Professionalisation through standardization

EARMA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
RESEARCH MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Erlend Aano

Senior Advisor and project leader

University of Stavanger

S
UiS

University
of Stavanger

The Society

RMA

Science/ University

The engines of Society:
The Labourer
The Policy maker
The Economist
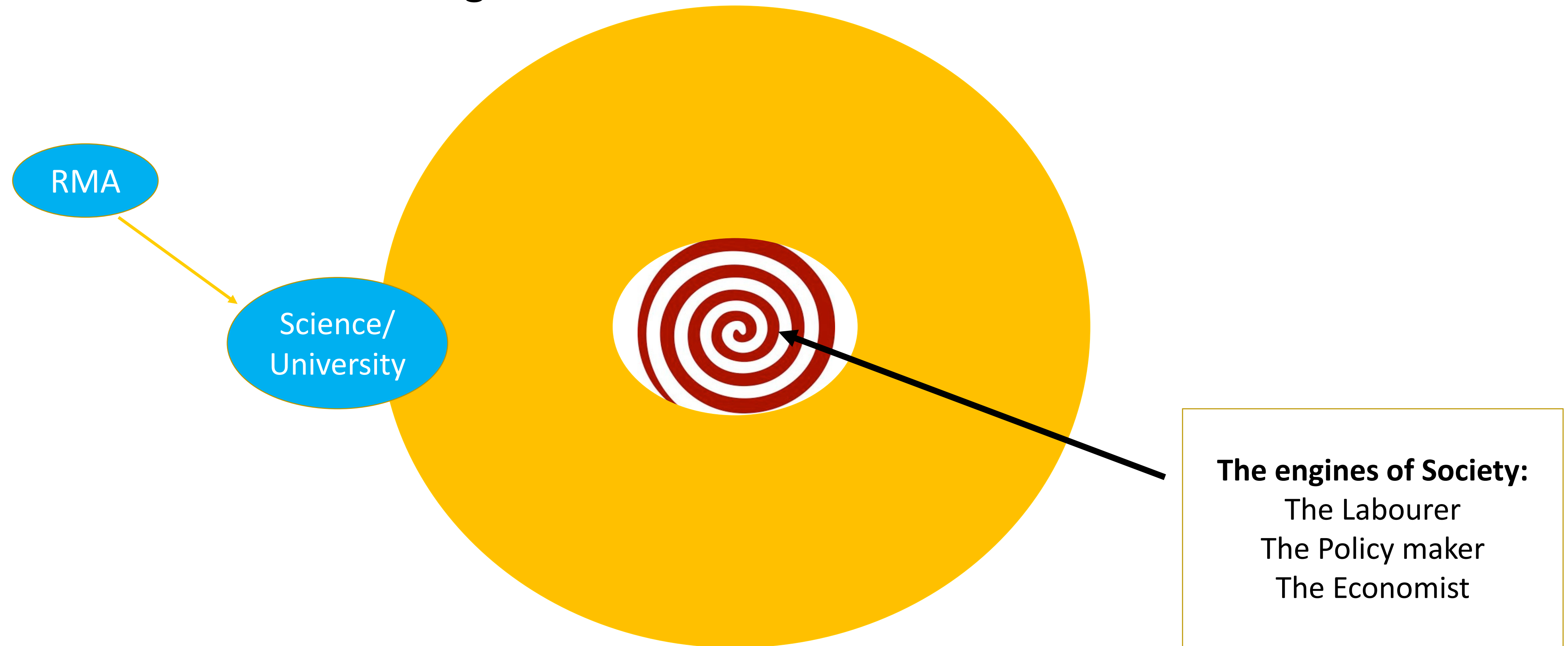
DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

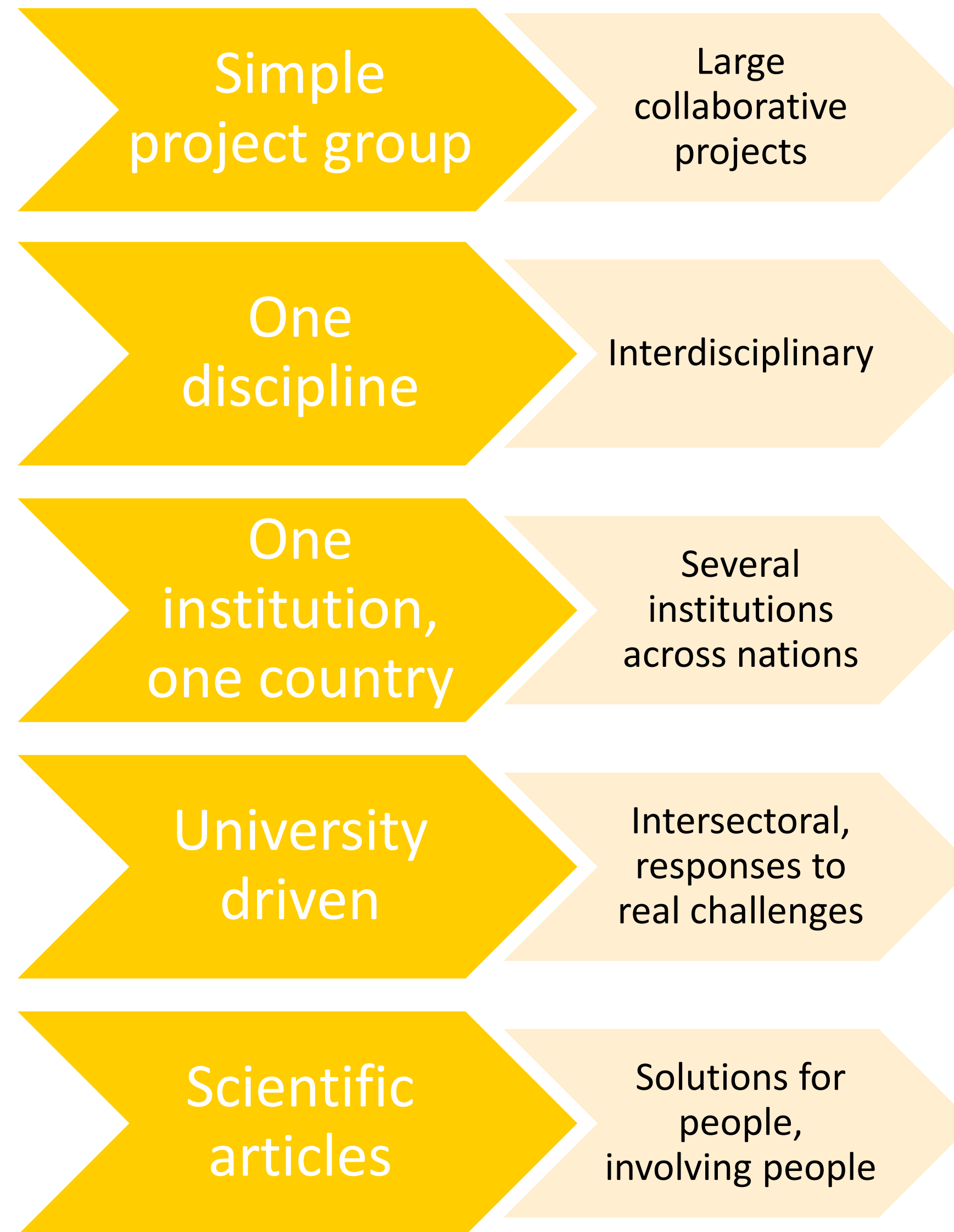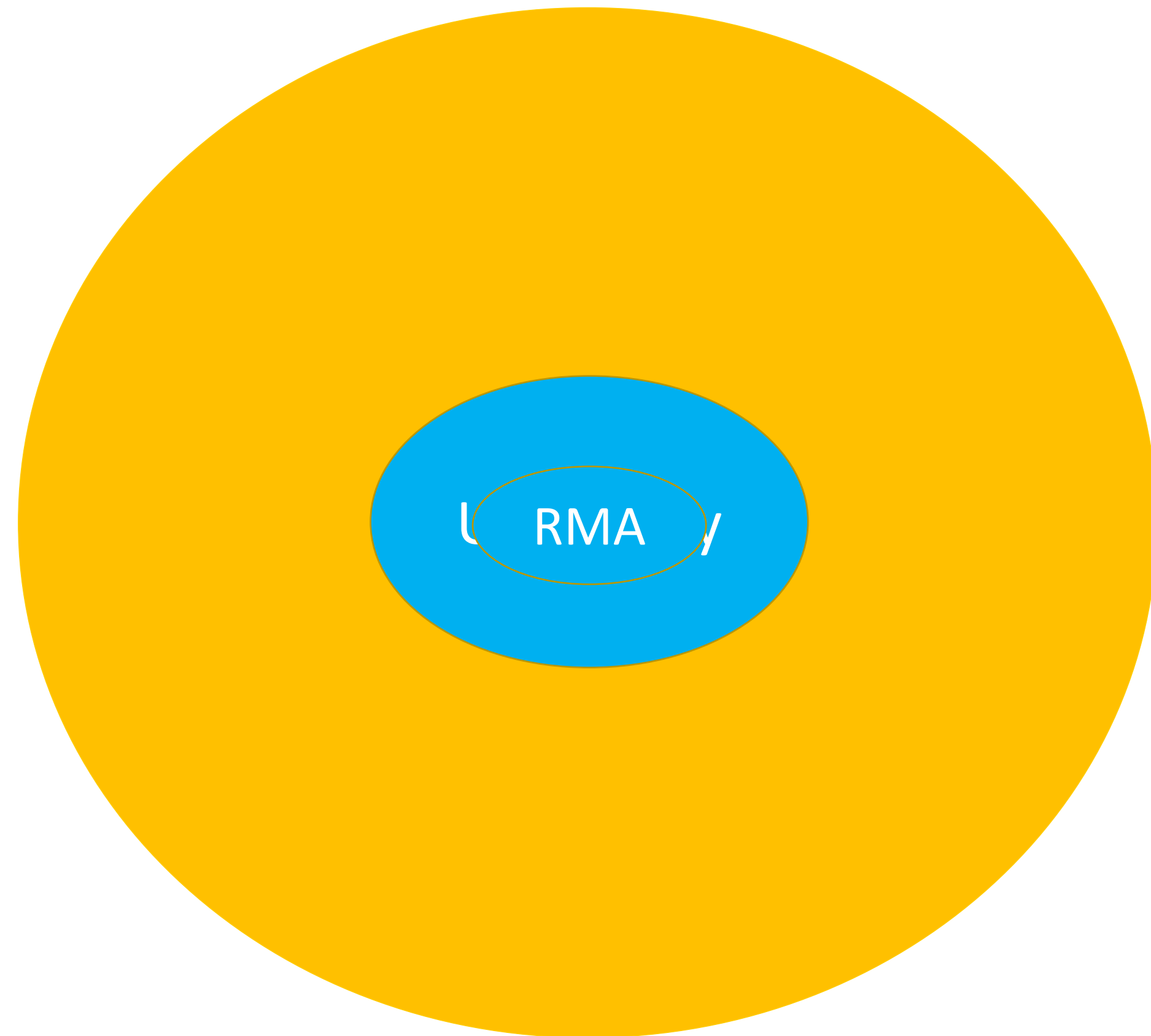| John Kirkland (2008, 2009)	David Langley (2012)	Andersen, Poli, Toom, Miller (2017)
•Economic growth and universities	•Complexity, multi-discipline, impact	•Myriad responsibilities •Growing interdisciplinarity •Complex issues

What they say

1. Research and research management is no longer an activity on the outskirts of society. It is becoming a central part, and part of the engine itself.

2. We need to collaborate more. Create similar structures. We must see not only research, but Research Management as a global issue.

3. It is clear that the demands to the professional international community of research management and the level of complex and interdisciplinary skillsets needed to do the job is ever increasing.

Changes and trends

Simple project group	Large collaborative projects
One discipline	Interdisciplinary
One institution, one country	Several institutions across nations
University driven	Intersectoral, responses to real challenges
Scientific articles	Solutions for people, involving people

INTERACTIVE TASK 1

Please write all the work titles you know of people working in Research Management and Administration

Research funding expert · Scientific coordinator · Research developer · Research service · Project coordinator · Data manager · R&I funding advisor · Senior advisor · Research administrator · Legal · Grants officer · Project manager · Research coordinator · Post Doc · Grant writer · Research manager · Specialist · Research officer · Grant manager · Grant advisor · Science manager · Responsible of affaires · Research facilitator

What does this tell us?

First: We are all these things, and probably more.

I am not entirely sure what lies behind all titles. We can assume some of the different titles might contain the same tasks?

On the other hand, maybe someone who has the same title, do completely different tasks?

At least to me, there is some confusion to what this means.

DO WE NEED TO CHANGE THE SET OF WORKTITLES WE USE?

Maybe this is the way it should be? Then, why?

Or should we agree on a specific set of terms?

WE CALL OURSELVES:

Research managers and administrators (EARMA, DARMA)

Research management professionals (ARMS)

Research and innovation managers (INORMS, SARIMA)

Research administrators and managers (BRAMA)

Research administrators (CARA, NARMA)

Research administration and management experts (Finn-ARMA)

Research- and transfer managers

Research development professionals

SHOULD THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE THIS:

Research managers and administrators (EARMA, DARMA)	Research management professionals (ARMS)	Research and innovation managers (INORMS, SARIMA)	Research administrators and managers (BRAMA)	Research administrators (CARA, NARMA)	Research administration and management experts (Finn-ARMA)
Research- and transfer managers	Research support team	Research workers	Project team	Project coordinator	Project advisor
Administrative Project Leader	Administrative Project manager	Research and education support	Research, education and innovation manager	Research innovation and administration support team	Support team
Project admin-team	Project support officer	Project coordinator	Project coordination manager	Administrative research manager	Research development professionals

SHOULD WE MAKE A COMMON FRAMEWORK

Research and innovation managers

WHAT DO WE CALL OURSELVES TODAY?

We have come a long way in regards to what we call ourselves. Still there are some differences between institutions and countries.

We still have a way to go when it comes to our work titles, our tasks and the common body of concepts that any professional field has incorporated and standardized

DO WE HAVE A COMMON LANGUAGE TODAY?

A special education teacher can do a wide range of things. So can a carpenter. We still have a pretty good idea of what both entails.

Why could the lack of a common language framework be a challenge or even an obstacle for the recognition of the Research Management society?

WHAT CAN WE GAIN BY SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?

We are important. We know it, researchers increasingly know it.

Do policy makers in all countries and in the EU know our position and our worth?

We need to talk about who we are. It is not even clear within the European research community who we are and what we do.

How can we then excpect anyone not intercating with us on a daily basis to give us the recognition we deserve?
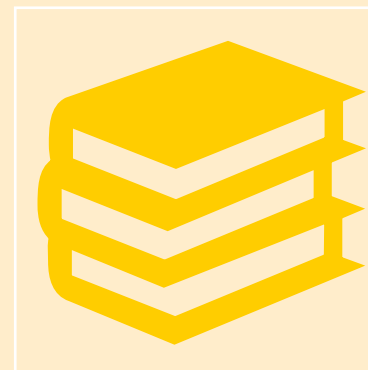
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE RECOGNIZED?

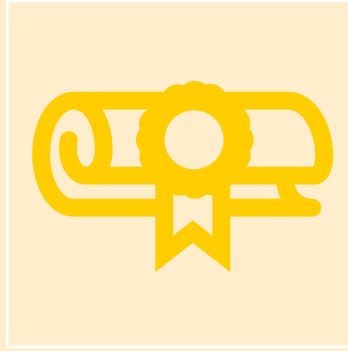Formal and informal recognition is crucial for policy makers decision processes

A common body of concepts can help us create a platform for better future skills development

Standardization of concepts would enable future formal education

CONCLUSIONS THIS FAR

Any new field, like the professional field of Research Management is bound to go through a faze of developing vocabulary

If we want to be recognized as a professional community with a wide but specific skillset, researchers, people, everyone we relate to need to know who we are and what we know.

A common body of concepts does not have to lead to uniformity or strict standards. A common language frame could widen the next generation skills development

STANDARDIZATION OF LANGUAGE AS A FIRST STEP TO FORMAL EDUCATION
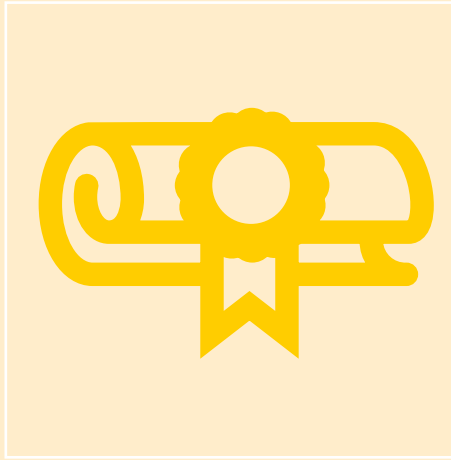
A formal education system is a giant stamp of recognition, standardization of skills development of future research managers.
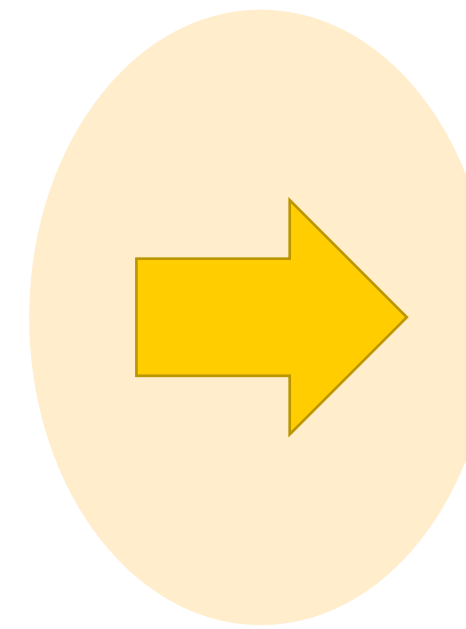
If we want to work toward a formal education system we have come to a point were we need to speak the same language. Not only for the sake of our colleagues, but for the world to see this professional community for what it is.
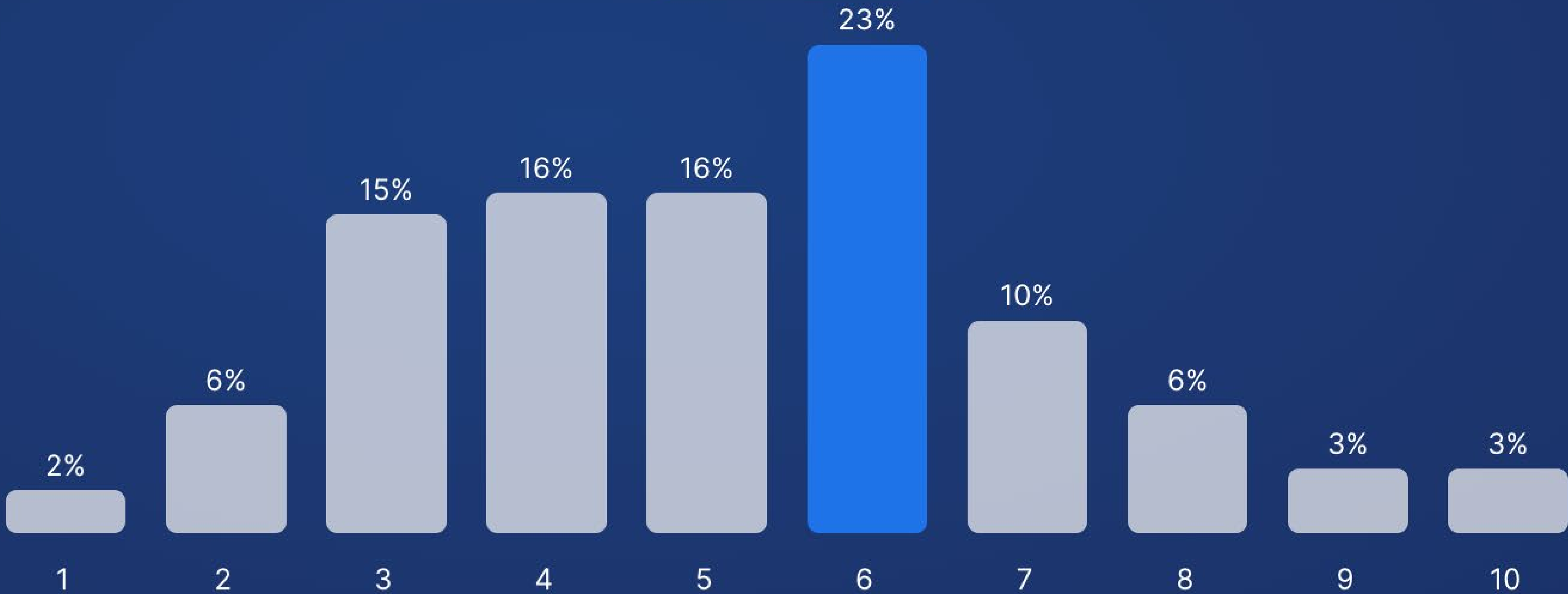
NOMENCLATURE

Oxford dictionary says:

➡️ "the body or system of names used in a particular specialist field."
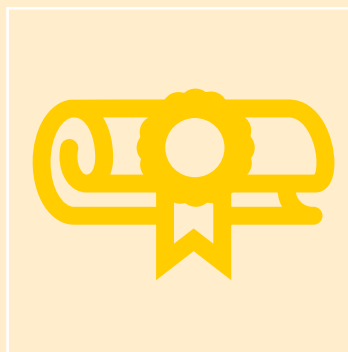
INTERACTIVE TASK 2

On a scale from 1 to 10 where 10 is the level of total agreement and absence of confusion, how far do you think we have come to creating a common nomenclature in the field of Research Management and Administration?

A FRAMEWORK FOR A COMMON LANGUAGE IS YET TO BE SEEN

If we combine the information I have presented with the answers you have given me, we can conclude with this:

If we want to reach a point where we as a professional community agree on a language framework to build our position and our recognition, we still have a way to go.
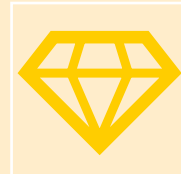
CONCLUSION

We need to have a common language framework as a professional community

If we want recognition, we must remove confusion about who we are and what we do.

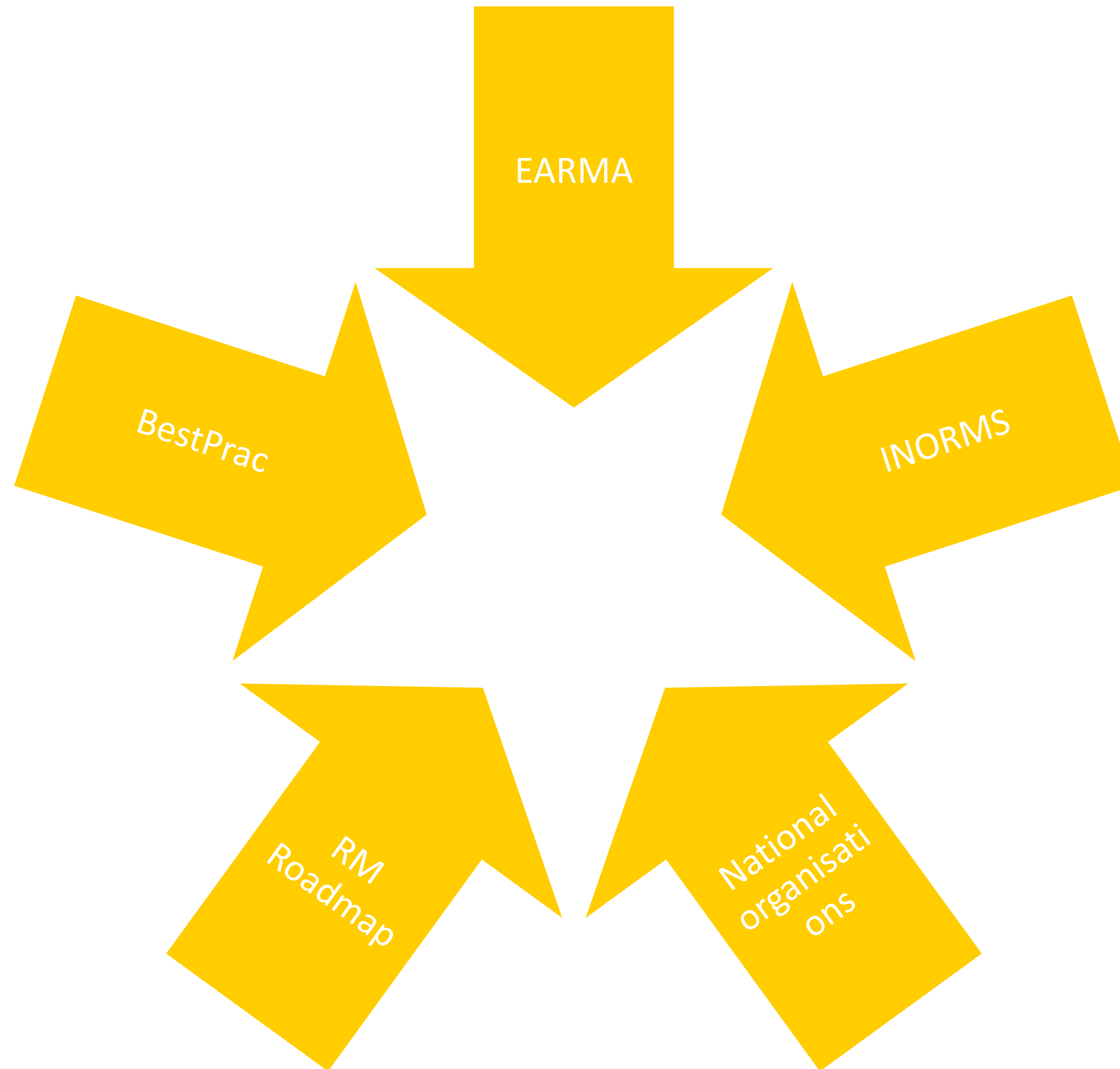We are an important part of Society's main engine. Let's communicate this to the world.

If we want policy makers to acknowledge our worth, we need recognition.

To enable future skills development in a context of ever increasing complexity we need to aim for a formal education system within our field.

AREAS FOR DISCUSSION

EARMA

BestPrac

INORMS

RM Roadmap

National organisations

#EARMAconference

THANK YOU

Erlend Aano
Seniorrådgiver, Universitetet i Stavanger (UiS)

EARMA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
RESEARCH MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS