

WE MAKE
transition!

Civil society making sustainability transitions

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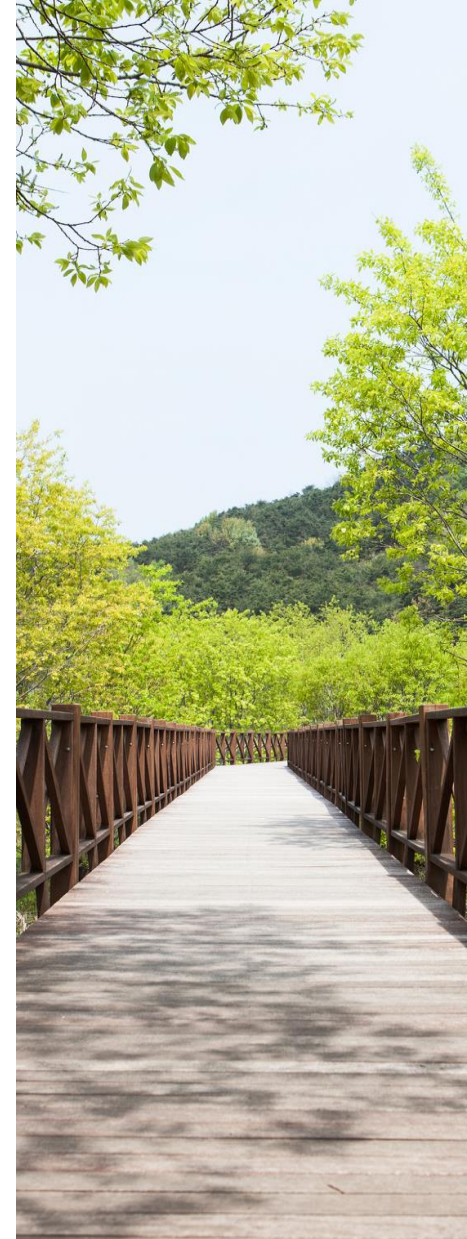
The Baltic Institute of Finland





Project challenge

- ❖ Local and regional authorities lack tools to engage civil society, small business and other local actors in strategy and visioning processes
- ❖ Sustainability challenges are complex and views from different levels of society are needed

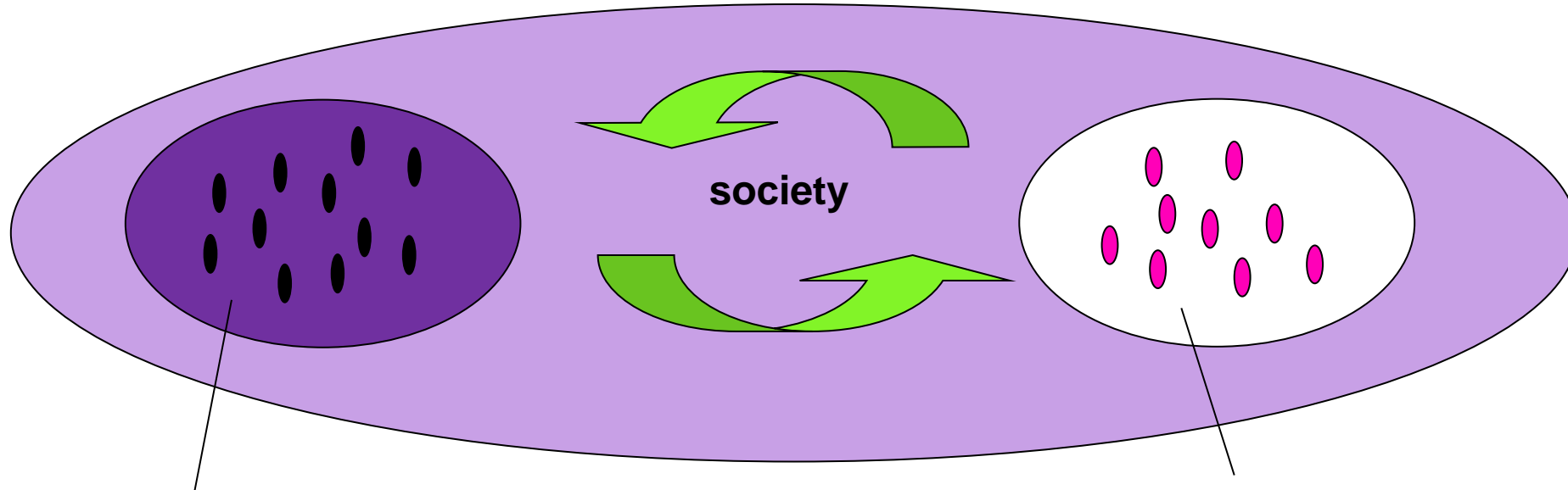


Project aim

- ❖ Improve interaction and cooperation between **local authorities, civil society and business actors** to enhance ecological and social sustainability.
- ❖ Improve awareness of the **role of civil society actors** in social innovations and sustainability transition
- ❖ Adapt and pilot **transition arena method** with focus on involving civil society and other local actors to
 - Enhance common understanding of systemic challenges
 - Co-create a joint sustainability vision
 - Build pathways to the vision
 - Identify concrete actions and agreement on next steps
 - Initiate transition: new initiatives and experiments



Transition arenas: *space for experimental governance*

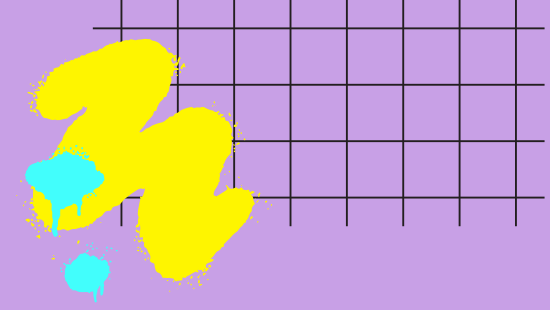


Regular policy arena/business as usual

- *short term*
- *mainstream*
- *incremental improvement*
- *problem solving*

Transition Arena/systemic approach

- *long term*
- *change agents*
- *transition – systemic approach*
- *problem searching*



We make transition! process



1. System and actor analysis (focus groups)



2. Defining topic and identification of systemic challenges



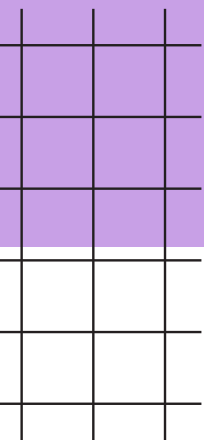
3. BSR vision of sustainable life and recommendations

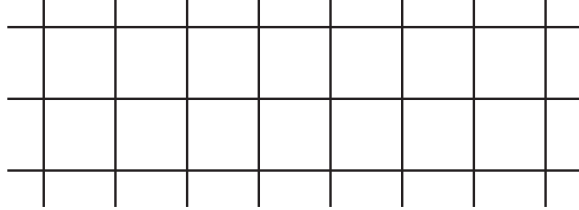


4. Local transition arena workshops in 12 cities & municipalities



5. Initiating actions towards the joint vision





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Local transition arenas implemented in 12 cities focusing on sustainable food, circular economy, sustainable lifestyle, biodiversity

FINLAND

1. **Tampere:** Sustainable life (people and nature)
2. **Hämeenkyrö:** Sustainable agriculture
3. **Helsinki-Uusimaa:** Sharing economy
4. **Uusikaupunki:** Biodiversity
5. **Kemiönsaari:** Youth involvement

NORWAY

6. **Namsos:** Circular building materials
7. **Trondheim:** Sustainable food system

GERMANY

8. **Bremen:** Organic food transition in schools

ESTONIA

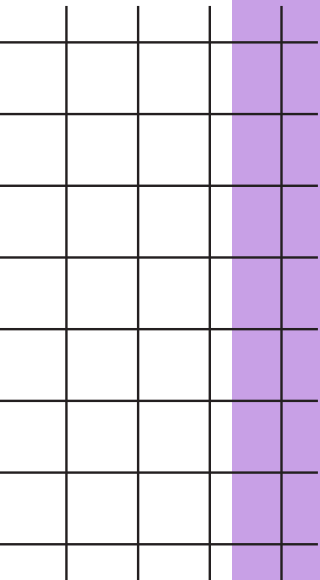
9. **Tartu County:** Circular economy
10. **Lääne-Harju:** Sustainability in education

LATVIA

11. **Cēsis:** Organic food and Bioregion

POLAND

12. **Gdynia:** Cross-sectoral sustainability



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

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Organic food and Bioregion development in Vidzeme, Latvia



Challenges identified:

- Habits, consumer awareness
- Farmers' wellfare, knowledge and influence
- Governance, education, cooperation



Examples of results :

- Organic food education and recipe competition in schools
- Engaging school children and parents
- Integration of arena results into Vidzeme sustainable food strategy 2025-2035
- Bioregion action group

Example: Tampere Future Arena of Sustainable Life (people and nature)



Challenges:

- How urban planning and space support sustainable life of people and nature?
- How to strengthen interaction and cooperation between city and local actors?

Examples of results:

- Platform of sustainable life (operated by local actors, utilized and supported also by the city)
- Biodiversity Centre (knowledge and actions: biodiversity agents)
- Recommendations to enhance citizen participation in urban planning

BSR vision of sustainable life 2035

Key elements for a sustainable future:

- Circular and sharing economy
- Local and organic food
- Social sustainability and community building
- Inclusive and transparent decision-making processes



BALTIC SEA REGION VISION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFE

In 2035, a sustainable lifestyle is enabled through public-private-people collaboration as well as changes in education, regulations and city planning.

A sustainable future is made of solid local communities exchanging materials, goods, ideas, skills and support. Manual skills and community building are strongly integrated as basic skill development in the educational system and lifelong learning. Civil society actors are given practical means to foster and enable a sustainable lifestyle that is easy for people. People are aware of the impacts of their lifestyle and make decisions based on reliable data on the impacts of their choices.

This vision of sustainable life and recommendations for local authorities was made by a group of selected change agents from six Baltic Sea region countries.



Civil society making transitions – 16 + 2 case studies from the BSR

Topics:

- 1) sustainable food
- 2) circular economy
- 3) biodiversity
- 4) sustainable lifestyle

The image shows the cover of a report titled "CIVIL SOCIETY MAKING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION: CASE STUDIES FOR INSPIRATION". The cover features the "WE MAKE transition!" logo in the top left corner. Below the title, there are four photographs: a group of people standing in front of a building with solar panels, a field of wildflowers, a blue wooden building with a bicycle parked outside, and a person holding a basket of fresh vegetables. A large green arrow points from the bottom right towards the basket of vegetables. At the bottom of the cover, there is a hashtag "#WEMAKETRANSITION" and logos for Interreg Baltic Sea Region, the European Union, and the "RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES We make transition!" initiative.

Manual for local & regional authorities

- 1) About the transition arena process
- 2) Stories of WMT local transition arenas
- 3) Key learnings and conclusions

→ Tips and examples for local & regional authorities and local actors



How to use the Transition Arena method to empower cooperation between local authorities, civil society and business actors?

- A manual for regional and local authorities



We make transtion! project website



How to strengthen cooperation between local authorities and civil society actors to enhance sustainability? - A transnational gap analysis



News

27 August 2024

WMT publication: How to strengthen cooperation between local authorities and civil



News

15 August 2024

Building local sustainability with the youth in Kimitoön, Finland

The municipality of Kimitoön and



News

09 July 2024

Added value of We make transition! – Interview with Vidzeme Planning region



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