



Bridging Organizations and
marginalized communities for Local
Sustainability Transitions in EuRope

Fostering Just Transitions in Transformative Innovation Policy: Channeling instruments across multiple levels to engage marginalized communities

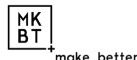
Presented by: Jessica Clement and Artur Ochojski

In collaboration with: Lama Alarda, Nathalie Crutzen

24/01/2024



This project is funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement n.º 101069586. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Introduction

Faced with tackling 'grand challenges' like climate change...



Governments increasingly turning to **transformative innovation policies (TIPs)** (Haddad et al., 2022)

Introduction

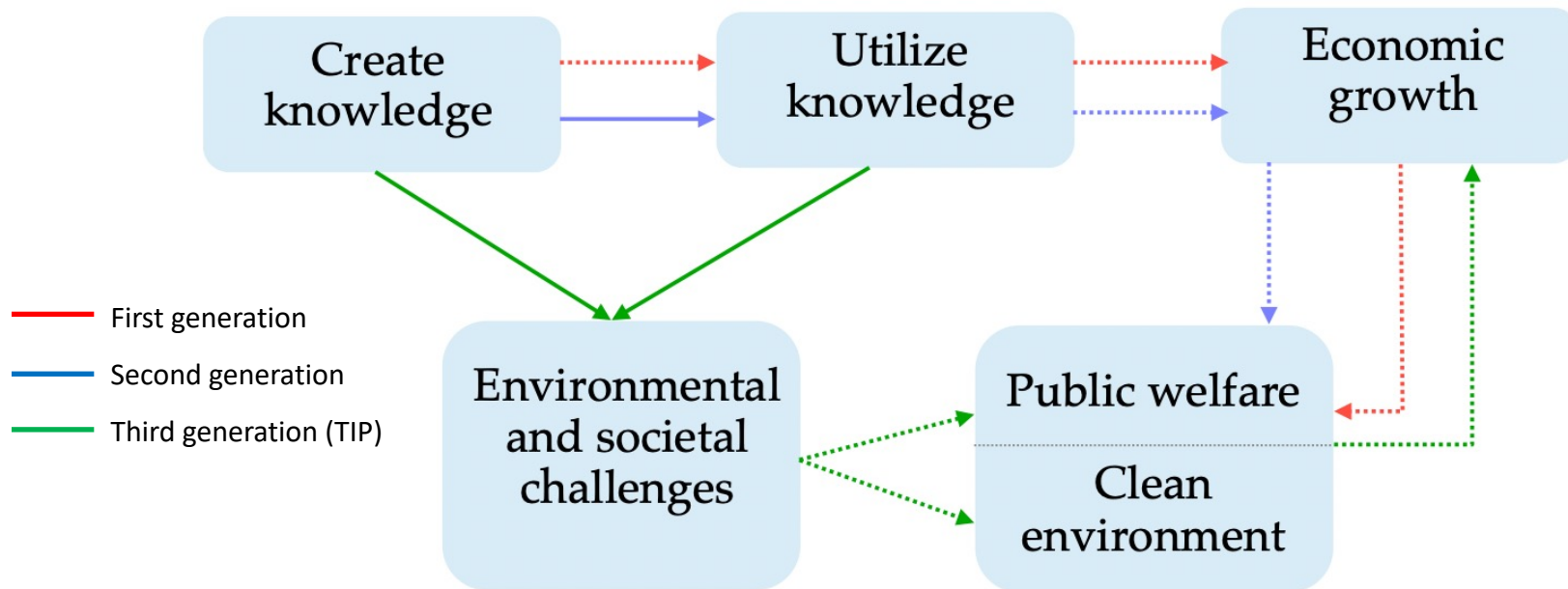


Figure: Three frames of Innovation Policy (taken from Chataway et al. 2017)

Introduction

TIPs are:

- Next generation innovation policies that **focus first on environmental and social challenges**, which then indirectly support economic growth (Schot & Steinmueller, 2018; Chataway et al., 2017)
- **'Directed'** to give innovation processes a societally desirable strategic orientation (Mazzucato, 2018)
- Recognize negative secondary effects of innovation policy on inclusivity in society & pay attention to **marginalized communities** (Alkemade et al., 2011; Schipper, 2020; Haddad et al., 2022)

Introduction

- TIPs being created at supra-national level and then channelled down to local levels (**multi-level governance context with vertical and horizontal dimensions**) (Bergek et al., 2023)
- Supra-national levels use different **instruments** to do this (Diercks et al., 2019; Fagerberg, 2018; Mazzucato, 2018), but little research has been found about how this happens...

Introduction

Goals of paper:

1. Understand how – after an instrument is designed and put into action at a supra-national stage – the instrument is channelled across various levels;
2. and understand how TIP instruments engage with marginalized communities in society, namely at the local level

Context

- The TIP we study is the European Green Deal (Bergek et al., 2023)
- The instrument we study is the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)**

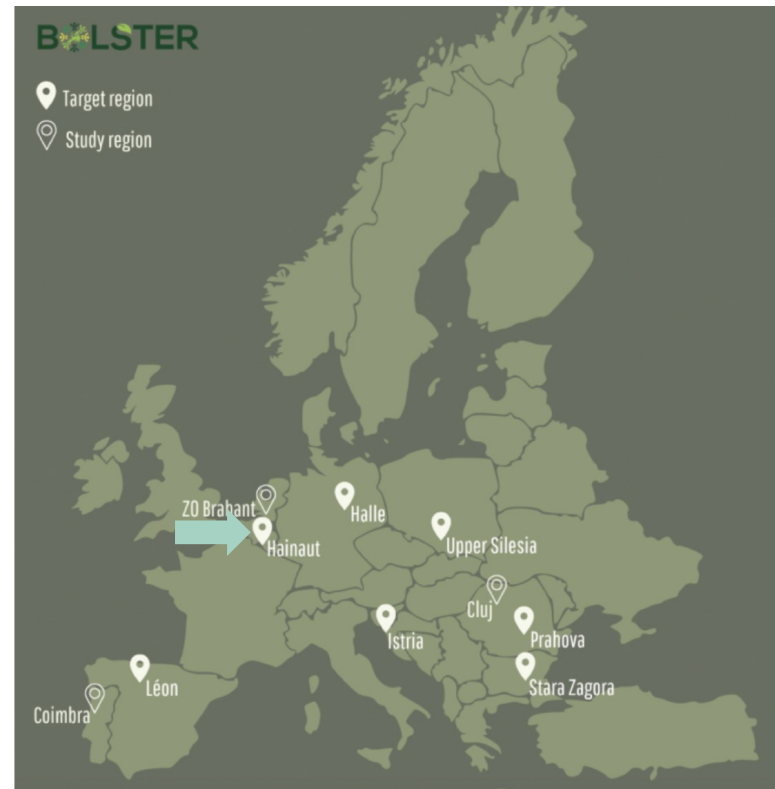
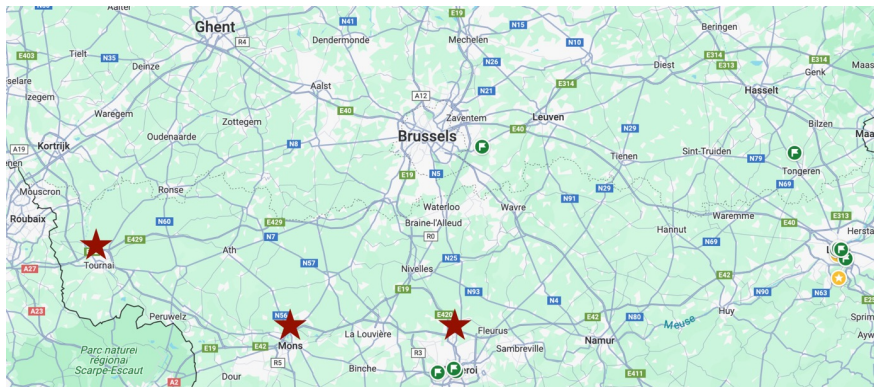


Context

Setting of the study:

Hainaut (Wallonia, Belgium)

Industrial transition (heavy industry like cement production)

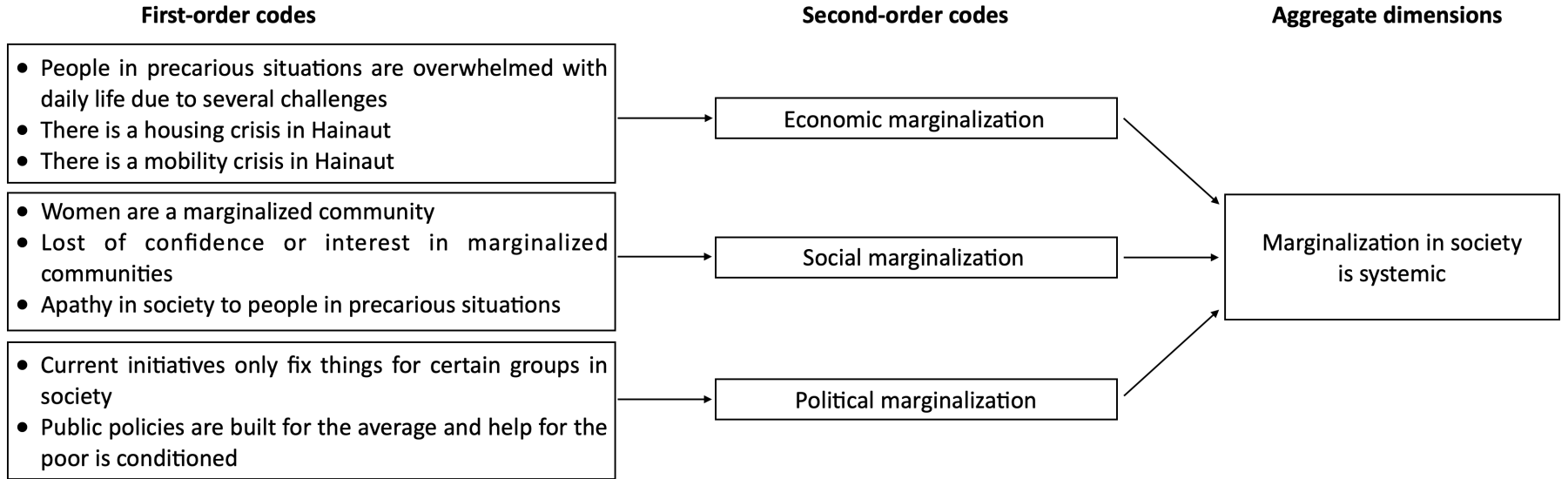


Methods

- Semi-structured interviews with actors involved in just transition & TJTP:
 - Policymakers (national, regional)
 - Local governments
 - Civil society organizations (including unions)
 - Businesses
 - Territorial development agencies
- Inductive method (Gioia, 2012) to, starting from interview data, build up to conceptual dimensions

20 interviews with 27 individuals

Results



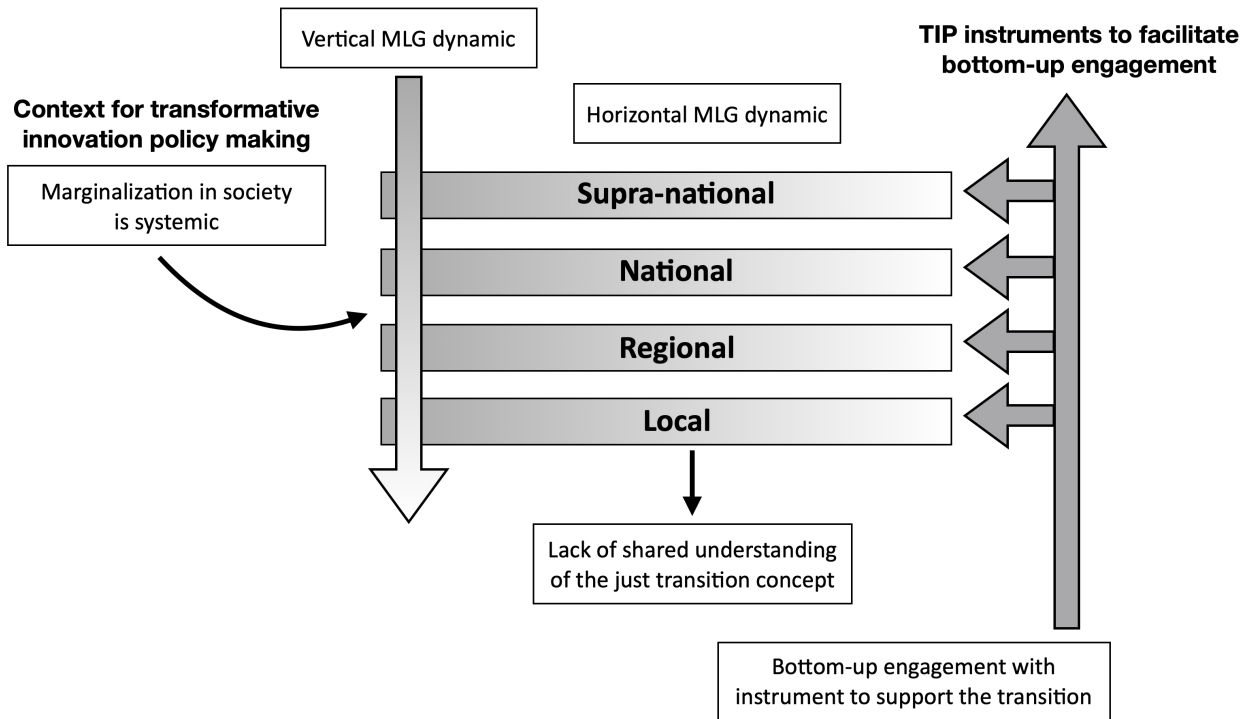
Results

We identified 5 aggregate dimensions from our data:

- Marginalization in society is systemic
- Vertical multi-level governance dynamics
- Horizontal multi-level governance dynamics
- Lack of shared understanding of the just transition concept
- Bottom-up approach to support the just transition

Results

Multi-level governance dynamics: transfer and translation of TIP and instruments



Discussion (#1)

- **marginalization** (economic, social, and political) creates structural barriers to the EDG in its ambition to include all individuals (Young, 2002),
 - political marginalization: low access to decision-making and inequitable planning,
 - social marginalization: disempowerment of specific groups, increase in vulnerability leading to aggravation of socioeconomic or cultural inequalities,
 - economic marginalization: enhanced influence of the private sector compared to the public sector (Sovacool et al., 2015)
- In our case - public policies are not responsive to the needs of the marginalized in society, and when those policies happen to respond, they are associated with specific conditions (Clement et al. this paper).

Discussion (#2)

- **inclusivity** in transformative innovation of those directly impacted is seen as a means of democratizing public decision-making (Ciplet and Harrison 2020)
- caution needed: socio-ecological timelines vs. the strategies required to ensure the utmost inclusion of stakeholders, and thus - Q: how to include stakeholders in situations where prompt action may be crucial?
 - ‘sustainable exclusivity’ = sustainable action taken without citizen representation (Ciplet & Harrison, 2020), rather than aspiring to have bold, deliberative, and inclusive transition processes (Newell et al., 2022)
 - inertia may lead to delayed, albeit inclusive, decision-making
- In our case - policy is inclined towards the economy and the fragmented interpretation of the transition is not fully aligned with a participative approach = sustainable exclusivity with a potential to change due to observed shift in the mindset and mentality of citizens, on condition policy is less inclined towards the economy (Clement et al. this paper).

Discussion (#3)

- Thus, for TIPs we propose an ecosystem built upon **participatory governance** (e.g., Fung, 2006; Newig et al., 2018) to account for inclusion and the representation of marginalized communities,
- participatory governance is understood as the **decision-making processes and institutional settings** that engage with organized actors (Newig et al., 2018),
- it enhances and institutionalizes **coordination, cooperation, and collaboration** across governance levels, and support the engagement with multiple actors and most importantly citizens (Fung, 2006),
- connecting TIPs with participatory governance theory offers a different roadmap for TIPs compared to a hierarchical approach; still, specific tools are needed (Clement et al. this paper).

Discussion (#4)

- proposed **tools** fostering the participative ecosystem (Clement et al. this paper):
 - information flows, communication, and filling in knowledge gaps between actors needs to be re-organized within the TIPs; when knowledge is not shared or extended to all concerned parties it impedes engagement and prevents citizens from discovering and exploring the new policies,
 - enhancing the engagement of all actors, especially marginalized communities and establishing spaces or models for co-creating the instruments such as:
 - working groups fostering accountability and transparency,
 - formal integration of micro-level associations,
 - funding opportunities for civil society organizations able to dialogue with citizens,
 - ...

Thank you!

🌐 www.bolster-horizon.eu

✉ Jessica.Clement@uliege.be



@bolster-horizon-europe



@bolster_eu



This project is funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement n.º 101069586. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



CULTURE GOES EUROPE
SOZIOKULTURELLE INITIATIVE ERFURT E.V.



References

- Bache, I., & Flinders, M. (2004). Themes and Issues in Multi-level Governance. In I. Bache & M. Flinders (Eds.), *Multi-level Governance* (pp. 1–12). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/0199259259.003.0001>
- Bergek, A., Hellsmark, H., & Karltorp, K. (2023). Directionality challenges for transformative innovation policy: lessons from implementing climate goals in the process industry. *Industry and Innovation*, *In press*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13662716.2022.2163882>
- Calderini, M., Fia, M., & Gerli, F. (2023). Organizing for transformative innovation policies: The role of social enterprises. Theoretical insights and evidence from Italy. *Research Policy*, *52*(7), 104818. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.RESPOL.2023.104818>
- Chataway, J., Daniels, C., Kanger, L., Ramirez, M., Schot, J., & Steinmueller, E. (2017). Developing and enacting Transformative Innovation Policy: A Comparative Study. *8th International Sustainability Transitions Conference*.
- Gioia, D. A., Corley, K. G., & Hamilton, A. L. (2012). Seeking Qualitative Rigor in Inductive Research: Notes on the Gioia Methodology. *Organizational Research Methods*, *16*(1), 15–31. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1094428112452151>
- Haddad, C. R., Nakić, V., Bergek, A., & Hellsmark, H. (2022). Transformative innovation policy: A systematic review. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, *43*, 14–40. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.EIST.2022.03.002>

Extra slides

Literature

Multi-Level Governance & Transformative Innovation Policies

- MLG framework as an analytical approach to understand two perspectives:
 - **Vertical:** government interactions across scales (supra-national, national, regional, local);
 - **Horizontal:** between actors (government, business, civil society, citizens) at a single level (e.g., Bache & Flinders, 2004)
- Literature begins to discuss TIP policy in a MLG context at one level, but less about how it moves across levels

Marginalized Communities & Transformative Innovation Policies

- Innovation policies in the past have had unintended consequences, so TIPs focus on inclusivity (Haddad et al., 2022) and how to better include marginalized communities in a bottom-up manner (Calderini et al., 2023)



Therefore, the European Green Deal is on the one hand about cutting emissions, but on the other hand it is about creating jobs and boosting innovation.

I am convinced that the old growth-model that is based on fossil-fuels and pollution is out of date, and it is out of touch with our planet. The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy – it is a strategy for growth that gives more back than it takes away.

And we want to really make things different. We want to be the frontrunners in climate friendly industries, in clean technologies, in green financing.

But we also have to be sure that no one is left behind.

In other words: This transition will either be working for all and be just, or it will not work at all. And therefore, a crucial part in the European Green Deal is the Just Transition Mechanism. We have the ambition to mobilise EUR 100 billion precisely targeted to the most vulnerable regions and sectors.

Context

Press release in 2019:
President von der Leyen