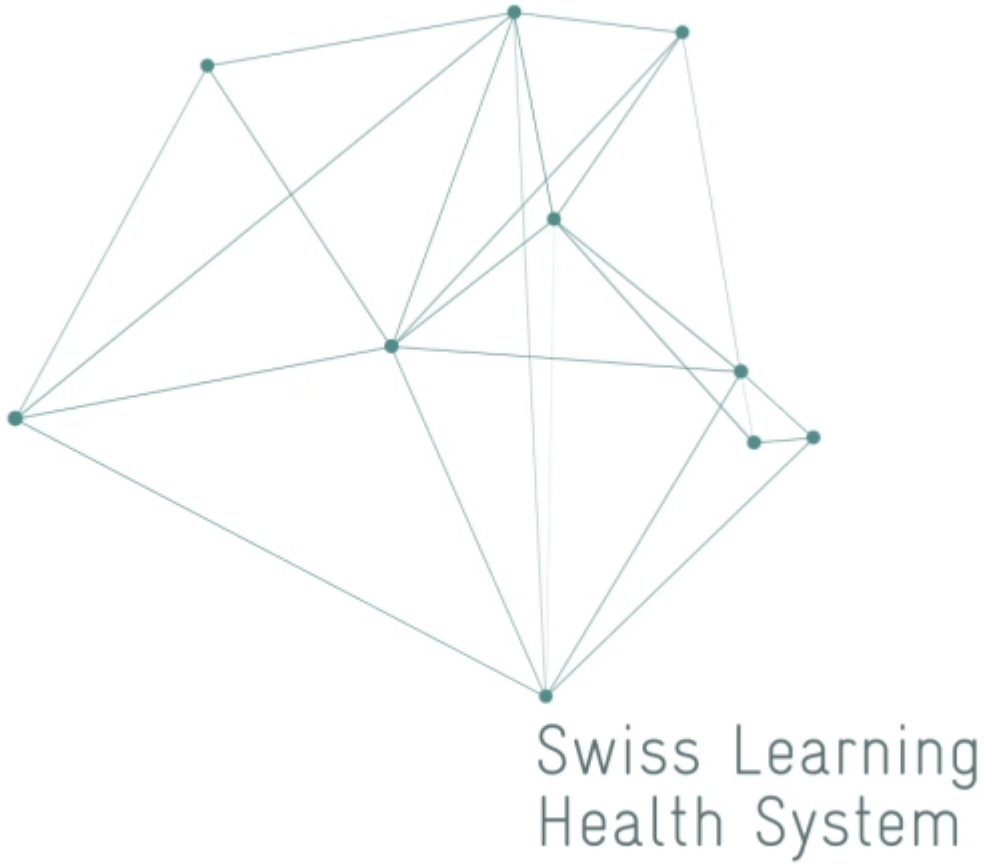


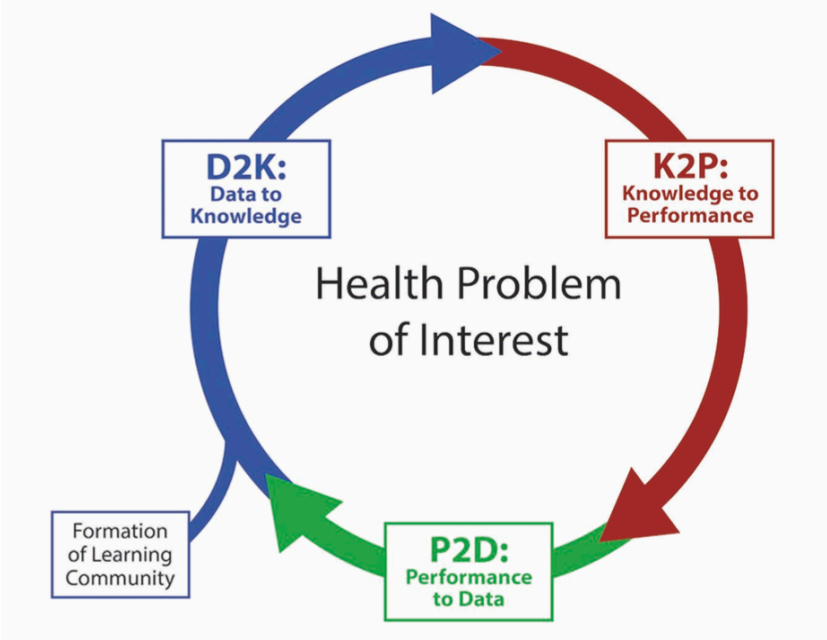
The Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS): a national learning health systems initiative

Sarah Mantwill, PhD – Department of Health Sciences & Health Policy, University of Lucerne

Goals of the Swiss Learning Health System

General objective of the Swiss Learning Health System

Strengthen the health system and create a culture of shared decision–making in which sound scientific evidence is continuously integrated into the health system



Friedman, 2014

Why is there a need for a «Swiss» Learning Health System?

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH 2012, FOPH 2015)

- Need for strengthening health services research
- Missing coordination of activities, lack of a structured network among different stakeholders, no targeted funding mechanism

Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences

- Need for the development of health services research as a third pillar, complementing biomedical and clinical research (SAMS 2014)
- Need for a national infrastructure

Funding program of the Bangerter Foundation 2012-2016

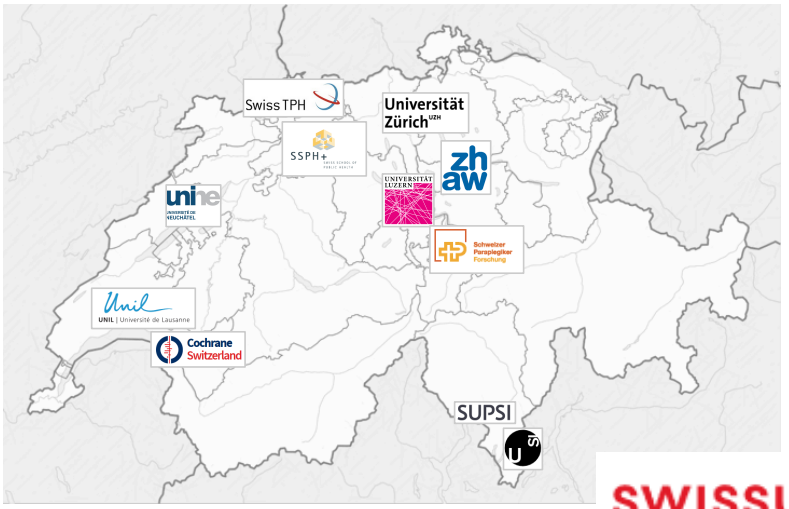
National Research Program (NRP74) – Smarter Health Care

Goals of the Swiss Learning Health System

1. to establish a **bridging mechanism** between research, policy, and practice
2. to build **scientific capacities** for health systems and services research
3. to develop standards for the **management of health information**

Partners of the Swiss Learning Health System

Swiss Learning Health System (SLHS)



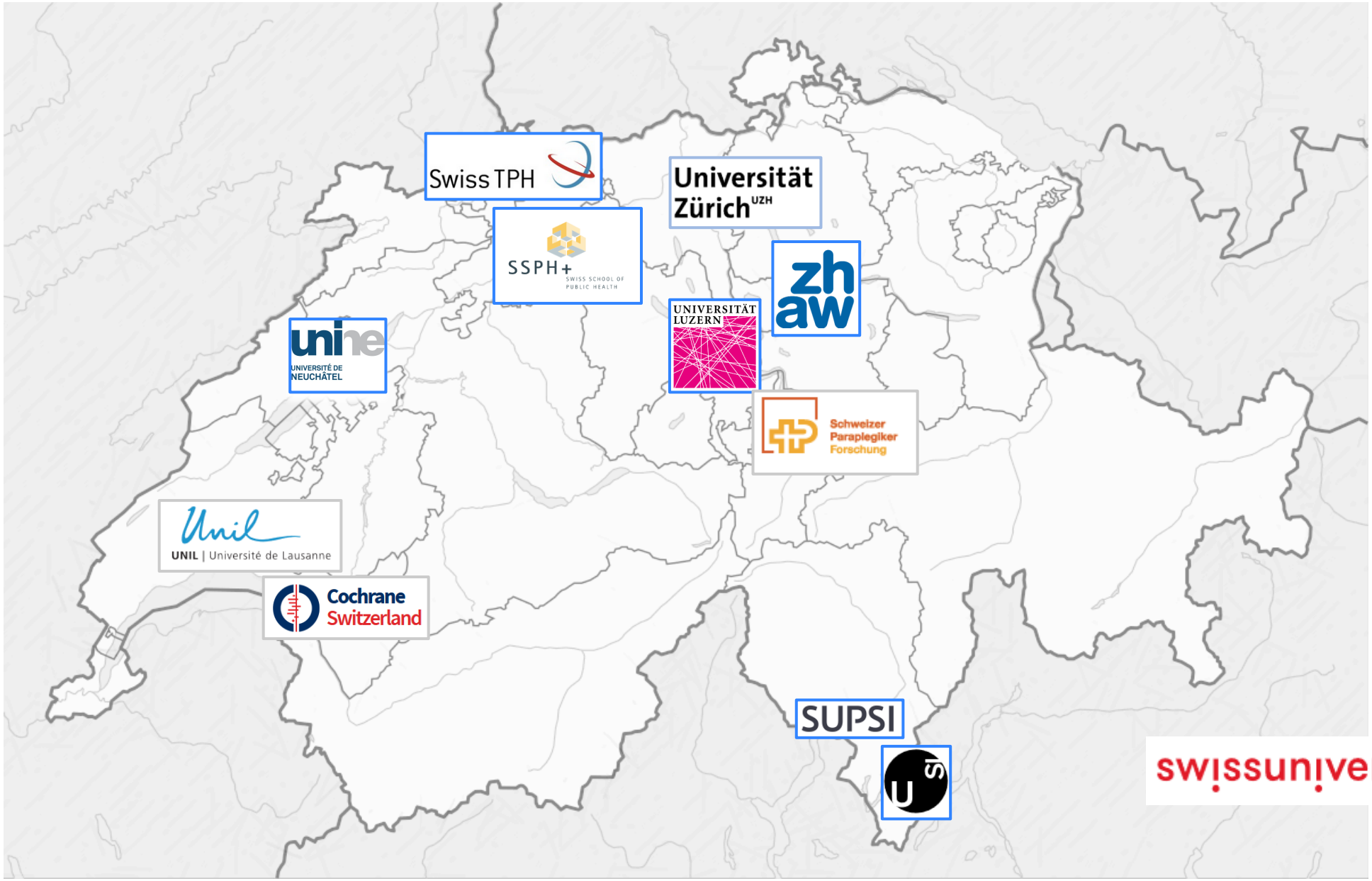
(Initial) Timeline: 2017 – 2020

(Initial) Funding: 4‘400’000 CHF

Founding partners: 5 Universities
2 UAS
10 Institutes

Lead: University of Lucerne

swissuniversities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MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LEARNING HEALTH SCIENCES
THE LEARNING HEALTHCARE PROJECT
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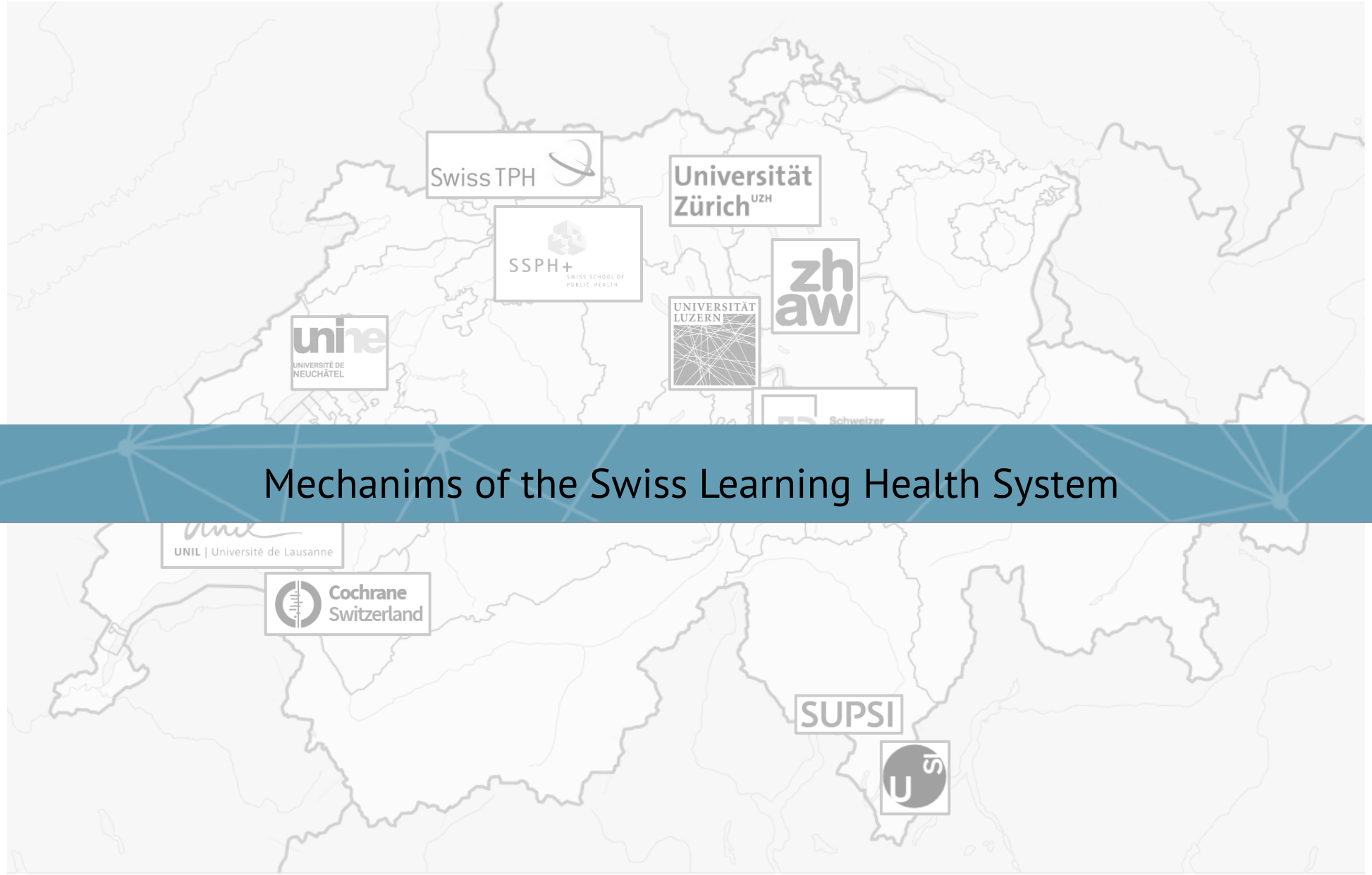
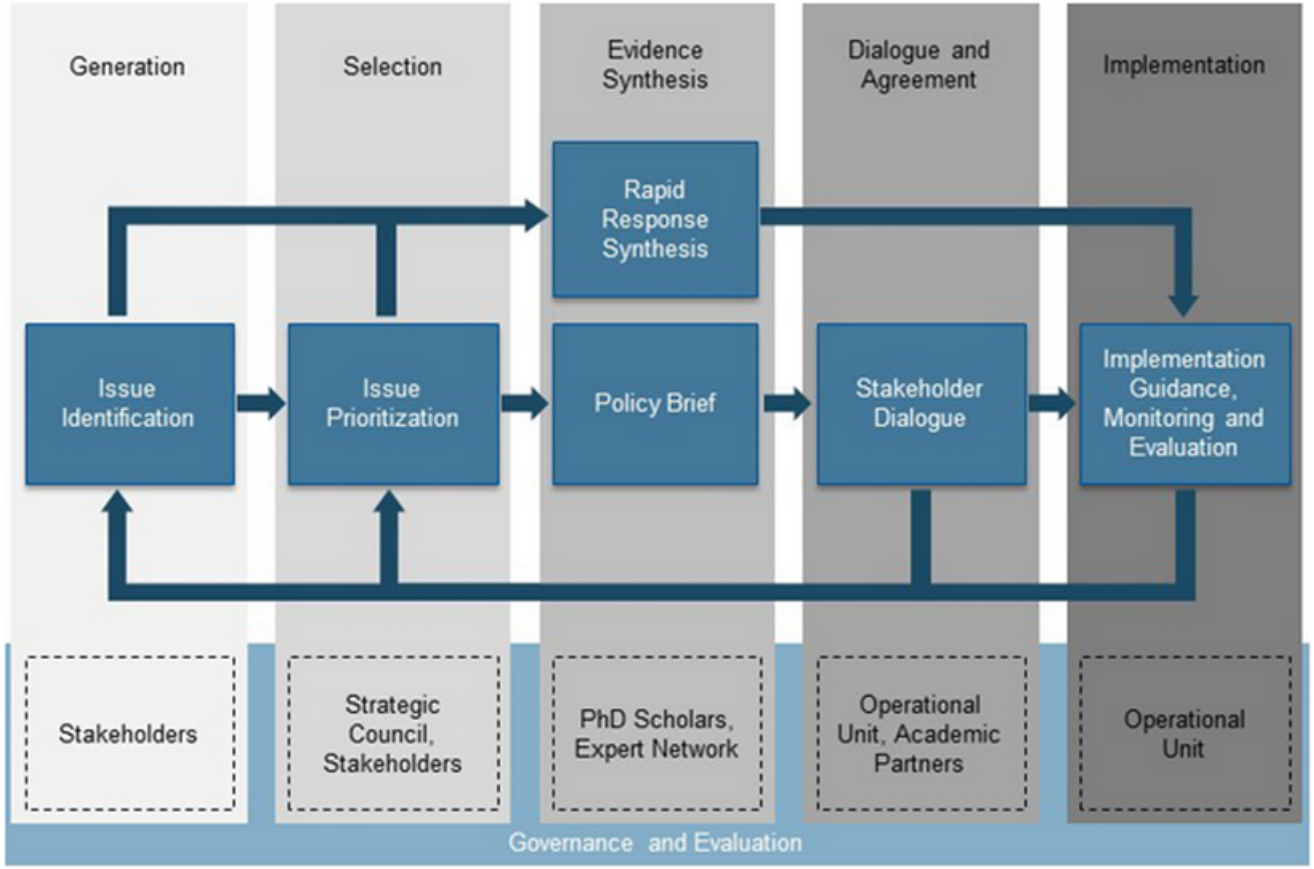


Mechanims of the Swiss Learning Health System

1. Bridging mechanism between research, policy and practice



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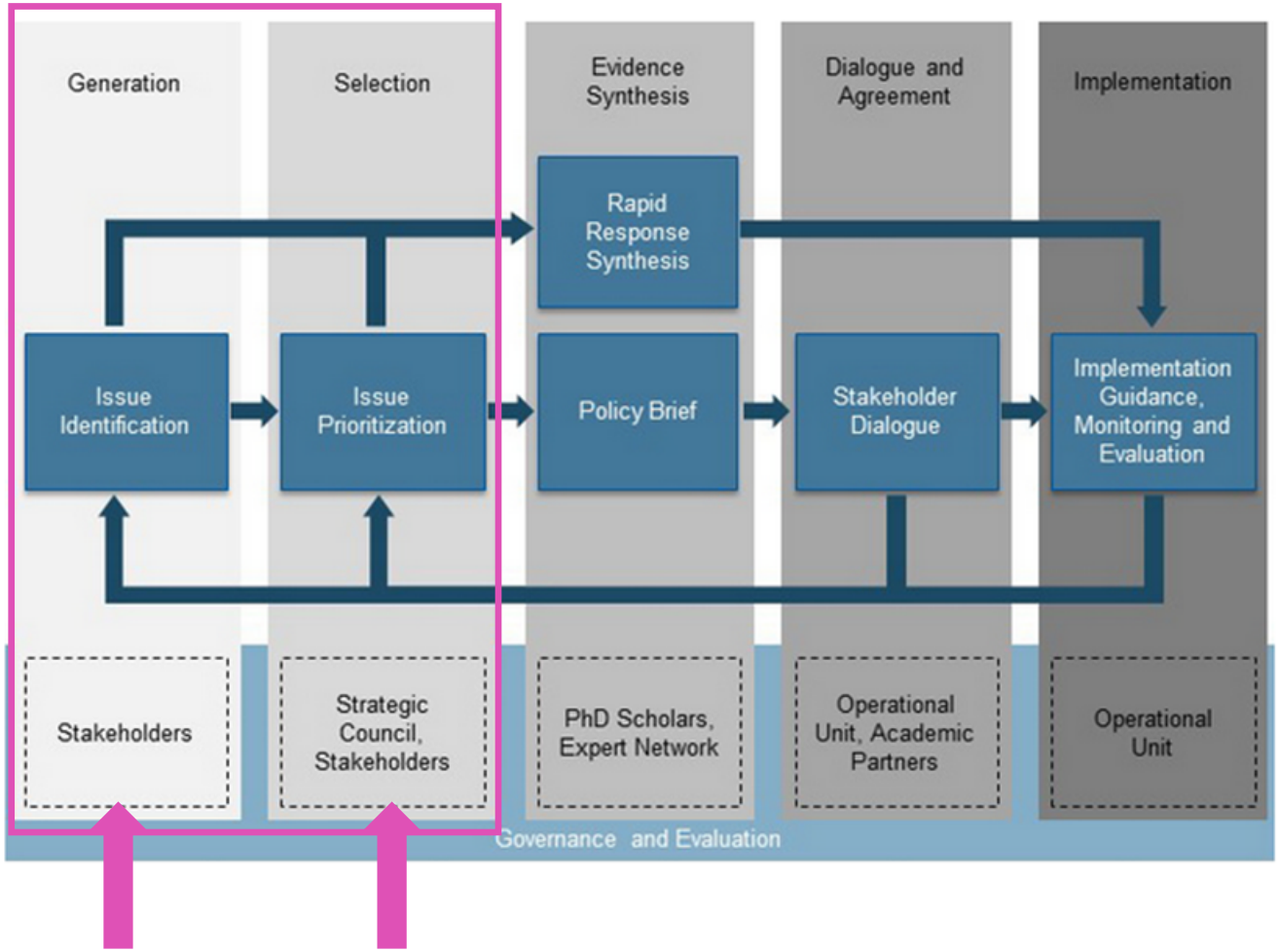

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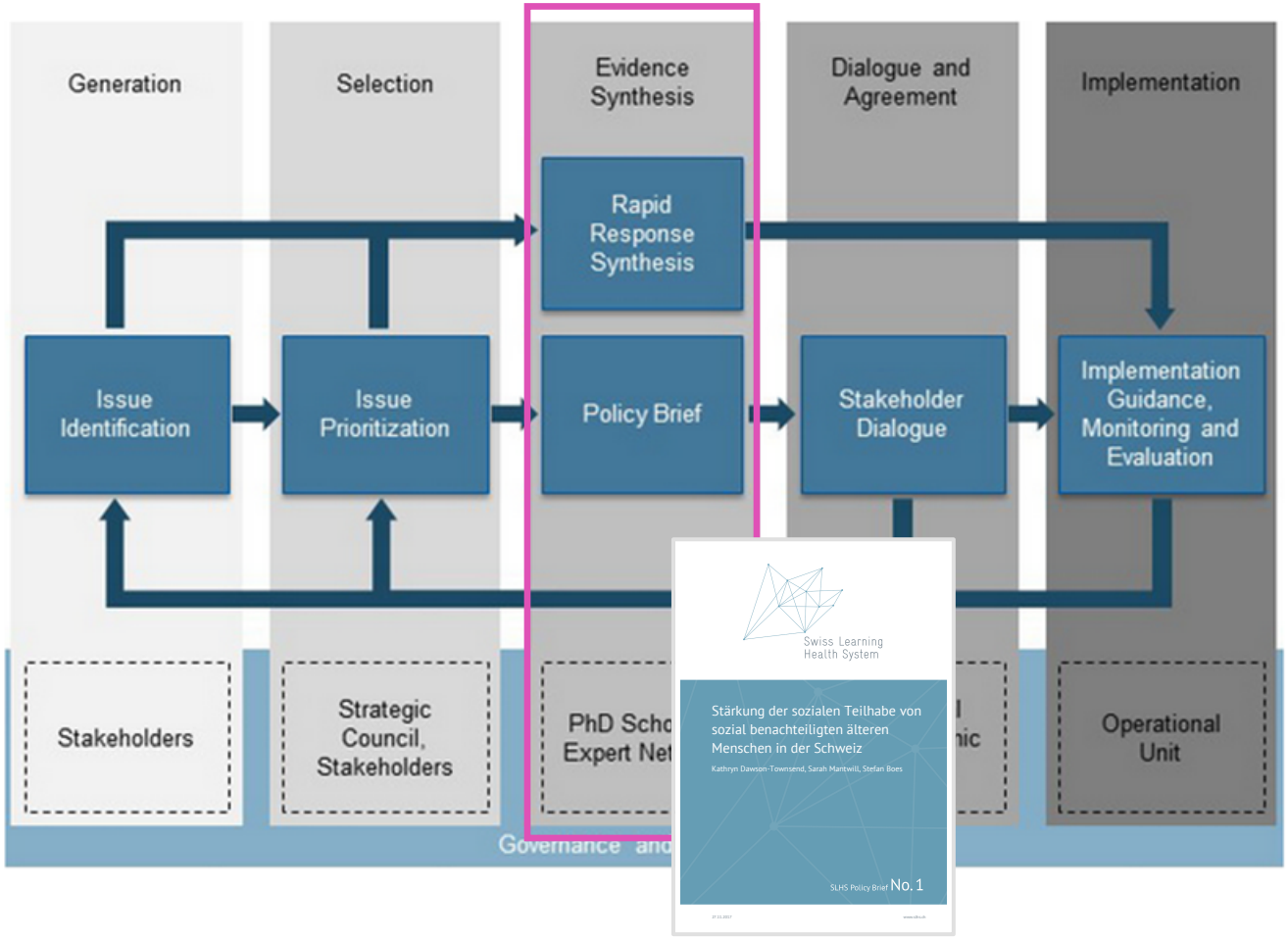

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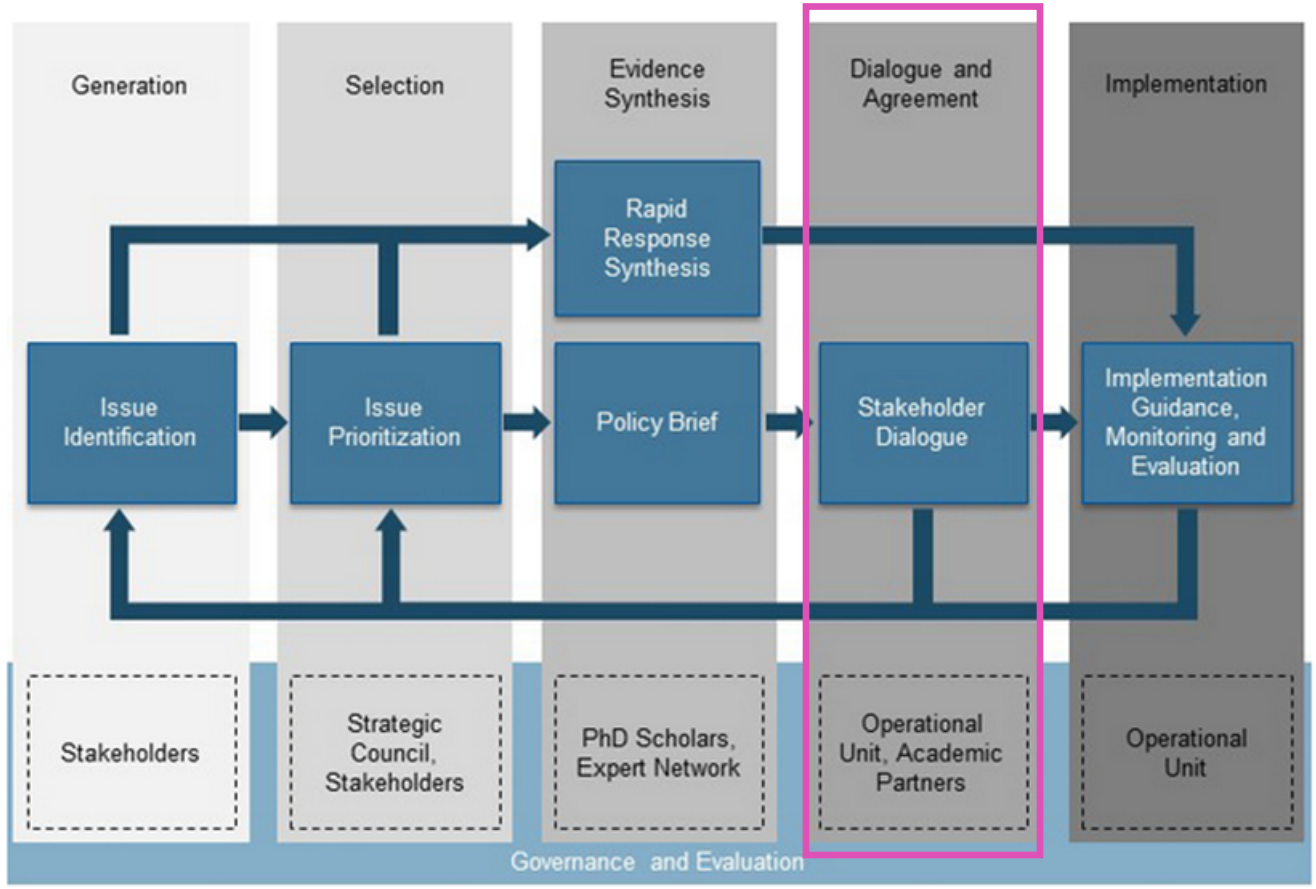

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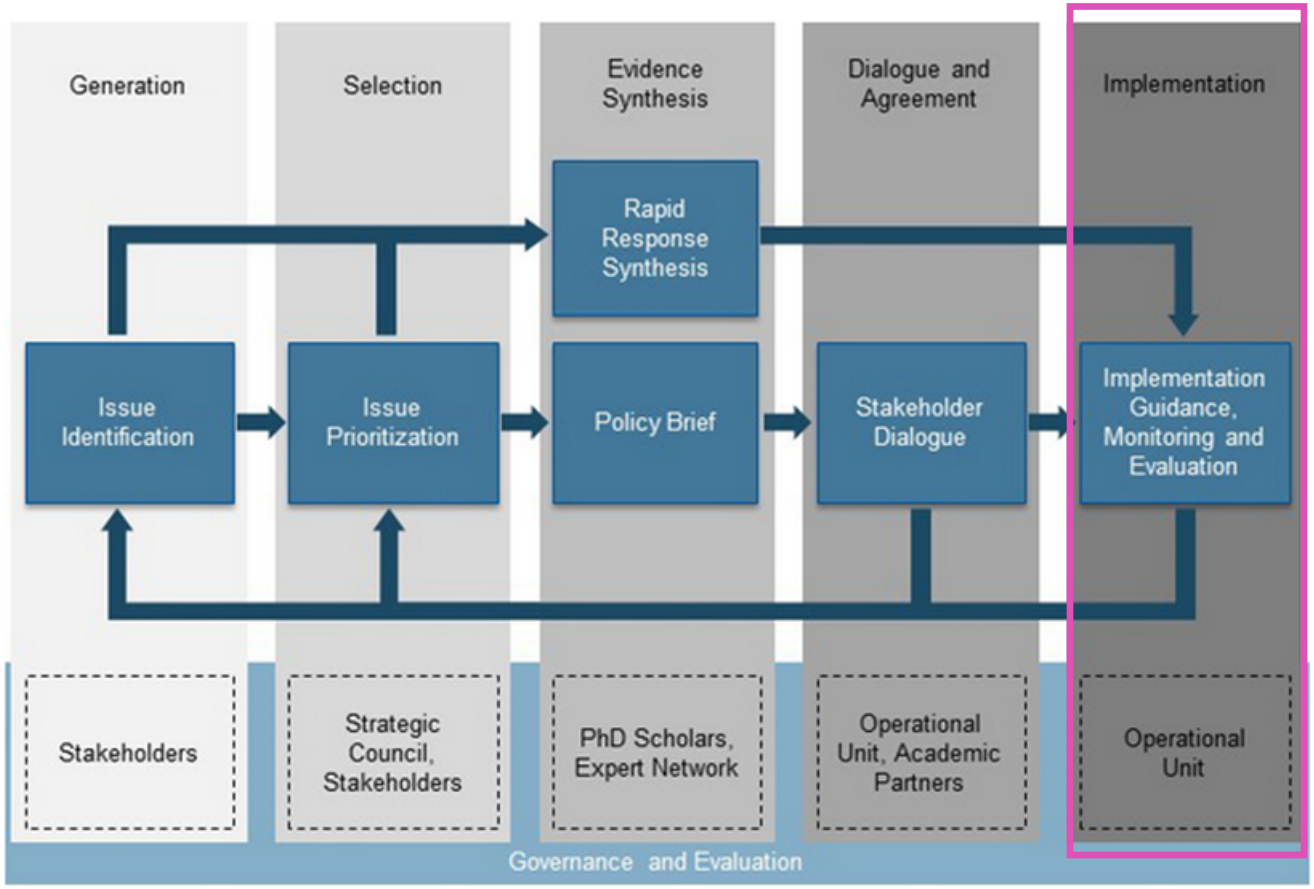
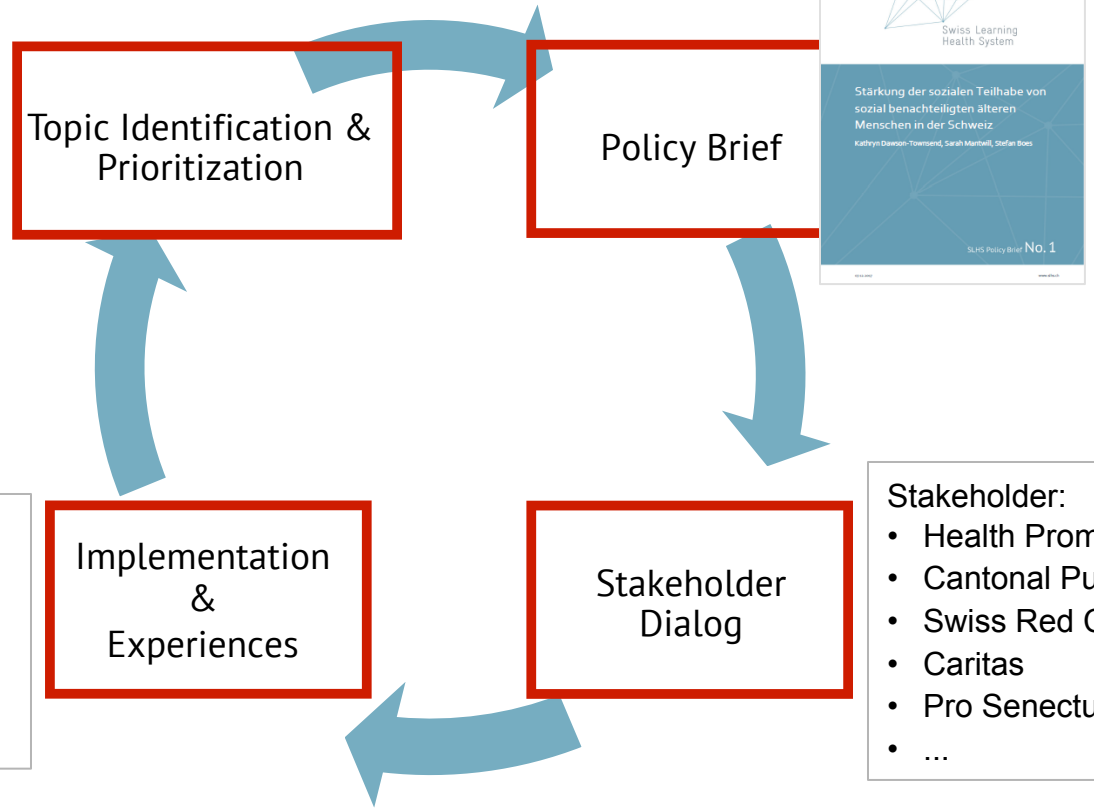
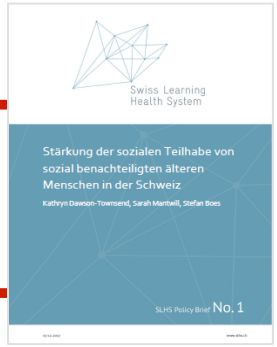


Example of a learning cycle

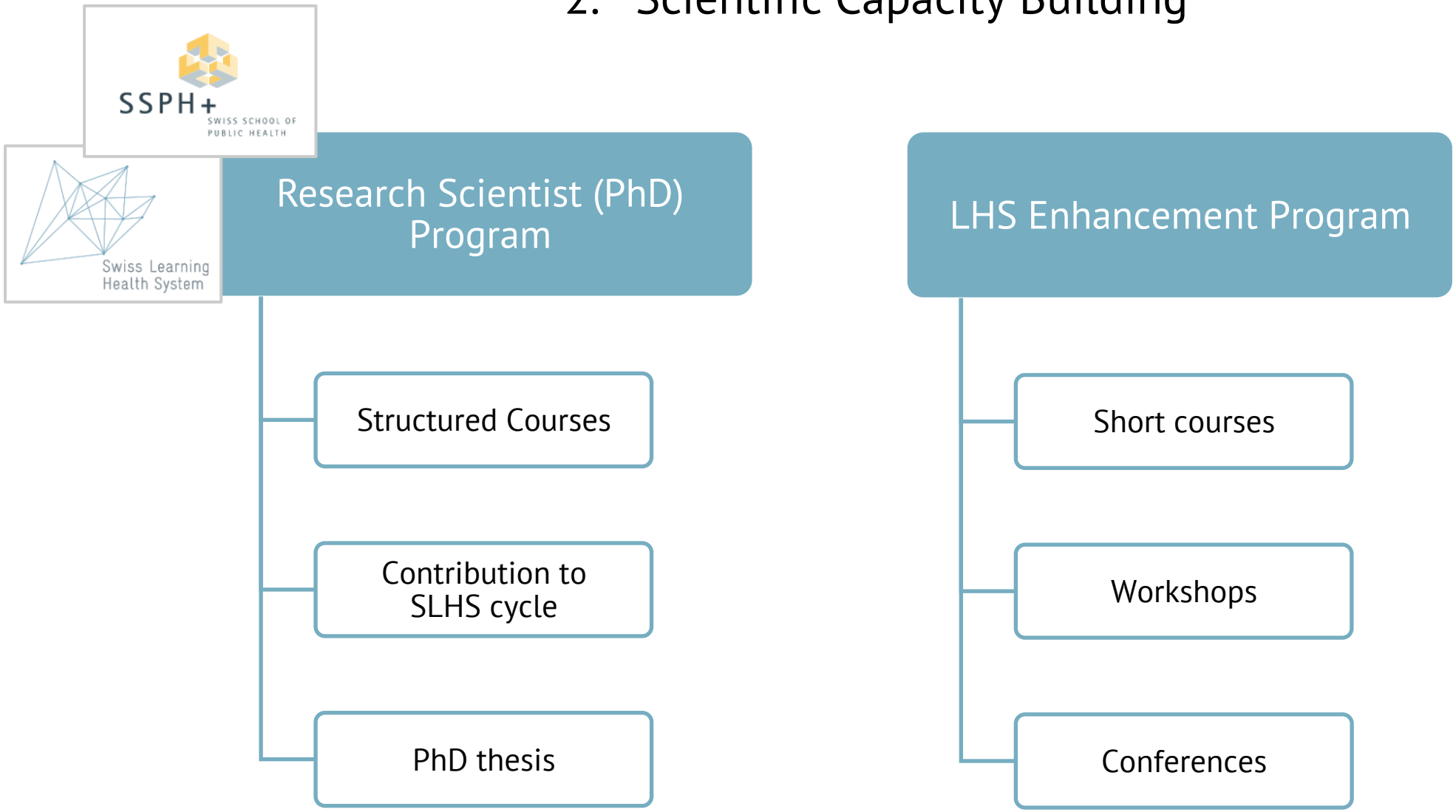




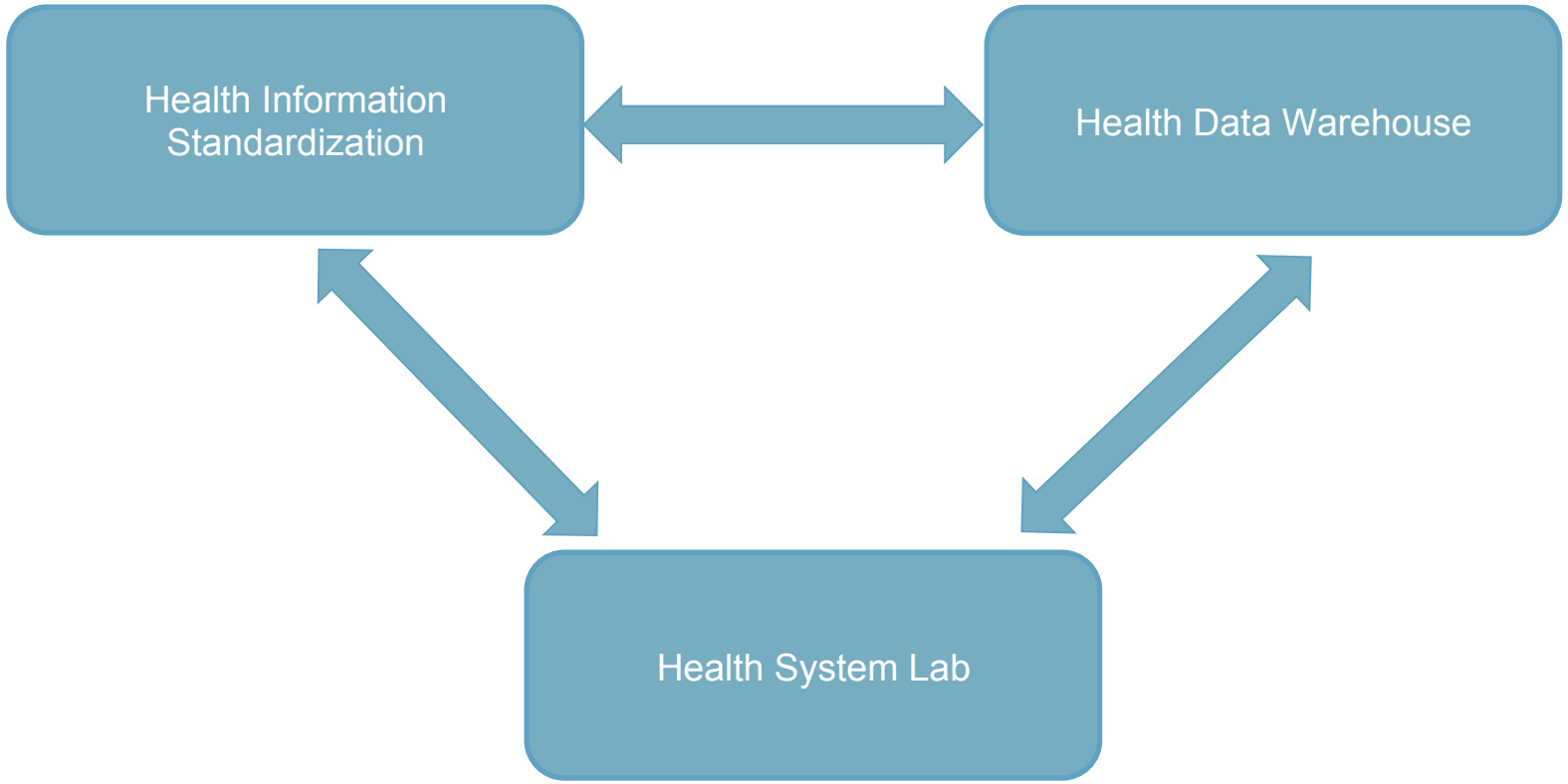
Results:
- planning of course of action
- mission/vision statementsm (signed) agreements
- an actual product (e.g. tool box)
- further research needed (additional policy brief)
- …

Stakeholder:
- Health Promotion Switzerland
- Cantonal Public Health Department
- Swiss Red Cross
- Caritas
- Pro Senectute
- ...

2. Scientific Capacity Building



3. Management of standardized health information



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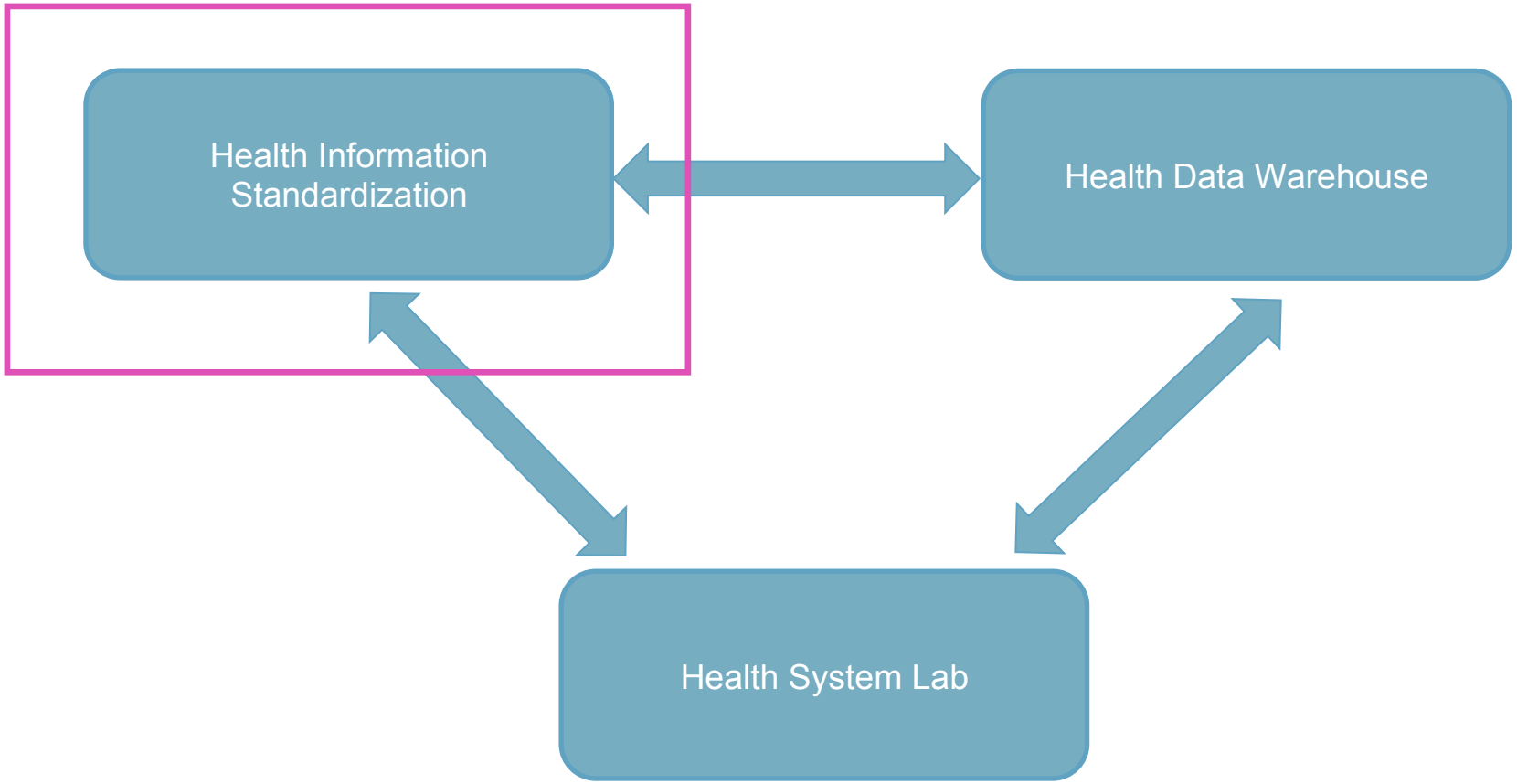

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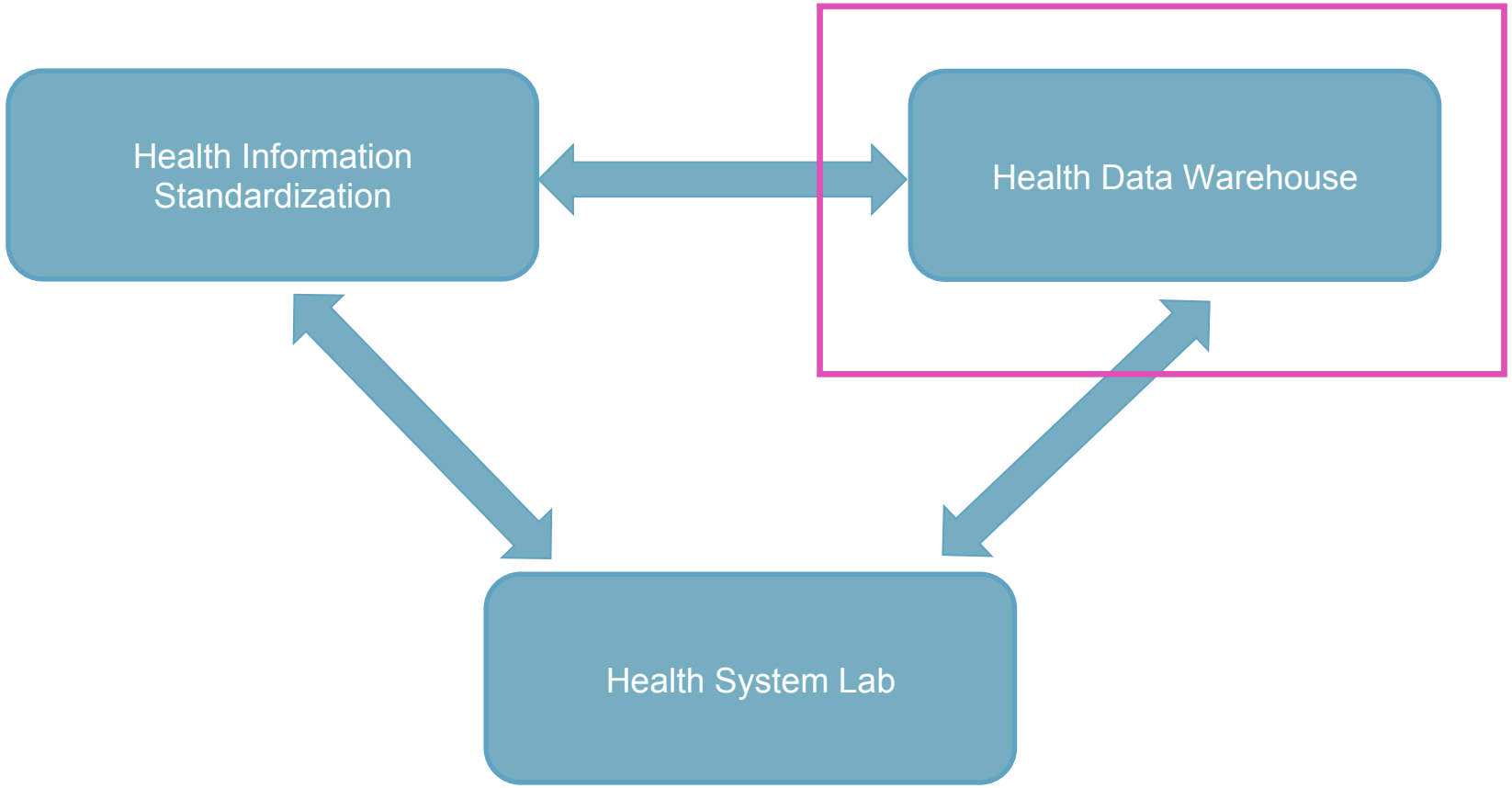

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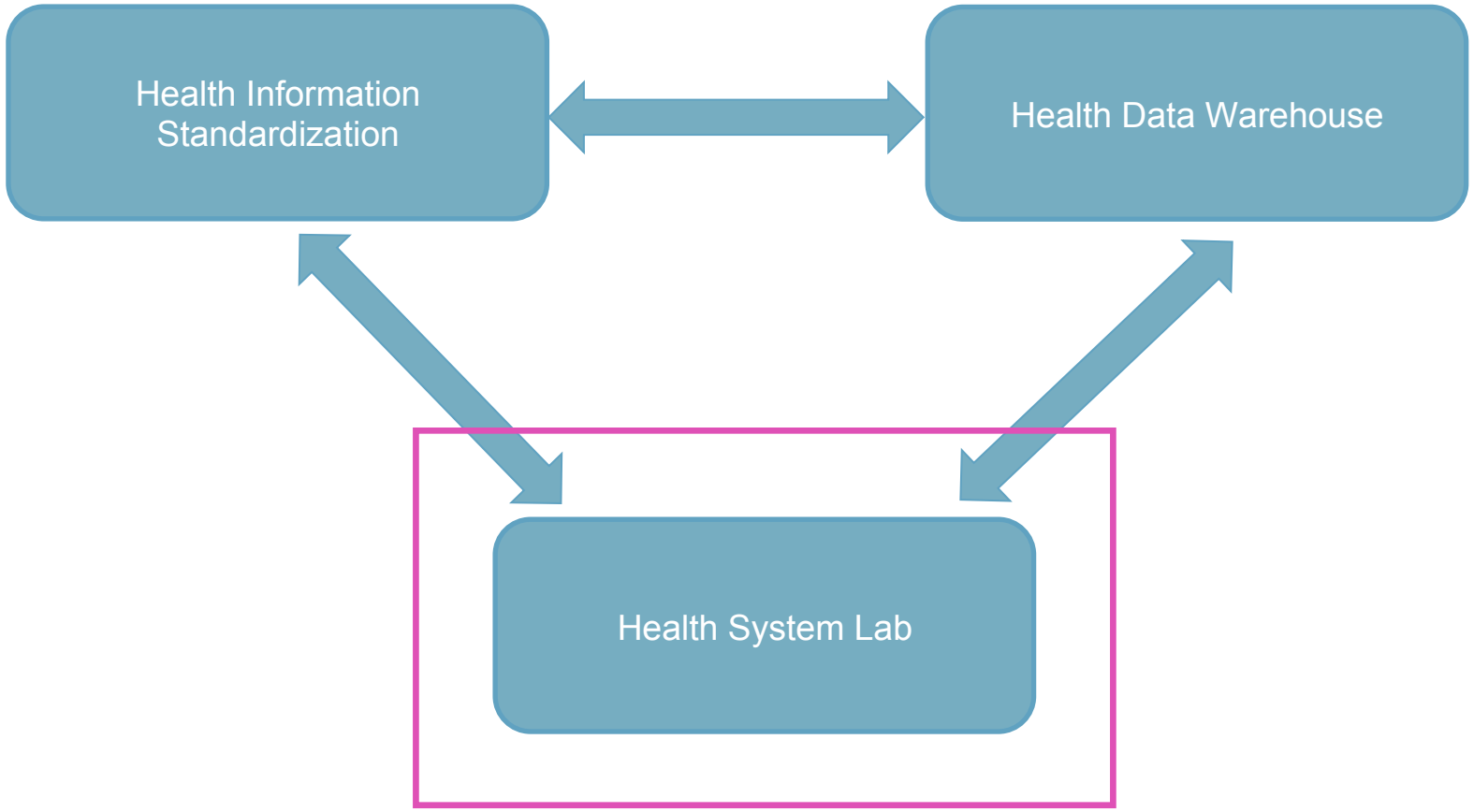
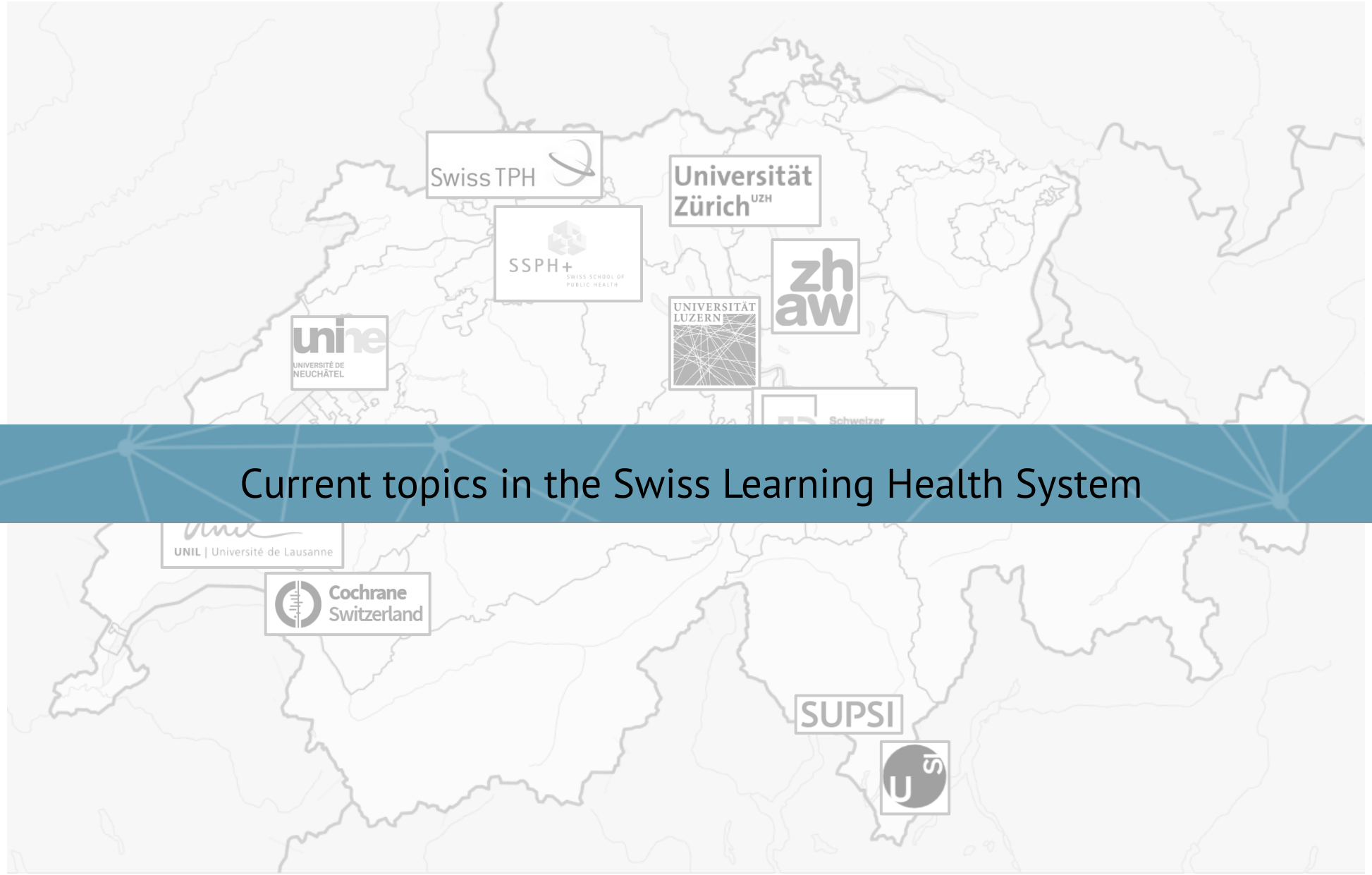
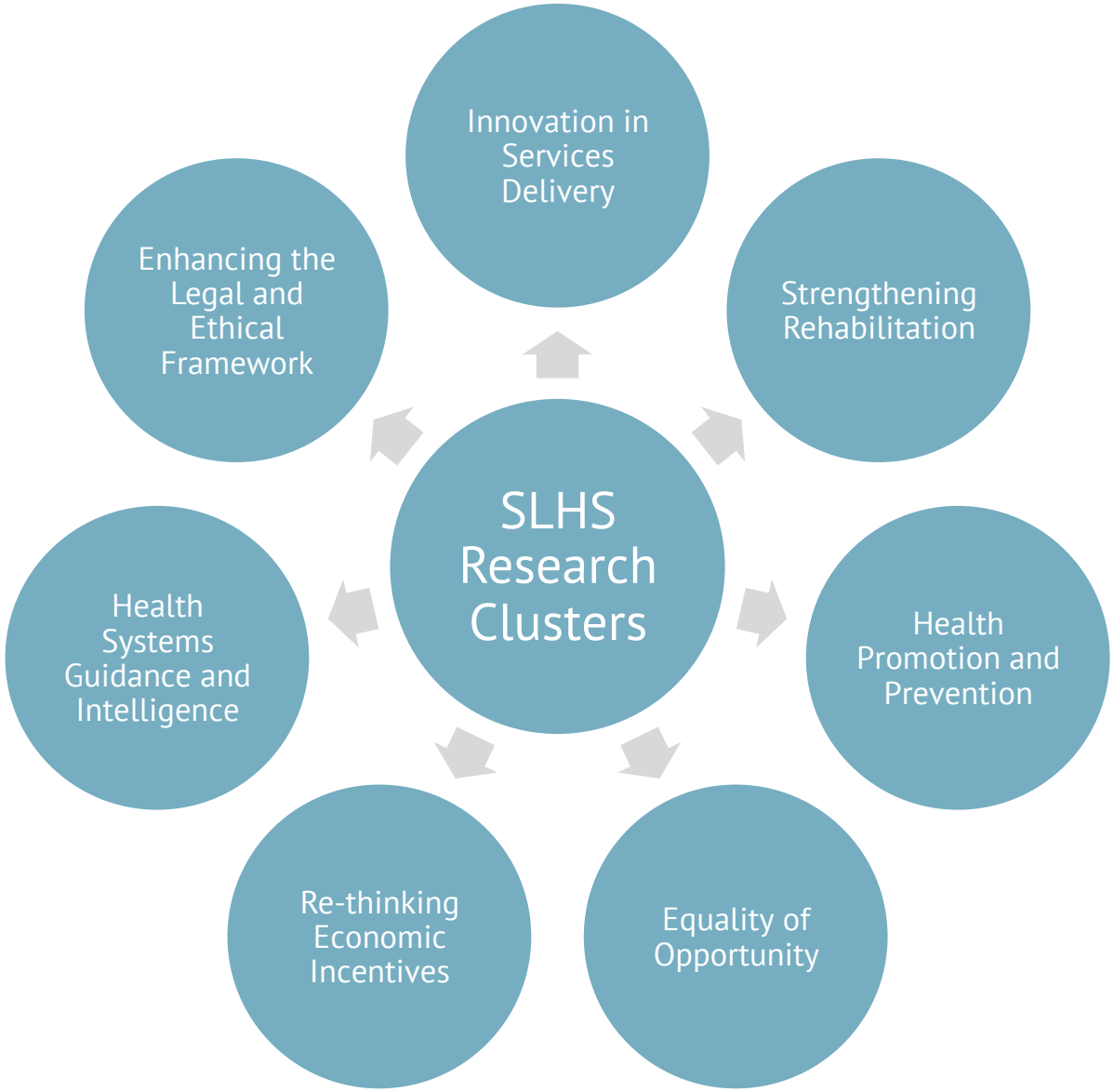




Current topics in the Swiss Learning Health System


SLHS Research Clusters
Innovation in Services Delivery
Strengthening Rehabilitation
Health Promotion and Prevention
Equality of Opportunity
Re-thinking Economic Incentives
Health Systems Guidance and Intelligence
Enhancing the Legal and Ethical Framework

Topics and Research Clusters

Topic	Institution
Strengthening social participation of socially disadvantaged older people in Switzerland.	Health Sciences & Health Policy, University of Lucerne
Pastoral care in hospitals and data privacy. How can the work of pastoral care takers in hospitals (ZH) be ensured under the restrictions of data protection?	Center for Comparative Constitutional Law and Religion, University of Lucerne
Evidence performance gap in the management of KOA in Switzerland - How can we overcome the barriers to guideline adherence with regard to the management of KOA?	Institute of Physiotherapy, ZHAW

Topics and Research Clusters

Topic	Institution
The value of using and importing patient reported outcomes and experience measures.	Unisanté, University of Lausanne
New professional roles for health professionals in primary care.	Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care, SUPSI
Design and development of metadata catalogue/data repository	Information management institute, University of Neuchatel

Topics and Research Clusters

To initiate learning cycles in the Swiss health system:

- We are building up a **network** with all stakeholders in the Swiss health system
- We have established and are constantly updating a **topic list**, informed by the stakeholders
- All partner institutions are preparing **policy briefs** and **stakeholder dialogues**
- We have formed **research clusters** to effectively and efficiently inform current issues in the health system and explore synergies in the current knowledge base
- We are building up a **data warehouse** to support the SLHS learning cycles

Swiss Learning Health System

slhs@unilu.ch