

## LIFE Platform Meeting

8-9 November 2022

# LIFE innovates Climate Action

## Concept Note

Background: Systemic Innovation in Climate Action

### What is systemic innovation?

“Innovation is new ideas to be translated into practice to create value. They constitute a break from previous practices and are central to create value in the core areas of organisations.” (*translated from Danish*). - Catharina Juul Kristensen, Lector and researcher on innovation, Roskilde University (*Quote from Selmer & Bonven 2022, p.1*)

Innovations can develop incrementally, within a given process or organisation, or they can be radical, profoundly changing or even disrupting existing procedures and structures.

While innovation is often used in relation to technological developments, systemic innovation is understood as a more complex phenomenon. It addresses the implementation of new technologies and their impact, but also how new measures and policies are introduced in multi-level systems or “how people engage in a process to support systemic thinking and action” (Midgley/Lindhult 2021: 635). Selmer et. al. describes “systemic innovation as an approach and a practice (that) results from co-creation within large partnerships and in the context of a quadruple helix, uniting knowledge society, government, companies and civil society” (Selmer et. al 2022, p.1). The quadruple helix model, developed to foster regional economic growth (see graph below and EU CoR 2016), is a very suitable concept to propel and support integrative climate adaptation processes on regional scale that emphasize participation, co-creative planning, and smooth implementation.

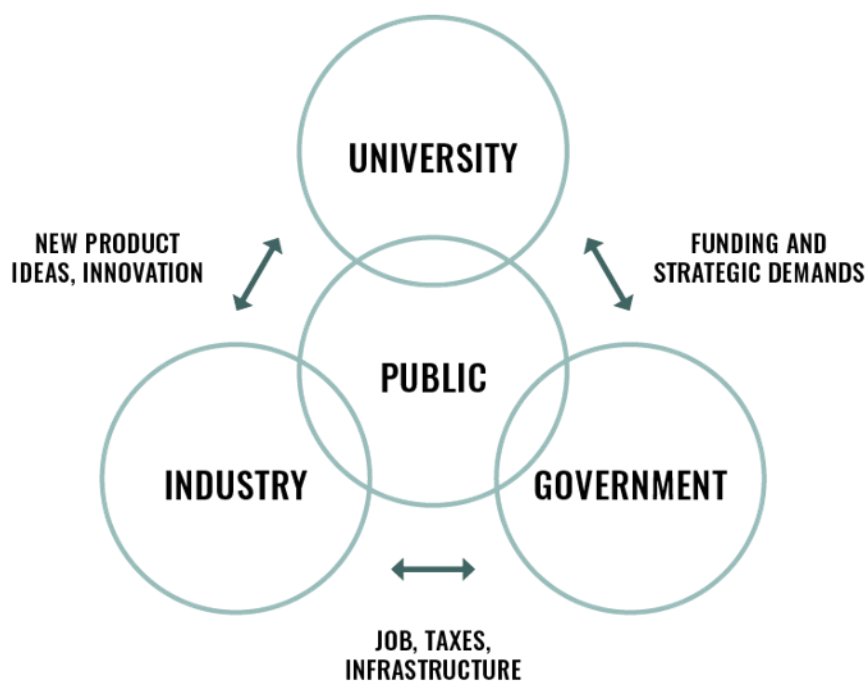


Figure: Quadruple helix layout used in C2C CC

### Why is systemic innovation needed in climate adaptation?

Climate change brings risks to life and society. Technological innovations are necessary but will not suffice. Systemic innovation is created by changing how research, industry, government and public act interact together. It is required to make the necessary adaptation processes faster, smarter, and more integrative. To this end, the participation and contribution of all stakeholders is required, including those of the economic, the public, and the non-profit sector as well as the common citizenry in each region of the Member States.

### How LIFE projects support EU policies with systemic innovations

Numerous LIFE projects create systemic innovation themselves and support the dissemination of the related concepts and methods. Providing such knowledge and experiences, the LIFE programme will support directly the grand EU policies the EU Green Deal and the EU Climate Pact. The projects can inform especially the implementation of the EU Adaptation Strategy, aiming to make adaptation smarter, faster, and more systemic. With a view to the new LIFE Call 2022 in the field of adaptation, this platform meeting will show-case the state of the art of what is achieved within innovative initiatives by currently running LIFE projects.

Furthermore, with the focus on systemic innovation that highlights the inclusion of all stakeholders and the importance of societal transformation, the platform meeting supports the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change as well as to the Mission Climate Neutral and Smart Cities of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 (EU Commission 2022). The knowledge provided by the projects on this platform meeting can directly contribute to these Mission's aims of preparing cities and regions to better address climate disruptions, to accelerate the transformation, and to scaling up actionable solutions based on "demonstrations of resilience" across Europe.

## Objectives

The core objective of this platform meeting: Placing systemic innovations to avoid GHG emissions and to adapt to climate change on the central stage, with a focus on regional approaches. Looking at systemic innovation and climate adaptation, especially the LIFE Integrated Projects offer relevant experiences and lessons learned. Most of them have a regional focus, as does the EU Horizon Mission on Climate Adaptation<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, the platform meeting will target especially action on a regional scale.

To support strong international networks among regions, the Central Denmark Region is among the first to sign the Mission Charter on Adaptation to Climate Change. The ambition is to strengthen knowledge exchange on best practices and hereby reinforce the overall impact of the initiatives.

The platform meeting will highlight projects that address innovation by fostering integrative and adaptive networks, and through these networks strengthen the creation of added value and multifunctionality in solutions to climate change.

## Timing

The platform meeting will take place in hybrid format on 8 and 9 November 2022, 9am to 1pm.

## References:

Committee of the Regions 2016. „Using the Quadruple Helix Approach to Accelerate the Transfer of Research and Innovation Results to Regional Growth.“ Authors: Simona Cavallini, Rossella Soldi, Julia Friedl, & Margherita Volpe. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2863/408040> (accessed 23 May 2022).

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[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-12-missions\\_horizon-2021-2022\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-12-missions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf) (accessed 23 May 2022).

Midgley, Gerald and Erik Lindhult. 2021. 'A Systems Perspective on Systemic Innovation'. *Systems Research and Behavioral Science* 38(5): 635–70.

Selmer, Dorthe and Bonven, Anna. 2021. 'Why Innovation?', internal concept note, 13.01.2022.

Selmer, Dorthe, Frederiksen, Birgitte K., Bonven, Anna and Wejs, Anja. 2022 'The EU LIFE Integrated Project Coast to Coast Climate Challenge Apply Partnerships to Create Systemic Innovation in Climate Change Adaptation'. EDMA, 7.5.2022. <https://www.europeandissemination.eu/article/the-eu-life-integrated-project-coast-to-coast-climate-challenge-apply-partnerships-to-create-systemic-innovation-in-climate-change-adaptation/18786> (accessed 23 May 2022).

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change please refer to [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change-including-societal-transformation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/adaptation-climate-change-including-societal-transformation_en)