

STIR

SocioTechnical
Integration
Research



Modulations of the laboratory

**Articulations between individual
and institutional dynamics in a
Flemish R&D center (Belgium)**



4S Tokyo - François Thoreau

Layout

- Method and framework
- Analytical levels and how they interplay
- Two contrasting stories at the intersection of the micro- and the meso- level
- Conclusions

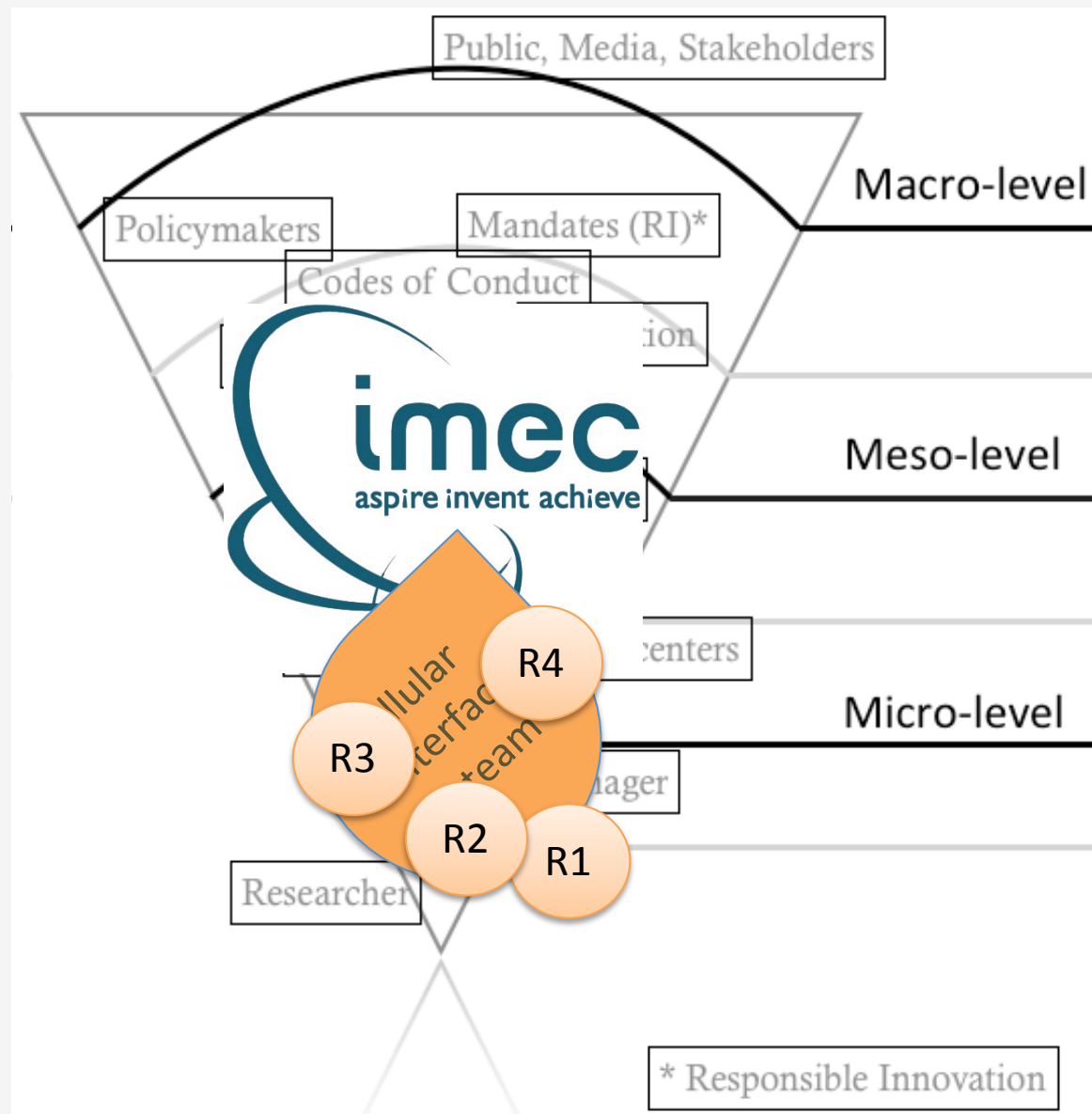


Framework and method

- Mid-stream modulation (Fisher & al. 2006)
- A multi-level analytical framework (micro-meso-macro)
 - ♦ Engage individuals who operate within institutional boundaries
 - ♦ Aim: Understand how these interplay



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Unpacking resistance

- New rules and procedures: any new process now needs to be validated by a tool responsible
- Engaged participant view:
 - ♦ Frustration; Criticism; A bad trade-off
 - ♦ → Former DIY culture was much faster and productive, and way less demanding
- Exploring alternatives: possibility to elude rigid procedures (“validate a process only if it works”)
- Eventual co-existence of both systems (an agenda to push forward?)



Witnessing attempts at catching up

- Work on neuronal cells, somehow improve imec chip or its efficiency
- Engaged participant situation:
 - ♦ Olfactory cells; insulation (inside); lack of solutions for external support
 - ♦ → strategies of diversification for PhD
- Therapeutic feature: actually the most proactive engaged participant
- Openness to alternatives / seeking support and advise



Conclusion and discussion

- Two different ways to deal with institutional dynamics
- Much further work to be done
- Reflexiveness:
 - ♦ Unpack a story
 - ♦ Vs. happening to live a story

