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UNIKASSEL VERSITÄT

SynSICRIS

The SynSICRIS-monitoring approach to plan societal impact and assess research contributions

Birge Wolf

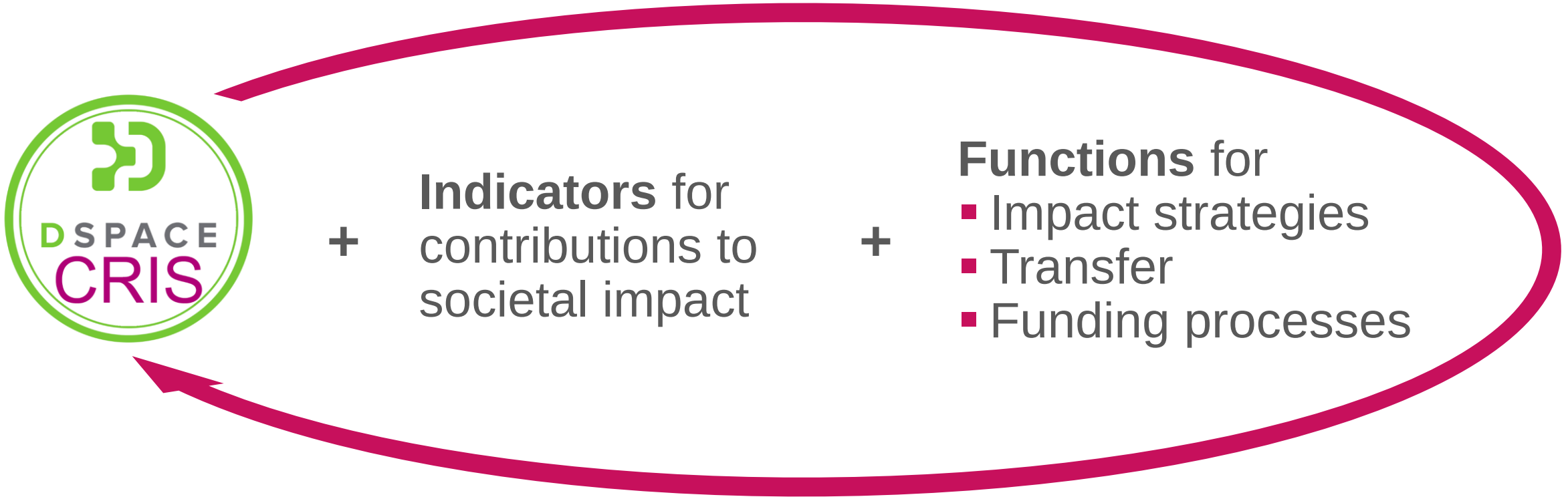
Impact of Science 2019 – Berlin

Session: University Impact Strategy

What is the presentation about?

- Development of an Open Source Monitoring System
- Why and for what purposes?
- Which Indicators & Indications?
- Use for Funders and Institutions
- Functions related to Impact Strategies

What are we doing?



Participative requirement analysis &
incremental agile software development

Why are we doing so?

Research with societal impact orientation

contributes to

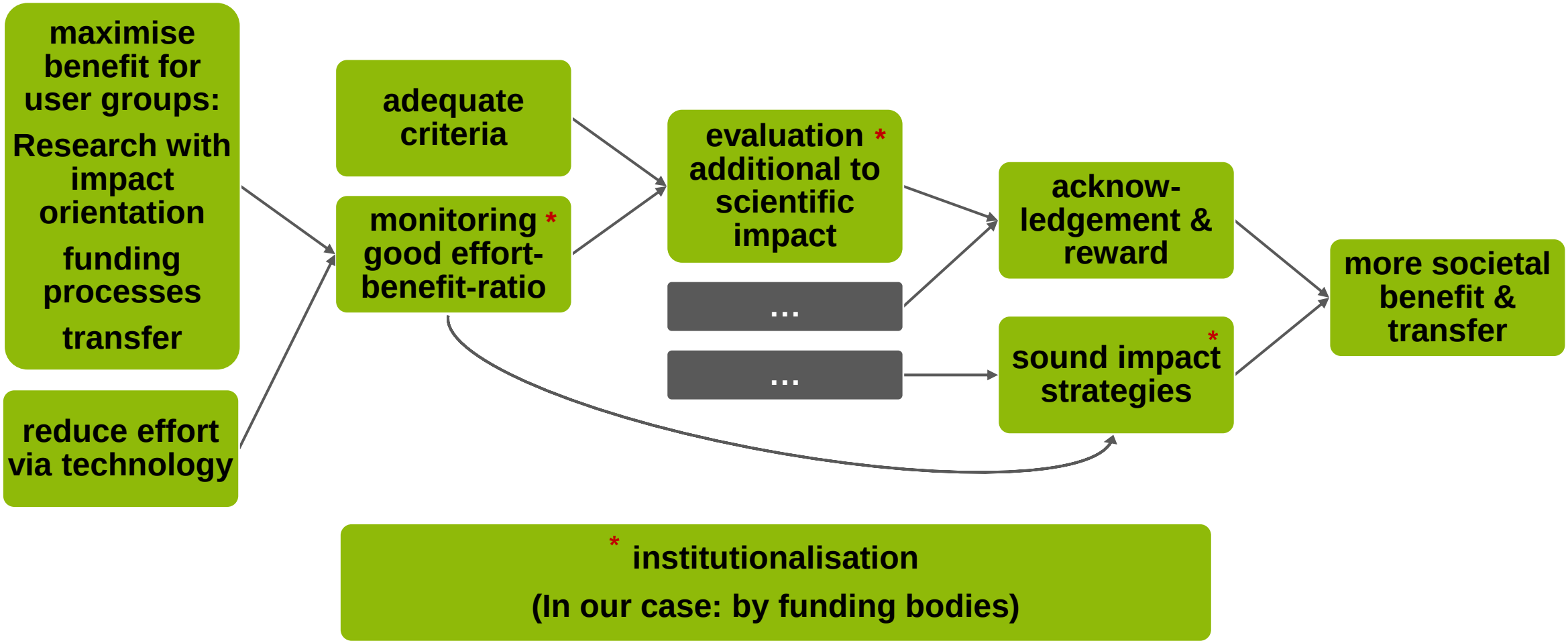
Science

- frequently used indicators for scientific quality & impact
- strong incentives / high pressure

Practice & Society

- high workload
- less acknowledgement
- urgent societal challenges

What ist our Theory of Change for more societal impact and acknowledgement?



What are the adequate criteria?

What criteria?

- measure researches contributions to make impact more likely
  - productive interactions
  - application possibilities
- reflect on potential societal impacts
- impact: record use of research results as “application cases” for innovation and change

Why?

- fairness:
  - limited influence of research in complex innovation systems
- limits of impact assessment:
  - time-gap, attribution-gap, multicausality in complex systems, …
- utilisation focus:
  - provide short term results for acknowledgement and decision making
- allow to link processes with impacts, track success, support transfer

Leading Concepts for Selection and Development of Indicators

- Productive Interactions

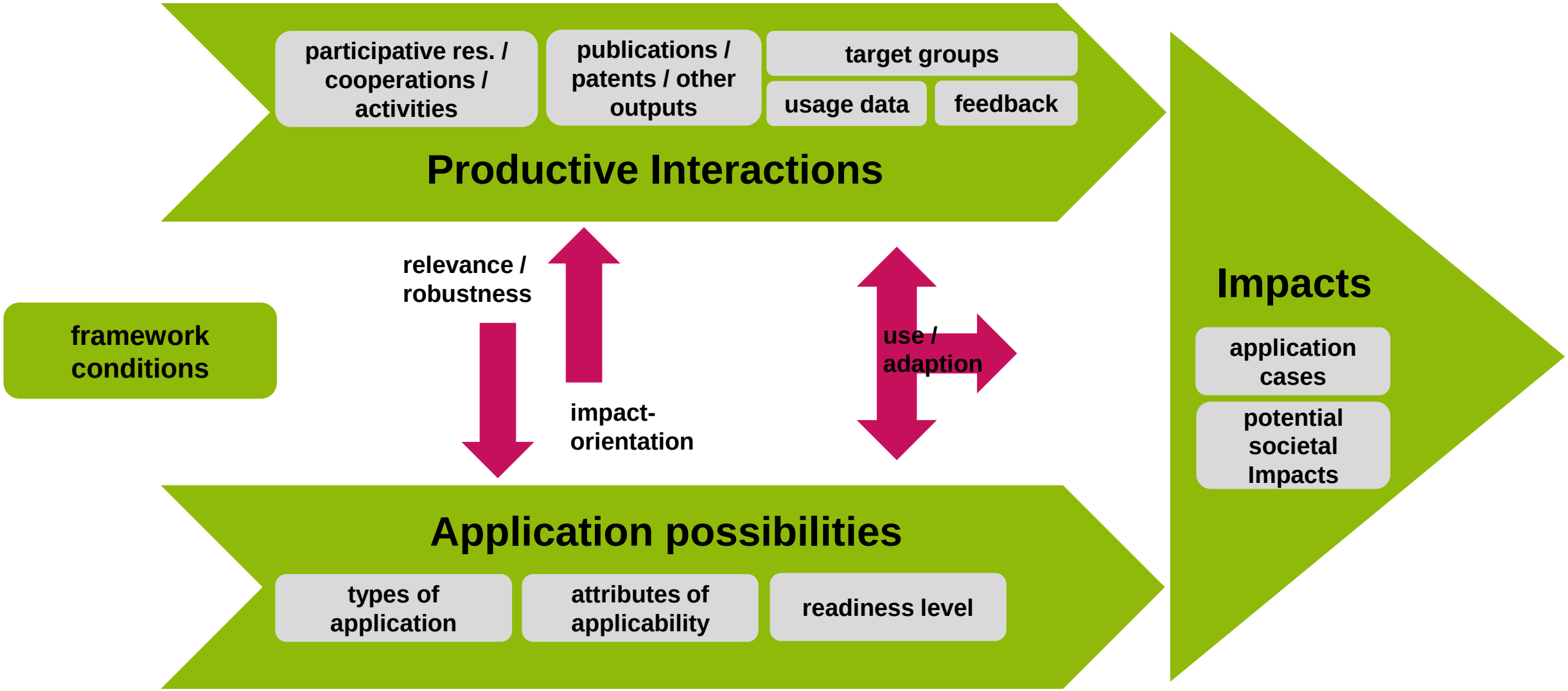
In this project, we understand *productive interactions* as exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which knowledge is produced and valued that is both scientifically robust and socially relevant. These exchanges are mediated through various 'tracks', for instance, a research publication, an exhibition, a design, people or financial support. The interaction is *productive* when it leads to efforts by stakeholders to somehow use or apply research results or practical information or experiences.

(Spaapen & van Drooge 2011)

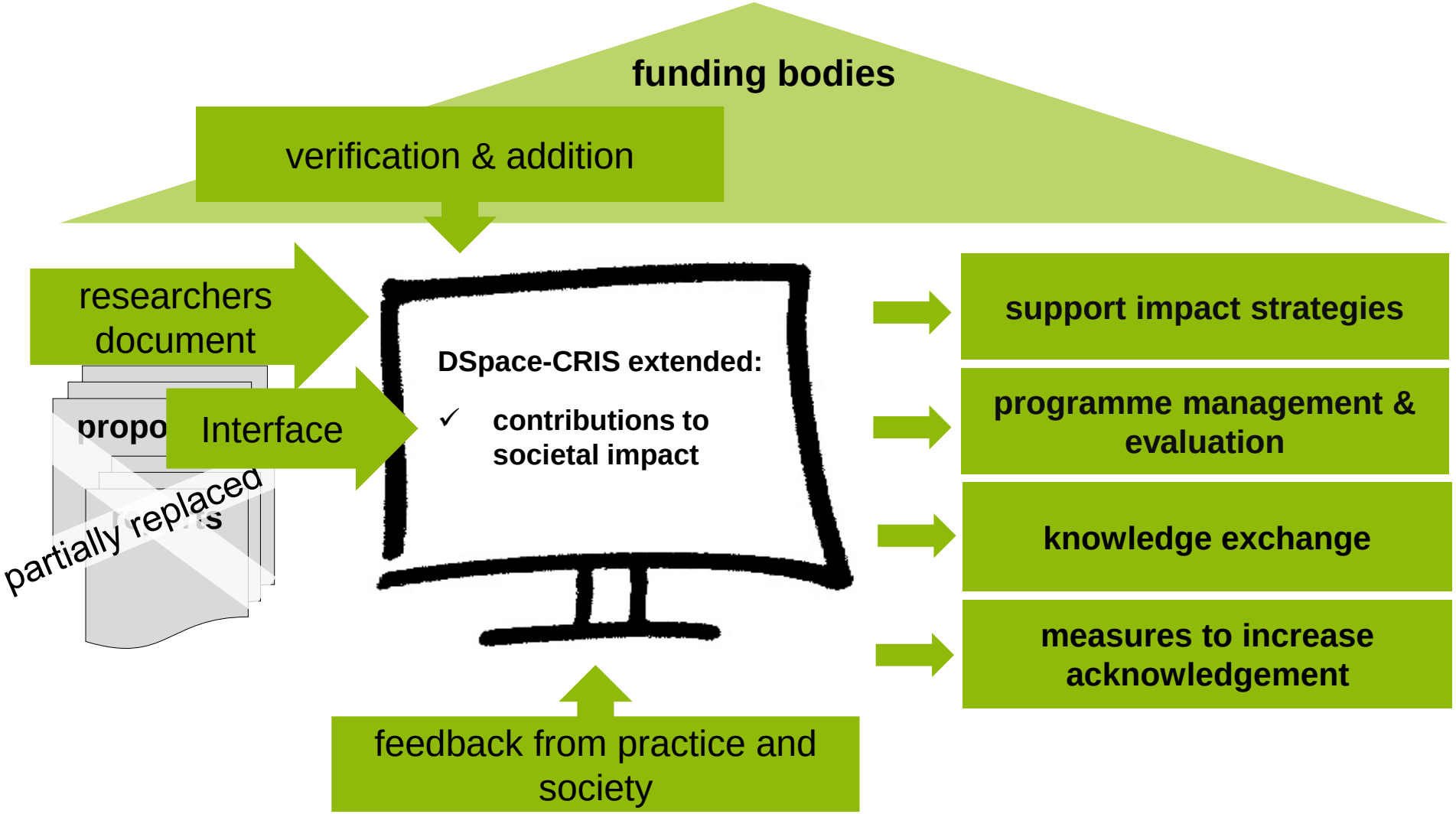
  - direct
  - indirect
  - financial

- Application possibilities
  - do not rely totally on stakeholder interaction
  - focus also on the innovation potential of the results
  - Innovation research
    - What supports the diffusion of an innovation?
  - Technology assessment
    - How to prevent negative effects of innovations?

Indicators & Indications

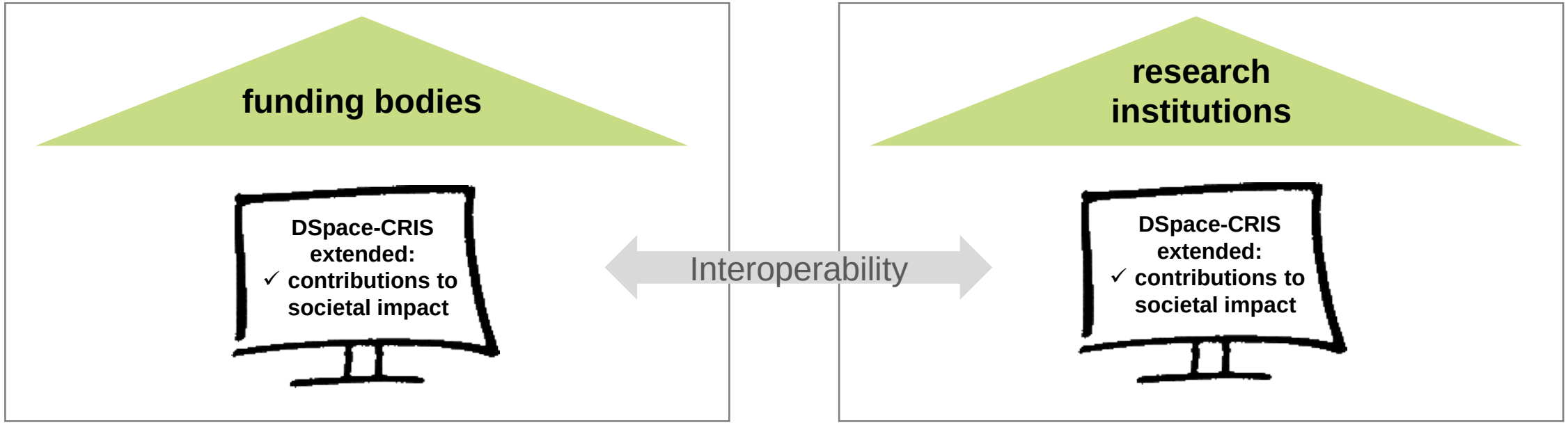


Our focus: Institutionalisation via Funding Bodies



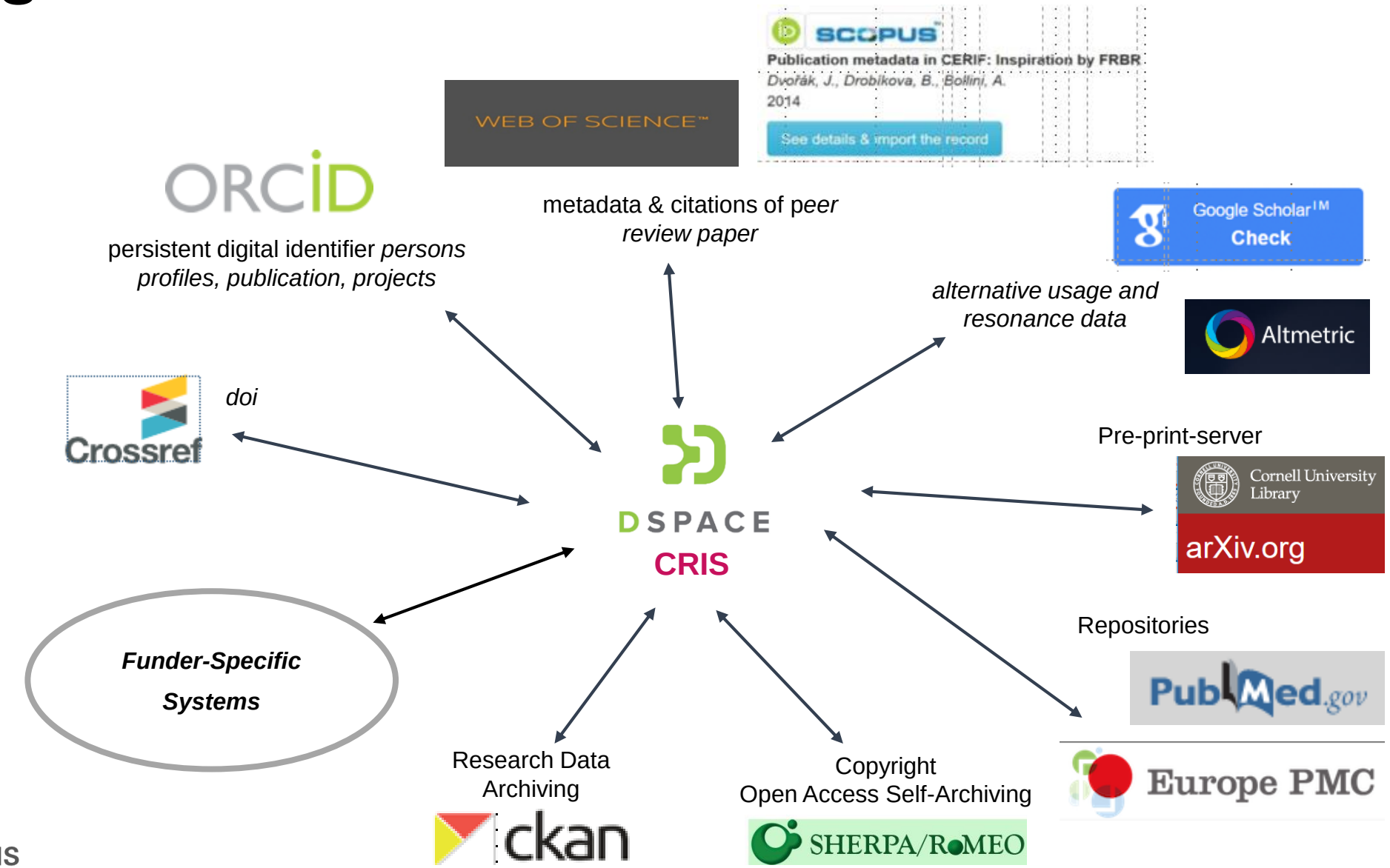
Use of the monitoring tool

- Step 1: add new entities - first testable version 10/2020
- open source licence and modular development allows easy adaption

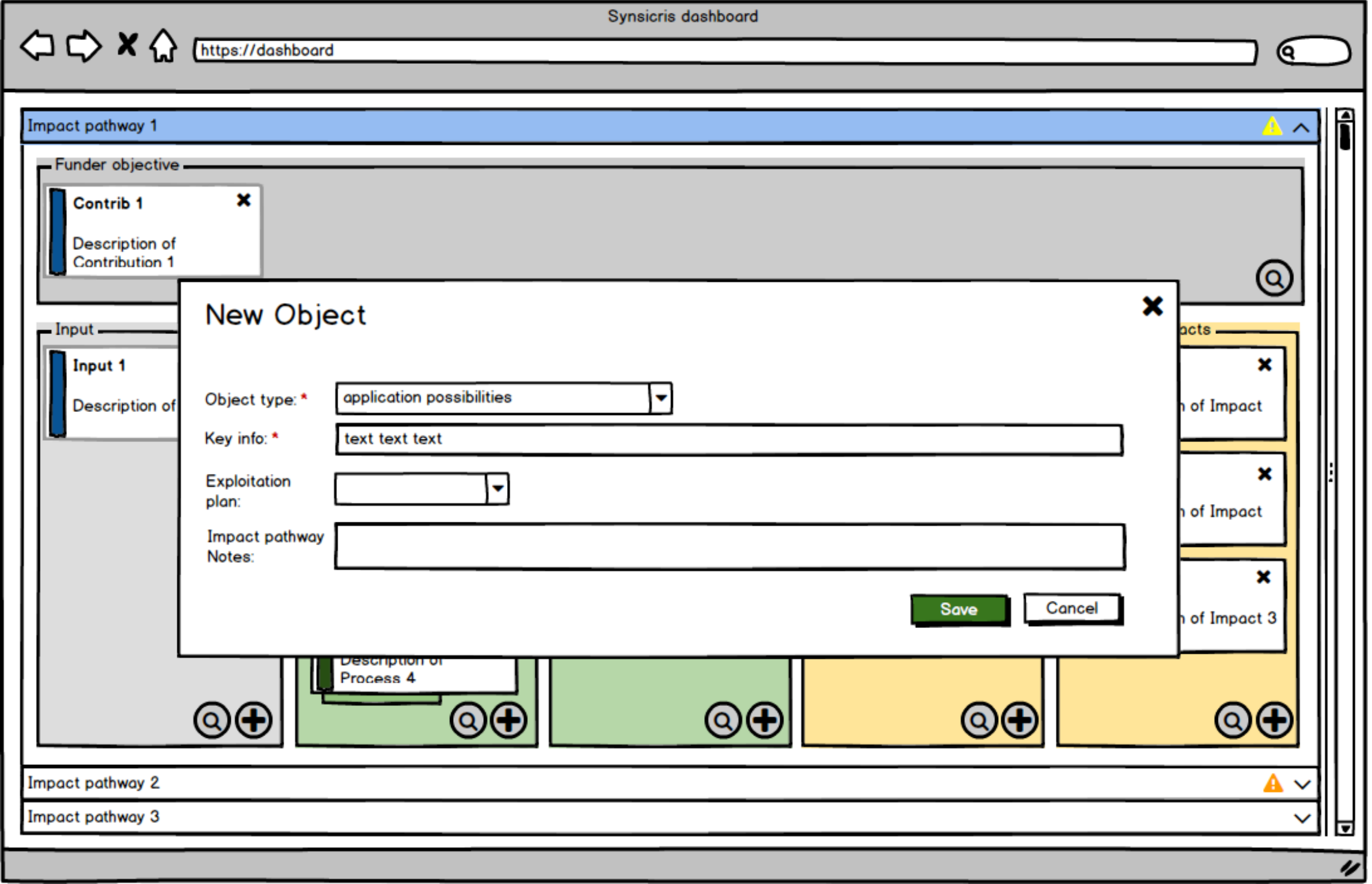


- Step 2: features for funding processes planned for 10/2022

Interfaces, interoperability and all features of a professional CRIS



New feature – Impact Pathway
… for impact strategies, monitoring and evaluation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Object type: *
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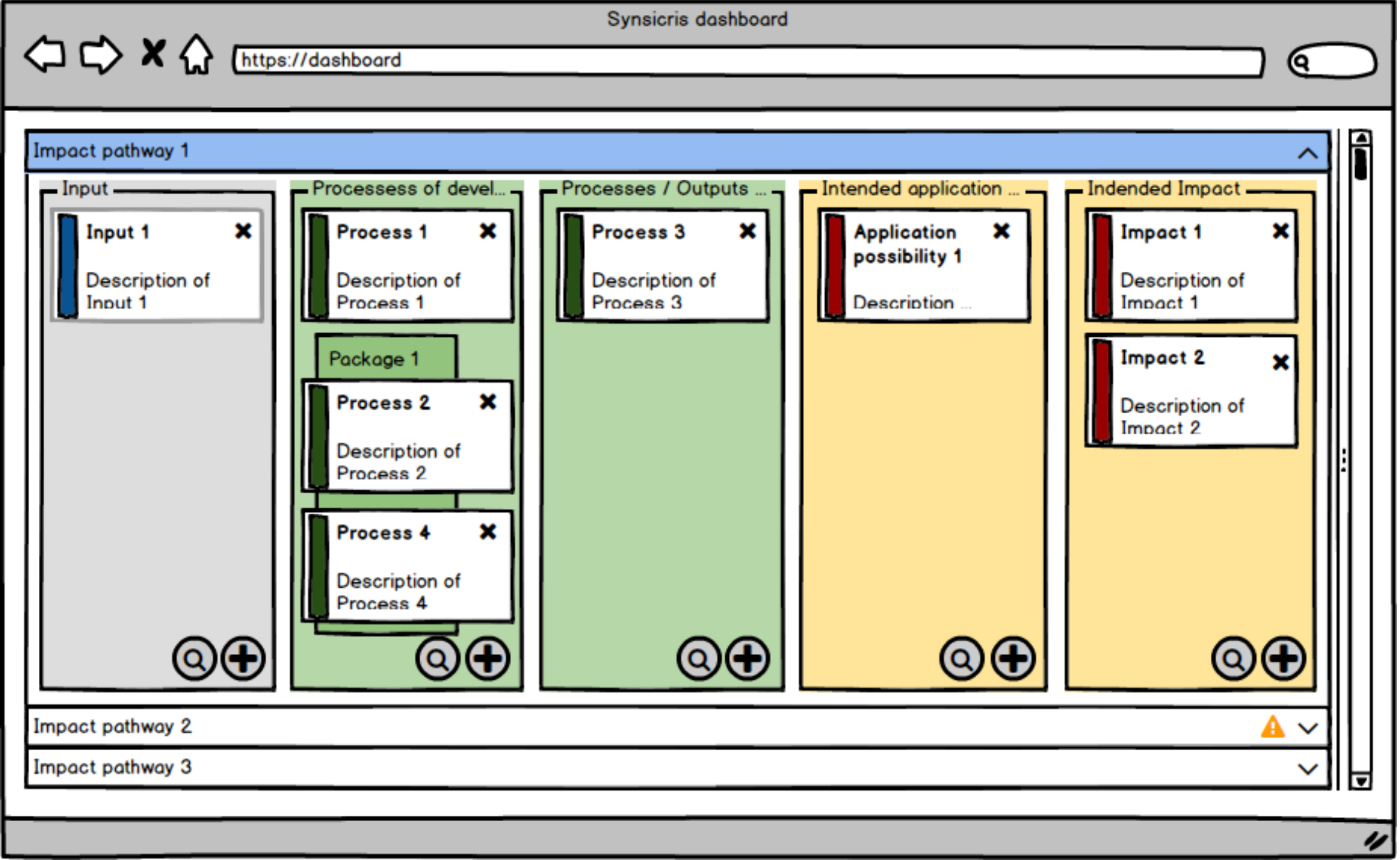
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Impact 2
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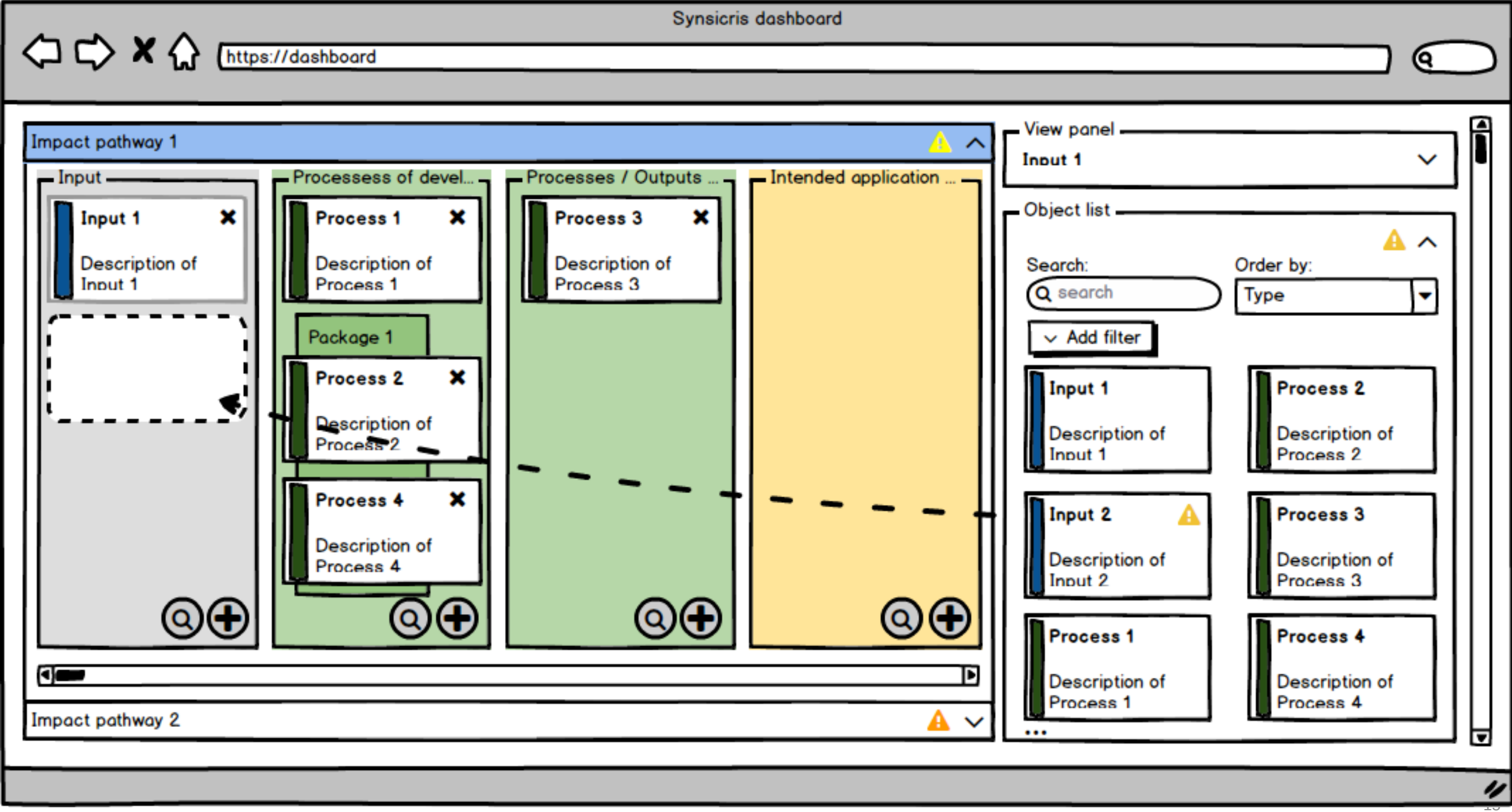
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Order by:
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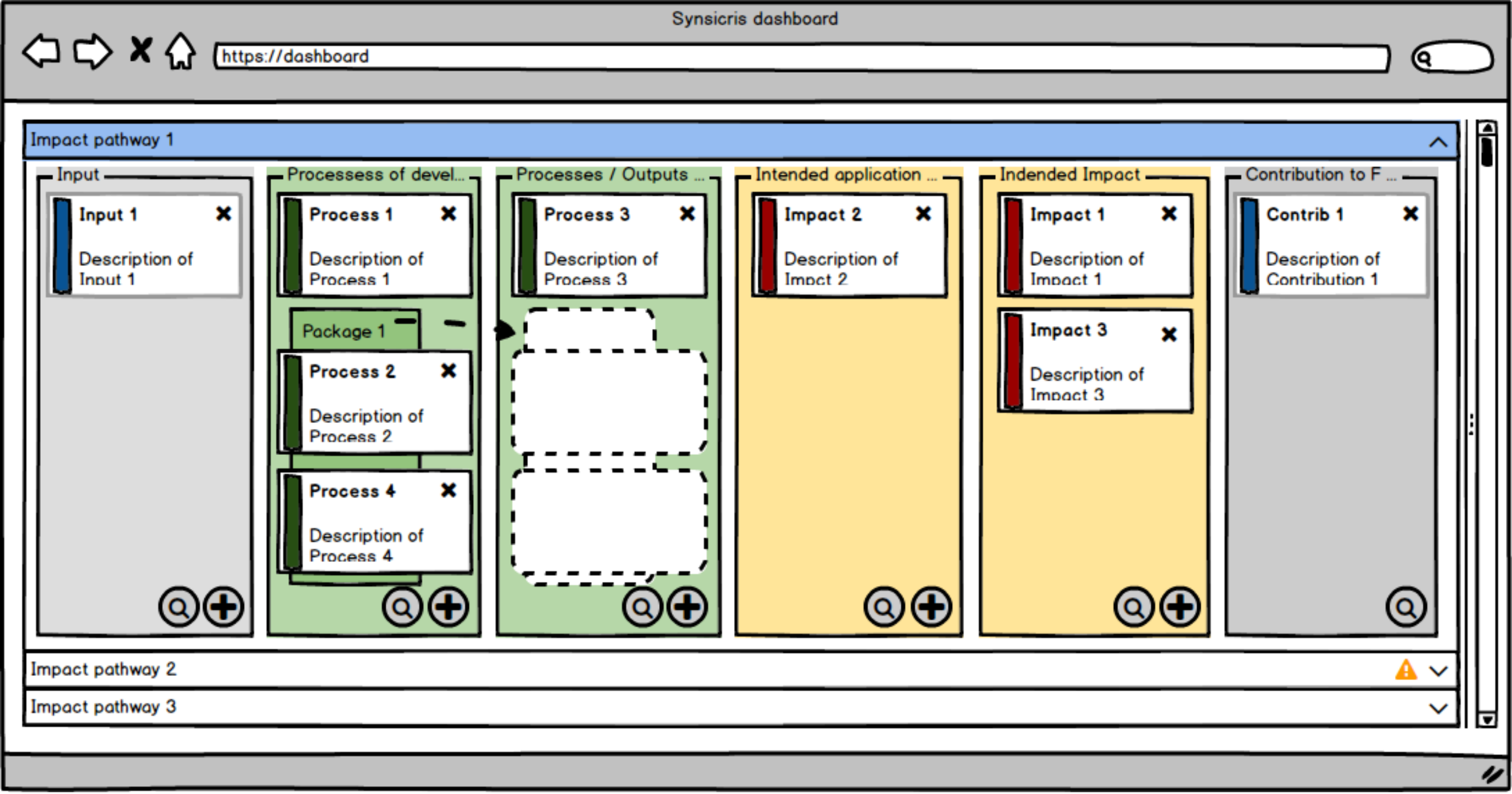
Process 4
Description of Process 4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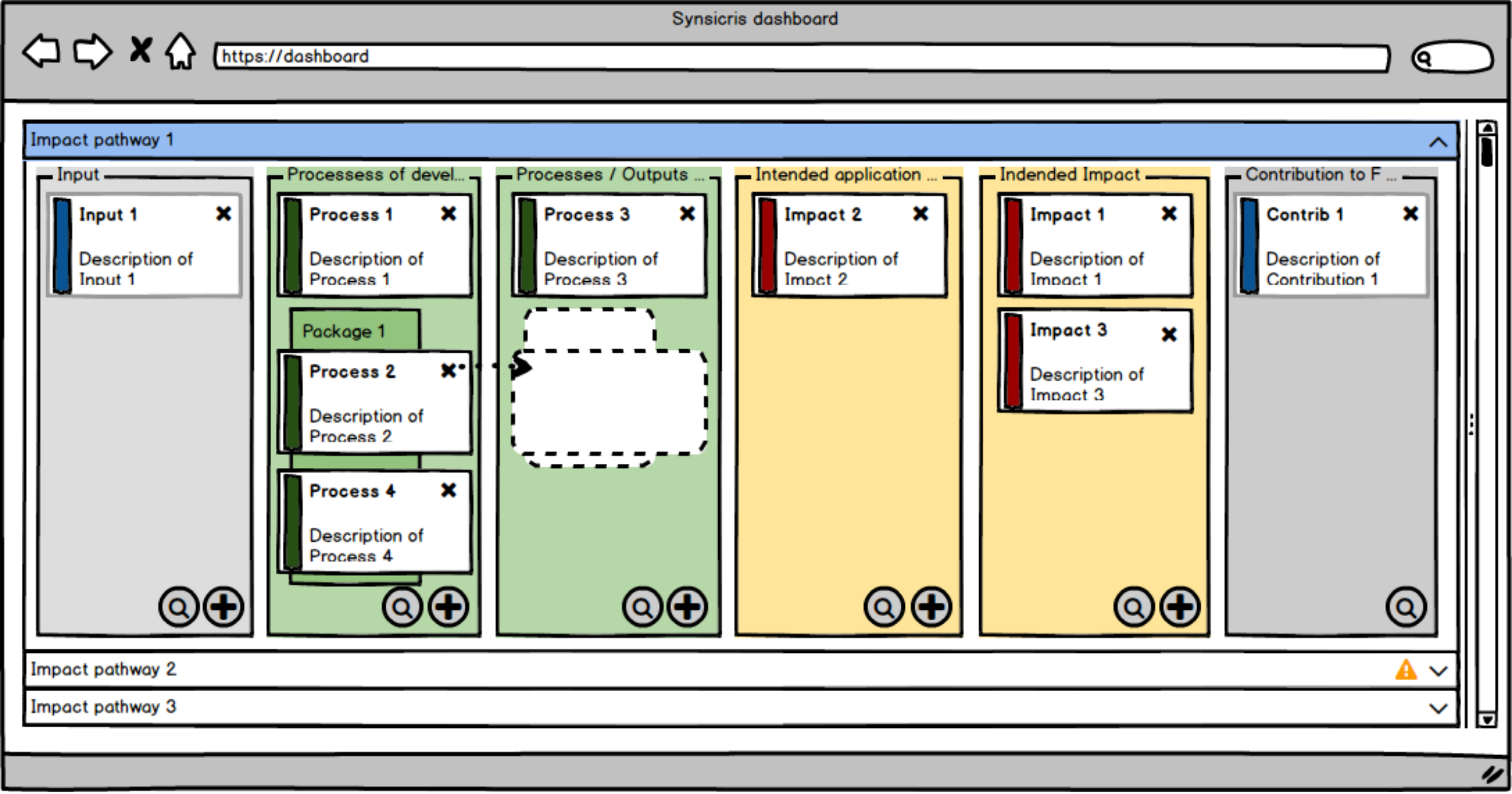
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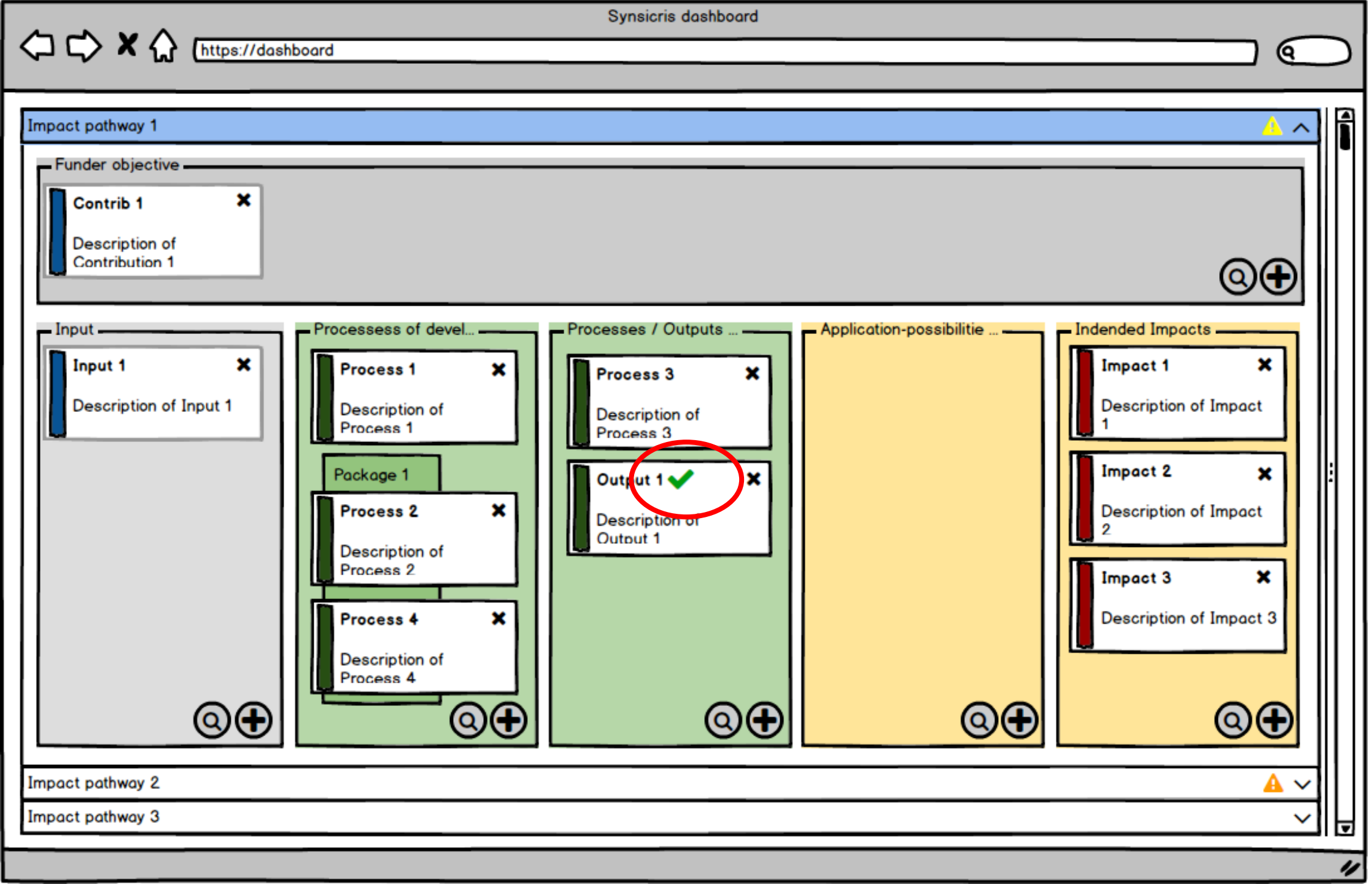
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Description of Impact 1
Impact 2
Description of Impact 2
Impact 3
Description of Impact 3
Impact pathway 2
Impact pathway 3

Thank you!

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