Development of an Evaluation Framework and Interactive Visualization for Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Projects

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Why evaluate TLEF projects?

- Process: What worked in every phase of the project? How can it be improved?
- Outcomes: Were the intended project objectives met?
- Impact: Why does the project matter? What are its long-term benefits? What can others learn from it?

How to do it?

- Develop an evaluation plan – focus should be the outcomes or benefits of the project (not the products)
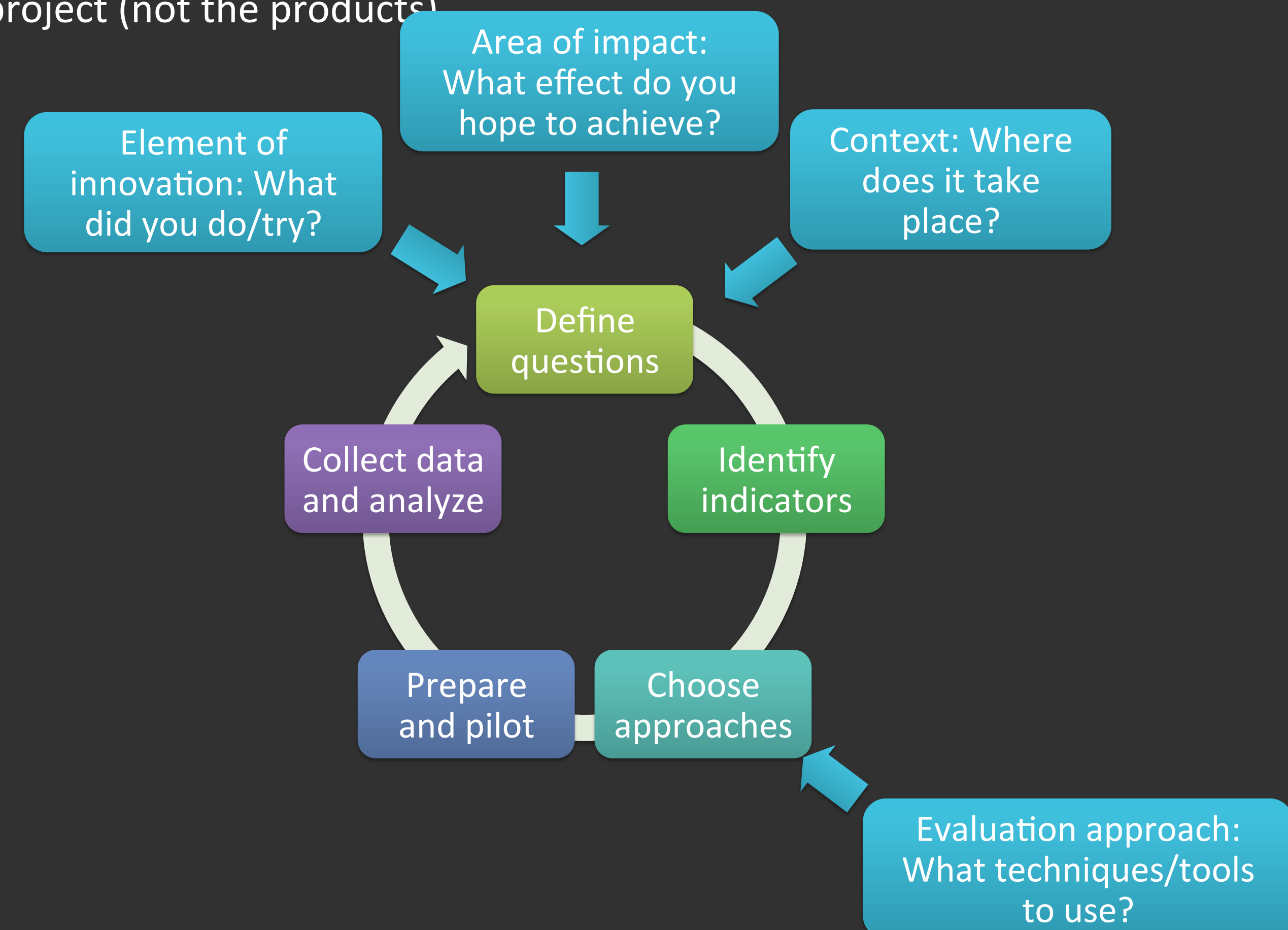
Having an evaluation plan makes it possible to tell the complete story of any teaching and learning project:

"I looked at the impact of [ELEMENT OF INNOVATION] on [AREA OF IMPACT] in [CONTEXT] using [EVALUATION APPROACH]".

For example:

"I looked at the impact of [IN-CLASS GROUP WORK] on [STUDENT MOTIVATION] in [FIRST-YEAR COURSES] using [INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS]".

Current challenges:

- Lack of common terminology across projects, disciplines and Faculties
- Disciplinary differences
- Diverse methodologies and diverse understanding of these
- Tendency to underestimate project context (e.g. class size, format, discipline)

Why are individual TLEF stories important to learn and communicate?
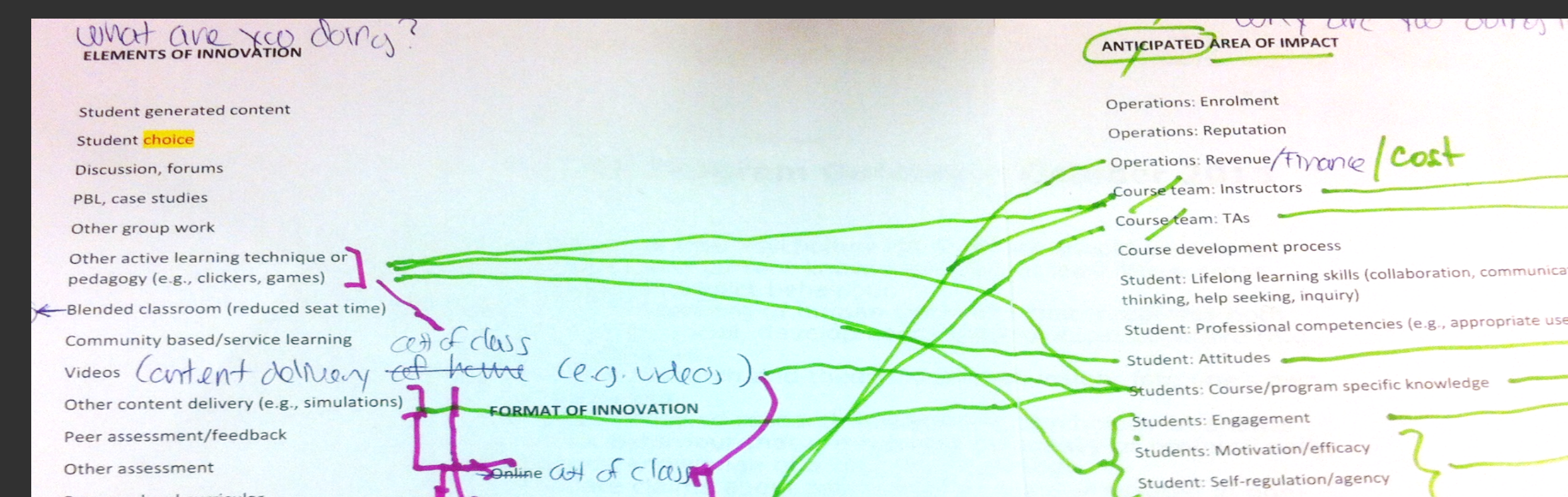
- For project teams:
    - To share what was achieved
    - To find out about related projects on campus
    - To promote knowledge transfer
- For support units:
    - To identify patterns and commonalities
    - To provide efficient support in all project stages
    - To use existing resources effectively
- For UBC:
    - To gain a holistic picture of SoTL and TLEF landscape and impact
    - To ensure accountability for the extensive funding granted

## Making sense of teaching and learning projects across disciplines:

1. Develop a common vocabulary using a bottom up process to facilitate the aggregation and comparison of teaching and learning projects

2. Identify relationships between innovation, impact, approach, and context

3. Develop an online interactive visualization tool for project leaders, prospective project leaders, and project support staff to explore past and current teaching and learning projects
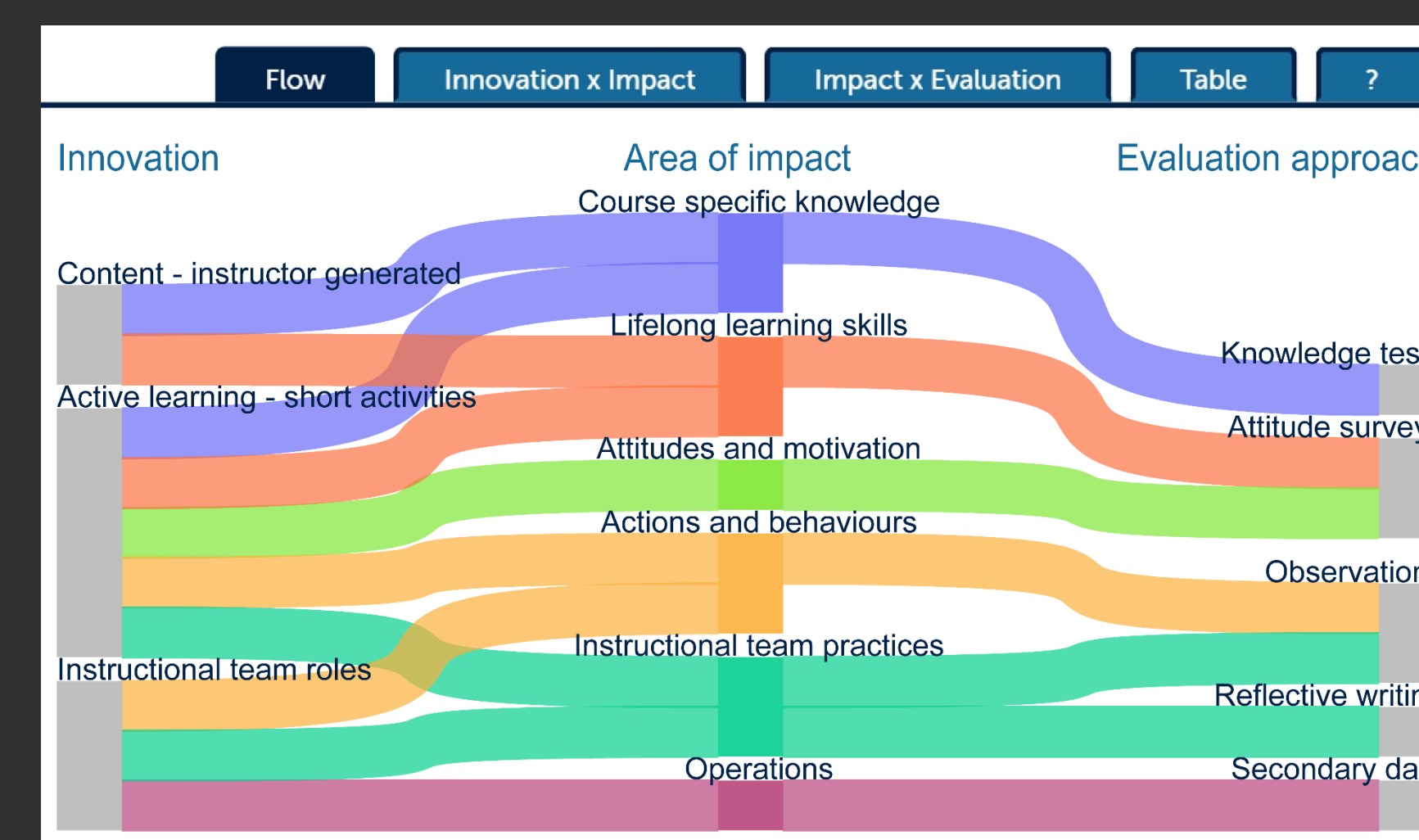
Innovations implemented, targeted areas of impact, and evaluation approaches used in a TLEF project

The SoTL/TLEF Explorer allows to:

- Find/see patterns and trends across projects

Trends in areas of impact and evaluation approaches for 10 TLEF projects

- Obtain contextual information of relevant projects

A table view provides additional TLEF project details

Next steps:

- Add in current and past small and large TLEF/FL projects in different stages of completion (from funded proposals to completed projects)
- Include files: examples of evaluation tools; relevant publications and references; project closure summaries
- Put the tool into use! (e.g., innovations over time; evaluation trends)

Seeking evaluation support? We can help!

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Faculty-specific support units:
- Arts ISIT (Arts)
- Skylight (Science)
- The Learning Centre (LFS)
- Centre for Instructional Support (Applied Science)
- Evaluation Studies Unit (Medicine)

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