



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF LIVING LABS IN ROBUST?

GRANULAR Webinar
Living Labs in rural areas: HOW TO?

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ROBUST: Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies



ROBUST
PROJECT

LEARNING
HUB

NEWS &
EVENTS

PUBLICATION
LIBRARY

ABOUT
US

The ROBUST project includes 11 Living Labs that represent typical rural-urban settings throughout Europe. Click on the images below to explore what is happening in each ROBUST Living Lab.



Ede



Frankfurt



Gloucestershire



Helsinki



Lisbon



Ljubljana



Lucca



Metropolitan
Area of Styria



Mid Wales



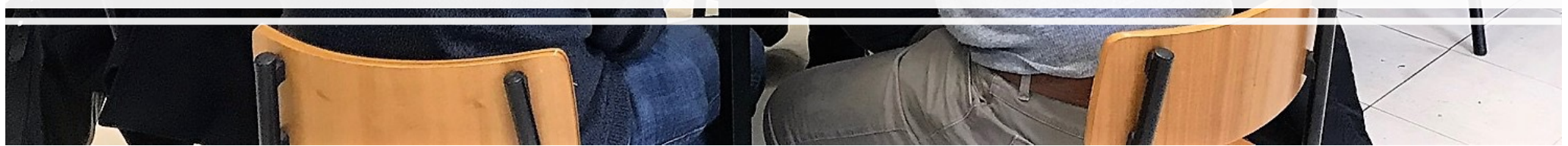
Tukums



Valencia



Accompanying joint work in Living Labs



ROBUST: Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

11 Living Labs, 3 in-depth case studies

Municipality of Ede, The Netherlands

Gloucestershire County Council, United Kingdom

Welsh Local Government Association

City of Helsinki, Finland

Tukums Municipality, Latvia

Regionalverband, Frankfurt Rhein Main, Germany

Regionalmanagement Steirischer Zentralraum, Austria

Regional Development Agency of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Province of Lucca, Italy

Helsinki

CLILC • WLGA

FMP

Comité de Coordinación e Desenvolvemento Regional de Lucca a viso do Sur

Unit

Fi

Municipi

Prov

Lisb

Author

Futures
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ELSEVIER

Lost in a haze or playing to partners' strengths? Learning to collaborate in three transdisciplinary European Living Labs

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Regionalverband FrankfurtRheinMain

REGIONALMANAGEMENT Steirischer Zentralraum

RRA LUR regional development agency of ljubljana urban region

PROVINCIA di Lucca

Living Lab phases and Monitoring & (Self-) Evaluation framework



Synthesis Report

ROBUST Deliverable 3.3

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Report compiled by the Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, GL50 4AZ, UK www.ccri.ac.uk

November 2021

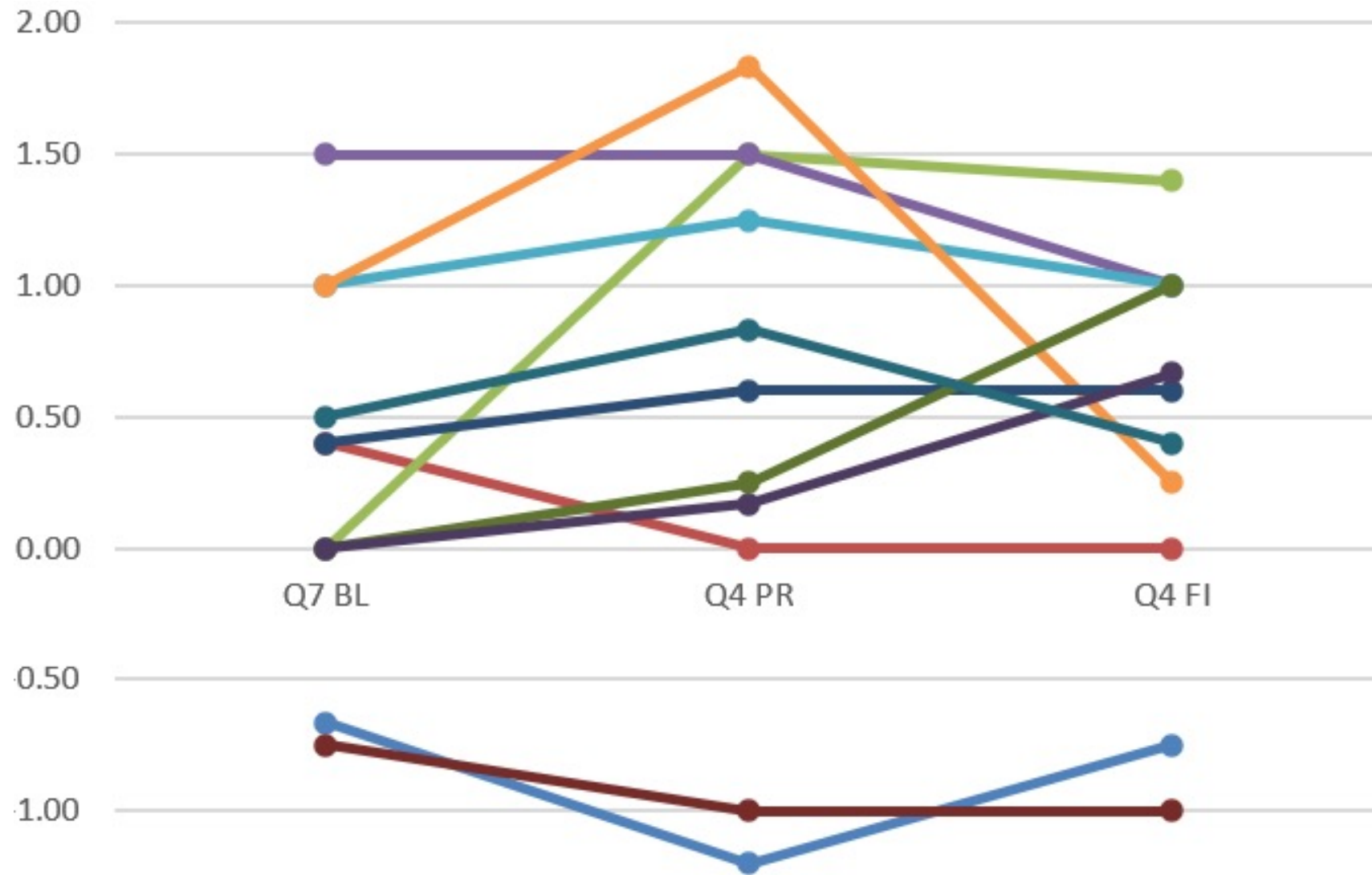


Open Access Review

Towards a Reflexive Framework for Fostering Co—Learning and Improvement of Transdisciplinary Collaboration

by Marina Knickel ^{1,*} , Karlheinz Knickel ^{2,3} , Francesca Galli ¹ , Damian Maye ⁴ and Johannes S. C. Wiskerke ⁵

Collaboration trajectories 11 Living Labs in ROBUST

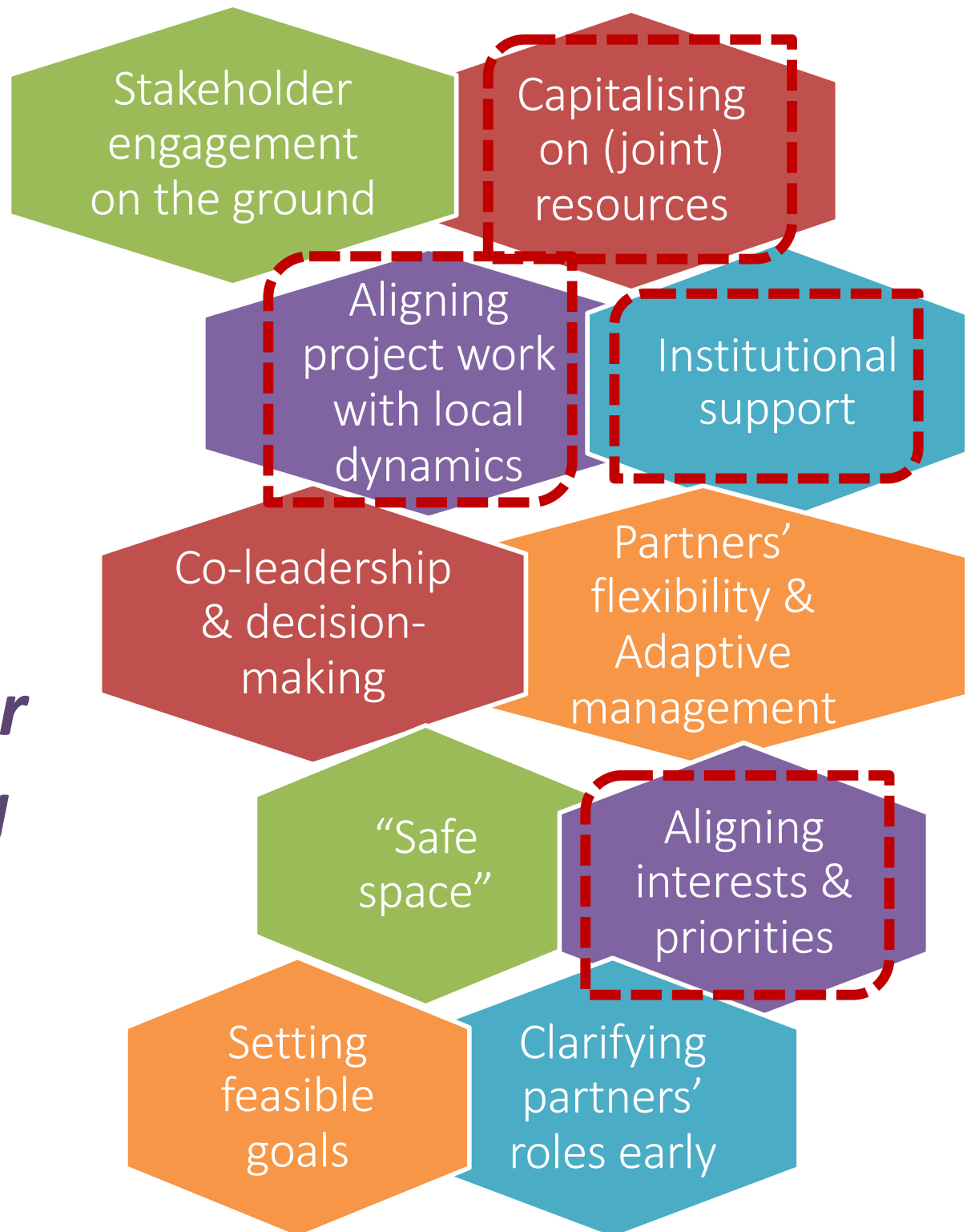


Source: Knickel et al. (2023). Lost in a haze or playing to partners' strengths?
Learning to collaborate in three transdisciplinary European Living Labs. *Futures*

Success factors in ROBUST's Living Labs

...Implications for sustaining Living Lab work

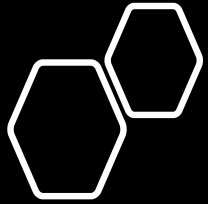
NB: totally context-dependent!



Looking back: general lessons learned

- Mutual learning is underrated...
BUT: central for the success → Importance of learning & reflexivity *en route*
- Struggling with experimentation
→ Partners' risk-averse attitude
- Researchers struggled with their role in Living Labs
- Safe space is underappreciated, not practised systematically
- Power dynamics: dominant individuals / institutions
- Impact is problematic to measure
→ might lead to partners' frustration





Implications for planning research projects with Living Labs

Connect planned
project work with
specific 'local' needs

Ensure institutional
(and political)
support already in
the project planning
stage

Introduce a
preparatory project
phase

Communicate goals
& functioning of joint
work properly to
partners

Mind the need for
more flexibility in
work planning & time
schedules

Plan dedicated tasks
to support adaptive
management

Implications for managing research projects with Living Labs



Implement reflexive activities



Adopt adaptive management practices



Ensure professional facilitation



Appreciate “soft” outcomes and consider a long-term perspective



Capitalise on available resources (relationships, networks, competencies)



Work towards lasting impact & capacity development

An Independent Center of Advanced Studies
in the Life and Sustainability Sciences

KLI

THANK YOU!

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Q&A

- Does our experience in ROBUST resonate with your work in Living Labs?
- How do you see your role in this type of collaboration?
- What would successful collaboration in a Living Lab require from you (e.g. as a researcher, NGO member, entrepreneur, policy-maker)?

