

Alternative models for thriving economies

Insights from SERIGO
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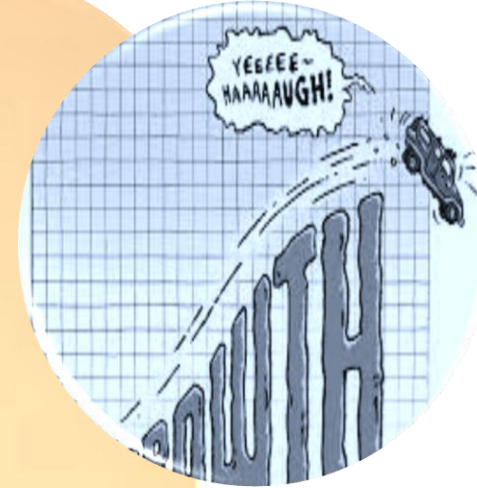


Overview

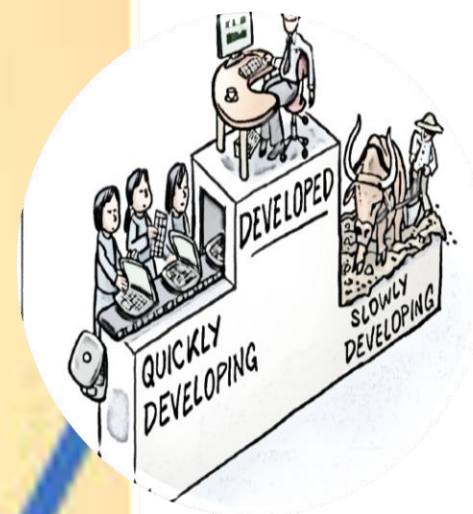


- Dominant economic models: visions vs reality; twin challenges
- Alternative models for thriving society: A snapshot
- Alternative economic models and their approach to transformation
- How do we understand the rural?
- SE initiatives in rural areas in EU: Challenges and interventions
- Concluding remarks

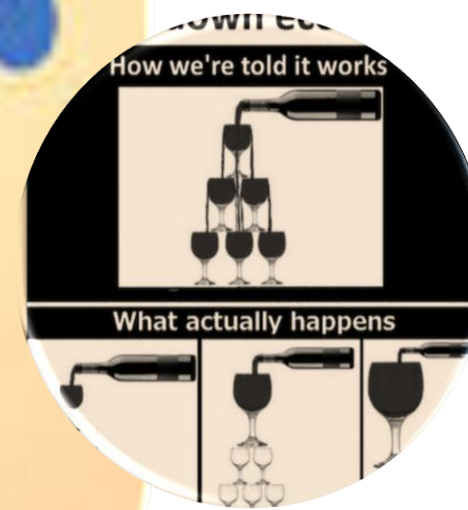
Dominant economic models



**Endless
growth**



**Linear
progress/
catch-up**

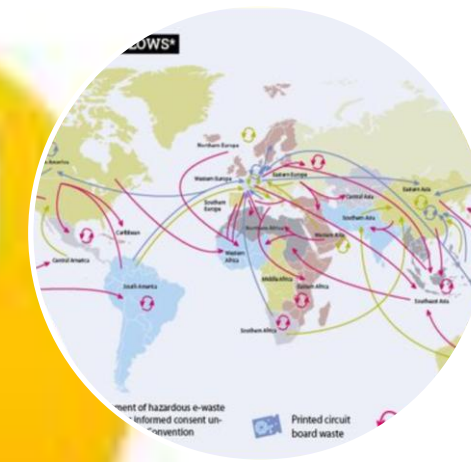


**Well
being for
all**

The Vision



**Biodiversity
loss**



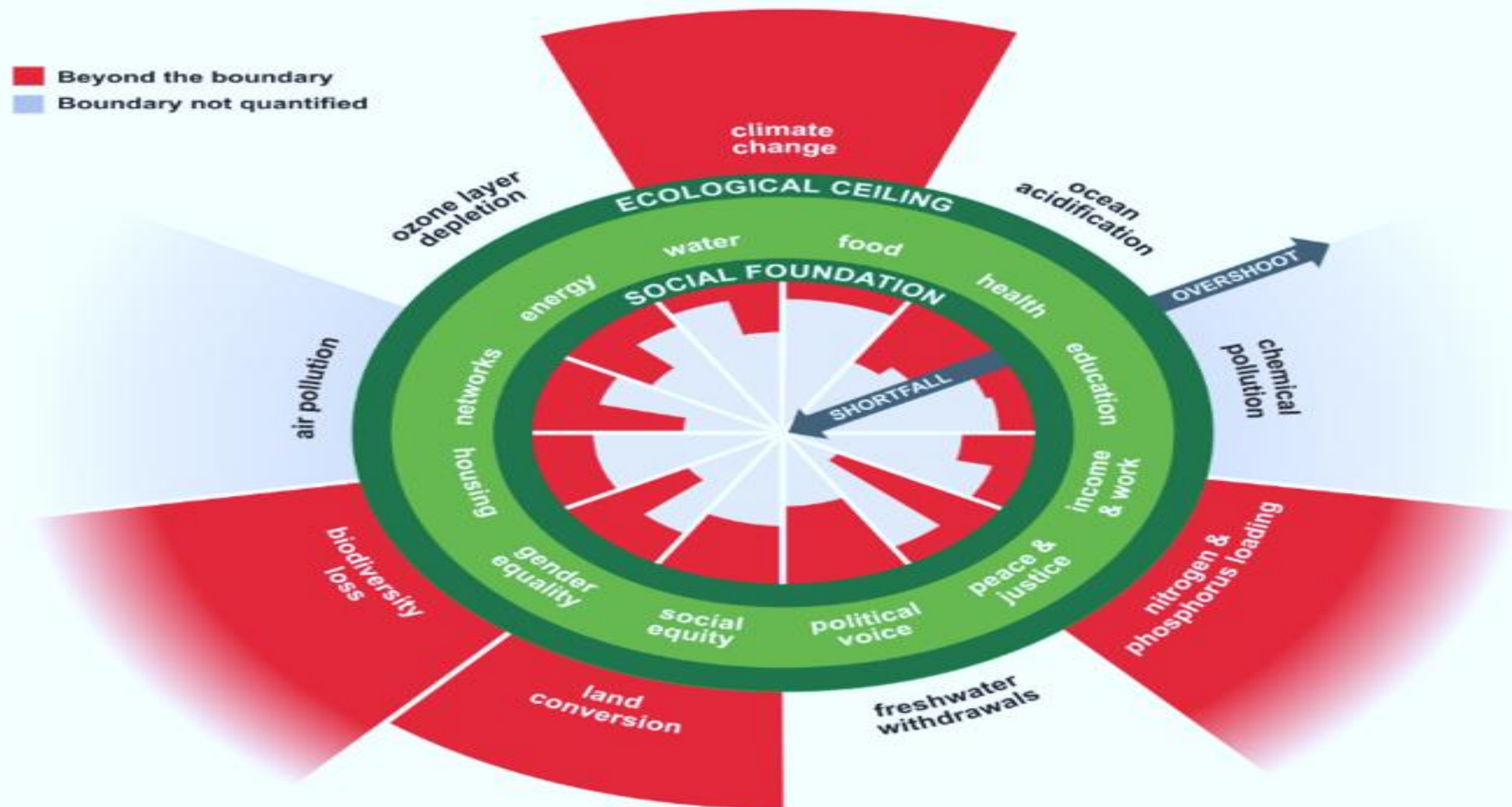
**Rising
inequalities**



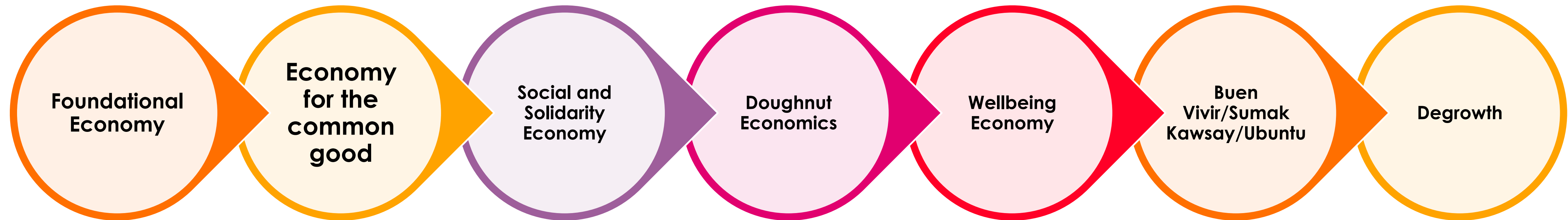
**Climate
change**

The Reality

Dominant economic models and our twin challenges

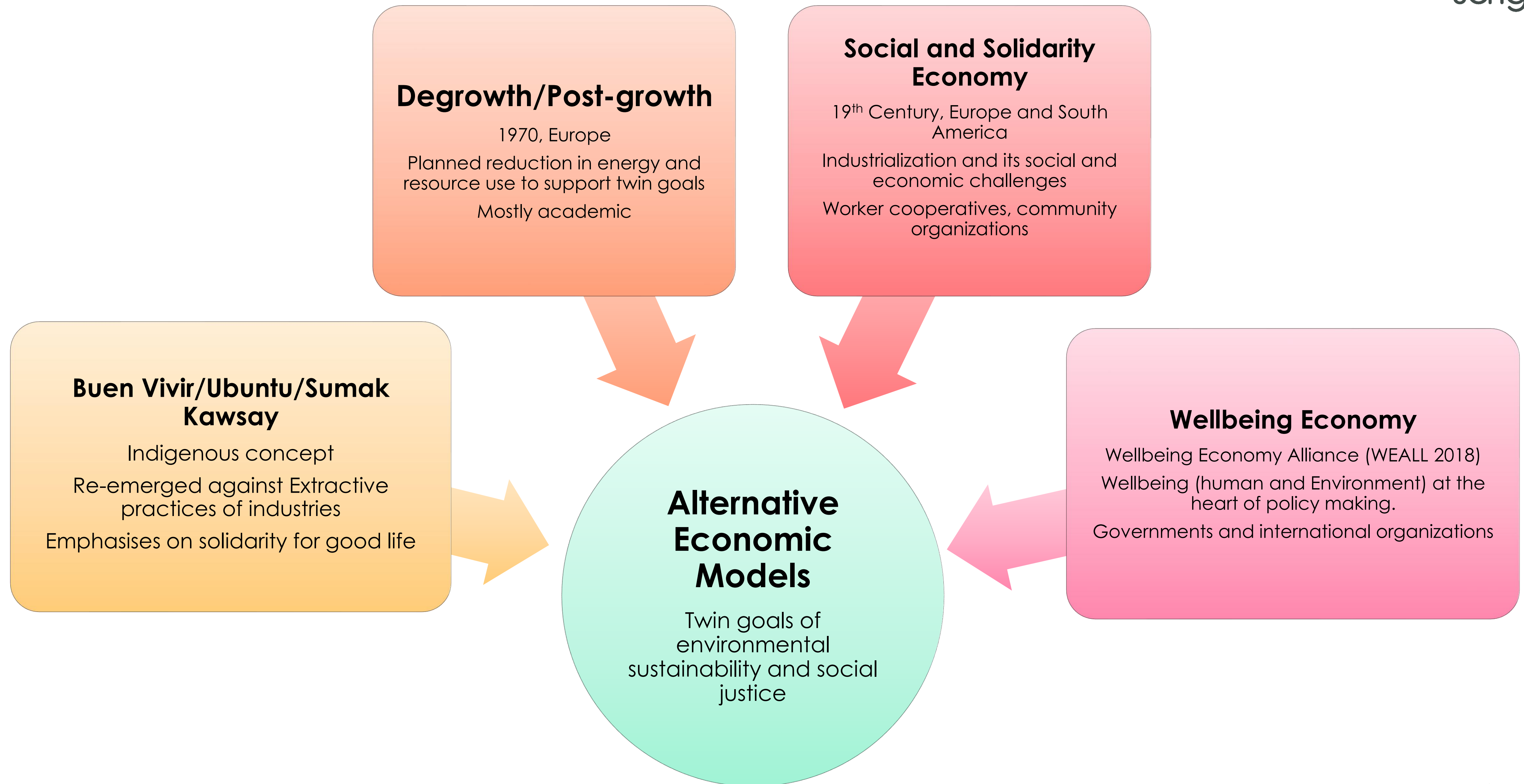


Alternative models for thriving economies



Focussed on addressing the indirect drivers of unsustainability
(Capitalist exploitation of human and natural resources)

Alternative models for thriving economies



Alternative models and their approach to societal transformation



Ruptural

Direct confrontation and radical break with existing institutions and social structures; rapid change.

Smashing (significant systemic breaks such as destroying industrial chains); **Halting** (smaller temporary disruptions such as blocking a mine).

Example

Buen Vivir
Degrowth
Diverse economies

Interstitial

Building new forms of institutions outside spaces dominated by those in power, usually at the margins of the capitalist/dominant social system; gradual change.

Resisting (protest and mobilizations) and **advocating** (guidelines, toolkits);

Escaping and **building** (cultivating alternatives to capitalism such as direct producer-consumer links, community owned systems).

Example

Buen Vivir
Degrowth
Social and Solidarity Economy

Symbiotic

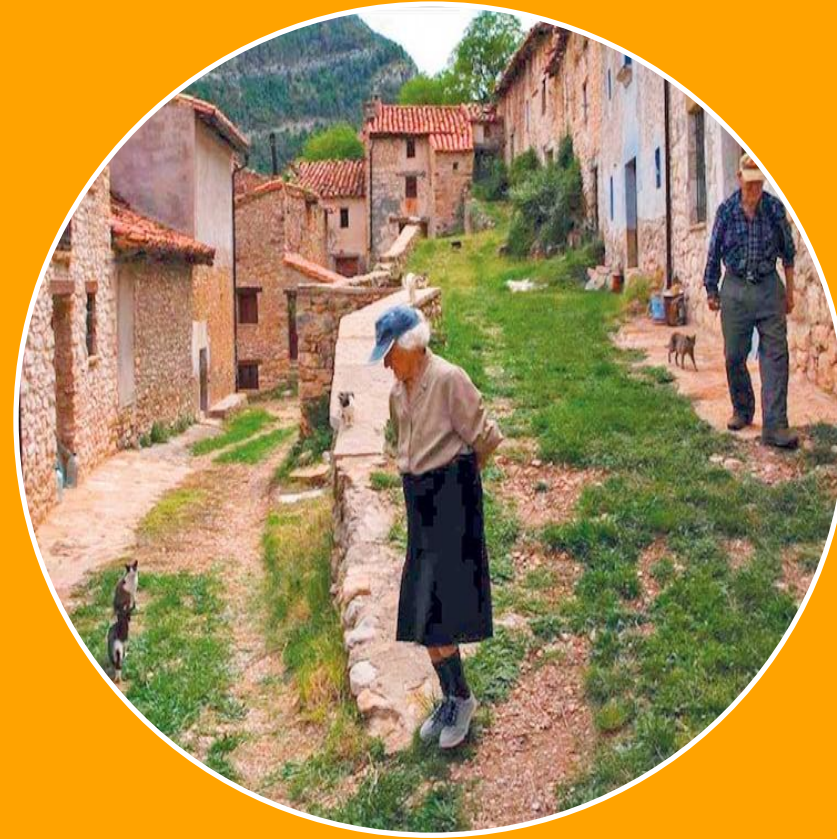
Changing the existing institutions from within. Growing power within the institutions for ultimate transformation; gradual change.

Taming (mitigating the negative consequences of capitalism) and **incentivising**

Dismantaling (changing societal power structures) and **restructuring** (such as decentralised production, property rights reforms)

Example

Wellbeing Economy
Social Economy



Site of Crisis

Depopulation
Ageing
Job opportunities
Infrastructure
Biodiversity loss
Wildfires
Deforestation



Site of Contestation

- Wind turbines and solar farms
- Extractive tourism
- Deforestation
- Fracking
- Industrial agriculture and plantations



Site of Hope

Caring for human and more-than-human relationships

Planetary attuned re-peasantization

Conviviality and Solidarity

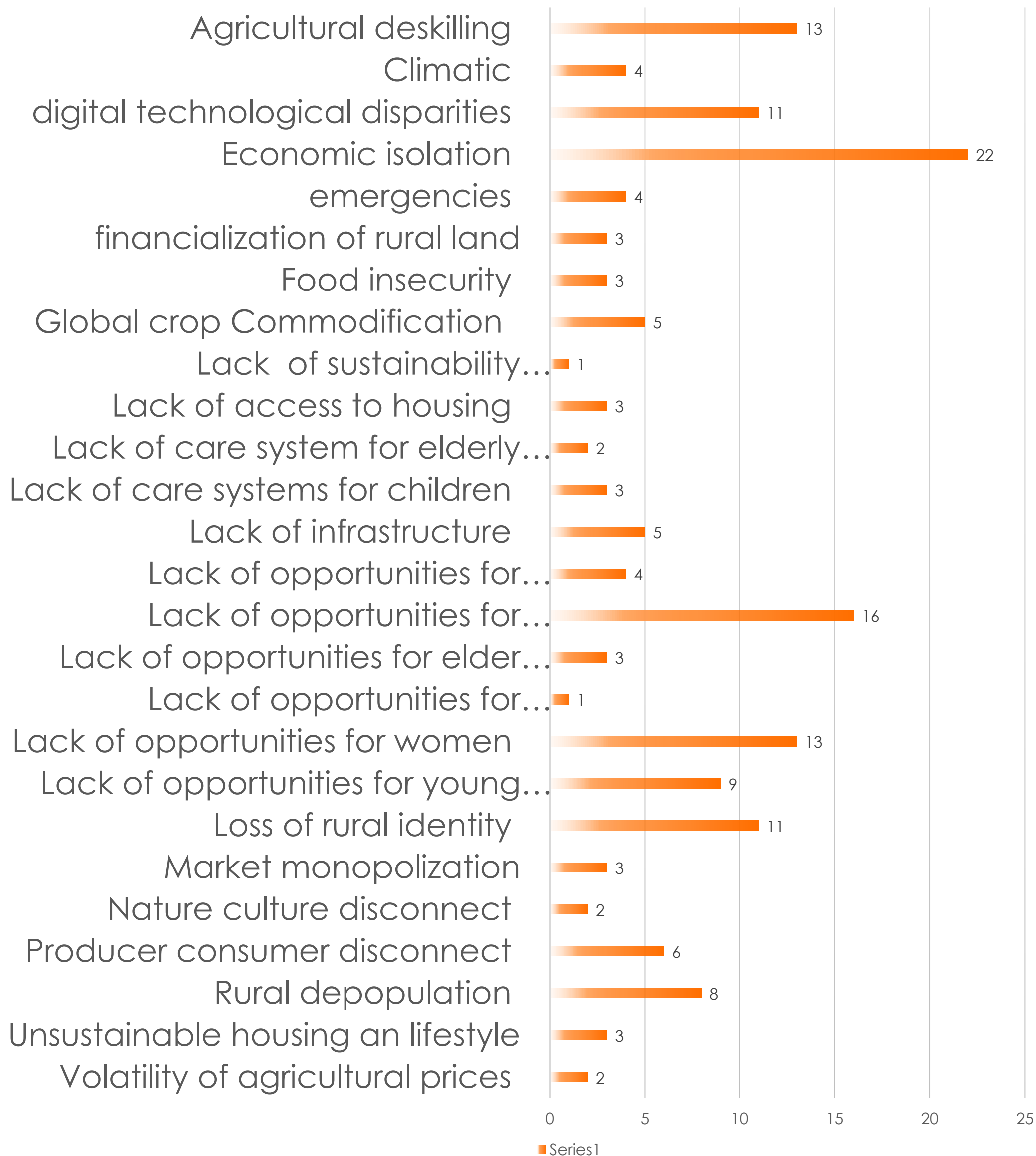
Re-imagining society and economy

How do we understand the rural?

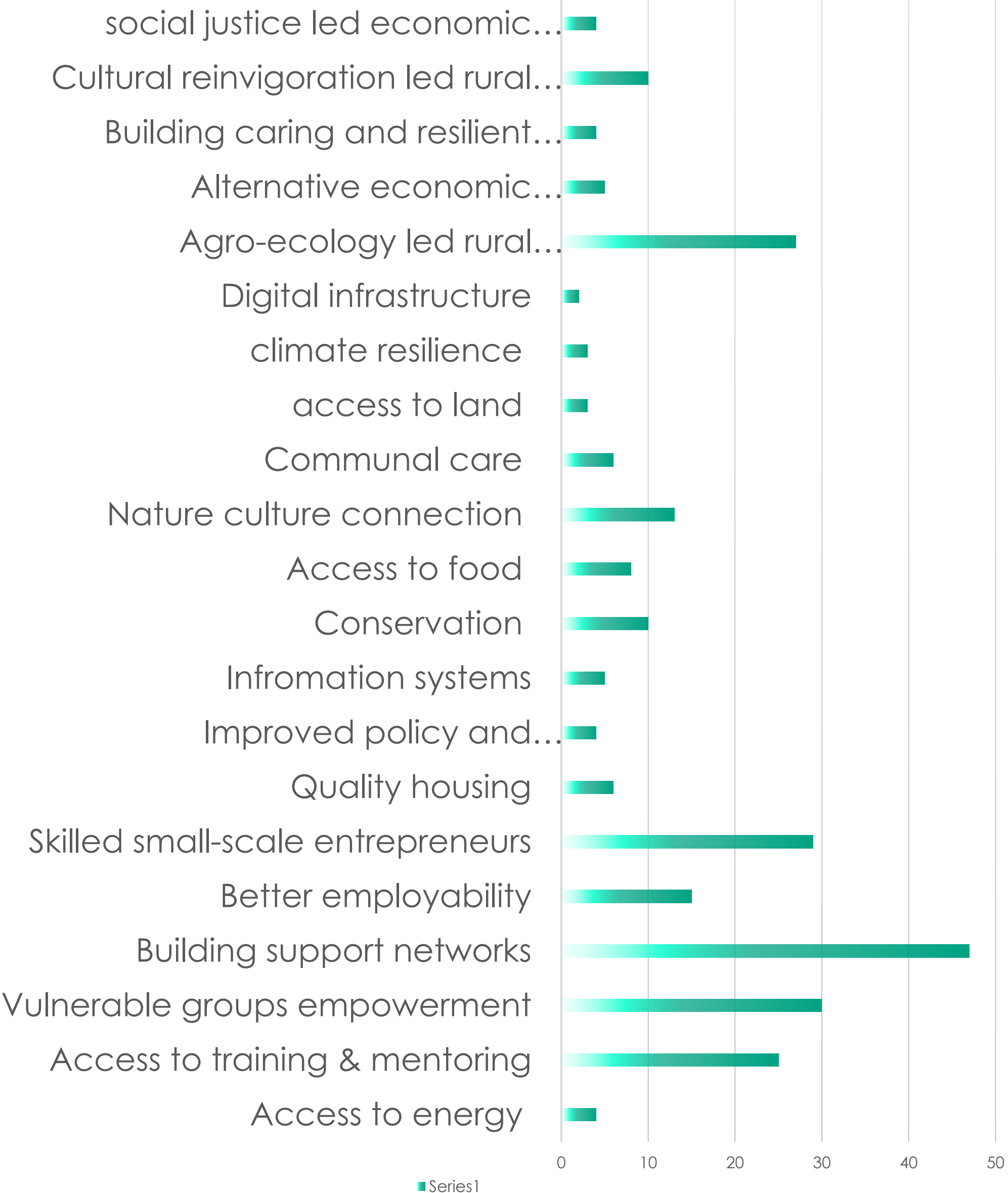
SE initiatives in rural areas in EU: Challenges and interventions



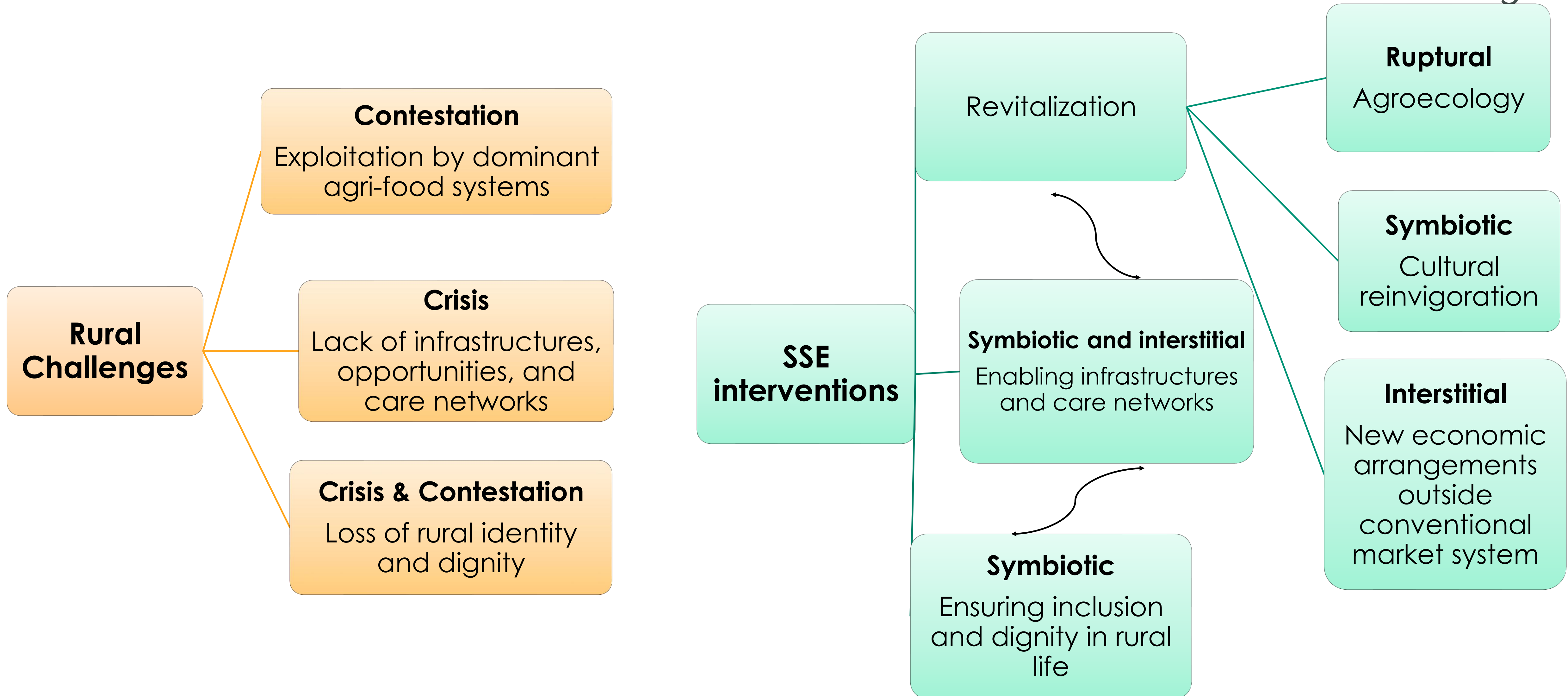
26 TYPES OF RURAL CHALLENGES



20 TYPES OF SE INTERVENTIONS



SE initiatives in rural areas in EU: Challenges and interventions



Concluding remarks



- Dominant economic models are inadequate in engaging with the twin challenges (environmental sustainability and social justice), particularly in rural areas.
- It could be useful to explore, support and strengthen alternative models for a thriving economy and society.
- Many examples of alternative economic models are present all over the world.
- Different modes of transformations (ruptural, interstitial, and symbiotic) could be sought with these models, depending on the need.
- Study of SE initiatives in EU showed that rural challenges could be clubbed into crisis (lack of infrastructure, job opportunities) and contestations (over resources, identity, inclusion).
- Examples from SE initiatives showed that different initiatives seek different transformational approach for engaging with rural challenges.
- Further research is needed to understand the impacts of these initiatives in addressing the twin challenges and bringing transformation in rural societies.



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