

# Soft skills for Scientist and Communicating your science

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# What does it take to be a good Scientist (I)

Know your subject

Speak about it

Write about it

„Hard Skills“

„Soft Skills“

Presenting your science

Networking

Communicating

Convincing

Good writing

Strategic thinking, „political nose“

# What does it take to be a good Scientist (II)

Devotion

Compassion

Do not take yourself too important

Integrity

Change the direction of thinking

Honesty

Ambition

Kill your babies

Courage

Self-Consciousness

Accept other views

Intuition

Imagination

but

defend your view if you are convinced

## Attitude and committment

70% Science

70% Science

15% Music

30% Science

15% Sailing

## Being a scientist is one of the best and most rewarding jobs in the world

Work mostly independently

Work creatively

Free thinking

Acknowledged and respected job

Share your life with well-educated,  
nice, „harmless“ people

Work in an international,  
global community

### Caution!

You loose contact to the „real world“  
Live in a bubble

Get „nurdy“

Inability to talk with „normal“ people (i.e. non-scientists)

**Practice to explain what you do for a living to Non-Scientists**

Such people exist!

They are the majority!

They pay your salaries!

# Communicating your science to Non-Scientists

To colleagues of the same field, to your supervisor:

Expert seminars, topical conferences

To scientists from outside of your own field:

General conferences with a multidisciplinary audience (e.g. EGU, AGU)

To non-scientists (journalists, your grandma, your landlord...):

Everywhere, all the time

**Explain what you do in 2 minutes to your grandma (or landlord; gas station guy, taxi driver...)**

- What is the problem or question to answer?
- What could be the answer or solution?
- What are the benefits or relevance for grandma/society/the world?
- So what? Why should you get payed for what you do by tax payers money?

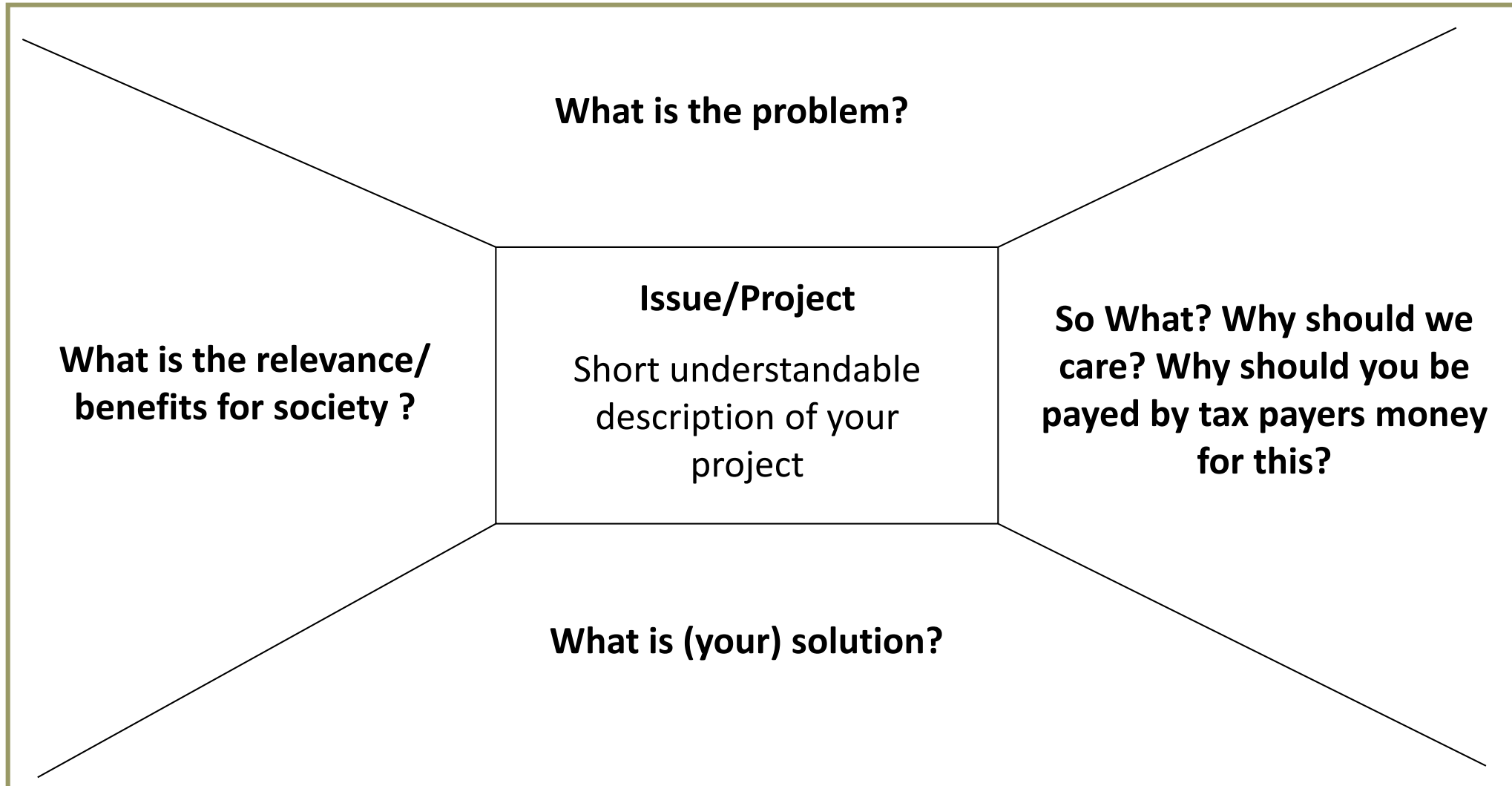
## Explain what you do in 2 minutes to your grandma (or landlord; gas station guy, taxi driver...)

- Do not use expert jargon
- Use simple, everyday language
- If possible, use analogies
- Distill your message to the one most important, easy to understand message („take home message“);

What do you want them to remember?

## Message Box

(courtesy Dan Conley, slightly modified)

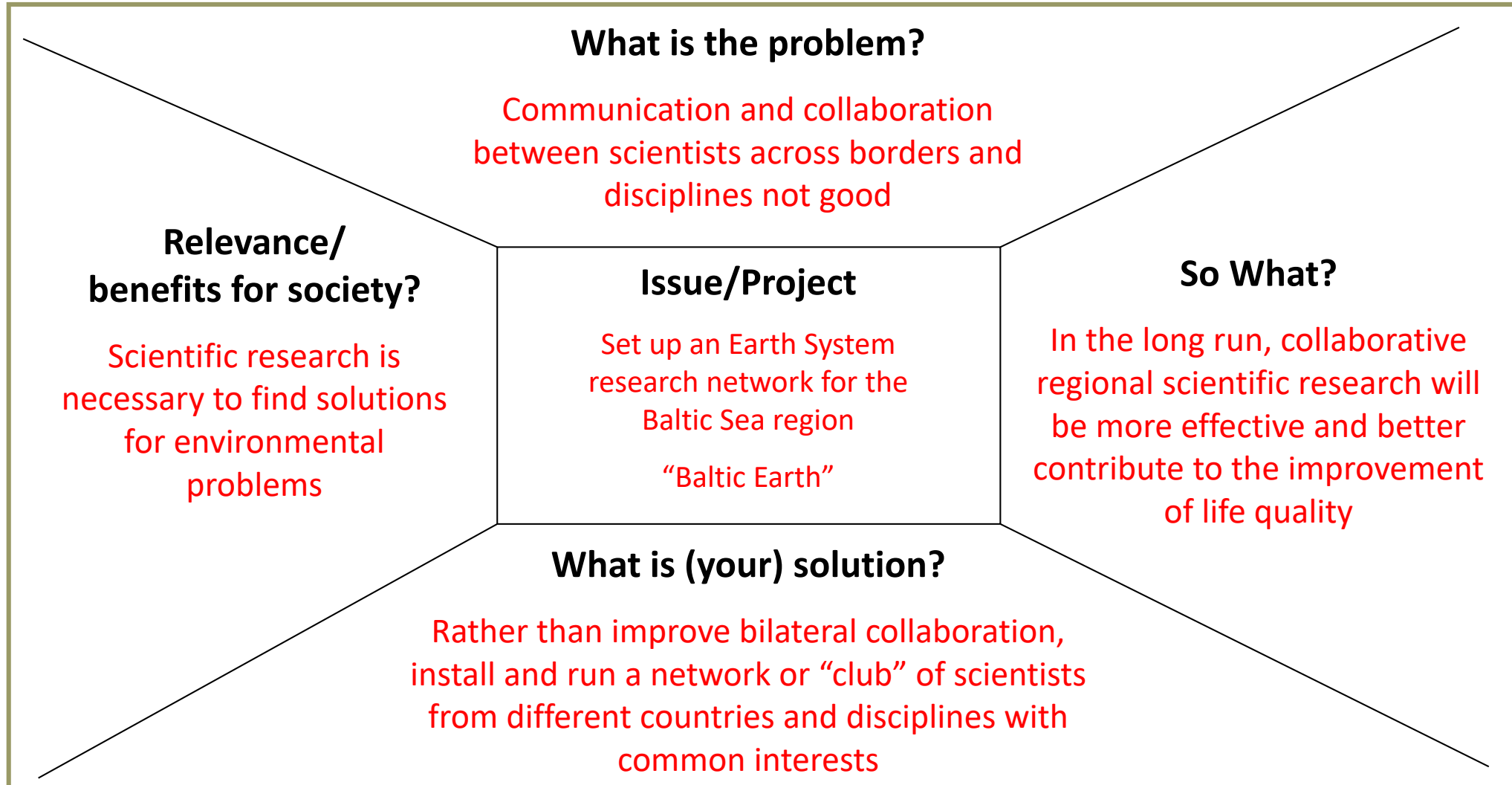


**Take home message:** One sentence



# Message Box

(courtesy Dan Conley, slightly modified)



**Take home message:** This project improves the scientific collaboration in the Baltic Sea region