Research collaboration with external partners

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Points of departure

- There are hardly generically 'bad partners / countries

- Societal implications of new knowledge and technologies co-depend on context

- Hence: decisions on collaboration are a matter of
  - judgement
  - taking into account context

Case: collaboration with fossil industries
the context

- Context:
  - Energy transition , i.e. a profound transformation of society and economy to ensure long term 'broad welfare'
    - (collaboration between knowledge and) fossil industry has historically brought significant socio-economic benefits => climate <u>and</u> social-economic urgency
    - urgent, but not overnight: fossil energy ↓ while renewable energy ↑
    - fossil industries have tremendous potential (money, knowledge, networks) to contribute – and to delay / obstruct
  - Climate change:
    - Increasing public awareness => strong sense of urgency, especially amongst the youg
      - in society, at universities - and within fossil corporations
      - N-dimensional problem: accountability (incl ' greenwashing'), public support, human resources
    - Increasing authoritative pressures: divestment by institutional funds; court cases; IPCC
  - Fossil industries ambiguous/hesitant; new industries emerging but little leverage

Case: collaboration with fossil industries
the key question for judgement

Question:

Can collaboration with fossil industries
promote energy transition (renewable up & fossil down),
and continue to contribute to broad welfare?

Context:
- ambiguous
- relations / dependencies are dynamic

Lessons from the case

- Easy:
  - only collaborate on renewables
  - assess & pro-actively/autonomously establish collaboration from ET perspective
- Context: <u>matters</u> & <u>ambiguous</u>, => contextual changes matter too, e.g.
  - provisions to ensure swift dissemination and application
  - make societal urgency / HR issue etc a joint concern, addressed in the collaboration
  - Maximum transparency, may be coupled to novel accountability arrangement
- Not so easy:
  - address some societal arguments, like 'greenwashing'
  - divisional issue
  - strategically deal with changing context and mutual relations