

DUST

Democratising
jUst
Sustainability
Transitions

Democratising jUst Sustainability Transitions

Ringvorlesung @ B-TU Cottbus-Senftenberg

7 November 2023

Dr. Verena Balz | DUST Principal
Investigator | TU Delft



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe
Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101094869

First in a nutshell...
Then in more depth...
Finally, a brief reflection.

Your questions (in brief)

- What are conceptual approaches to understand and support spatial structural change and its management?
- What empirical findings are there on the effects of structural change in lignite regions and beyond?
- What practical approaches are there to shaping structural change?

Your questions (in brief)

- What are **conceptual approaches** to understand and support spatial structural change and its management?
- What empirical findings are there on the effects of structural change in lignite regions and beyond?
- What **practical approaches** are there to shaping structural change?

First in a nutshell...

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions

- The DUST project will **develop and operationalise novel participatory instruments for proactive and strategic citizen engagement in sustainability transitions**. It will combine design-led territorial tools with digital tools for citizen deliberation at scale.
- The project addresses a defining societal and democratic challenge for Europe, which is to **hear the voices of least engaged communities**, especially in structurally weak regions dependent on energy-intensive industries, which will be most affected by transitions towards a more sustainable future.
- Building on the concept of ‘active subsidiarity’, the project will employ an innovative mix of research methods, and experimental citizen participation, to **understand the determinants of participation in decision-making on sustainability transitions at different levels of government**, and to **develop effective policy recommendations for inclusive engagement of civil society**.

“This transition has to be locally-owned and everyone must be involved” (Marc Lemaître, Director-General, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, in European Commission, 2021, p. 1).

European Commission. (2021b). *Youth for a just transition: A toolkit for youth participation in the just transition fund*. Publications Office of the European Union. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2776/931982>

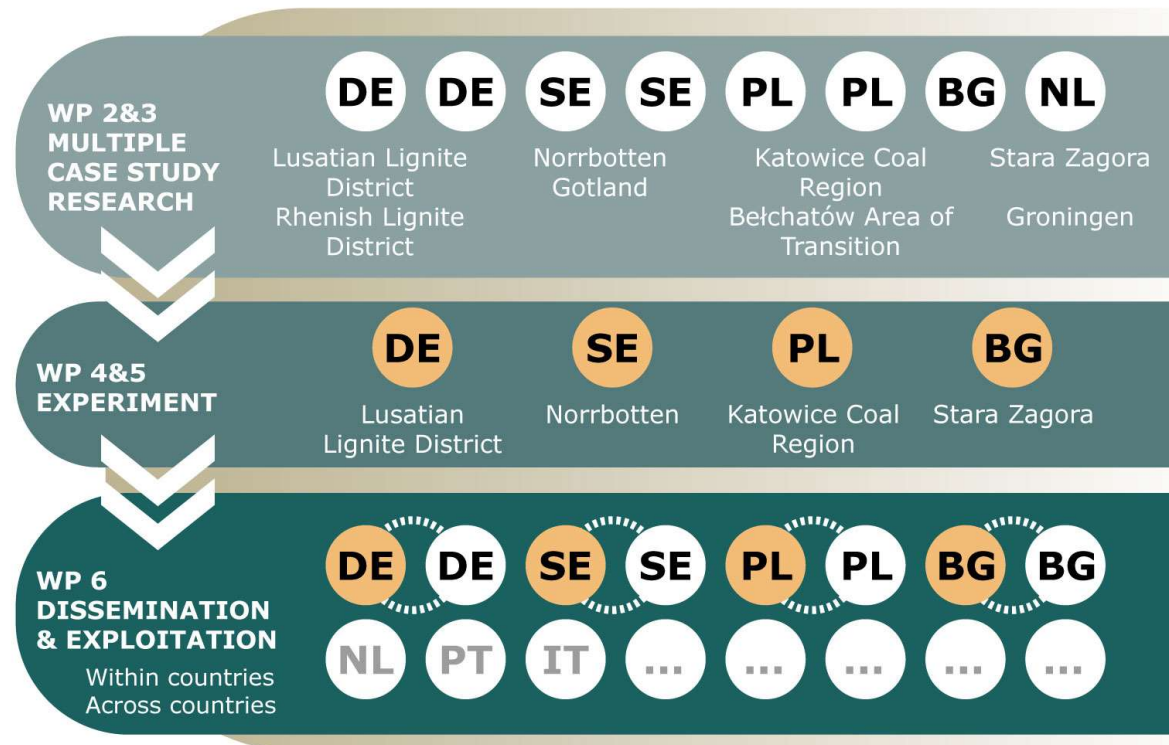
DUST

Democratising
jUst
Sustainability
Transitions

General information

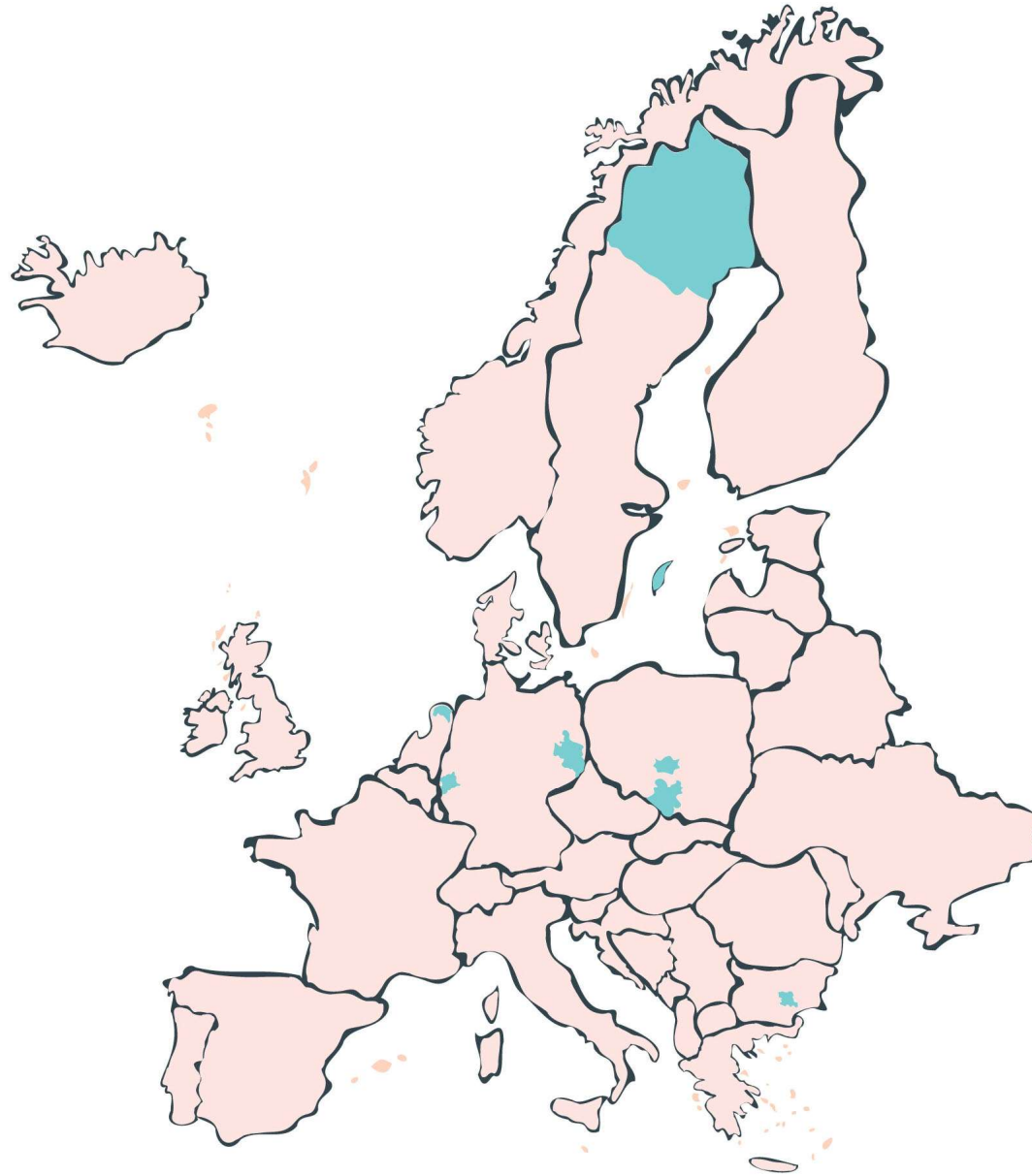
- Funded under the Horizon Europe Research & Innovation Action;
- Duration: 2023-2025 (start in February 2023, 3 years);
- Budget: EUR 3,5 mln (incl. budget of Associated Partners).

Case study regions



Case study regions

- 8 Case study regions, of which 4 become the location of experiments;
- Fall into 5 countries in Western, Northern, Central, and Southeastern Europe;
- Common eligibility for the Just Transition Fund (JFT);
- All are the locus of multiple policy interventions supporting place-based approaches to sustainability transitions;
- strongly differ in (1) their socio-economic and territorial context; (2) the composition of these multi-level policies; and (3) their governance.





Roger Melis,
Senftenberg 1989

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions

Partners

- Delft University of Technology (Lead partner)
- Nordregio
- Centre of the Study of Democracy
- Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg
- Academy of Economics Katowice
- ISOCARP Institute
- Hela Sverige Ska Leva Norrbotten / Rural Sweden Norrbotten
- Stara Zagora Agency for Economic Development (online)
- Stiftung Wohlfahrtspflege Brandenburg
- PZZ KADRA - The Alliance of Trade Unions
- University of Zurich
- University of Strathclyde
- OOZE Architects and Urbanists



13 DUST participants

In summary

- 7 academic partners from the fields of the democracy studies, public policy (Cohesion policy and regional development policy), economy, spatial planning and spatial design;
- 4 societal partners representing communities in RFL case study regions;
- 1 partner specialised in communication and dissemination;
- 1 art director;
- + External Expert and Stakeholder Advisory Boards.



DUST Kick-off meeting April 2023

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions



KADRA, DUST
societal partner

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions

Work package 1

Theory and methods

Methods

- Literature reviews
- Interactive dialogues
- Synthesis of results

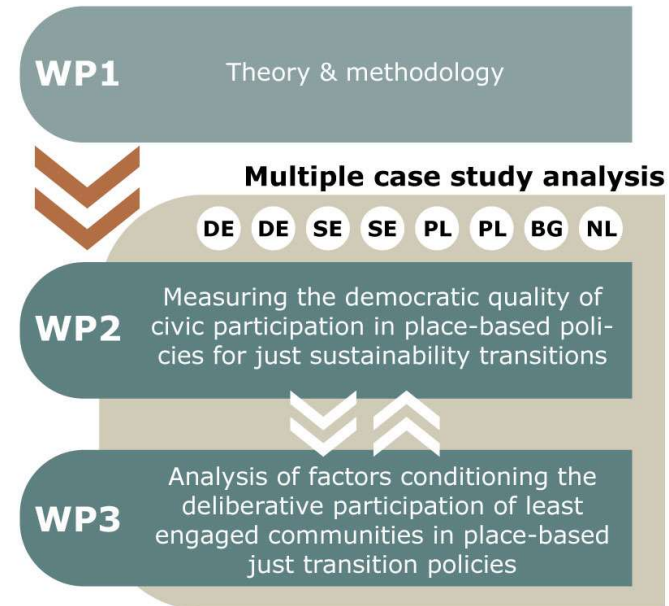
WP1

Theory & methodology

Work package 2&3 Multiple case study research

Objectives

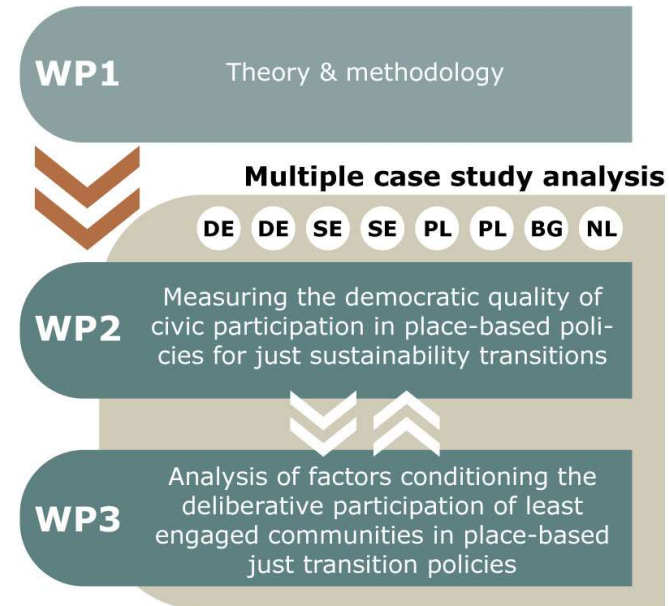
- Understanding the scope, depth and determining factors of civic participation of least engaged communities in just sustainability transition initiatives.



Work package 2&3 Multiple case study research

Methods

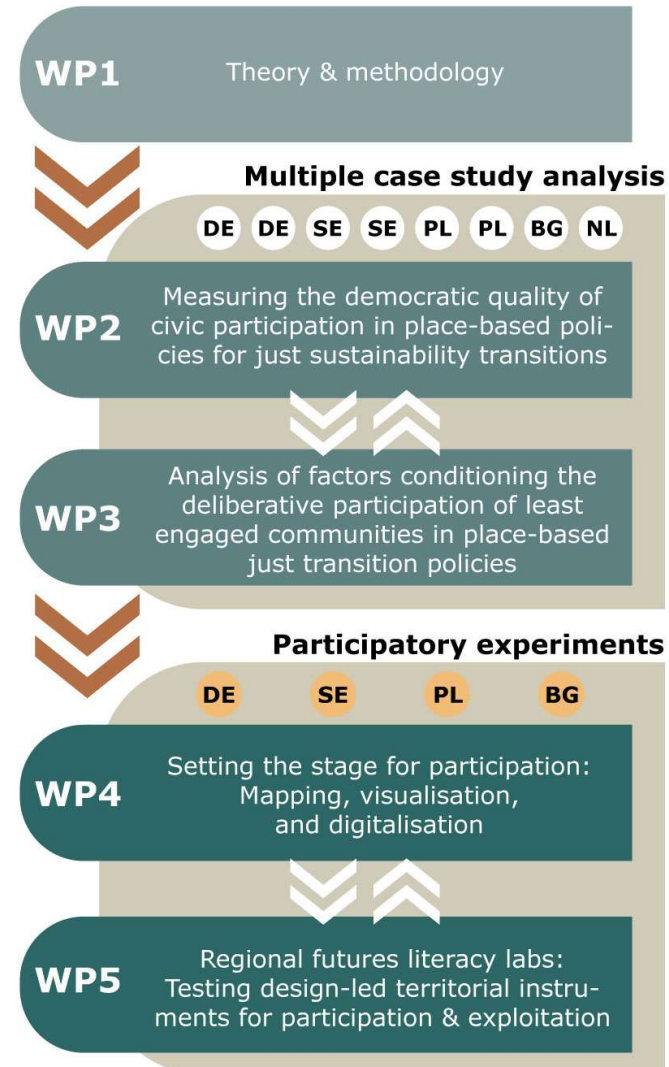
- Population survey;
- Actor-Process-Event Scheme (APES);
- STEP Index formation;
- Regional/local elite interviews;
- Local/community focus groups with civil society;
- Social and traditional media analysis.



Work package 4&5 Participatory experiments

Objectives

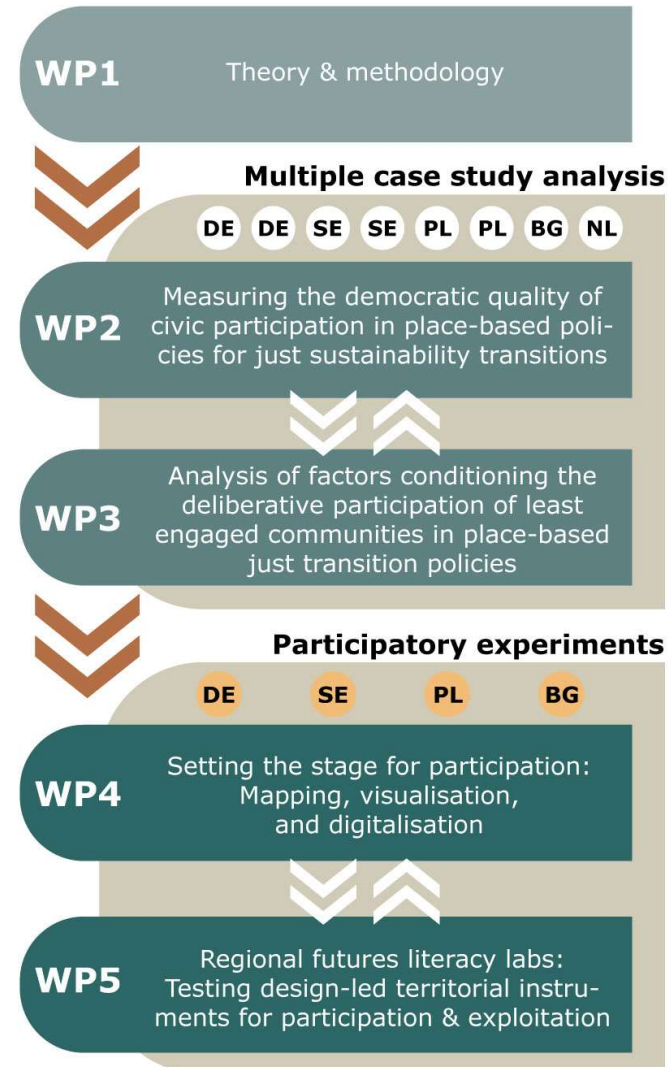
- Design-led territorial and digital instruments for citizen participation in just sustainability transitions.



Work package 4&5 Participatory experiments

Methods

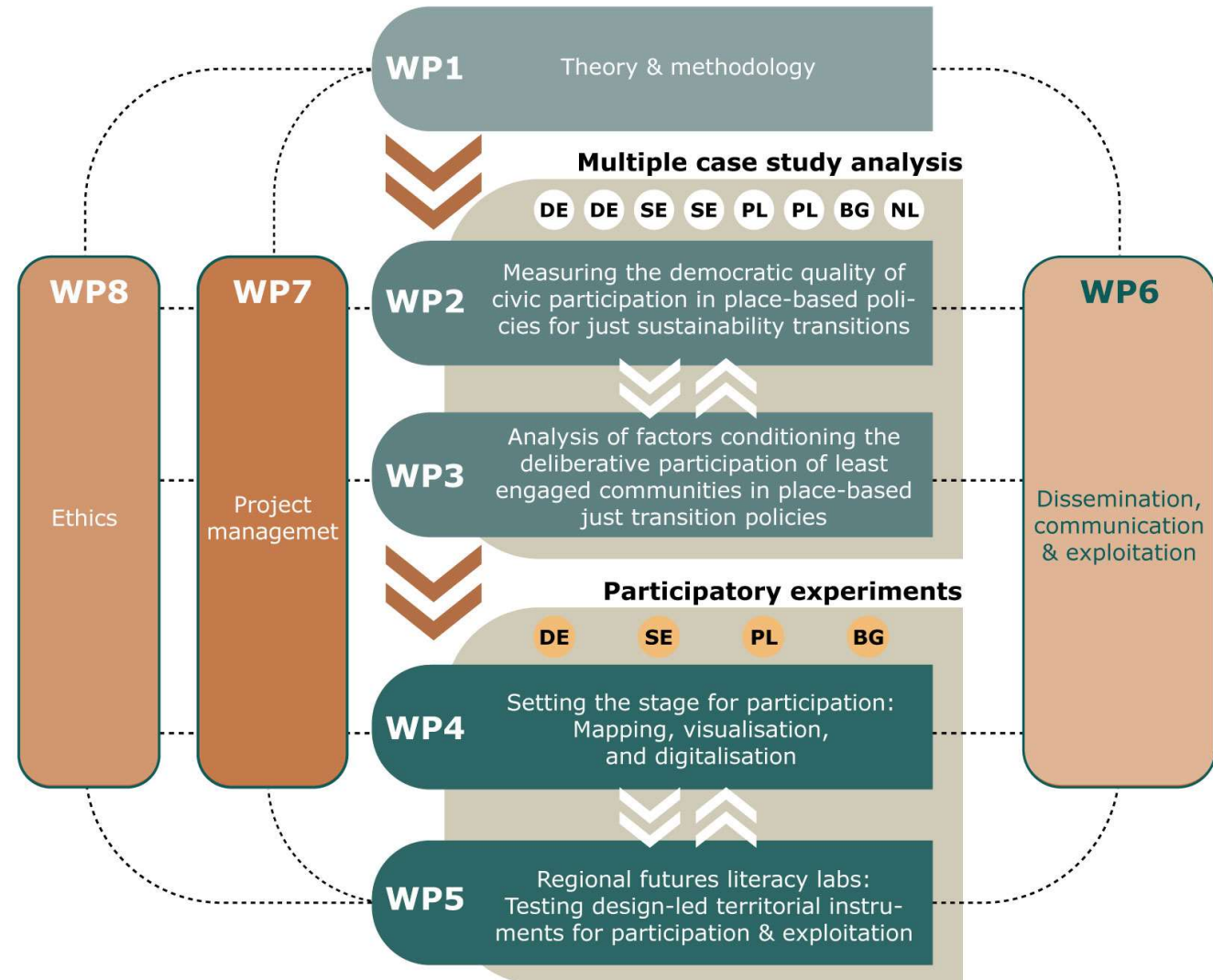
- Spatial analysis (GIS application);
- Regional design;
- E-democracy tool Pol.is application;
- Mapping citizen groups;
- Futures literacy lab approach.



Work package 6 Dissemination, communication and exploitation

Methods

- Academic publication
- DUST Academy
- Storytelling and community engagement in just sustainability transitions with digital tools
- Community champions network



Key concepts and focus areas

Citizen participation of/in

- Least engaged communities (LECs);
- Just sustainability transitions;
- Multi-level place-based approaches;
- Deliberative democracy / governance.

How DUST goes beyond the state of the art

Analytical dimension

- New knowledge on the factors that enhance or hinder participation;

Evaluative dimension

- An index for a comprehensive assessment of participation;

Instrumental dimension

- Tested digital and non-digital design-led territorial tools for participation;

Communicative dimension

- Knowledge on affective communication and dissemination of unheard story lines.

Then in more depth...

Establishing the DUST central research subject: least-engaged communities

Why focus on LEC?

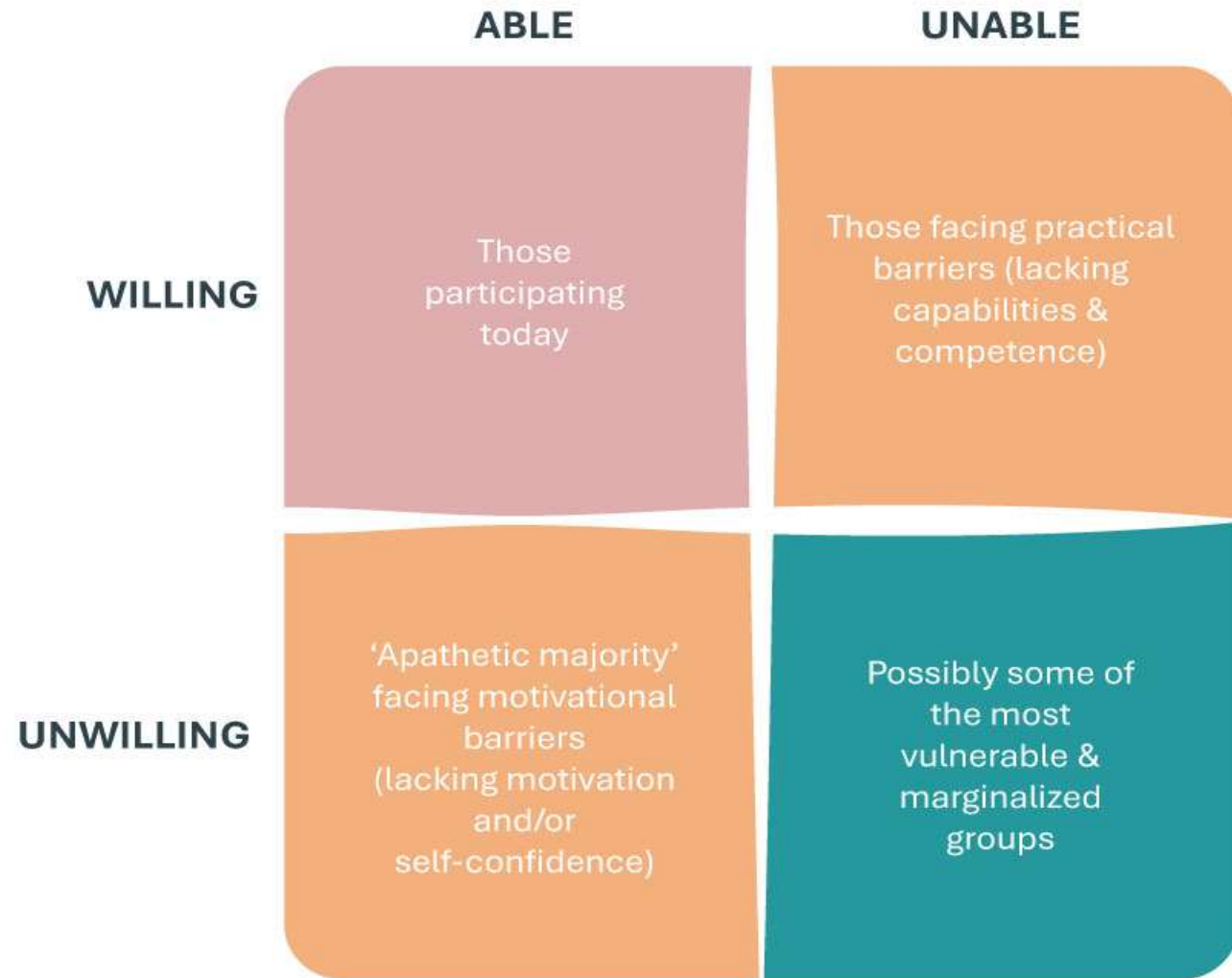
- LEC are often the **most affected by sustainability transitions**;
- LEC are often the **most affected by transition policies or sustainable development policies**;
- Normative, ethical reasons: ensure an **equitable distribution of transition benefits and burdens** across social groups and across space;
- Pragmatic reasons: **support of the LEC in the implementation of collective planning for sustainability**;
- Opportunity to **(re)politicise sustainability**.

Various, partly overlapping terms that bear on the concept of LEC

- **Deprived communities** / a place-based perspective;
- **Marginalized communities** / perspective considering social and economic exclusion from the society;
- **Vulnerable communities** / perspective considering disproportionate health and environmental impacts;
- **Seldom-heard groups** / perspective considering voices in political participation and deliberation;
- ...

LECs

- Conceptual framework to identify LECs: Able / unable / willing / unwilling.



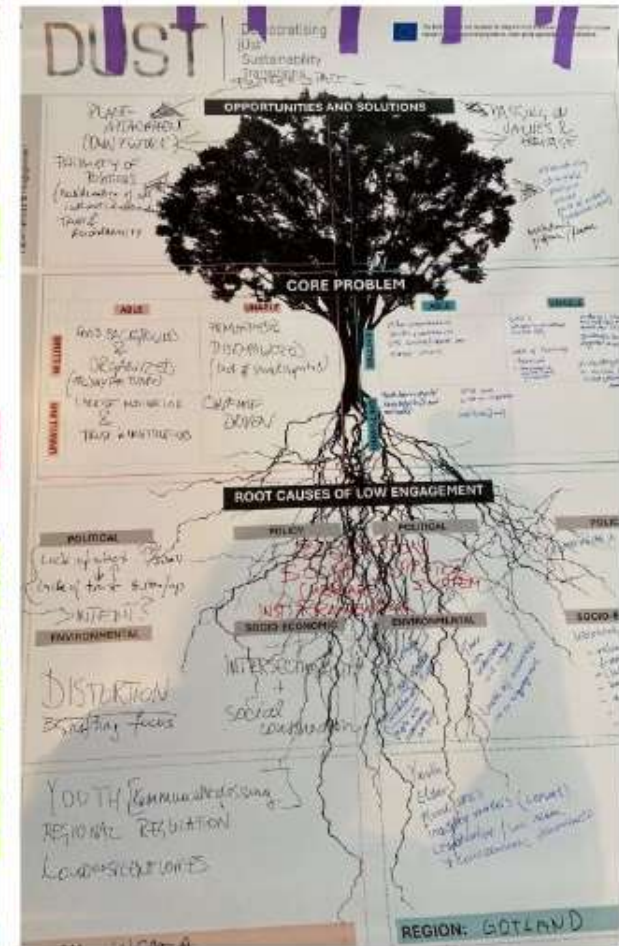
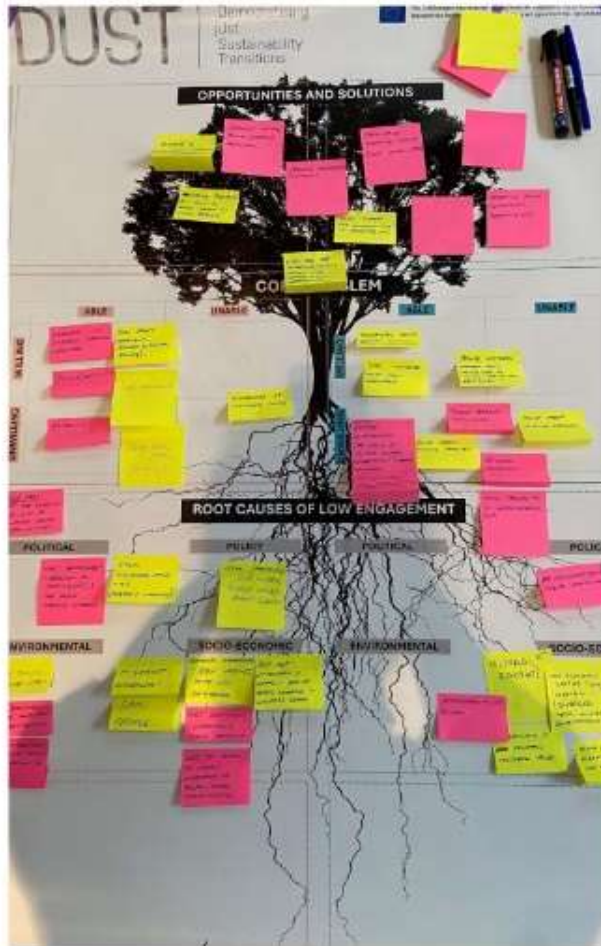
Framework for the analysis of LECs

LECs

- Initial analysis of factors explaining a lack of participation.

Direct factors explaining lack of engagement	
Being unable	Being unwilling
Cultural barriers	Not seeing any personal benefit or relevance
Language barriers	Difficulty of focusing on regional issues
Geographical distance	Trust that someone else will look after their interests
Physical or mental impairment	Lack of trust in government to make good use of their input
Socio-economic status	Discontent and disillusionment with democracy
Lack of time, schedule conflicts	Perception of powerlessness and limited agency
Challenging life circumstances	Lack of self-confidence
Technological illiteracy	
Difficulty understanding technical elements	
Lack of interpersonal skills	

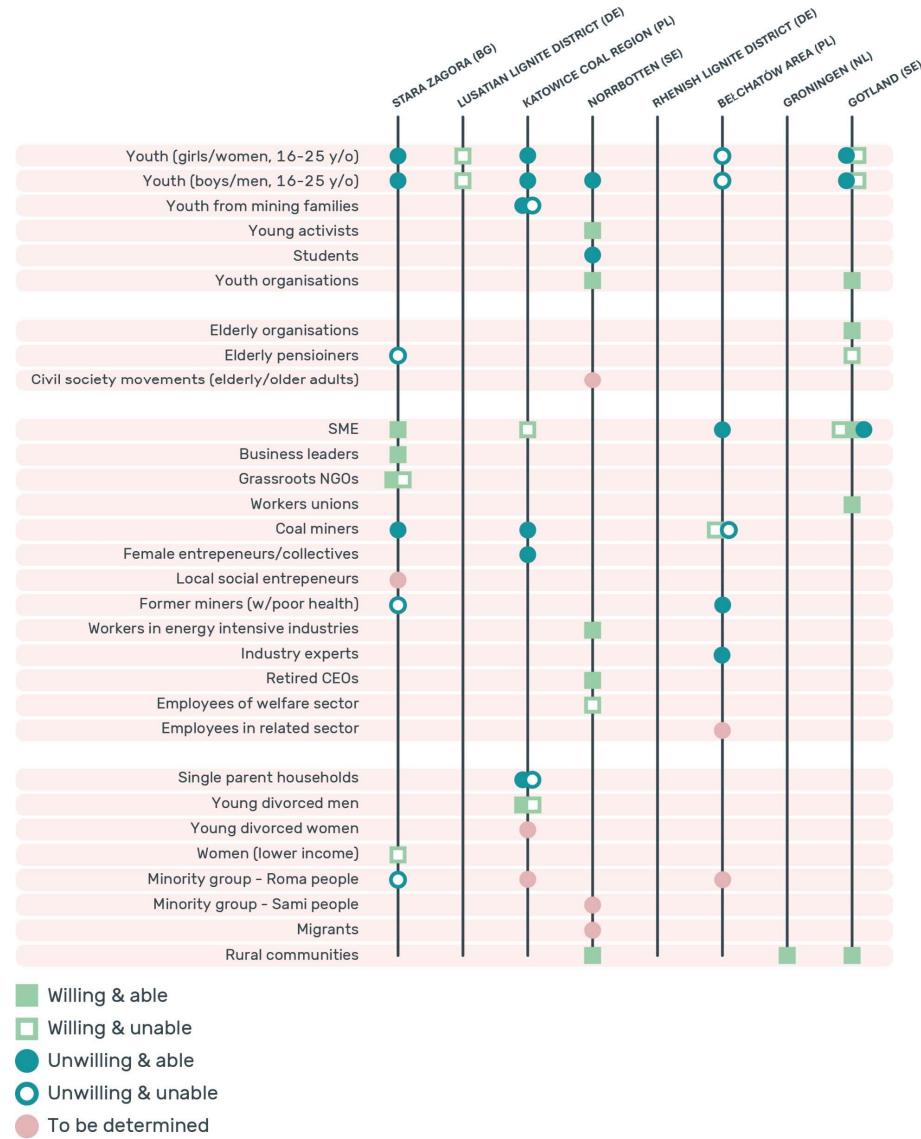
(based on Dijkstra et al., 2020; Kelleher et al., 2014; Kitchen & Whitney, 2004; Loopmans et al., 2022; OECD, 2009; Rodríguez-Pose, 2018; Scottish Government, 2017)



Application of the framework during the DUST Kick-off meeting in April 2023

LECs

- Variety of LECs in case study regions;
- There are sub-groups within communities who are able / unable / willing / unwilling to participate.



Results of the application of the framework during the DUST Kick-off meeting in April 2023

LECs

- Variety of LECs in case study regions;
- Focus on communities in experiments: Youth, ethnic minorities, workers in energy-intensive industries, women, communities in remote areas.



Images: Documentation of political participation of the Sami people in the Norsk Folkemuseum, Oslo

Demonstranter og politi ved elva, 1981
Demonstrators and police by the river, 1981
Kong Olav åpner det første Sametinget, Karasjok 9. oktober 1989
King Olav opening the first Sami Parliament, October 9th 1989
Sametingsbygget i Karasjok, innviet i 2000
The Sami Parliament Building, inaugurated in 2000

Establishing the DUST focus:
participation in the deliberative
governance of place-based
approaches to sustainability
transitions

Establishing the DUST focus

- Identifying opportunities for and barriers to participation in the specific context of (1) just sustainability transitions, (2) place-based policies, and (3) deliberative governance.

PARTICIPATION IN...



(Just) sustainability transitions

- Are “radical transformation towards a sustainable society, as a response to a number of persistent problems confronting contemporary modern societies” (Grin et al. 2011, p. 1).

Grin, J., Rotmans, J., Schot, J., Geels, F. W., & Loorbach, D. (2011). Transitions to sustainable development: New directions in the study of long term transformative change (First issued in paperback). Routledge.

PARTICIPATION IN...



Just sustainability transitions – barriers to participation

For example context

- Likelihood of contestation and conflict;

For example policy

- Priority for technocratic and top-down approaches in transition management.

Participation in the context of just sustainability transitions: challenges and barriers		
Context	<p>Likelihood of contestation and conflict in the context of competing economic, social, and environmental agendas;</p> <p>Likelihood of contestation and conflict in the context of uncertainty of long term transitional change;</p> <p>Likelihood of contestation and conflict due to uneven impact of sustainability transition (measures) ‘on the ground;’</p> <p>A lack of proactive consideration of uneven impacts of policies;</p>	<p>(Agyeman & Evans, 2004; Connelly, 2007; Davidson, 2009; Lubitow & Miller, 2013; Purvis et al., 2019; van Buuren et al., 2013; Wanzenböck & Frenken, 2020)</p>
Context	<p>A lack of attention to the social dimension of sustainability transitions;</p> <p>A lack of comprehensive consideration of distributional, procedural, and restorative justice in sustainability transition management;</p> <p>A lack of practical guidance for justice and equity in sustainability transition management;</p>	<p>(Davidson, 2009; Dempsey et al., 2011; Polèse & Stren, 2000; Sovacool, 2021; Walker & Bulkeley, 2006)</p>
Context	<p>Barriers to knowledge production and learning in the context of fundamental social and societal change;</p> <p>Necessity of unlearning / learning to accept risks and uncertainty in the production of evidence.</p>	<p>(Huttunen et al., 2022)</p>
Policy	<p>Priority for technocratic and top-down approaches in transition management;</p> <p>Conflicting dynamics between top-down and bottom-up policy approaches;</p> <p>Fragmented governance;</p> <p>Competing agendas;</p>	<p>(OECD, 2022a)</p>
Policy	<p>Ambiguity of frameworks and a consequent lack of robust guidance in transition management.</p>	<p>(Agyeman & Evans, 2004; Davidson, 2009; van Buuren et al., 2013)</p>

Multi-level place-based policies

Characteristics

- Include objectives that apply multiple dimensions to the territory concerned;
- Use a range of integrated tools;
- Involve multiple stakeholders, integrating ‘bottom up’ and ‘top down’ input;
- Have explicit territorial focus that can include functional (rather than purely administrative) areas.

PARTICIPATION IN...



Multi-level place-based policies – benefits of participation

For example

- Mitigates uneven territorial impacts of long-term development processes;
- Boosts local accountability and transparency;
- Focuses on well-being, quality of life and sustainability;
- Elicits local knowledge of local actors.

PARTICIPATION IN...



Multi-level place-based policies – barriers to participation

For example context

- Lack of knowledge about distributional effects;

For example community

- Barrier for participation of vulnerable communities;

For example policy

- Technocratic, sectoral priorities.

Participation in the multi-level governance of place-based approaches		
Context	Inclusion-related challenges: Lack of knowledge about distributional effects of policies; Lack of knowledge about what works;	(Beer et al., 2020; Green et al., 2017; Lee, 2019)
Community	Specific barriers for participation of vulnerable communities and structurally marginalised societal groups;	See Chapter 3.3 (Felici, 2020; Fry et al., 2021; OECD, 2021)
Policy	Capacity-related challenges;	(Moodie, Salenius, & Kull, 2022)
Policy	Regulatory overload;	(Morgan, 2018)
Policy	Asymmetries of power and knowledge;	(Morgan, 2018)
Policy	Technocratic, sectoral priorities; Disconnected ‘top down’ and ‘bottom up’ contributions;	(OECD, 2020)

Deliberative governance

- Is about “mutual communication that involves weighing and reflecting on preferences, values, and interests regarding matters of common concern” (Bächtiger et al. 2018, p. 2);
- “Deliberation has at its root the idea of weighing alternatives” (Mansbridge, 2015, p. 28).

Bächtiger, A., Dryzek, J. S., Mansbridge, J., & Warren, M. E. (2018). *The Oxford handbook of deliberative democracy*. Oxford University Press.

Mansbridge, J. (2015). A minimalist definition of deliberation. In Patrick Heller & V. Rao (Eds.), *Deliberation and development: Rethinking the role of voice and collective action in unequal societies*. World Bank Group.

PARTICIPATION IN...



Deliberative governance – barriers to participation

For example context

- Participation as a managerial approach to politics;

For example community

- Participation is shaped by existing community networks;

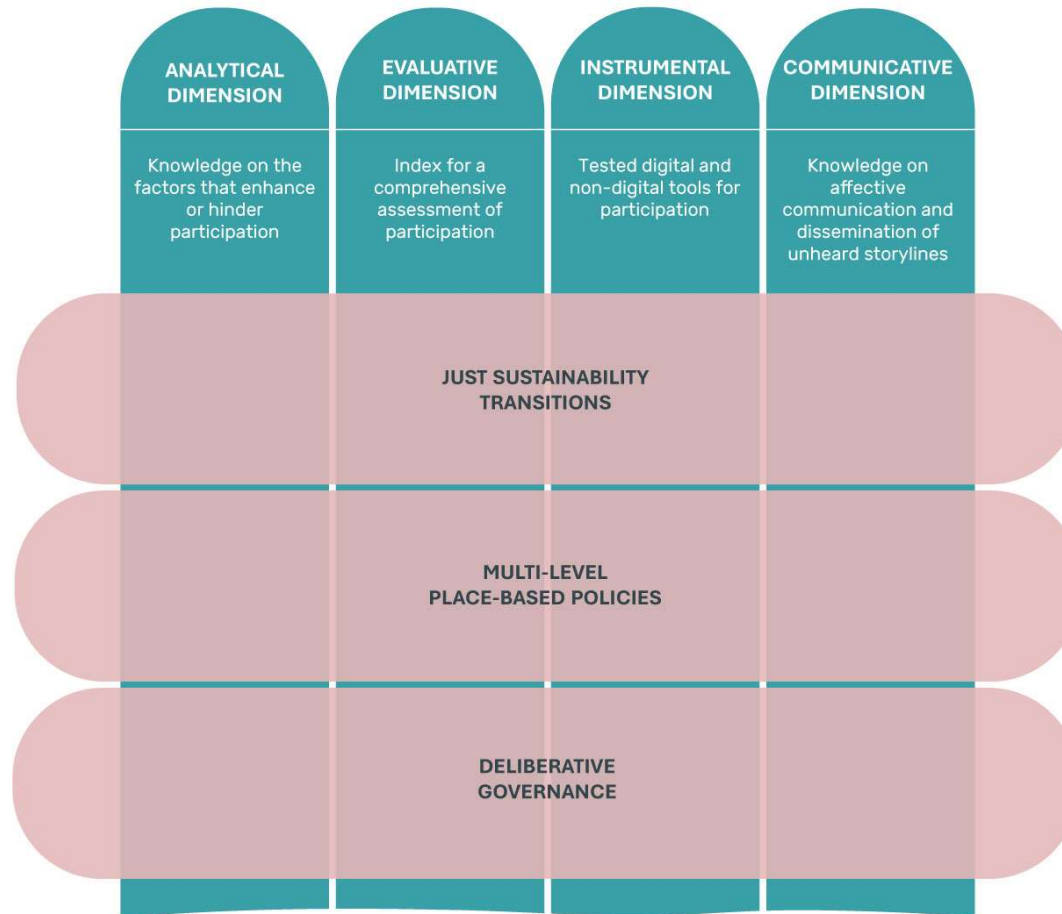
For example policy

- One-off and ad hoc;
- Elite-capture / tokenistic forms of participation.

Participation in deliberative governance / democracy: Challenges and barriers		
Context	Challenges related to connections between representative and participatory governance ; Problems of representation and legitimacy when deliberation is conducted in small deliberative fora;	(Bickerstaff & Walker, 2005); (O'Neill, 2001);
Context	Participation as a managerial approach to politics rather than genuinely empowering or democratizing; Deliberative processes and the pursuit of consensus can be used to co-opt or silence oppositional politics; Participation may be reduced to a symbolic role in justifying higher-level policy objectives or mobilizing civic support; Participation can be tokenistic (little more than just talk); There can be elite capture of the decision-making process;	(Rayner, 2003); (Healey, 1997; Mosse, 2001); (Carpini et al., 2004); (Bickerstaff & Walker, 2005)
Context	Embedded power relations can affect (the outcomes of) deliberation;	(Cooke & Kothari, 2001; Hajer & Kesselring, 1999; Pratchett, 1999)
Community	Challenges concerning who participates : Lack of civic capacity in communities and among community members; Participation is shaped by existing community networks / homogeneous; Participation is shaped by existing relations to policymakers (including existing distrust);	(Gutmann & Thompson, 2009; Ryfe, 2005)
Policy	Challenges related to the practice and product of deliberation : Difficulties to justify costs versus tangible value of deliberation; Challenges related to the product of deliberation : unclear impact of the results of deliberation on policy-making;	(Gutmann & Thompson, 2009; Ryfe, 2005)
Policy	One-off and ad hoc deliberation: a lack of structural embeddedness of deliberative processes in policymaking;	(Bussu et al., 2022)
Policy	Multitude of contextual factors hinders an assessment of the outcomes of deliberation;	(Carpini et al., 2004).
Other	Feasibility and desirability of the ideal of communicative rationality;	(Flyvbjerg, 1998; Huxley, 2000; Mouffe, 1999; Tewdwr-Jones & Allmendinger, 1998);

Theories and concepts in dimensions of the DUST research

FOCUS AREAS & OBJECTIVES IN
DIMENSIONS OF THE DUST RESEARCH



Analytical dimension: unpacking
the interplay between policy,
community, context, and inclusive
deliberation

Objectives – analytical dimension

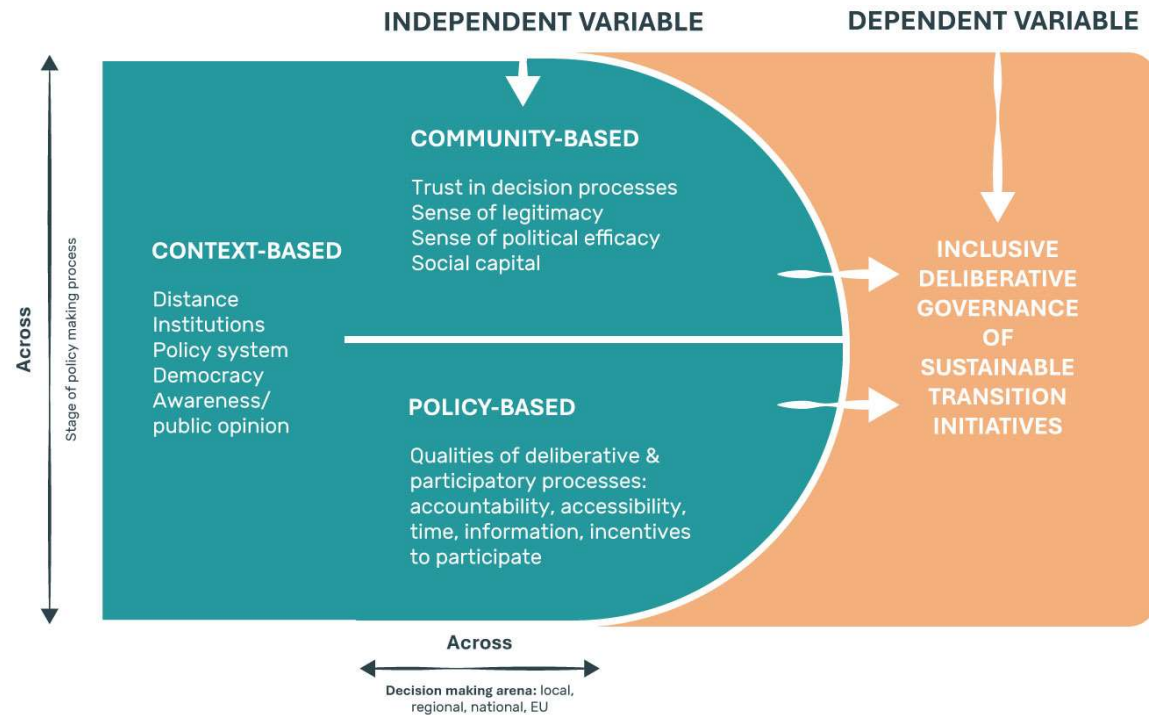
Research using mixed methods will be undertaken in the case study regions to investigate the factors, digital and non-digital mechanisms, and institutional frameworks that have enhanced or hindered citizen participation as part of democratic life.

Research will provide a deep understanding of how multi-level, place-based policy interventions are responding to the concerns of especially communities vulnerable to sustainability transitions, and how these communities perceive policymaking.

Conceptual framework – analytical dimension

- Novel insights from a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between independent policy-based and community-based variables and the dependent variable of inclusive, deliberative governance of sustainability transition initiatives.

Framework guiding research in the analytical dimension of the DUST research.



First steps

- Identifying key sustainability transition measures: types & place-based characteristics;
- Identifying participatory practices in transiting measures: based on assessment of the ‘depth of participation’;
- Analysing characteristics of identified participatory practices
 - arenas where participation takes place;
 - stages of the policymaking cycle open to participating;
 - identification of communities and their involvement in participatory practices.

Type of Actors	Norrbotnen (SE)			Gotland (SE)			Groningen (NL)			Belchatow (PL)			Katowice (PL)			Laustiz (DE)				Rhenish Lignite (DE)				Stara Zagora (BG)					
	RE&CS	RDS	TJTP	RE&CS	CSP 2040	RDS2040	TJTP	NPG	RD	TJTP	RDS	SA	TJTP	RDS	SA	TJTP	StSIG	LP	RDS	TJTP	StSIG	WSP	JTF	TJTP	IDP	ITDS	NIS3 21-27	TJTP	
Governments																													
- National administration			x	x	x	x	x			x		x			x													x	x
- Regional administration	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x	x	x
- Local administration	x	x			x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x
Social partners & professional associations	x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Academia / Scientific community	x		x	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Business partners	x		x	x	x		x					x			x		x		x		x			x	x				
- Large companies										x	x		x	x		x				x						x	x	x	x
- SMEs									x	x	x		x	x		x				x						x	x	x	x
NGOs	x	x	x			x	x		x	x											x				x	x	x	x	x
- Gender equality																	x				x								
- Youth		x			x	x				x							x	x	x	x									
- Sectoral (environment; energy; etc.)				x	x					x	x		x			x	x	x		x	x			x	x				x
- (Local) development				x																	x			x					x
- Ethnic groups							x												x	x									
- Social (poverty, inclusion, etc.)					x					x	x		x			x	x			x	x			x	x				
Individual citizens	x	x			x	x		x	x		x		x	x		x				x				x		x	x	x	x

Intermediate results in the analytical dimension of the DUST research: Participation of communities in case study regions

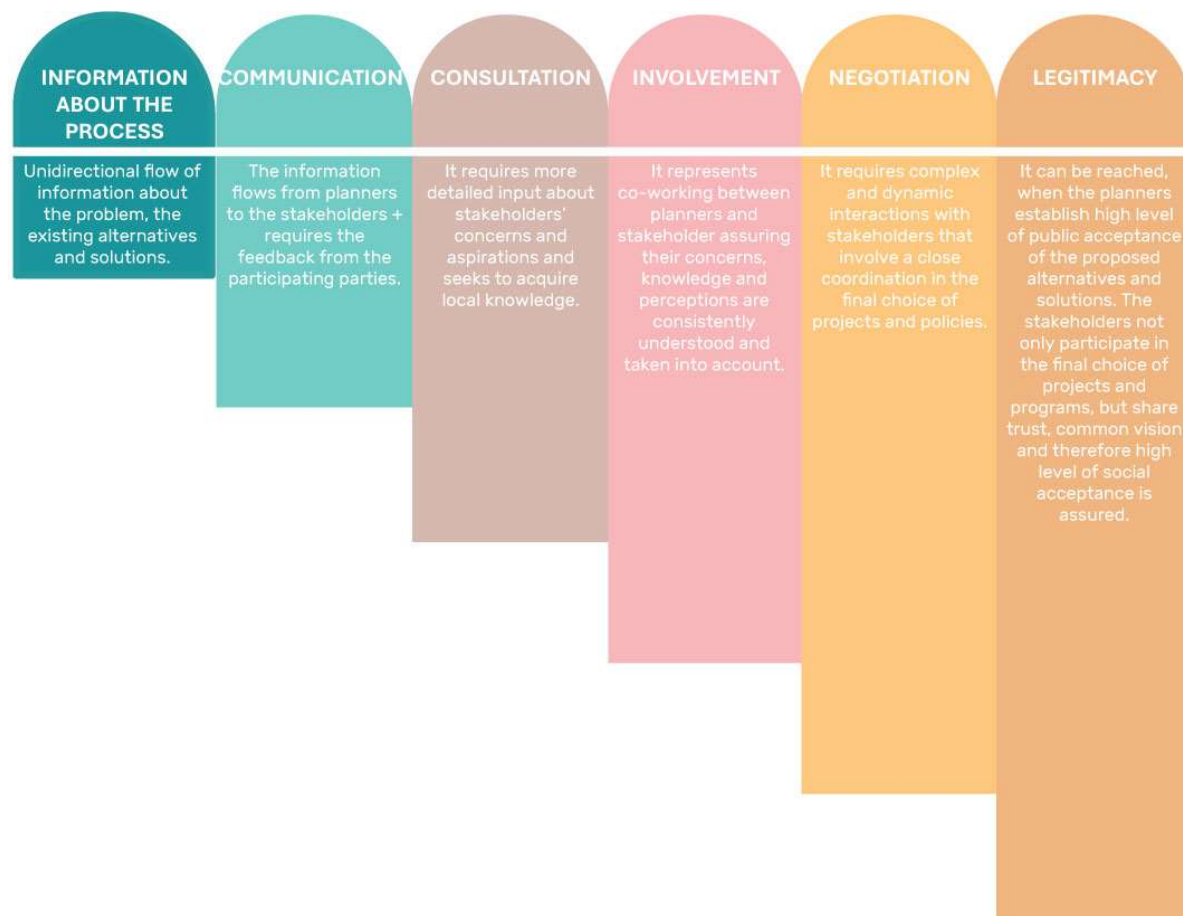
Deliverable – analytical dimension

Report ‘Civic participation of least engaged communities in just sustainability transition initiatives: Scope, depth and determining factors’

Evaluative dimension: assessing
citizen participation in just
sustainability transitions
comprehensively

Objectives – evaluative dimension

The DUST project will develop a novel assessment framework, informed by the concept of active subsidiarity, which involves qualitative and quantitative measures to analyse the scale, scope and form of citizen participation in deliberative and representative forms of democratic decision-making in place-based approaches to just sustainability transitions.



Central aim: measuring depth of participation

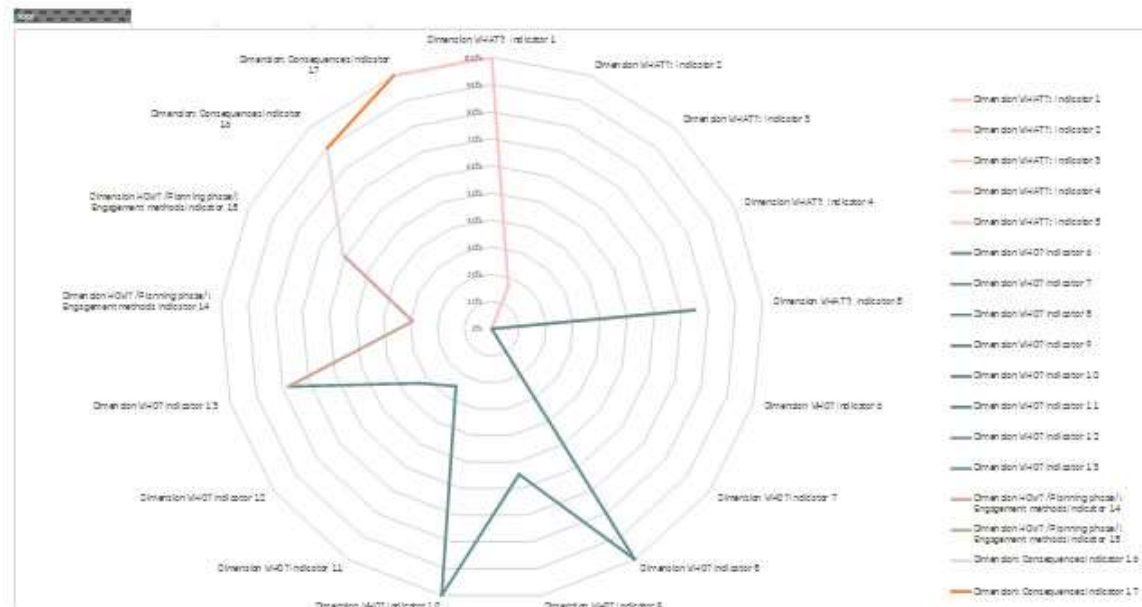
Dimensions of the index

- Setup of the process of stakeholder participation;
- Inclusiveness (composition of the stakeholder groups);
- Engagement methods in the planning phase;
- Engagement methods in the implementation phase;
- Consequences of participation.

Illustration of Results Presentation within the STEP Index

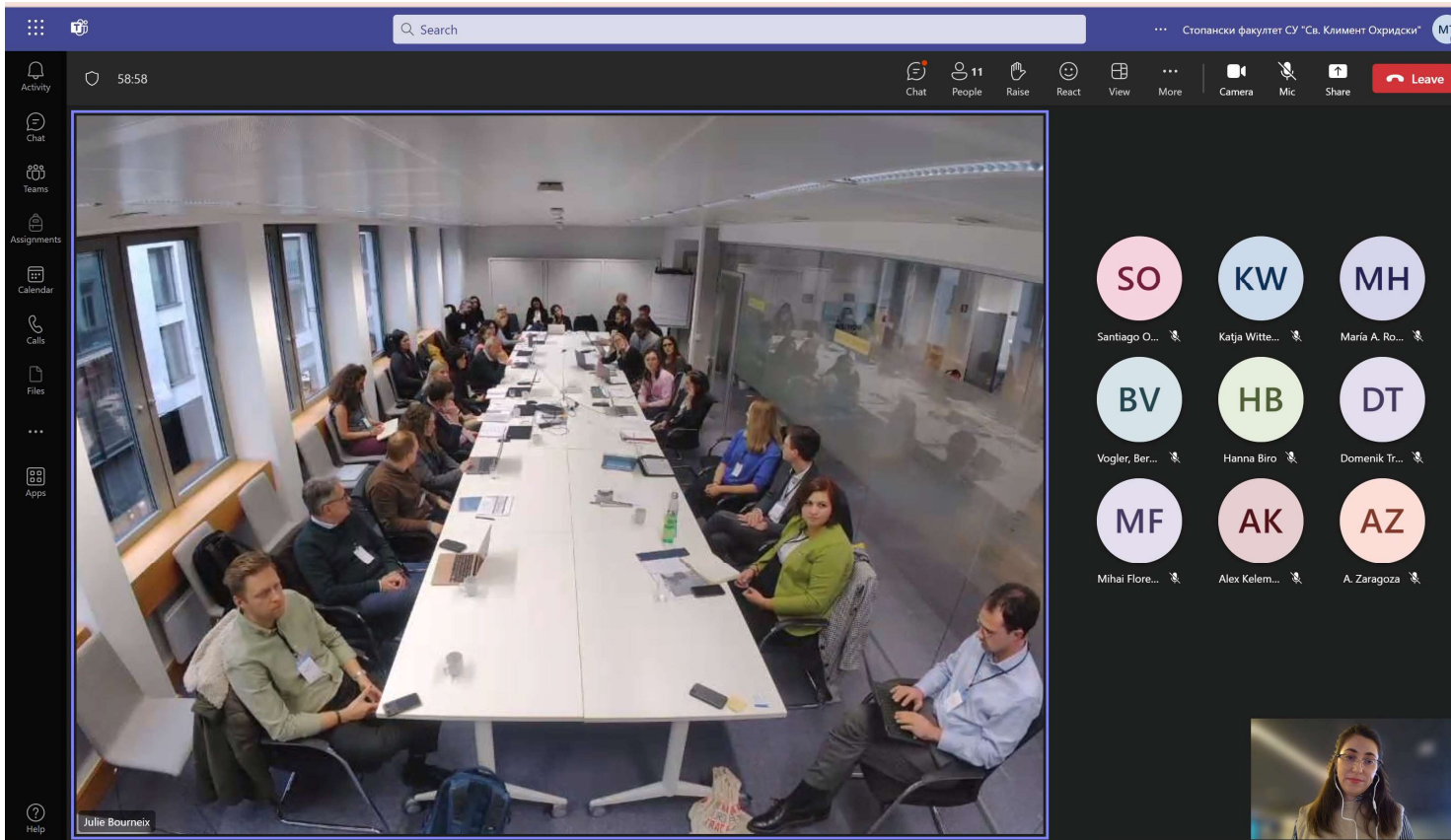
Country: Region: Evaluation time period:

	Index value	Max value	% Performance
Dimension W4AT: Participation-centred decision-making process setup	2.9	6	30%
Dimension W4OT: Inclusiveness	4.7	6	50%
Dimension HOW7 (Planning phase): Engagement methods	6.24	13	29%
Dimension HOW7 (Planning phase): Engagement methods	10.66	21	51%
Dimension Consequences	0.8	3	19%



Deliverable – evaluative dimension

The **Stakeholder Engagement and Participation (STEP) Index** will be custom-tailored to assess engagement and participation in just sustainability transition policies from a comparative perspective.



Presentation by Mariya Trifonova (CSD) on STEP index during a closed event with DG Regio and the first circle members of the working groups of the JT Platform on Monday, 23.10.2023. The index will be adopted as one of the tools of the working group within Action 2.

Instrumental dimension:
enhancing participation of the
least-engaged communities in
place-based approaches and
democratic life at scale

Objectives – instrumental dimension

Participatory experiments will test the potential of a hybrid format that applies design-led territorial and digital tools for citizen participation in just sustainability transitions.

Results of the experiments will show how these novel instruments can empower communities by enhancing their ability to anticipate and envision regional structural change, build capacity through consensus formation in a pluralistic and inclusive decision environment, and position themselves more proactively and strategically in democratic life at scale.

Sequence of methods

- Drawing on precedent in the realms of citizen participation, governance, spatial planning, spatial design, future studies, and e-democracy;
- Combining direct interaction (WP5) and remote support (WP4).

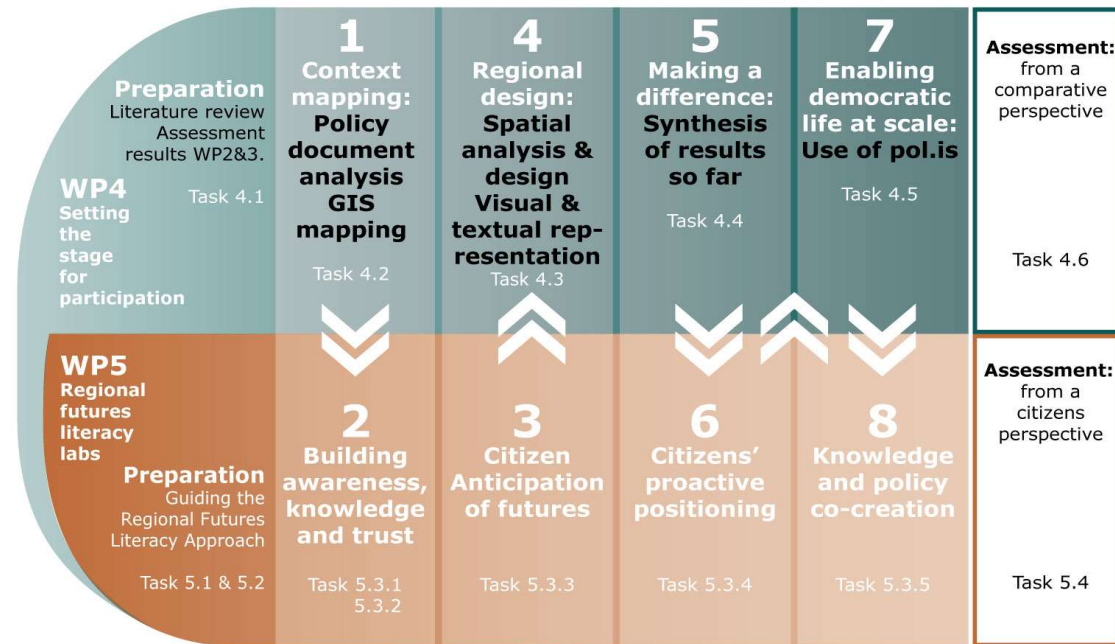


Illustration of Results Presentation within the STEP Index

Futures Literacy Lab approach

- Developed within UNESCO;
- FL is the capability of imagining diverse and multiple futures;
- FL enables people to intentionally act rather than react (Miller, 2018).

Image: <https://futurium.de/de/futures-literacy-summit>

Miller, R. (Ed.). (2018b). *Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century*. Routledge.



Futures Literacy Lab approach

- Used in interaction with LECs;
- Used to identify citizens' anticipations of futures / their hopes and expectations;
- Used to move beyond hierarchy / strengthen authenticity;
- Challenge: Policy relevance.

Image: <https://futurium.de/de/futures-literacy-summit>

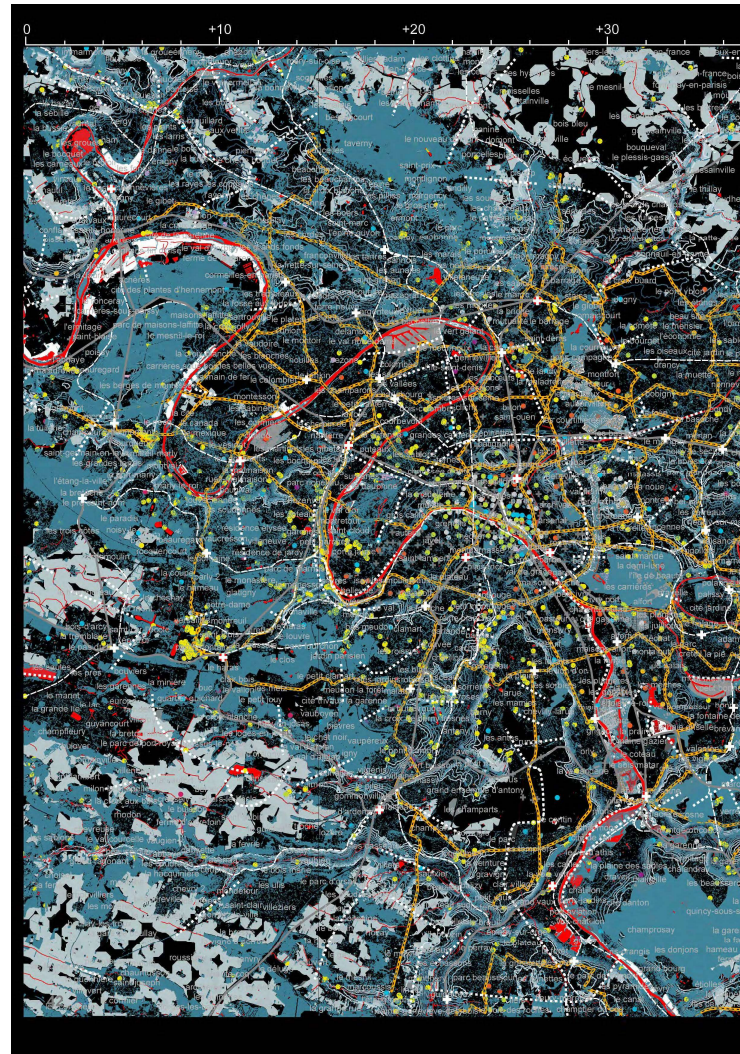
Miller, R. (Ed.). (2018b). *Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century*. Routledge.



Regional design

- Combines lessons learnt in the realms of foresight methodology, and the use of foresight and imagination in spatial design, spatial planning, and territorial governance;
- Uses spatial analysis and design to build argument for planning and policy intervention.

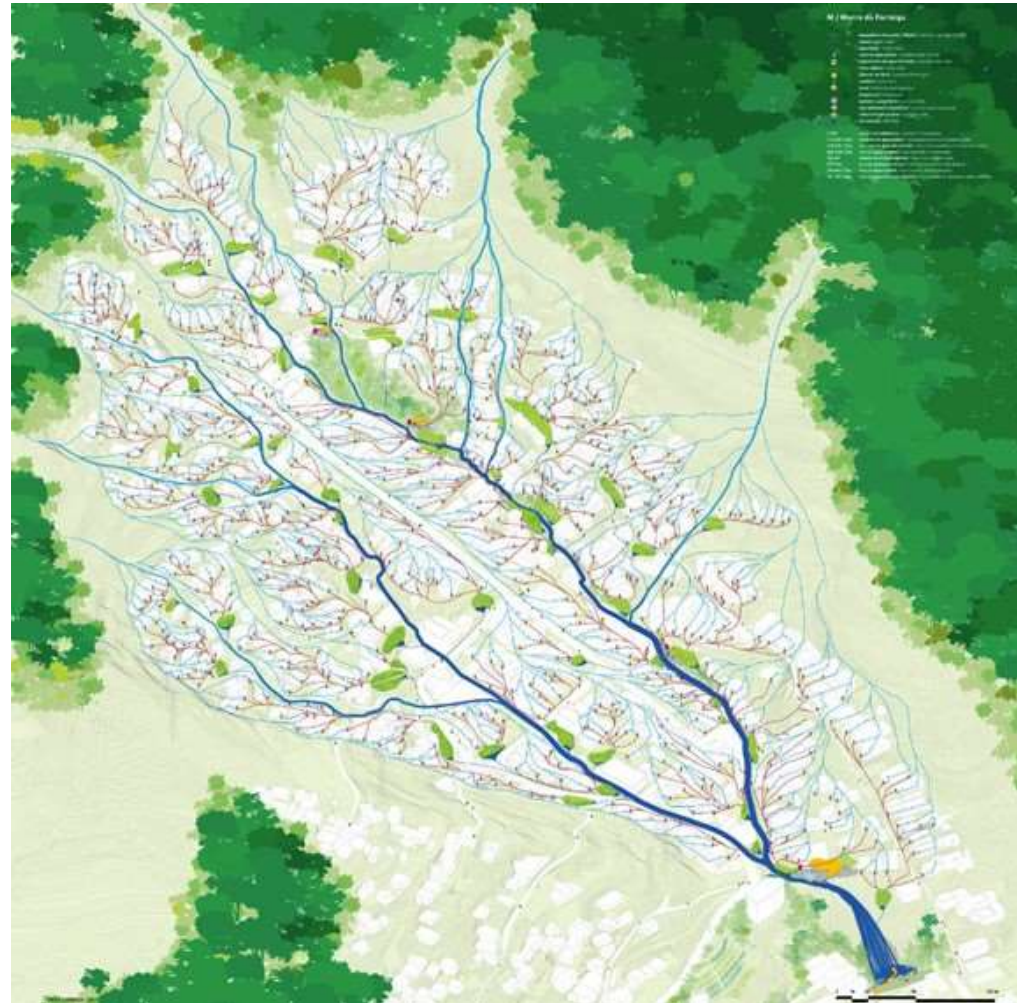
Map: équipe Studio 09 | Bernardo Secchi et Paola Viganò, Le diagnostic prospectif de l'agglomération parisienne

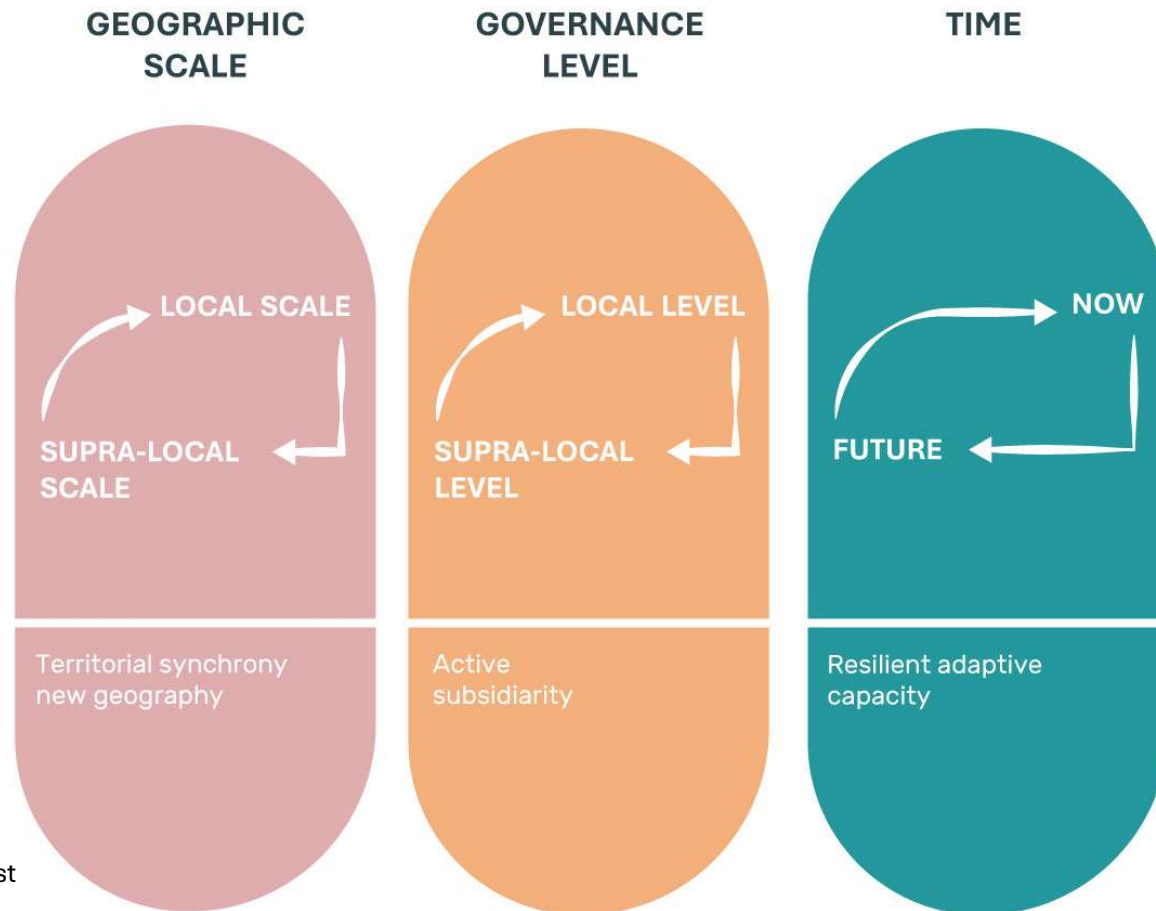


Regional design in DUST

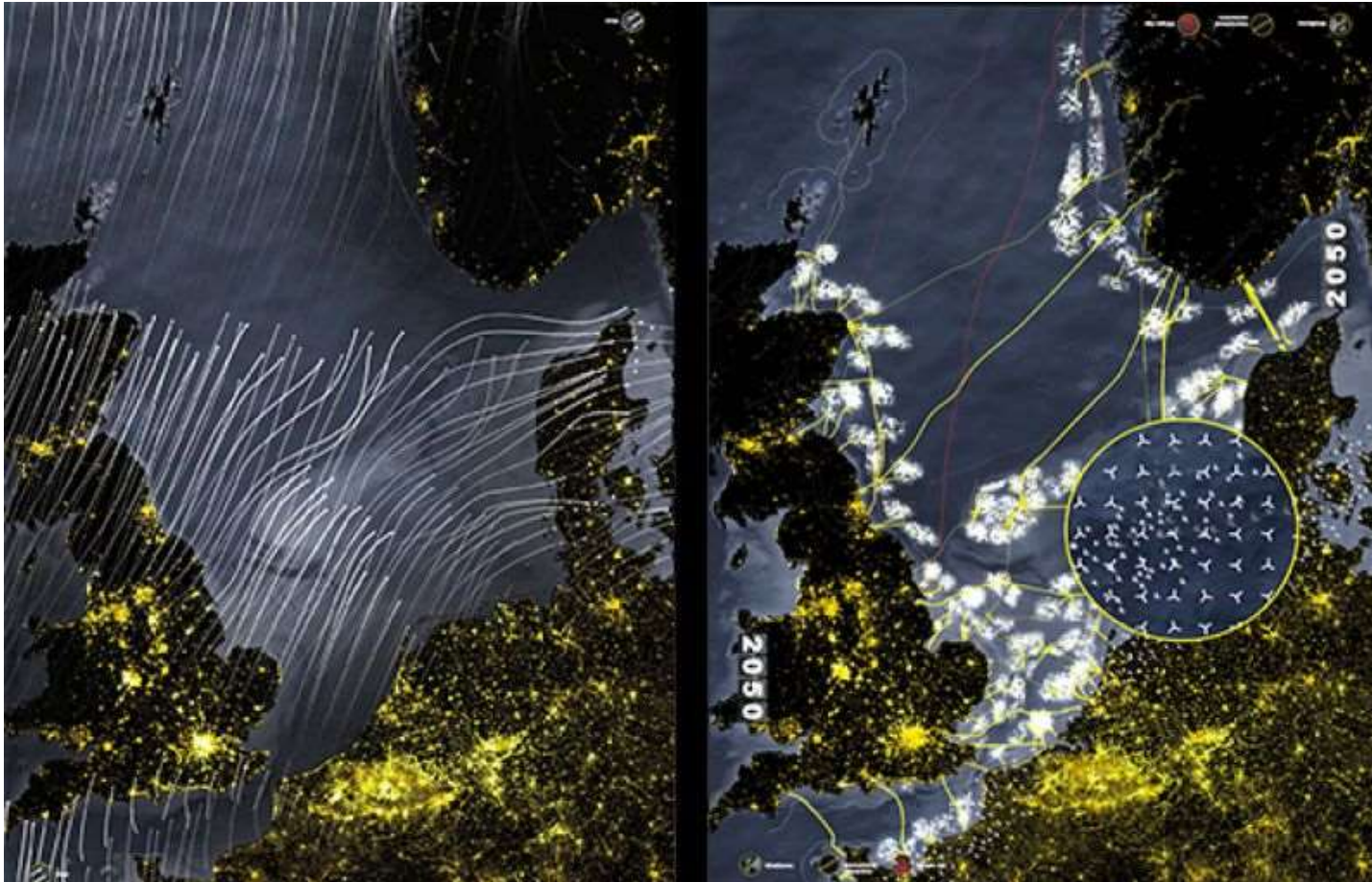
- Used in remote setting;
- Used to examine the implications of citizens' hopes and expectations on the regional level of scale;
- Used to compare citizens' and policy perspectives;
- Challenge: Preserve authenticity, spatial / territorial vs. non-spatial implications.

Map: OOZE architects, Aqua Carioca





Regional design as an experimentalist governance practice.



Maarten Hajer and Dirk Sijmons, Realized by: Tungstenpro, H+N+S+ and Ecofys 2050 - An Energetic Odyssey, IABR, 2016



Maarten Hajer and Dirk Sijmons, Realized by: Tungstenpro, H+N+S+ and Ecofys 2050 - An Energetic Odyssey, IABR, 2016

E-democracy tool pol.is

- Successful precedent in the realm of e-democracy;
- A consensus-oriented deliberative decision-making software;
- A real-time system for gathering, analyzing and understanding what large groups of people think in their own words, enabled by advanced statistics and machine learning.

<https://www.geekwire.com/2014/startup-spotlight-polis/>

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions

Legalization

Washington and other US states are legalizing, or at least decriminalizing, marijuana. Should this trend continue? Should it stop at marijuana, or should legalization extend to other presently illegal drugs as well?

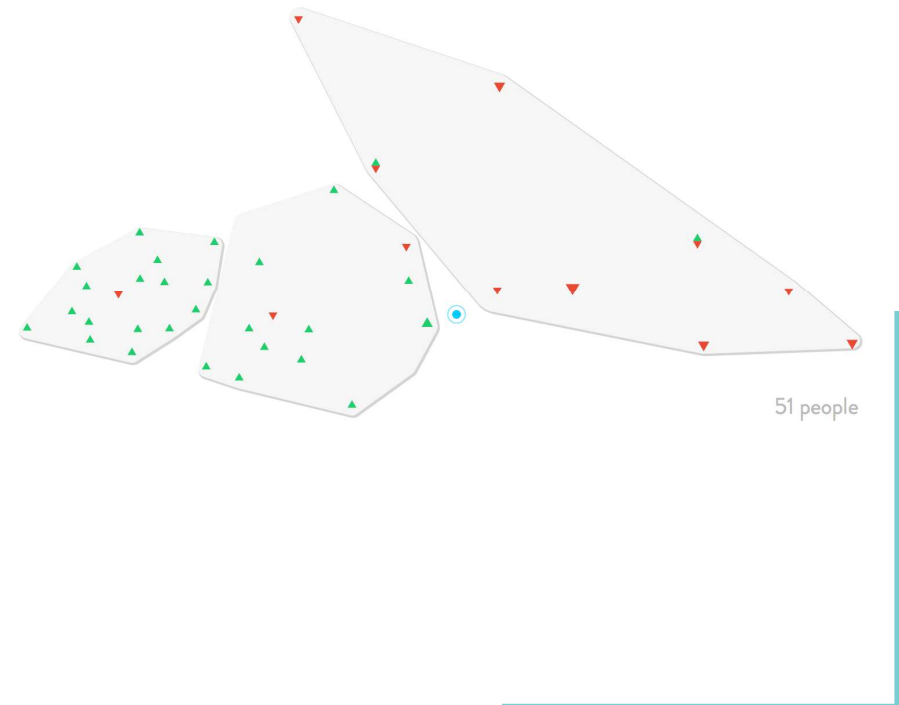
Read & React Write Analyze

decriminalization

Sort by # of Agrees # of Disagrees # of Stars

▲ 30 ▼ 17

Addressing "how far should legalization should go" I think that decriminalization is the first, most important step. Locking people in prison is not a productive way to stop user-ship, and only serves to fill our prisons to the brim. I prefer Portugal's approach: decriminalize drugs and move money from punishment to treatment and rehabilitation.



Central assumptions – instrumental dimension

Imagination, anticipation and futures literacy empower communities;

Place-based approaches thrive on local knowledge and knowledge-co production;

Local discretion, interpreted feedback and reflexivity in decision-making support active subsidiarity and multi-level place-based policy approaches;

Hybrid formats of digital and analogous instruments enhance participation in demographic life at scale.

Deliverables – instrumental dimension

Evaluation and handbook of Regional Futures Literacy

Labs (RFLLs): Design-led territorial and digital instruments for citizen participation in just sustainability transitions

Policy briefs: Expanding the participation of least engaged communities in just sustainability transitions

Citizen Learnings Report: On involving least engaged communities in just sustainability transition policies

Communicative dimension:
enabling affective two-way
communication

Objectives – communicative dimension

The project recognizes a lack of access to reliable and fact-based information on sustainability transitions as a major bottleneck in public acceptance of just sustainability transition measures.

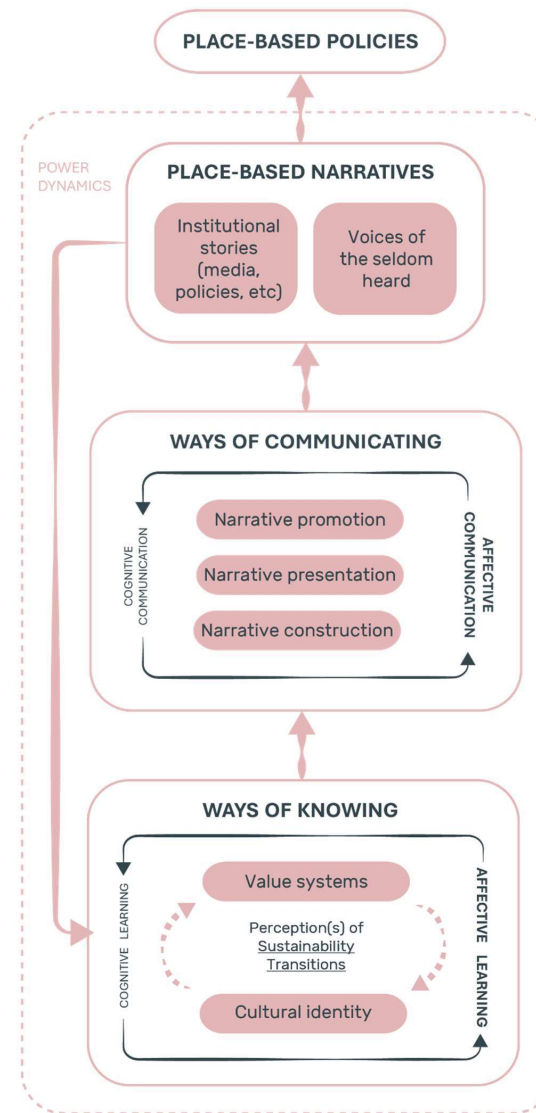
Against this background it will investigate **the role of narratives in citizen participation** in sustainability transitions;

and **test how communication can be made more inclusive.**

Conceptual framework – communicative dimension

- Ways of knowing / cognitive vs. affective learning;
- Cognitive vs. affective communication in narrative promotion, presentation, and construction;
- Institutionalised stories vs. voices of the seldom heard.

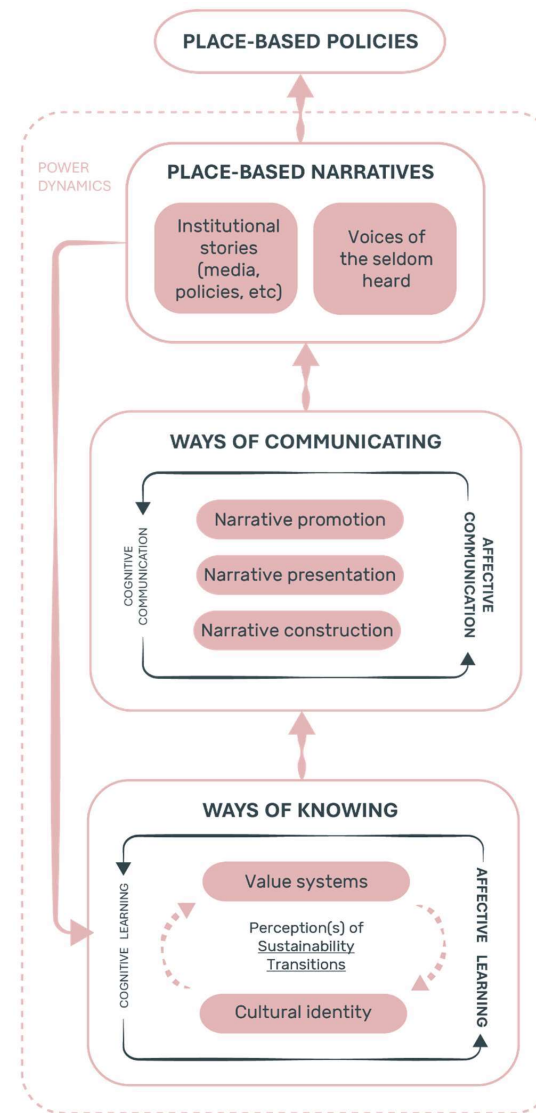
Framework guiding research in the communicative dimension of the DUST research.



Methods – communicative dimension

- Social and traditional media analysis;
- Art-based research: Exploration of visual languages and stories per case study region / LEC.

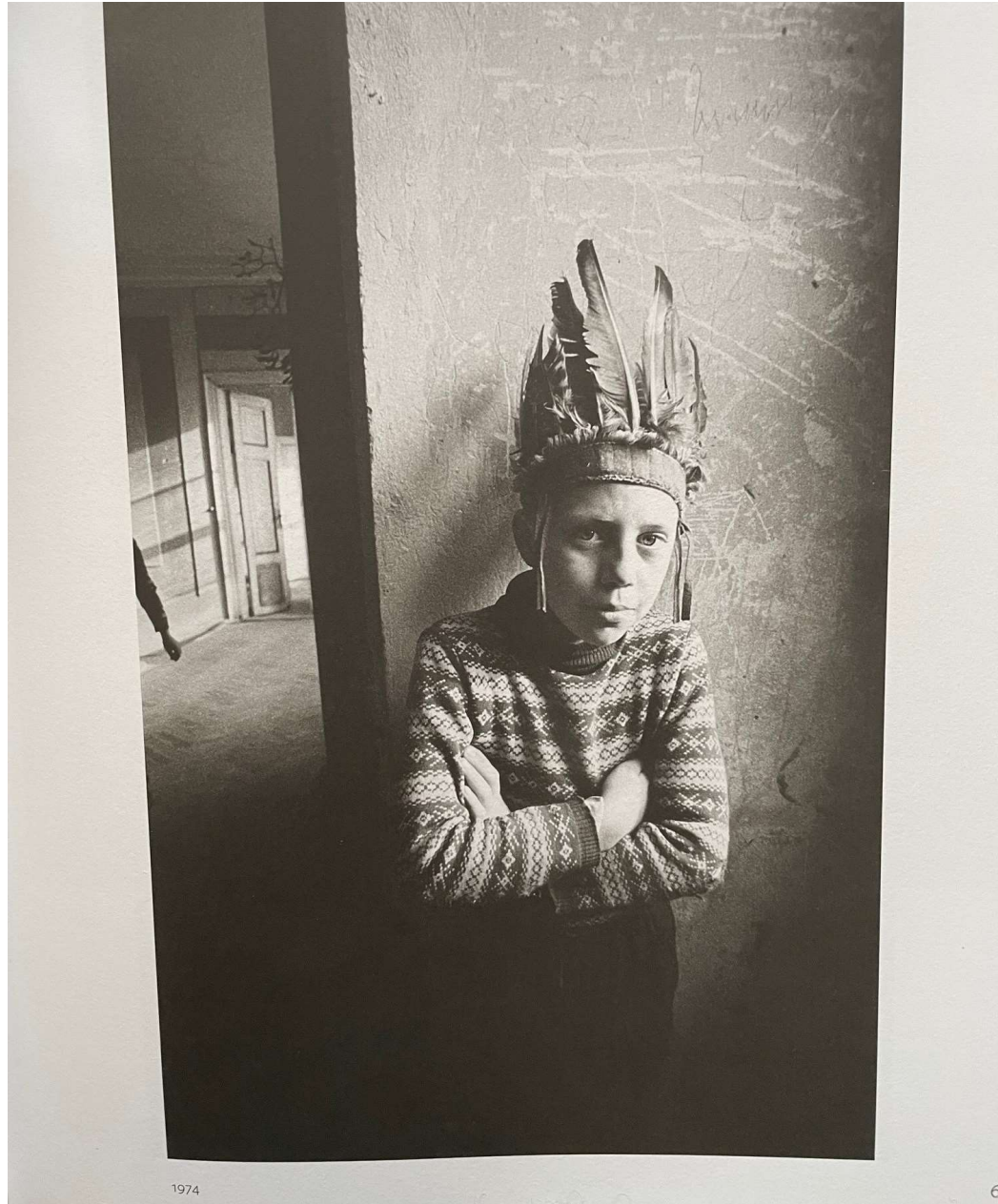
Framework guiding research in the communicative dimension of the DUST research.



Roger Melis, xxx

DUST

Democratising
Just
Sustainability
Transitions



1974

61

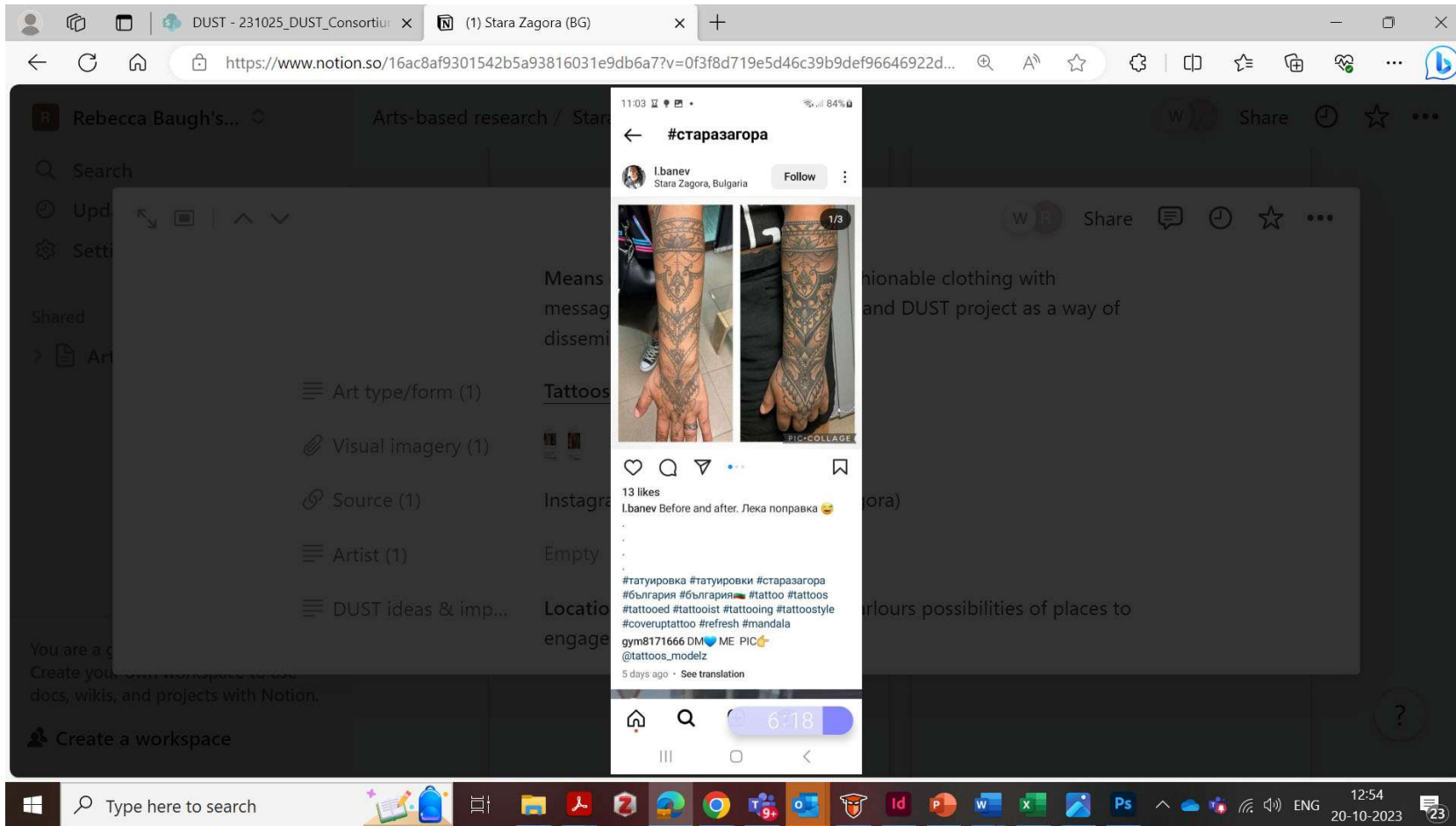
Browser tabs: DUST - 231025_DUST_Consortium, (1) Lusatian Lignite District (DE)

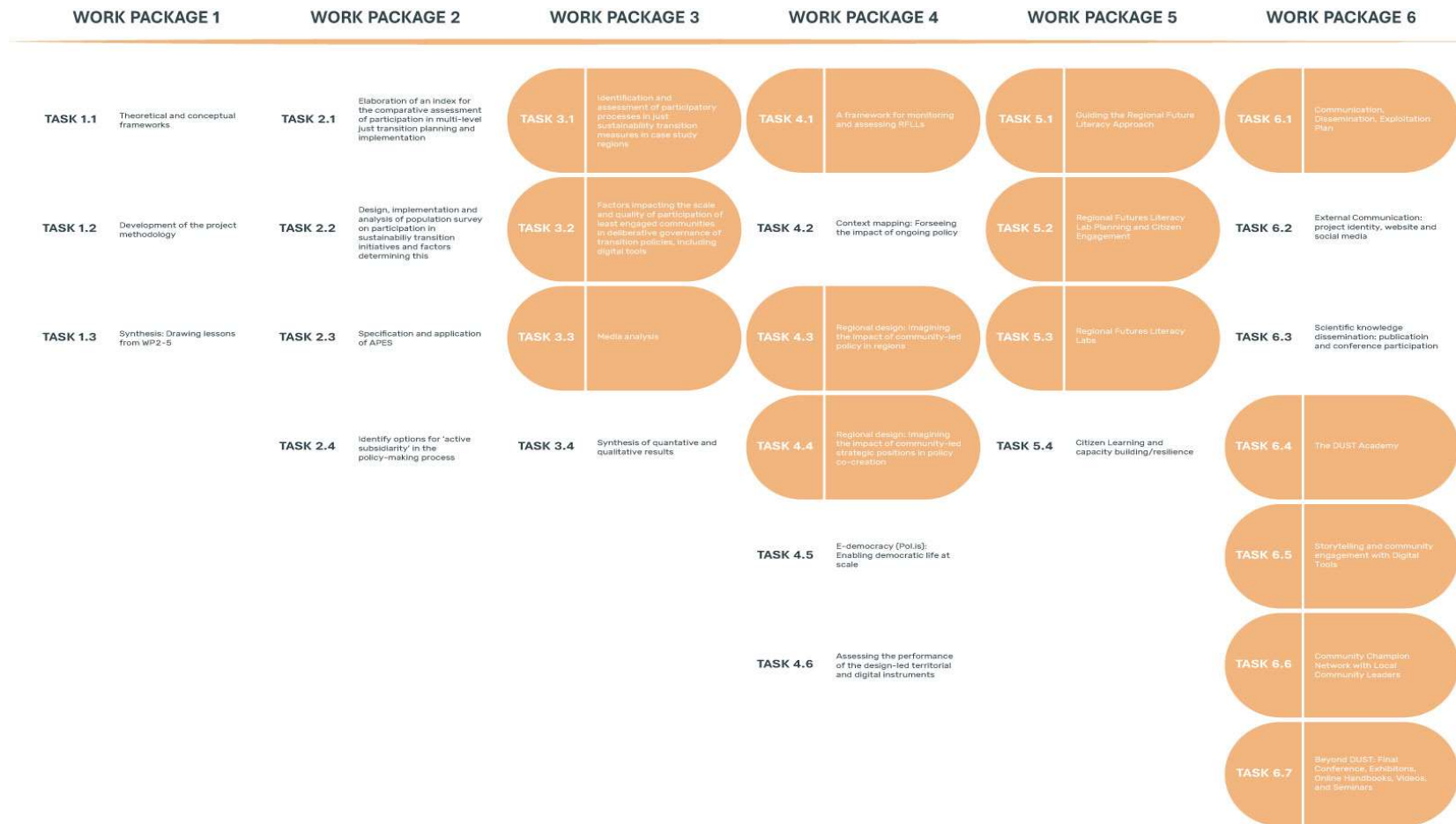
URL: https://www.notion.so/037ff76ef00c4656ab7b6322282115bb?v=dc0972eef1404221985fc2cf888409d2...

Instagram post details:

- Hashtag: #lausitz
- Account: fc_energie_cottbus_official (Stadion der Freundschaft)
- Image: Two men on a football pitch holding a red jersey with 'LEAGO' on the front.
- Engagement: 2,741 likes
- Caption: fc_energie_cottbus_official Der #FC Energie hat in Vorbereitung der anstehenden Saison 2023/2024 seinen sechsten Neuzugang unter Vertrag genommen. @24prokopenko wechselt von der zweiten Mannschaft des @scfreiburg in die #Lausitz. Der 21-jährige Deutsch-Ukrainer kehrt somit nach einem Jahr in Liga 3 zurück in die Regionalliga Nordost.
- Text below image: „Es ist kein Geheimnis, dass wir um unseren Kader ausgewogen aufzustellen auf der Suche nach Spielern sind, von denen wir überzeugt sind, dass sie unsere Mannschaft weiterbringen

Windows taskbar: Search bar, taskbar icons, system tray (12:51, 20-10-2023, ENG, 23 notifications)





Research into communication across DUST work packages and tasks

Expected results – communicative dimension

- Inventory of the **existing narratives** that affect the perception of LECs on sustainability transitions (link with WP2,3);
- **Framework of affective communication** guiding interaction with citizens (link with WP4,5);
- **(Visual) languages** that support narrative (re-)construction (link with WP4);
- Input for concrete communication and dissemination strategies (WP6).

Deliverables WP6 Dissemination, communication and exploitation

- Scientific knowledge dissemination;
- **DUST Academy** for Capacity Building & **DUST Academy** for Future Urban and Regional Leaders: **identifying lessons and transferability** within and across countries & disseminating via **workshops and teaching modules (online and offline)**
- **Storytelling and community engagement** in just sustainability transitions with **digital tools**
- **Community champions network.**

Finally, a brief reflection.

Your questions (in brief)

- What are conceptual approaches to understand and support spatial structural change and its management?
- What empirical findings are there on the effects of structural change in lignite regions and beyond?
- What practical approaches are there to shaping structural change?

Your questions (in brief)

- What are **conceptual approaches** to understand and support spatial structural change and its management?
- What empirical findings are there on the effects of structural change in lignite regions and beyond?
- What **practical approaches** are there to shaping structural change?

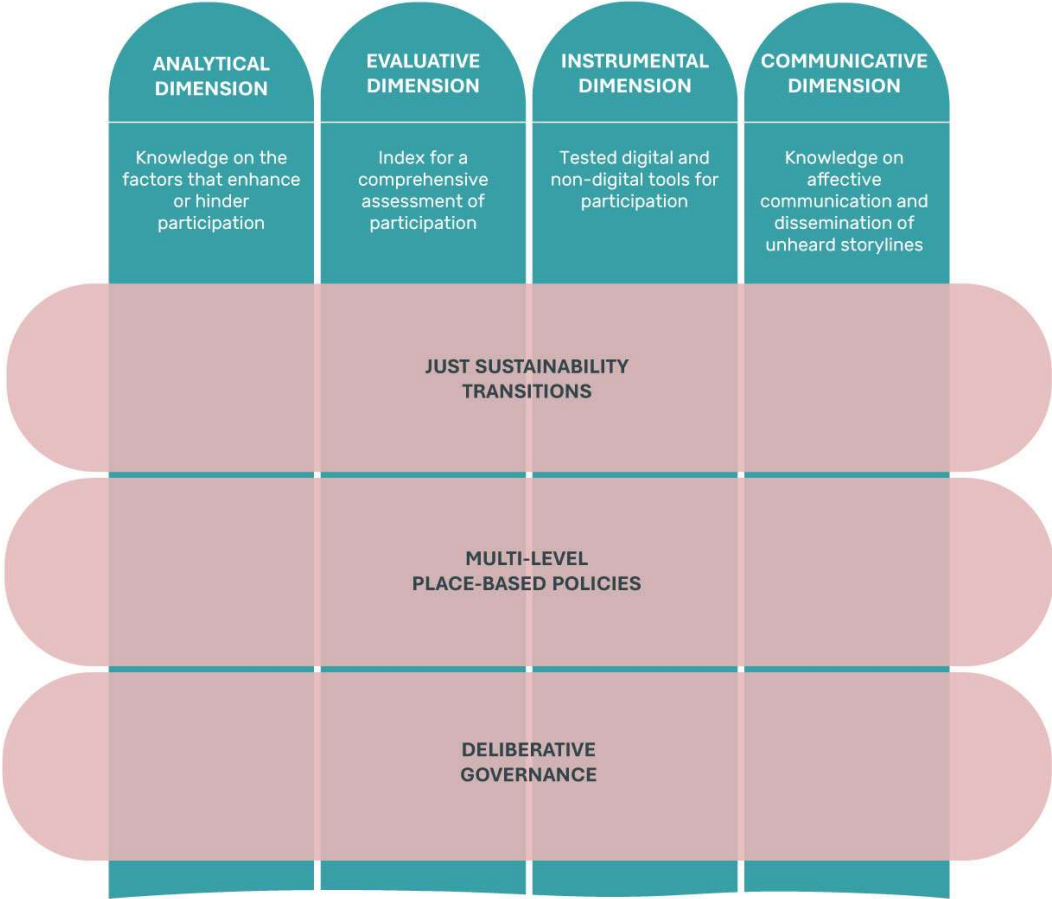
Objectives – strategic perspective

The project will build on these insights to deliver a set of policy recommendations and methodological guidance for civil society organisations, the EU, national and subnational governments, and academia to support the delivery of place-based policies for just sustainability transitions that enhance citizen participation and trust in democratic governance, especially among the least engaged communities.

A comprehensive perspective

- Analytical, evaluative, instrumental, and communicative dimension are considered in conjunction.

FOCUS AREAS & OBJECTIVES IN DIMENSIONS OF THE DUST RESEARCH



Framework guiding research in the communicative dimension of the DUST research.

Practical approaches

Focus on amplifying the voices of LECs in a multi-level deliberative governance setting;

- A hybrid format of digital and non-digital tools;
- Attention to dominant narratives and narrative re-construction;
- Comparing policy and citizen perspectives;
- Textual and visual communication;
- ...

Framework guiding research in the communicative dimension of the DUST research.



DUST

Democratising
jUst
Sustainability
Transitions

Thank you for
your attention!

Dr. Verena Balz | TU Delft

v.e.balz@tudelft.nl



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101094869

