

## How to create space for change?

Local governments & sustainability transitions

Ania Rok, Governance & Social Innovation Coordinator ICLEI European Secretariat

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# Local Governments for Sustainability

**Local Solutions to Global Challenges** 

Connecting Leaders - Accelerating Action - Pioneering Solutions

1100+ members

200 cities in Europe

20+ years experience

Learning & exchange





### CROATIAN MEMBERS

**ZAGREB** 

**KOPRIVNICA** 

PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA COUNTY

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#### **ICLEI** in Europe: thematic areas



#### **Sustainable Resources, Resilience and Climate**

 integrated sustainability management and indicator systems, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and ecosystem services, water, mobility

#### **Governance and Social Innovation**

 local governments and other actors (research, civil society, regional and national governments), public participation, strategic planning

#### **Sustainable Economy and Procurement**

 social and environmental criteria in public purchasing, green and circular urban economy, sustainable consumption and production, procurement of innovation

# Regular policy not enough to respond to sustainability challenges



### SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

- multiple causes & consequences
- range of domains, actors, scales
- deeply embedded in societal structure, calls for social innovation

### REGULAR POLICY

- domain focus & fragmentation
- cannot deal with loss of direct control, no feeling for what happens "outside"
- incremental improvements, focus on technological innovation



# Transitions are fundamental changes of structure, culture and practices in a societal (sub) system

**Source: DRIFT** 



# Transitions can be influenced, supported, accelerated but NOT planned, steered, controlled

**Source: DRIFT** 

#### Introducing transition management



#### WHAT IT IS

- governance approach designed to accelerate social innovation
- joint searching and learning process
- framework that brings together long-term vision and short-term actions

#### WHAT IT'S NOT

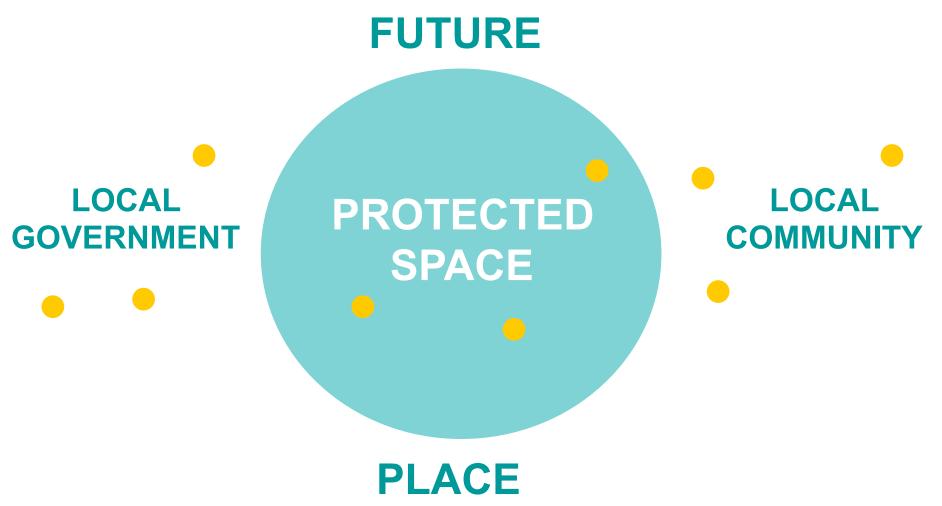
- replacement of regular policy
- universal set of rules or procedures
- process that takes place in a vacuum
- foolproof recipe for making your city more sustainable

#### Transition management principles



- dig deeper: acknowledge complexity & question assumptions
- aim high: system innovation vs. system optimisation
- keep your options open: explore multiple pathways
- co-create: everyone is a decision-maker
- find change agents: alternatives are already out there
- learn, always: short-term action + long-term vision





#### What do you get out of it?



sense of direction: shared narrative & future perspective

impulse for local change: new ideas & initiatives

collective empowerment: new networks & roles



# I was confronted with how little I actually knew of what was happening in my city.

City officer, Ghent (Belgium)

Transition management is not just another participatory process, it is about transforming from inside.

**City officer, Montreuil (France)** 

Which way to the future?

Strategies, tools and inspiration for transforming cities

4th Informed Cities Forum

A co-production of the ARTS & MUSIC project consortia



Save the date

26-27 March 2015, Rotterdam (The Netherlands)



#### Thank you!



#### **Transition-related projects**

- acceleratingtransitions.eu
- themusicproject.eu
- incontext-fp7.eu

#### **ICLEI European Secretariat**

iclei-europe.org

#### **Contact**

- ania.rok@iclei.org
- @missrok