



ToC approach and the use of impact research

results in practice: case of Dutch NA TCA Impact

Willeke van der Werf (NA Erasmus+ Netherlands)

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NA 'impact-thinking' in NL is based on the ToC

- Small steps
- Adjusted to nearest area of development of beneficiary
- About them not without them





Emphasis on impact – What is it?

Inventing the wheel again?





Definitions of impact?

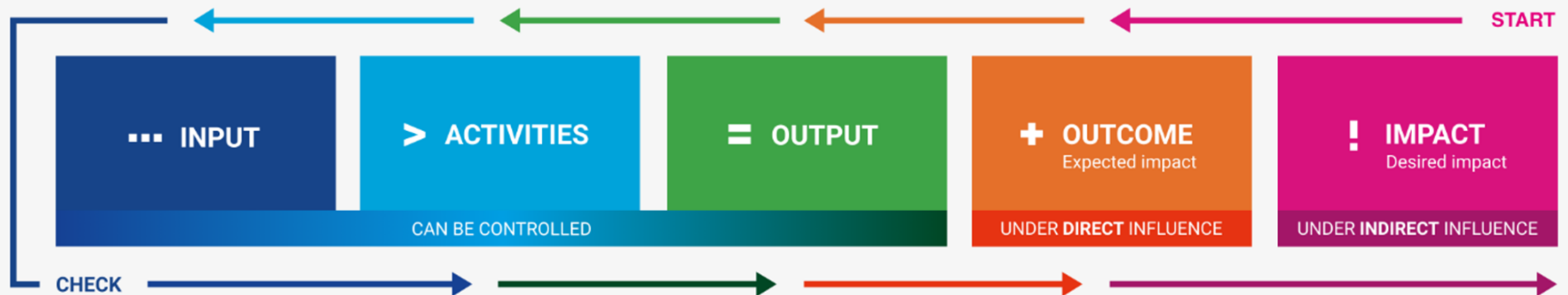
The OECD-DAC defines impact as:

a <positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended>.

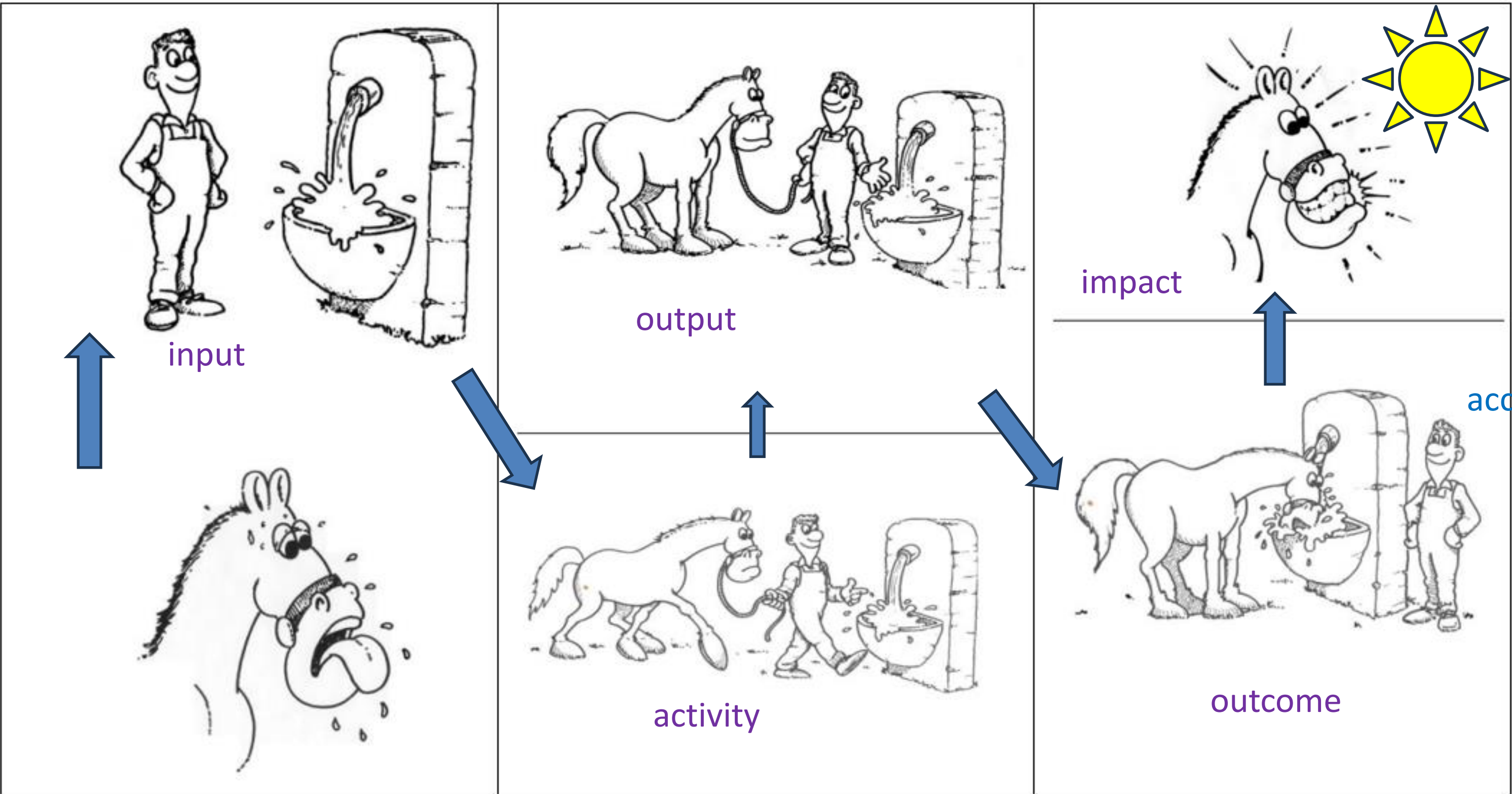
Or:just focus on impact through all project stages....



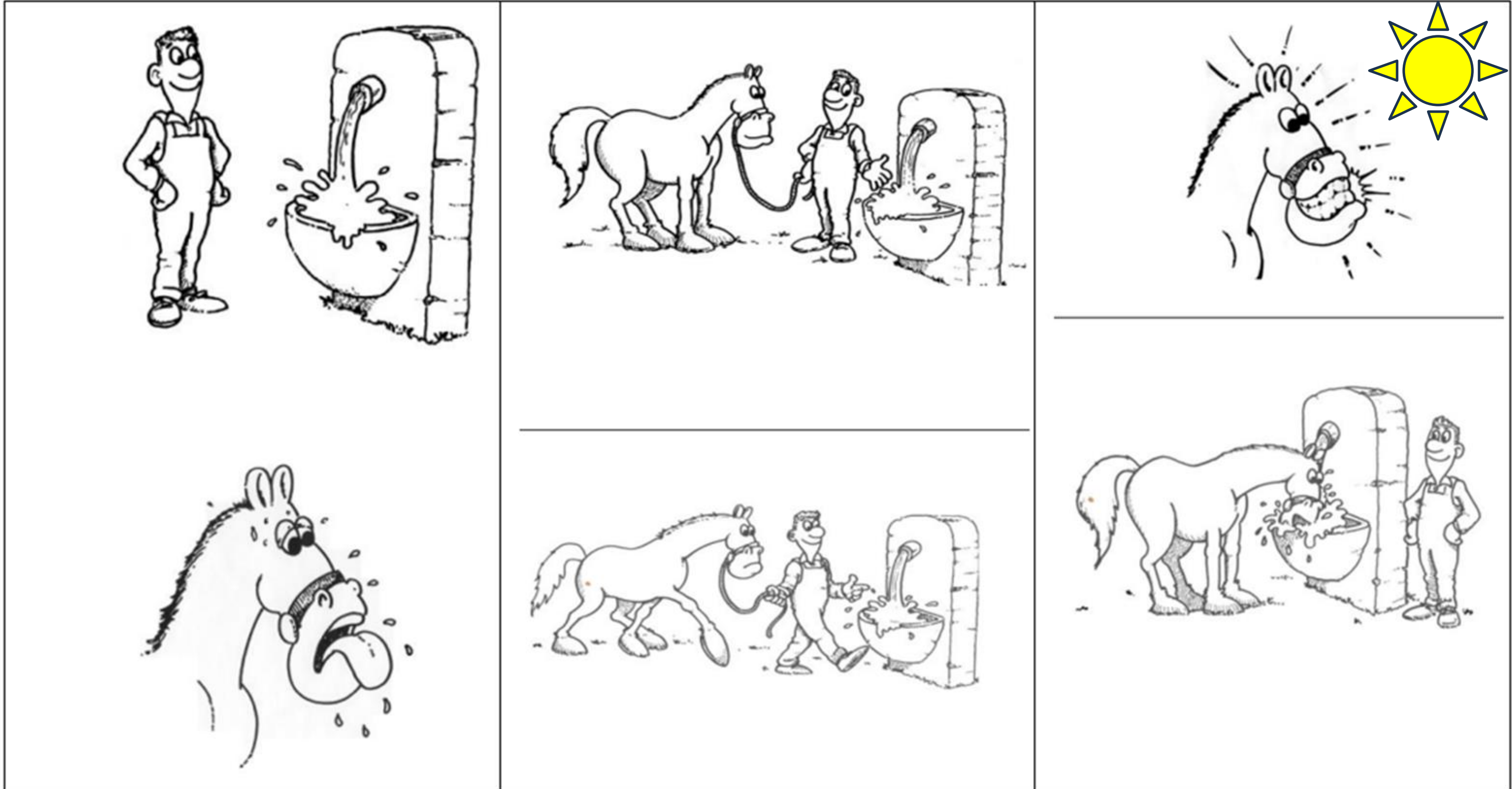
The Dutch NA promotes the use of an impact tool:



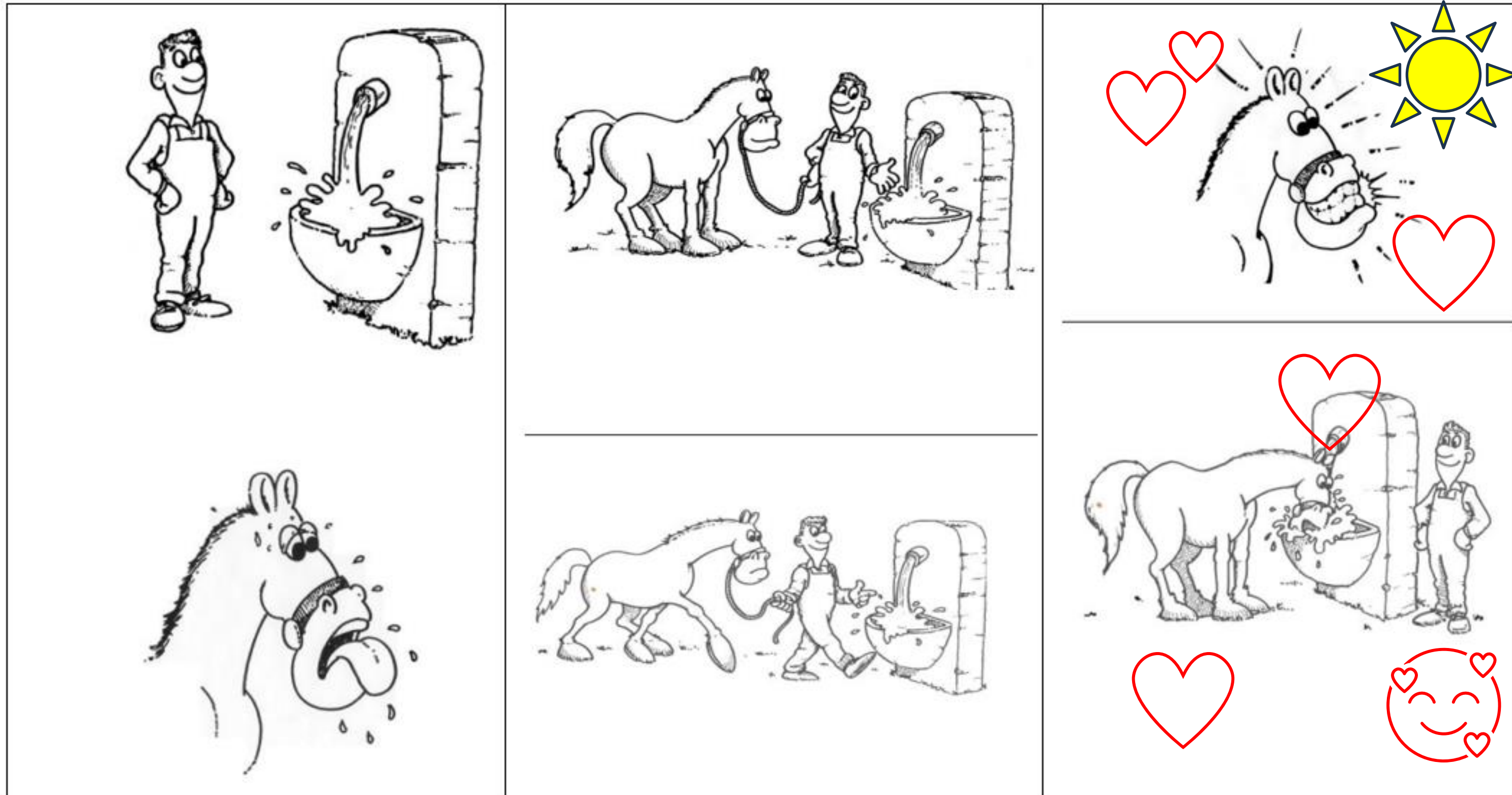
Erasmus+ impact: you can take a horse to the water but you cannot make him/her drink...



But what is missing here?



Quality of the relationship (= the connection) is the key to impact (o.a. Rathenau institute)





- You can take a horse to the water, but **love** will make him/her drink ('about them not without them')
- Tool-development (f.e. a watersource) helps to provide **output**, however is not enough to provide **impact**
- **Quality of the connection** (and not just the relationship) is key to both impact and innovation



**But what happens if
we say 'impact'?**

**We usually discuss
'output'**

Focus on 'output'

For example in Dutch VET:

- New teaching methods
- Curricula
- Training
- Pedagogical concepts
- Languages courses



While impact may occur unintended during exchange

- Bridging differences
- Bringing stakeholders together
- Working together creating innovation...



Aim of impact LTA 1


- Understanding of the nature and development of outcome and impact level results in the context of E+
- Extended use of national research results E+ community (website)
- Relevant impact support tools



Aim of impact LTA 2

- E+ stakeholders understand roles and responsibilities on the development of E+ results and jointly work towards better impact
- E+ stakeholders know better to steer on program results through planning and monitoring
- Impact approaches internalized in participating NA's






**The aim of the TCA
impact is to help NA's
and beneficiaries in
their focus on 'impact
over output' by
offering tailored tools**

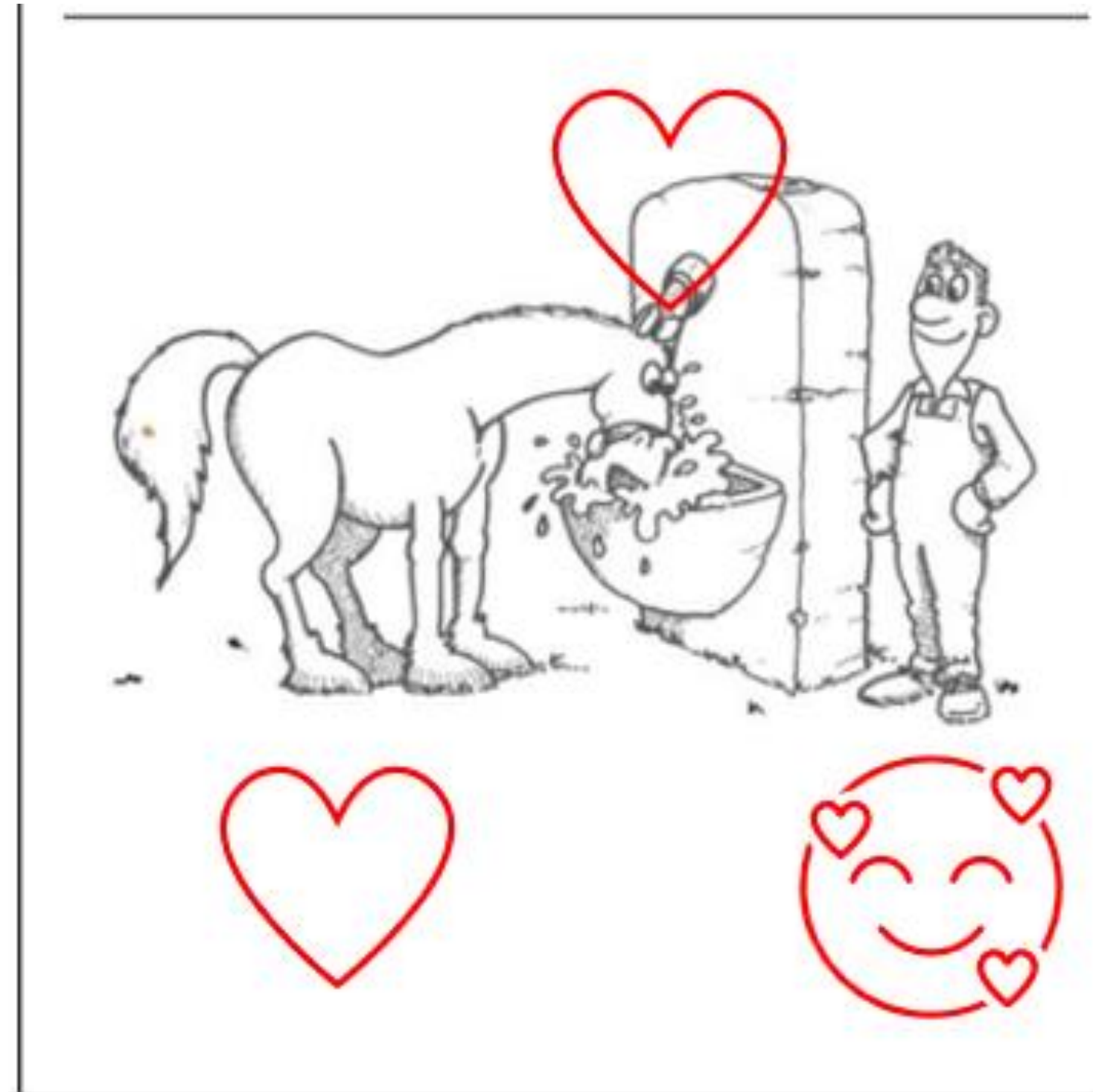



Outputs of the TCA

3 transnational policy-studies

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1. Context specific need for impact support mechanisms in participating countries (ready)
 2. Development of a guide for impact support in E+ with tailored tools (almost ready)
 3. Development of a communication and dissemination guide for impact results (...2025)

Tools will help, ... it offers a framework and a structure...
...the CONNECTION however brings impact and innovation





**How can we use our
research results for
better
NA effectiveness
and E+ programme
impact?**



We have beautiful impact results, such as 97% HE students (N=566)

experience five years later still impact on their personal lives, and

less on their professional lives (ResearchNed 2024)

However, to enable ourselves to learn, we also need to look at not

that nice results from smaller research on impact per sector

Results from our AE impact study (2023) showed f.e.:

- Usual suspects (multi-annual) regarding small beneficiary-organizations, few large (libraries, etc.)
- 27% intends to apply for adult learners, 30% does not
- 33% has no contact with adult learners

Results from our PE/SE impact study (2021) showed f.e.:

- Peer-to-peer learning needs E+ NA support
- Newby's in E+ need support to reach their colleagues
- Impact usually limited to school itself, not outside

Results from our VET impact study (2024) showed f.e.:

- Overrepresentation of students in arts, childcare, tourism and hospitality
- Underrepresentation of students in technics, welfare-care and (lower)management/administration
- Innovation-centers are not reached by E+
- 43% VET max 3 colleagues in KA2 projects-> footloose

Results from our digitalisation study (2021) showed for HE:

- Human factor not Nr.1 in digitalization projects, therefore a lot of senseless tool-development not serving anyone
- Absence of stakeholders from the start may lead to creating one's own resistance to change, for (evidence-based) most tools are not easy accepted



Meaning:

Research shows a lot of opportunities to improve impact and effectiveness

but IN PRACTICE

we need to adjust to NA colleagues and beneficiaries

NL TCA impact offers tools for practice to:

- Improve NA strategy and effectiveness
- Help beneficiaries to improve impact

**Helps to make research results
to work in and for practice**





**Besides, we may also recognize chances for impact in
ENABELING FACTORS from New Public Governance:**

- 1. Public purposes-relevance should be Nr 1**
- 2. Team-mission, team-spirit, inspiration, worksatisfaction**
- 3. Tools based on co-creation and participative methodology (about them not without them, step by step, no tools without sense)**
- 4. Equality between partners, always, also in case of inequity**
- 5. Beneficiaries are 'engaged' intrinsic motivated and committed to E+**
- 6. Quality in connection and collaboration in networks**
- 7. Alignment between policy-principles and tools for effectiveness**



Join us?

Please keep in mind: we organize a conference on response rates in E+ research in September 2025 in NL, on:

- Improving response rates (dealing with interview fatigue)
- Finding alternative strategies for evidence-based research on E+

Questions? wvanderwerf@erasmusplus.nl

