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Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation

# Does a Social Innovation Become Stale? 150 years of fresh water supply

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# Agenda

- Introduction: What we did so far
- What is our aim?
- Preliminary results
- Conclusion



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# Introduction: What did we do so far

## 3 comprehensive case studies on established SI

- The History of Social Housing as a Social Innovation
- Financial and Monetary Innovations for Overcoming Social Exclusion
- The History of Fresh Water Supply as a Social Innovation

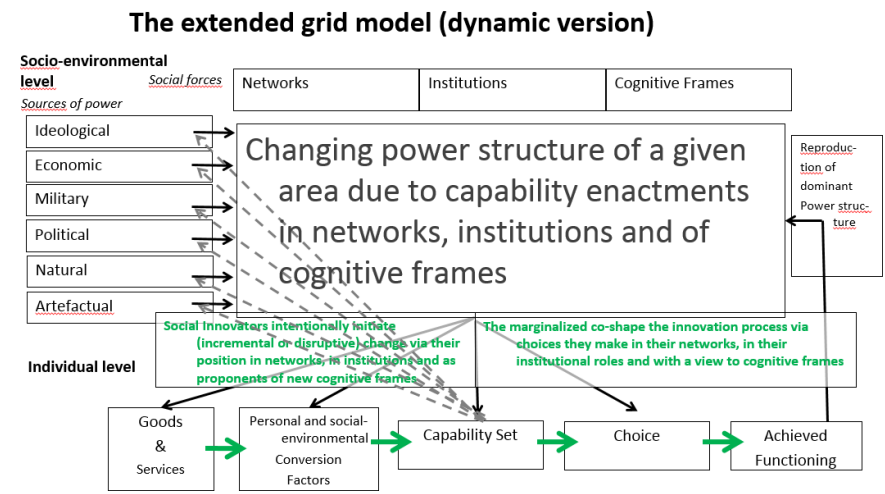
## 4 individual case studies on more recent SI

- Kiútprogramme, Hungary
- New Water Paradigm, Slovakia
- Community-based Health Research
- Entrepreneur Capital, United Kingdom



# What is our aim

- Analyse material with extended social grid model
- Find out about actor constellations and strategies, resources and life cycles of SI



Nicholls/Ziegler, 2014



# Preliminary results

2010:  
UN Convention  
declared universal  
access to safe, sufficient  
and affordable water a  
human right.

19th century:  
Access to water  
was a matter of  
fate or prosperity.





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# 19th century

- *Social networks*: physicians, social reformers and engineers
- *Cognitive frames*: Water cleans itself. Diseases are caused by miasmas.
- *Institutions*: Policies on public health; regional and local regulations on water
- *Technology*: supply network; water towers  
But: created path dependency



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## Around 1900

- *Social networks*: Public authorities
- *Cognitive frames*: Diseases are caused by germs; hygiene discourse
- *Institutions*: national laws
- *Technology*: improved pump technology; water filtration



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## 1950s-1970s

- *Social networks*: Public authorities, early environmentalists
- *Cognitive frames*: Access to fresh water supply is a new standard. Protect natural resources.
- *Institutions*: national and international regulations on the protection of water sources
- *Technology*: Water and waste water treatment plants





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# 21<sup>st</sup> century

- *Social networks*: supranational actors; citizen's initiatives
- *Cognitive frames*: Access to fresh water is „natural“. Public good vs. private good.
- *Institutions*: national and supranational principles and regulations
- *Technology*: water saving devices; improved control of residues



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# Conclusion

- 1. Social vs. technical
- 2. Local vs. global
- 3. No end to social innovations