

**University  
of Basel**

# In association with:



# **Phase 1: problem framing**

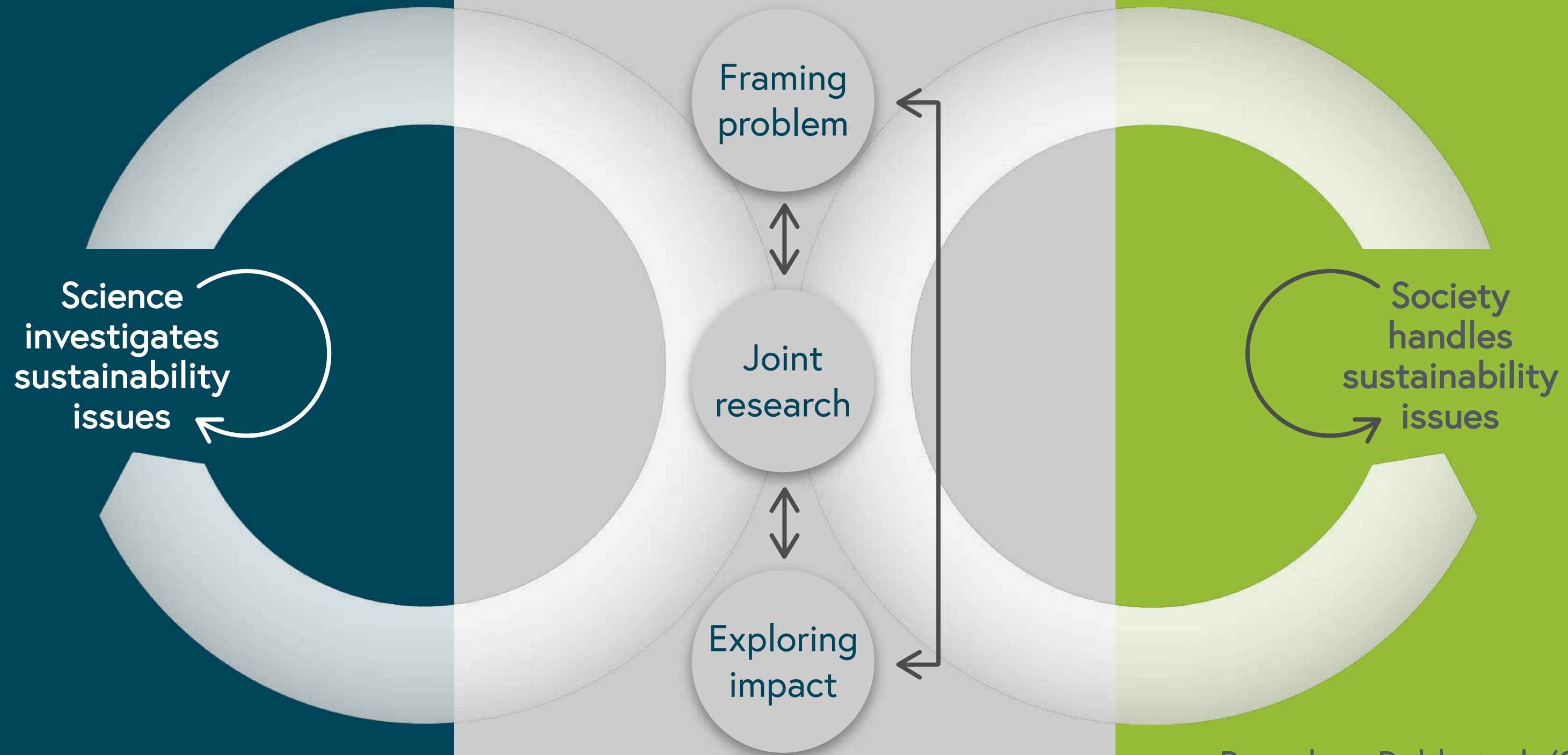
# Phases of a transdisciplinary project

- Phase 1: Problem framing
- Phase 2: Jointly conduct research
- Phase 3: Exploring the impact

**Is it true?**  
Realm of science, rigor, and understanding

**Transdisciplinary Research**  
Functional-dynamic collaboration of disciplines and societal actors to investigate and handle sustainability issues

**Does it work?**  
Realm of practice, relevance, and design



Based on Pohl et al. (2017)

# Tasks you might encounter in the first phase

- Identify relevant understandings of the problem situation
- Clarify who to involve
- Match societal knowledge demand and research questions
- Define achievable project goals

Disciplines

Molecular  
biology

Ethics

Economy

Ecology

...

Problem fields

Poverty

Diseases

Land  
degradation

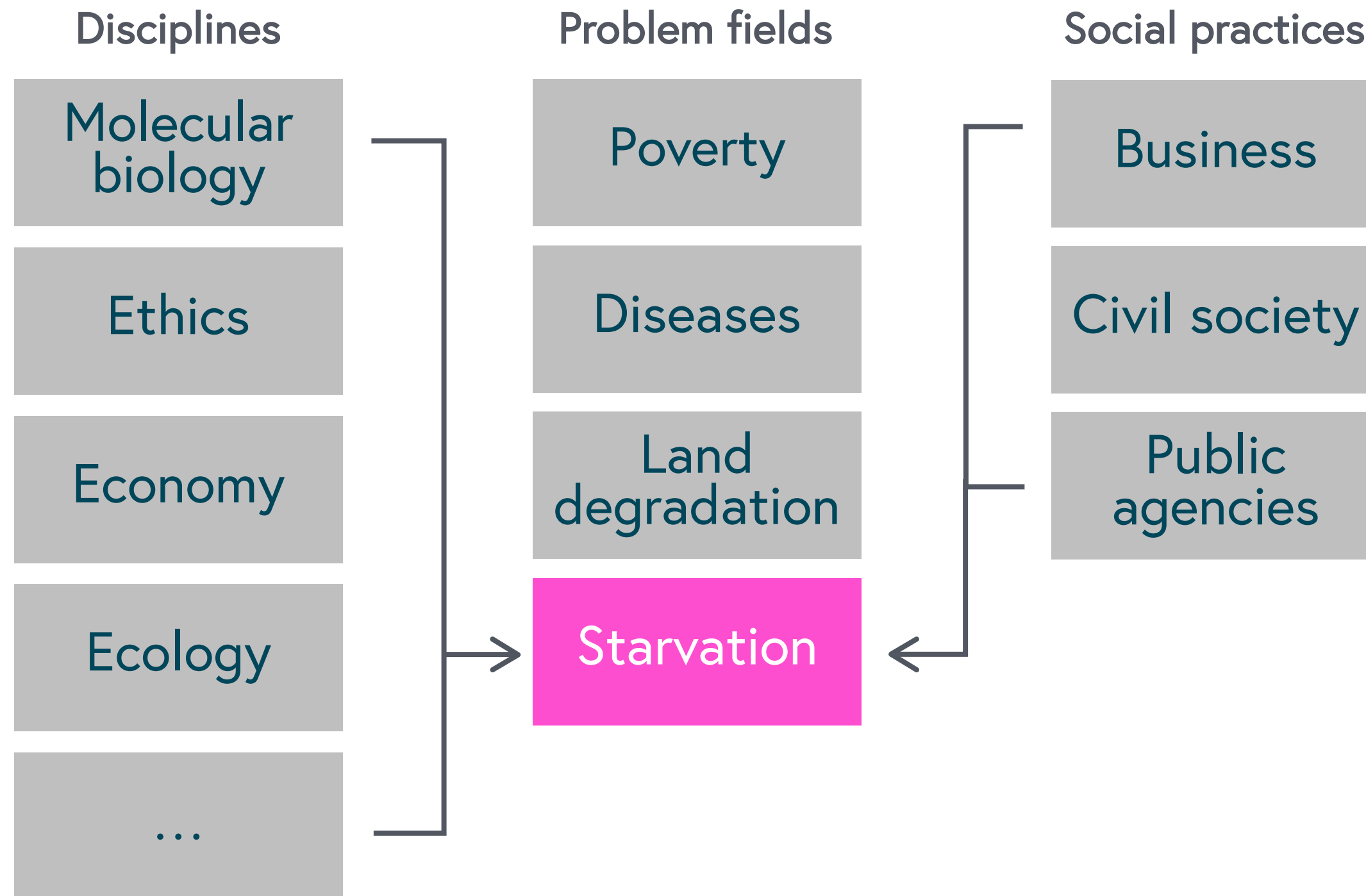
Starvation

Social practices

Business

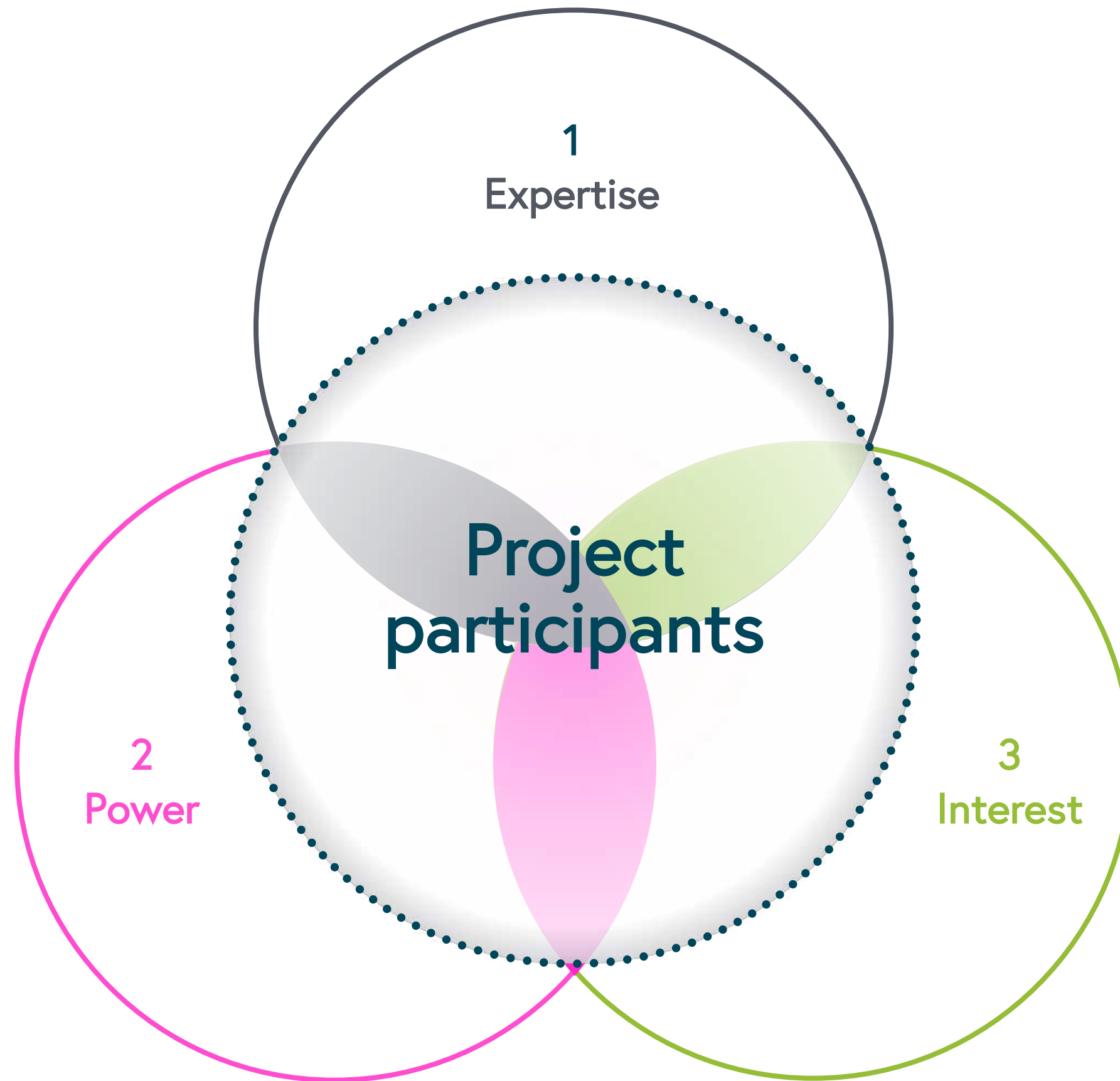
Civil society

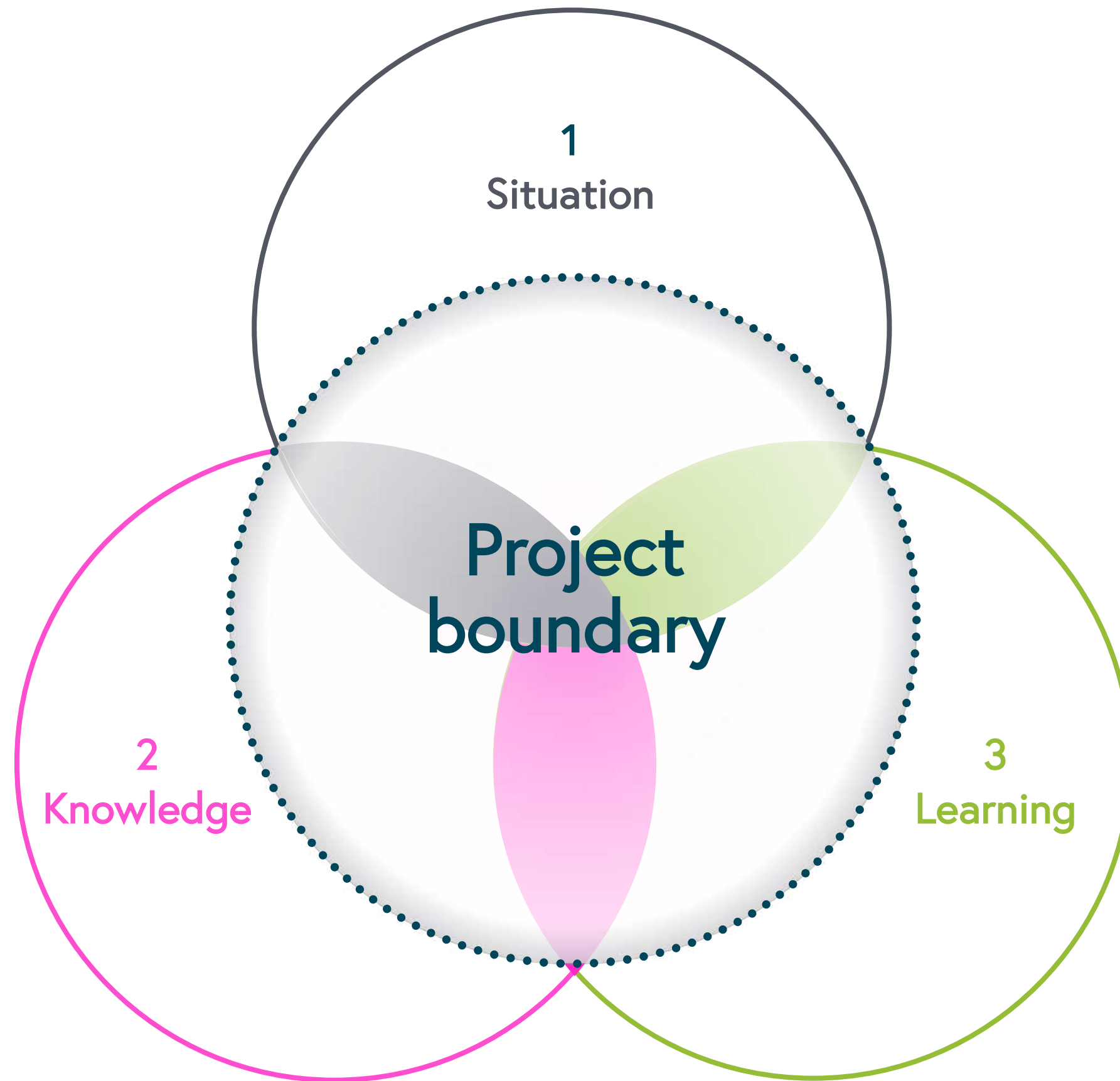
Public  
agencies



Based on Hirsch et al. (2006)







# At the end of first phase there is ideally

- A shared problem that is socially relevant and scientifically interesting
- A team of researchers of different disciplines and actors of different sectors of society willing to work on it
- Clarity about the group members' different ways to frame the problem
- A set of achievable project goals

# References

- Hirsch Hadorn, G., Bradley, D., Pohl, C., Rist, S. & Wiesmann, U. (2006). Implications of Transdisciplinarity for Sustainability Research. *Ecological Economics*, 60, 119-128.
- Pohl, C., Krütli, P. & Stauffacher, M. (2017). Ten Reflective Steps for Rendering Research Societally Relevant. *GAIA*, 26(1), 43-51.