The Role of Networks for Social Innovations in Urban Climate Protection

Marco Schmitt, Martin Stark, Elena Kaip,
Britta Rösener, Johannes Vogelsang

Researchepartners of KlimaNetze

Agenda

- Background informations
- Data collection methods
- Empirical results
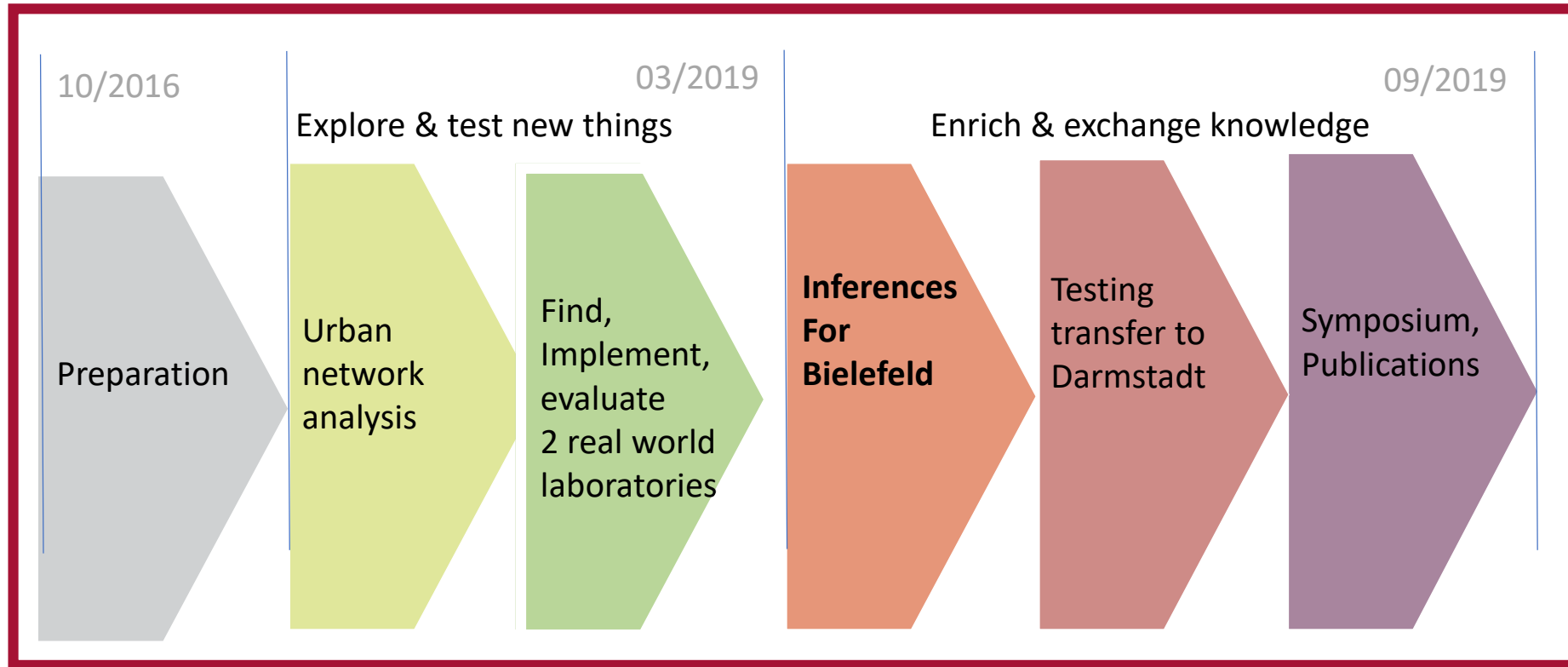- Strategy types for networking

Aims of KlimaNetze

- Identification of relevant climate protection actors and activities in Bielefeld

- Role of urban network structures in the development of social innovations and in urban transformation processes

- Further development of methods for use in urban contexts

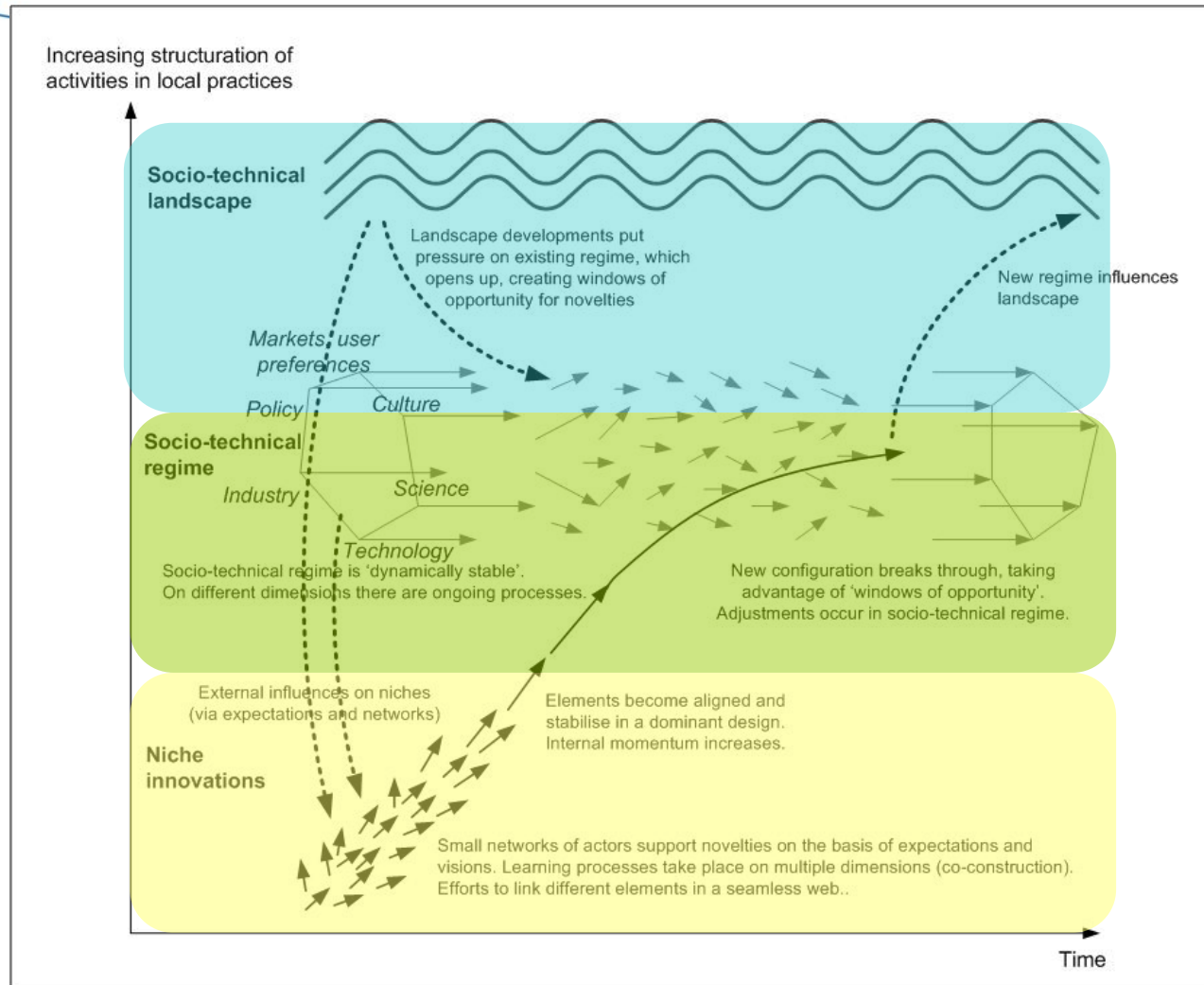- Strengthening cooperation between urban actors

Time table of the project

How are social innovations created?
The "Multi-level Perspective" concept

Increasing structuration of activities in local practices

Socio-technical landscape

Landscape developments put pressure on existing regime, which opens up, creating windows of opportunity for novelties

New regime influences landscape

Markets, user preferences

Policy   Culture

Socio-technical regime

Industry   Science

Technology

Socio-technical regime is 'dynamically stable'. On different dimensions there are ongoing processes.

New configuration breaks through, taking advantage of 'windows of opportunity'. Adjustments occur in socio-technical regime.

External influences on niches (via expectations and networks)

Elements become aligned and stabilise in a dominant design. Internal momentum increases.

Niche innovations

Small networks of actors support novelties on the basis of expectations and visions. Learning processes take place on multiple dimensions (co-construction). Efforts to link different elements in a seamless web..

Time

Innovation research is based on the assumption that innovations emerge from niches.

Geels, F. W. (2002): Technological transitions as evolutionary reconfiguration processes: a multi-level perspective and a case-study. In: Research Policy, 31(8), S. 1257-1274.

Main data collection methods in KlimaNetze

- Qualitative Interviews with Key Actors (13)

- Online Survey (50 respondents, 601 nodes, 237 organizations, 160 projects, 121 events)

- Real world laboratories, Interviews, Participatory Observation

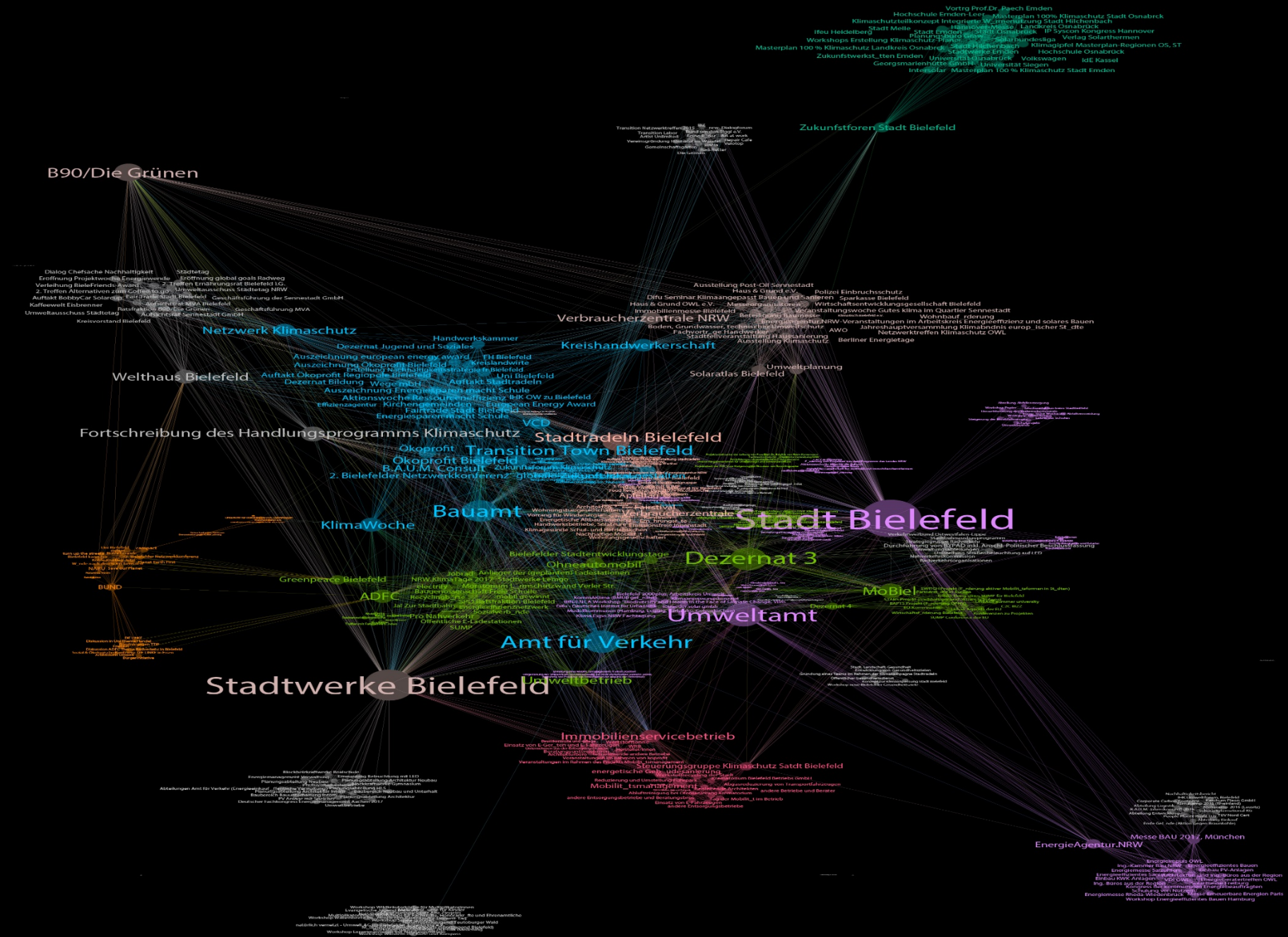- NetMap group interviews with the project teams of the real world labs

Intensity of participation in climate protection activities and mutual perception of the stakeholder groups
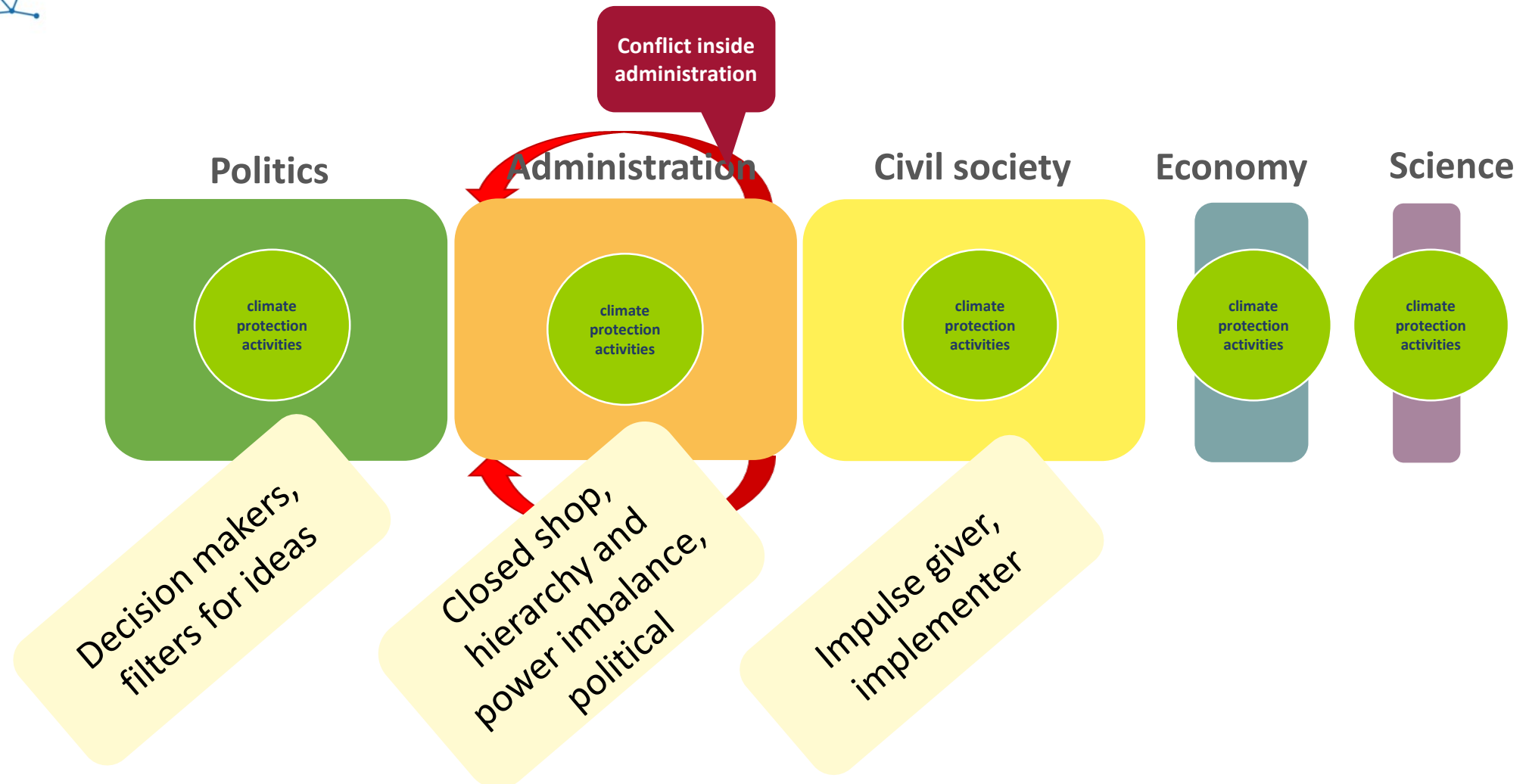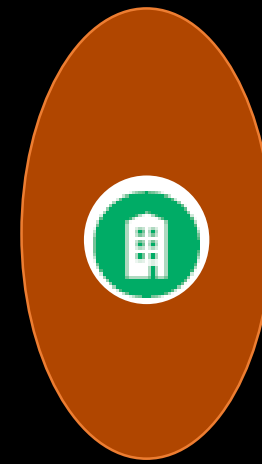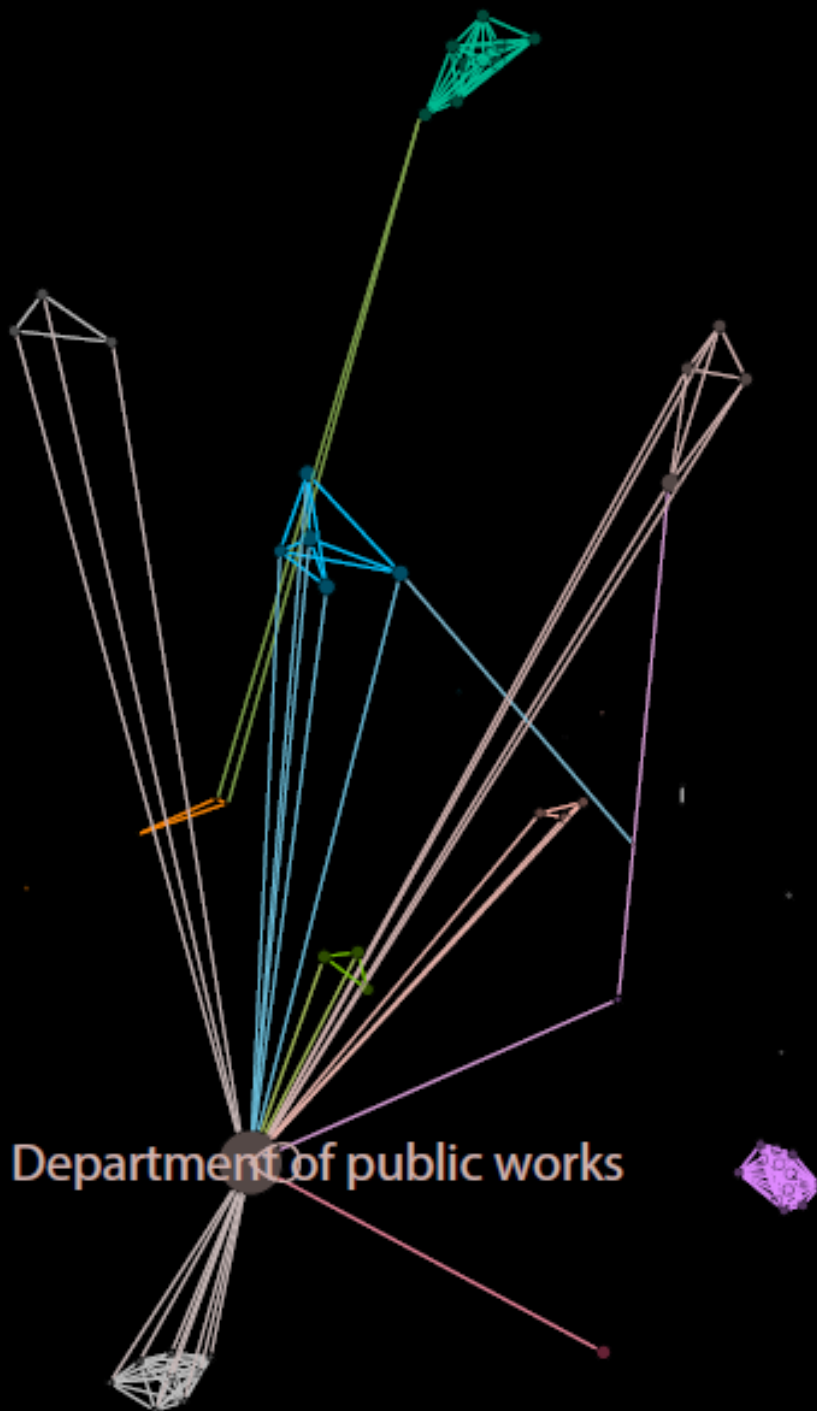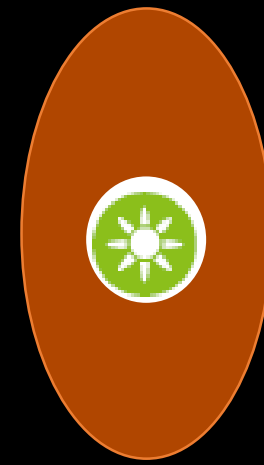
Complete urban network (Survey)

Construction

- Network is very centralized
- Building control office as central

Energy supply

- Network is less centralized than building, but still strongly centralized
- Department of public works as central actor

Production/
Consumption

- Decentralized network
- Is the only field of action that does not have any central actors
- Focus on civil society (model: Transition Town)
- Underpresence of municipal actors
- Important nodes are rather projects/events
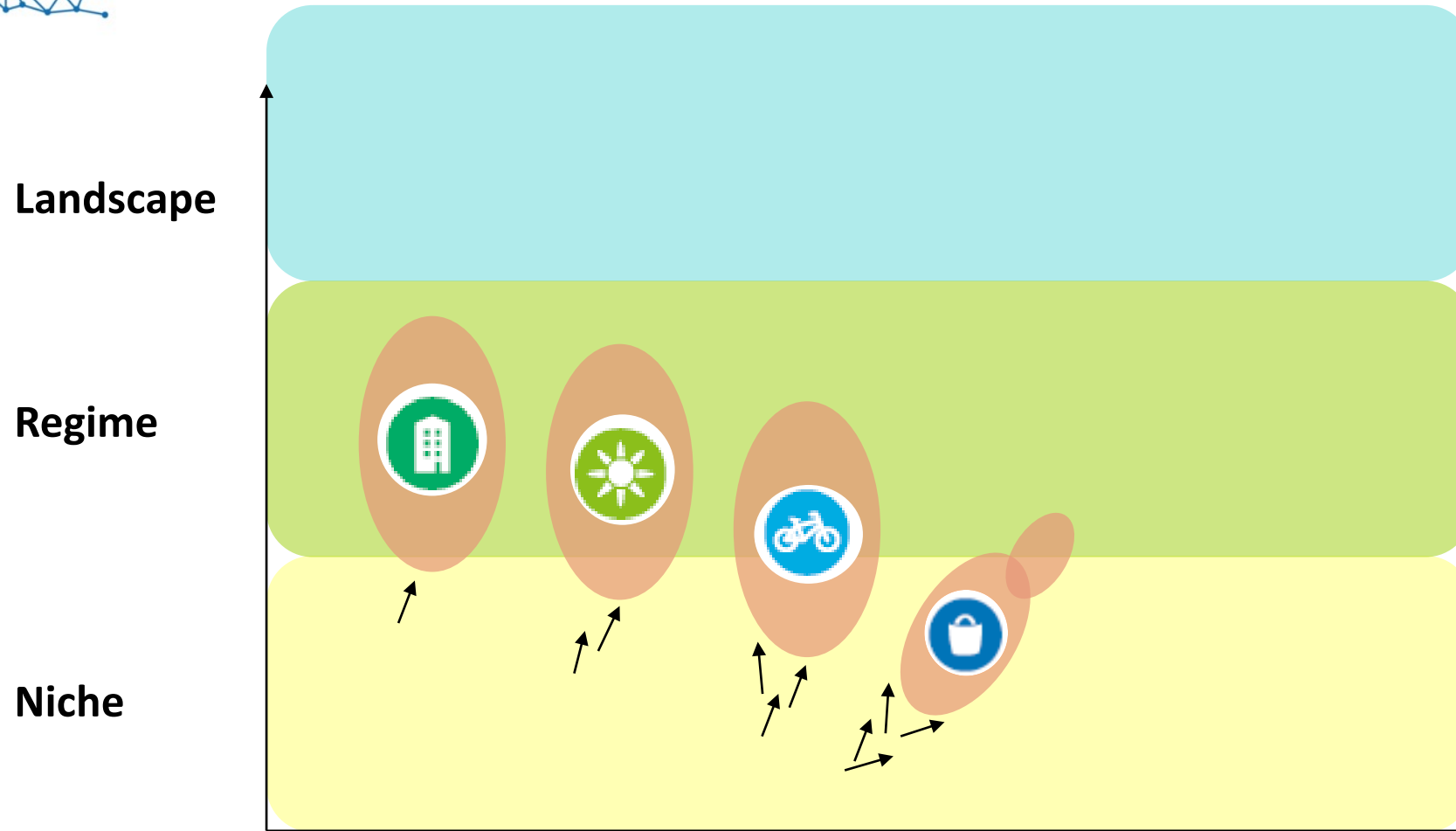- A lot of niche activities

Mobility
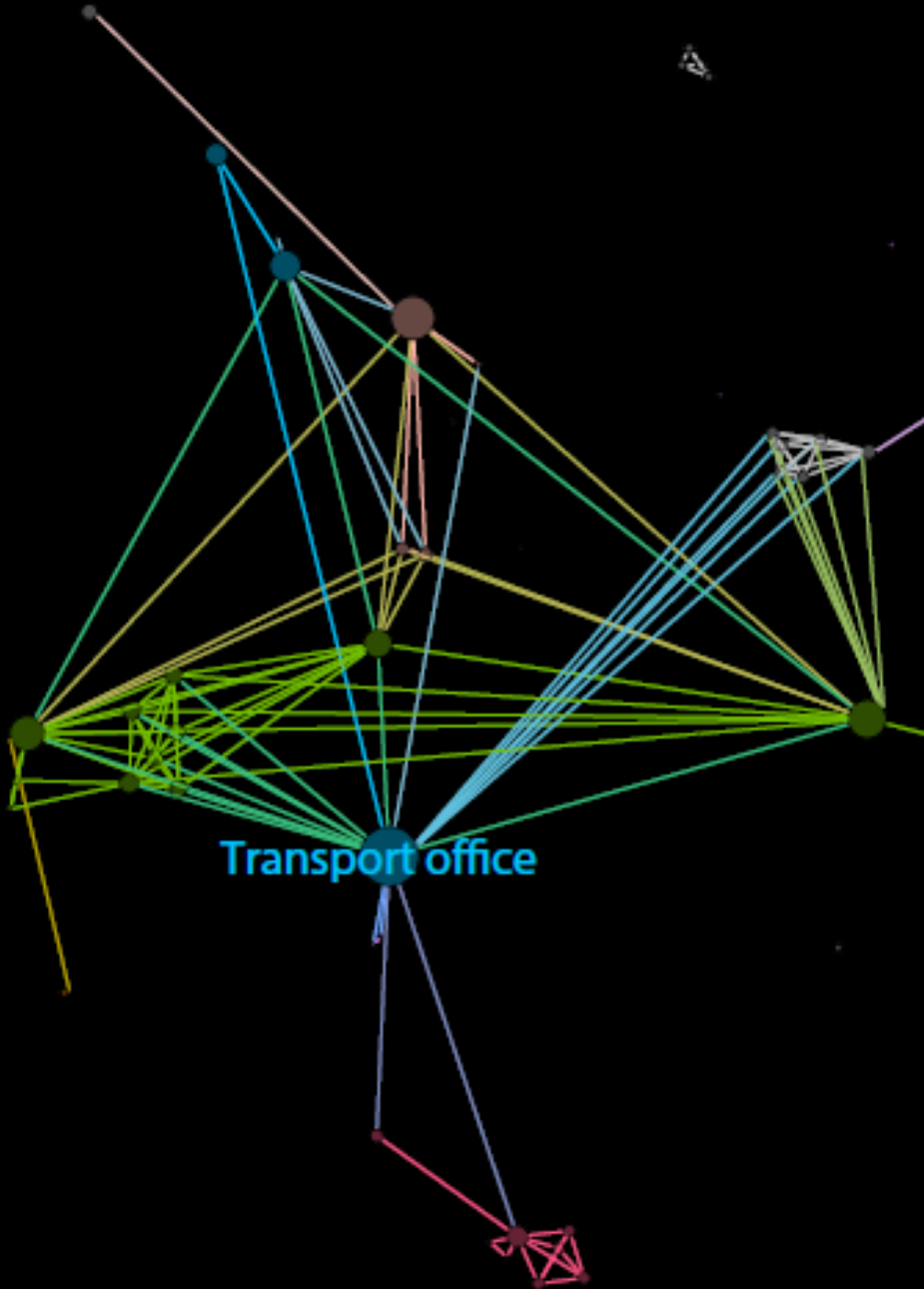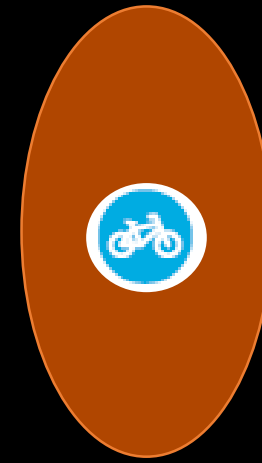
- Network is less centralized

- Transport office as central actor

- City cycling is similarly central, as are MoBiel, ADFC and VCD, one level below

- Bicycle-oriented nodes are strongly represented in the field of mobility

Transport office

Roles and levels of central actors

Finding real world laboratories

Application

Contract

06.10.2017: Ideas workshop with 50 climate protection activists

> 7 Teams

12.01.2018: Steering group with four project members

> 6 Teams

02.02.2018: Selection workshop with climate protection activists

> 5 Teams
> 2 Teams selected

Application form, Consultation

NetMaps to support project building
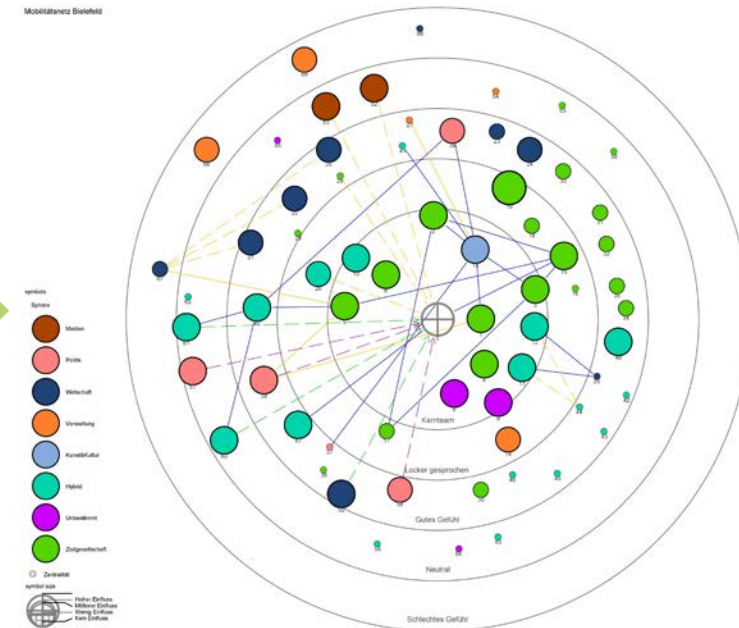
Two selected real world laboratories

MobiNet: Volunteers in the Field of eco-friendly mobility are pooling their activities in a new, resilient network in order to generate more impact on the whole.

First project: Preparing a referendum for a better bike infrastructure

Using spaces for mobility differently: How can an agreement on the use of space with all parties involved be done in full mutual respect? Focus: Get rid of cars in the inner-city Wilhelmstreet in Bielefeld

Action Day, Find out the needs, recommendations to politics

What has been achieved?

MobiNet:

- Working together to achieve great things instead of small things

- Understanding: What is a good bicycle infrastructure?

- Goal: long-term cooperation

- MobiNet = partner for the city administration

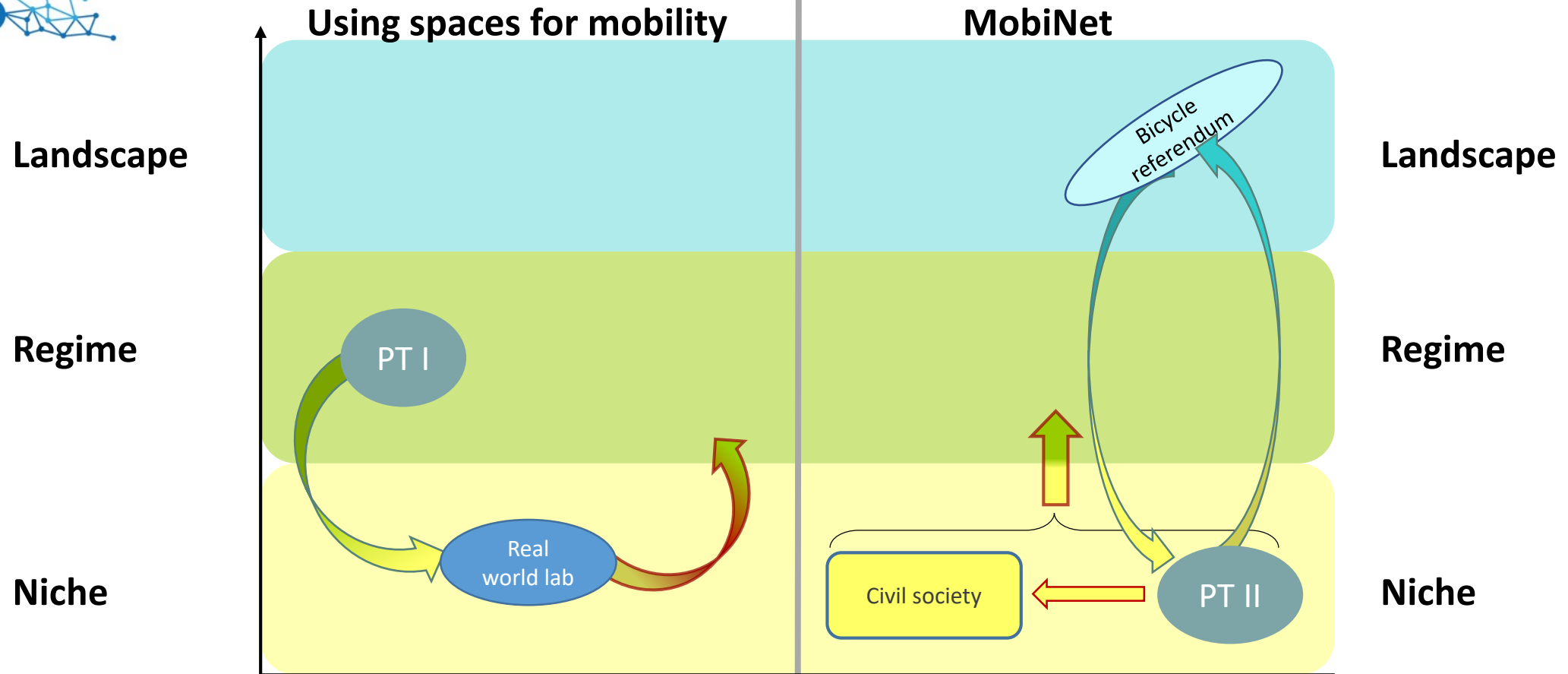→ **Governance for climate protection!**

Using spaces for mobility differently:

- Project showed: fewer cars = more quality of life

- Objectifying the discussion

- Project has prospects of being implemented

Strategy types for networking in context

Using spaces for mobility

MobiNet

Landscape

Regime

Niche

Bicycle referendum

PT I

Real world lab

Civil society

PT II

⇒**Actors with decision-making influence resort to protected areas (niche)**
⇒**Carry out joint projects which they could not have implemented in the regime**
⇒**Build trust, learn to cooperate**

⇒ **Niche players want interaction at "eye level"**
⇒ **(initially) Distance from the regime**
⇒ **Mobilising the niche, build a network**
⇒**Become a „reliable" partner for the city**