



# INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMS THINKING AND THEORY OF CHANGE

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# AGENDA

- Introduction to System Change
- How to fund system change
- What is a Theory of Change (ToC) approach?
- Connecting a Theory of Change with Transformative Outcomes
- Theoretical Foundation of Transformative Outcomes

# INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEM CHANGE

*"Sustainability transitions are long-term, multi-dimensional, and fundamental transformation processes through which established socio-technical systems shift to more sustainable modes of production and consumption." Markard et al 2012*

# INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEM CHANGE

Transformative socio-technical system change (bringing about a sustainability transition):

- Relates to the provision of basic needs in a more sustainable way
- Implicates co-production of social, behavioral and technological change in an interrelated way
- Is about changing 5 dimensions: 1) science & technology 2) industrial strategy & structure 3) user preferences & markets 4) policy & governance 5) cultural beliefs, symbols & perception.
- Is about the alignment of change across those dimensions
- Always involves multiple actors, business, governments, civil society & users

# INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEM CHANGE



The socio-technical energy system

## QUESTION:

How can funding agencies in your opinion contribute to transformative system change?

# A THEORY OF CHANGE APPROACH

*"Theories of change are the ideas and hypotheses ('theories') people and organisations have about how change happens. These theories can be conscious or unconscious and are based on personal beliefs, assumptions and a necessarily limited, personal perception of reality." HIVOS, 2015*

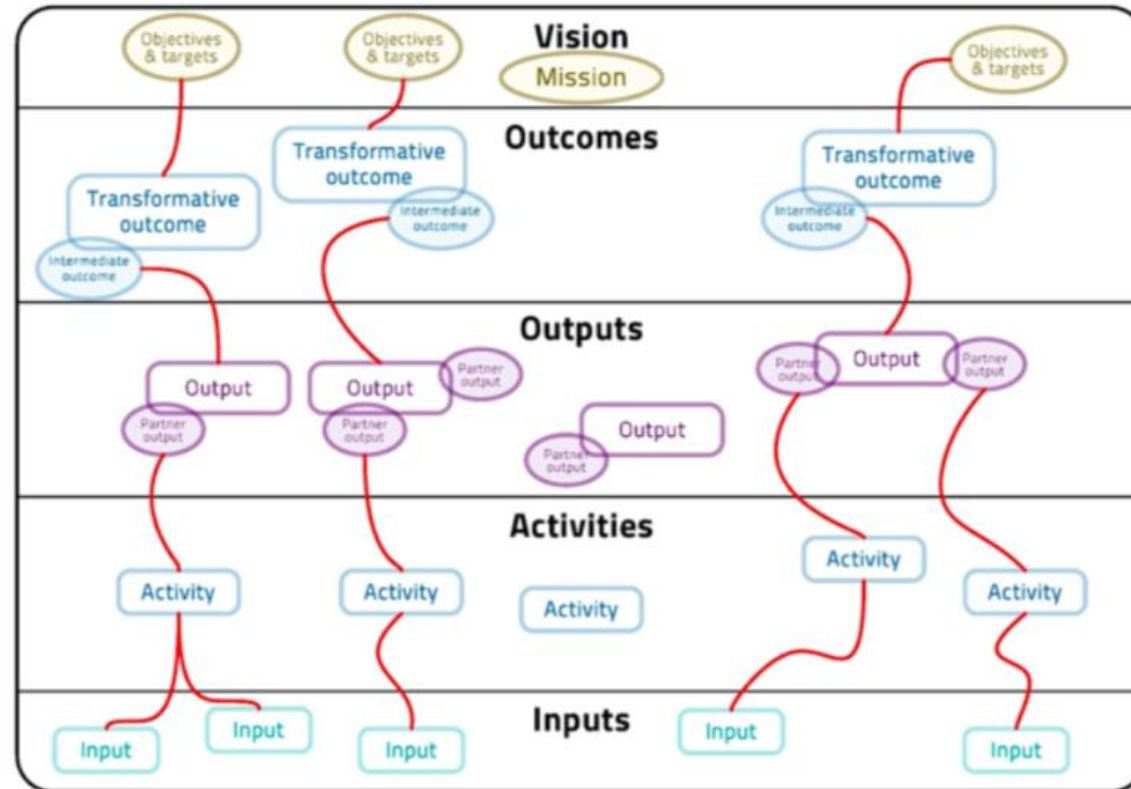


# WHY A THEORY OF CHANGE APPROACH?

- *Makes people's and organization's theories of change and the underlying assumptions explicit*
- *Clarifying cause-effect relations between actions and intended change*
- *Avoiding misunderstandings on desired change*
- *Identify common ground for action, opportunities, obstacles*
- *Basis for defining clear roles and responsibilities*
- *Basis for joint monitoring, evaluation and learning processes*
- *More shared understanding of organizational purpose, core values and strategic choices*
- *Helps define realistic objectives and appropriate strategies*
- *May uncover structural inconsistencies or contradictions between 'the walk and the talk'*

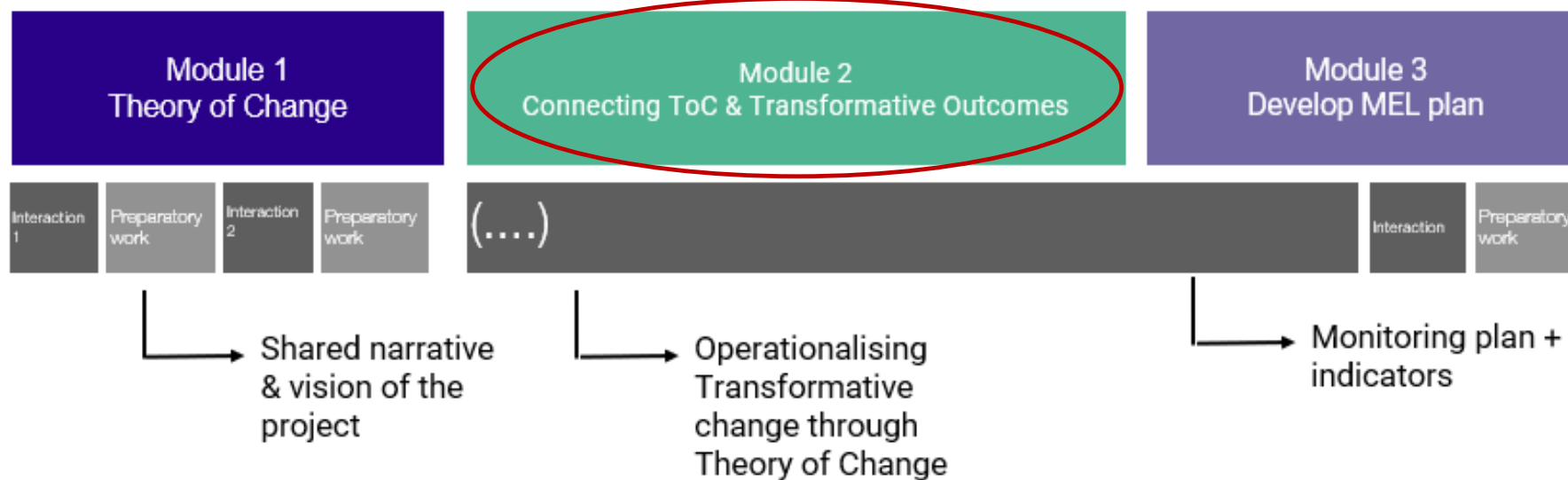


# THEORY OF CHANGE: A TOOL TO OPERATIONALIZE SYSTEM CHANGE

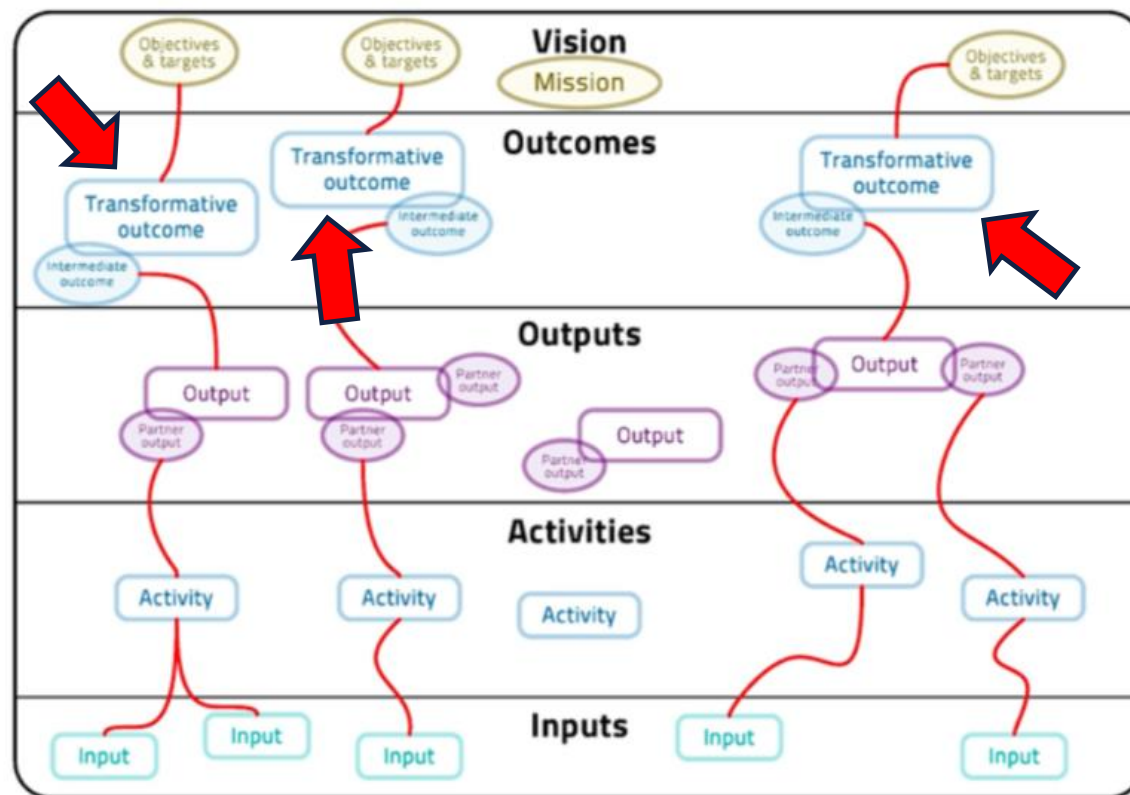


# CONNECTING A THEORY OF CHANGE & TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

MOTION: Formative Evaluation and Learning based on Transformative Theory of Change



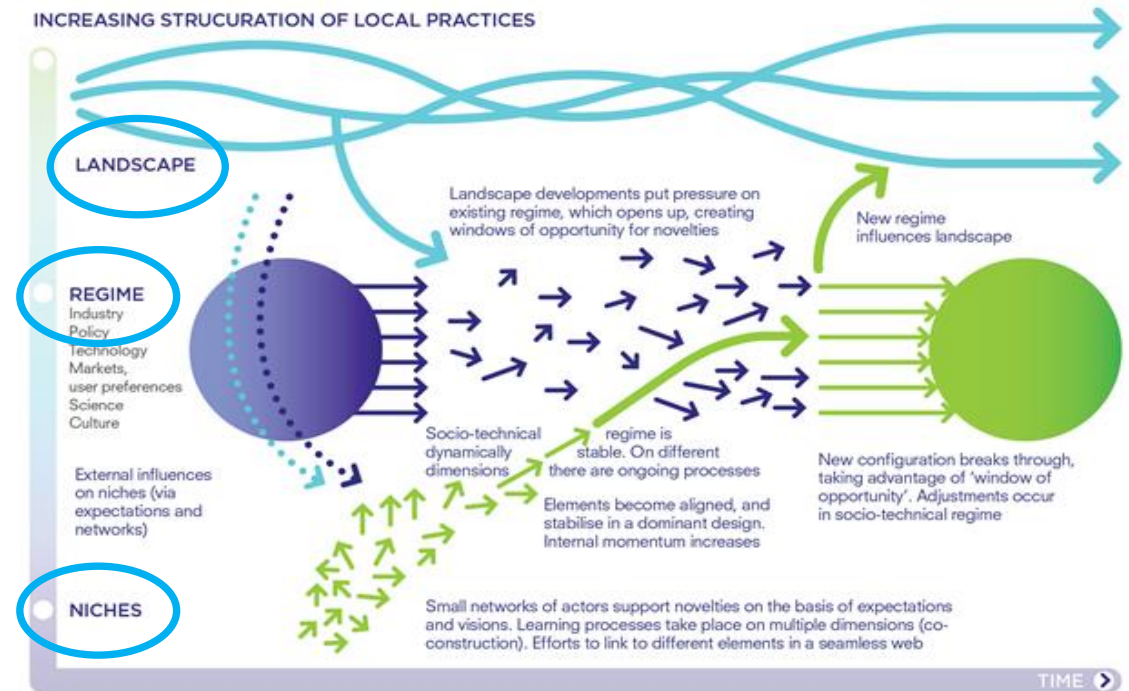
# CONNECTING A THEORY OF CHANGE & TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES



# THEORETICAL FOUNDATION OF TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

## Three Processes of Transformation:

- 1) Building and Nurturing Niches
- 2) Expanding and Mainstreaming Niches
- 3) Opening up and Unlocking Regimes



Multi level perspective of the socio-technical transition framework. Source: Geels, 2002; Geels and Schot, 2007

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

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