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A “roadmap” for research about/for/with Social Innovation

Contribution to ESSI Conference 2019, DASA, Dortmund

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Roadmap in steps

Current situation of SI Research

- Some fragmentation and “projectitis”
- Some institutionalisation
- Some larger aspirations: socially innovating/
transforming SI research itself

Objectives

- Short term objectives
- Mid-term objectives
- Long-term objectives

Route forward & milestones

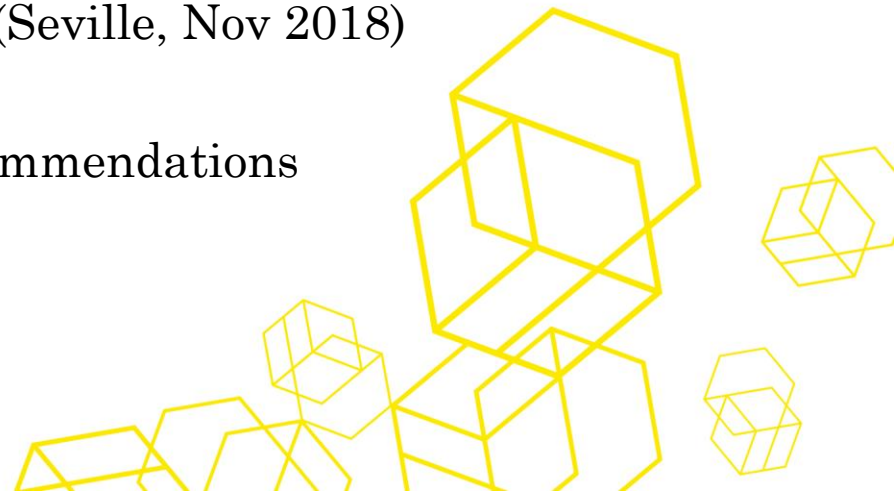
- **How to make progress on these points?**

Sources



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- SIC Research Landscape Report
https://www.siceurope.eu/sites/default/files/field/attachment/exploring_the_research_landscape_of_social_innovation.pdf
- Review of literature, including output of SI neighbouring projects (SI-DRIVE, TRANSIT etc.)
- #SIDeclaration
https://www.siceurope.eu/sites/default/files/field/attachment/the_lib_on_social_innovation_declaration15.10_0.pdf
- 3 Hot Topic Workshops
- 1 Workshop at SIC Final Conference (Seville, Nov 2018)
- SIC Research Forum
- ➔ A distillation of demands, needs, recommendations



Two dimensions of advancing SI research



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Specialisation and institutionalisation
as a research field

Research
on | for | with | as
Social Innovation

Bridging/reconfiguring SI research, practice and policy



Institutionalisation in the research field



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- Developing common epistemologies and a theoretical framework
 - Filling research gaps and discovering new research topics
 - Establishing spaces for scientific networking and exchange
 - Supporting young researchers
 - Statutory integration of SI into all pillars of the EU's research policy
 - Ensuring continuity of SI research beyond projects (for example "EU Observatory on Social innovation Policy")
- „normal science“,

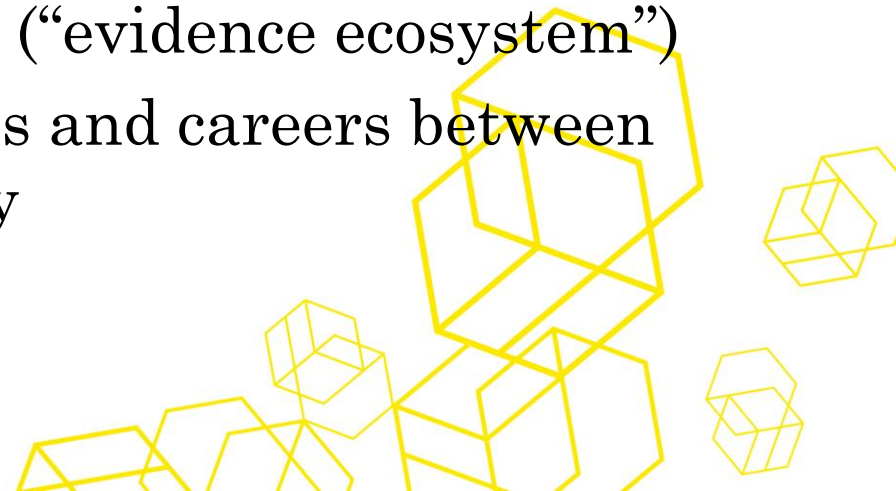


Bridging SI research, practice and policy



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- Transformative spaces of research, experimentation, and mutual learning, especially involving the public sector
- Tools, methods, formats to sustain effective collaborations of researchers, practitioners, policy
- Build and circulate knowledge about societal impact of social innovations (“evidence ecosystem”)
- Create more permeable roles and careers between research, practice and policy





Aims

Institutionalisation

Short-term
(2019-2020)

- Publish results of recent projects

Mid-term
(2019 – 2025)

- Achieve continuity for SI research
- Overcome dependence on projects
- Expand research field (institutes, labs, regions)

Long-term
(2019 – 2030)

- Critical mass of SI research infrastructure
- “mainstreaming” of SI in RRI-, excellence etc. initiatives

Bridging across

Short-term
(2019-2020)

- Continue current activities
- Make results usable for wider groups of users

Mid-term
(2019 – 2025)

- Expand and deepen networks research – practice – policy
- Connect local and trans-local levels

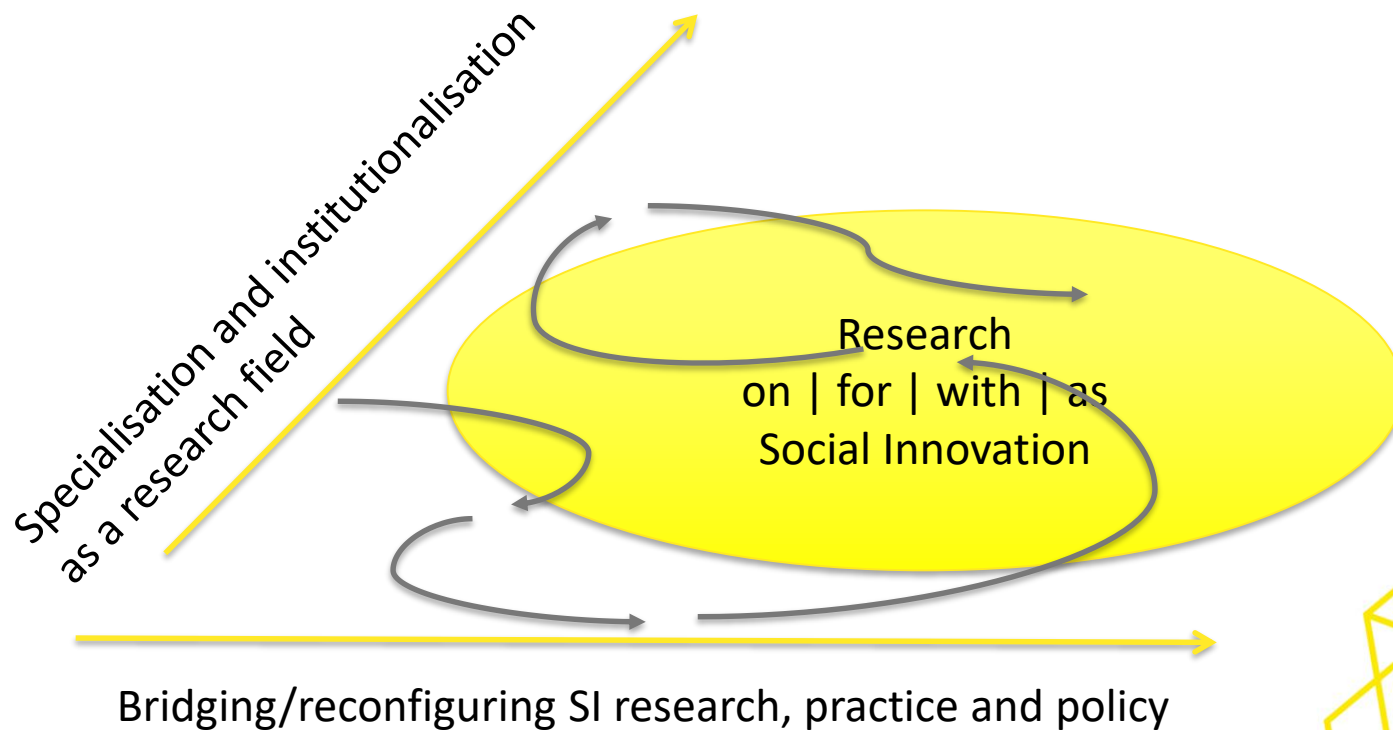
Long-term
(2019 – 2030)

- Further diffusion of SI practices, processes, mindsets into innovation systems and policies

Two dimensions of advancing SI research

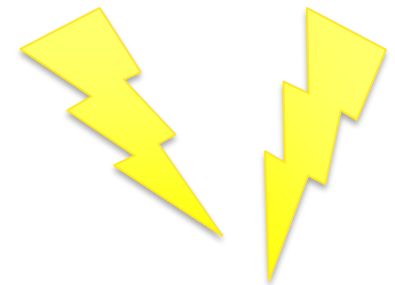


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Conclusions

- Directions of institutionalisation and bridging are interlaced
- Bridging and networks as SI core business and (post-)profession
- Cities, regions, the public sector: the “state” cannot divest itself!
- Research is not dissolving: observers, critical reflection, practical theory – but roles may change and circulate
- Ideally varied research traditions converge (social movements, organisations, social change, technology)
- “Mainstreaming” and diffusion: but keep challenging and reinventing ourselves!



The policy / politics environment – where do investments into generous open-ended collaboration and democratic practices come from?

Further reading

Domanski, D., & Kaletka, C. (Eds.). (2017). *Exploring the Research Landscape of Social Innovation. Deliverable 2.1 of the SIC project*. Retrieved from https://www.siceurope.eu/sites/default/files/field/attachment/exploring_the_research_landscape_of_social_innovation.pdf

Holtgrewe, U., Lindorfer, M., & Schwarz-Wölzl, M. (2019). Specialists in building bridges. The SIC Research Community Roadmap. D2.4 of the SIC project. *Zenodo*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2563662>

Moulaert, F., MacCallum, D., Mehmood, A., & Leubold, B. (2017). *Social innovation as a trigger for transformations. The role of research*. Abgerufen von Directorate-General for Research and Innovation website: https://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy_reviews/social_innovation_trigger_for_transformations.pdf

Social Innovation Community. (2018). *The Lisbon Declaration: Social Innovation as a Path to a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Europe*. https://www.siceurope.eu/sites/default/files/field/attachment/the_lisbon_social_innovation_declaration15.10.0.pdf

The research forum: <https://www.essi-net.eu/?cat=42>

Zotero group library [siceurope.eu](https://www.siceurope.eu)

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