

# Labs and spaces for public sector innovation

5<sup>th</sup> Global Research Conference *Social Innovation and Socio-Digital Transformation -  
Towards a Comprehensive Innovation Policy* | 28/29th of October 2019 Dortmund



# Session Program

## Part 1: Short Inputs (11:00-12:00)

1. The added value of SI labs, Jürgen Schultze, TU Dortmund University
2. Public sector innovation & labs, Eva Wascher, TU Dortmund University
3. Social Innovation Center Dortmund, Dr. Arne Elias, Economic Development Agency Dortmund
4. Vancouver Solutions Lab, Lindsay Cole, City of Vancouver

## Part 2: Dialogue (12:00-12:30)

- Discussing „Key factors and choices in conceptualising and designing a PSIL theory of change“ in small discussion groups (approximate 4 people per group)



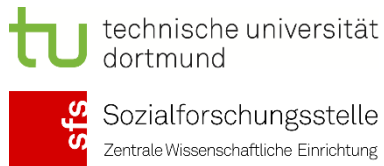
## Public sector innovation & labs

Eva Wascher, TU Dortmund University

# KoSI-Lab project – Municipal social innovation labs

## Research

- Literature review
- International case studies



## RWL

- ### KoSI-Lab Wuppertal
- Concept
  - Pilot



In cooperation with



## RWL

- ### KoSI-Lab Dortmund
- Concept
  - Pilot



## Reflection & training

- RWL reflection
- Workshop series
- Difu seminar



- Transdisciplinary research project (June 2016 – May 2019), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, program “innovative municipalities“ ([www.kommunen-innovativ.de](http://www.kommunen-innovativ.de)) // [www.kosi-lab.de](http://www.kosi-lab.de)



# Project Publications



## Labore sozialer Innovation

Bericht über internationale Fallstudien

Eva Wascher, Florian Hebel, Jürgen Schultze, Christoph Kaletka  
Dortmund, 2018

## Social Innovation Labs International Case Study Report *(in German)*

Wascher, E., Hebel, F., Schultze, J., Kaletka, C. (2018): Labore sozialer Innovation - Bericht über internationale Fallstudien. Projektbericht KoSI-Lab. Sozialforschungsstelle, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund. DOI 10.17877/DE290R-19677 <https://eldorado.tu-dortmund.de/handle/2003/37682> (7.95 MB PDF)



## Developing Municipal Social Innovation Labs Final Report *(in German)*

Wascher, Eva; Elias, Arne; Kaletka, Christoph; Reutter, Oscar; Schmitt, Martina; Schultze, Jürgen; Wallraff, Mona; Zimmer-Hegmann, Ralf (2019): Drehbuch zum Aufbau kommunaler Labore sozialer Innovation. Abschlusspublikation Projekt KoSI-Lab. Sozialforschungsstelle, TU Dortmund. Dortmund. Online verfügbar unter [https://eldorado.tu-dortmund.de/bitstream/2003/37932/2/Drehbuch-KoSI-Lab%20\\_final20190726\\_web.pdf](https://eldorado.tu-dortmund.de/bitstream/2003/37932/2/Drehbuch-KoSI-Lab%20_final20190726_web.pdf)

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# Public sector innovation

- **The four calls to action for governments at the OECD's 2014 conference "Innovating the Public Sector"**
  1. **Focus on people** – Governments must invest in the capacity and capabilities of civil servants as the catalysts of innovation. This includes building the culture, incentives and norms to facilitate new ways of working.
  2. **Put knowledge to use** – Governments must facilitate the free flow of information, data and knowledge across the public sector and use it to respond creatively to new challenges and opportunities.
  3. **Working together** – Governments must advance new organisational structures and leverage partnerships to enhance approaches and tools, share risk and harness available information and resources for innovation.
  4. **Rethink the rules** – Government must ensure that internal rules and processes are balanced in their capacity to mitigate risks while protecting resources and enabling innovation.

(OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (2017): Core skills for public sector innovation)

# From public sector innovation to social innovation labs

- Social innovation “research focuses on analysing **the process of invention**, implementation (introduction to a context of use), diffusion and institutionalisation of new social practices in different areas of social action.” (Howaldt and Hochgerner 2018: 20)
- **Starting assumption: new social practices can be developed systemically. This can be enabled through institutionalised processes and spaces for the emergence of socially innovative initiatives which form and introduce new social practices...**
  - E.g. in the realm of the public sector
- „Innovation can mean many things and can take the form of many different types of actions. Innovation can be small and incremental or rapid and radical. It can be strategically and rigorously designed, or may take the form of an educated guess or a loose experiment.”  
(OECD OPSI: Embracing Innovation in Government - Global Trends, 2019)
- **Government innovation labs as one instrument of public sector innovation ...**  
**... for establishing new social practices within the public sector.**



# International case studies



# Analysis framework

## Labs as an organisation



Structure – Culture – Resources – Mandate

## Lab as a process



Skills – Methods – Mandate

## Lab as a space



Location – Interior Environment/Design

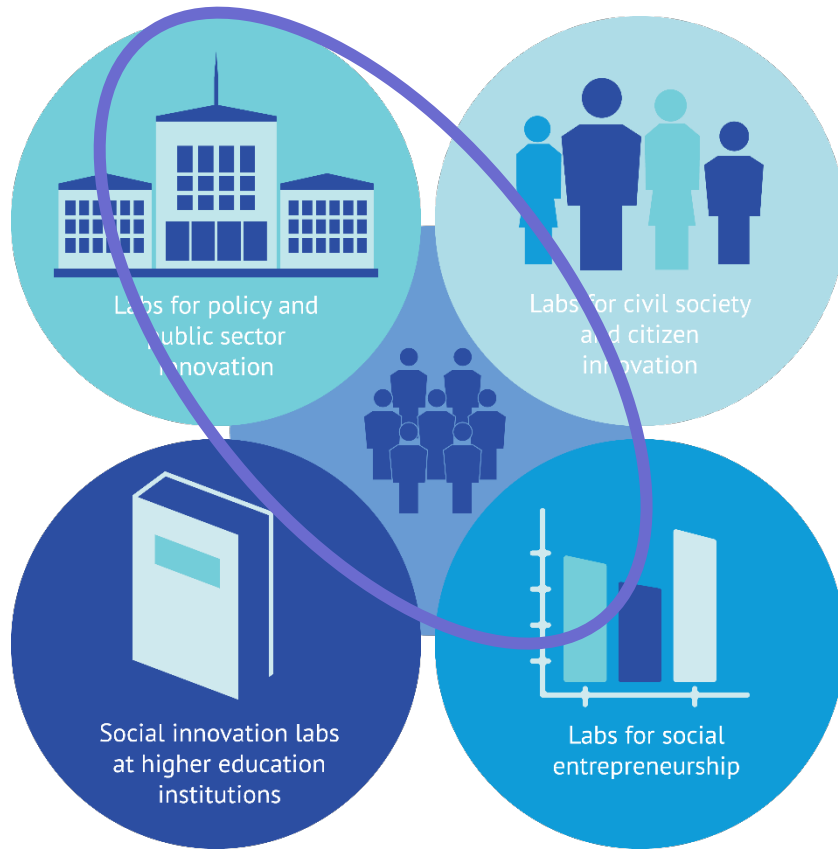
## Lab as a network



Internal – Local – Global

(Wascher et al. 2018)

# Labs for social innovation – spaces for experimentation



Typology of Social Innovation Labs according to mission and/or ownership  
(Wascher et al. 2019)

- institutionalised processes and spaces (organisations or organisational units, structures & resources)
- facilitate innovation processes with specific methods (i.e. human centred design/ collective intelligence)
- work on societal challenges/demands framed as specific problems
- with multi-stakeholder teams (cross-departmental/cross-sectoral)
- create „practice inventions“ (socially innovative initiatives) as prototypes with high innovation potential

(Papageorgiou 2017, Tönurist et al. 2017, Westley and Laban 2015)

## SOCIAL INNOVATION LABS - A SEEDBED FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

Wascher, Eva; Kaletka, Christoph; Schultze, Jürgen (2019): Social Innovation Labs. A Seedbed For Social Innovation. In: Jürgen Howaldt, Christoph Kaletka, Antonius Schröder und Marthe Zirngiebl (Hg.): Atlas of Social Innovation. 2nd Volume: A World of New Practices. München: oekom verlag, S. 136–138.