transformative
social **in**novation
theory

Three Critical Talks & Group Discussion

Plenary session 09:00 – 11:00
15th of September 2017

Blue City, Rotterdam

Our International Advisory Board

Tim O'Riordan
(chair)

Edina Vadovics

Ariel Gordon

Gilda Farrell

Frances Westley

Online at http://www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/people

www.transitsocialinnovation.eu

Process of this session 09:00-11:00

When	Who	What
09:00	**Tim O'Riordan**	Opening, Framing and Introducing Speakers
09:15	**Edina Vadovics**	Ecological Sustainability & Urgency for TSI today (10 min) Round 1 group discussion (15 min)
09:40	**Ariel Gordon**	Exclusion/Inclusion Dynamics: Perspective from the South (10 min) Round 2 group discussion (15 min)
10:05	**Gilda Farrell**	Looking back at 25 years of EU (social) innovation policy (10 min) Round 3 group discussion (15 min)
10:30	**Panel**	Open Q&A with the whole audience Closing reflections Tim O'Riordan

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Ecological Sustainability and the Urgency for TSI today

Edina Vadovics

Ecological Sustainability and the Urgency for TSI today

Edina Vadovics

GreenDependent Institute

www.greendependent.org

"We tend to put the environment last because we think the first thing we have to do is eliminate poverty. But you can't reduce poverty in a vacuum. You are doing it in an environment."

- Wangari Mathai
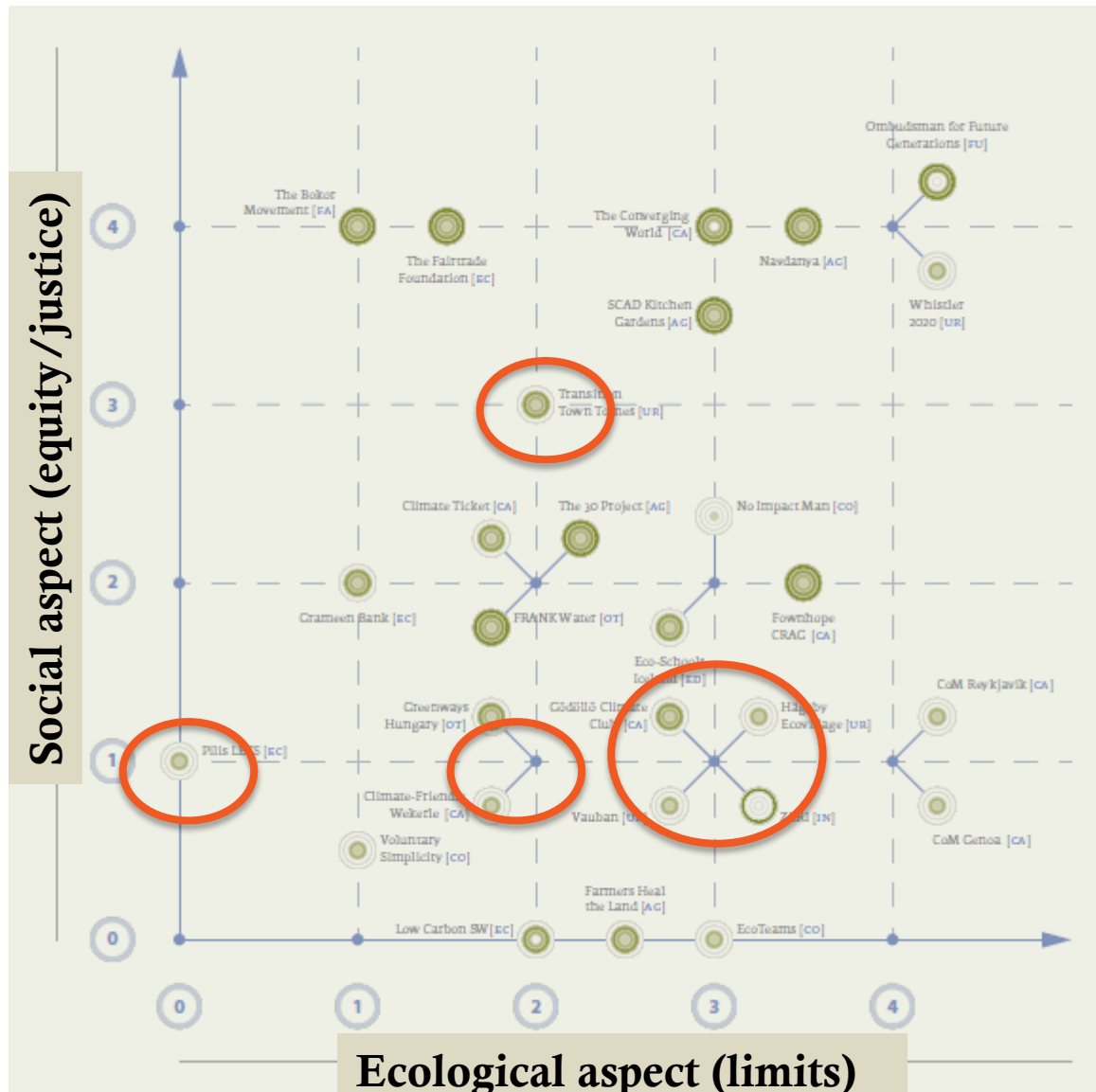
Obvious? Happening?

Assumption:

connection between social and environmental is being made in SI initiatives, and the result is something more „sustainable"

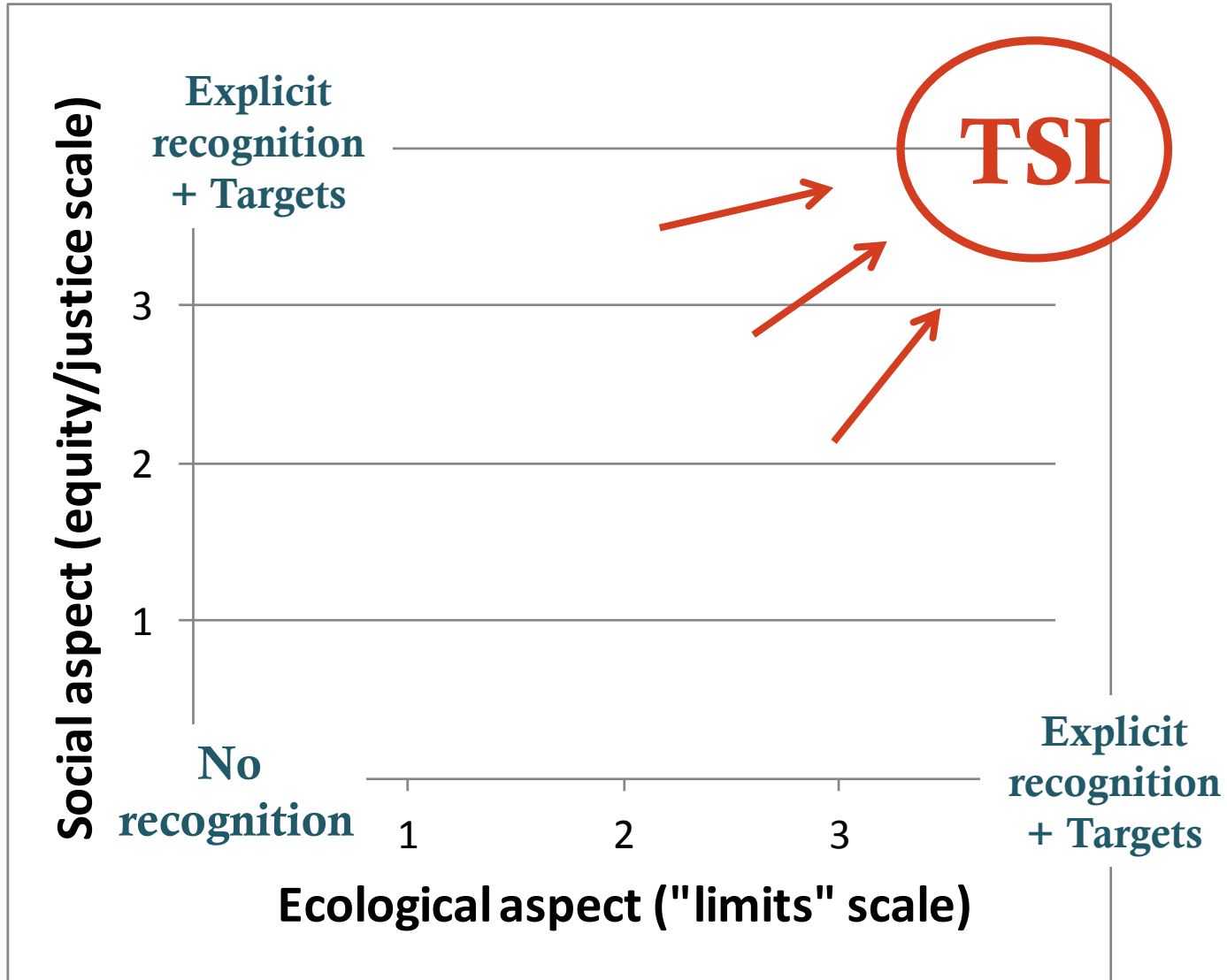## Sustainable?

Strong and just sustainability:

- Respect for ecological limits / planetary boundaries
- Equal access to resources and benefits, and equitable burden sharing

SI does not automatically connect the two, and the connection is not always strong
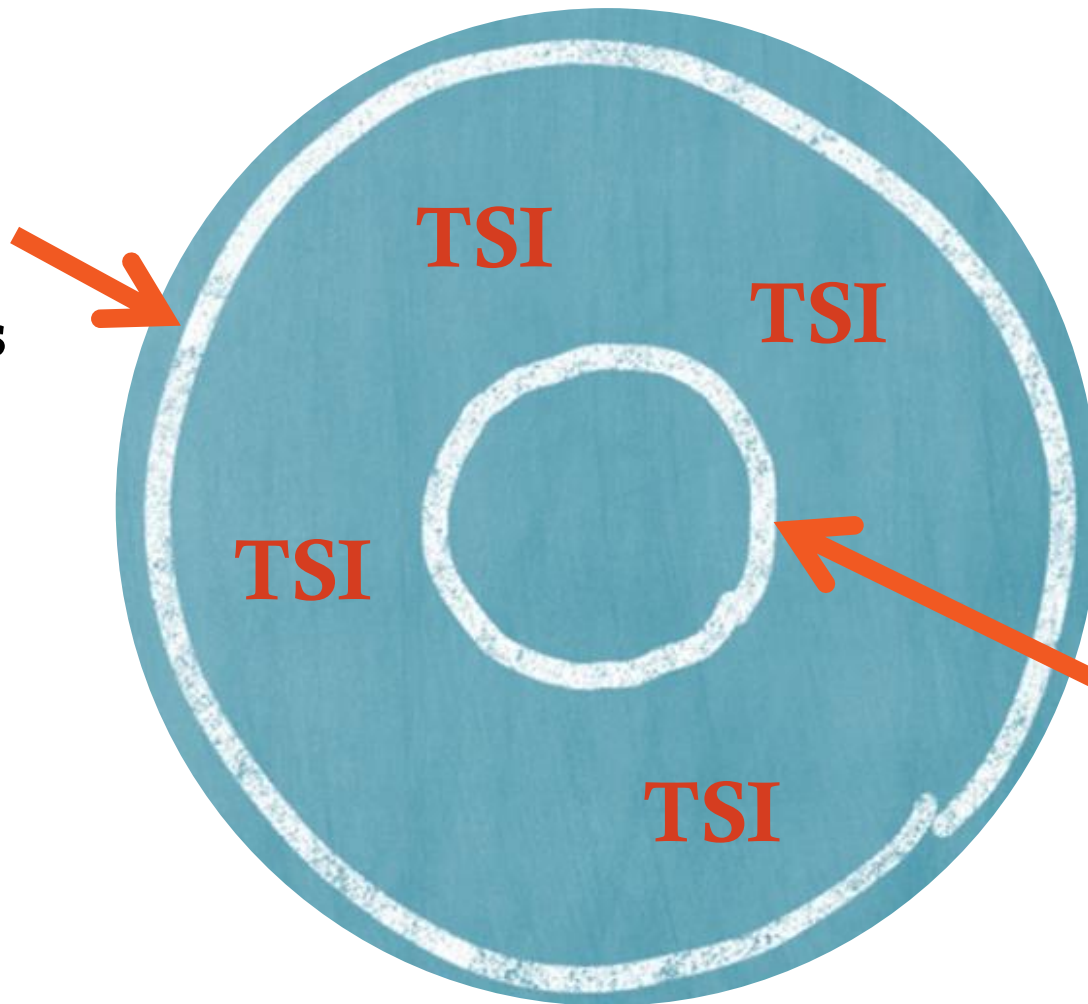

Social aspect (equity/justice) (vertical axis, scale 0–4)

Ecological aspect (limits) (horizontal axis, scale 0–4)

Chart labels:
- Ombudsman for Future Generations [FU]
- The Bokor Movement [FA]
- The Converging World [CA]
- Navdanya [AG]
- The Fairtrade Foundation [EC]
- SCAD Kitchen Gardens [AG]
- Whistler 2020 [UR]
- Transition Town Totnes [UR]
- Climate Ticket [CA]
- The 30 Project [AG]
- No Impact Man [CO]
- Grameen Bank [EC]
- FRANK Water [OT]
- Fownhope CRAG [CA]
- Eco-Schools Iceland [ED]
- CoM Reykjavik [CA]
- Greenways Hungary [OT]
- Gödöllö Climate Club [CA]
- Happy Ecovillage [UR]
- Pilis LETS [EC]
- Climate-Friendly Wekerle [CA]
- Vauban [UR]
- Zidd [IN]
- CoM Genoa [CA]
- Voluntary Simplicity [CO]
- Farmers Heal the Land [AG]
- Low Carbon SW [EC]
- EcoTeams [CO]

Source: Vadovics et al., 2012 // CONVERGE project

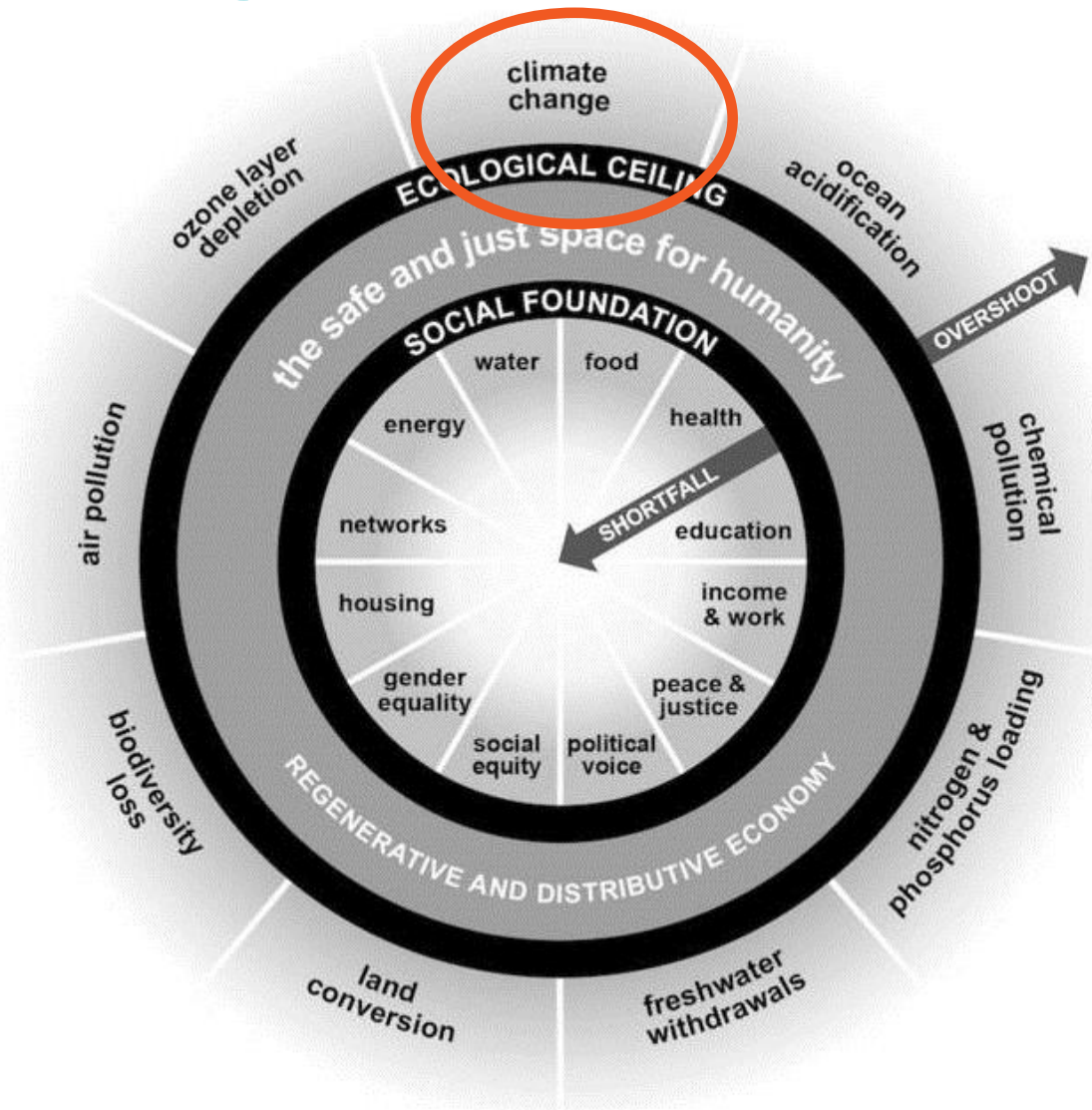# Social innovation becomes *transformative*:

Or, put another way:
TSI helps move into the „doughnut"
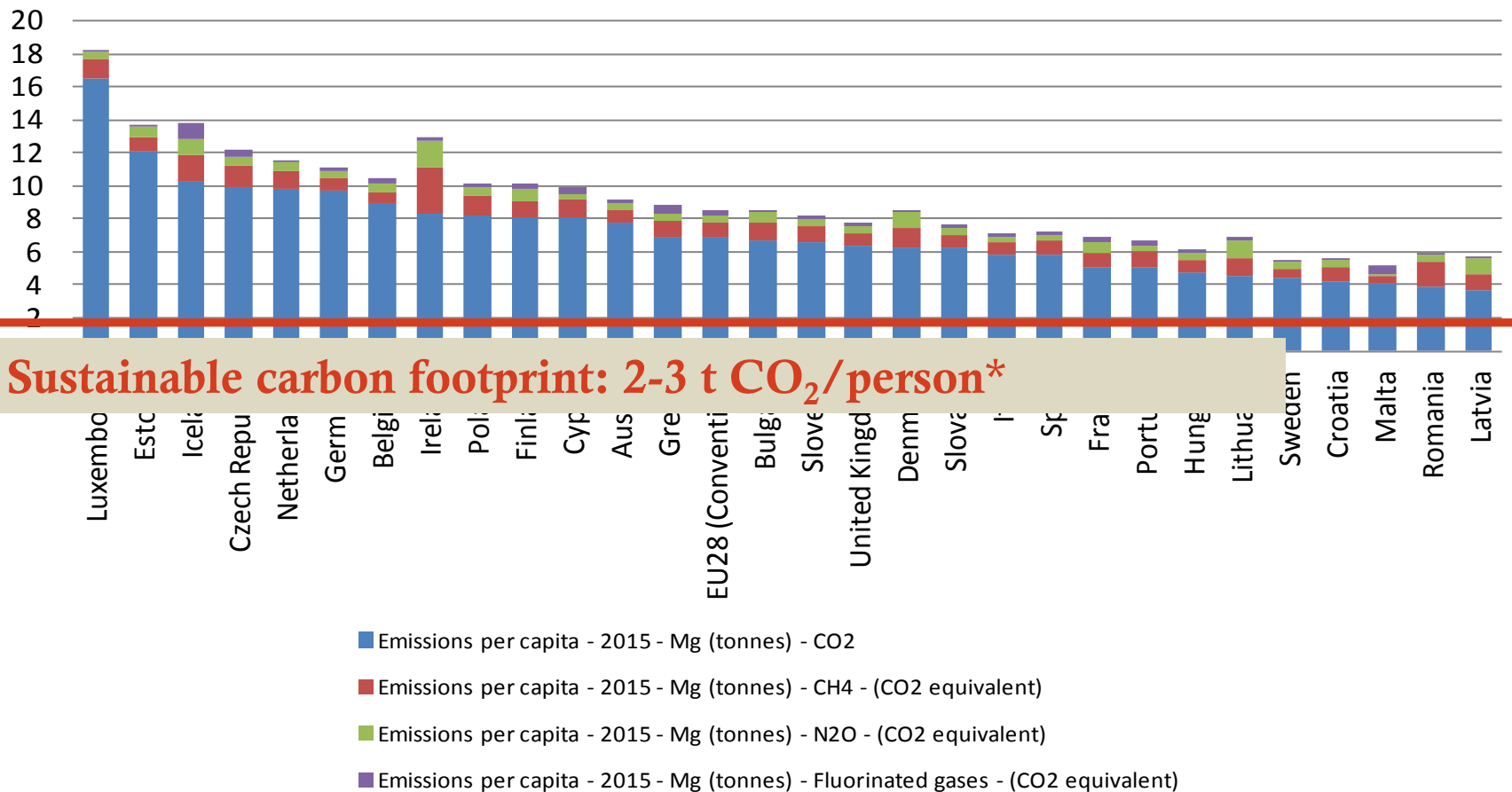
**Ecological
limits or
Planetary
boundaries**

TSI

TSI

TSI

TSI

**Social limits
or
Critical
deprivations**

Source: Kate Raworth: Doughnut economics (2017)

Planetary boundaries example: climate change

Source: Raworth, 2017

Climate change – Carbon footprints in Europe vs. „Sustainable" footprint

Emissions per capita

(EEA, 2017 - based on 2015 data)

Sustainable carbon footprint: 2-3 t CO_2/person*

Countries (x-axis, left to right): Luxembo..., Est..., Icel..., Czech Repu..., Netherla..., Germ..., Belgi..., Irela..., Pol..., Finl..., Cyp..., Aus..., Gre..., EU28 (Conventi...), Bulg..., Slove..., United Kingd..., Denm..., Slova..., I..., Sp..., Fra..., Portu..., Hung..., Lithua..., Sweden, Croatia, Malta, Romania, Latvia

Legend:
- Emissions per capita - 2015 - Mg (tonnes) - CO2
- Emissions per capita - 2015 - Mg (tonnes) - CH4 - (CO2 equivalent)
- Emissions per capita - 2015 - Mg (tonnes) - N2O - (CO2 equivalent)
- Emissions per capita - 2015 - Mg (tonnes) - Fluorinated gases - (CO2 equivalent)

*Sources: www.ecocivilization.info and timeforchange.org/

Ecovillagers' carbon footprint?
Not necessarily small enough either:

Example: Findhorn ecovillage

    carbon footprint cc. the same as UK average

Sources: parkecovillagetrust.co.uk/carbon-neutrality/ and Tinsley and Gerorge 2006
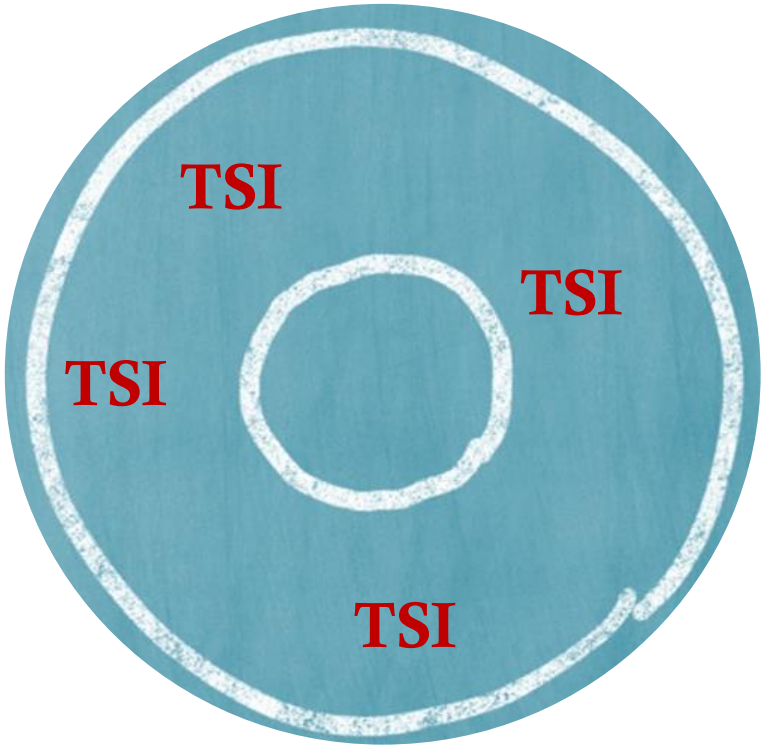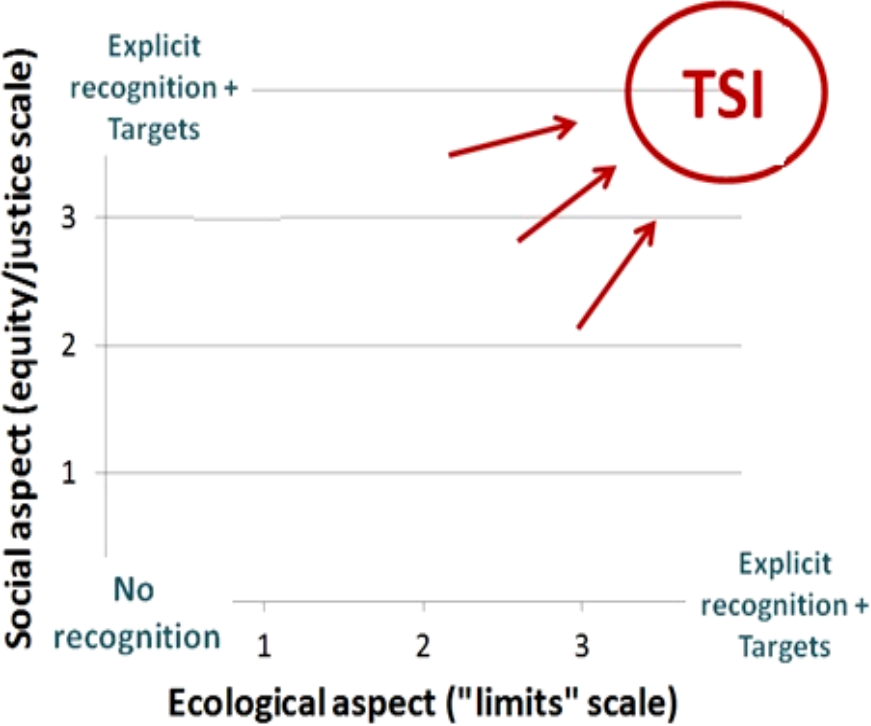
Example: Biobriquettes (Hungary)

Example: SCAD Kitchen gardens and fruit tree afforestation (India)

Transformative Social Innovation combines ecological and social aspects

Question Group Discussion #1

How strong is the connection between social and ecological aspects in your work and how can you make it stronger?

Edina Vadovics

Inclusion/Exclusion Dynamics of SI: Perspective from the South

Ariel Gordon

UNEQUAL SOUTH

Environmental Debt

CO2 emissions per capita in Tons per year (2015)

 9,77

 6,87

 7,73

 4,40

Inclusion/Exclusion Dynamics of SI

Rene Magritte, Hegel´s Holiday, 1958

Question Group Discussion #2

What are the exclusion dynamics in you work and what could you do to make it more inclusive?

Ariel Gordon / agordon@unq.edu.ar

Question Group Discussion #2

What are the exclusion dynamics in your work and what could you do to make it more inclusive?

transitsocialinnovation.eu

Ariel Gordon / agordon@unq.edu.ar

Looking back at 25 years of
EU (social) innovation policy

Gilda Farrell

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SOCIAL INNOVATION
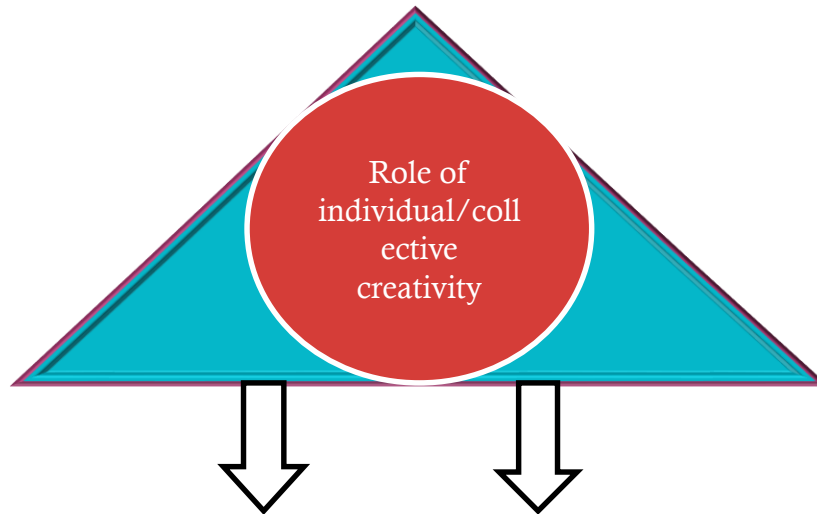
LEARNINGS FROM THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

GILDA FARRELL

MEMBER OF THE TRANSIT PROJECT BOARD

September, 2017

TRIANGLE OF TRANSFORMATION

Decentralisation (power, decision, access)

Role of individual/coll ective creativity

Self-regulation   Re-appropriation

(sense of property belonging/responsibility)

Pedagogy of interrelations

From experimentation to policy/structural transformation

Underpinning transversal values: from "good practices" to political models

MARKET
Fairness; coop-competition; virtuous links; co-responsibility

ENVIRONMENT
Zero waste; zero fossil energy; share; reuse; right to commons

Political changes: progress to fair access; fair universal basic income; new democratic institutions; rules/legal frames fostering pro-active, co-created solutions and commons; conscious consumption only of renewable resources; Progress in utopias & real choices for the future

GOVERNANCE
No-ideological or Symbolic soft control ; fairness; utopias; co-responsibility and creativity;

SOCIETY
Diversity/co-creation; solidarity; diversity; right to knowledge & creativity; to shared vision and to influence the future;

Question Group Discussion #3

When we imagine ourselves in the future looking back at our work today, what may be our blind spots regarding transformative change?

Gilda Farrell

Questions & Comments to our Panel

Tim O'Riordan   **Edina Vadovics**   **Ariel Gordon**   **Gilda Farrell**