

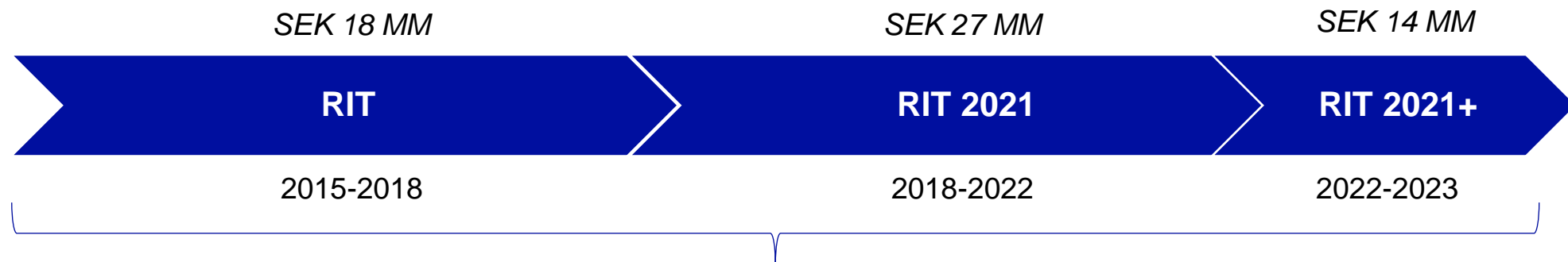
# Evaluation of the *RIT* process *2015-2023*

Space Innovation Forum, 2023-09-19

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# The evaluation and evaluand

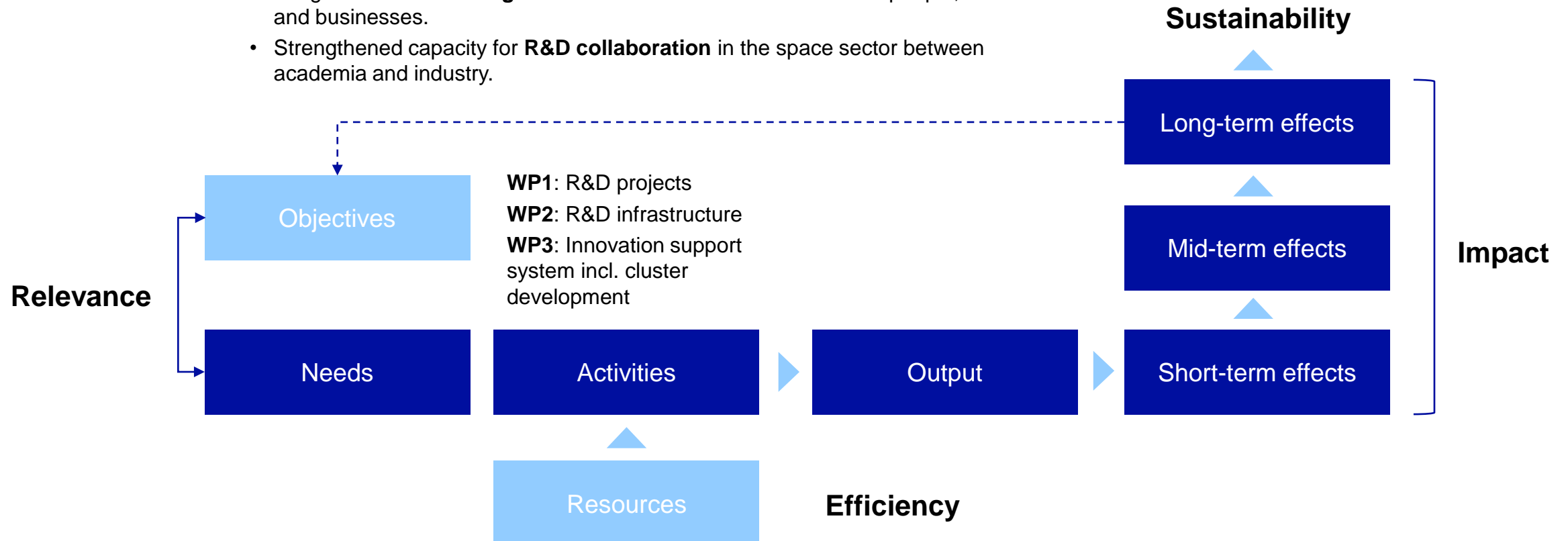
- Oxford Research has during 2015-2023 been assigned by Luleå University of Technology to conduct an **on-going evaluation** the RIT process
- The evaluation results are based on **40+ in-depth interviews**, document studies, participant observation and continuous dialogue with the project group
- The evaluand:



**The RIT process 2015-2023**

# The evaluation framework

- Northern Sweden has been strengthened as Sweden's leading space region and offers a productive and attractive **innovation environment**.
- Long-term **sustainable growth** in northern Sweden that attracts people, investments and businesses.
- Strengthened capacity for **R&D collaboration** in the space sector between academia and industry.



# Conclusions

# Conclusions

## Relevance

The RIT process has been **strategically and operationally relevant** but has been too narrow in scope to address all needs and challenges facing space companies in northern Sweden

## Efficiency

The RIT process has been **implemented efficiently** but its implementation has been hampered by the short-term nature of the 3-year ERDF project funding

## Impact

The RIT process has, with a few exceptions, had considerable and desirable impact on especially **R&D collaboration** and on the **functionality of the space innovation support system** in northern Sweden

## Sustainability

**Continued funding is needed** to sustain the functionality and resources of the innovation support system for space in northern Sweden  
**National mobilisation** is called for by regional space actors



# Relevance

# How relevant has the RIT process been?

- The **strategic relevance** of space has increased regionally, nationally and internationally during the RIT process
- The RIT process has been **relevant to the project partners** – which has favoured the process' implementation
- **Space companies** in the region find the RIT process relevant – but also face structural problems beyond the scope of the RIT process



# Efficiency



# How efficient has the RIT process been?

- The **project model** applied in the RIT process has proved efficient in developing innovation support systems
- The efficiency of the RIT process has benefited from the **involvement of key actors** and individuals in the region and nationally
- There has been **clear progress** between the projects in the RIT process – but the process' implementation has nonetheless been hampered by the **short-term nature of ERDF** funding



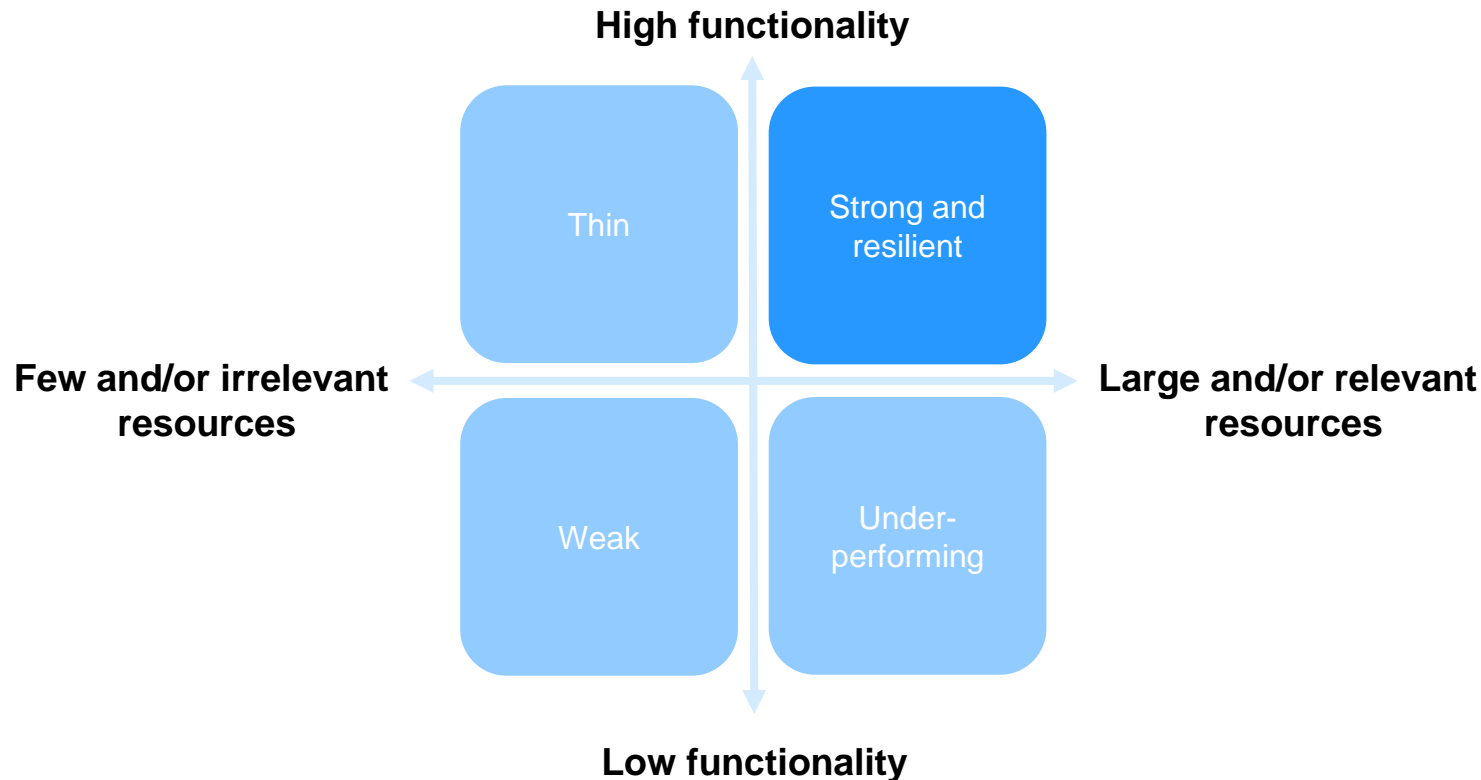
# Impact

# What impact has the RIT process had?

- The RIT process' main impact has been its contribution to strengthening the **capacity within R&D collaboration** between regional space companies and academia
- The RIT process has – so far - had a **limited measurable impact on the business activity** and growth of the regional space industry
- The RIT process has effectively developed the **innovation support system** for space in northern Sweden

# What impact has the RIT process had?

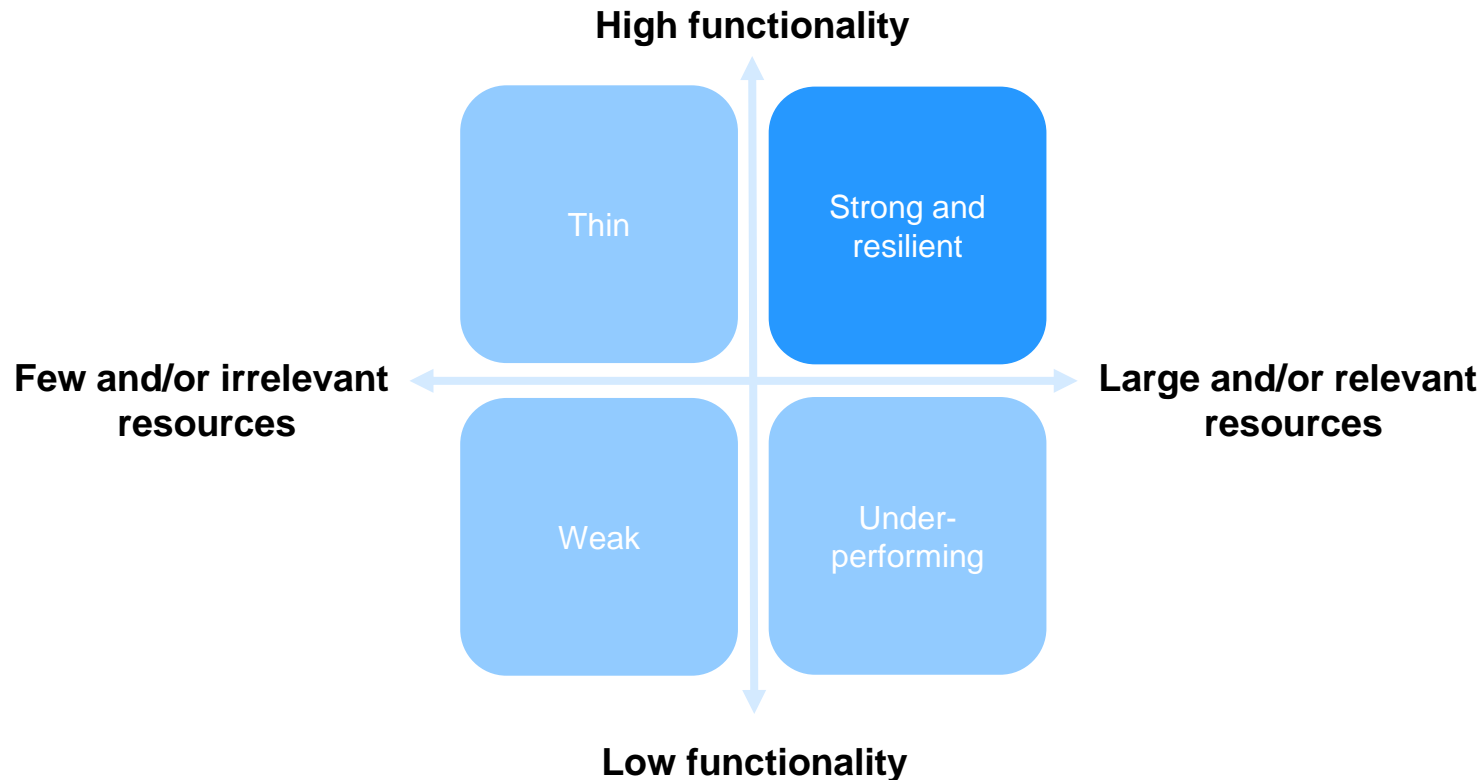
- The RIT process has **strengthened the *resources*** of the regional innovation support system for space



- New **actors** established: CRT, ACS
- Increased strategic and operational **competencies** among actors
- New **methods and tools** developed and applied, e.g., the R&D collaboration process (WP1), Testbed Space (WP2), and many more...

# What impact has the RIT process had?

- The RIT process has especially **improved the *functionality*** of the regional innovation support system for space



- Increased system **awareness** among regional space actors
- Strengthened consensus on the strategic agenda for **collaboration** and operational **co-operation** within and beyond the WPs
- **Effective matching** of relevant support measures throughout the entire innovation process

# Sustainability

# What is the sustainability of the RIT process?

- Continued funding of a **coordinating function is needed** to sustain and further develop the functionality of the space innovation support system in northern Sweden
  - Key human and structural capital from the RIT process should be transferred to the function
  - The function should be designed on regional strengths and strategies
  - Additional funding is needed to sustain and develop relevant resources within the system
- Regional actors call for a **national mobilisation** to support growth in the space industry in Sweden
  - The planned feasibility study is a rational first step in line with this undertaking
  - The study should thoroughly map and analyse the structural conditions at the national level in terms of government steering and national funding structures for space R&D
  - There is a strong need to anchor the national undertaking with relevant stakeholders - both vertically and horizontally

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