

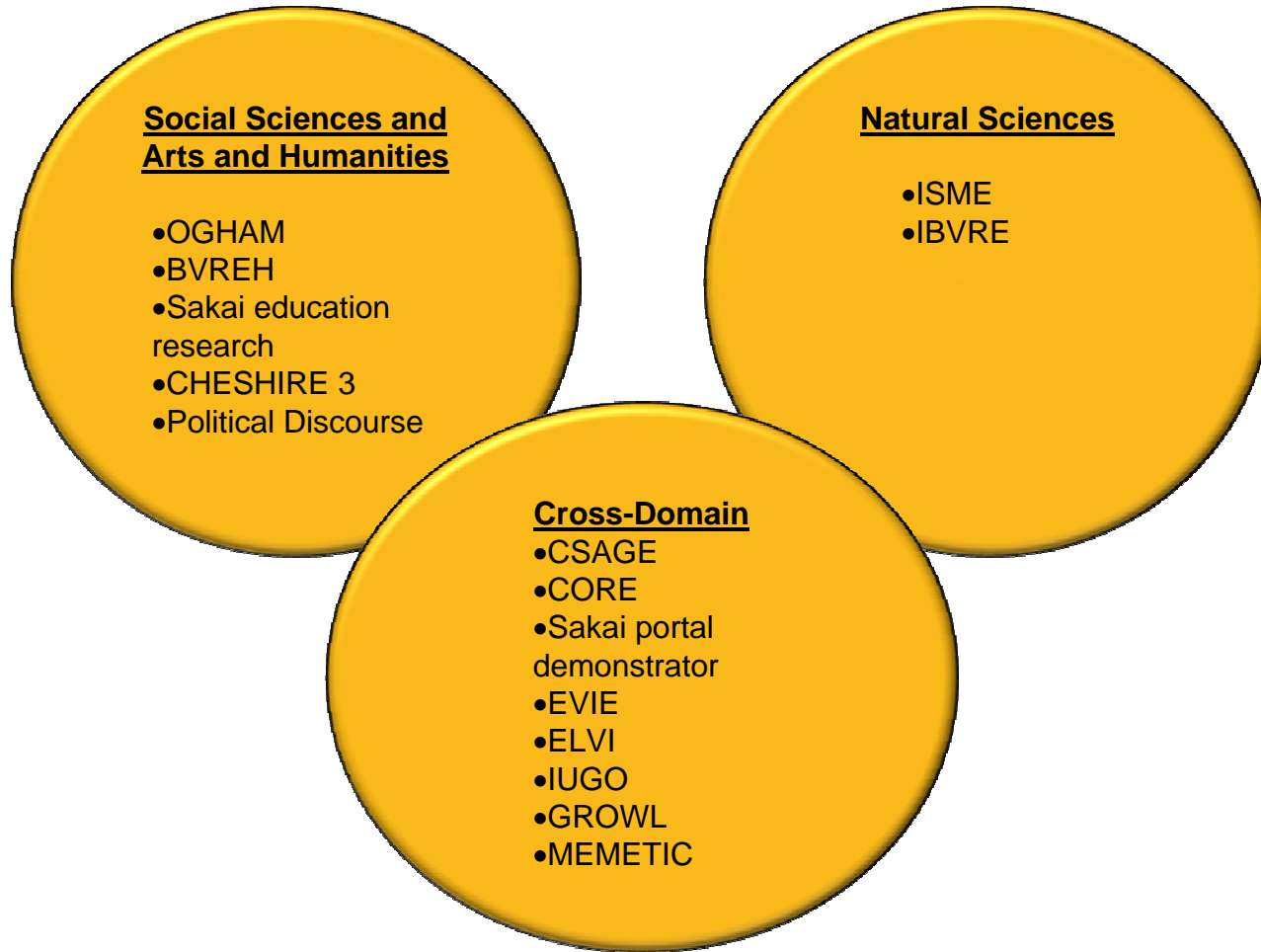
Virtual Research Environments (Phase 2)

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Virtual Research Environments Vision

- To provide an architecture of tools and resources to allow research communities to create multidisciplinary environments which enhance interdisciplinary research, and to facilitate collaboration within and between institutions.
- A VRE can be defined as a set of online tools and other network resources and technologies interoperating with each other to support or enhance the processes of a wide range of research practitioners within and across disciplinary and institutional boundaries. VREs go beyond providing researchers with easy access to data, applications and computational resources; instead they facilitate mobile and distributed researchers, research teams and communities in conducting activities, such as shared problem-solving and shared experimentation. A key characteristic of a VRE, therefore, is that it facilitates collaboration amongst researchers and research teams providing them with more effective means of collaboratively collecting, manipulating and managing data, as well as collaborative knowledge creation.

VRE Phase 1 - Domain Areas Covered



VRE Phase 1 - User Geographic Span

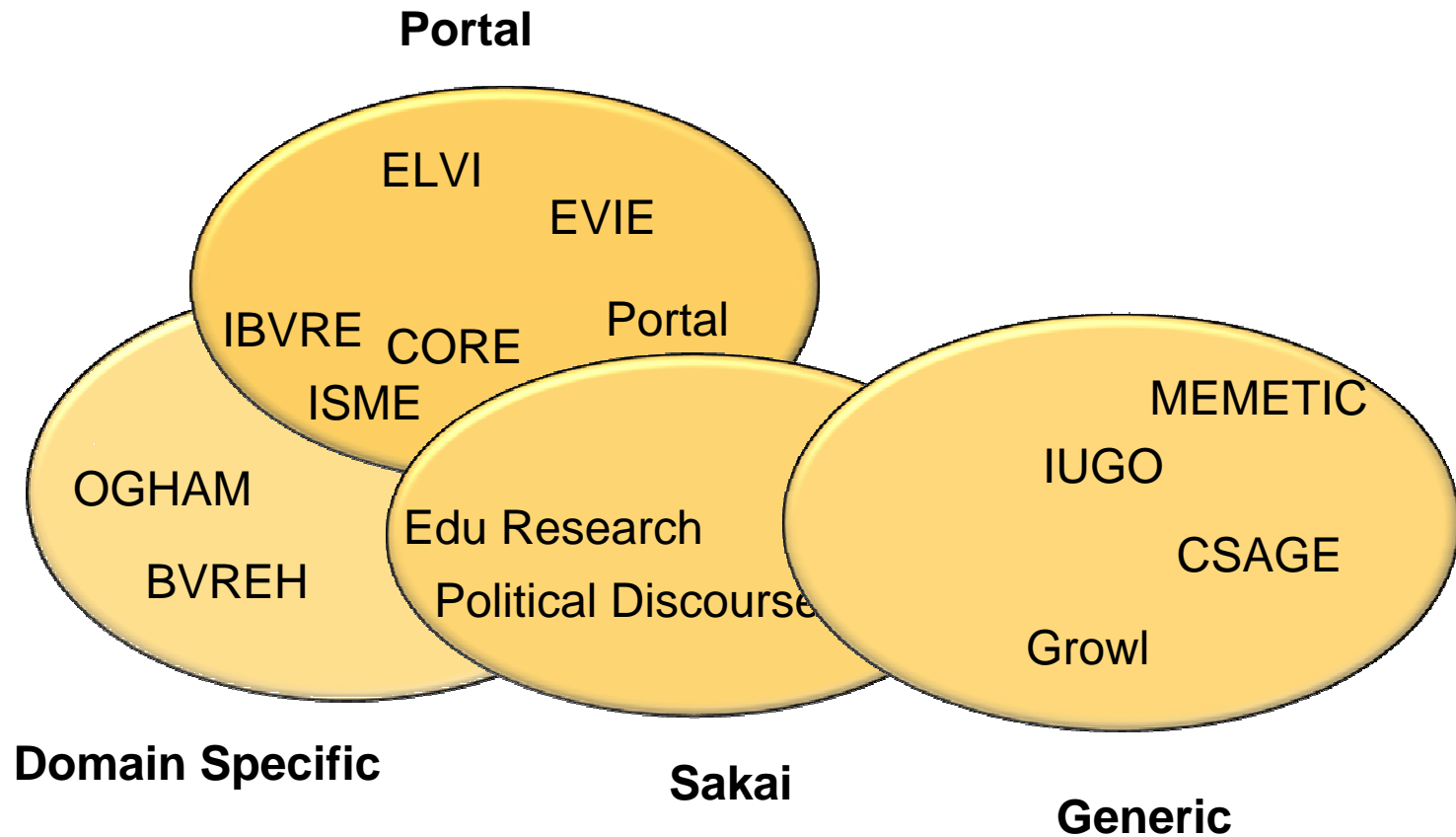
○
USA



○
NZ

Grenoble, France

VRE Phase 1 - VRE Technical Solutions



VRE Phase 2 - Aims

1. To start deploying VRE solutions amongst the wider HE community, and to stimulate change in research practices.



Study collaborative research practice

Extract further requirements

Pilot & evaluate impact

2. To continue involving and engaging the research community in building interoperable VRE solutions.



VRE tool integration

Further VRE tool development

3. To continue raising awareness of the benefits of VRE solutions.



Community engagement

Dissemination

VRE 1

- Technology-focused
- Experimental
- Diverse design & development approaches
- Stand-alone solutions

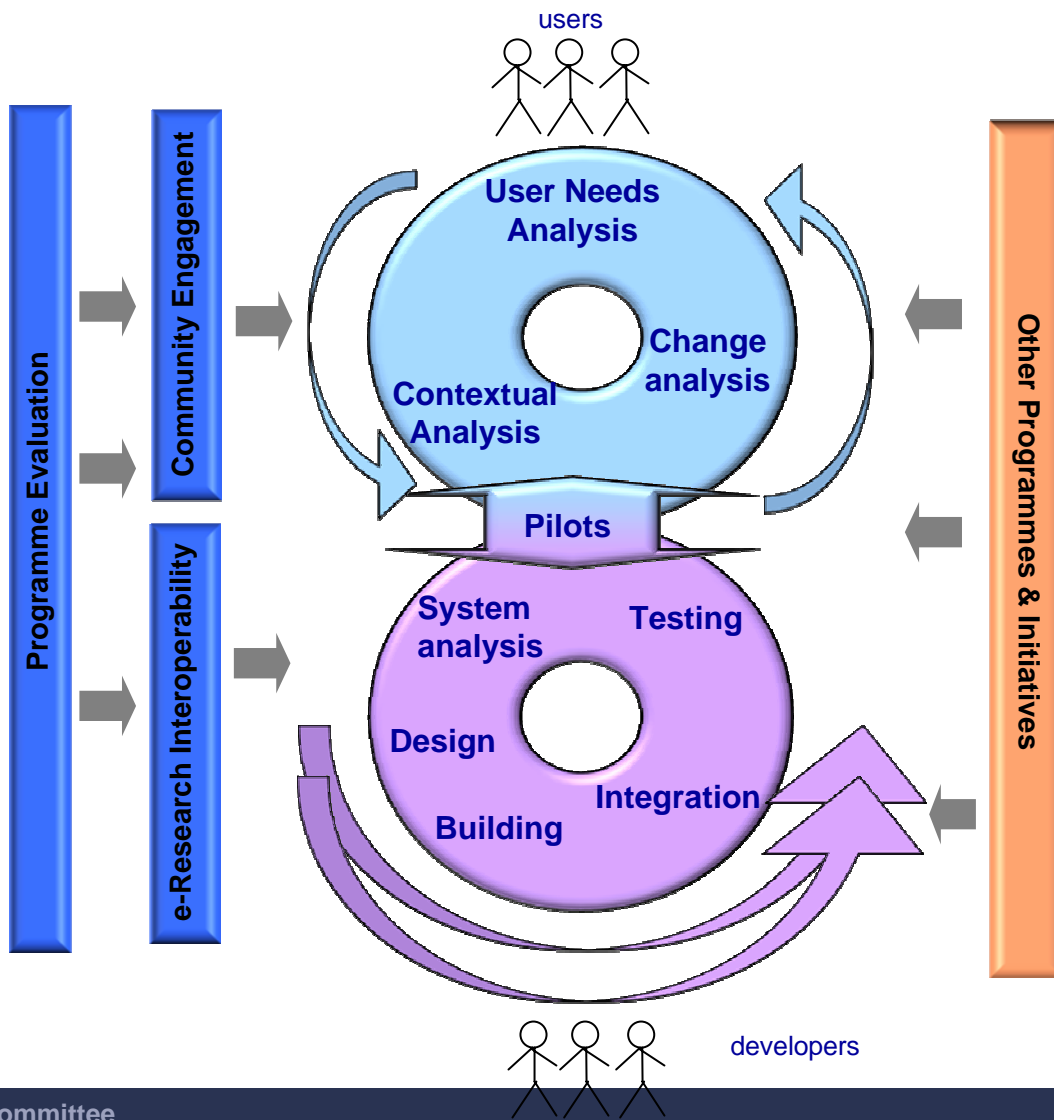
VRE 2

- User- and research practice-focused
- Developmental
- Unified design & development approaches
- Integrated solutions

- Collaboration
- Supporting small & large-scale research
- Support for single-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research

- Total funding of £1.6 million
- Expected to fund around 3 projects
 - Research community oriented VREs
 - Institutional VREs
 - Building upon the technologies and lessons of phase 1
- Not expected to fund to the full £1.6 million this call
 - Follow up call in April to build on work commissioned in this call

VRE Phase 2 – Development Lifecycle



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