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Societal Interaction in Sci/Tech Policy Analysis

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The Danish Board of Technology

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Overview of presentation

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- The Danish Board of Technology
  - Setup, aims, organisation
- Methodology of TA
  - Relation between problem and method
  - A broad range of methods needed
- The special qualities of Participation
- Method examples

Danish Board of Technology

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- Constituted by law 1985 + 1995
- Self governing, independent institution
  - Connected to Ministry of Science, Technology and Development
  - Formal link to Committee of Science & Technology, Danish Parliament
- Chairman, Board, and Board of Representatives appointed by Minister and Committee of Science

Aims & Objectives

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- Follow the technological development
- Carry out comprehensive assessments on possibilities and consequences of technology for society and the citizen
- Communicate results to decision-makers and the population, and to support the technology debate
- Give advice to Parliament and Government

Organisation

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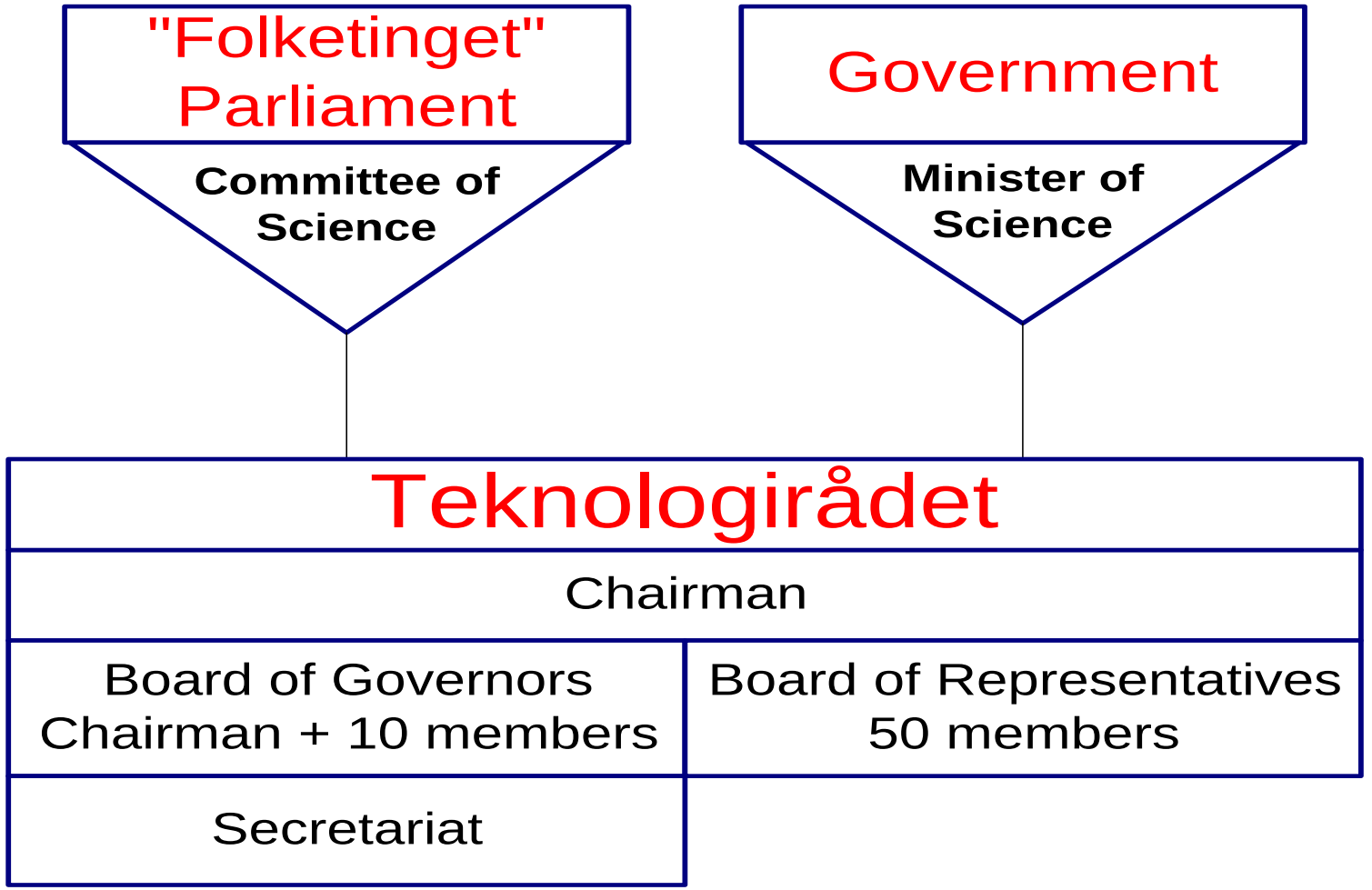

The Secretariat

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- Director
- Administrative Staff
  - 2½ administrative
  - 1 IT & web
- Project Staff
  - 7 project managers
  - 2,5 project secretaries
- Time-limited employment
  - 5-10 students & project consultants
- 10 mill.DKK ~ 175 mill Yen

DBT principles of PTA methodology

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- Supply **focus**, needed by decision-makers
- Use the **knowledge** and **tools** of experts
- Include **norms and interests** of stakeholders
- Include **experience** and **values** of citizens
- Make **transparent and fair** processes
- Build upon the **democratic traditions**

3 dimensions of policy analysis

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Dimension	Method demand	Actors / functions
Cognitive	Establish knowledge-base; suggest knowledge based solutions	Experts; Users / Operative aims
Normative	Uncover and share norms and values	Citizens; Stakeholders / Networking; Social learning
Pragmatic	Create legitimate and accepted solutions	Decision-makers; Networks; Citizens / Transparent procedures

Demand and response

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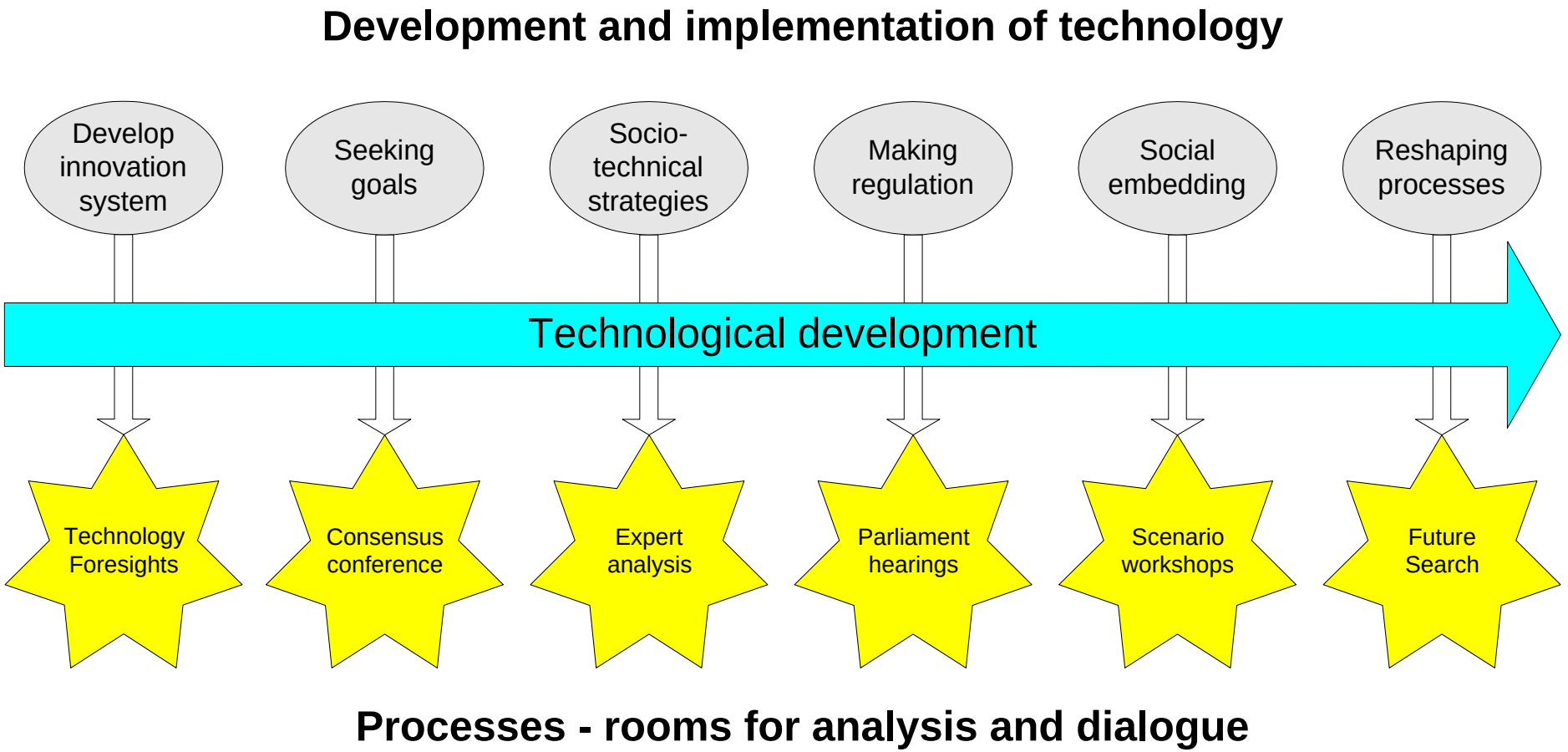

Technology assessment is communication

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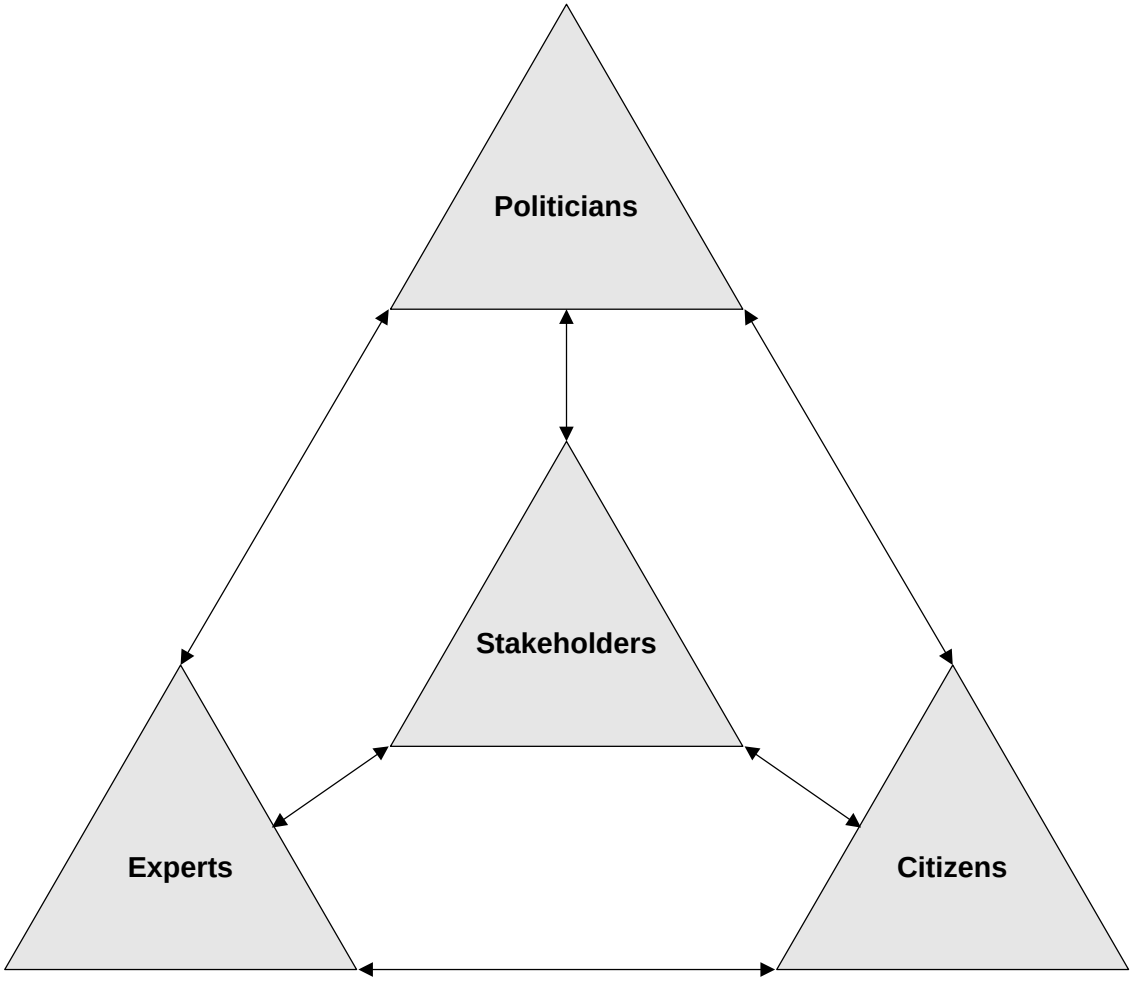
- Rules of communication depends upon the involved actors
- No universal communication tools



Aim & situation determines the tool

- Do we look for knowledge, norms or solutions?
- Whom should speak with whom?
- Point of technology innovation
- Timing
- State of political/public/scientific debate
- Governmental policies / political agenda
- What role can be played?
- What does it take to intervene?
- Demands for credibility
- …..

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Some tools at the DBT

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- Citizen Consultation
  - Consensus Conference
  - Citizen Summit
  - Perspective Workshop
  - Interview Meeting
  - Voting conference
- Stakeholder involvement
  - Future Search
  - Policy Exercise
  - Scenario Workshop
- Expert Analysis
  - Work Groups
  - Conferences & Workshops
  - Structured Brainstorms
- Advisory function
  - Parliamentary Hearings
  - Future Panel
  - Early Warning; Briefings
- Public Debate
  - Local Debate Fund
  - Debate Products/ www

Societal interaction in TA

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- Involve new players to pool knowledge, exchange views and find new paths
- As independent third part, make platforms for constructive stakeholder dialogue
- Give voice to citizens. As persons, consumers, taxpayers, and legitimate democratic assessors

pTA: Expanded TA mission

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Including open processes of assessment, to:

- Ensure a common, diverse knowledge-base
- Channel dialogues on interests and values
- Involve else overlooked players
- Be able to deal with uncertainty
- Make broadly accepted solutions
- Integrate communication into the process

Impacts of participation in TA

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	Raising knowledge	Forming attitudes	Initialising action
Tech/Sci aspects	SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT *** Technical options assessed and made visible** *** Comprehensive overview on consequences given**	AGENDA SETTING *** Setting the agenda in the political debate** *** Stimulating public debate** *** Introducing visions or scenarios**	REFRAMING OF DEBATE * New action plan or initiative to further scrutinise the problem decided *** New orientation in policies established**
Societal aspects	SOCIAL MAPPING *** Structure of conflicts made transparent**	MEDIATION *** Self-reflecting among actors** *** Blockade running** *** Bridge building**	NEW DECISION MAKING PROCESSES *** New ways of governance introduced** * Initiative to intensify public debate taken
Policy aspects	POLICY ANALYSIS *** Policy objectives explored** *** Existing policies assessed**	RE-STRUCTURING THE POLICY DEBATE *** Comprehensiveness in policies increased** *** Policies evaluated through debate** *** Democratic legitimisation perceived**	DECISION TAKEN * Policy alternatives filtered * Innovations implemented * New legislation is passed

Why participation?

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- For principle reasons
  - Searching social coherence
  - Managing uncertainty and inequality
  - Involving the involved
  - Citizen and affected as democratic basis
- And for professional
  - Managing communication
  - Including broad knowledge and value base
  - Ensuring results to have high credibility

Prerequisites

- Political culture of “open democracy”
- Institutional setting allows for expansion of method range into open TA processes
- Budget makes public events possible
- Staff competencies as process managers
- Involved actors back up initiatives
- Institution trusted as independent 3rd part

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Future Search Method 1

- When the situation is blocked
  - Everyone knows the problems
  - No-one are allowed to solve them
- All actors in the same room for 3 days
  - Takes responsibility for the past
  - Agree on the present situation
  - Agree on vision
  - Make action plans

Future Search 2

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- Sustainable hunting in Greenland, results:
  - Education plans on sustainable hunting
  - Rules on weapon use
  - Independent council on sustainable use of nature

Interview Meeting 1

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- When polling or focus groups are not enough:
  - Reflected, informed answers needed
  - Qualitative as well as quantitative data
  - The answers, as well as the reasons for the answers

Interview meeting 2

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- 25-50 participants
- ½ day:
  - Information on topic
  - Dialogue with experts
  - Filling out questionnaire
  - Group Interviews with 6-8 people groups
- Animal Cloning, November 2003
- Nano-technology, May 2004

Work Plan 2003

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- Future of the Patenting System
- Medical Treatment of Life-style
- Vulnerability of ICT Infrastructures
- Oil Depletion
- New Climate – New Strategies
- Alternatives to Animal Testing
- Children, health and the Environment
- Digital Rights and Free Information

Work Plan 2004

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- Energy System scenarios (Future Panel)
- ICT Privacy (Expert Work Group + International Assessment)
- Globalisation of Knowledge Intensive Work (Expert work Group + Conference)
- Chemical Producing GMOs (Citizen Jury)
- Breakdown of private/work borders (Debates)
- Pervasive Health Care (Workshop and Conference)