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# Governance of New Geographies: Territorial Governance of Non-Standard Geographies

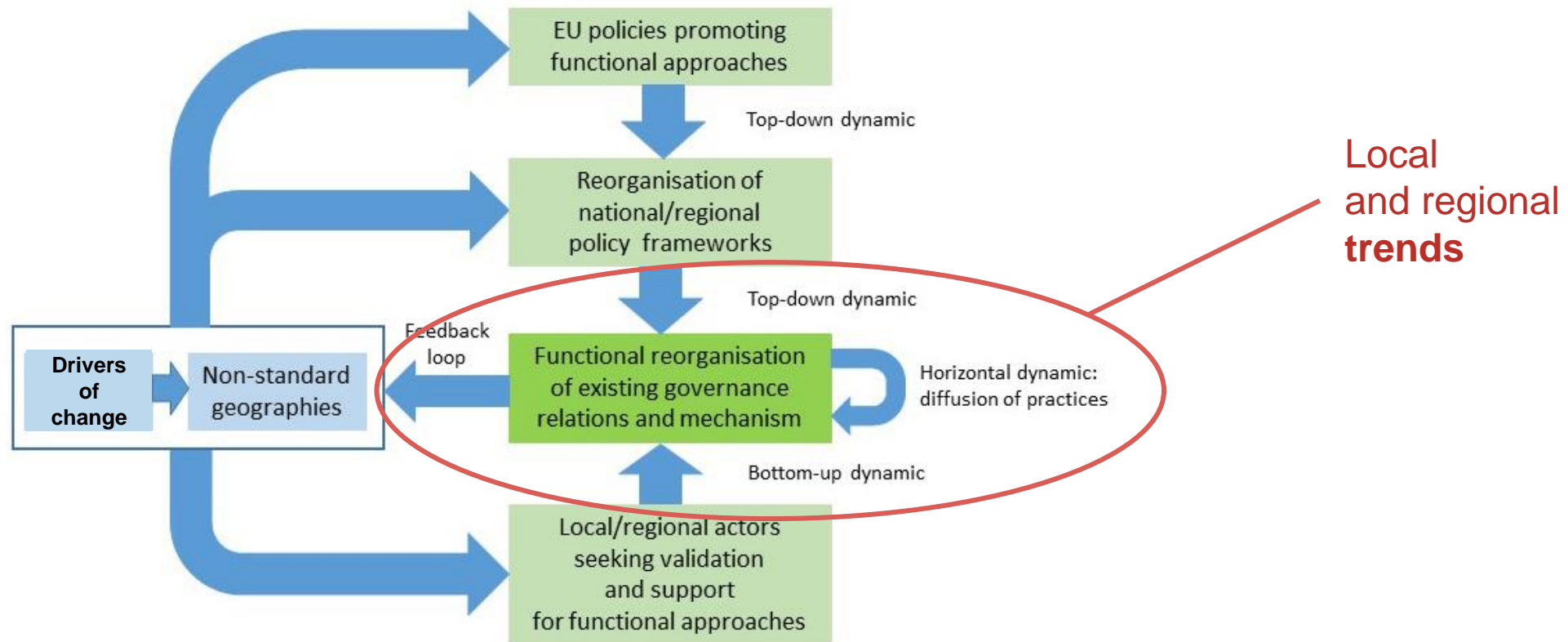
The glocal role of institutional and functional actors  
in territorial development  
10 July 2024

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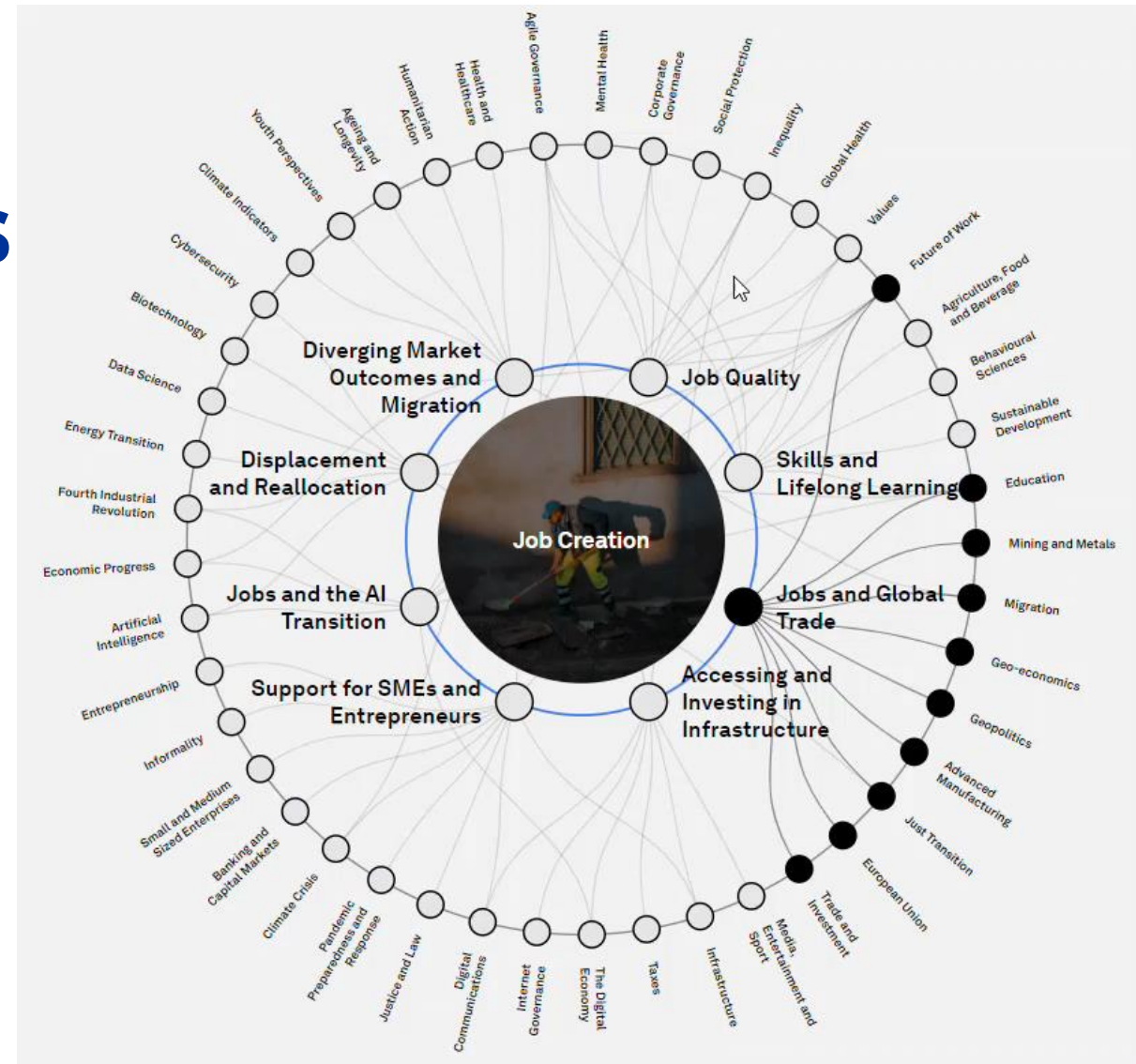
# Exploring emerging non-standard functional geographies

- Standard geographies: Functional Urban Areas and Labour Market Areas
- Focus on governance mechanisms
  - National governance frameworks
  - Concrete governance instances
- Mapping preconditions
  - Exposure to emerging trends
  - Spatial logics of governance initiatives
- Elaborating proposals for decision-making support tools, and monitoring of functional area approaches

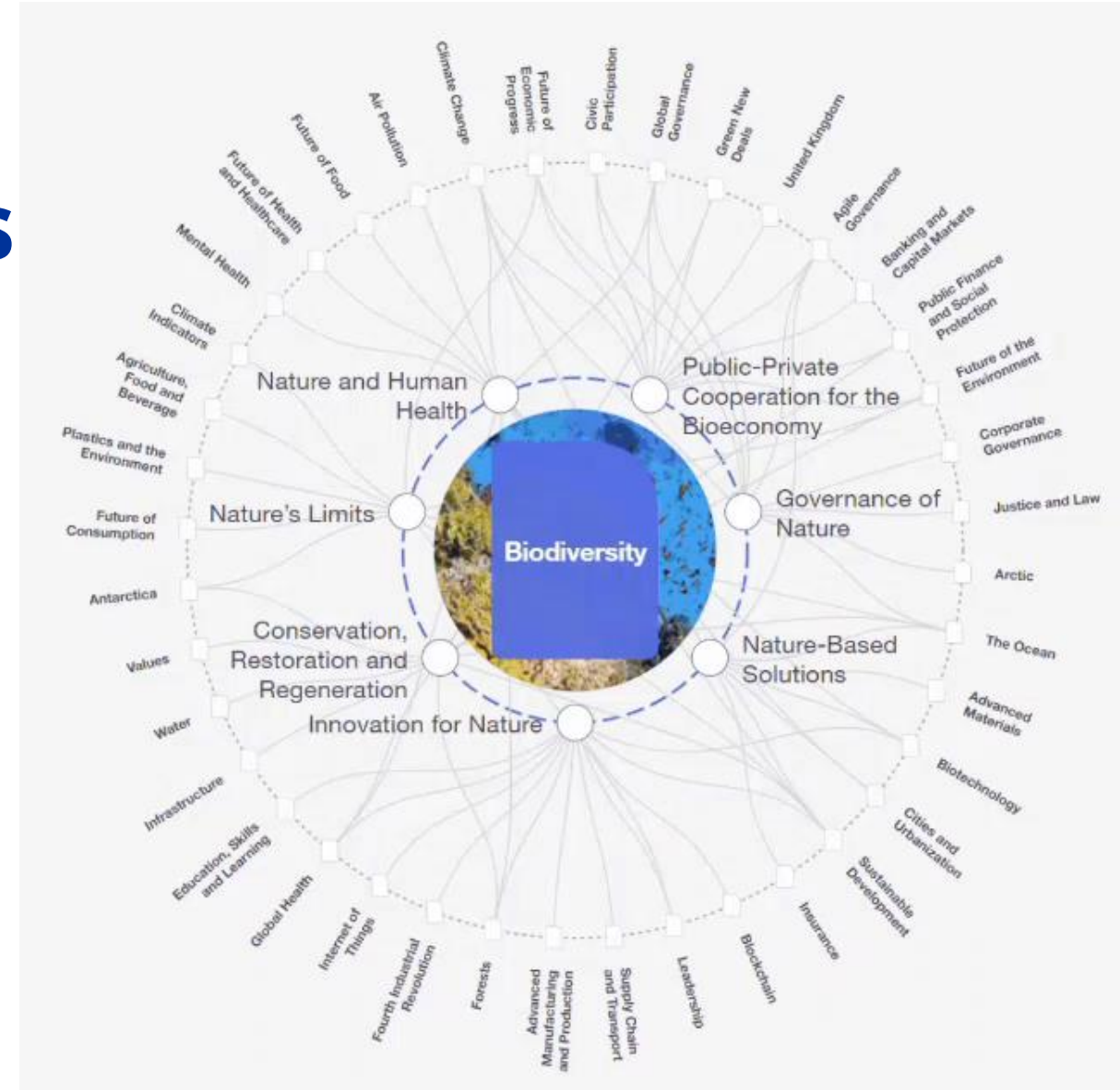
# Emerging geographies and territorial governance



# World Economic Forum transformation maps



# World Economic Forum transformation maps



# Biodiversity Preservation

## Functional areas for biodiversity preservation

Emerging trends Classical Protected Area (PA) models are no longer sufficient to tackle the biodiversity crisis as anthropogenic impacts including climate change, make existing PA boundaries less relevant as a future way of delineating areas for biodiversity. To make required net gains in biodiversity restoration, the need to address pressures beyond protected areas is evident across land use sectors such as farming, forestry and marine resource management. Integrated best practices for biodiversity tend to provide positive local level biodiversity outcomes but there is a need to scale up to achieve landscape and regional level improvements in biodiversity outcomes. Increasingly landscape/catchment scale partnerships seek to deliver biodiversity objectives alongside those for other environmental priorities such as carbon sequestration and food/timber production, while also addressing socio-economic issues. Natural capital accounting approaches have been adopted which enables stakeholders to use various tools and metrics to measure their interdependencies with natural assets, and to understand flows and benefits at different scales. These increasingly provide the basis for payments for ecosystem services and other incentive based schemes taken up by land managers and industry. Biodiversity conservation requires a **multi-scale approach**. While larger scale approaches are required, it is important that fine scale conservation management is also taken into account. Some of the larger scale approaches used for natural capital assessment can do not pick up the high nature value associated with smaller areas, that do not necessarily fall in PAs.

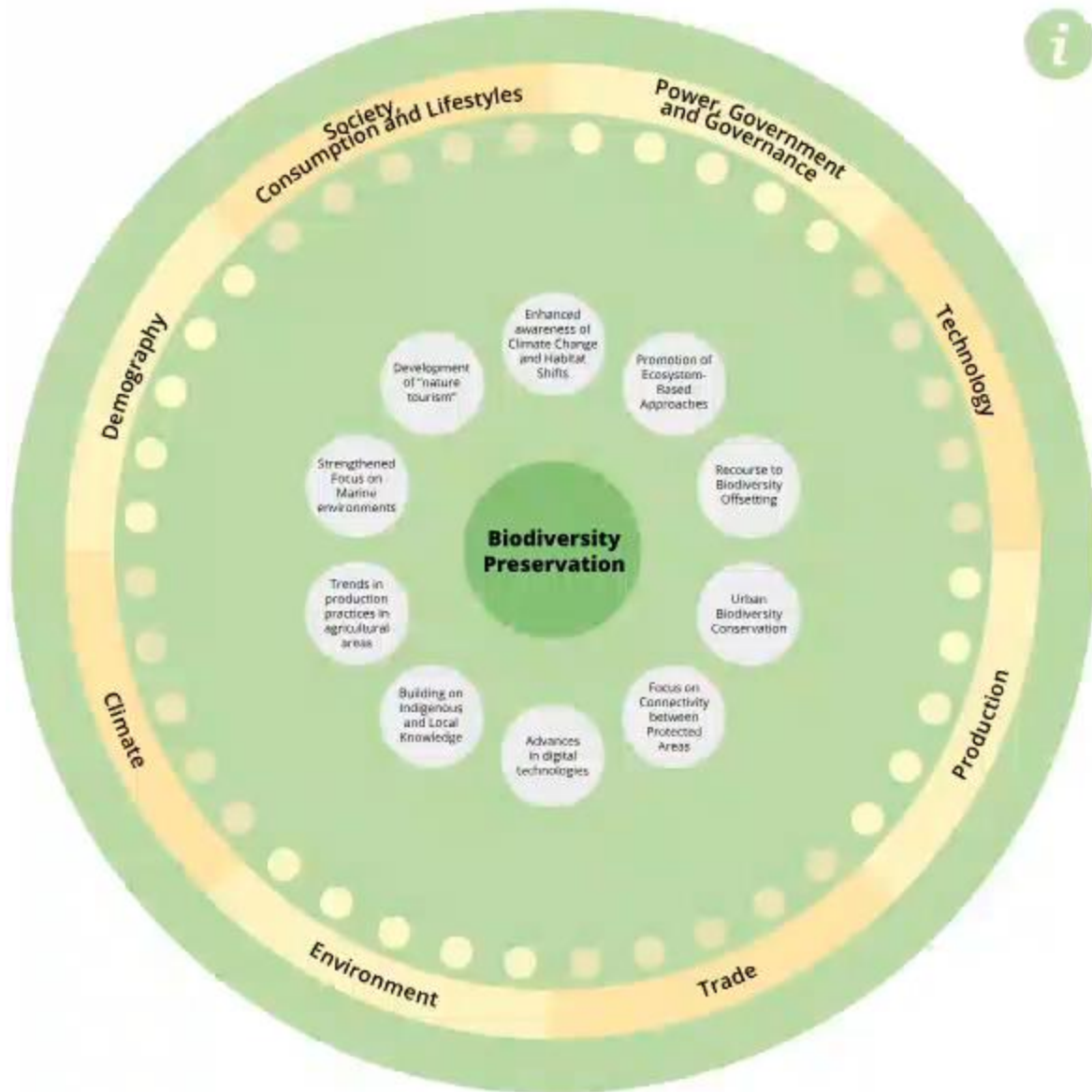
### TRENDS, DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND FUNCTIONAL AREAS IMPLICATIONS

The transformation map of 'Biodiversity Preservation' identifies ten **trends**. Each **trend** is envisaged as issues, objectives and keywords that have gained salience in policy discussions on local and regional development across Europe and in recent years.

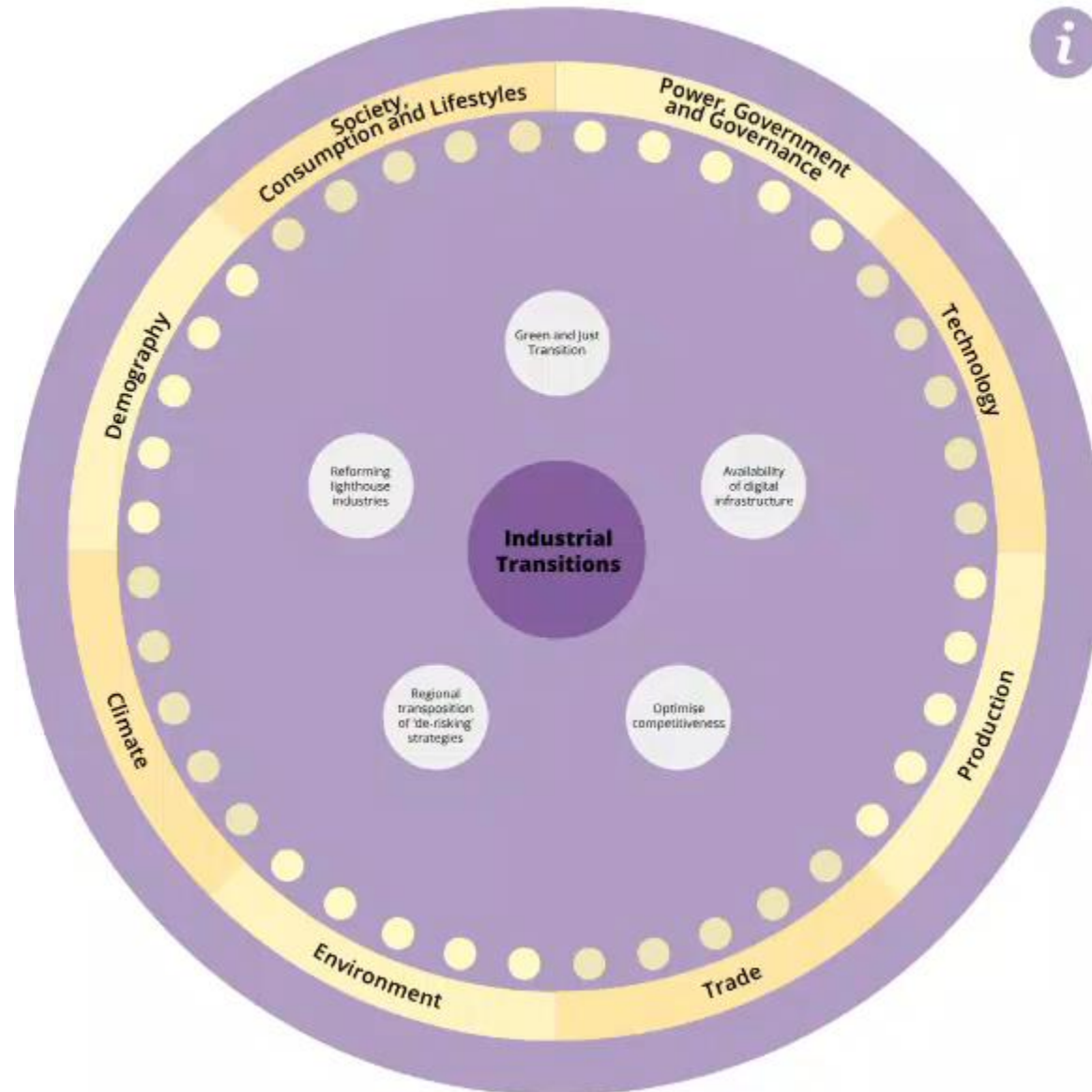
When clicking on a trend, connections to selected **drivers of change** appear. Drivers of change are not necessarily causing the trend. They rather correspond to evolutions in framework conditions that can have major effects on the ways in which the trend is apprehended by local and regional stakeholders as well as in the design of territorial policies.

Drivers of change are grouped in eight categories, that appear on the edge of the circle. These categories are referred to as **'primary forces'**, drawing on [EY \(2020\)](#). Primary forces are the root causes of disruption for local and regional development, i.e. factors largely beyond their control which generate constant needs for adaptation.

The chart does not purport to describe causal chains leading from **primary force** to individual trends. Its objective is rather to synthesise links between high-level discussions on drivers of change, and observed trends at the local and regional levels. These links inform reflections on evolving functional geographies in Europe and on possible policy responses to these changes.



# Industrial Transitions



Biodiversity  
Preservation

Energy  
Transitions

Health  
and Aging

Industrial  
Transitions

Water  
Management

## Industrial transitions

Industrial transitions are driven by multiple policy objectives, organised around the notion of [Twin Green and Digital Transitions](#):

- Reduced carbon footprint of extraction and manufacturing activities, with the notion of [Net-Zero Industry](#).
- Reduced environmental impacts, e.g. with the [Zero Pollution Vision](#) for Europe 2050.
- Reduced resource intensity of production, e.g. with the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#).
- Enhanced knowledge-intensity and competitiveness, on which the European Commission has commissioned a [report](#) to be elaborated under the leadership of Mario Draghi in the coming months
- Creation of employment opportunities, with the need to adapt social governance to the [new and emerging forms](#) of industrial production.
- Improved [security of supply of critical products](#),
- [Industrial, Technological and Digital Sovereignty](#), i.e. ensure that Europe is not dependent on foreign powers for key products and technologies.

At the local and regional levels, greenhouse gas emissions, environmental impacts, circular economy, education and lifelong training and employment opportunities are particularly relevant. They may be addressed with a focus policy levers such on

## TRENDS, DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND FUNCTIONAL AREAS IMPLICATIONS

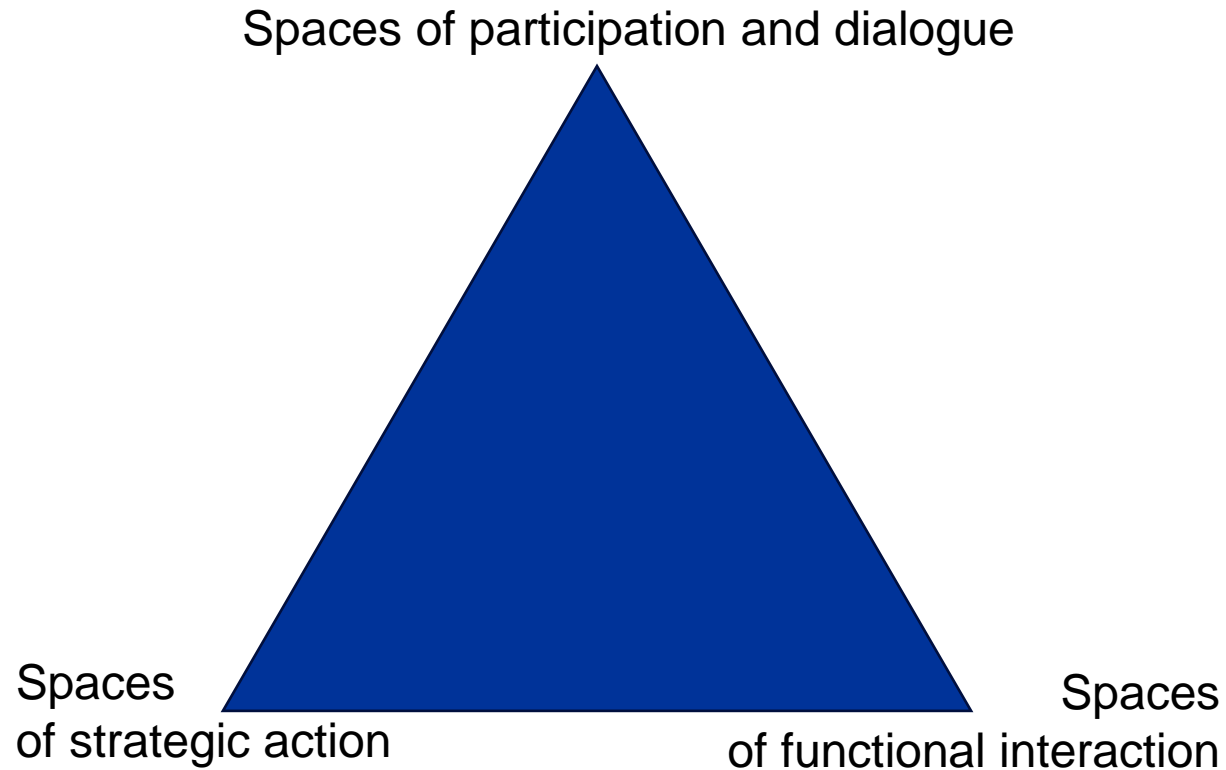
The transformation map of 'Industrial Transitions' identifies five **trends**. Each **trend** is envisaged as issues, objectives and keywords that have gained salience in policy discussions on local and regional development across Europe and in recent years.

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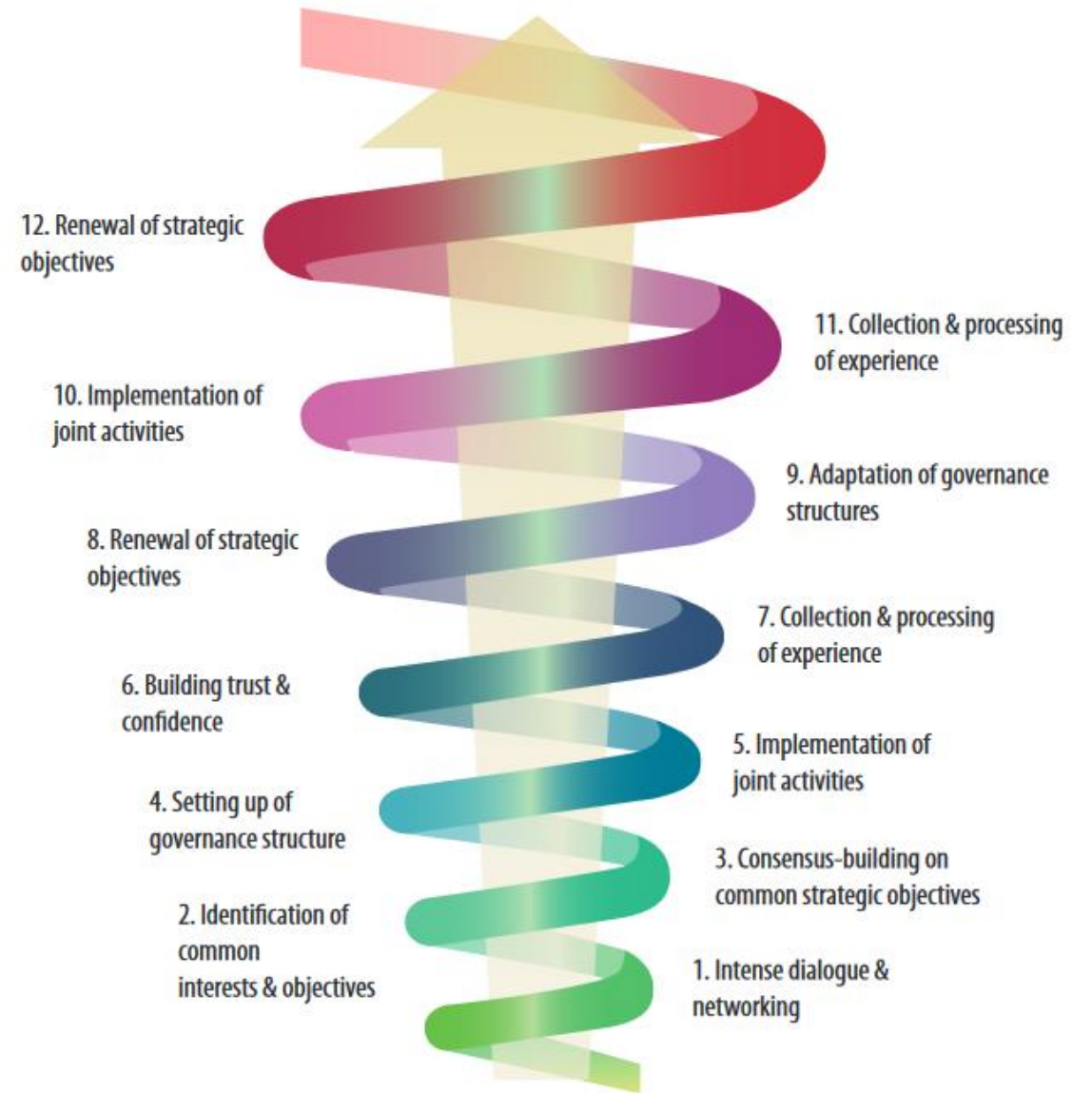
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# Conceptualising emerging geographies





# Soft Territorial Governance



Source: ESPON ACTAREA (2017).

# Industrial transition

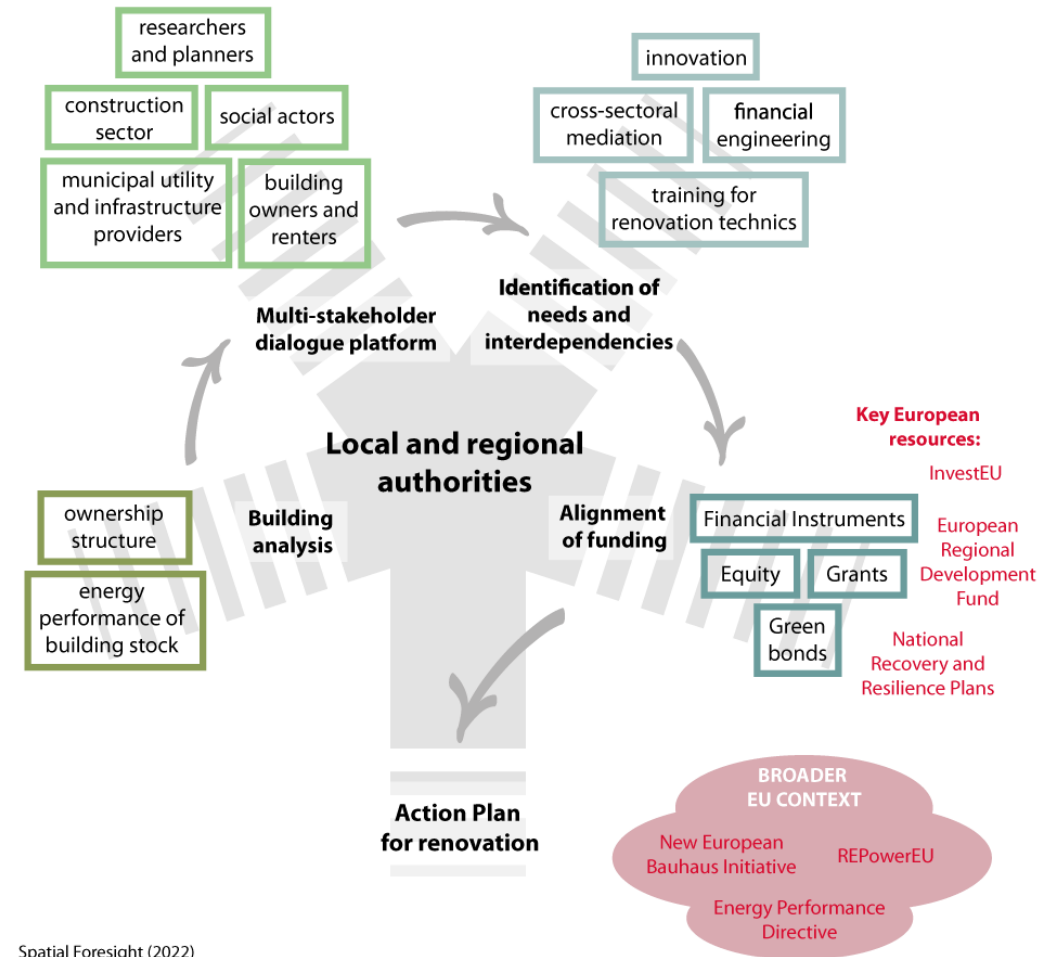
- Industrial transition and reindustrialisation agendas are on back on the agenda – supporting the achievement of the EUs climate goals through **brown to green industrial transitions**
- Green path developments include decarbonisation of (energy-intensive) industries, (re)organisation towards a circular economy as well as sustainable regeneration and redevelopment of brownfield sites.
- Main activities include greening existing industries and shifting share of brown to green industries



Source: WGEKO

# Energy transitions

- Infrastructure faces pressures due to ageing stock of heating and cooling systems as well as due to decentralised energy production systems
- Central to reaching targets are the development of **energy saving strategies**
- Insights needed on how local and regional stakeholders incorporate notions of space and other territorial characteristics into their planning



Spatial Foresight (2022)

# Water supply in metropolitan regions

- How do key drivers influence functional geographies of:
  - Hydrographic systems (e.g. considering climate change, need to access unpolluted water)
  - Water supply (e.g. considering water scarcity, pollution, obsolete infrastructures, water losses and leakage)
  - Water consumption (e.g. considering population growth, urban sprawl, changing consumption behaviour)
- What governance solutions/good practices emerge to optimise resilience of water supply in metropolitan regions,
  - considering these multiple geographies, and stakeholder arrangements associated to each of them,
  - considering ongoing and foreseen changes.

# Ecological connectivity

Relevant across multiple scales, from intra-patch dynamics (e.g. for species foraging) to landscape and large biogeographical regions (e.g. transboundary mountain regions or wetlands)

- Challenges to maintaining and enhancing ecological connectivity vary: Fragmentation results from policies,
- Ecological connectivity can be supported implicitly or explicitly,
- Complex relationship between protected areas and 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs),
- Key question: what territorial governance mechanisms (and at what scales) will increase the effectiveness and value of connected ecological networks?

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# Thank you!

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