



# **What is RIAT?: A Brief Overview**

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**Economic Performance  
and Development**

# Workshop Agenda- Mopani

7:30-8:00 Registration

8:00-8:20 Opening and introductions

8:20-9:00 **Rural Innovation  
Assessment Toolbox [RIAT]-**  
Overview of Concepts & Methods  
What is RIAT?

9:00-10:30 **Engaging with RIAT  
Evidence- Presentation & Open  
Debate**  
What the RIAT evidence has revealed  
about innovation activities in Mopani?

10:30-11:00 Tea Break

11:00-12:00 **Self-reflection &  
Horizon Exploration**

How to harness Innovation for  
development in Mopani?

Out-of-box thinking about localized  
innovation activities

12:00-13:00 **Enhancing Rural  
Innovation Networks/Systems**

Learning from the evidence to fine-  
tune our 'rural innovation' vision

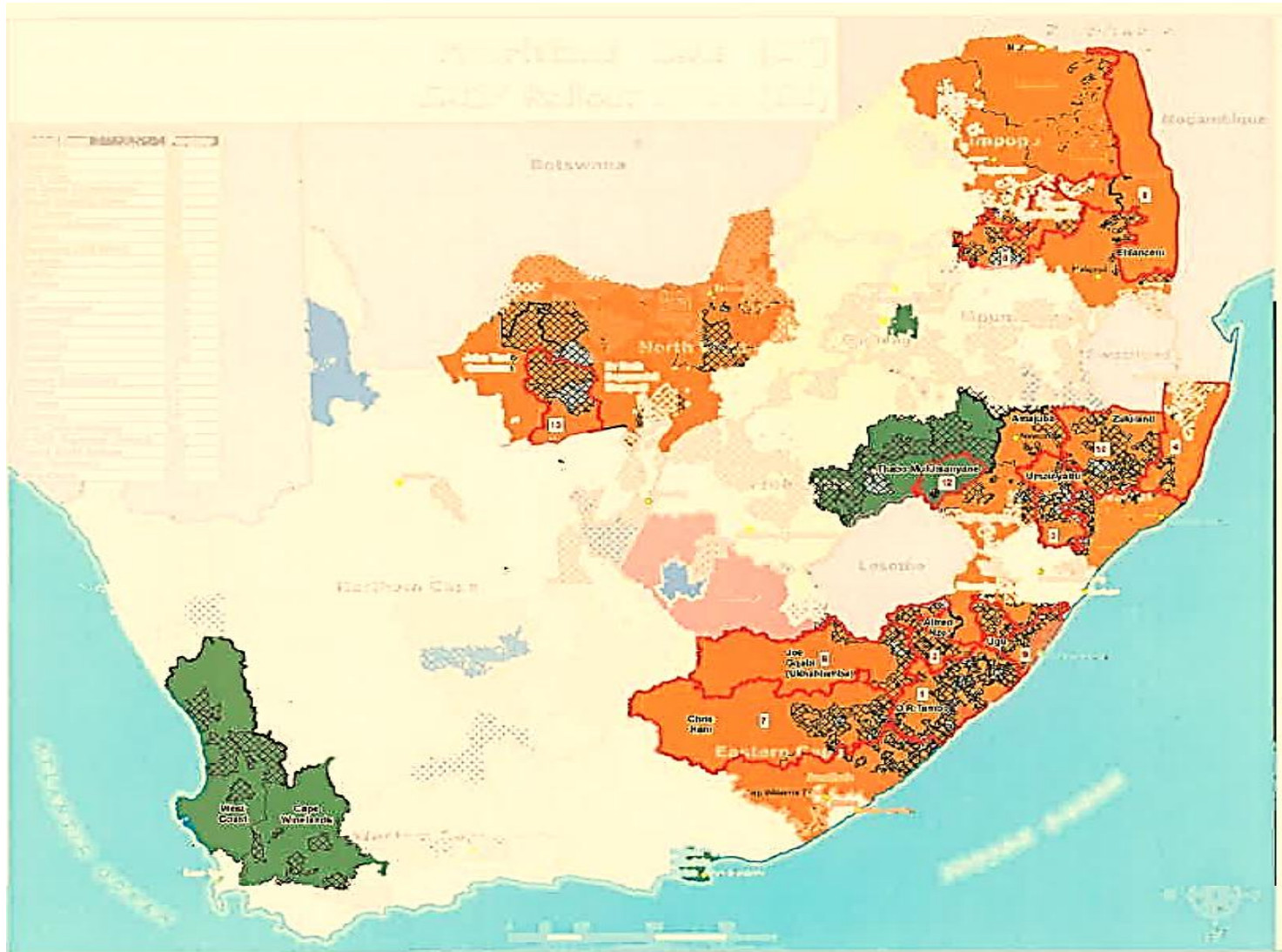
Where do we go from this point  
forward?

**13:00-14:00 Lunch**

# Background & Policy Context

- Rural development is a strategic priority of the 2009-2014 administration; articulated in Outcome 7 & Plan of Action
- Infrastructure backlogs and low levels of human development indicators in **22 + 2** Rural District Municipalities
- **Interventions**= public investment, institutional coordination, community social interactions, etc
- **Lead Department** = Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)
- DST active participant in rural innovation partnership anchored in RDMs- multi-disciplinary and interactive sectoral approaches
- Grounded in the Cabinet approved Action Plan 6: Scaling up rural-development programmes including investment in rural areas and smaller town revitalisation

# RURAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES=24+8





# What is RIAT?

- In 2012 HSRC contracted by DST to assist with broad-based development in the 24 RDM by:
  - Apply ‘innovation systems thinking’ to understand **all factors and actors** influencing new knowledge **generation**, **diffusion** and **use** for rural development
  - Facilitate interaction among innovation actors and partners- self-reflection & horizon exploration
  - Develop a “**Rural Innovation Assessment Toolbox**” (RIAT) to guide the ‘Partnership’
  - **Big Policy Spinoff:** M&E tool for future interventions for local innovation - field-test RIAT in a few pilot sites

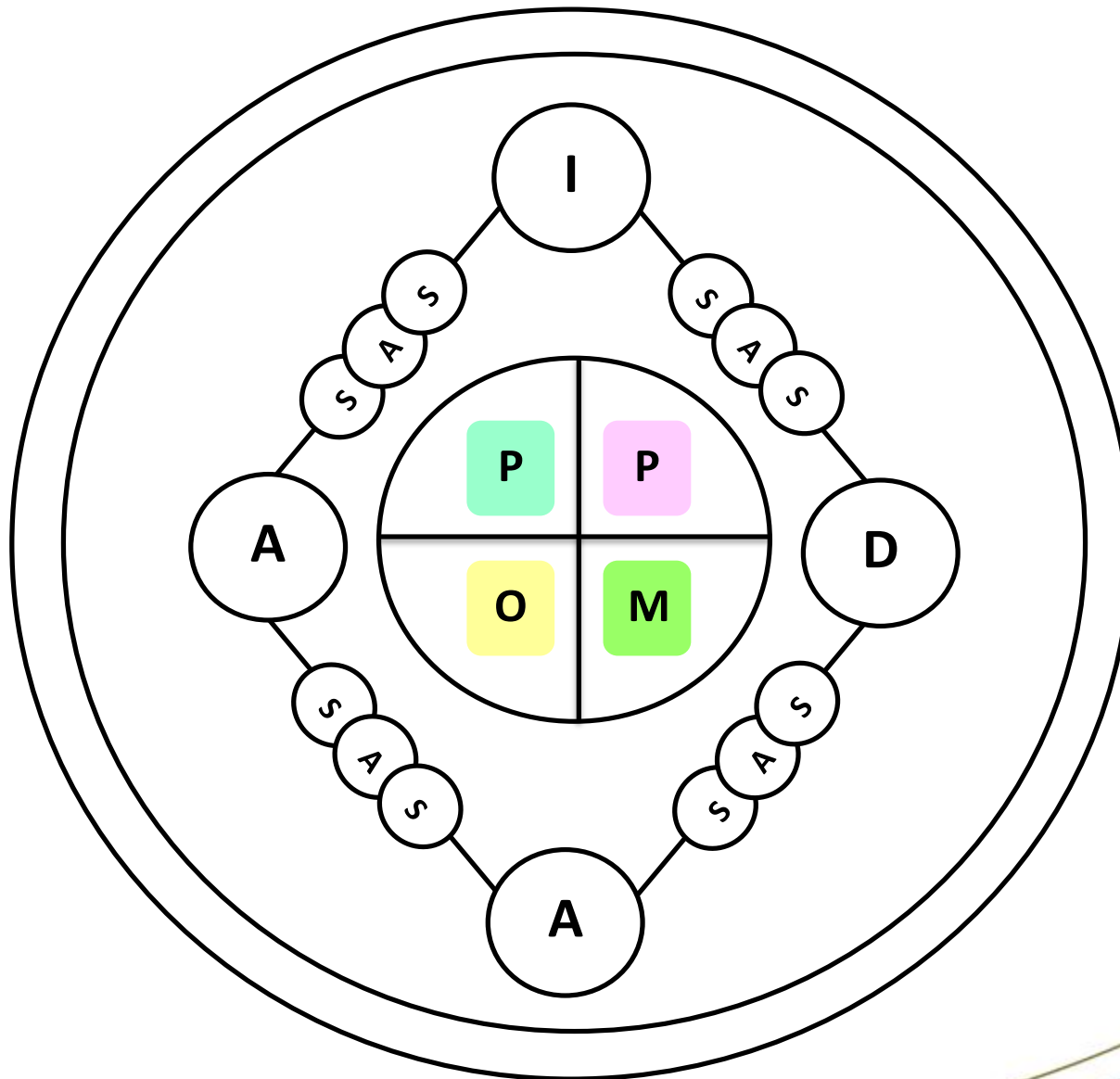
# Critical engagement with 'theory'

- What are the existing **conceptions of rural innovation** and how useful are these concepts to capture rural realities?
- Where does 'rural innovation' fit into South Africa's **post-1996** science, technology and innovation (ST&I) **policy landscape**?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of existing **methods to measure** the extent and impacts of innovation activities in rural areas?

# Our Contributions... New Ideas

- ***Innovation Value Chains***: Adoption, adaption and diffusion are integral to almost every innovation value chain yet these are not often seen as 'proper' innovation activities.
- ***Sub-national Space-bounded innovation systems***: discovering the creative potential and learning capabilities in rural areas
- ***Social Innovation***: Direct participatory forms of local organisation of people to improve livelihoods through 'new' know-how...

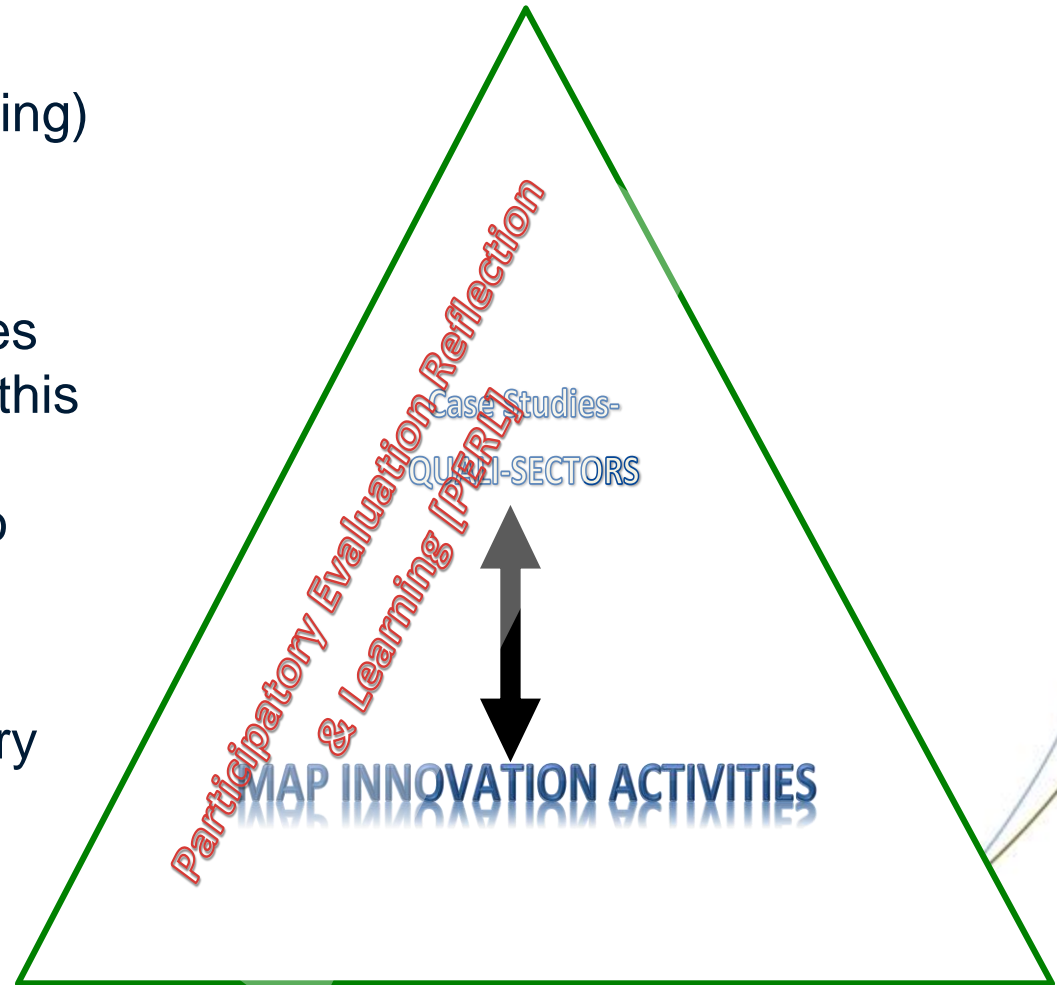
# RIAT concepts: Birds-eye view





# RIAT: Toolbox with multiple instruments




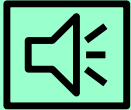



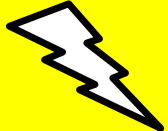

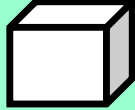






- Component 1: Structured questionnaire (rapid mapping)  
Attention to **breadth**?
- Component 2: Case studies (more qualitative)- should this be sector specific or IVC (Innov Acts?)? Attention to **depth**?
- Cross- Cutter : Participatory Evaluation Reflection & Learning [**PERL**] (design challenge...)



# Enterprise/Organisational Profiles

- What the enterprise does: Where, When, How & Why?
- **Admin Database**: Name, Contact Details, Locality & Main Activity
- **Enterprise Type**: Private/Public/NPO...
- **Ownership**: size (private=1 or more owners), legal entity (company...cooperative), tax registration
- **Economic Sector**: Farm & Non-Farm (broad SIC)

# Innovation Value Chain (IVC)- Activities & Types

		INNOVATION ACTIVITIES			
		Invent/Create	Adapt/Improve	Adopt/Use	Diffuse/Share
INNOVATION TYPES	Product				
	Process				
	Marketing				
	Organisational				

# Internal Organisational Environment

- Main place- facilities, resources & services
- Own private investment
- *Skills & capabilities* – participation in skills development programmes & impacts on innovation activities?
- Resource & Service Details:
  - Energy
  - ICT (cell phones & internet)
  - Transportation

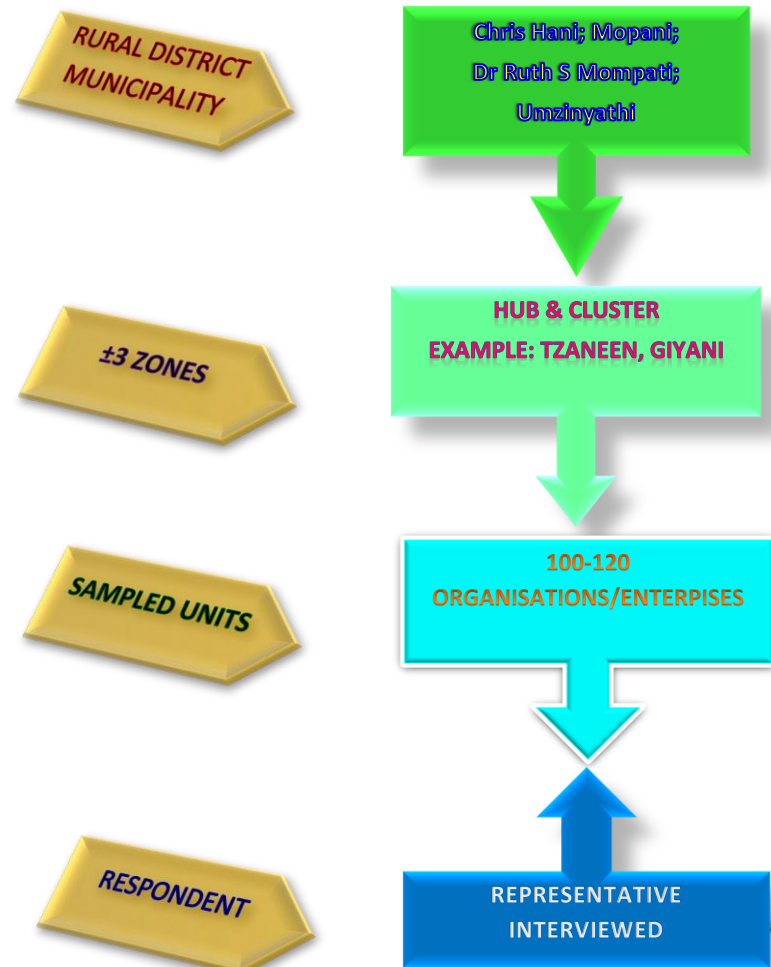
# Macro/External Environment & Self-learning

- Use of Private & Public Services (broad categories)
  - Information flow on innovation- sources of new ideas, etc. ... & adoption/use
  - Institutional environment- cooperation among actors; formal/informal; effectiveness
  - Policy environment & interactions with government departments
- Environmental Sustainability & Broader Societal Impact
- **Direct self-evaluation**: exposure to new ideas about innovation through participation?



# Survey Approach & Framework

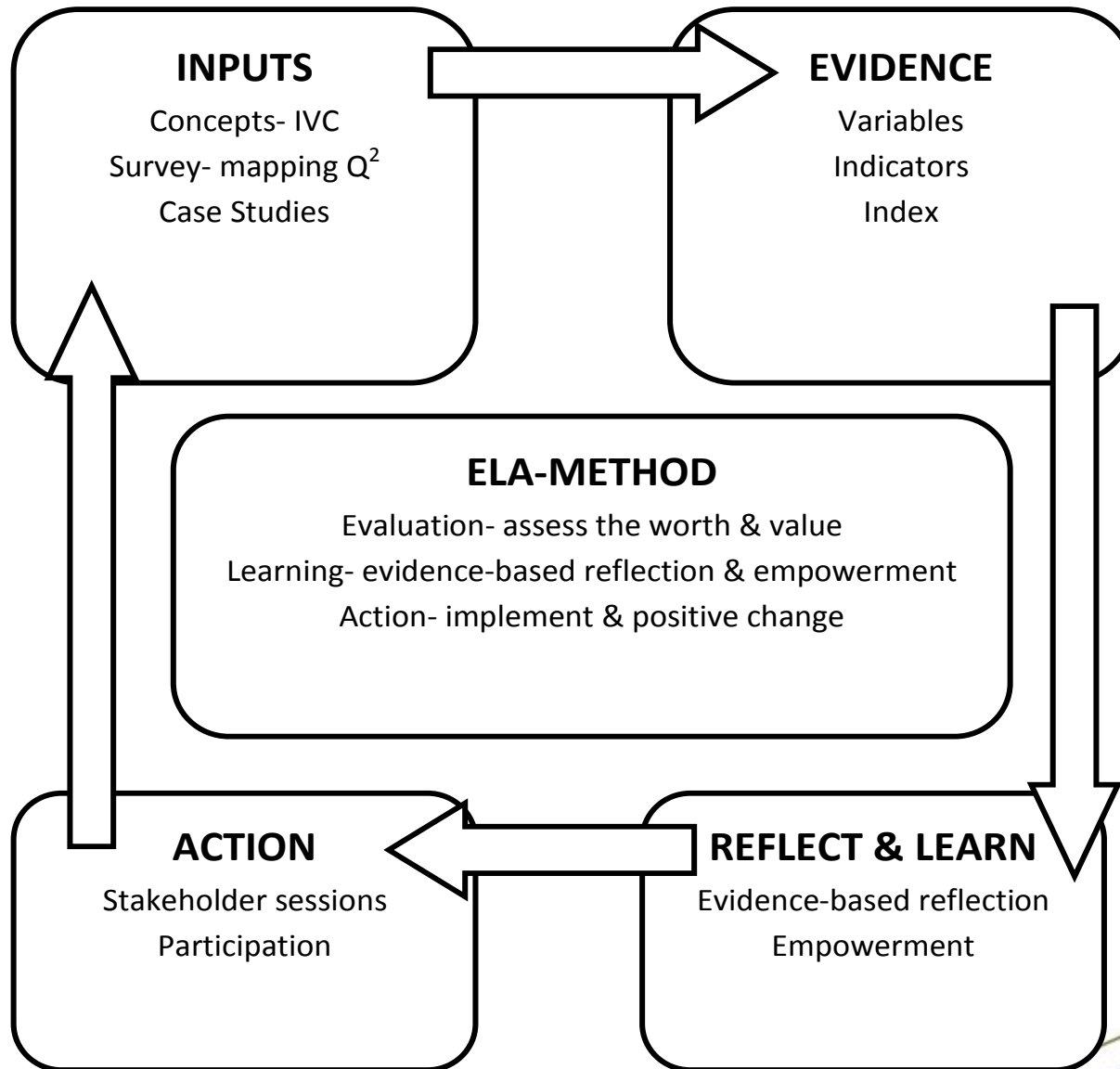
- **Rural reality**- below the surface 'innovation activities'; hard to find actors (organisations/enterprises)
- Non-probability sampling usually based on **convenience= PURPOSE**
- Select participating enterprises through a referral process= '**snowball sampling**'



# Sampled enterprises- by type

Enterprise Type		<b>Mopani</b>	Chris Han	Ruth S	Umzinyath	<b>Total</b>
PUBLIC	N	11	27	31	29	<b>98</b>
	%	9.02	21.95	25.41	25.22	<b>20.33</b>
PRIVATE	N	58	41	57	46	<b>202</b>
	%	47.54	33.33	46.72	40	<b>41.91</b>
NON-PROFITS	N	53	55	34	40	<b>182</b>
	%	43.44	44.72	27.87	34.78	<b>37.76</b>
Total	N	122	123	122	115	<b>482</b>
	%	100	100	100	100	<b>100</b>

# RIAT Methods- flow process



# Why this Self-Reflection Session?

- Penultimate stage in our 'innovation assessment' cycle
- Thank district municipalities for facilitation & cooperation in evidence collection process
- See the value-addition to RIAT
- Provide district municipality stakeholders feedback of basic findings/results of survey
- Explore where 'innovation' fits into local development activities- explore the innovation horizon
- WHAT THIS IS SESSION IS **NOT** ABOUT= IDP/LEP Strategic Planning...

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