



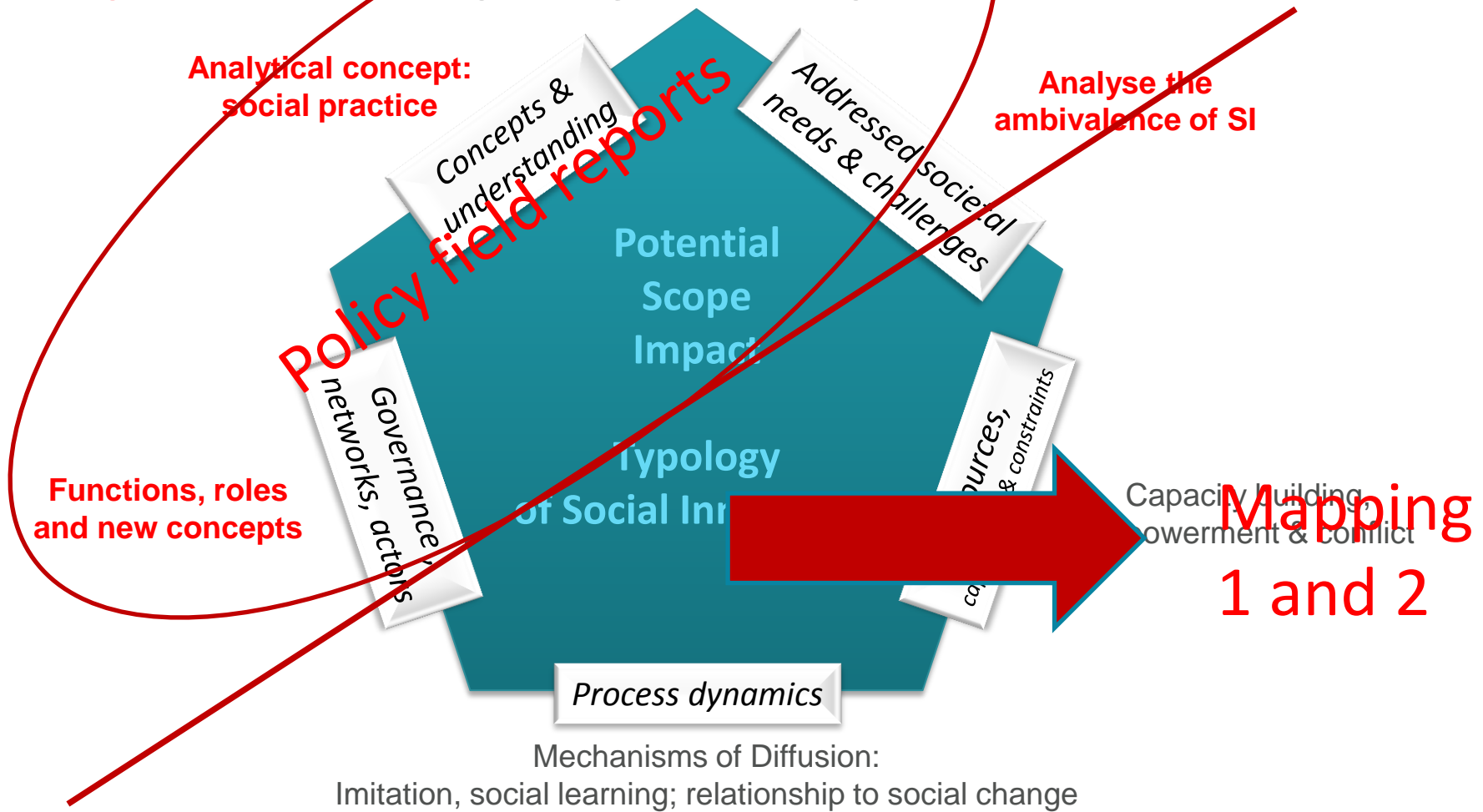
## **SI-DRIVE: Social innovation actors and roles (primarily results from the policy field reports)**

Social Innovation 2015: “Pathways to Social Change”  
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# Emphasis of the policy field reports

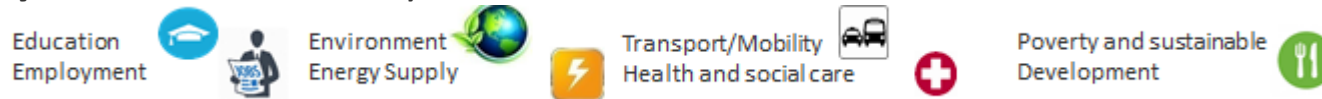


## Overall research questions of the policy field reports

- What are **challenges** within the policy field and their societal consequences, what strategies/objectives are there to tackle them, that also emphasise the role of social innovation and the governance structure relevant for social innovation?
- How does the policy field's **governance systems** address specific challenges and what role does social innovation play?
- What are corresponding **practices fields** of social innovation?
- What can we learn regarding the relation between the context of social innovation and the nature of social innovation (drivers, barriers, scaling, stakeholders, bottom-up SI, policy-driven SI)? Are there indications qualifying the **relation between social innovation and social change**?

## First observations of the cross-analysis of the policy field reports

The **policy fields** under scrutiny are:



The policy fields are **diverse** with regard to their **actors** and **roles**.

Some policy fields reports report on **governmental structures** being **drivers** and **barriers** (e.g. Education, Employment) and on a legislation/regulation dependency (e.g. Environment, Energy, Transport).

Apart from that all policy field reports report on

- strong needs for social innovation in the policy fields (due to manifold challenges);
- an unclear understanding of the concept of social innovation;
- overlaps between policy fields; and on
- a strong context dependency (variety on SI, culture dependency).

## Importance of the local/regional level

- Many reports inform on the importance of the regional and the local level as the **main implementation level** at which the social innovations develop even though some policy fields have strongly **centralised systems**.
- Examples:



The implementation of policies is **decentralized** to regional or local government bodies in a number of cases.



Decentralisation fosters community development and cohesion by providing income sources and creating jobs locally. This policy field also reports that **local initiatives are flowering**, but **upscaling seems to be difficult**.



There are a **grassroots initiatives** or initiatives at the regional (below the national level) and local level trying to change the system, but the **resistance of the system and the institutional rationalities are high barriers** to overcome.

Education  
Employment



Environment  
Energy Supply



Transport/Mobility  
Health and social care



Poverty and sustainable  
Development



## Actors and roles: The Public

**Government actors** play an important role in the majority of policy fields ...

- Public international actors: EU (EC, ...), global actors (UNDP, World Bank, ..)
- National/regional/local levels: ministries, provincial authorities, municipalities, etc.

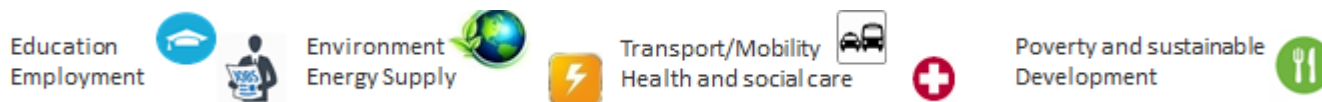
But:



*“Actors of the governance system are highly diverse, causing an extremely fragmented policy field.”*  
(Policy field report Mobility, p.11)



*“European Governance in employment policy is managed in a bureaucratic and not transparent way and dominated by actors from the national and European bureaucracy”* (Policy field report Employment p.6)



## Actors and roles: The Private



**Employers** and (potential) employees (and their representative organisations and unions) are among the central actors on the labour market, although the government is responsible for defining the pre-conditions and boundaries of the labour market.



As the numerous offices of different interest groups from **industry** and civil society indicate, lobbying activities play an important role within the European policy processes.

But also:



*“Apart from the practice field of car-sharing, it is strikingly obvious that **private actors are absent** in social innovation practice fields in most countries”* (Policy field report on Mobility, p.17)

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## Actors and roles: The Civil Society



Although the public is dominating, participation of civil society in social innovation can be found. These are mainly **parents' and students' representations**, but also **employers' associations** as well as **employment services**.



NGOs are mostly involved in concrete projects to support **disadvantaged groups**.



NGOs and, in particular, **umbrella organisations** of the civil society (next to the consumers) play an important role.



Space for social innovation is provided for the civil society related to reducing trip distances and frequency and to increase usage of resource-efficient transport modes.

Education  
Employment



Environment  
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## Other important actors



**Social partners** in the policy field of employment.



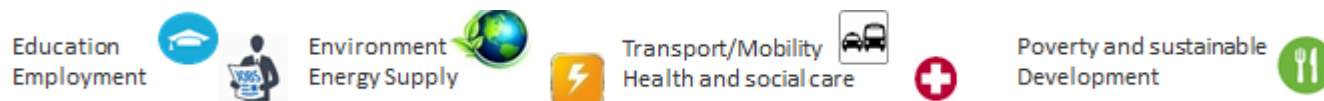
**Platforms/networks/interest groups:** Diverse platforms, networks and interest groups with varying legal backgrounds (private, public, half-public and civil) are also important players, especially in the policy field of health and social care and in the policy field of poverty reduction.



**Research organisations and universities,** are they public, private or civil society based, are recorded as actor groups, too. They often are taking over the role as innovation driver and coordinator.

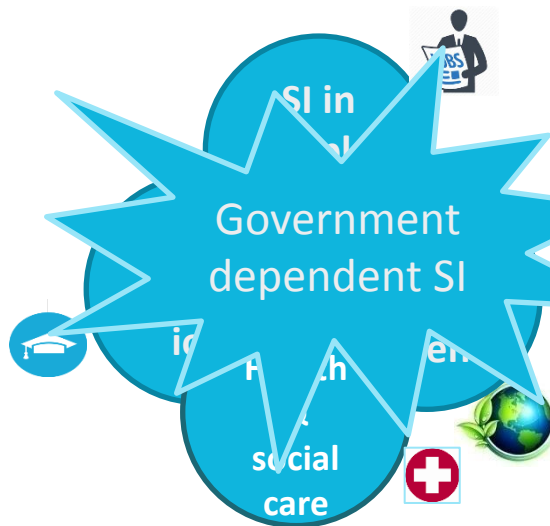
**ALL**

**Partnerships** are to be found in all policy fields comprising of different actors of the above mentioned groups



## First observations of the cross-analysis of the policy field reports

➤ There are **three clusters** identified so far (but ...):



- Driven mainly by central government
- Strongly dependent on laws/regulation



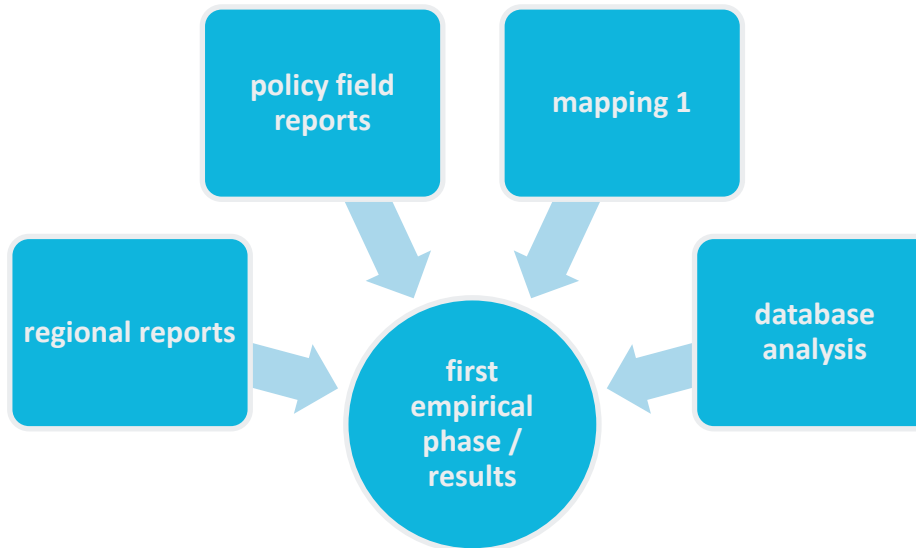
- Dependency on government and market structures



- Driven by grassroots / Bottom-up initiatives
- Local context is important

## BUT

- This is the **policy field perspective!**
- Other perspectives (such as the regional perspective and the case perspective) still will follow .....



## To sum up

- Many policy field reports confirm that the **societal and governance systems**, in which the social innovations are embedded, are **complex**.
- The systems are mostly characterised by a **variety of organisations, actors** and **interests**.
- **Strong context dependences**: There is dependency on the **legislative/regulative environment**, the **governmental structures**, the **geographical dimension** and the **culture** (e.g. cooperative culture).
- Scientific research on social innovations, interactive communication with relevant networks of stakeholders and communities and the analysis of pertinent policy areas – as performed by the policy field examinations – revealed the **strong need for social innovation in the seven policy fields**. The findings of the state of the art reports on policy fields, in addition, indicate that “**social innovation friendly policy environments**” still have to be built in Europe as well as globally.