

Welcome to the Center of Sustainable Life!

WE MAKE
transition!



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RESILIENT ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

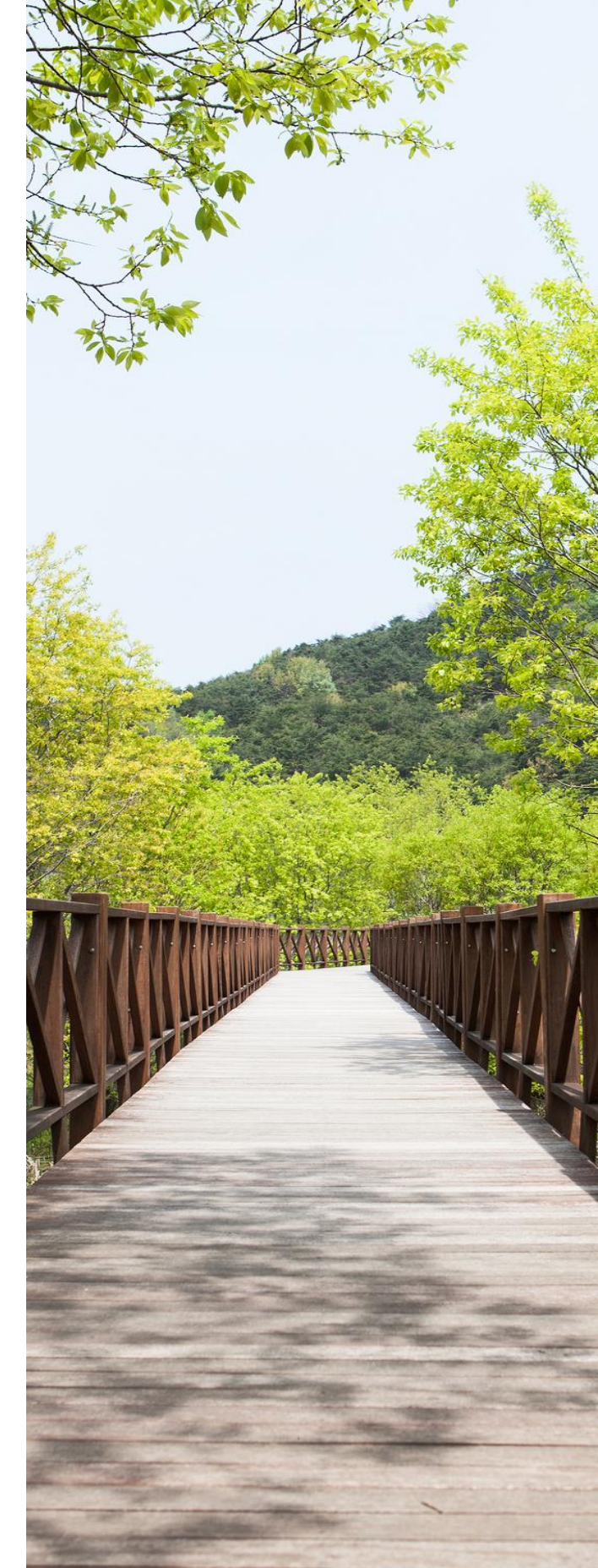
We make transition!

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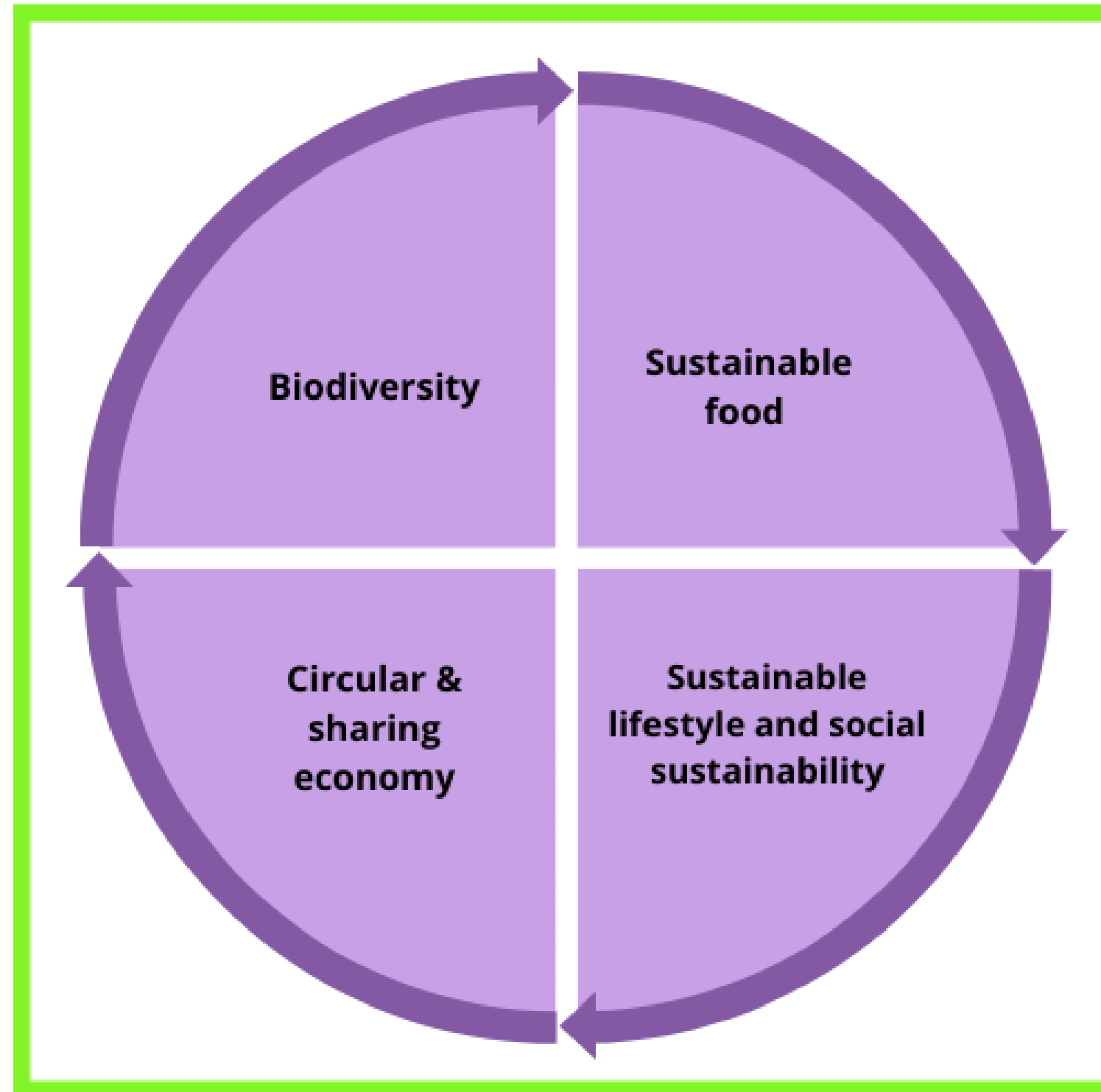
- Empowering People to do Sustainability Transitions

Project aim

- Empower cooperation between **local authorities, civil society and business actors** to enhance ecological and social sustainability.
- Adapt and pilot **transition arena method** with focus on involving local actors to co-create transformative actions in cooperation with local authorities.
- Improve awareness of the **role of grassroots actors** in social innovations and sustainability transition



Focus on the following sustainability topics:





11 PARTNERS FROM 6 COUNTRIES

Finland

- The Baltic Institute of Finland
- Council of Tampere Region
- Council of Helsinki-Uusimaa
- Council of Southwest Finland

Estonia

- DD Foundation

Latvia

- Social Innovation Centre
- Vidzeme Planning Region

Poland

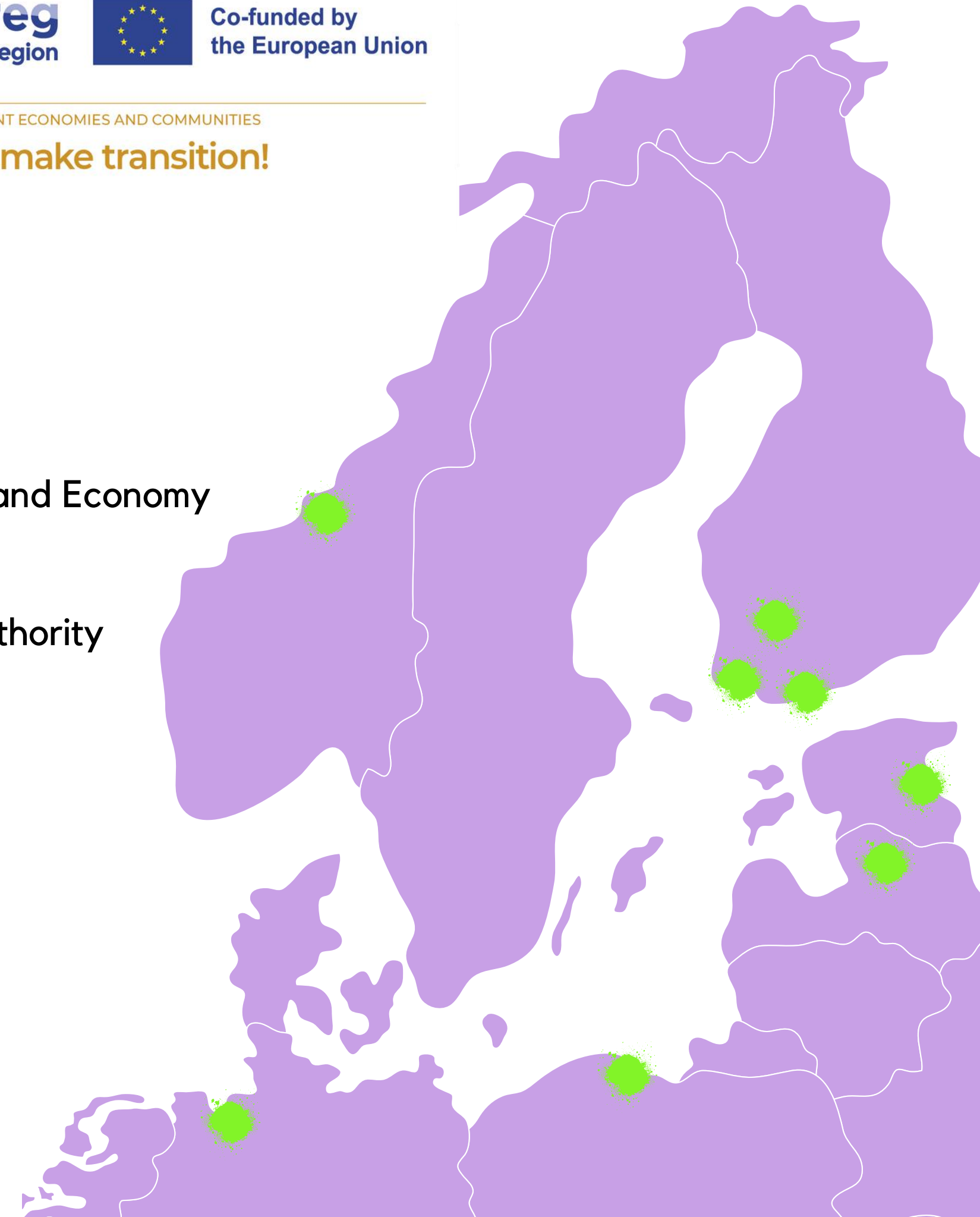
- Baltic Institute for Regional Affairs BISER
- City of Gdynia

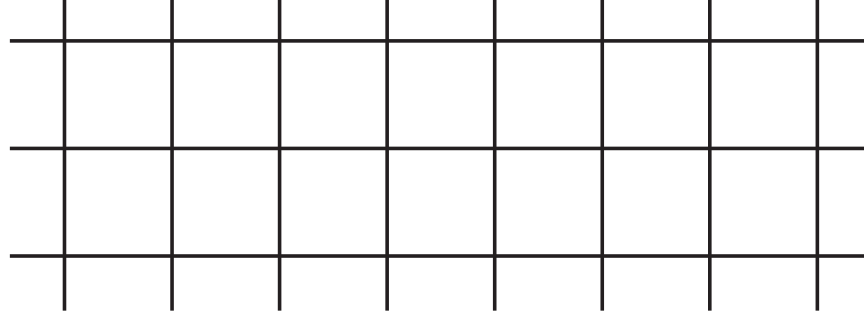
Germany

- University of Bremen
— Institute for Labour and Economy

Norway

- Trøndelag County Authority





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Local transition arenas were 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 economy
7. **Trondheim:** Sustainable food system

GERMANY

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

ESTONIA

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

LATVIA

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

POLAND

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

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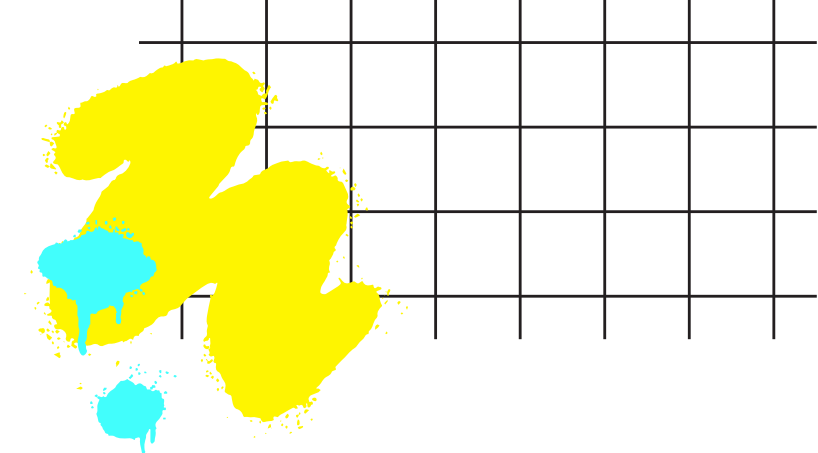


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We make transition! process



**1. System and actor
analysis: local focus
group discussions**



**2. Selecting topic
and framing the
challenges**



**3. Joint sustainability
vision co-created by
30 change agents
from 6 countries**



**4. Local transition
arena workshop
processes in 12
locations**



5. Evaluation



**5. Initiating
transformative
actions in each 12
locations**



Focus group discussions

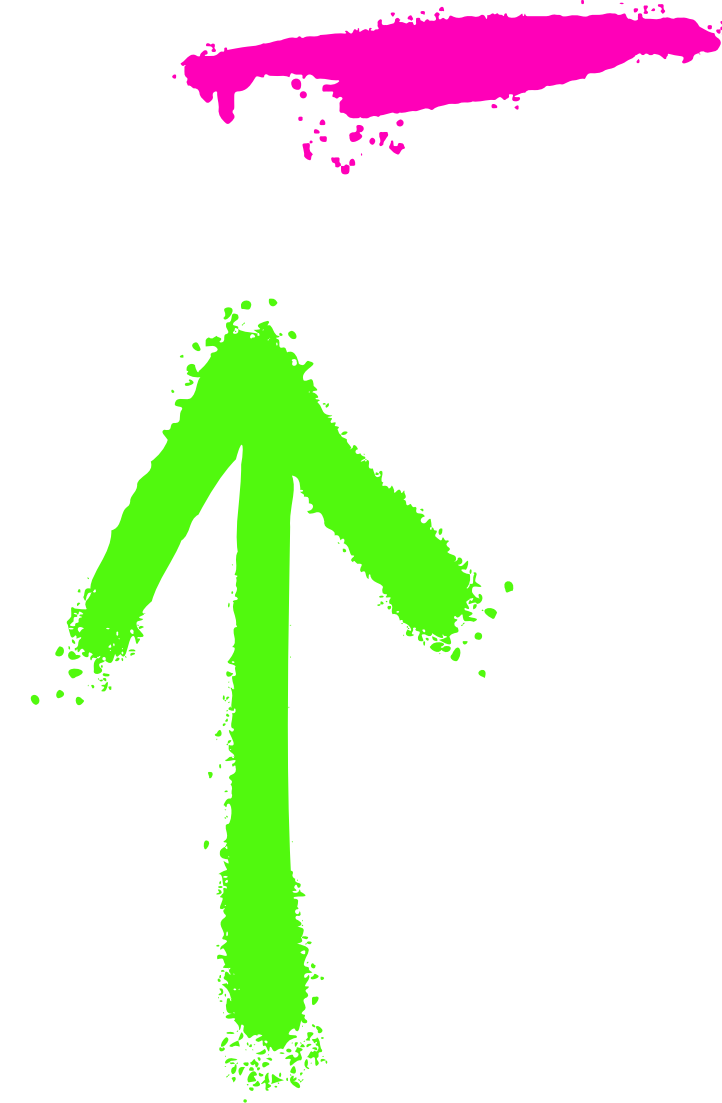
- Different topics (e.g. circular economy, biodiversity, food etc.)
- Common understanding on topic and role of different actors
- Provided a basis for planning the local transition arena workshops

Arena workshops

- Three main workshops: 1) Visioning, 2) Pathways (backgasting) 3) Solutions & Actions
- Moving fast to concrete actions
- Various results: initiatives, experiments, new cooperation models, messages to decision-makers etc.
- Supporting the implementation of results



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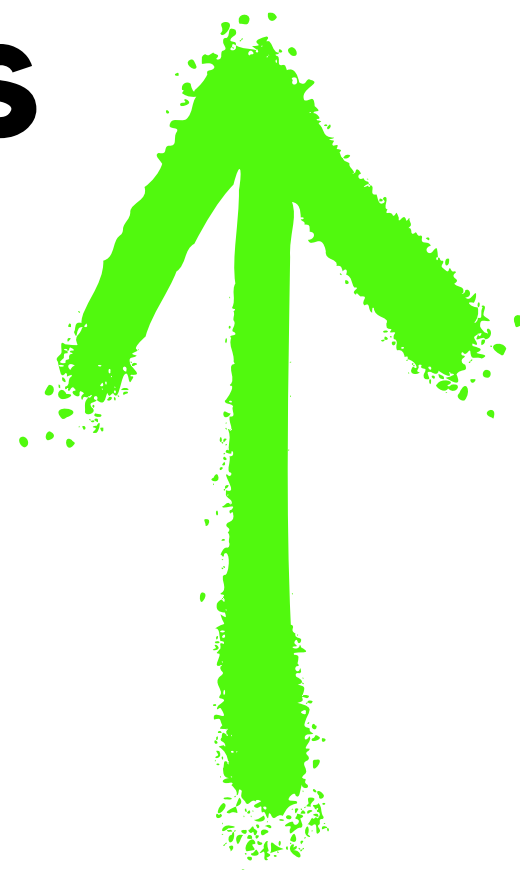
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Key elements



Eco-social sustainability

Civil society actors
are experts in
combining ecological
and social
sustainability in their
activities.

- Joint Vision
- Co-create
actions
- Support
implementation
of actions

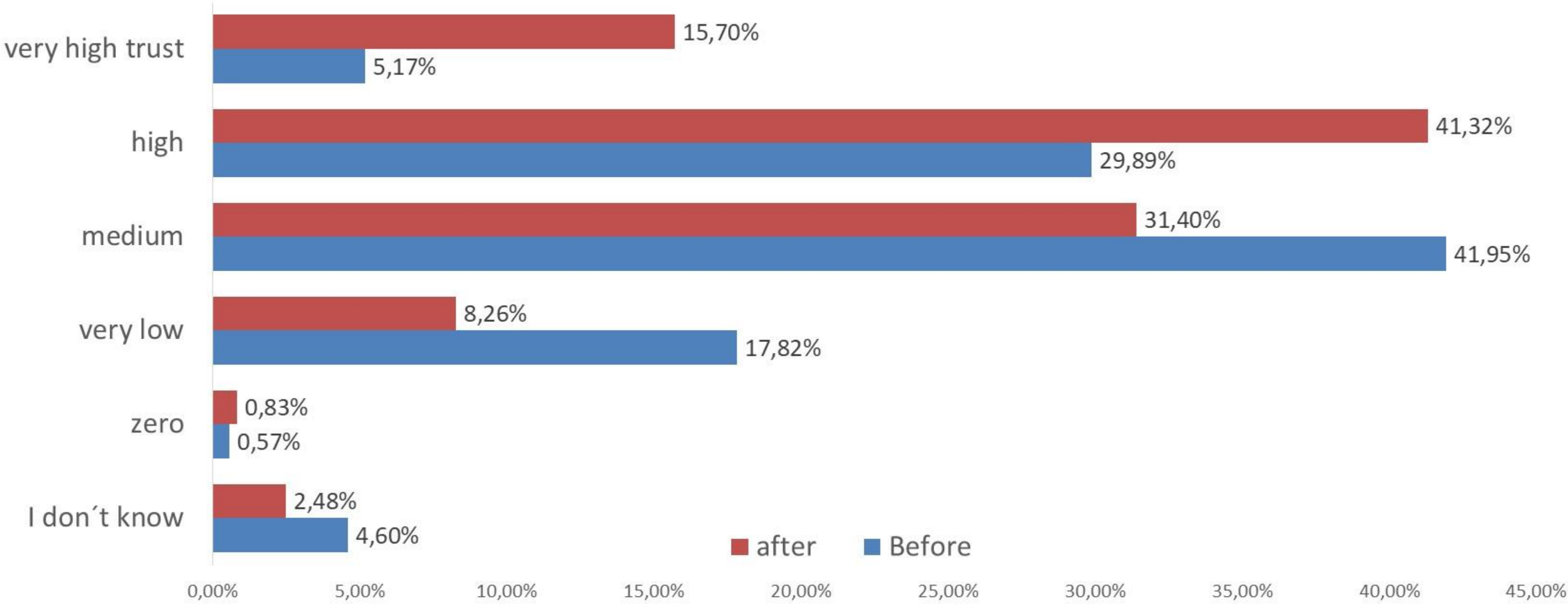
Sustainability transition

Radical
transformation
towards a sustainable
society,

Empowering
people from
different sectors
and levels

Current Level of Trust

Please rate the current level of trust between the local administration and the civil society in your city/region (DURING/AFTER LTA)



WMT! added value

1. Empowering people, empowering new cooperation

- Inviting people from different levels
- Also new people can join along the way
- Empowering new people to get involved also after the workshops

2. Supportive role of external experts and speakers

3. Real co-creation instead of only involving

4. Elements of the method to be integrated in regular planning processes



Key learnings

- Avoid complexity and abstract and political terms
- Ensure political neutrality
- Strong involvement and commitment of local authorities
- No pre-defined strategies or visions, looking beyond structures
- No pre-defined results, trust the process
- Support implementation of results and welcome also new people on board!

-> INTERREG BSR project structure enables!





Manual for local & regional authorities

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

→ Tips and examples for local & regional authorities



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



Read more about We make transtion! at project website



News



News

05 May 2025

Another inspiring WMT! project meeting was organised in Valmiera, Latvia

The meeting including study visits was organised on 23-24 April 2025



News

17 April 2025

Nature in my Neighbourhood – a Transition Arena in Uusikaupunki, Finland

Uusikaupunki transition arena focused on biodiversity promotion.



News

26 February 2025

Gdynia Transition Arena focused on key sustainability challenges identified with the local actors

The Gdynia Cross-sectoral Sustainability Arena had three topics to improve discussion and ...



Tampere Future Arena of Sustainable Life

Johanna Leino, the Baltic Institute of Finland

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SUOMEN ITÄMERI-INSTITUUTTI



PIRKANMAA
COUNCIL OF TAMPERE REGION



TAMPERE



Tampere Future Arena – four workshops

1. Visioning of good & sustainable life - workshop for residents
2. Visioning workshop incl. case presentations and panel discussion
3. Pathway workshop
4. Solution/action plan workshop

+ RESULT EVENT

Participants: Over 10 City representatives from several departments, Youth Council, local politicians, individuals, students, cooperatives, associations, communities, small business actors







Tampere vision of sustainable life 2035

"In 2035 our Tampere is a City of community building and sustainability where people are well as members of their communities."

Different voices are heard and the multilayered culture is valued.

Tampere is a centre of sustainable business and active civil society where interaction, doing things together, sustainable mobility and biodiversity are the key elements of living."







Four focus topics – Four working groups

- 1. Use of urban space to support sustainable life**
- 2. Interaction and participation in urban planning**
- 3. Visibility of second hand and repair services**
- 4. Promotion of biodiversity in cooperation with city and local actors**





RESULTS

1. A centre of sustainable life (cooperation model between city and local actors)
2. Volunteer-based network of biodiversity ambassadors
3. More visibility for second hand and repair services
4. Recommendations for the city on how to improve civic participation in urban planning

→ Influence to Biodiversity Programme and City Strategy







THANK YOU!

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