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Union for the Mediterranean
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الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط

Welcome to the Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission

3rd Innovation Camp – DAY 1

Olhão 23-24 October 2025

Innovative
sustainable economy

Interreg
Euro-MED

Co-funded by
the European Union

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KEYNOTE
Methodological framework and agenda overview

Tatiana Fernández, Dialogue4Innovation partner, Generalitat de Catalunya

The context provided by the Interreg Euro MED Programme

☐ The world is confronted with a more and more urgent need to accelerate the transition from a social and economic development model relying on excessive exploitation of natural resources to a more sustainable one, compatible with the planetary boundaries.

☐ There is growing consensus on the role of transformative place-based innovation to address the most pressing societal challenges supporting green and just transitions.

☐ Complex challenges do not have obvious solutions, they require coordinated multilevel interventions by multiple actors (governments, companies, universities, RTOs, civil society) guided by a shared vision of the future / directional goals

☐ The Innovative Sustainable Economy Mission of the Interreg Euro-MED Programme works to boost a fair transition to a circular economy through two governance projects that develop innovative technical knowledge and ensure these new solutions are transferred into public policies
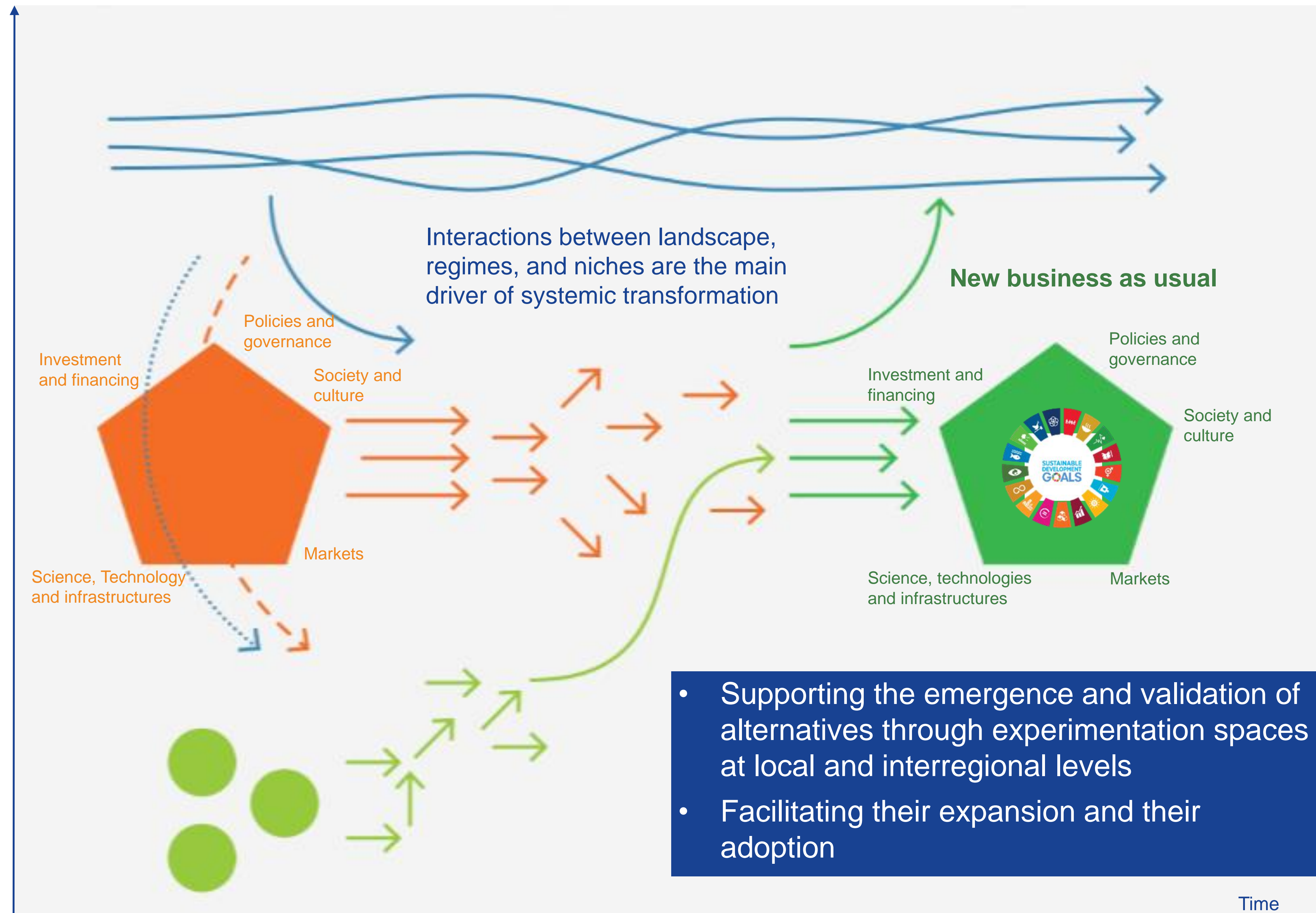
Addressing complex challenges require a multilevel approach

Global trends / landscape (aging of the population, climate change, digitalization, geopolitical tensions) generate pressure on the current dominant systems, destabilising them and opening windows of opportunity for alternative practices
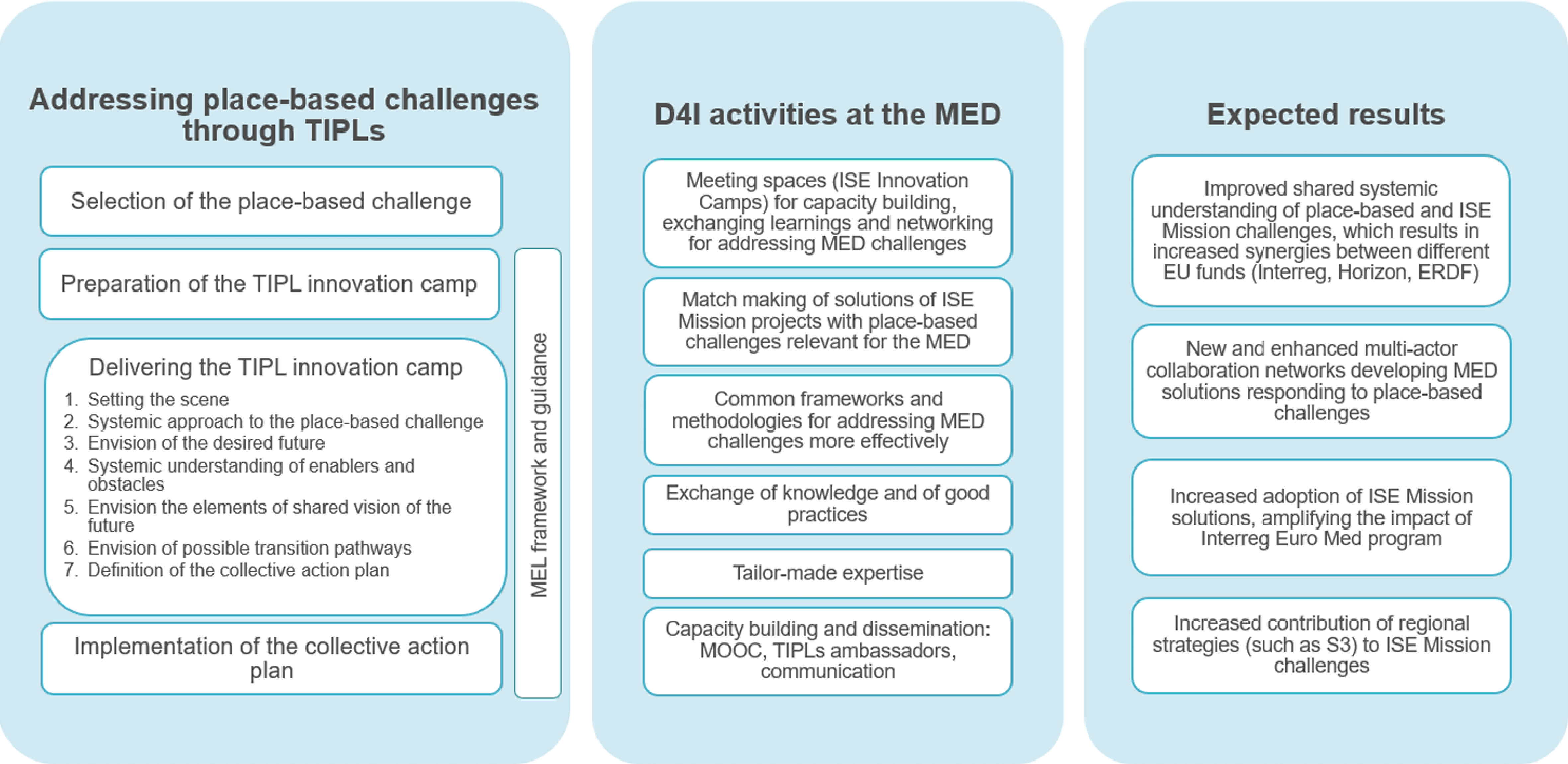
Current dominant regime: "business as usual" (policies, technologies, markets, social values, infrastructures) adapts slowly to global changes becoming dysfunctional and not delivering the expected results

Emerging alternative practices (niches) with the potential to lead to the "new business as usual"

Interactions between landscape, regimes, and niches are the main driver of systemic transformation

New business as usual

Investment and financing

Policies and governance

Society and culture

Markets

Science, Technology and infrastructures

Investment and financing

Policies and governance

Society and culture

Markets

Science, technologies and infrastructures

- Supporting the emergence and validation of alternatives through experimentation spaces at local and interregional levels
- Facilitating their expansion and their adoption

Time

Source: Adapted from TIPC, based on Geels and Schot

The D4I approach

Addressing place-based challenges through TIPLs

Selection of the place-based challenge

Preparation of the TIPL innovation camp

Delivering the TIPL innovation camp
1. Setting the scene
2. Systemic approach to the place-based challenge
3. Envision of the desired future
4. Systemic understanding of enablers and obstacles
5. Envision the elements of shared vision of the future
6. Envision of possible transition pathways
7. Definition of the collective action plan

Implementation of the collective action plan

MEL framework and guidance

D4I activities at the MED

Meeting spaces (ISE Innovation Camps) for capacity building, exchanging learnings and networking for addressing MED challenges

Match making of solutions of ISE Mission projects with place-based challenges relevant for the MED

Common frameworks and methodologies for addressing MED challenges more effectively

Exchange of knowledge and of good practices

Tailor-made expertise

Capacity building and dissemination: MOOC, TIPLs ambassadors, communication

Expected results

Improved shared systemic understanding of place-based and ISE Mission challenges, which results in increased synergies between different EU funds (Interreg, Horizon, ERDF)

New and enhanced multi-actor collaboration networks developing MED solutions responding to place-based challenges

Increased adoption of ISE Mission solutions, amplifying the impact of Interreg Euro Med program

Increased contribution of regional strategies (such as S3) to ISE Mission challenges

Guide for the design and implementation of the ISE Mission TIPLabs

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Today

1. We'll work on three place-based challenges:
   - Reimagining regenerative periurban landscape.
   - New models of water governance.
   - Circular bioeconomy in rural revitalisation.

2. Following the TIPLab approach we will discuss a place-based shared vision of the future and the obstacles and facilitators hindering/facilitating moving towards the shared vision of the future

LUNCH

3. Plenary session to share the results of the exercise for the three challenges

4. Round table: complementary instruments to address these place-based challenges with a systemic approach: TIPLab methodology, regulatory experimentation spaces and portfolios.

5. Work on the concept of place-based experimentation spaces, with a focus on regulation and policy (regulatory sandboxes), with the JRC

TODAY

A governance model that guarantees water security through the adoption of technical, economic and political solutions oriented toward progressively reducing society's exposure and vulnerability to the growing risks that threaten both the good ecological status of the territory and the uses and groups of water users on which they depend.

Periurban agroecosystems are transformed into vibrant, high-tech spaces that combine agricultural productivity with environmental sustainability and social inclusion:
- produce healthy, local food through regenerative and precision agriculture, restore biodiversity using nature-based solution and act as carbon sinks, while offering spaces for education, care and innovation;
- demonstrate that agricultural productivity, nature conservation, and social inclusion are not mutually exclusive, but mutually reinforcing.

Periurban agroecosystems are transformed into vibrant, high-tech spaces that combine agricultural productivity with environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

These areas produce healthy, local food through regenerative and precision agriculture, restore
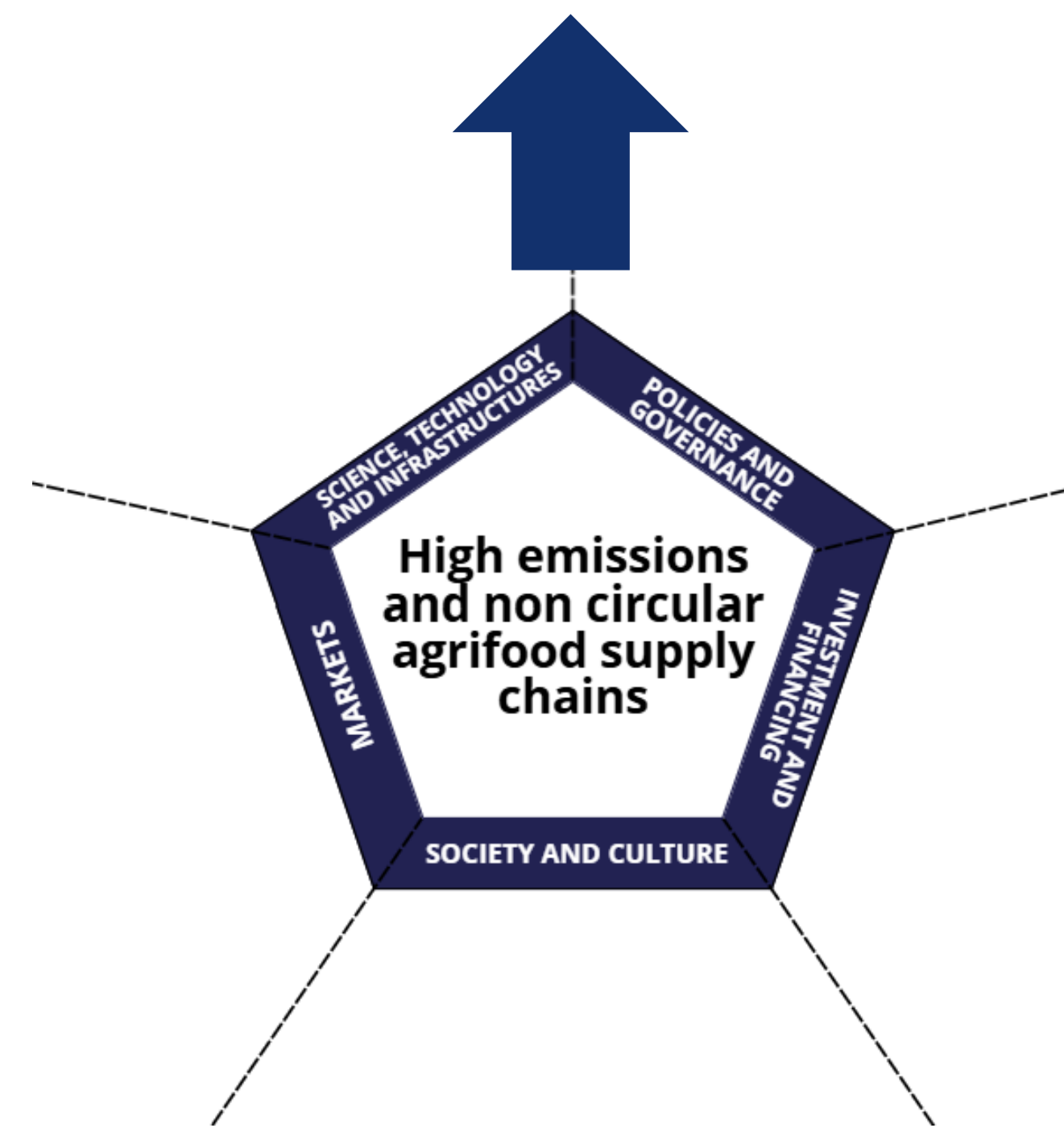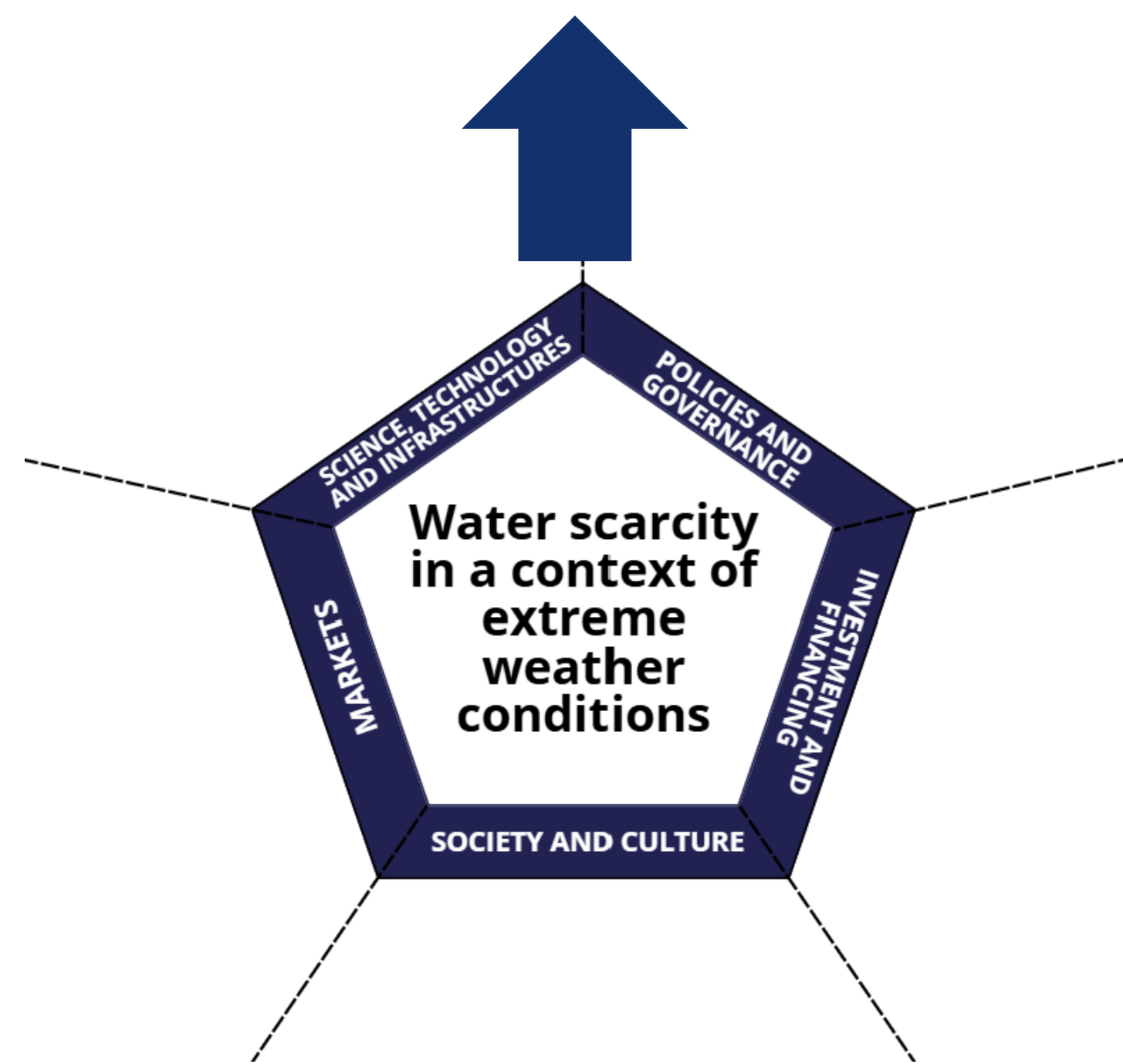
Water scarcity in a context of extreme weather conditions

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURES
POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING
MARKETS
SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Poor soil health, biodiversity loss and low climate resilience

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURES
POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING
MARKETS
SOCIETY AND CULTURE

High emissions and non circular agrifood supply chains

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURES
POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING
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SOCIETY AND CULTURE

How do we visualize the experimentation spaces?

Space Experimentation

Future Shared Vision

Inhibitors and facilitators (What's blocking us ? What could help us?)

Inhibitors: the structural, cultural or institutional factors that currently block or slow down the transformation we aim for

Facilitators: the conditions, resources or dynamics that enable, accelerate or reinforce the transformation we aim for

(Pentagon diagram labeled: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE / POLICY AND GOVERNANCE / MARKETS / INVESTMENT AND FINANCE / SOCIETY AND CULTURE — center: INHIBITORS)

(Pentagon diagram labeled: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE / POLICY AND GOVERNANCE / MARKETS / INVESTMENT AND FINANCE / SOCIETY AND CULTURE — center: FACILITATORS)

Place-based (local) experimentation space

Characteristics of the space	Tools and instruments to enable collaborative responses to place-based challenges
Stakeholders' engagement (who and how?)	Illustrative actions or initiatives we would like to see emerge

Interregional experimentation space (collaborative experimentation across regions)

Characteristics of the space	Tools and instruments to enable collaborative responses to place-based challenges
Stakeholders' engagement (who and how?)	Illustrative actions or initiatives we would like to see emerge

How is the Preparatory Action (JRC) envisioning the regulatory experimentation spaces?

Design experimentation spaces

Block 1 - Value Proposition

Problem focus: What problem(s) is the experimentation addressing, and what is its regulatory dimension?

Outcomes: What short-, mid-, and long-term results are expected?

Value: What economic, social, environmental, or other value will it generate for the territory?

Alignment: How does the process connect to broader goals, initiatives, and frameworks?

Synergies: Can it create synergies with other policies or initiatives?

Block 2 - Functions of the Sandbox

Problem focus: What specific problems is the process meant to address, and in which area, technology, or sector?

Sandbox functions: What services will the sandbox provide to tackle these problems (experimentation, regulatory guidance, risk management, collaboration, learning)?

Block 3A - Actors and Ecosystem

- Who will lead and initiate this process?
- Who will directly benefit and be directly involved?
- Who can be involved in specific aspects of the process?
- What other ecosystem actors might be indirectly impacted (positive or negative) ?

Denomination of the experimentation space

Block 3B - Required Capabilities and Resources

- What capabilities and resources are needed to lead this process to its intended outcomes?
- Are these capabilities and resources currently available?
- How can they be brought into the process?

Block 4 - Regulatory Experimentation process

Practical design: How would regulatory experimentation work in practice?

Initiative: Who drives it — innovators, regulators, or both?

Co-design: What would the co-design process entail?

Learning: What outcomes are expected, and how will they inform policy and innovation?

Block 5 - Policy Embeddedness

Policy environment: What elements (changes, leadership, objectives) enable this process?

Legitimacy: What are the main sources of legitimacy (problem relevance, actors' mandate)?

Funding: What direct funding streams support the process, and how is long-term sustainability ensured?

Coordination: How do lead agencies coordinate with the wider policy environment (local, regional, national, EU)?

Accountability: What mechanisms of accountability are most relevant?

Tomorrow

1. Innovation Show case from MED projects

2. Co-design of experimentation spaces at local and interregional levels addressing the three challenges (reimagining regenerative periurban landscape; new models of water governance; circular bioeconomy in rural revitalisation) taking into account technological, social, policy, and regulatory dimensions.

LUNCH

3. Plenary session to share the proposals of experimentation spaces

4. Conclusions and next steps

5. TIPLabs working session

PARALLEL SESSIONS

● **WG 1. Room Deserta 2**

● **WG 2. Room Farol 2**

● **WG 3. Room Deserta 1**

PLENARY SESSION

Complementary approaches to enabling innovation for place-based transformation in the Mediterranean

Session moderated by Cynthia Echave

➢ **Ayman Moghnieh, Living Labs network**

➢ **Milica Begovic, United Nations Development Programme**

➢ **Michal Miedzinski, Joint Research Centre**

➢ **Tatiana Fernández, Dialogue4Innovation**

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SESSION
The EU Preparatory Action and regulatory experimentation spaces
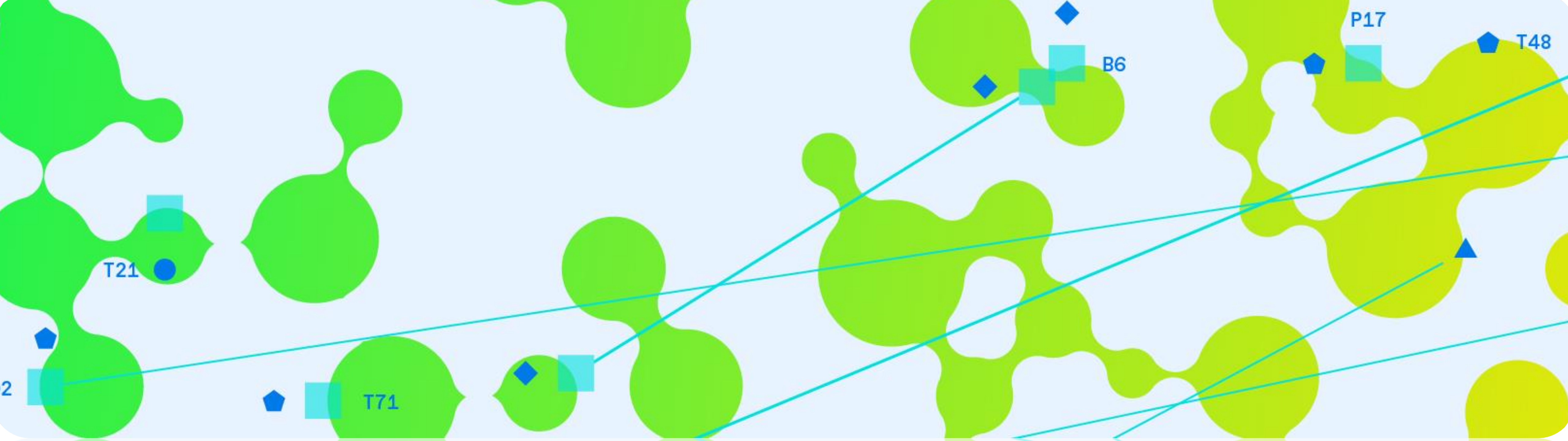
Towards place-based regulatory experimentation and learning

Faro Innovation Camp
23-24 October 2025

Preparatory Action as an instrument enabling policy experimentation

Design experimentation spaces

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