

How innovation brokers stimulate innovation and demand driven research

An example on reducing emissions from livestock

Ilse Geyskens

www.innovatiesteunpunt.be

Innovation Support Center for agriculture

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Innovatiesteunpunt



de toekomst begint vandaag

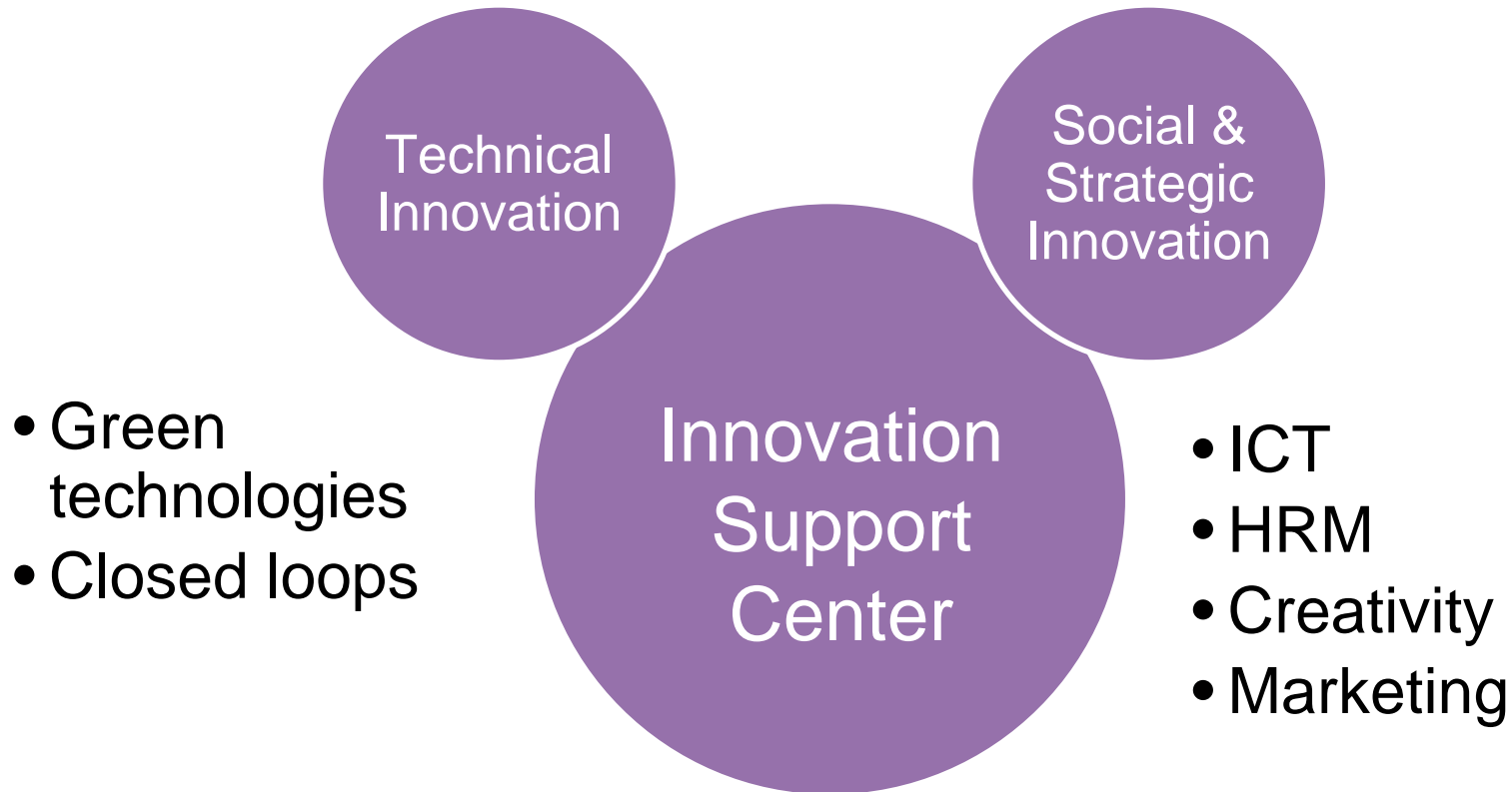
Innovation broker

- “an organization or body that **acts as an agent or broker in any aspect of the innovation process** between two or more parties. Such intermediary activities include: helping to provide information about potential collaborators; **brokering a transaction** between two or more parties; acting as a **mediator, or go-between** bodies or organizations that are already collaborating; and helping find advice, funding and support for the innovation outcomes of such collaborations.”

(Source: Howells, 2006)



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An example on reducing emissions
from livestock



Ammonia policy EU & Flanders

NEC implementation

- National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC, 2001)
- Flemish legislation
 - Emission manure spreading ↓
 - Emission animal houses (pigs & poultry) ↓
 - Limitative list of allowed systems (Decree 19 March 2004)
 - Dynamic list → innovative techniques

Origin of the innovative idea: an attentive farmer in a rented stable

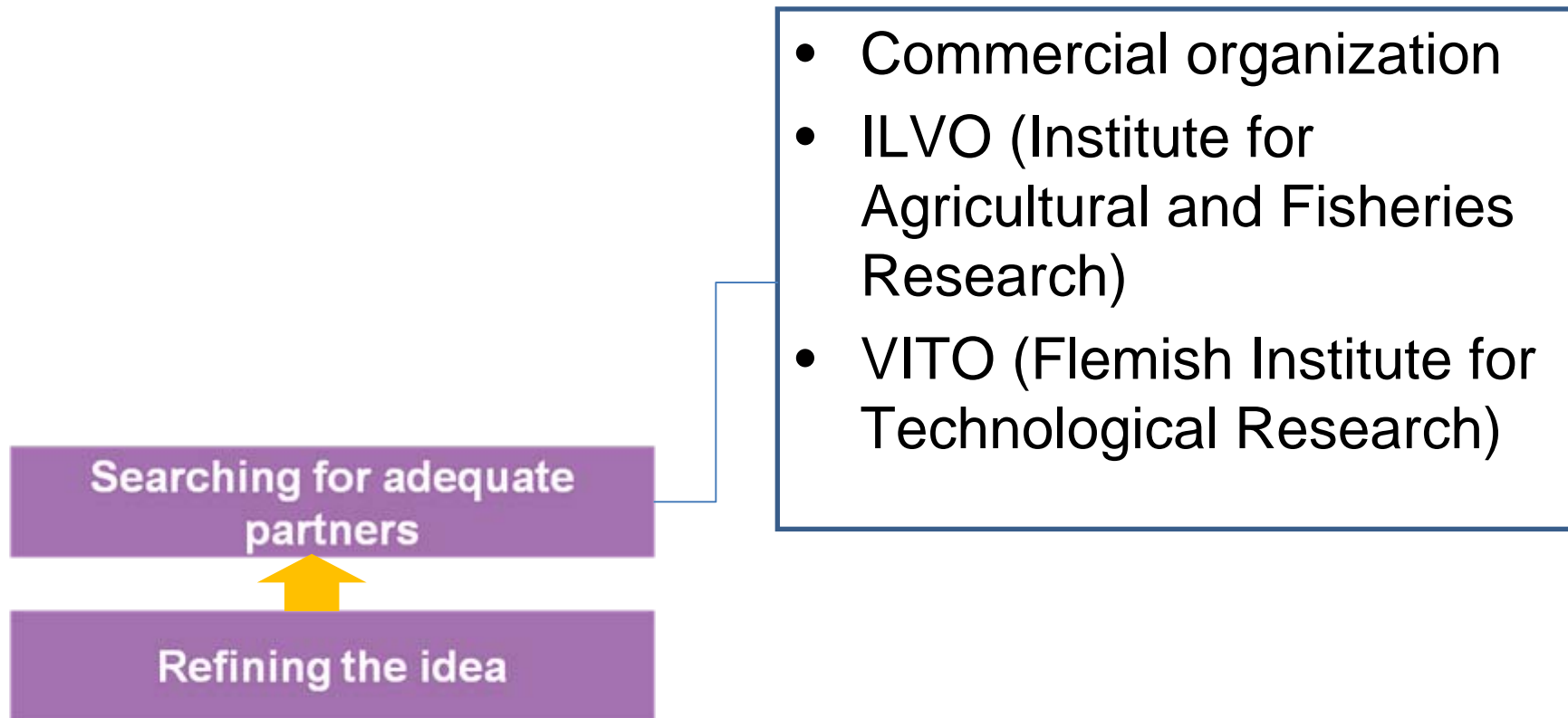
- Use of bacteria in the manure pit
 - Increased fluidity of manure
 - Less crust development
 - More homogeneous manure
 - Ammonia retained in manure; N/P ratio ↑
 - Less ammonia emission

Innovation broker process

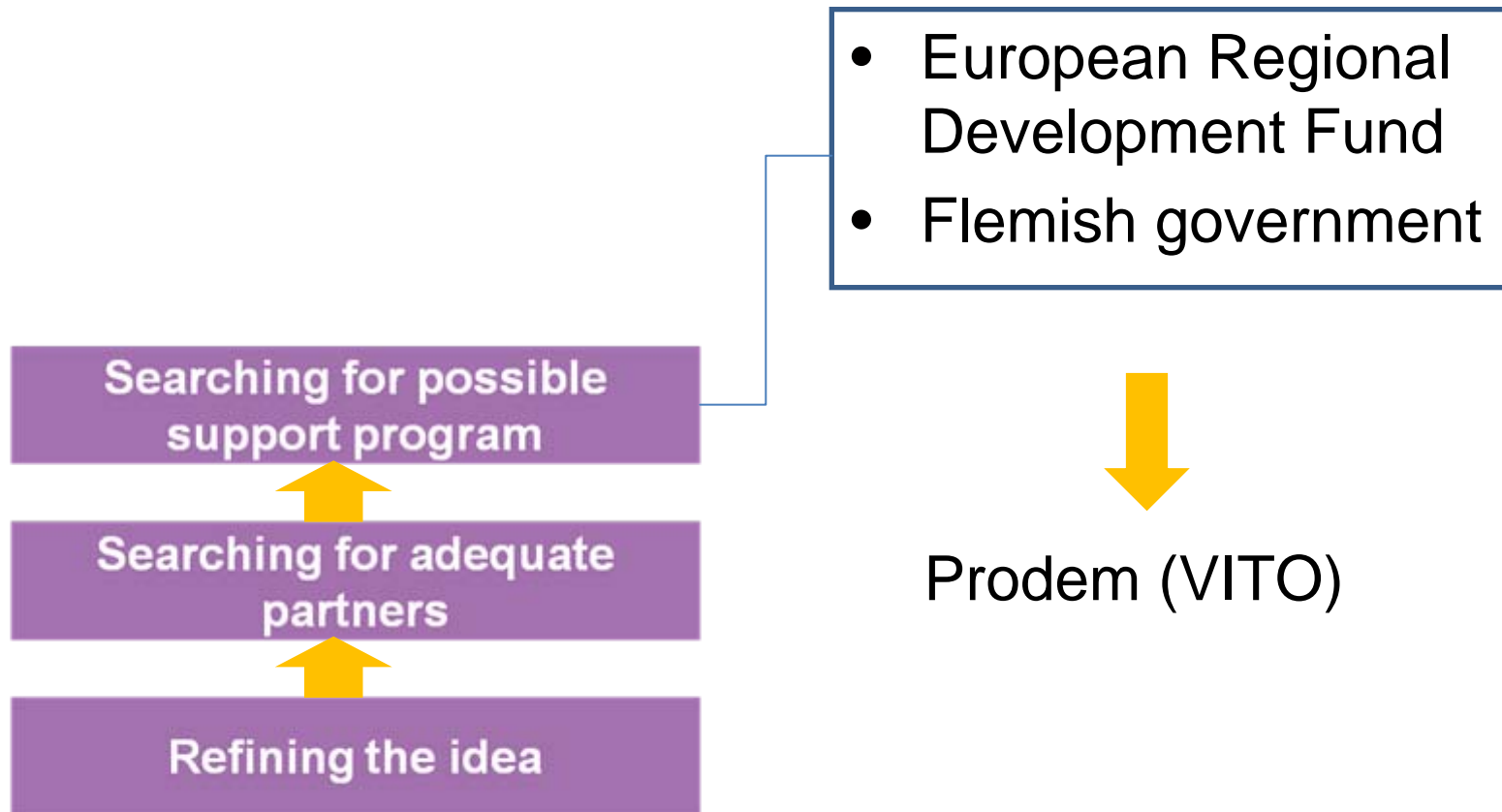
Refining the idea

- Formulating the specific research question

Innovation broker process



Innovation broker process



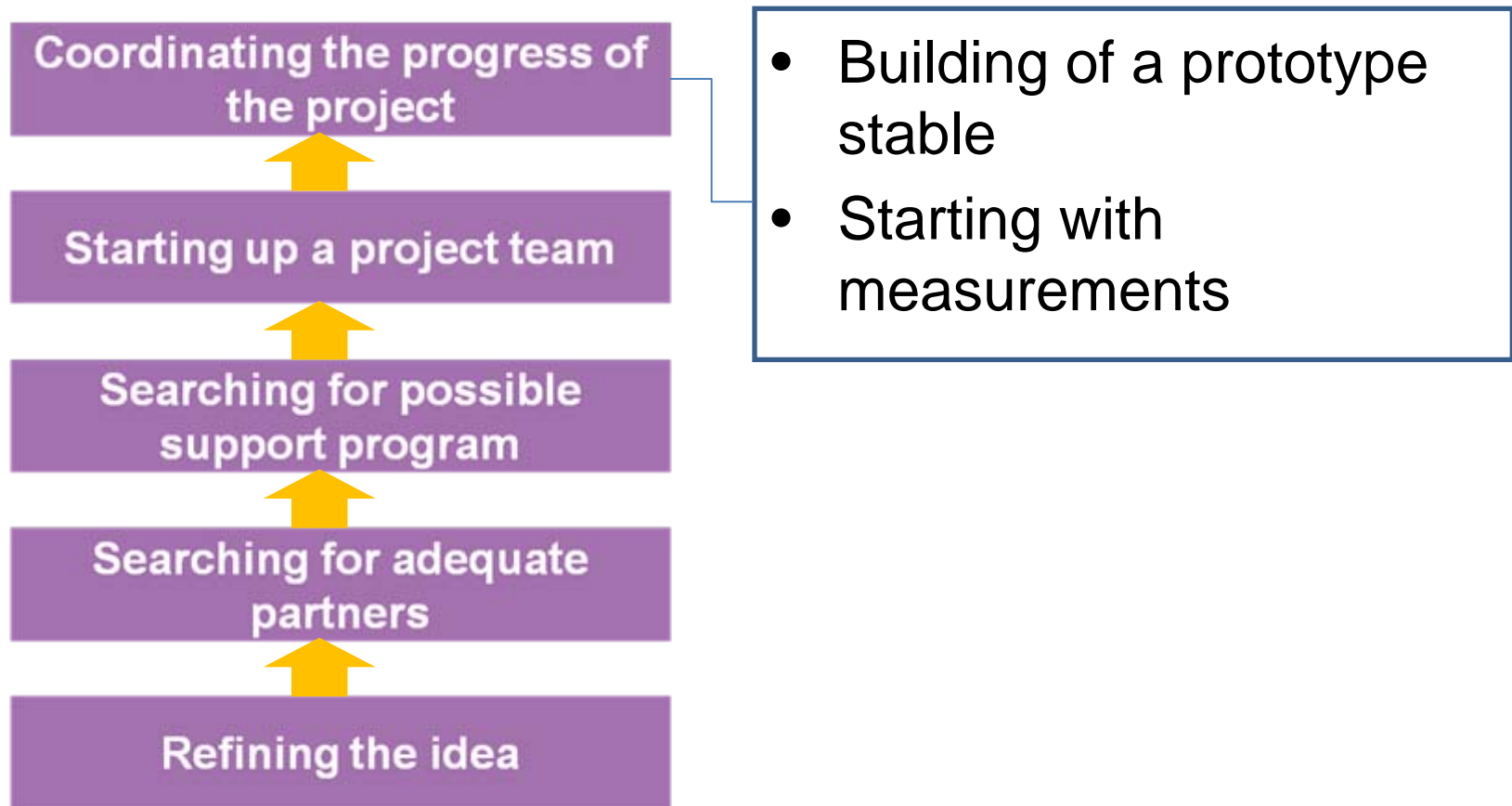
Innovation broker process



- Pig farmer, Fons Gios
- VITO
- Prodem
- ILVO
- Innovation Support Center



Innovation broker process



Innovation broker process



Valorisation potential of bottom-up research is high

A new system for reducing GHG emissions at farm level ?

- First measurements look very promising
- A cheap and easy to apply system for reducing GHG emissions at farm level

More of this!

- Information Day on innovative horticulture with training session on sensor technology in tomato



- Start of a small research project between Amaryllis grower and research institute (UGhent)
- Application for a multi-actor research project to further optimise this technology for several horticulture crops

More of this with....

- Leader, Interreg, LIFE+, IEE
- National SME & research funds (IWT)
- Regional Innovation funds
- Our own Innovation prize

Innovation brokers

- **Facilitate a multi-actor approach and real bottom-up participatory process**
- Attract and activate potential innovative farmers for first try out of ideas
- Help farmers to access research funds
- Stimulate demand driven research with high valorisation potential

Innovation brokers

- Have the capacity for suggesting simpler, cheaper and easy to apply solutions
- Create the opportunity for researchers and farmers to meet and discuss

IF...

**well connected with agriculture
& having the appropriate skills**

A close-up photograph of a spider on its web. The spider is positioned in the center of the frame, with its legs spread out. The web is a complex, spiral pattern of fine threads. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage. A purple banner with white text is overlaid on the spider's body.

Innovation broker

Thank you for your attention