

Open Region

A contribution to territorial innovation policies



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- **Challenges**

- **Open Region**
 - ... conceptual foundation
 - ... possible measures

- **Conclusion: Open Region and / in Smart Specialisation**

- bottom-up, multi-stakeholder and entrepreneurial approach to regional strategies
- cross-sectoral approach combining industrial, educational and innovation policies is necessary for selecting and prioritizing fields or areas
- place-based approach to regional clusters
- Policy convergence between regional development and innovation policies
- Governance innovation (participation models and government model)
- Clusters ≠ regional innovation policies; „discovery“ ≠ innovation, but Learning → convergence of regional development policies and innovation support policies
- Impact of „external energy“

- **Entrepreneurial discoveries**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Evolving prioritising**
- **Observation and evaluation**
- **Support early stage and growth of new activities**

Implicit assumptions:

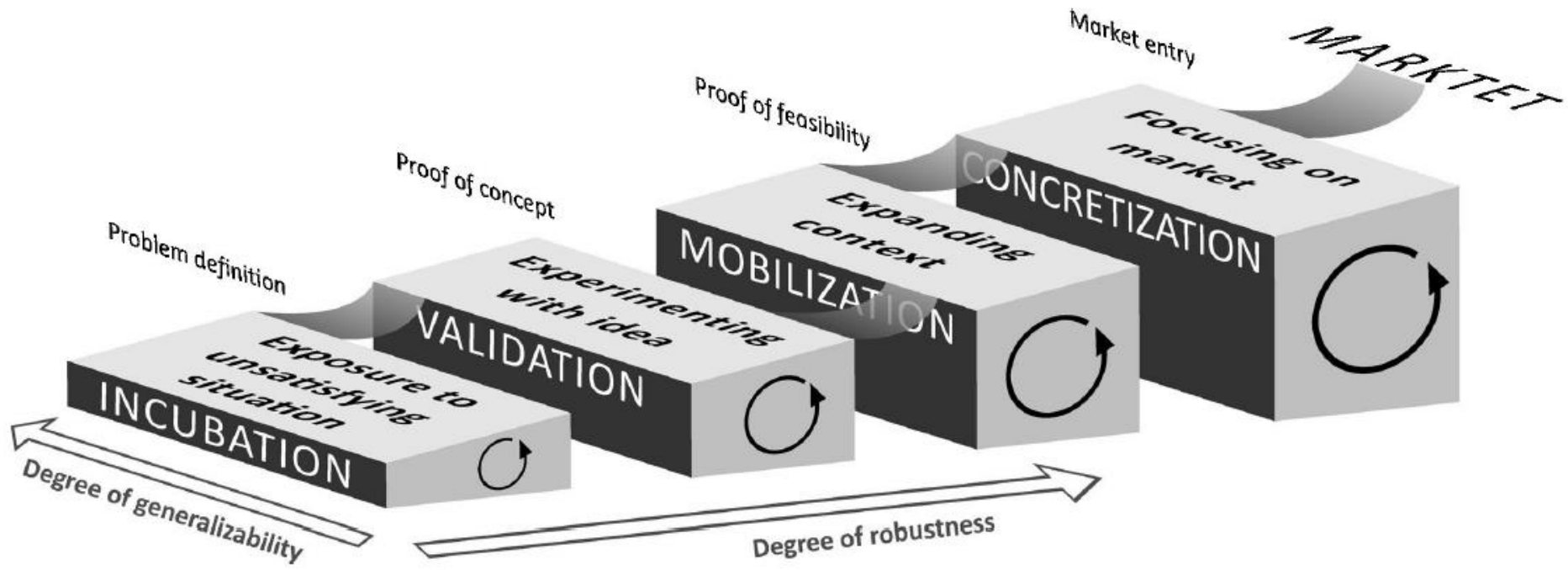
- **Regions are „endowed“ with resources for innovation**
- **Potential fields of smart specialisation (innovation) originate in the region of policy influence**
- **Entire Innovation process takes place within on region**

Territorial Innovation Models → exploring the uneven spatial distribution of innovation → Identifying regional models or systems (and hence stakeholders and institutions) for learning

Opening TIM's → interactions within and across territorial boundaries (connected clusters, global pipelines, temporary co-presence, virtual proximity)

Process perspective → Relations shift with phases; Friction, relational distance (often conflicting values); Origin and exploitation are different situations; Opportunities and interpretative autonomy

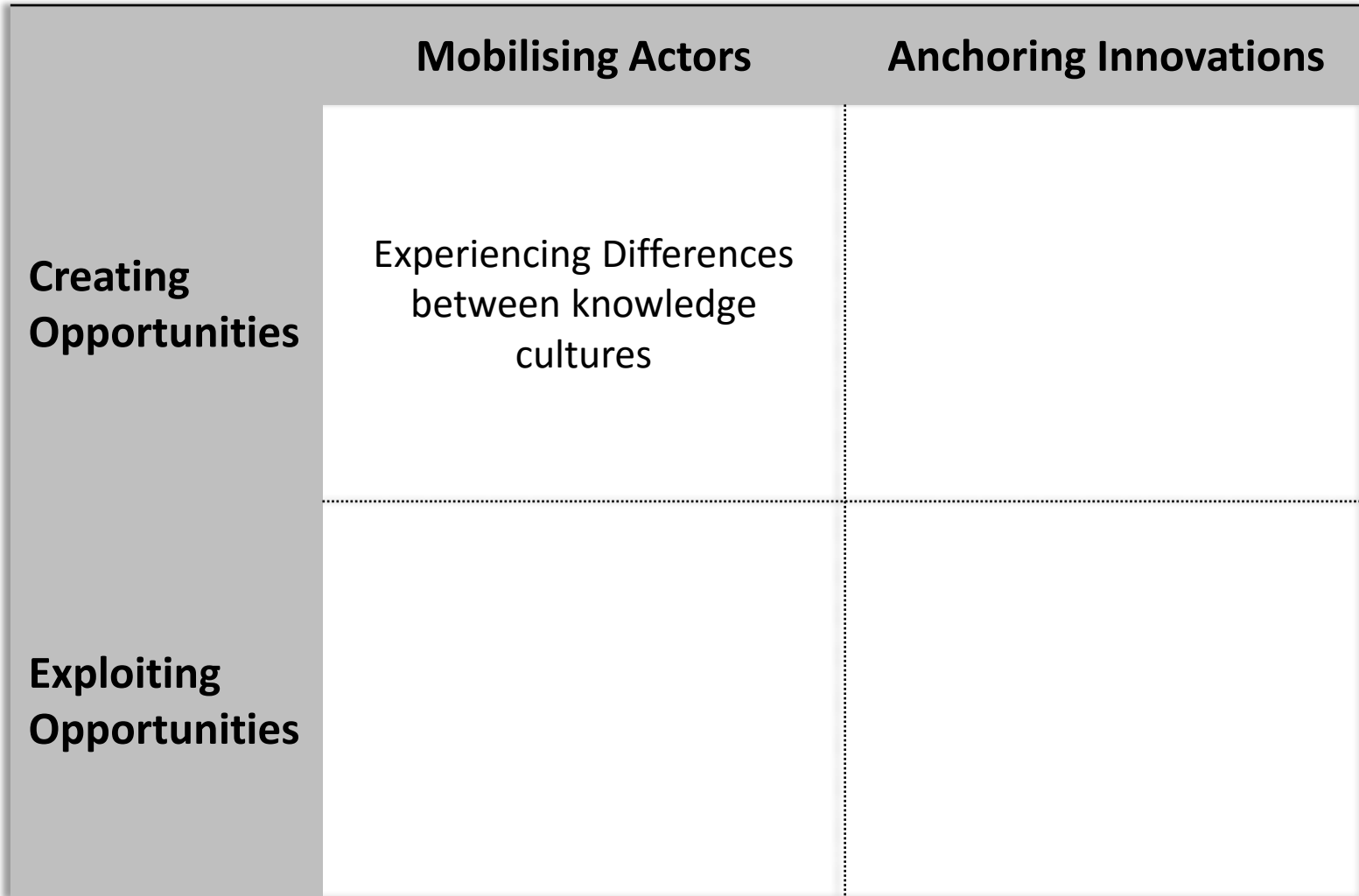
Space in innovation → Mobility, multiple locations, crossing borders; Place rather than territory; Physical distance as asset; Temporary co-presence (instead of co-location)



Ibert, O., Müller, F.C., 2015. Network Dynamics in Constellations of cultural Differences: Relational Distance in innovation Processes in legal Services and Biotechnology. *Research Policy* 44 (1), 181–194; 185

- **A conceptual heuristic which informs regional innovation policy,**
- **thereby draws on existent as well as novel approaches and contextualizes them in a new logic or narrative,**
- **appreciates the various value metrics (monetary, intrinsical, e.g. ‘authorship’ – Crevoisier 2016) but also conflicts and frictions associated with innovation,**
- **and tries to positively and engage with the uncertainty, unpredictability (essentially the non-knowledge of innovation actors), disruptiveness and friction implied in innovation.**

	Mobilising Actors	Anchoring Innovations
Creating Opportunities		
Exploiting Opportunities		



e.g. staff mobility; sabbaticals; career mobility

	Mobilising Actors	Anchoring Innovations
Creating Opportunities	Experiencing Differences between knowledge cultures	Creating spaces for experimentation
Exploiting Opportunities		

e.g. open spaces; temporary buzz; regional branding

	Mobilising Actors	Anchoring Innovations
Creating Opportunities	Experiencing Differences between knowledge cultures	Creating spaces for experimentation
Exploiting Opportunities	Engaging with spatially distant innovation processes	

e.g. leave and return programs; new addressees; late adopters

	Mobilising Actors	Anchoring Innovations
Creating Opportunities	Experiencing Differences between knowledge cultures	Creating spaces for experimentation
Exploiting Opportunities	Engaging with spatially distant innovation processes	Leveraging regional pull

e.g. regional reflexivity; small financial tools; model regions

- **Open Region complementary and related to dominant policy approaches (e.g. cluster policies, smart specialization approaches)**
- **Novel Approach:**
 - **New addressees (wider society, entities outside closed organizations)**
 - **Wider understanding of time-spatial innovation processes (multi-local and mobile)**
 - **Integration of non-technological innovations (social / service innovations)**
- **Explicit cross-policy and multi-level approach**
- **Bundle of measures adjustable to divers regional starting points**

- **Both: heuristic models**
- **Open Region comprises smart specialisation elements**
- **Open Region may contribute to Smart Specialisation**
 - **Supports the idea to embed regions in a wider puzzle of innovation and economic driven landscape, but more explicitly engaging with mobility and distant relations**
 - **Could support „smart diversification“** (Asheim, Grillitsch, Moodysson, Trippel, Zukauskaitė 2015)
 - **Helps to fuel smart specialisation processes (Smart Specialisation as a temporary form of specialisation, Foray 2015)**