



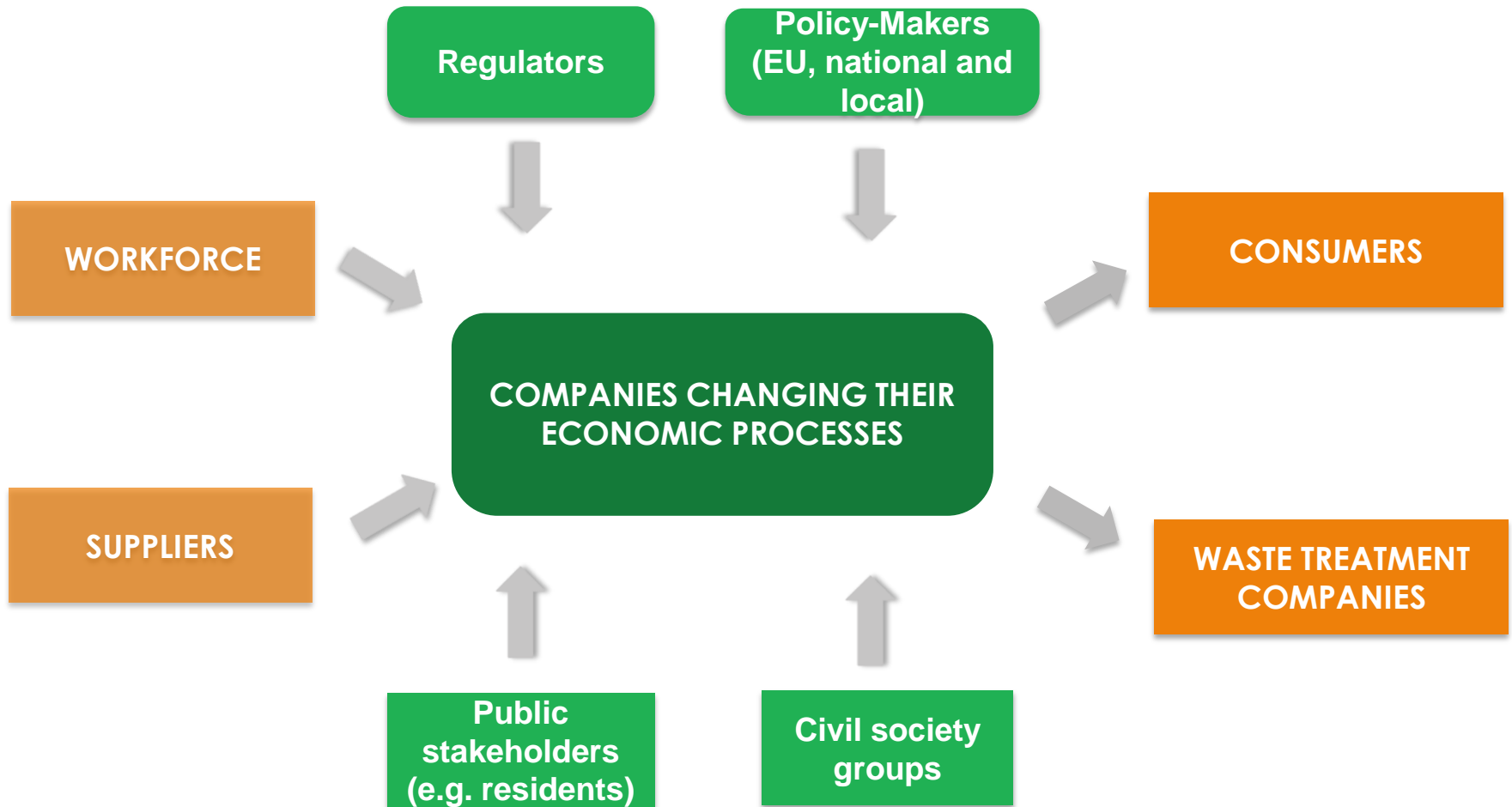
CHALLENGES OF BUILDING NEW NETWORKS

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Overview

- The transformation of economic networks
- Unaided and supported economic transformation
- Examples of policies aiming at a major transformation of networks
 - Bioeconomy
 - Circular economy
 - Cohesion policy
- Participation processes can support the development of the new networks

New economic networks



The Transition Process

- Building of those networks happens very often **without policy** in cases where an **existing cluster adapts** to the new processes
- But for regions / sectors without such an cluster structure the **development of a network** often is a **major obstacle**
- One ambition of the **bioeconomy or circular economy** is to spread value added and wealth to **economically less advanced regions** in Europe
- Supporting the building of networks is therefore an important part of any policy aiming at economic transition be it
 - Circular economy
 - Bioeconomy
 - Cohesion policy

Examples: Circular Economy

- **Waste treatment:** New waste treatment processes require companies that specialise on the recycling of those materials
- **Logistic:** New processes produce less but also **different waste streams** which require new **collection and distribution logistics**
- **Sharing** long term investment goods (cars, machinery, flats) requires **service companies** (or organisations)
- **Longer life cycles** can require an infrastructure of **repair services**
- Higher **reuse** rates requires service companies organising the collection, eventual repair and redistribution of goods
- **Energy transformation** requires distribution networks for power suited to the new producers

Examples: Bioeconomy

Business

- Customers for by-products/ materials
- Logistics networks
- Technical & business expertise

Policy & Research

- R&D, testing & training facilities
- Regulatory bodies
- Public funding for cooperation

Citizens & NGOs

- Consumers of products/services
- Residents near bioeconomy facilities
- Community NGOs

EU Cohesion policy in 2014-20

EU budget
€350 bn

- All regions – 73% for poorer MS/regions
- 11 Thematic Objectives: RTDI, ICT, SMEs, Low carbon, Climate change, Environment protection, Infrastructure, Employment, Inclusion, Education, Administration

MS/regional
variation

- Infrastructure, skills & innovation
- Capacity to absorb & target funds on experimentation & innovation

Smart
Specialisation
Strategies

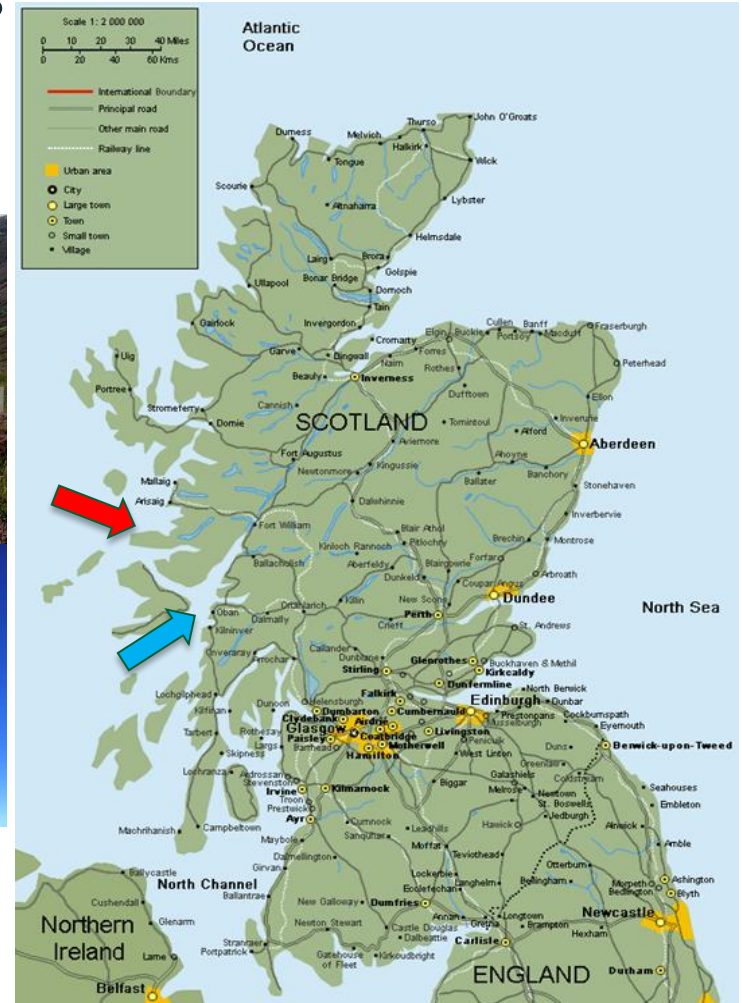
- Sachsen-Anhalt: industrial & research expertise – chemicals/bioeconomy
- Veneto: regional innovative network
- Scotland: Circular Economy Fund & Local Energy Challenge Fund

Scotland: ASLEE project in Argyll (Algal Solutions for Local Energy Economy) – www.aslee.scot

- Depopulation & fragile communities
- Poor transport networks
- Electricity grid weakness



- Wind, tidal, wave energy
- Biomass, aquaculture, whisky...
- SMEs, Scottish Association for Marine Science, Community energy entities



ASLEE - Creating new partnerships & supply chains: local resources -> photo-bioreactors -> micro-algae -> products

Businesses

- Xanthella: equipment for algal bio-manufacturing (project leader)
- Ardnamurchan Estates: wood & wind energy, whisky by-products
- FAI, Sgurr Energy, Vcharge

Universities

- University of Stirling
- University of the West of Scotland

Public bodies

- Scottish Government goals
- Industrial Biotech Innovation Centre
- Local Energy Challenge Fund

Non-profit entities

- Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency (community entity)

Conclusions & Questions

Participation
can help
build
networks

- Match-making
- Spreading knowledge/information
- Addressing blind spots
- Strategic framework for business ideas
- Building a new consensus

What are
your
experiences?

- Of building successful networks?
- Of networks staying incomplete or failing?
- Of how participation can contribute to network building?



www.bio-step.eu



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