

# How to create space for change?

Local governments & sustainability transitions

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# I.C.L.E.I

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

# 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

## 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

**FUTURE**

**PROTECTED  
SPACE**

**LOCAL  
COMMUNITY**

**PLACE**

**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

# 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](http://acceleratingtransitions.eu)
- [themusicproject.eu](http://themusicproject.eu)
- [incontext-fp7.eu](http://incontext-fp7.eu)

## ICLEI European Secretariat

- [iclei-europe.org](http://iclei-europe.org)

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