

The TRANSIT Research Project: TSI-Narratives & Case reports

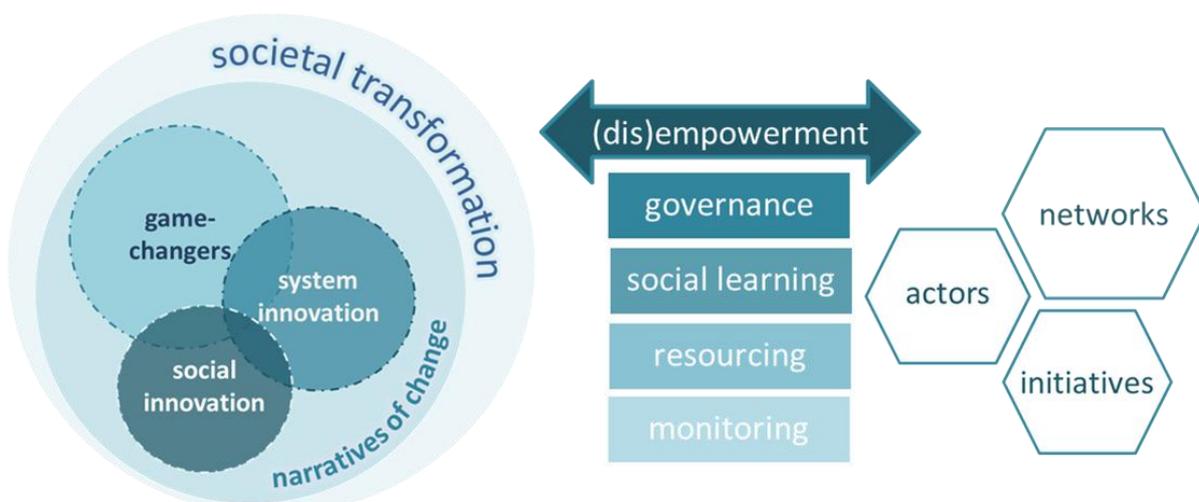
TRANSIT (TRANSformative Social Innovation Theory) is an ambitious research project that will develop a theory of transformative social innovation which is about empowerment and change in society. It is co-funded by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Programme and runs for four years, from January 2014 until December 2017. TRANSIT aims to involve and encourage feedback from social entrepreneurs and innovators, policy makers and academics to develop a theory with practical relevance. The theory has three pillars: It will be based on, and grounded in, insights from other theories such as transition theory, social movement theory and institutional theory. Secondly, it will be based on in-depth empirical research, and finally it will be tested through cross-comparative research. The research project studies whether and how social innovation can bring about societal transformation and empowerment.

As part of the first phase of the in-depth empirical work, TRANSIT-researchers have studied 12 selected transnational networks and 2-3 local cases for each network (see table on next page for an overview).

These case reports were guided by four empirical research questions based upon a preliminary conceptual framework of the TRANSIT-project (see Figure 0-1¹). The four questions concern:

1. the overall development of the local cases and the transnational network(ing);
2. how they relate to different types of change and innovation (incl. social innovation, system innovation, game- changers, narratives of change and societal transformation);
3. how actors are empowered or disempowered in and by the local cases and the transnational network(ing), including topics such as governance, learning, resourcing and monitoring;
4. what are other relevant emergent issues with regard to understanding the dynamics of transformative social innovation.

Preliminary conceptual framework for TRANSIT project (Source: Avelino et al. 2014):



¹ For more information about this preliminary conceptual framework and underlying working definitions, see Avelino et al. 2014: <http://bit.ly/1J6OCGb>

Overview of the Batch1 cases and the institutions which have coordinated each case study and carried out the analyses of each of the local initiatives (source: Jørgensen et al. 2015)

	Transnational Networks under study in TRANSIT project	Case study coordinator	Local Case 1	Local Case 2
1	The Impact Hub: Global network of social entrepreneurs	DRIFT	São Paulo Brazil - UFRJ	Rotterdam and Amsterdam NL - DRIFT
2	Ashoka: Network for financial support to social entrepreneurs	ESSRG	Ashoka Hungary - ESSRG	Ashoka Germany - UM
3	Time Banks: Networks facilitating reciprocal service exchange	UM	Fair Shares UK - UM	Ser-Hacer Spain - UDC
4	Credit Unions: Different types of credit cooperatives	UDC	Norwich Credit Union UK – UEA	FIARE Spain - UDC
5	RIPESS: Network for the promotion of social solidarity economy	ULB	CRIES Romania - UDC	VOSEC Belgium - ULB
6	FabLabs: Digital fabrication workshops open to local communities	SPRU	Amersfoort SPRU	Argentina UNQ
7	Hackerspaces: User driven digital fabrication workshops	SPRU	Build Brighton UK - SPRU	Hacklab Barracas Argentina - UNQ
8	Living Knowledge Network: Network of science shops and other community-based research entities	AAU	Science Shop DTU Denmark - AAU	InterMEDIU Romania - AAU
9	DESIS-network: Network for design for social innovation and sustainability	UFRJ	POLIMI DESIS Italy - UFRJ	NAS Design Brazil - UFRJ
10	Global Ecovillage Network: Network of eco-villages and other intentional communities	BOKU	Tamera Portugal - DRIFT	Schloss Tempelhof Germany - BOKU
11	Transition Towns: Grassroot communities working on 'local resilience'	UEA	Transition Totnes UK - UEA	Transition Wekerle Hungary - ESSRG
12	INFORSE: International network of sustainable energy NGOs	AAU	VE Denmark - AAU	APERÉ Belgium - ULB

Position of each Report in the TRANSIT project:

Each case report is part of the 1st empirical phase of TRANSIT, and will be used as:

- Input for a cross-comparative analysis of all 12 networks and 25 local cases, which will be published on the TRANSIT-website (mid-April 2015)
- Basis for essays/ blogs/ policy briefs to be published via the TRANSIT website
- Basis for academic papers to be submitted and published in scientific journals

More information on the TRANSIT-project:

www.transitsocialinnovation.eu

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