

**THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

15TH SESSION

**21–25 May 2012
Geneva**

Contribution by

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

**Smart Specialisation and the New Industrial Policy:
Finding a Path towards the Information Society**

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Chair in Economics and Management of Innovation**

The views presented here are the contributor's and do not necessarily reflect the views and the position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

***Smart Specialisation and the
New Industrial Policy:
finding a path towards the information society***

Dominique Foray

UN Commission on Science and Technology for
Development
15th Session

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XIX

21 – 25 May 2012

The age of a new industrial policy

- Beyond policy conformism - exports and foreign investment – the two fetishes of the Washington Consensus...
-countries need to stimulate and promote the formation of capabilities through policies which are targeting ***new (knowledge-based) activities***

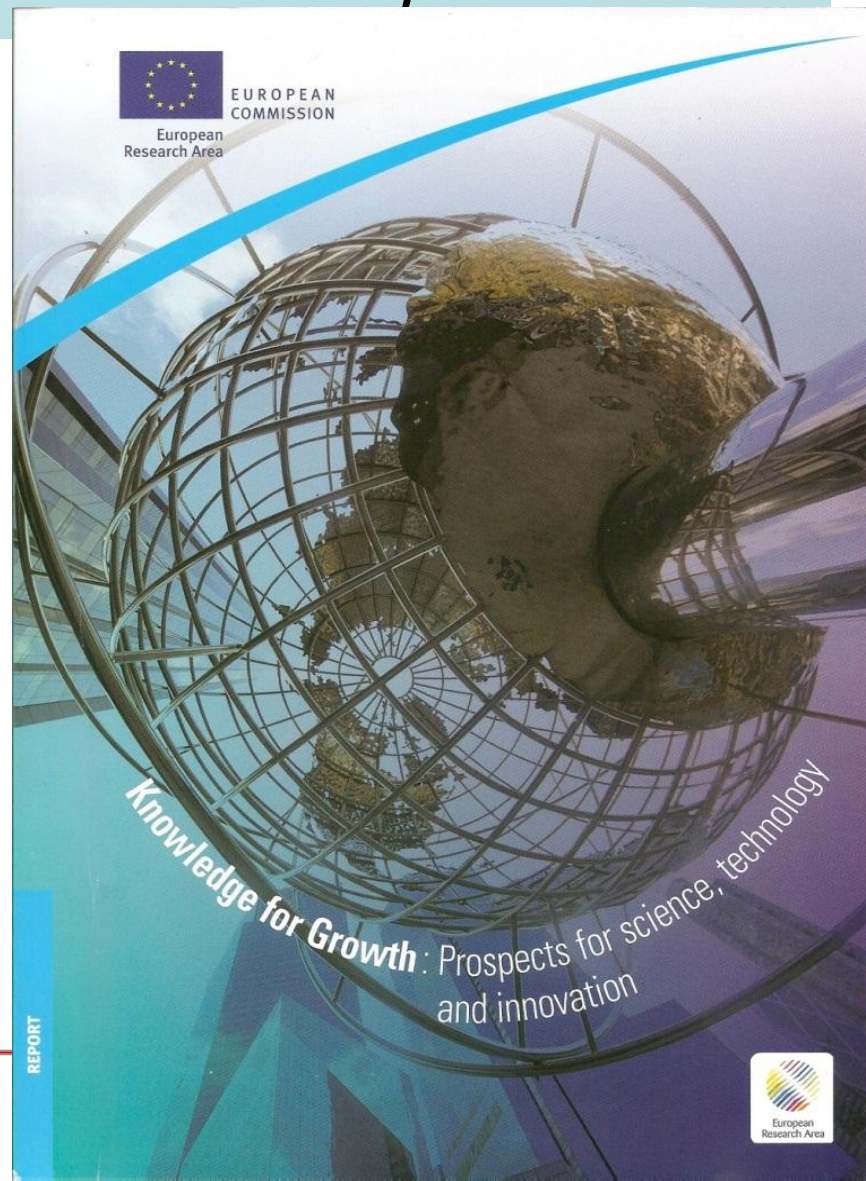


D.Foray, P.A. David and B.Hall : *Smart Specialisation: the Concept*

**Smart specialisation:
a policy concept
having a political
salience**

**Smart specialisation
emphasizes strategic
and specialized
diversification**

**It will help countries
to find a sustainable
and feasible path
towards information
society**



The big question

- For what domain, what activity, a country would benefit from and should specialize in R&D and innovation?
 - Countries cannot do everything in STI so they need to focus on certain domains
 - They need to focus **by developing** distinctive and original areas of specialisation (not by imitating each other)
- These domains where innovative projects will complement the country's other productive assets

- Not only for the best: innovation is multi-dimensional; not only one game in town
 - Basic inventions and development of applications
 - Information society
- At minimum smart specialisation strategies transform less advanced regions into good followers

- All the policy challenges....
 - Supporting the discovery process
 - Detecting discoveries and making sound evaluation of potentials
 - Defining a process which will empower those actors most capable of realising the potential
- ... require ***unusual observation and analysis capabilities*** by policy makers

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Agro-
foods

Tourism

2012?

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New
business
High tech
surprise!

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Horizontal policies & neutral instruments

R&D tax credit, small business innovation plan, universities, ICT infrastructure....

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Discovering opportunities
Entrepreneurial discovery vs 'simple' innovation

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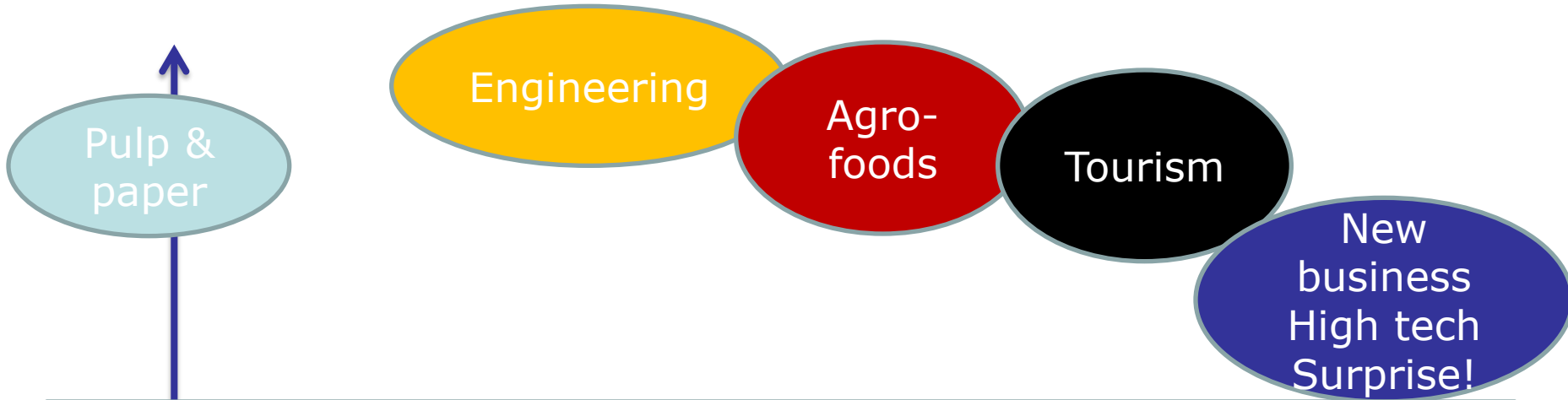
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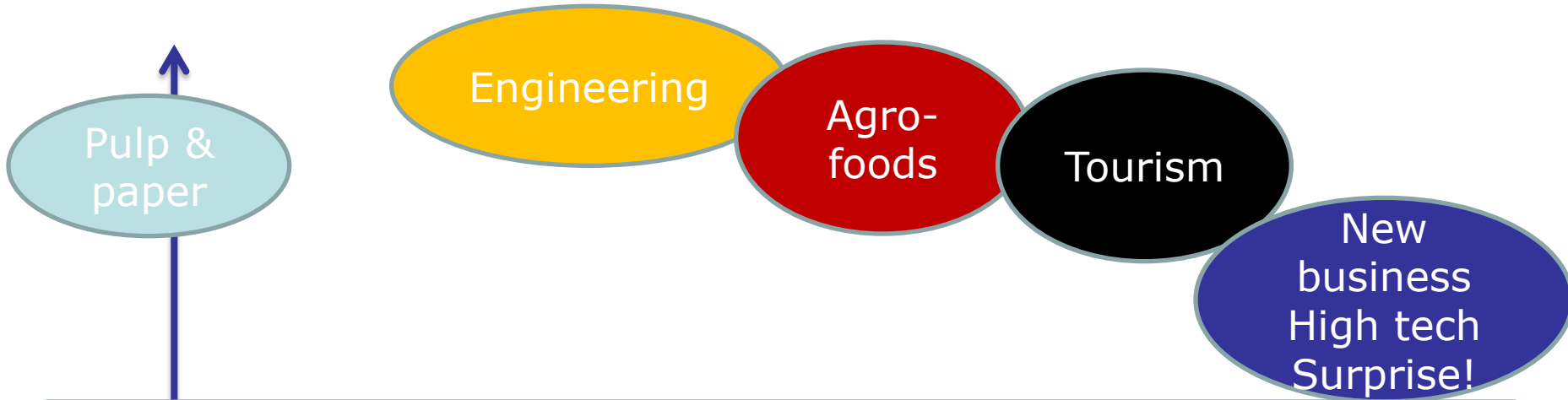


Making a sound evaluation of potentials
Technological and market opportunities
Supply conditions (local and extra-regional)
Finance requirement
International benchmark
Future value of the structural change

ICT.

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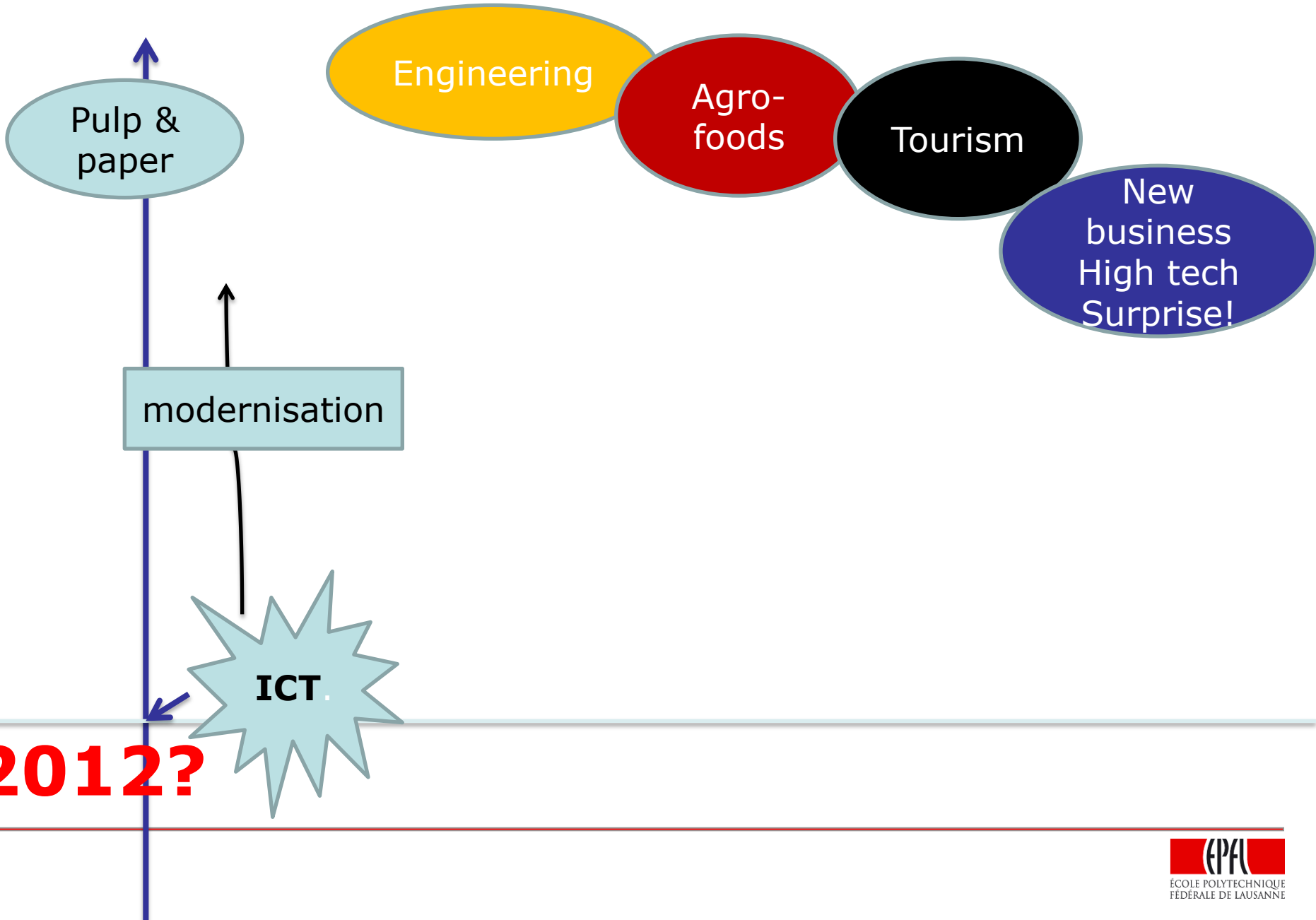
- SSS comes at a certain point in the development cycle where degrees of local commitment and development have already occurred
 - A policy that reinforces a growth process is to be preferred to the lottery of very early stage



Empowering those actors most capable of realizing potentials
Supply conditions (human capital)
Coordination (service providers)
Connection to extra-regional resources
Entry and agglomeration

ICT.

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2015?

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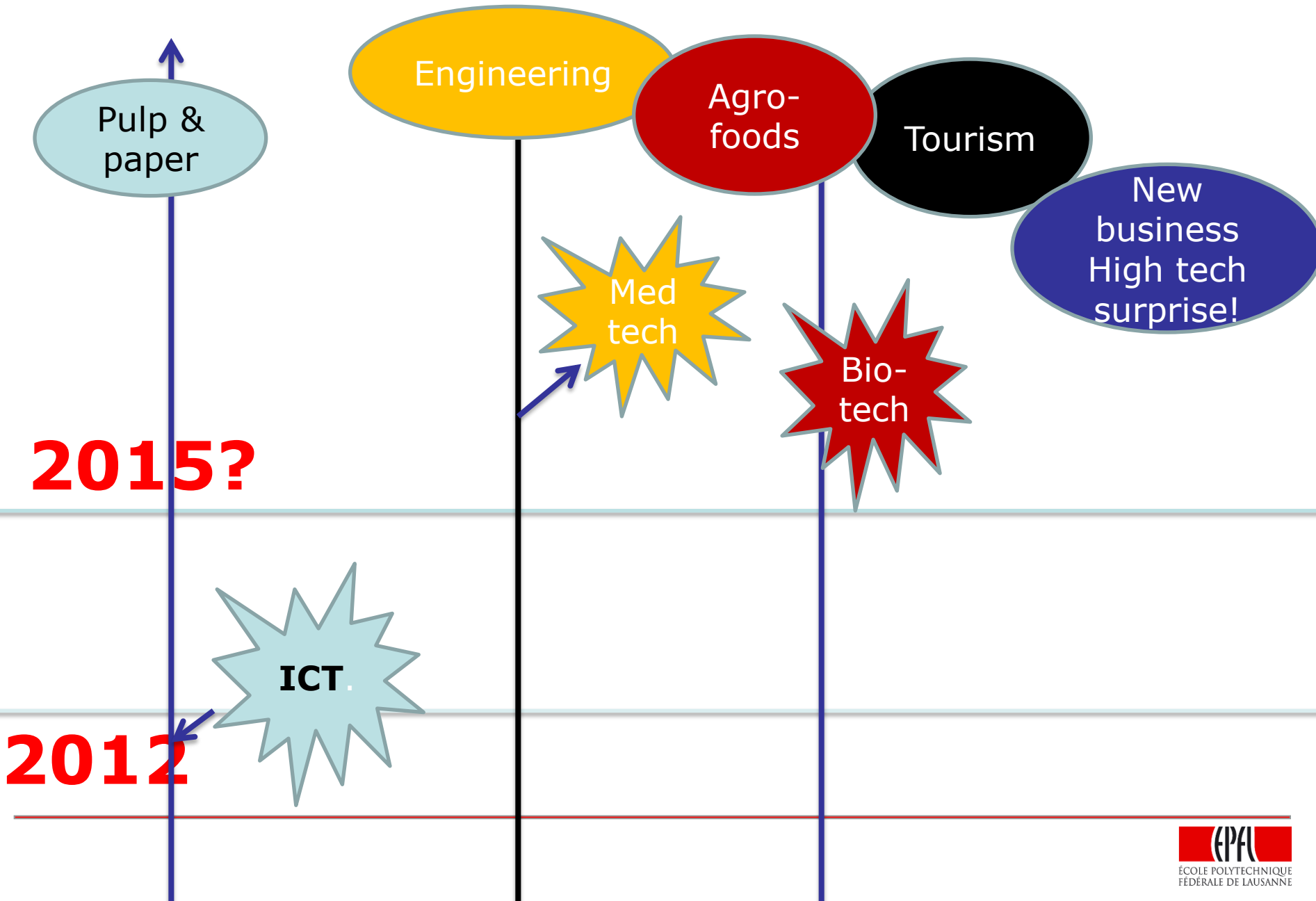
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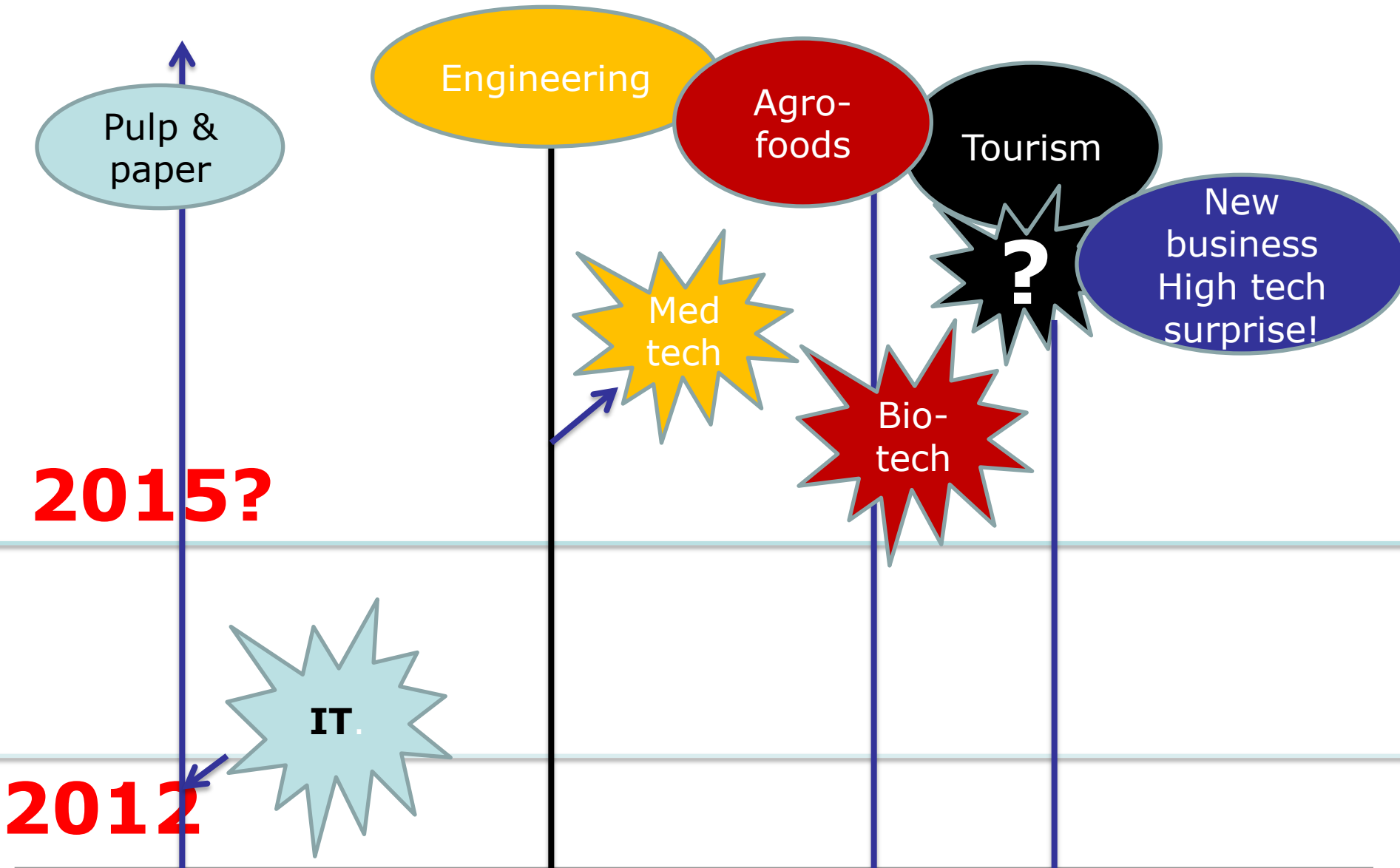
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2015?

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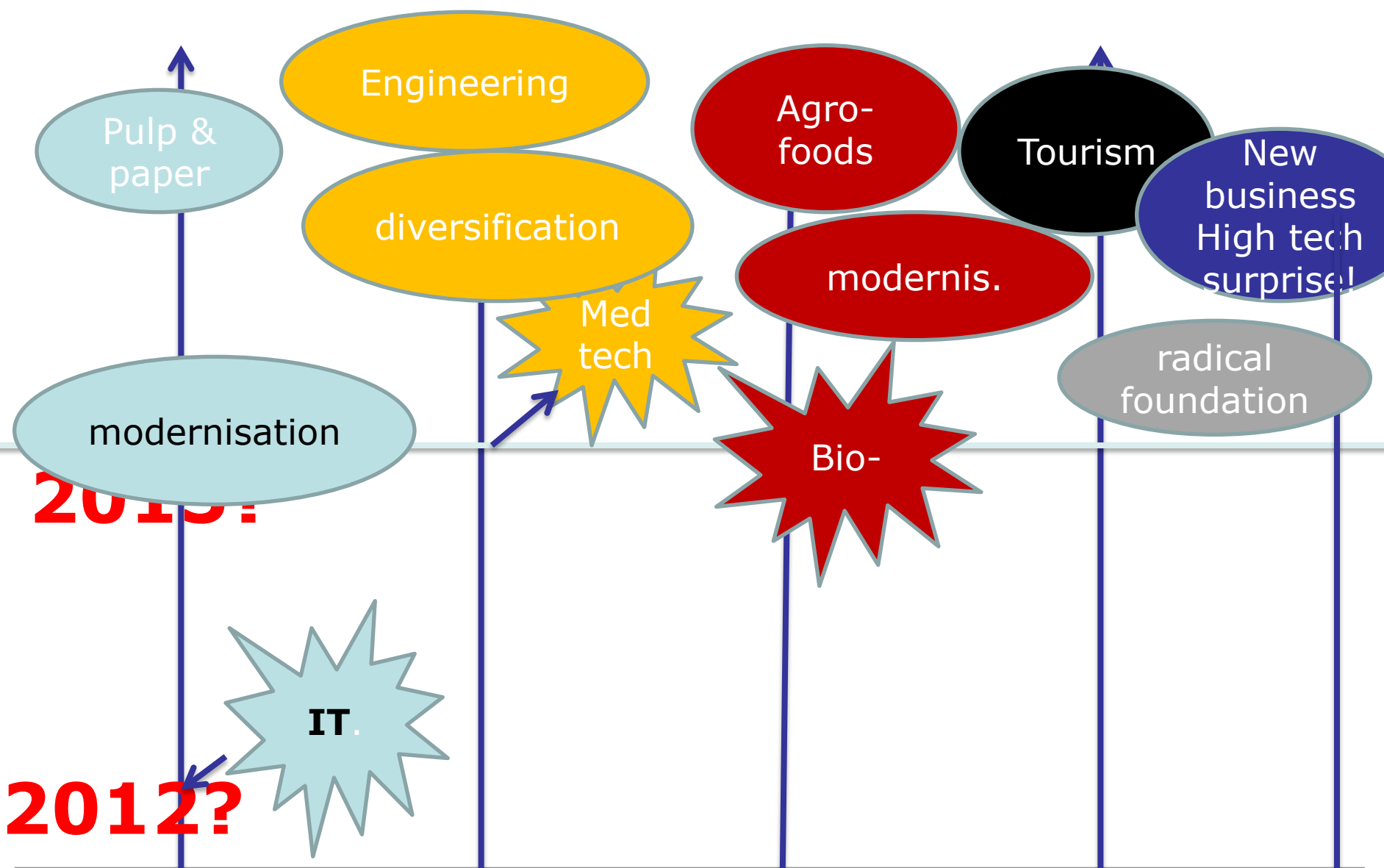
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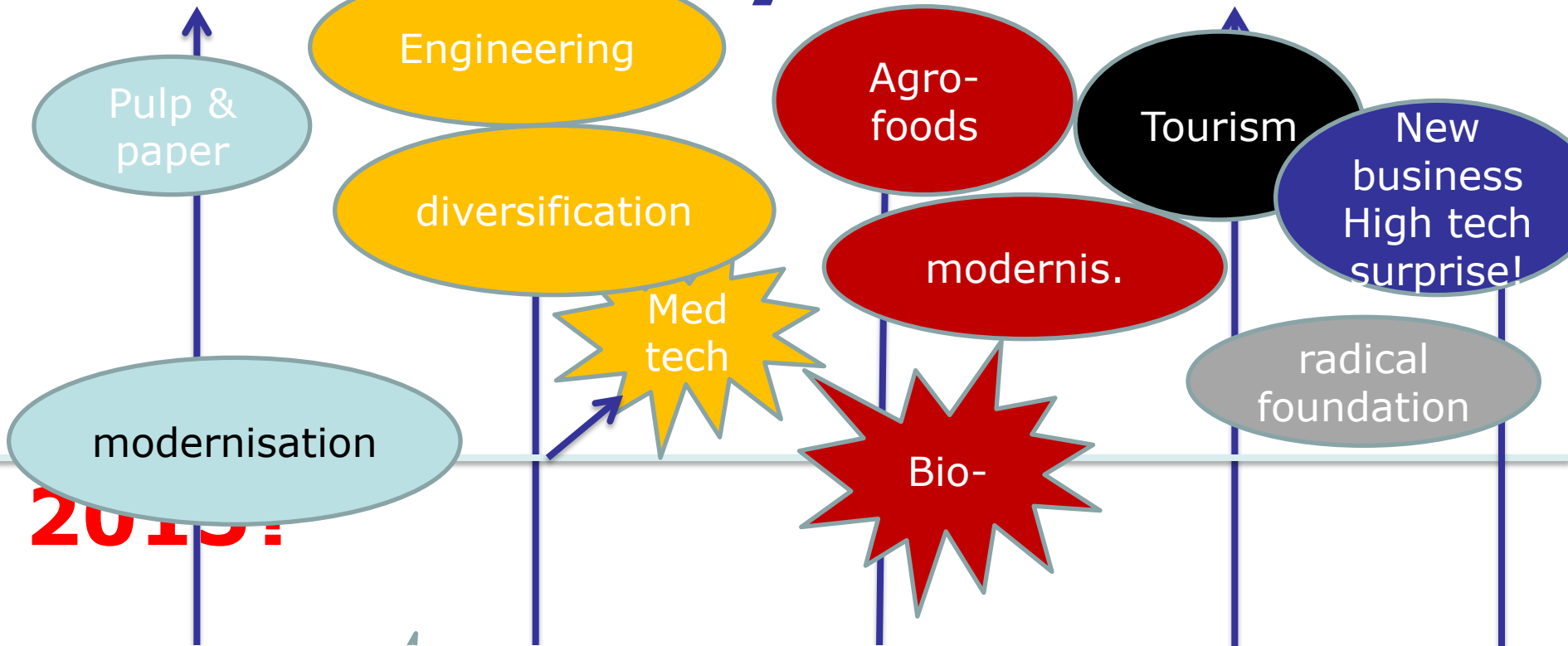
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IT.



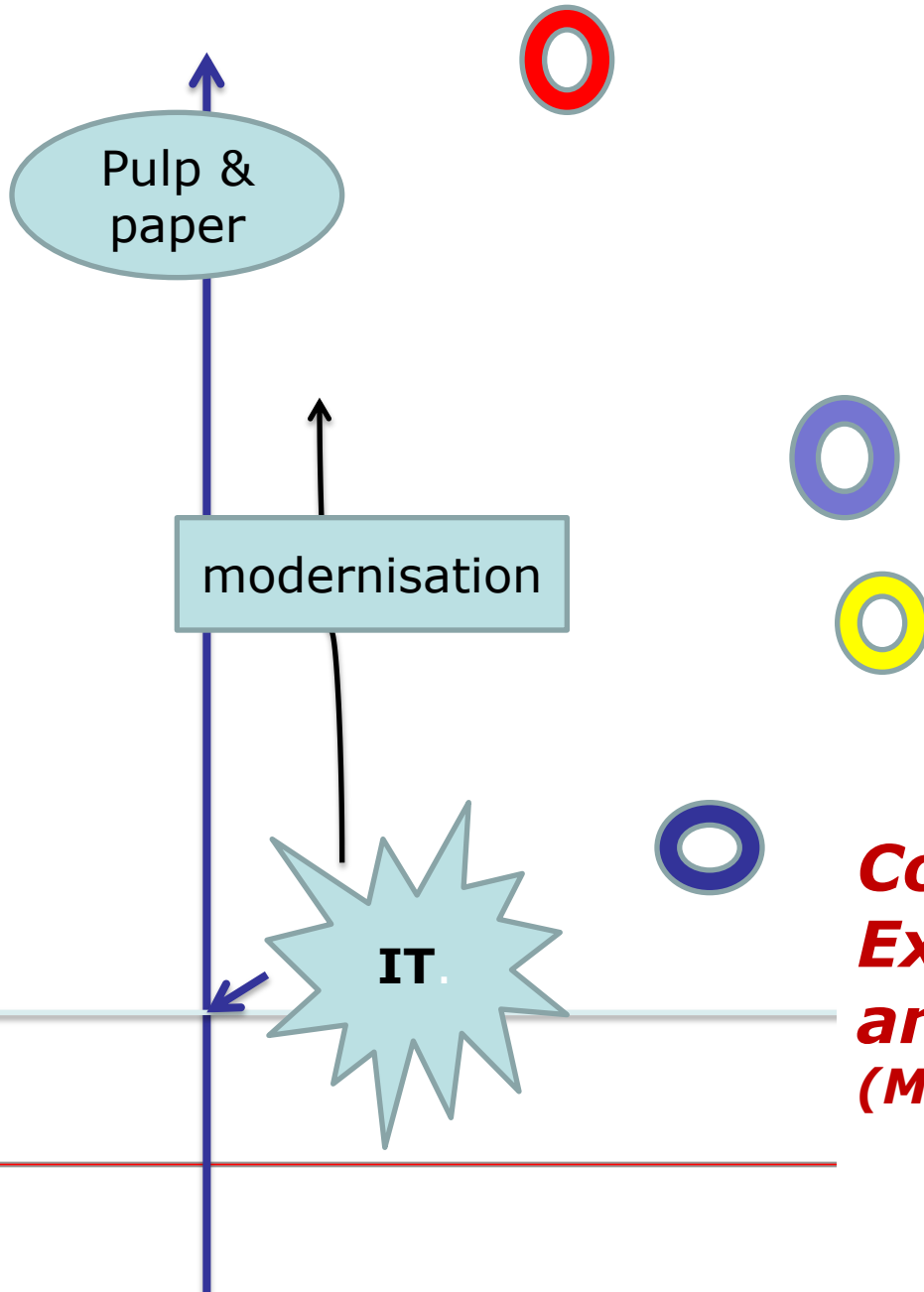
- SSS is neither about *innovations everywhere* nor the lottery of very early stage
 - It is about discovering opportunities, evaluating potentials and supporting subsequent growth processes ***to find a distinctive and realistic path towards information society***
 - Not promoting sectors but «new activities»
-

Policy

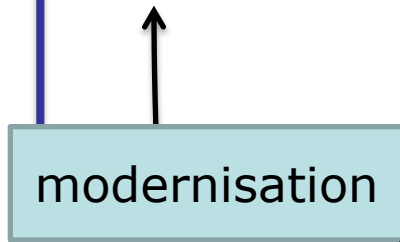
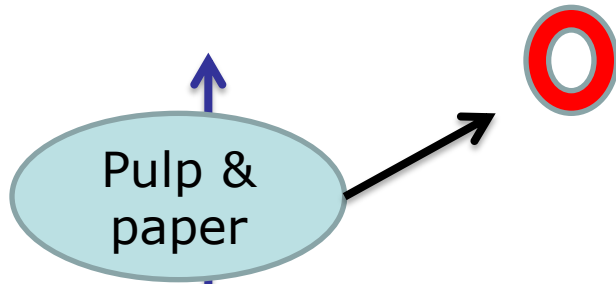


2015!

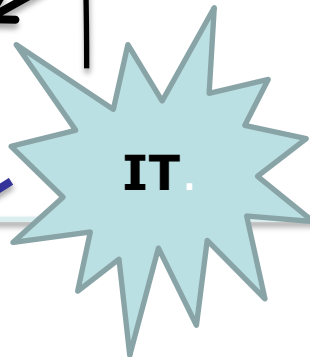
What are the structural conditions and policies which will increase the likelihood of such event?



***Countries are open
Extra-regional resources
and linkages are key
(Market, Expertise, Neighborhood)***



Beconnected!



***Regions are open
Extra-regional resources
and linkages are key
(Market, Expertise, Neighborhood)***

- Smart specialisation?
- *A policy process to find an original and **feasible** path towards information society*

지식경제학

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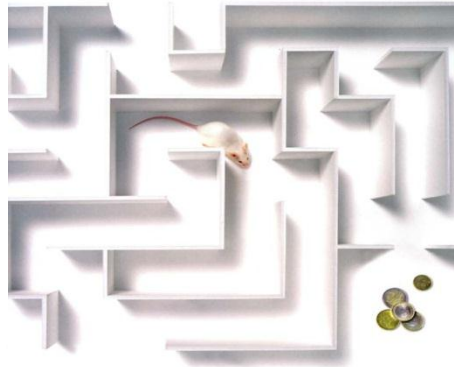
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The Economics of Knowledge

Dominique Foray



KOINONIKÉ EKATHEMÉ I SOCIAL SCIENCES
DOMINIQUE FORAY

ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΝΩΣΗΣ

Μετάφραση-Επιμέλεια-Επιλογές: ΒΕΡΓΙΟ ΑΓΑΠΙΔΕ, ΠΑΝΩΝ

Σταβρόλας

اقتصاد المعرفة



دومينيك فوراي

ترجمة:

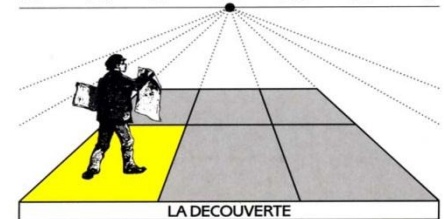
د. محمد عرب صاصيلا



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LA DECOUVERTE

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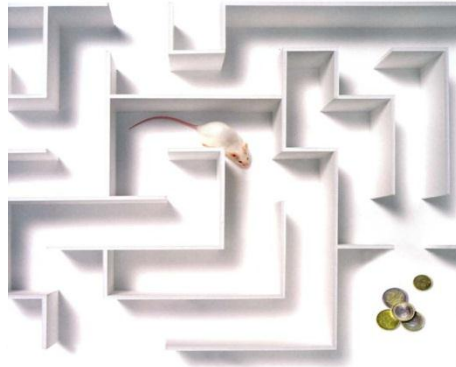
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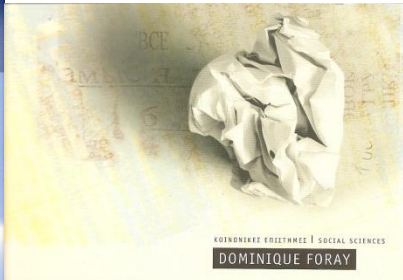
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Thanks!

The Economics of Knowledge

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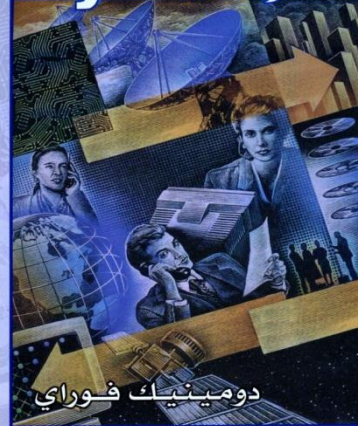


OIKONOMIA THS GNΩSHS

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