

TRANSIT

transformative social innovation

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DRIFT / Erasmus University Rotterdam

SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2014



Overview

1. Who is TRANSIT?
2. Main aims & research questions
3. Conceptual focus
4. Empirical focus
5. Cross-cutting themes
6. Research design & project structure
7. Contribution to the field

Who is TRANSIT?

- DRIFT – Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands (coordinator)
- 3S-group - University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- ICIS - University of Maastricht, Netherlands
- IHS – Erasmus University of Rotterdam, Netherlands
- ULB-CEDD - Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
- AAU – Aalborg University, Denmark
- SPRU - University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- IEC-UNQ - Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina
- COPPE - Rio de Janeiro Federal University, Brasil
- People-Environment Research Group – Universidade da Coruna, Spain
- BOKU - University of Natural Resources & Life Sciences Vienna, Austria
- ESSRG - research and development SME, Hungary







Dutch Research Institute for Transitions

www.drift.eur.nl



www.transitionsnetwork.org



ARTS Accelerating and Rescaling
Transitions to Sustainability



the
URBES
project



WELCOME

The Transition Academy partners with universities, individuals, innovation hubs and training institutes. We co-create learning environments that empower people to Think and Act for radical Change.

EDUCATION

We offer professional training, (post-) academic education and innovative learning trajectories on the theory and practise of transitions.

THINK ACT CHANGE



Coordinating TRANSIT DRIFT-team



Helmi Hansma

management



Manuela
Corsini

scientific coordinators
& researchers



Julia Wittmayer



Flor Avelino



Derk Loorbach



Jan Rotmans

allied professors

Main aim of TRANSIT

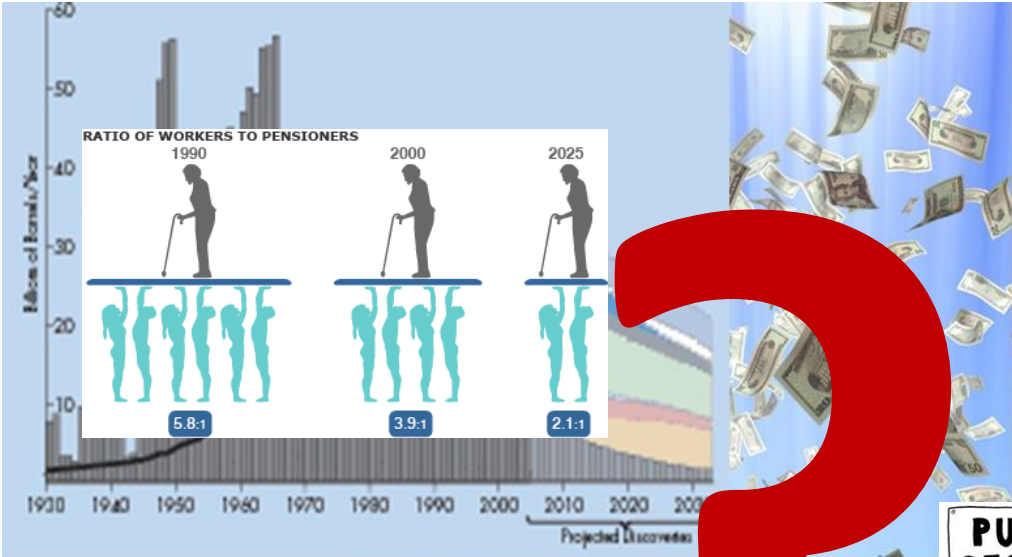
- To develop a theory of **transformative social innovation**
- that is grounded and tested in empirical research,
- and useful to academics and practitioners.

- **transformative social innovation:** social innovation that contributes to societal transformation, i.e. systemic changes that address societal challenges
 - type of social innovation?
 - intention/ impact?
 - **process**

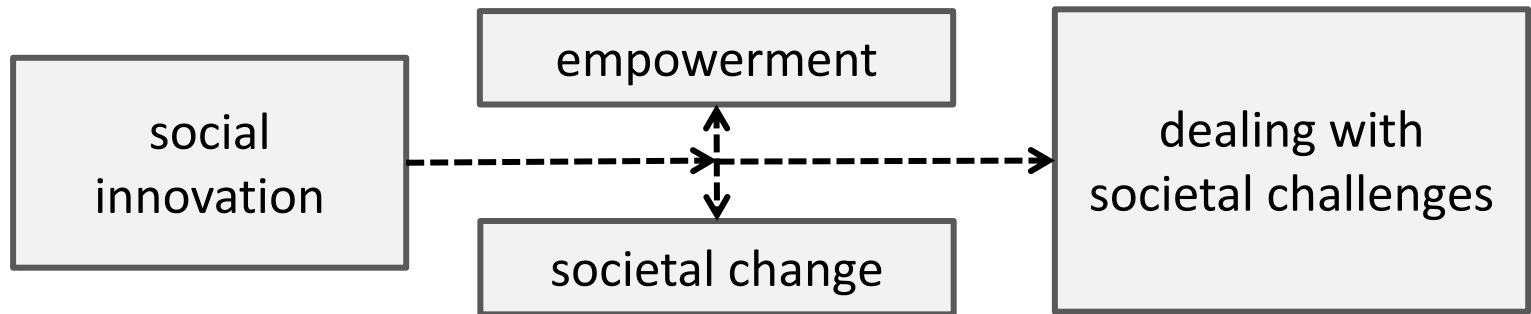
so many social innovations > how do they affect each other and society?



governments under pressure seem to expect that 'bottom-up' social innovation can help to deal with societal challenges... but how?



there is an (implicit) hypothesis/ assumption
in current 'social innovation' discourses, including the EU FP7 call:
"Social Innovation: empowering people, changing societies?"



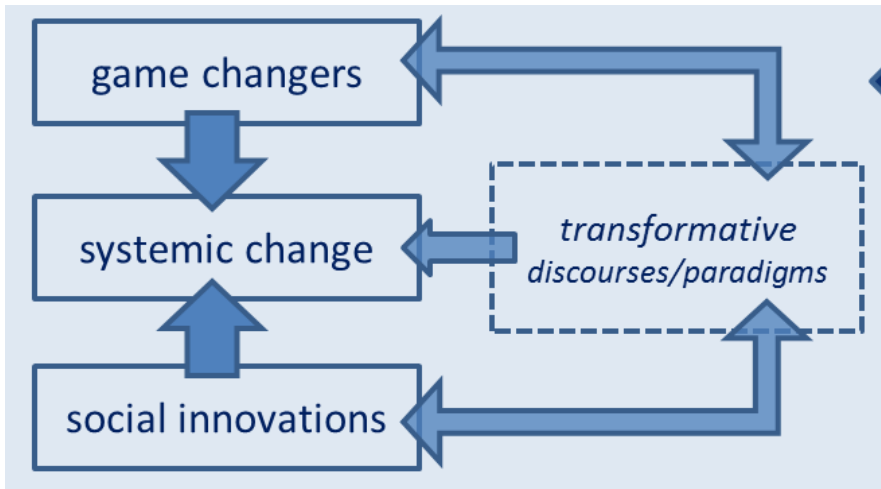
TRANSIT investigates this hypothesis

Main Research Questions

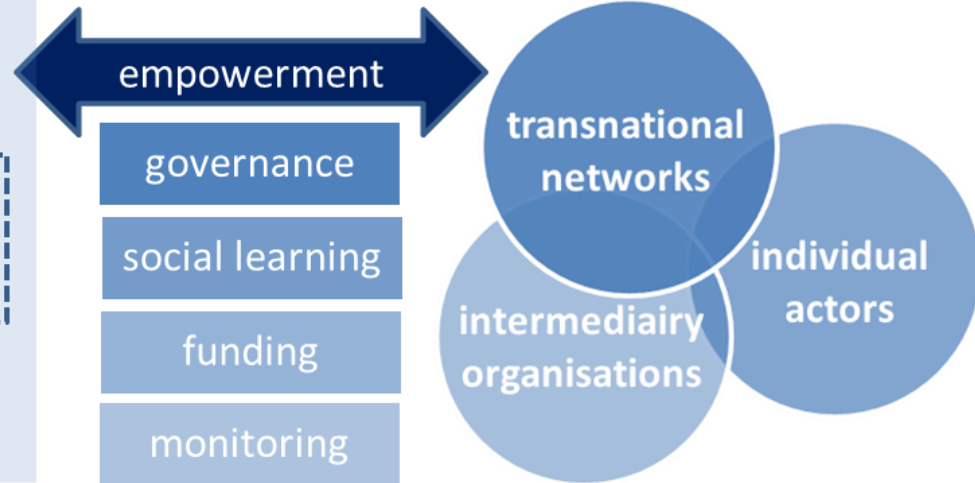
- How and under what conditions do **social innovations** lead to **systemic change**,
- what is the role of **game-changers** and **transformative discourses & paradigms** therein,
- and how are **actors (dis)empowered** in transformative social innovation (TSI) processes?

conceptual focus

conceptualising TSI dynamics



actors at 3 levels



*(dis)empowerment in
4 cross-cutting themes*

Figure 1, p.5 DOW

empirical TSI dynamics

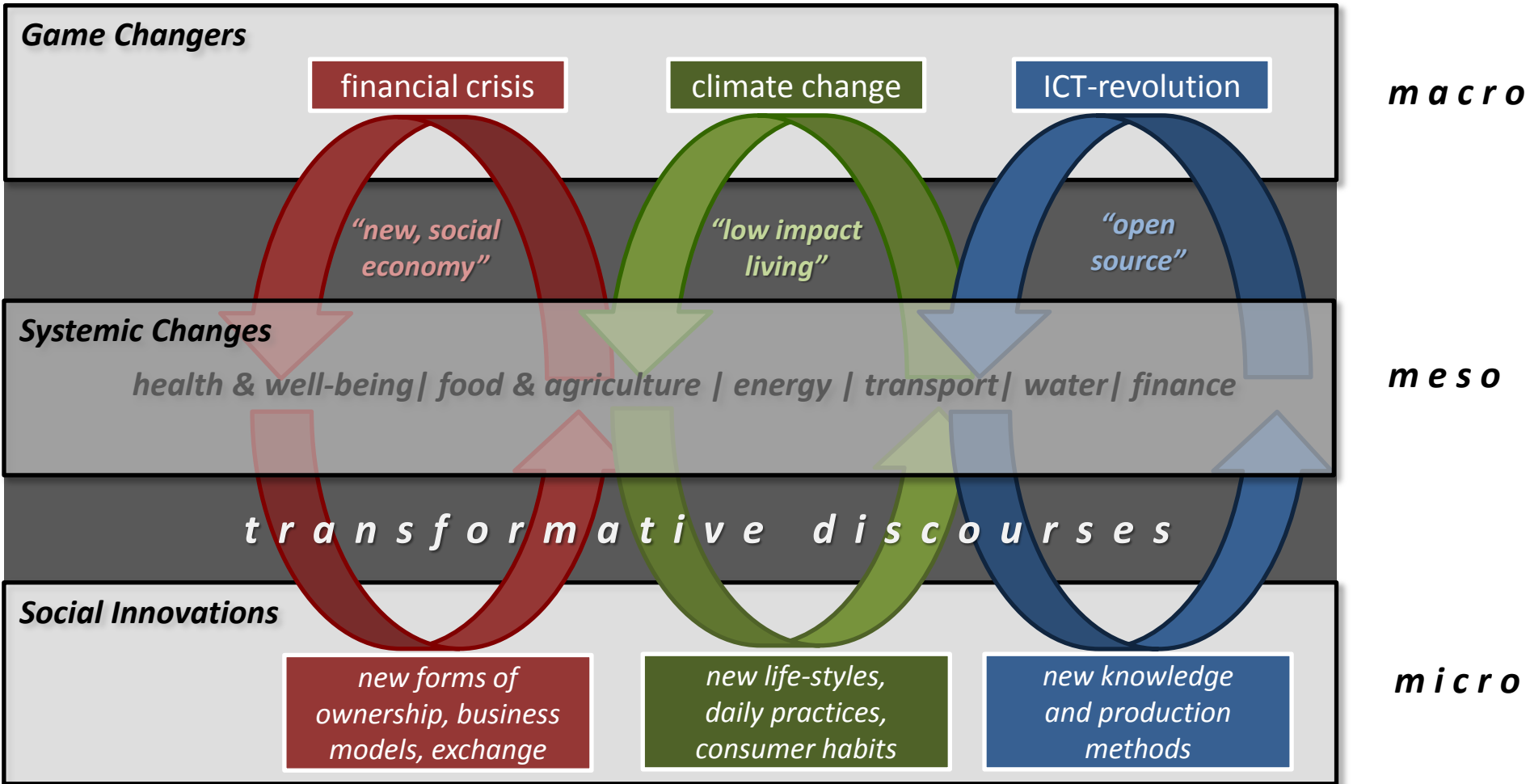
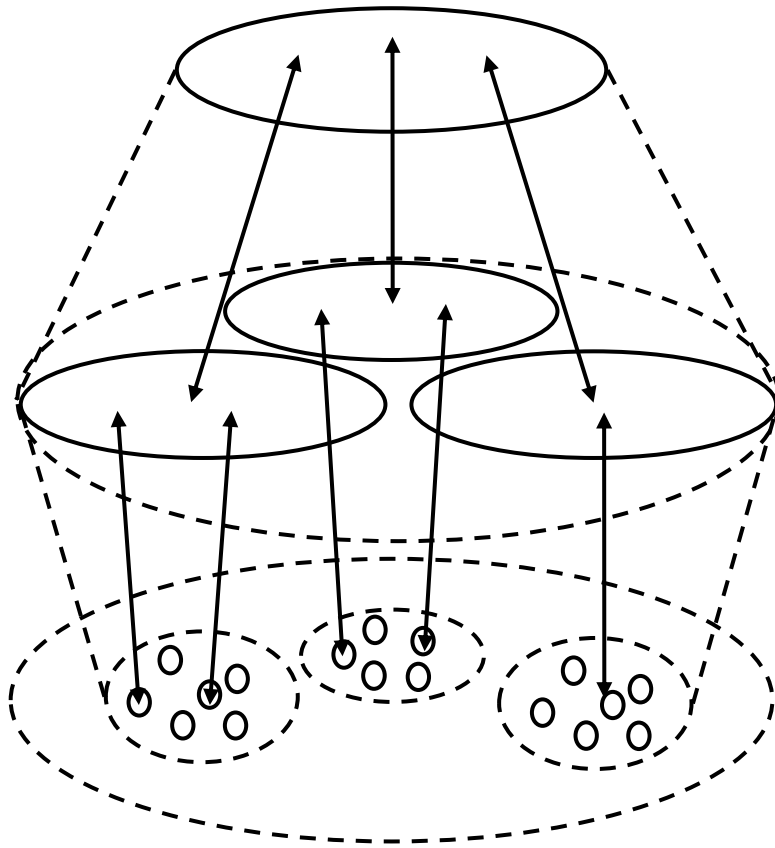


Figure 4, p.11 DOW

multi-level perspective (MLP)



Landscape
(macro-level)

*exogenous macro-
developments*

Regimes
(meso-level)

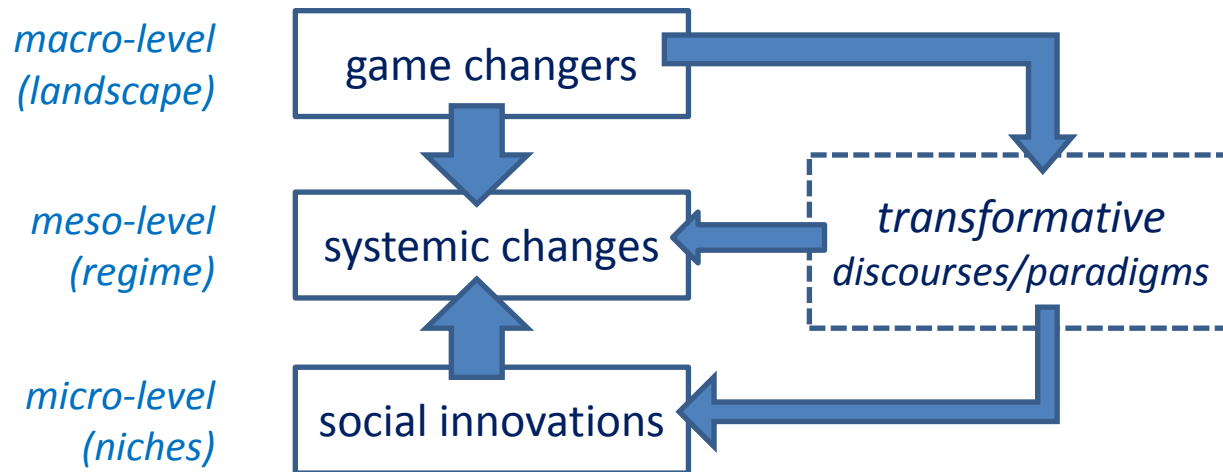
*dominant structures &
institutions*

Niches
(micro-level)

*spaces for
innovation*

Geels & Kemp 2000

transformative SI from a transitions perspective



- Useful for basic heuristic framework, but:
- TRANSIT will move *beyond* transition studies!

Figure 1, p. 5 DOW

(dis)empowerment in 4 cross-cutting themes

0. Game-changers

1. Governance

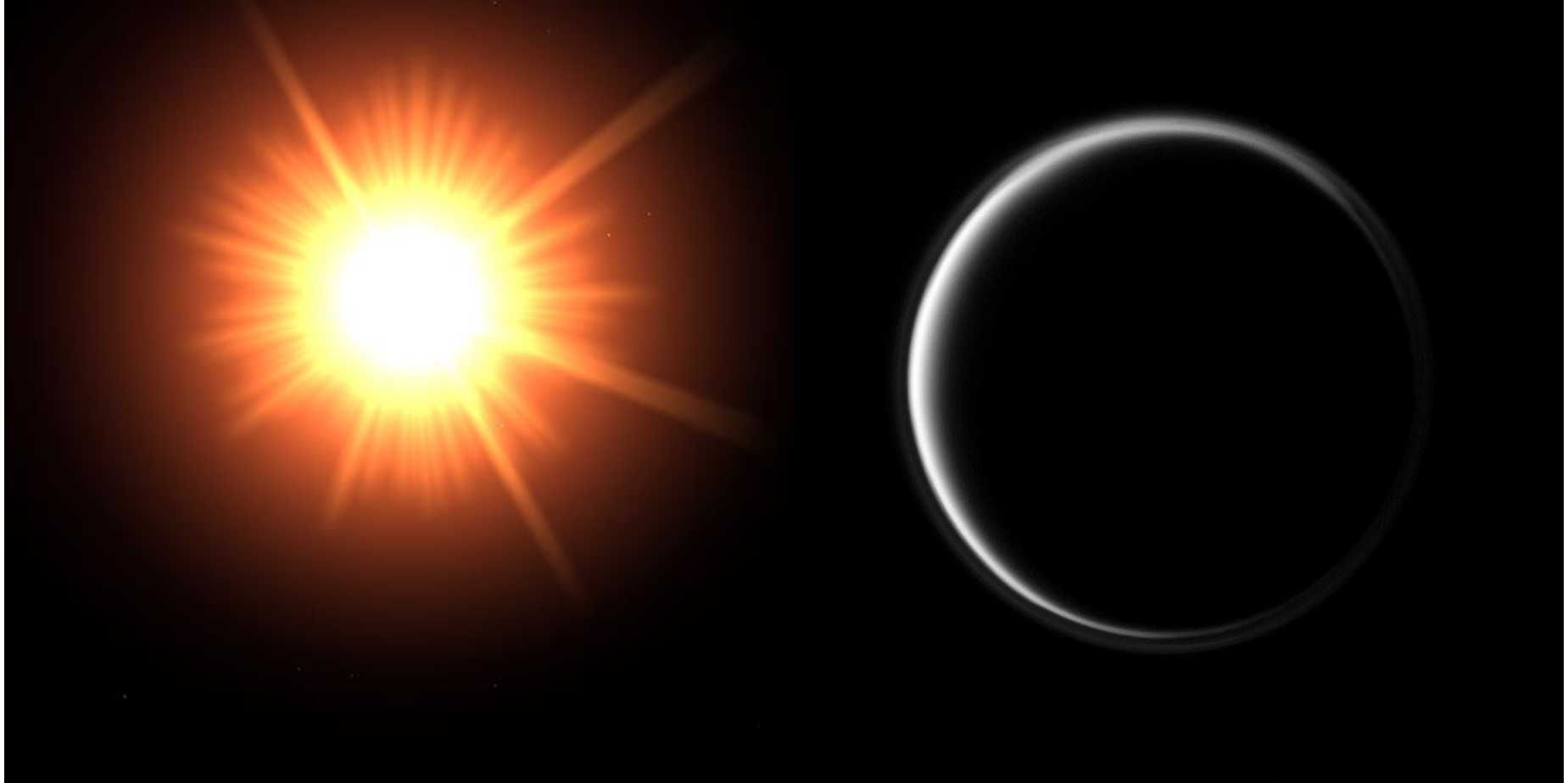
2. Social learning

3. Funding

4. Monitoring



(dis)empowerment



study positive sides as well as the 'dark' sides of social innovation, including political paradoxes, ironies, unintended effects, power struggles, exclusion, etc.

transnational TSI networks

- networks at a transnational (cross-continental) level
- work on social innovation/ co-create new social practices
- (aim to) contribute to societal transformation/ systemic change

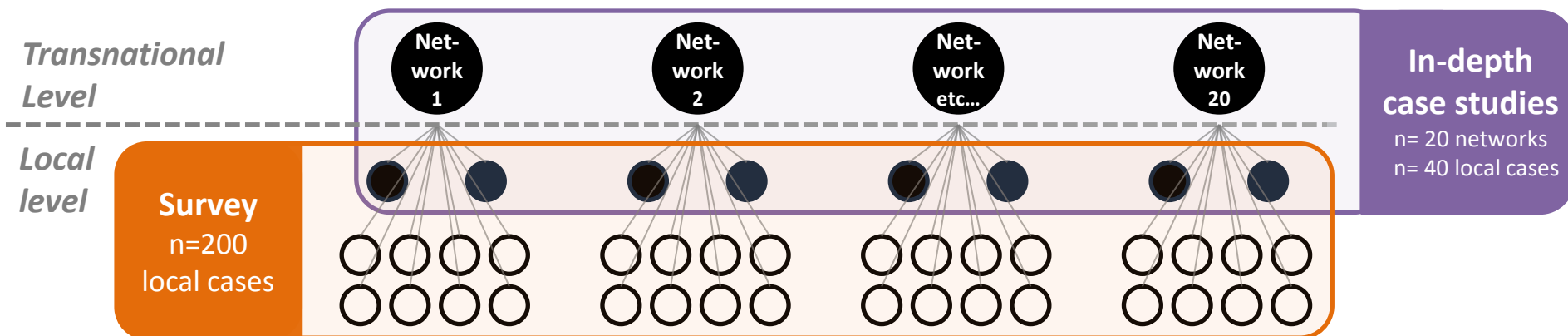


Figure 5, p. 13 DOW

first selection of 12 empirical networks

- geographical spread EU/ L-A
- accesible to partners
- diversity

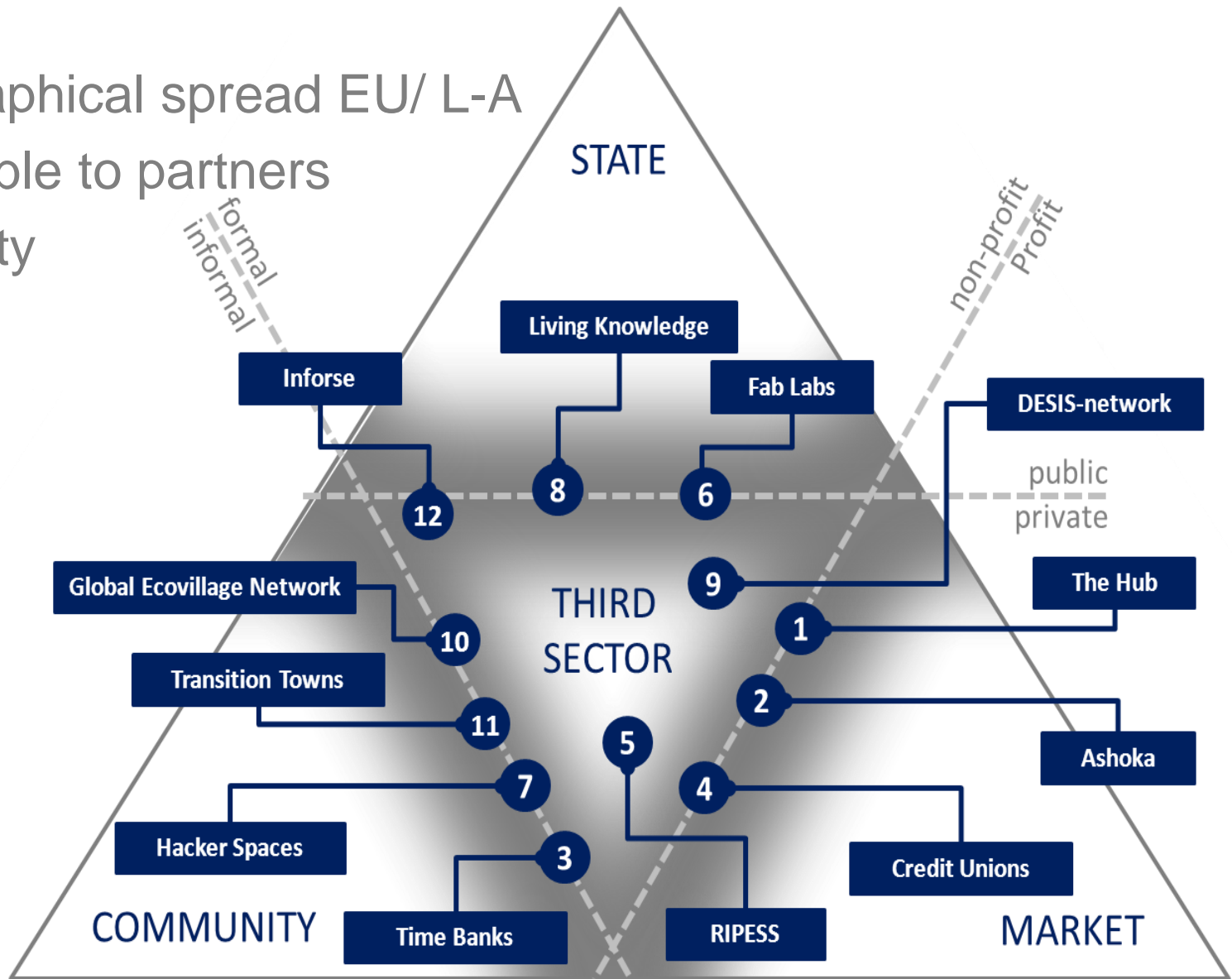
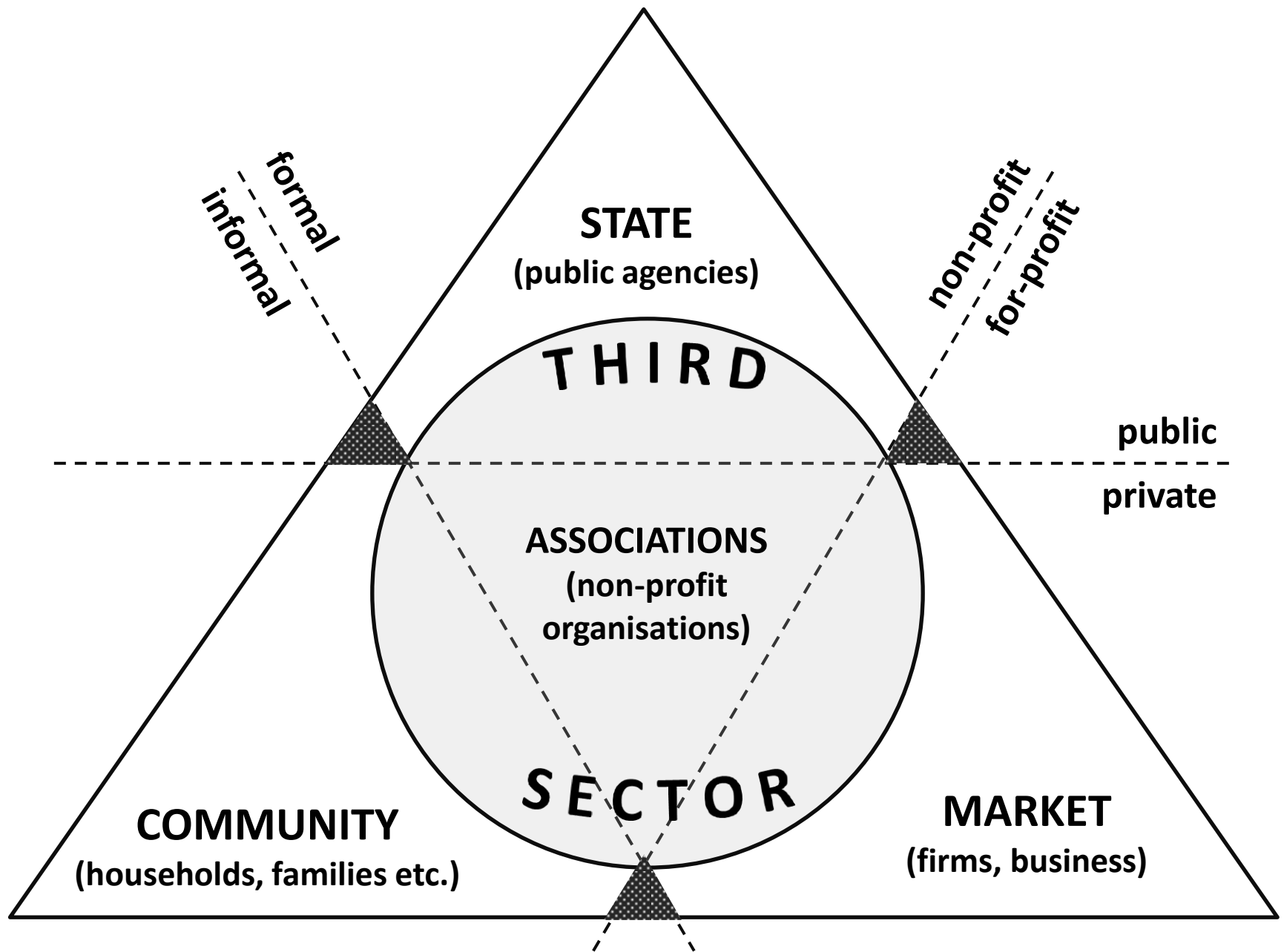


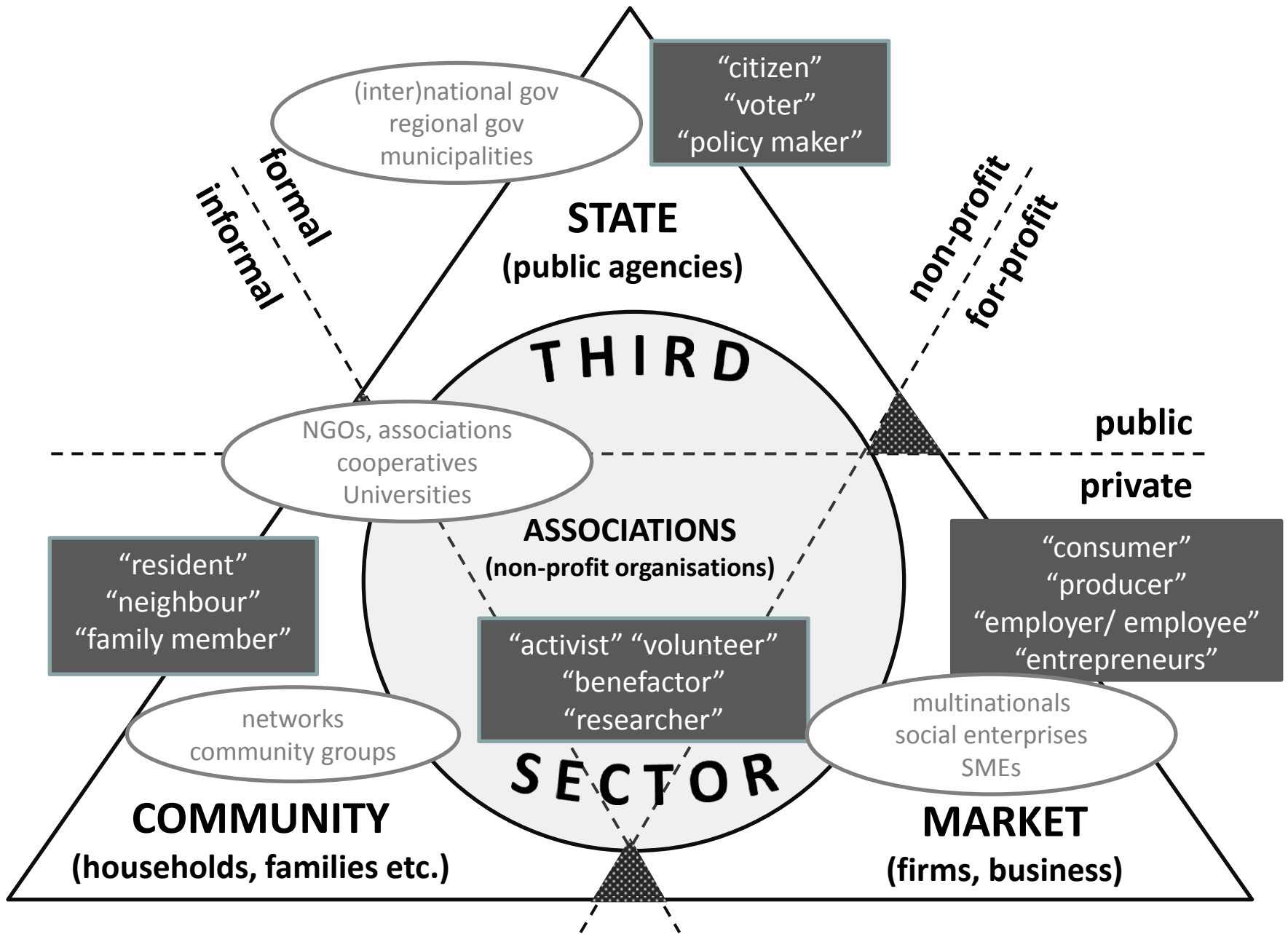
Figure 6, p. 14 DOW

	Transnational Networks	Transformative Discourses			Short Description of Networks
1	The Hub	A	B	C	network of social entrepreneurs providing co-creation places ("Hubs") in > 30 cities around the world
2	Ashoka	A			network for supporting social entrepreneurs, incl. association of 3,000 SE 'fellows' in 70+ countries around the world
3	Time Banks	A			networked entities that facilitate reciprocal service exchange using time as currency all over the world
4	Credit Unions	A			global network grouping and representing credit cooperatives all over the world, incl. 44 members in 54 countries.
5	RIPESS	A			<i>Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy</i> connects solidarity economy networks
6	FABLABS	A		C	network of 189 digital fabrication workshops for communities, incl. open source design & manufacturing resources.
7	Hackerspace	A		C	Global network of 1330+ physical sites where experiments are made in open source, commons-based, peer-production
8	Living Knowledge Network	A	B	C	Network of 'Science Shops': scientific research in cooperation with citizens and local and national civil society organisations
9	DESIS-network		B	C	Global network of design labs supporting 'social innovation towards sustainability', incl. 30 labs all over the world.
10	Global Ecovillage Network	A	B		global network of 500 ecovillages and other intentional co- communities, incl. European and Latina American subdivisions
11	Transition Towns	A	B		global network incl. 450 grassroots community initiatives working on "local resilience"
12	INFORSE	A	B		<i>International Network for Sustainable Energy</i> , 140 NGOs in 60+ countries, promote sustainable energy & social inclusion
	Transformative Discourses	Game Changers			Social Innovations
A	New, Social Economy	Financial Crisis			Innovations in ownership, business models, methods of exchange. Policy areas: health, welfare, employment, finance
B	Low Impact Living	Climate Change			Innovations in life-styles, daily practices, consumer habits. Policy areas: energy, mobility, food, agriculture, water
C	Open Source	ICT-revolution			Innovations in research, production, sharing of information. Policy areas: R&D, education, participation, employment

Table 1, p. 12 DOW



Avelino & Wittmayer 2014, Based on Evers & Laville 2004, Pestoff 1992



Avelino & Wittmayer 2014, Based on Evers & Laville 2004, Pestoff 1992

research design

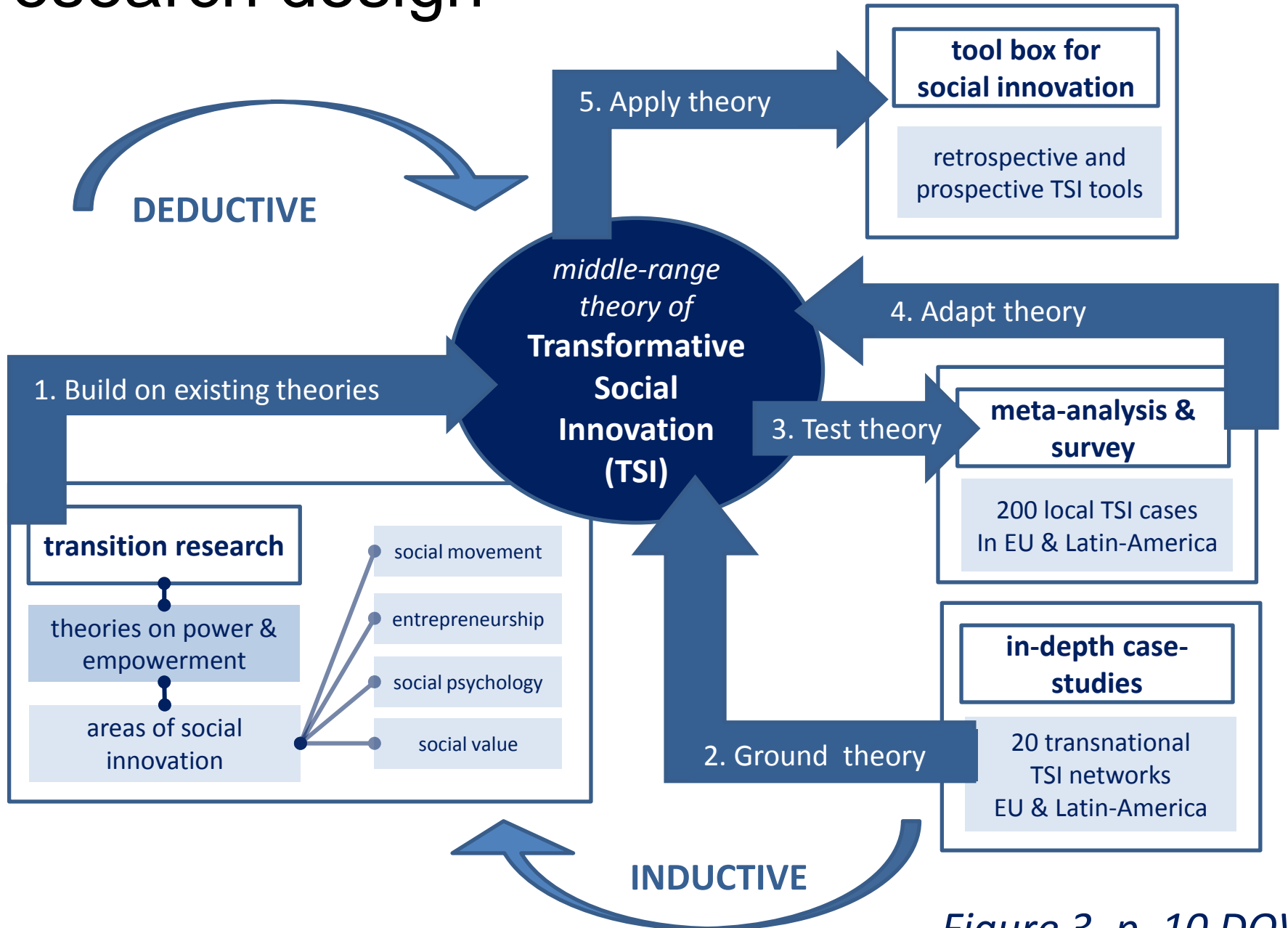


Figure 3, p. 10 DOW

TRANSIT structure

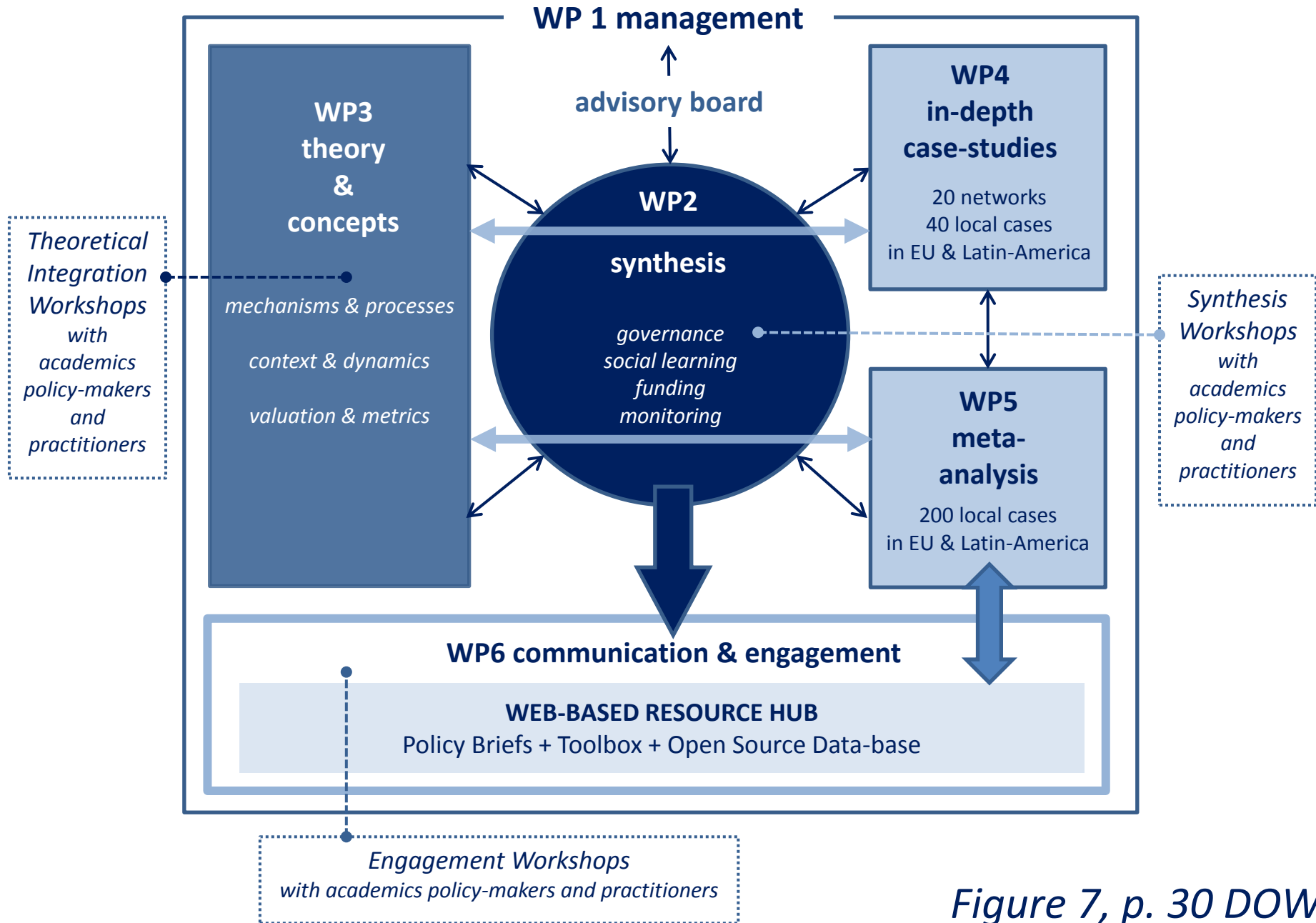


Figure 7, p. 30 DOW

planning & time-line 2014-2017

WP1: Project management	★			★	★					★			★			
Deliverables WP1	D1.1 1.2 1.3			PM1	AB								AB			D1.4
WP2: Coordination and Integration			◆	◆						◆			◆◆			
Deliverables WP2				D2.1 D2.2						D2.3				D2.4 D2.5		
WP3: Theory and Concepts					💡					💡			💡			
Deliverables WP3		D3.1				D3.2				D3.3				D3.4		
WP4: In-Depth Cases & Evidence																
Deliverables WP4		D4.1			D4.2	D4.3				D4.4						
WP5: Meta-analysis Cases and Evidence meta																
Deliverables WP5						D5.1 D5.2				D5.3				D5.4		
WP6: Communication & Engagement			◆												◆	😊
Deliverables WP6	D6.1		D6.2	D6.3	D6.4						D6.5				D6.6 D6.7 D6.8	D6.9
	1 to 3	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 18	19 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 27	28 to 30	31 to 33	34 to 36	37 to 39	40 to 42	43 to 45	46 to 48
	2014	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017

★ project meeting

💡 theoretical integration workshops

◆ synthesis workshop

◆ engagement workshop

😊 final conference

the field of social innovation



A Study on Social Innovation from SIX

SOCIAL INNOVATOR SERIES:
WAYS TO DESIGN, DEVELOP
AND GROW SOCIAL INNOVATION

THE OPEN BOOK OF SOCIAL INNOVATION

Robin Murray
Julie Caulier-Grice
Geoff Mulgan



Frances Westley on 'The History of Social Innovation'



Geoff Mulgan on 'Setting a future research agenda for social innovation'

Roberto Magabeira Unger in conversation with Geoff Mulgan on the social movement'



<http://www.nesta.org.uk/event/social-frontiers>

“future agenda” ... “gaps in research” ...

- *“The need to consider how well research and practice being undertaken under the banner of social innovation is contributing to **solving real problems**”*
- *“The importance of better understanding the **links between theory and practice**”*
- *“The need to better understand processes for **sustaining, scaling and diffusion of innovation**”*
- *“The importance of understanding of **systems change**”*

TRANSIT's contribution to the field

- focus on **transformative** social innovation
- systemic (transitions) perspective
- quali-quantitative embedded case-studies of **transnational TSI networks**
- inter- and transdisciplinary: **beyond policy recommendations towards engaging practitioners**
- synthesis of cross-cutting themes on **empowerment**





THANK YOU

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