

A vertical illustration on the left side of the slide depicts a cityscape. It features a mix of architectural styles, including modern glass skyscrapers and older, more ornate buildings with red roofs. The colors are vibrant, with a lot of blue, red, and yellow. The illustration is oriented vertically, running from the bottom of the slide towards the top.

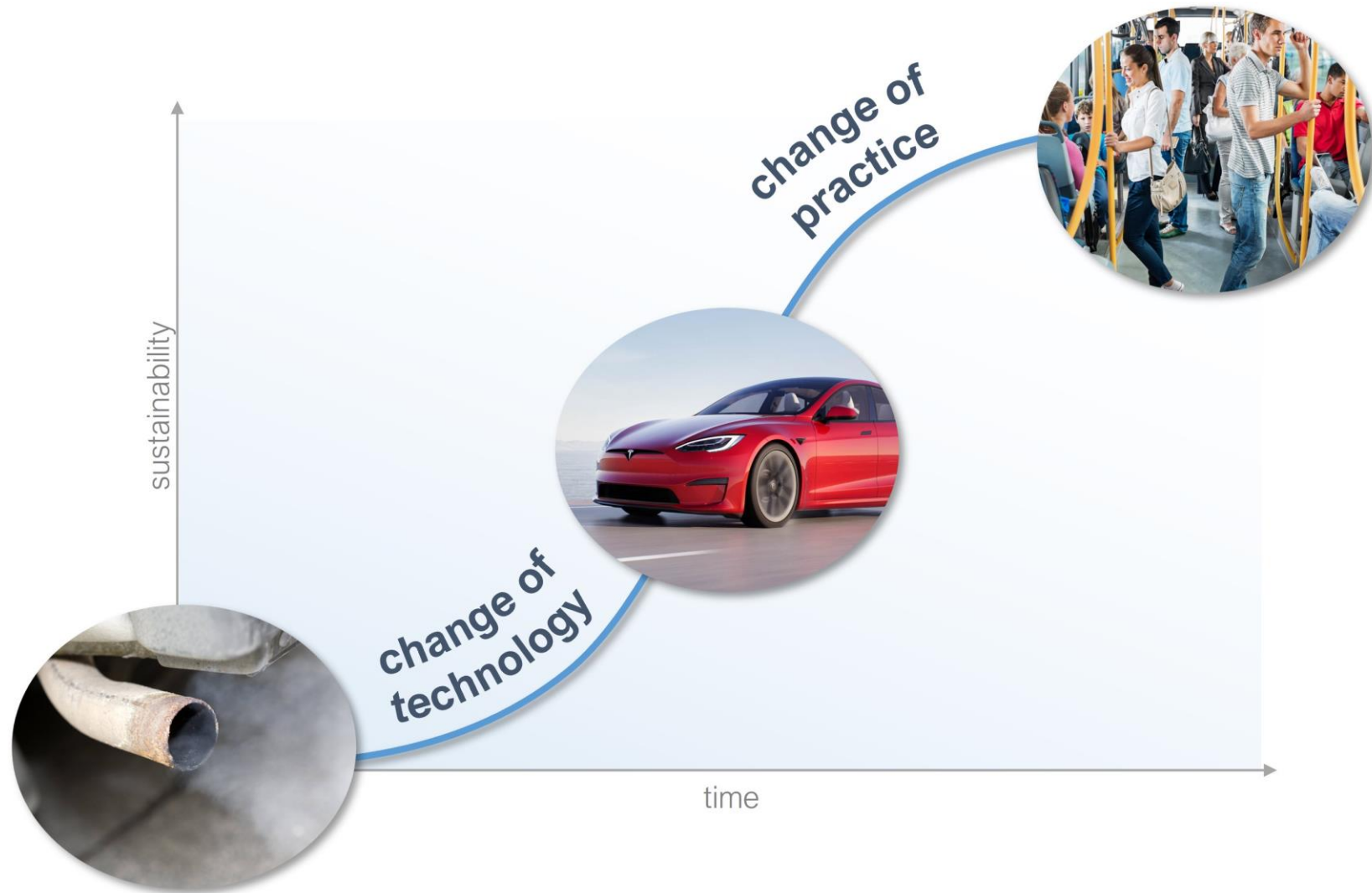
# Enabling local initiatives for ecosocial transformation

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# THE RESEARCH BEHIND IT

# A societal change perspective on transformations



*Adapted from Geels (2019)*



# Spotlight on local socially innovative interventions



# Social innovation or “New ways of doing things”

- ☞ A multi-stage, iterative innovation process
- ☞ Motivated by concrete social needs
- ☞ Aimed at changing social configurations  
(*practices, interactions, societal roles, resource access, ...*)
  - ✦ Developing new business models | *citizen power plants*
  - ✦ Establishing new decision-making mechanisms | *citizen juries*
  - ✦ Changing societal roles | *farmers as energy prosumers*
  - ✦ Changing everyday practices | *switching to sustainable modes of transport*

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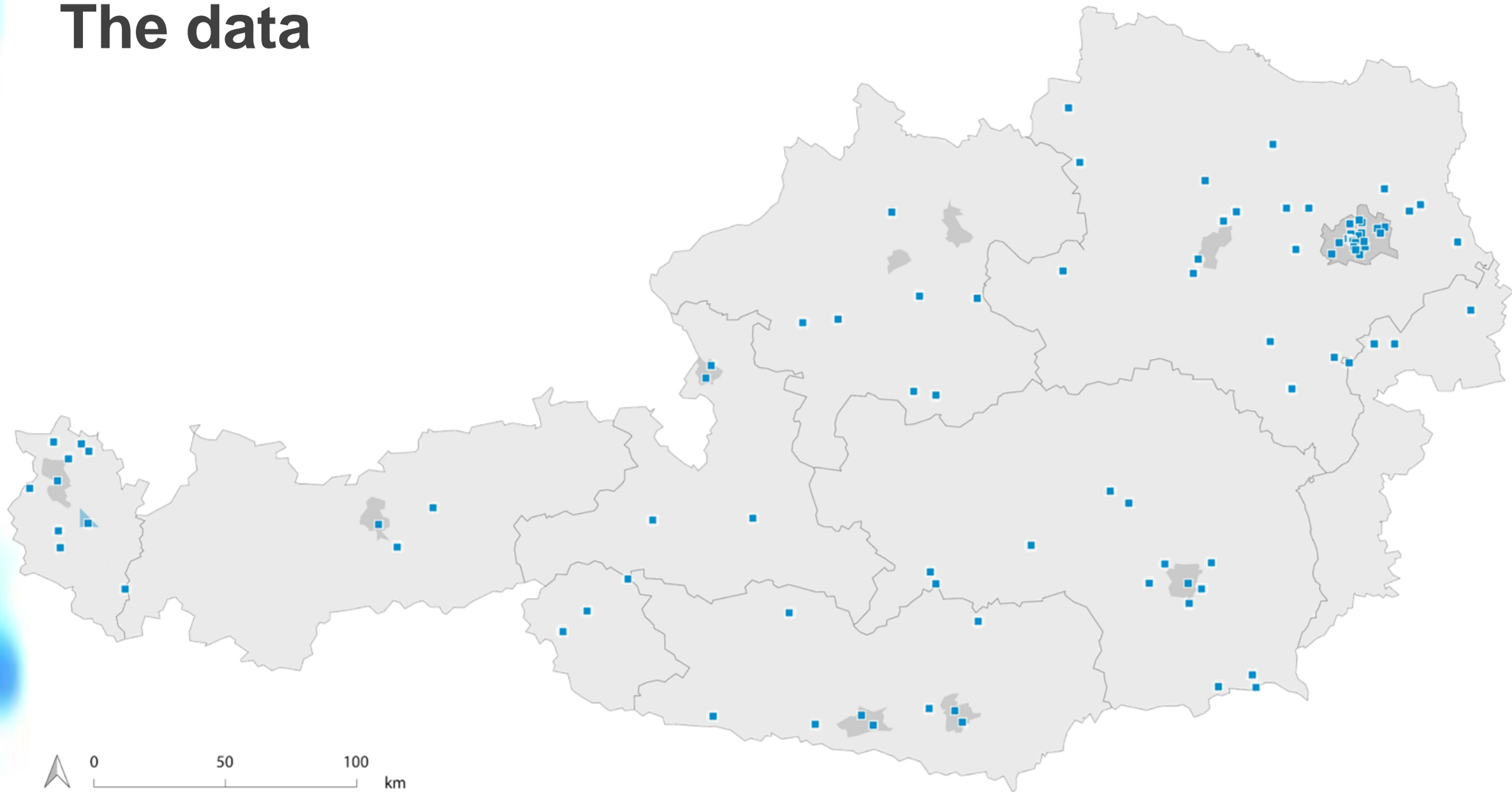
Moulaert, F., & MacCallum, D. (2019). *Advanced introduction to social innovation*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Pel, B., Haxeltine, A., Avelino, F., Dumitru, A., Kemp, R., Bauler, T., ... & Jørgensen, M. S. (2020). *Towards a theory of transformative social innovation: A relational*

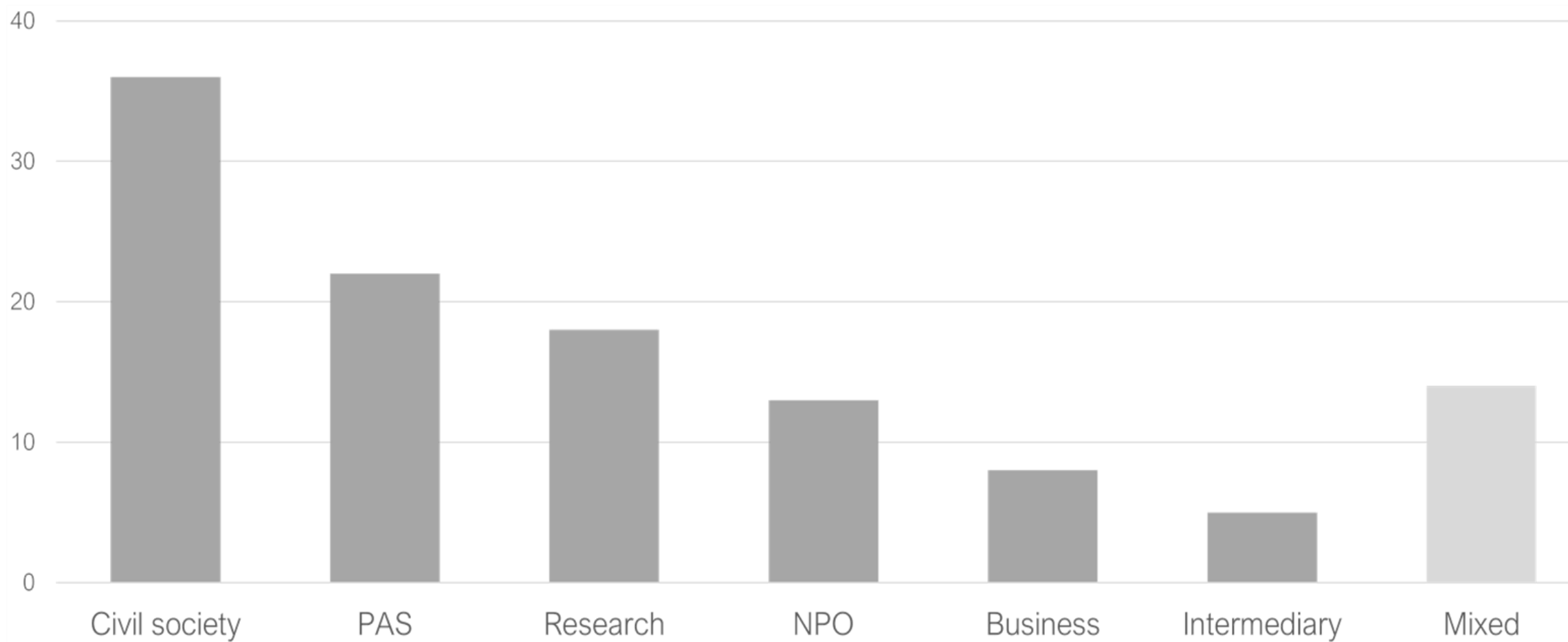
*framework and 12 propositions*. *Research Policy*, 49(8), 104080.

Suitner, J., Haider, W., & Philipp, S. (2023). *Social innovation for regional energy transition? An agency perspective on transformative change in non-core regions*. *Regional Studies*, 57(8), 1498-1510.

# The data



# Key initiators





# Key facilitating factors

- ✦ **Initiators' capacities**

*(expertise, experiential knowledge, networks)*

- ✦ **Exchange between initiatives**

*(mutual learning, inspiration, collaboration)*

- ✦ **Knowledge of place**

*(development path, identity, future vision)*

- ✦ **Institutional support**

*(financial, administrative and scientific)*





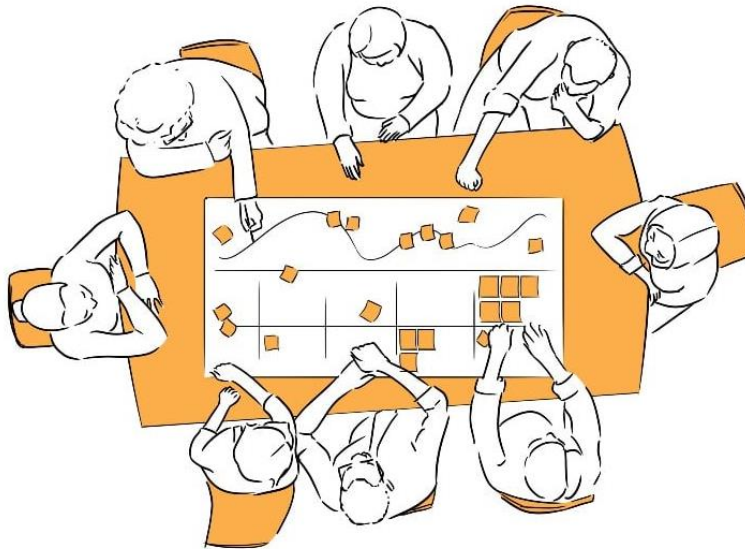
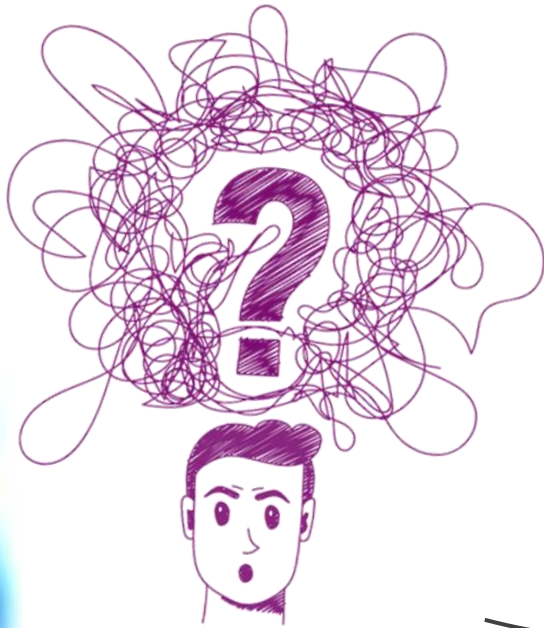
# **INSTITUTIONALIZING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SI**

# Supporting local initiatives during ...

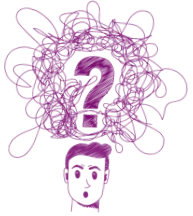
**IDEATION**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**IMPACT  
CREATION**



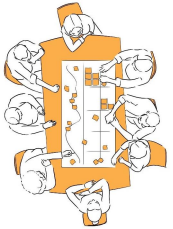
# What matters



**Share experience** *on success and failure „in context“*

**Provide administrative support** *(funding schemes, legal issues, ...)*

**Enable connections** *with experts and similar initiatives*



**Provide a dedicated contact person** *for simple communication & trust*

**Be flexible** *(allow for change along the way)*

**Recognize commitment** *(media coverage, prizes, ...)*



**Document learnings** *(make them accessible and usable for others)*

**Multiply**, *amplify, and institutionalize successful interventions*

**Don't innovative for the sake of newness** *(continue schemes that work)*

# Towards intermediaries for SI

## Knowledge brokers

- Experts integrating system knowledge (*climate, governance, ...*),
- experiential knowledge (*what worked where, when, why, and how*),
- local knowledge (***contextual literacy***; *who are we and what works here?*)

## Networking hubs

- Exchange platform (*learning from experience*)
- Matchmaking platform (*who could I collaborate with?*)

## Vertical integrators and communicators

- Top-down: Translating strategies, agendas, funding schemes and windows of opportunity to local changemakers
- Bottom-up: Communication learnings for institutionalization

# How to ...

**Build on existing intermediaries and multipliers**

**Expand their scope and competencies**

- Regional management agencies
- LEADER managers
- Austria: KEM regions (small-scale regional collaborations of typically 5-20 municipalities, aimed at climate- and energy-oriented interventions, funded by Austrian government)





# Thank You!

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