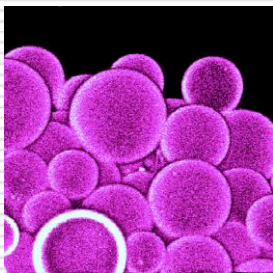
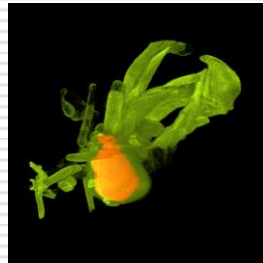




Danish National Research Foundation

www.dg.dk



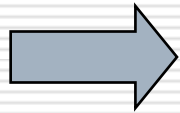
Evaluation Practices

Presentation at ESF member forum
"Evaluation of Funding Schemes and
Research programmes"
Berlin, October 2007

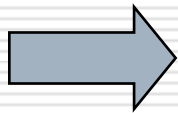


Presentation outline

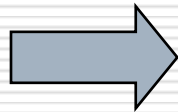
Brief intro: What is
the DNRF?



What are the DNRF evaluation
practices?



What have we learned so far?



What are the future plans for
DNRF evaluation practices?

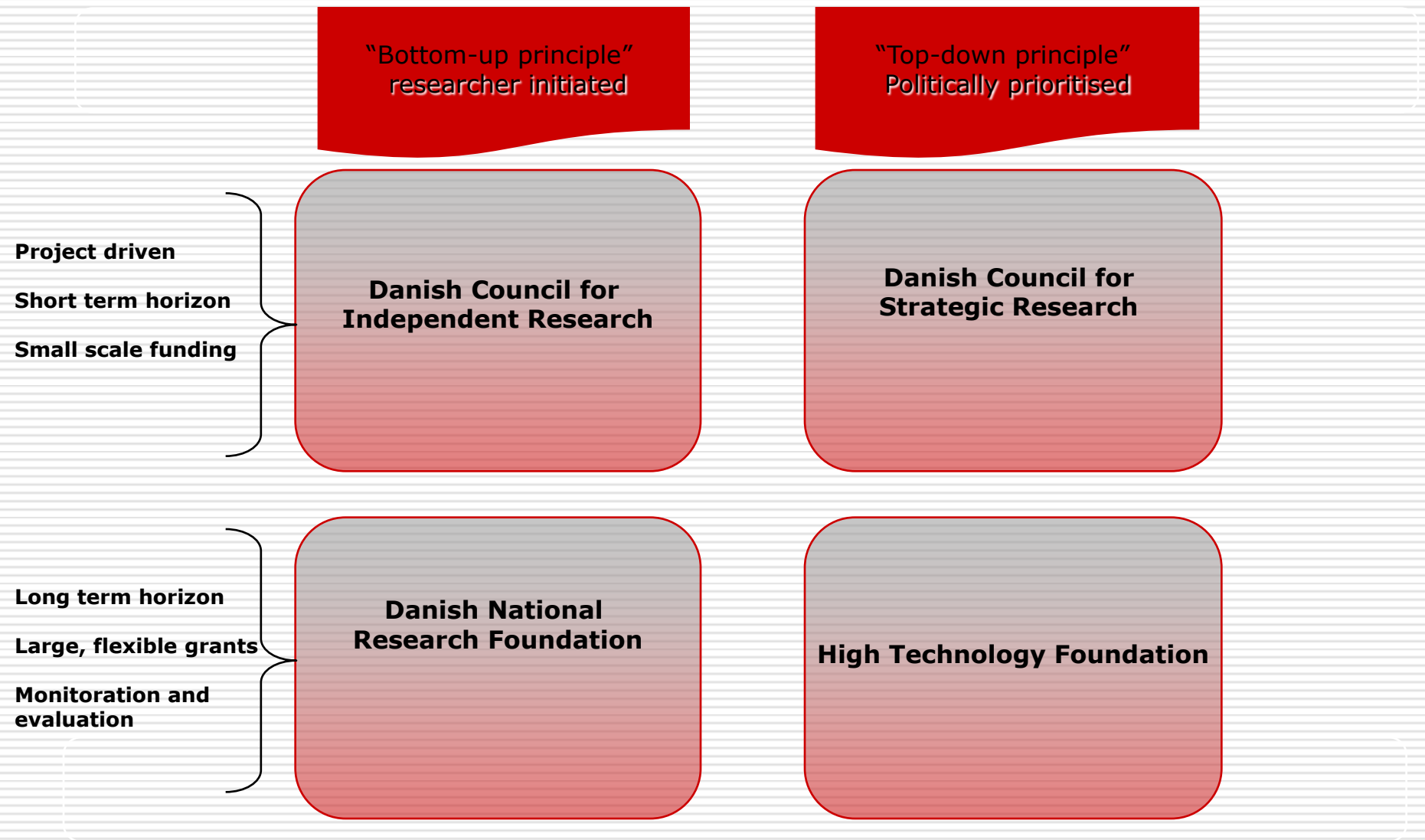


The Foundation was established in 1991 with a capital 267 million euro

Act on the Danish National Research Foundation:

“The Foundation’s aim is to strengthen the advancement of Danish science by financing internationally recognized and outstanding research”

The position of the Foundation within the Danish Advisory and Funding System for Research and Innovation





Primary instrument: Centre of Excellence program (CoE)

Criteria for becoming a
Danish National Research Foundation
Centre of Excellence

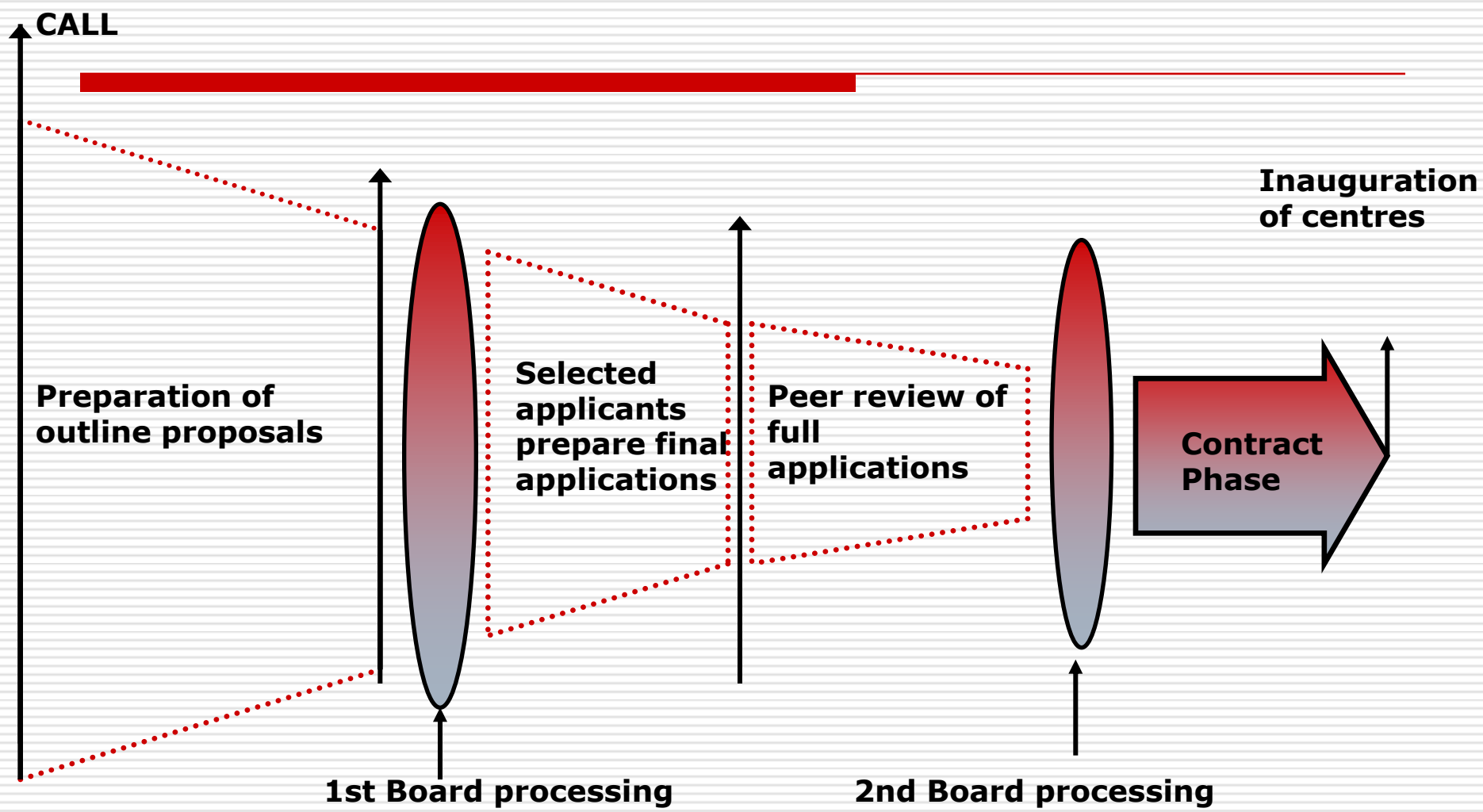
- Ambitious research plan of high scientific quality
 - Research activities should be focused endeavours
 - Clear organisational structure
 - Research at international level
 - Optimal settings for research training
 - Association with a university or other research institution with basic research activities
 - One centerleader
 - Large, flexible 5 year grants with low administration, for a maximum of 2 funding periods
-



Main grant awarding principles

- ❑ The primary criteria for granting of funds is the **quality** of the research projects applied for
 - ❑ Researchers from **all areas** can apply
 - ❑ Applications must be the result of a researcher initiated **bottom-up** process
-

The Selection proces



The Selection proces

Deadline for full applications



Peer review of full applications

For each application a panel of 3-4 international peers is identified

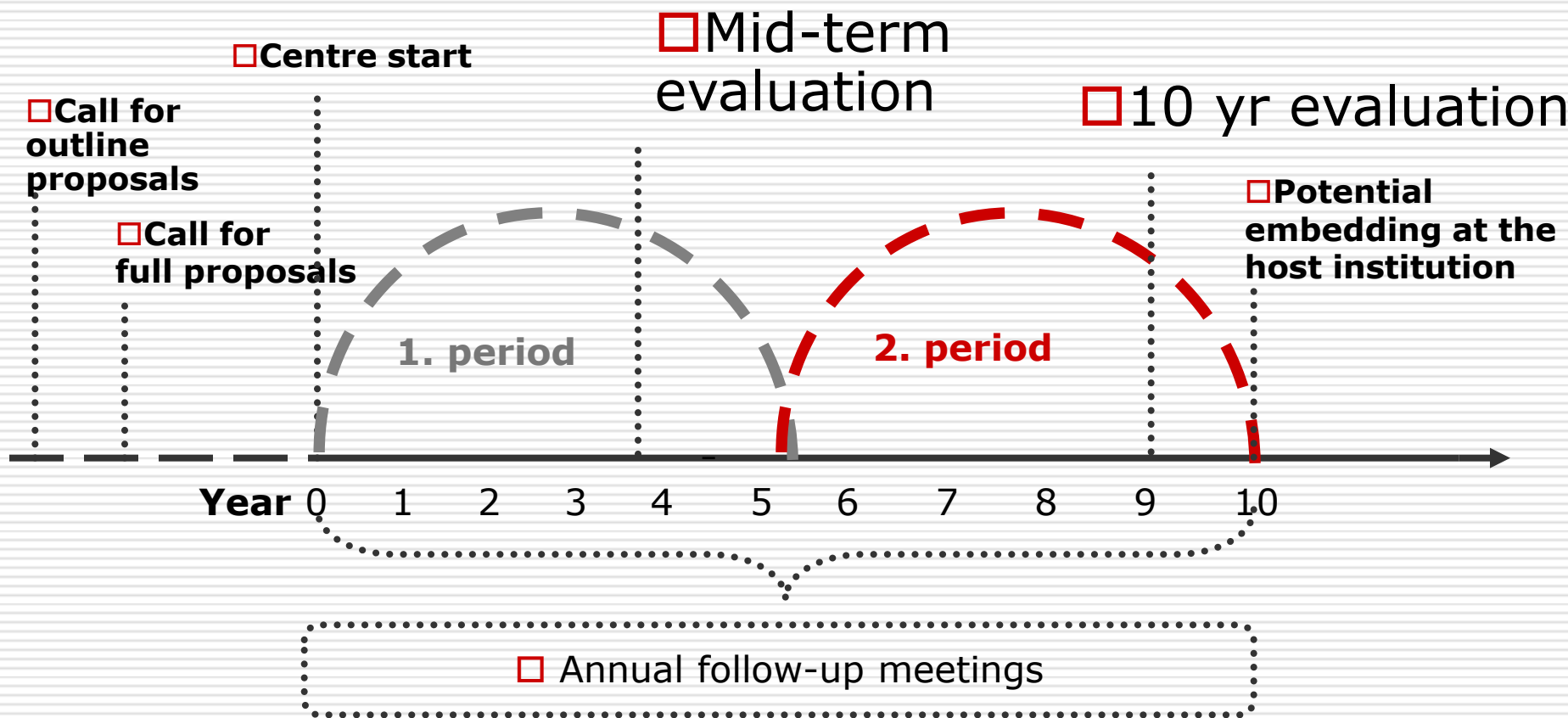
The international peers are chosen following the counselling rendered by national and international research grant-awarding organisations (Danish research councils, ESF, NIH, NSF)

The applicant is heard on the composition of the panel

Each member of the panel produces a written peer review of the application. Thus, 3-4 written peer reviews are collected for each application.

The applicant is heard on the reviews with an option to comment on them

Centre of Excellence Life Cycle





Midway Evaluation

- **Panel of 3-4 international peers per centre**
- **Self-evaluation report**
- **New 5 year research plan**
- **Sitevisit**
- **Individual Terms of Reference for each centre panel**

Writing of evaluation report at the Foundation



Monitoring

- Follow-up meetings annually with board members, director and research consultant from DNRF and entire centre staff

 - Annual reporting from centres
-



10 year evaluations

- Written peer reviews
 - Collected reports and data from 10 annual reports, and bibliometric analyses
 - Interview with centre leaders
-



DNRF Evaluative processes

- ❑ **To *select* each CoE**
- ❑ **To *monitor* output from each CoE**
- ❑ **To *decide to continue or terminate* CoE**
- ❑ **To *assess* output of a CoE after maximum funding period**

**Evaluation processes
on individual centre level**

- ❑ **Improvement of the Centre of Excellence program**
- ❑ **Improvement of the DNRF instruments to achieve its aim**

Evaluation processes are an instrument to organisational development



Use of Evaluation knowledge

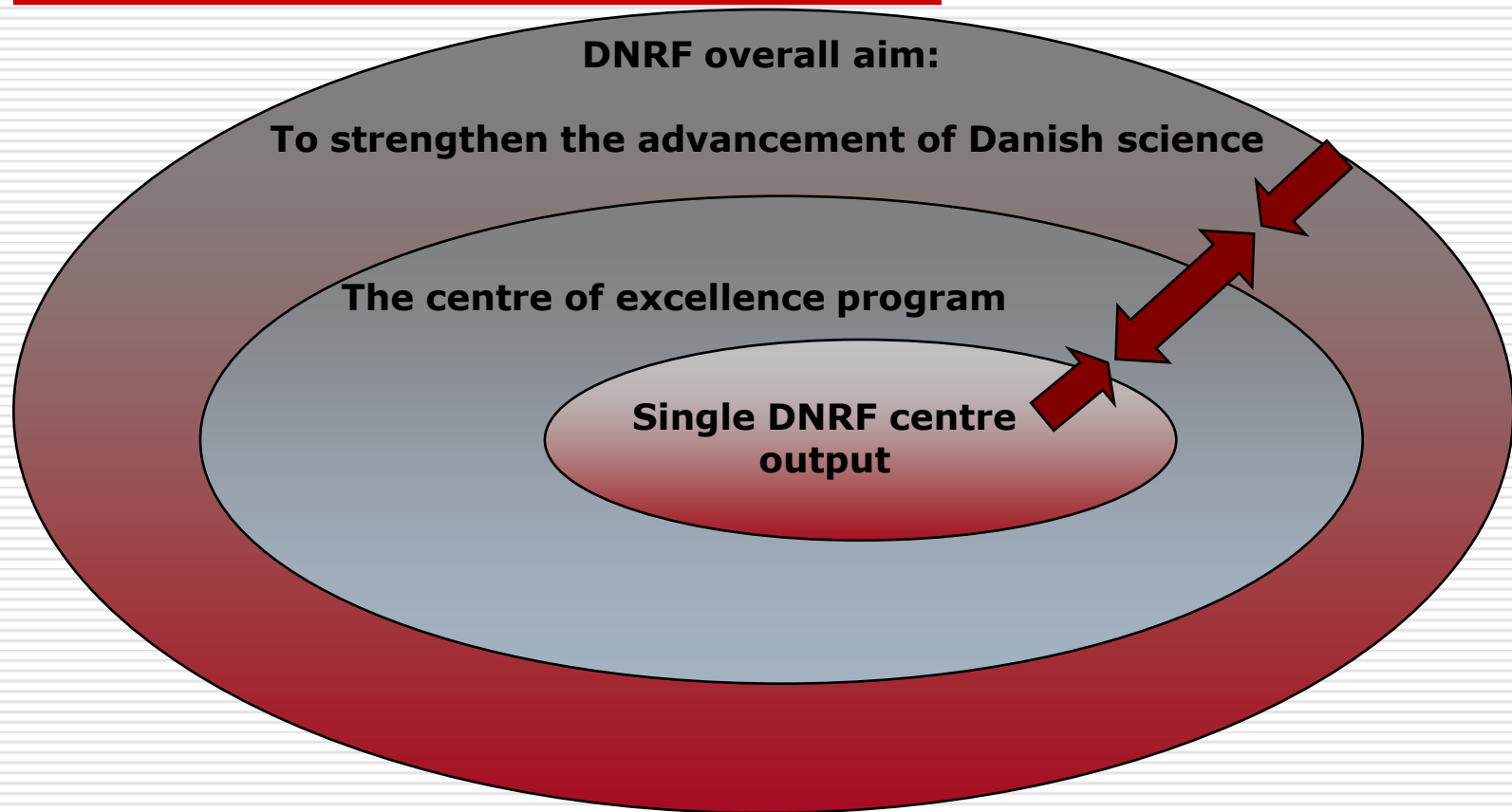
- How can we generalise from evaluation processes on individual centre level to the overall DNRF Centre of Excellence program?

Data on individual
centre output

Development of best
practice for CoE
program



Use of evaluation knowledge





Measurement of effect of a CoE grant

OUTPUT:

Quantitative data

Qualitative data



Ten year evaluation 2006/2007

- Quantitative output on quality indicators

 - Qualitative focus on organisational frame
-



Lessons learned from 10 year evaluation

Evaluation

- new knowledge on relation between organisational frame and scientific output?

Best performing centres differ - but some points of similarity:

- equal ratio between senior and junior researchers to secure generational shift**
 - high level of ph.d. students**
 - clear management structure**
 - international cooperation**
-



Future expectations for evaluations

A: Evaluation practices on individual centre level:

Quantitative data collected systematically for each CoE annually

Qualitative assessment by international peers and annual qualitative self-reporting

B: Further studies to evaluate CoE program:

Structured qualitative study of centre leaders experiences with the organisational frame of a DNRF Centre of Excellence...



Research quality, relevance, originality, and focus

Progress, breakthroughs,
Research plan coherence
International standing

New research plan

Originality
Ambition
Novel ideas

Organisation, leadership, and core workers

National and international cooperation
Recruitment and guests
Research education
Publications

Social value

Public outreach
Cooperation with public and
privat enterprise
