: EU Institutions, lobbies and think tanks
- International: OECD, Unesco, etc.
- Private sector: consultancies
- Implementation (operational) or design?

# Negative aspects



- There are no easy trajectory: one has to create is own path
  - Hard to find training
  - Hard to find the first step
- Need to understand two worlds, and keep on following what happen in each

# Positive aspects

- Use of all your competencies: collect information, reflect on complex problems, find innovative solutions
- Creative environments
- Global view on a lot of different topics and issues
- Variety of opportunities
- Impact

# Conclusion - Advices to follow this path (or other ones!)

- For physicists, a move into policy is not something that happens, it is something that is prepared
- Training is the best investment
- Work hard and look for opportunities: the path exists but it might be hidden
  - Map the field, know people in the field
- What is/will be your added value?

# Conclusion - Advices to follow this path (or other ones!)

- Get to know yourself, what you like
- Take care of your networks
- Be curious! You may end up in a job you do not even know existed!
- Serendipity and timing play a key role...