

Social Innovations: Diverse Actors Working Together to Address Local Challenges

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Theoretical Background

Actions of individuals and groups = shape regional development paths

- Diverse actors & actions: Trinity of change agency (Grillitsch & Sotarauta 2020)
 - Schumpeterian Entrepreneurship
 - Institutional Entrepreneurship
 - Place-Based Leadership



→ The actors bring in and share knowledge and competencies 

→ These actions = **social innovations** to tackle regional/local challenges (Bock 2016)

BUT how do Social Innovations work?

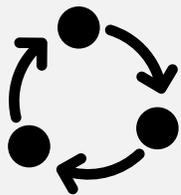


Processes?

Actors involved?

Applied knowledge?

Necessary competencies?

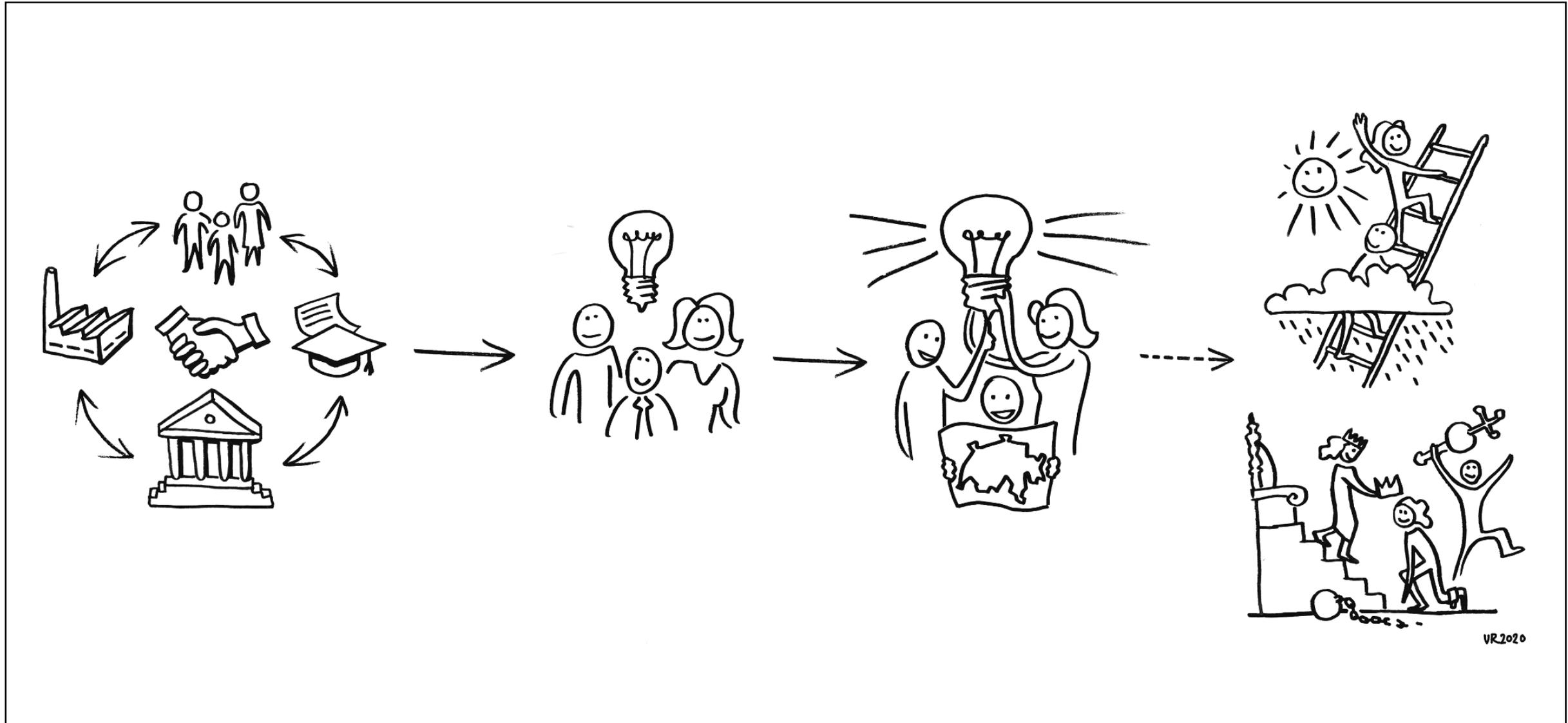


Methods

Social Innovation Inventory

Innovation Biographies (Butzin & Widmaier 2016)

What is a Social Innovation?



Two Social Innovations

«Minimuseum Mürren»



«Maternité Alpine», Zweisimmen





→ Diverse Actors intending to solve challenge 

MiniMuseum

- Local citizens
- Second home owner
- Local associations
- Local stores

Geburtshaus «Maternité Alpine»

- Local citizens
- Midwives
- Medical doctors
- Public authorities

Reasons for participating: Recognise opportunities & no primary profit motive



→ Diverse Knowledge involved to solve challenge



MiniMuseum

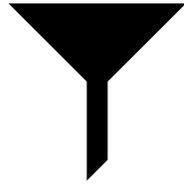
- Local cultural knowledge
- Scientific knowledge (history & exhibitions)

Geburtshaus «Maternité Alpine»

- Scientific medical knowledge
- Practical knowledge (birth help, craft skills)
- Political & administrative knowledge

Combination of and sharing of diverse knowledge

Conclusions



1. **Social innovations** involve **intended actions** to address **regional/local challenges**
2. **Diverse actors** always seem to be involved in social innovations. They contribute **suitable knowledge**.
3. In social innovations we can see **change agencies**
4. Social innovations may have the **potential to change regional development paths**

Thank you!

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→ Social Innovation Inventory: www.sozinno.unibe.ch

References

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