



The $\frac{m}{m}$ $\frac{i}{a}$ $\frac{c}{c}$ $\frac{r}{r}$ $\frac{o}{o}$ DEAL

Municipal Transformation Model for City-Bioregions

European cities are redefining the continent's future amidst geopolitical shifts and ecological challenges. The 10x100 Lab developed a growing systems approach with tiny living labs as a blueprint for resilience and adaptation of dense settlements.

Contributors: Thank You For The Music



This paper synthesises collaborative workshop results and aims to translate them into an applicable framework. This initial version is meant to invite diverse stakeholders to refine and discuss further how the transformation of cities and their bioregions can be locally empowered. The ideas presented are ready for constructive criticism and input that furthers their improvement.

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This discussion paper is based on our exchange and insights generated during the 10x100 Cities Lab during the European Forum Alpbach in August 2024 with contributions from (in alphabetical order): [Ania Porucznik](#) / Landscape Planning and Urban Systems; [Benjamin Armingier](#) / Upper Austria; [Blasius Walch](#), [Caroline Paulick-Thiel](#) / Politics for Tomorrow; [Diana Pretzell](#) / City of Mannheim; [Erika Obermayr](#) / Accenture; [Eva Schobesberger](#) / City of Linz; [Evi Gmach](#) / City of Linz; [Florian Schwendinger](#) / former JRC EU Policy Making; [Frida Brett-Smith](#) / City of Mannheim; [Henrike Arlt](#) / Politics for Tomorrow; [Indy Johar](#) / Dark Matter Labs; [Josephine Herzig](#) / Expedition Future; [Joséphine von Mitschke-Collande](#) / Mercator Schweiz / Sufficiency; [Justin W. Cook](#) / Center for Complexity; [Katharina Angerer](#) / Agronomist and Agroecologist; [Kristine Clev](#) / Rhine Neckar Metropolitan Region (MRN); [Leon Seefeld](#) / Dark Matter Labs Bioregional Finance; [Martina Lang](#) / Love Politics Talent & Nutrition Coach; [Mathis Dippon](#) / European Capitals of Democracy, [Matthias Koller](#) / Federal Environment Agency; [Nigel Jacob](#) / Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics Boston; [Oliver Schrot](#) / City of Linz, [Peter Kurz](#) / City of Mannheim former Mayor; [Ralph Thurm](#) / r3.0; [Samuel Eberenz](#) / Risk Dialogue Foundation Switzerland; [Silvia Hackl](#) / City of Linz; [Toban Shadlyn](#) / Field States Strategic Design; [Yamina Saheb](#) / Sciences Po (Paris)



Background: 10x100 at the European Forum Alpbach

The 10x100 Lab at the European Forum Alpbach is part of a multi-year collaborative initiative that aims to develop the foundations for collaborative coordination and systemic agency in a new era of risk.

In 2022, the 10x100 Lab validated the idea of a more coordinated approach to large-scale change in terms of scale, scope and speed. In 2023, we identified strategic gaps and described a strengthened mandate for mayors to implement change on the ground with multi-stakeholder alliances.

In 2024, we were able to test a workshop format contributing to the establishment of an implementation alliance and detailing an approach that supports public institutions to facilitate systemic change processes.

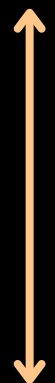
The 10x100 cities lab during EFA24 was hosted by Caroline Paulick-Thiel, director at [Politics for Tomorrow](#), Peter Kurz, former mayor of the [City of Mannheim](#) & chair of the [Global Parliament of Mayors](#), Indy Johar, mission holder at [Dark Matter Labs](#), and designed in collaboration with Blasius Walch, Henrike Arlt, Dr. Philip Hector, Jörg Petzold from Politics for Tomorrow / nextlearning e. V.

Strategic elements have been developed in cooperation with the City of Mannheim and the Metropolregion Rhine-Neckar, including Frida Brett-Smith, Kristine Clev and the first mayor Diana Pretzell as well as representatives of the City of Linz, and the Upper Austria region. Special thanks to the [Mercator Foundation Switzerland](#) supporting this event as part of the EFA lab series, and kudos to Mirta Surlina for the remarkable collaboration throughout the year.

EFA23-24: Contextualising Challenge-Response Space



challenge



response

Awareness Gap

Models of controllable worlds

- Knowledge fragmentation prevents recognition of dynamic interrelationships.
- Belief in controllability creates false security and a lack of willingness to adapt.

Action Gap

Systemic implementation inertia

- Lack of capacity at individual, organisational and systemic level hinders implementation.
- Bureaucratic hurdles, lack of cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination weaken the effectiveness of implementation efforts.

Allocation Gap

Drastic waste of resources

- Disconnected knowledge and limited skills lead to inefficient use of resources.
- Many investments support existing practices instead of necessary change, unused finance opportunities reduce future options.

Conditional Pathways

Acknowledging biophysical limits

- Systemic transformation requires massive, well-coordinated capital investment.
- Alignment and innovation in capital allocation through cross-sectoral investments.

Capable Systems

Increasing systemic capabilities

- Collaboration across systems to accelerate transformative decision-making.
- Learning governance and regulation at nexus of carbon budgets, labour shortages, mineral deficits etc.

Capital Shifts

Coordination of multi-capital shifts

- Phasing out of practices that are no longer valid, introduce new ones in parallel.
- Development of new financial mechanism and institutions that incorporate short- and long-term biophysical limits in all decisions.

Context: Expanding Security Horizons

Regional Uniqueness: The DACH region, encompassing Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, is distinctively positioned as "urban-rural-river regions" or multi-level bioregions. In this setting, cities are drivers of innovation with a high capacity for self-governance, making them potential leaders in Europe's necessary transformation, particularly as the continent emerges as the fastest warming continent with planetary implications.

Intertwined Challenges: Today's multifaceted crises—spanning ecological, social, and economic dimensions—demand urgent, systemic solutions. Key issues include climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequalities. Industrial agriculture, a significant player in this scenario, faces challenges from biodiversity loss, soil erosion, water scarcity and pollution, compounded by bureaucratic growth and a shifting role within society.

Partnerships for the future: Working with two pioneering cities - Mannheim & Linz - and their regions, new pathways have been explored by rethinking traditional methods of urban development, regional planning and urban-rural cooperation. The aim of this effort is not only to identify emerging crises and related risks, but also to actively tap into the transformation potential of intersections – across capacities, sectors, cultures.

Food as a Lever: In 2023 we identified "food" as a tangible transformation topic, caught between conflicting goals of health, sustainable land use, economic interests, justice, resilience ... The entire metabolism, including production, distribution, consumption and waste management, is called into question. Especially, smallholder farms suffer from the lack of transformation of the current system, confronted with low product prices, high costs and financial instability.

Europe as a Political Actor: Environmental crises and the dominance of a few stakeholders intensify challenges at the food-water-energy nexus. The report underscores the need for policy renegotiation across European, national, regional, and local levels to develop sustainable, resilient food systems and prevent societal shocks, noting the rollback of critical ecological regulations essential for long-term adaptation towards nutrition and food security.

EFA24 10x100 Lab: Outcome Overview

Refinement Micro-Macro-Approach

- Presentation and adaptation of the Micro-Macro Deal concept after EFA24 in various formats
- Clarified roles and enhanced procedure to address cities, regions, and new partners
- Contribution to EU research and innovation agenda

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Development of Tiny Living Labs

- Place-based ideation of six Tiny Living Labs at different bioregional scales
- Portfolio logic for assessing systemic interactions and potential impacts
- Interconnected view of project contributions within larger transition context

9

Identified Challenges & Potentials 2025

- Key barriers and potential focus areas for 2025 e.g. data-driven approach to enabling regulation, bureaucracy and finance
- Strategic foresight to align future initiatives with emerging challenges and opportunities

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Capacity Building Cities & Regions

- Enhancement of public capacities for facilitating transformation processes
- Setup of implementation alliances with committed action-learning cycles
- Tools and resources for continuous exchange, sense making, and adaptation

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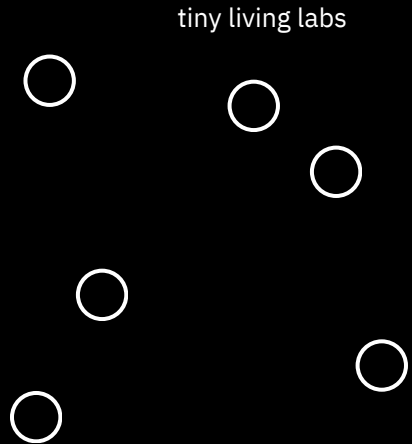
Micro-Macro-Approach

Growing Systems provide a foundational landscape for microarchitectures, where modularity and scalability allow for an evolutionary approach. This is crucial when the capacity to expand and adapt to the specific needs of the bioregion is intertwined with the industrial transformation and resilience of ecological infrastructures. The setup of a growing system facilitates the gradual implementation of transformative measures, starting small and spreading out in concentric circles across the entire portfolio. This dual approach ensures that local innovations are nested within broader regional strategies able to inform the adaptation of financial and regulatory conditions.

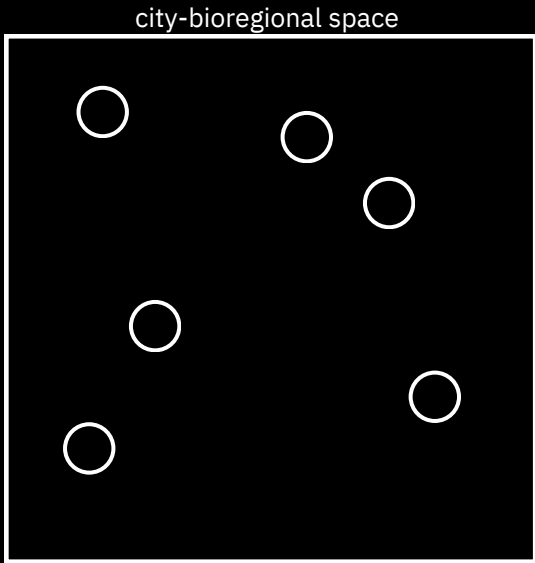
Micro Interventions towards Growing Systems



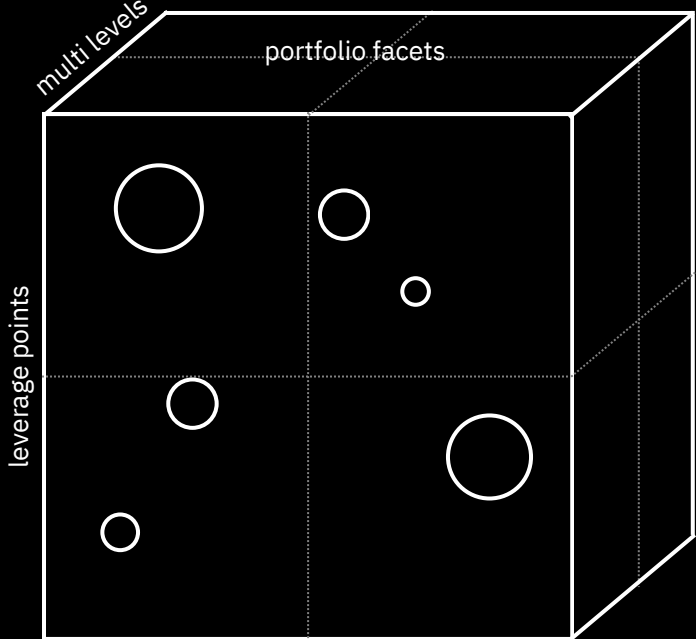
Our modular approach enables the manageable implementation of transformative measures in city-bioregions: **Tiny Living Labs** function as a network of micro-interventions, supported by public institutions. These labs tackle key challenges, promote community engagement, and test new concepts across various **Portfolio Facets**. Learning within these labs is enhanced through regular incremental adaptations. **Growing Systems** facilitate the mainstreaming of place-based solutions, combined with innovative financing instruments and commons-oriented governance models that enable new partnerships e.g. between civic initiatives, local industries and financing institutions.



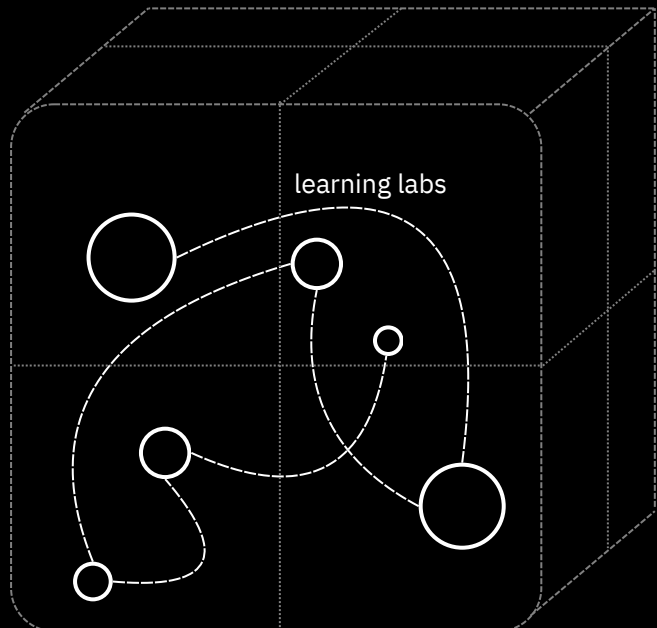
tiny living labs



city-bioregional space

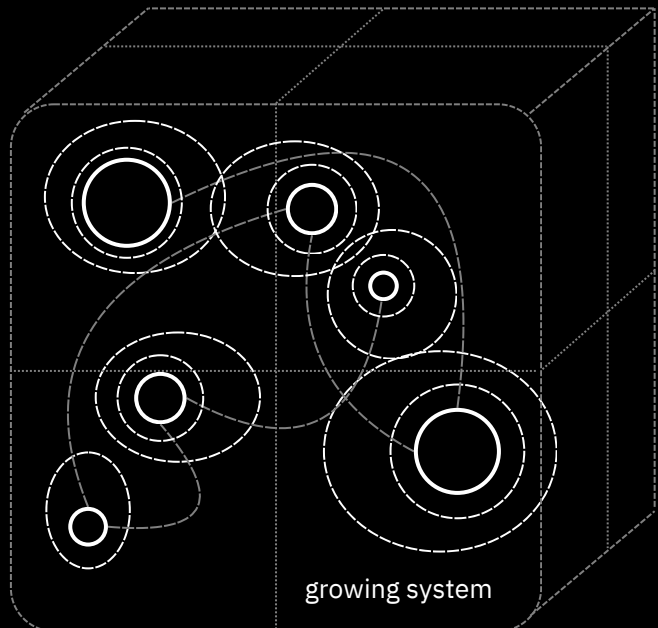


leverage points



learning labs

Individual living labs engage in mutual learning from one another's processes and innovations for mainstreaming



growing system

The portfolio adaptation is part of a learning process across growing systems, ensuring reflexive risk management



Tiny Living Lab Portfolio

Tiny Living Labs offer research setups that public institutions can explore within their discretionary power. Designed as a portfolio of micro interventions they turn into a learning network of prototypes, addressing localised challenges across different legislative levels and spatial scales (e.g. neighbourhood and river system). This “hidden system” enables the development and testing of innovative concepts with community engagement, providing visible and tangible improvements that can foster public support and demonstrate the potential of larger-scale implementations.

Interconnected Interventions across Scales

The Roof Dimension

Core Idea: Transforming underutilised urban spaces, like rooftops, into green areas that increase measurable public and environmental co-benefits.

Connection of ecosystem service projects across urban areas, integrating them with renewable energy installations (e.g. solar panels) and community gathering spaces for incentivising more investments in public health.

building

Other Formats: This idea could be implemented as vertical gardens on the sides of buildings or as pop-up green spaces in unused lots or play streets, providing flexibility in public-private efforts moving from grey to green.

Edible Kindergartens

Core Idea: Developing prosumer approaches in kindergartens to encourage children and parents in engaging with and caring for healthy food systems.

Expansion of the concept to all educational institutions, integrating curriculum that focuses on permaculture, biodiversity, and local food systems, thus instilling early and widespread awareness of environmental stewardship.

area

Other Formats: The idea could be expanded to public bodies, providing therapeutic gardening opportunities and enhancing dietary options with fresh produce, broadening health benefits across different age groups.

Civic Incubator Spaces

Core Idea: Building commons- public spaces that catalyse civic engagement through community- led projects connected to gardening and cooking.

Support of existing networks of incubators across multiple neighbourhoods to enable residents to launch and lead their own sustainability projects, such as community gardens, waste reduction etc.

neighbourhood

Other Formats: This concept could be adapted to other neighbourhood projects, starting with support from public institutions and seed funding in order to become part of a community-driven and self-owning infrastructure.

MAchbarschaftsgarten Initiative

Core Idea: Reintegrating food production within urban settings by investing in an "urban demand system" for enhancing local food resilience and civic economy.

Development of urban farms and community gardens as an infrastructure in available public spaces, including parks and vacant lots, connected to building new markets and incentive systems for local prosumption.

district

Other Formats: Similar concepts could be implemented in schools or corporate campuses, where gardens serve educational and community-building roles, fostering environmental awareness and teamwork.

Multi-Agri-Culture Hub

Core Idea: Using central blue- green infrastructure in the centre of a city to relink agricultural practice and civic education by leveraging cultural diversity.

Creation of a multicultural food hub that serves both as a production site and an educational center, transferring regenerative farming practices from around the world towards context-specific application.

city

Other formats: The hub could be replicated as smaller community-led farm markets or mobile educational units that travel between neighborhoods, spreading knowledge and resources related to sustainable farming practices.

Resilience Congress

Core Idea: Strengthening regional resilience through congresses that coordinate regional efforts to address large-scale environmental challenges.

Development of a series of bioregional congresses that bring together policymakers, business leaders, and community representatives to craft actionable resilience strategies that address specific regional vulnerabilities.

region

Other Formats: The congress model could be transformed into a national commission or digital platform e.g. with a series of webinars that facilitate remote participation, broadening the reach and inclusivity of the initiative.

Transforming Urban Landscapes into Regenerative Public Goods: The Roof Dimension aims to revolutionise urban infrastructure by transforming extractive grey areas, such as heat-absorbing roofs, into beneficial green spaces that serve the public good. This initiative seeks to convert urban spaces that detract from environmental and communal health into vibrant, regenerative sites that contribute positively to the urban ecosystem. This Living Lab aims to set a precedent for sustainable urban development, demonstrating how cities can function as ecosystems that support both environmental health and human well-being.

Objectives

- **Transform Grey Infrastructure:** Redesign and repurpose grey urban areas, starting with rooftops, into green spaces that enhance biodiversity, improve air, and increase public access to green areas.
- **Promote Risk-sensitive Urban Planning:** Integrate green infrastructure into city planning and building regulations to ensure location-based scoring and long-term resilience.
- **Foster Community Engagement:** Engage local actors in the planning and maintenance of these green spaces, enhancing their sense of ownership and connection to the urban environment.

Methodology

Track 1 - Local Green Alignment: Collaborate with city officials and local businesses to exceed regulatory demands and incorporate green infrastructure into existing and new developments.

Track 2 - Incentive Design: Develop incentives for businesses and developers to transform a significant portion of the city's grey infrastructure into green, public, and communal spaces.

Track 3 - Regulatory Change: Influence and change building and urban planning regulations to support and sustain the integration of green infrastructure.

Impact

Environmental: Increased biodiversity, enhanced cooling effects to mitigate urban heat islands, and improved stormwater management to reduce flood risks.

Social: Greater public access to green spaces, fostering a stronger community connection and providing health and recreational benefits to residents with nature.

Economic: Financing instruments enabling co-investments in blue-green infrastructure that increase co-benefits for the area, community and city.

Cultivating Natural Intelligence and Sustainable Food Practices: This project promotes an early appreciation of regenerative food practices while developing a blueprint for broader educational and institutional adoption. By integrating edible gardens into 30% of kindergartens in one or two pilot cities within a short timeframe, it establishes a foundation for scaling in two directions: expanding to additional cities and extending the model to more kindergartens and institutions within the initial pilot cities.

Objectives

- **Increase Awareness and Appreciation of Nature:** Develop children's understanding of and respect for nature through direct interaction with food production and soil management.
- **Establish Lifelong Circular Habits:** By starting in kindergartens and scaling up through educational levels, the project seeks to instill sustainable food consumption patterns that children carry into adulthood.
- **Expand to Broader Communities:** The initiative plans to extend beyond educational settings into corporate environments, promoting widespread adoption of sustainable practices.

Methodology

Track 1 - Exponential Implementation: Start by integrating edible gardens into kindergartens, gradually expanding to primary and secondary schools, and eventually into work spaces.

Track 2 - Hands-On Learning: Employ experimental education techniques where children actively participate in growing, harvesting, and preparing foods, enhancing their tactile and experiential learning.

Track 3 - Building Alliances: Collaborate with educational institutions, local governments, and community organizations to support the integration and maintenance of these edible gardens.

Impact

Educational and Environmental: Children will learn about the origins of food and the importance of sustainable agriculture. This improves nutritional habits and a reduction in unsustainable food consumption. In addition a praxeological education approach can be tested, which does not only focus on knowledge but includes embodied competences (Bourdieu 1976).

Societal: The initiative addresses the disconnect many urban children feel from natural processes and aims to correct misconceptions about food sources exacerbated by modern advertising and urban living.

Planting Seeds for Community-Led Initiatives: This project seeks to tackle the pervasive issues of decreased civic engagement, disconnection from nature, and a diminished sense of agency among city dwellers by establishing a dynamic incubator model. Originally conceptualized through a community garden framework, this model is designed to foster broader applications across various community needs.

Objectives

- **Enhance Civic Engagement:** Provide spaces and initial resources, including guidance and a modest budget, to empower citizens to initiate and lead community projects.
- **Strengthen Community Ties:** By involving city officials as facilitators who ignite and support projects temporarily, the initiative aims to transition into a self-sustaining model driven by community leadership.
- **Build Social Resilience:** Through increased collaboration, the project intends to equip communities to better address complex and evolving challenges, particularly those exacerbated by climate change.

Methodology

Track 1 - Motivational Start: City officials will act as catalysts, providing the necessary tools and guidance to connect existing projects as well as identify and support cross-cutting synergies.

Track 2 - Conscious Transition: Gradually, the role of city officials will diminish, handing over the reins to a fully community-led cooperation with grass-roots initiatives, public institutions, local businesses and financial bodies etc.

Track 3 - Adaptation and Replication: While starting with a community garden, the incubator model is designed to be flexible and adaptable to various other community-driven projects, as determined by the needs and interests of the residents.

Impact

Social and Societal: The project is expected to cultivate a robust sense of responsibility and agency among participants, combating isolation and fostering empathy within the participating communities. Envisioned as a scalable and replicable model, this incubator can be adjusted and applied to other urban settings, potentially transforming civic engagement across regions.

Economic and Environmental: By not directly focusing on climate change but on creating a collaborative society, the initiative indirectly supports communities in their broader challenges - fostering new relationships between humans, nature, technology and institutions.

Machbarschaftsgärten Initiative

Cultivating Urban Resilience and Community in Mannheim: The Machbargarten Initiative is designed to reintegrate food production into urban environments, specifically targeting Mannheim to enhance local resilience against climate impacts. This initiative derives its name from the fusion of Mannheim, neighborhood ("Nachbarschaft"), and feasibility ("Machbarkeit"), reflecting its focus on viable community-driven agricultural practices within the city.

Objectives

- **Revitalize Local Food Production:** Address the scarcity of local vegetable production by creating community gardens that provide direct access to fresh produce for residents.
- **Enhance Urban Green Spaces:** Convert sealed spaces and heat islands within the city into vibrant green areas, improving the urban ecosystem and living conditions.
- **Promote Health and Well-being:** Utilize these gardens to improve mental and physical health through active participation in gardening and consumption of fresh foods.

Methodology

Track 1 - Garden Design Diversity: Each neighborhood garden adapts to its local context and community needs, ranging from traditional community gardens to partnerships with full-time farmers and integration of innovative agricultural technologies.

Track 2 - Inclusivity and Accessibility: Gardens will be accessible to diverse community members, including those with disabilities, to foster a truly inclusive environment.

Track 3 - Resource Sharing: Establish an infrastructure for exchanging resources and ideas among different garden projects, maintaining the self-sufficiency of the single spaces.

Impact

Environmental: Increased biodiversity and reduction in the urban heat island effect through the expansion of green spaces with edible plants e.g. edible tiny forests.

Social: Strengthened community bonds and enhanced neighborhood desirability due to attractive and productive public spaces that can include professional care and maintenance.

Economic: Increase location values within neighbourhoods with financial benefits, alongside reduced dependency on distant food supply chains.

Multi-Agri-Culture Hub



Cultivating Connections through Multicultural Agriculture: This project aims to transform a centrally located nine-hectare agricultural site in Mannheim into a vibrant, multicultural hub for sustainable agriculture. By capitalizing on the city's diversity and its historical connection to sustainability initiatives, the project intends to educate the community on advanced agricultural practices and promote ecological responsibility.

Objectives

- **Regenerative Agri-Cultural Practices:** Hands-on learning environment where residents and visitors can gain insights into future-oriented agriculture and nutrition-infrastructure that addresses the crises of biodiversity, water, and soil health.
- **Multicultural Integration:** Diverse cultural knowledge is used and combined to enhance agricultural methods and practices, reflecting a globally integrated approach to local farming and reconnecting it a planetary health diet.
- **Community Engagement and Support:** Central venue for social events, that can integrate economic activities like cafes and restaurants amongst testing other innovative financing and governance models e.g. civic-industrial alliances.

Methodology

Track 1 - Educational and Cultural Programs: Development of programs that leverage local and international agricultural knowledge, tailored to educate everyone from school children to professionals about regenerative farming and food systems.

Track 2 - Social Event Space: Design of a new venue ranging across community use such as weddings or parties, to professional events like workshops or small fairs, as well as co-working spaces for professionals along the whole food chain.

Track 3 - Agricultural Production and Distribution: Organic produce can be supplied directly to local institutions like kindergartens, hospitals, and schools, ensuring a short supply chain and fresh, healthy food for the community.

Impact

Environmental: Promotion of biodiversity and sustainable land management practices that can serve as a model for urban agriculture initiatives elsewhere.

Social and Cultural: Strengthened community bonds and enhanced cultural appreciation through inclusive agricultural practices that involve the multicultural population of Mannheim or other places.

Economic: Generation of revenue through venue rentals and on-site food services, reinvesting profits into the maintenance and expansion of the agricultural programs incl. community funds and possibly economic viable cooperative between civic and industrial partners.

Strengthening Bioregional Resilience in the Rhine-Neckar Region: This initiative aims to address and bolster regional resilience in the Rhine-Neckar area, emphasising the critical role of the Rhine River as a natural resource, transportation route, and industrial hub. The project seeks to enhance awareness and coordinated action among local stakeholders concerning environmental challenges and socio-political dynamics, including immigration and security concerns.

Objectives

- **Raising Resilience Awareness:** Increased understanding of the Rhine-Neckar's bioregional characteristics and the interconnected challenges posed by climate change and human activities.
- **Coordinating Regional Stakeholders:** Development of mechanisms to engage diverse actors from the bioregion e.g. prosumer-guides in schools or retirement homes for building resilient demand structures.
- **Promoting Inclusivity and Peace:** Contribution to a community ethos that embraces inclusivity and peace, especially in light of potential socio-political tensions such as the rise of democratic demolition.

Methodology

Track 1 - Bioregional Congresses: Hosting of a series of congresses aimed at consolidating bioregional resilience strategies, enhancing citizen engagement, and facilitating cross-sector collaboration.

Track 2 - Learning Modules: Development and prototyping of educational programs that teach how to navigate complexities, security issues, and polarisation within the region.

Track 3 - Adaptive Governance: Examination of readiness of existing administrative boundaries and governance structures for adaptations that better align with the ecological realities and challenges of the bioregion.

Impact

Environmental and Social Resilience: By integrating comprehensive resilience practices, the region is better prepared to handle adverse effects such as heatwaves, droughts, and storms, while also addressing migration dynamics.

Community Cohesion: Through inclusive dialogue and collaboration, the initiative aims to mitigate divisions and enhance social cohesion within the region, educating the public and stakeholders about the bioregion's ecological and social dynamics, contributing to a more adaptive multi-level governance approach.



Challenges & Potentials

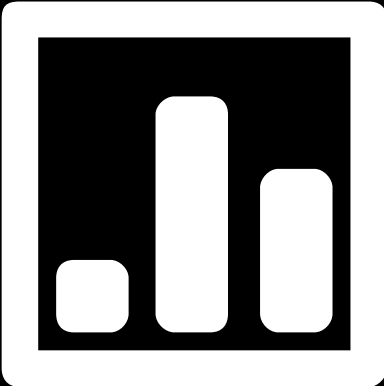
“Approaches that focus narrowly on the limited options that can be directly controlled by a single city department are bound to fall short: roughly 90% of city emissions are outside municipal jurisdiction, the vast majority of relevant decisions need to be taken lay with private actors, and regulatory spaces are shaped by regional and national policies. This highlights the necessity of a more distributed approach to portfolio making – one that leverages a broader range of stakeholders and coordinates efforts across multiple levels of governance.” (Dark Matter Labs)

Highlighting the challenges allowed us to rethink the potential of our discoveries, possibly supported by technology that is able to bridge the gaps between different governance levels and sectors.

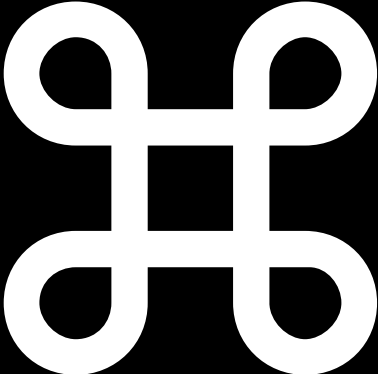
Challenges: Location-based Implementation

The challenges faced by the various Lab development teams have key themes that reflect the complexities of implementing and mainstreaming community-focused urban innovations. They highlight the need for robust planning, learning-centred management, adaptive governance, and strategic business models to ensure the success and impact of the individual projects as well as the overarching approach.

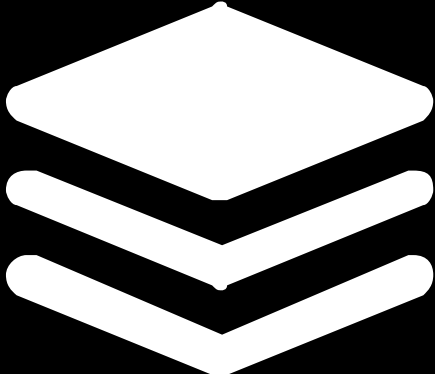
Finance & Mainstreaming



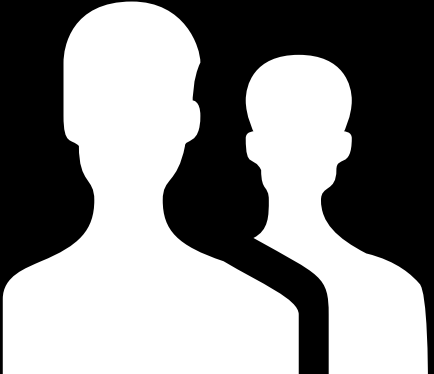
Regulation & Greenwashing



Infrastructure & Technology



Participation & Plurality





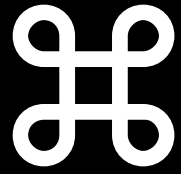
Financial Stability & Mainstreaming

Ensuring economic viability without compromising project goals is a recurring concern. Projects need sustainable financing models that support long-term operations and growth, which can involve creative solutions like hosting events or integrating commercial activities.

Selected Challenges on the Ground:

- Limited financial resources and capacities at existing facilities such as inclusive businesses and canteen kitchens
- Social economy projects (e.g. community-financed agriculture) have problems acquiring start-up funding or are dependent on (time-limited) funding that is not sufficient for amortisation.
- Investment requirements for infrastructure and costs for conversion and implementation are not factored into current budgets

Several projects aim to replicate their models across different settings or embed them in a broader context, such as expanding from kindergartens to schools and beyond. A major question concerns the conditions for upstreaming these models.



Regulatory Rigidity & Greenwashing

Changing existing regulations and aligning with institutional policies are significant hurdles for projects aiming to innovate urban planning and construction practices, such as transforming gray infrastructure into green spaces.

Selected Challenges on the Ground:

- Challenges in switching to sustainable procurement processes in community catering, including compliance with EU competition law and the requirements of procurement guidelines
- There is hardly any supplier market for higher requirements and a limited budget (offering regional and organic products in municipal facilities is difficult, as existing framework contracts are often awarded to suppliers who do not produce locally)

Additionally, for projects involving corporate partnerships or significant changes in public infrastructure, there is a risk of initiatives being superficial or promotional rather than substantive, with true environmental benefits.



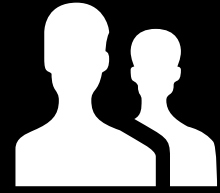
Infrastructure & Technology

The availability of suitable infrastructure and conflicting land use priorities present significant barriers to a broader implementation. Urban and peri-urban areas often face intense competition for space, where industrial, residential, and commercial interests can overshadow agricultural and ecological uses.

Selected Challenges on the Ground:

- Limited self-sufficiency in Mannheim and the region due to land conflicts and existing contracts that restrict the expansion of local agriculture
- Lack of own kitchens in public institutions such as schools and daycare centres, which makes it difficult to implement local and organic food concepts

Projects that incorporate new technologies or innovative approaches must ensure that these innovations are accessible, practical, and effectively contribute to the project's goals, such as those proposing advanced agricultural techniques or green infrastructure.



Reliable Participation & Integrated Plurality

A common challenge across many labs is ensuring ongoing community involvement and interest. Maintaining long-term commitment from participants and managing diverse expectations is crucial for the success of projects like community gardens and urban green transformations.

Selected Challenges on the Ground:

- Difficult coordination of deadlines and lack of cooperation with established agricultural players and the farmers' association
- Differing interests and priorities between conventional and organic farming
- Integration of local farmers into urban supply chains due to logistical challenges and existing distribution channels

Projects that involve diverse cultural or interdisciplinary approaches, such as the multicultural agricultural hub, face challenges in integrating varied practices and knowledge bases into cohesive systems.

Potentials: Bioregional Micro-Macro Deals

Making Micro-Macro Deals

1) Governance Framework: Development of governance procedure and structure with local, regional, and global representatives to oversee project implementation and compliance.

2) Funding Mechanisms: Establishment of funding mechanisms that integrate resources from various levels to support both large and community-based projects.

3) Monitoring and Learning System: Integration of 10x100 as a learning-centred management approach to monitor project outcomes and ensure transparency, providing data to adjust strategies as needed.

4) Public Engagement and Education: Campaign for public support through educational programs and participatory planning, emphasising the benefits of integrated urban development.

A "micro-macro deal" between cities and their bioregions, as part of a portfolio to address interconnected risks, has the potential to creating resilient, sustainable urban and rural systems on multiple scales. This strategic approach recognises the importance of tailoring local solutions that contribute to the implementation of large-scale European and Planetary missions.

High Potential: Regional Collaboration & Policy Harmonisation

- **Policy Synergies:** Alignment of local initiatives with broader regional and continental policies through harmonised regulations on land use, water management, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Shared Resources:** Mainstreaming of Regional (resource or seed) banks and creation of multi-level knowledge hubs that cities can access to implement sustainable practices.
- **Infrastructure Connectivity:** Improvement of physical and digital connectivity across city-regions to streamline the flow of goods, services, and information.



Public Capacity Building

To create long-term, evolutionary responses, we need the orchestrated interaction of private, public and economic actors. Public administrations can drive this transformative measures by effectively using regulatory flexibility in areas like production, demand, procurement, and financing. Building public capacity and trust involves valuing the lab process, and integrating main elements in current government strategies. For example, portfolios can be understood as networks of diverse actors, actions, and assets, connected through shared goals and new regulations. The aim is to tackle complexity with complexity, seeing portfolio practice as a result of deliberate and diverse governance, and to harmonise with, rather than counteract, the natural dynamics of the ecosystems we live in.

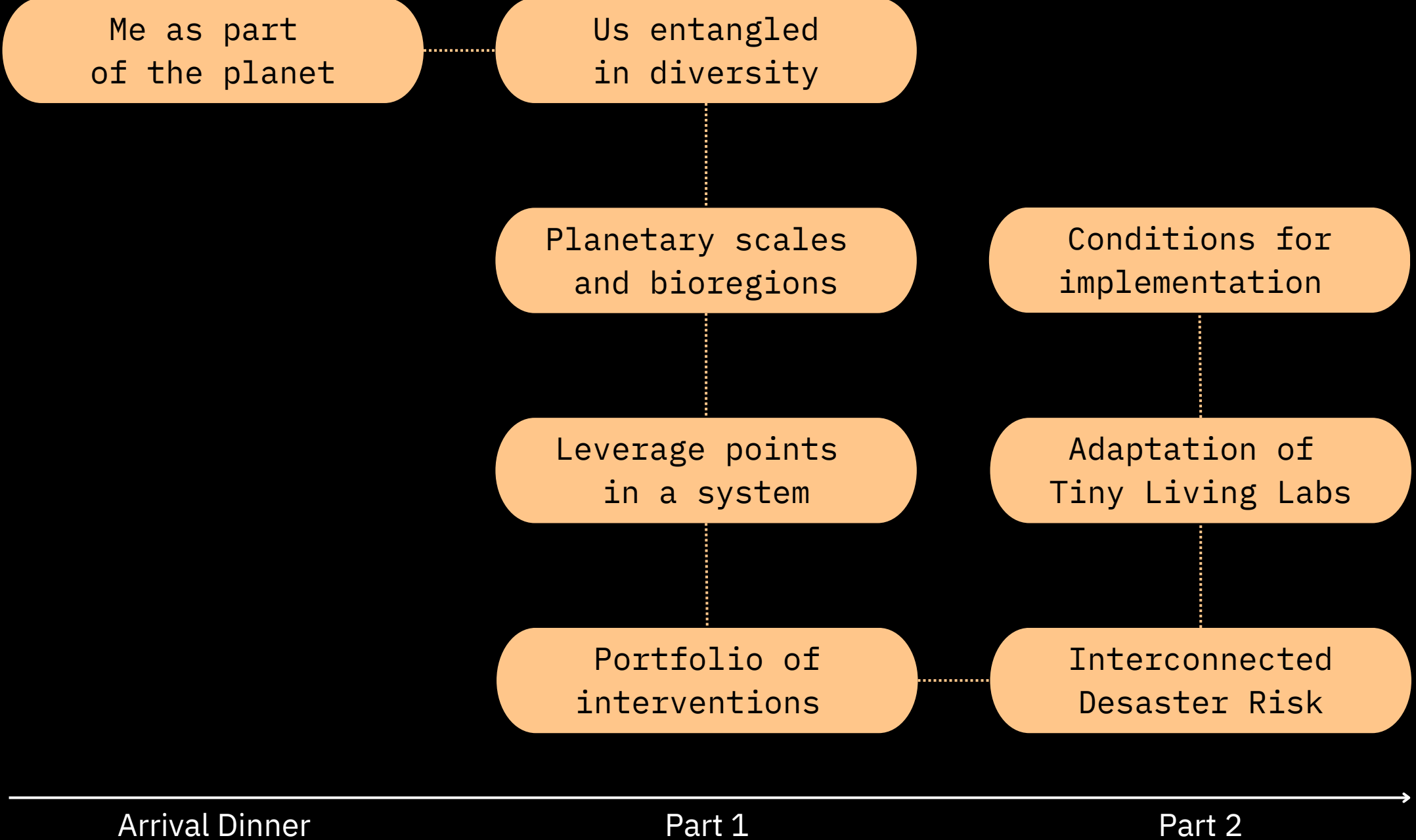
Capacity Building for Cities & Regions

The 10x100 lab agenda is designed to facilitate the formation of transformation alliances that can be replicated across European cities and their regions.

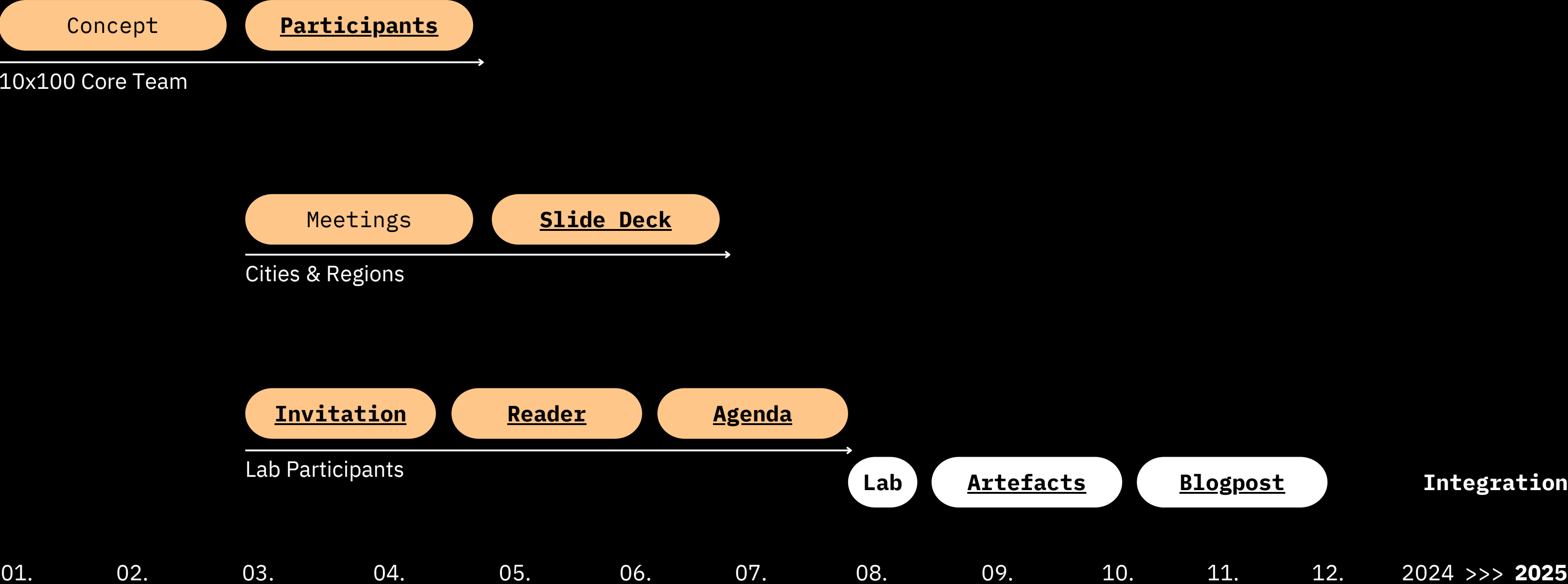
The program begins ideally with a dinner that encourages participants to reflect on their role within the planetary ecosystem, setting a personal context for the lab work.

Part 1 introduces the complexity of urban-bioregional challenges, focusing on diversity, scalability, and strategic leverage points that inform a portfolio of interventions.

Part 2 moves from theory to practice, addressing interconnected disaster risks, the adaptation of Tiny Living Labs for broader application, and the essential conditions for their successful implementation.



Lab Process and Related Materials





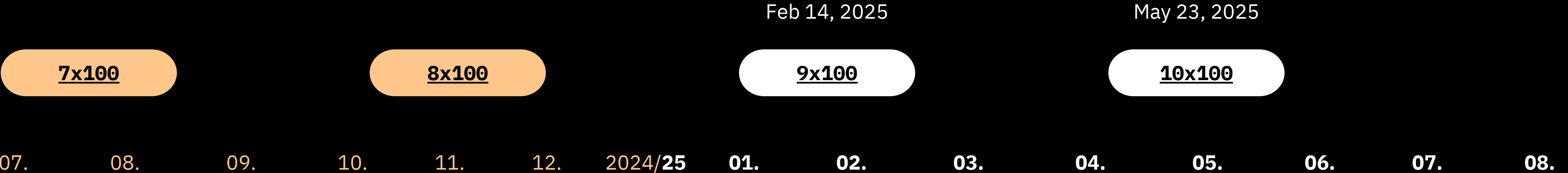
10x100 Process - Save the Dates

Lasting Agreements for Alliance Settings

During 7x100, we embarked on rethinking transformative processes across various sectors and co-produced a MOU template that combines the collective wisdom and aspirations of the participants.

Role Alignment for Systemic Change

In our 8x100 call, we explored the tension between Theory & Practice / Concept & Implementation ... We made related roles explicit, and discussed how we can form new relationships for more effective collaboration.





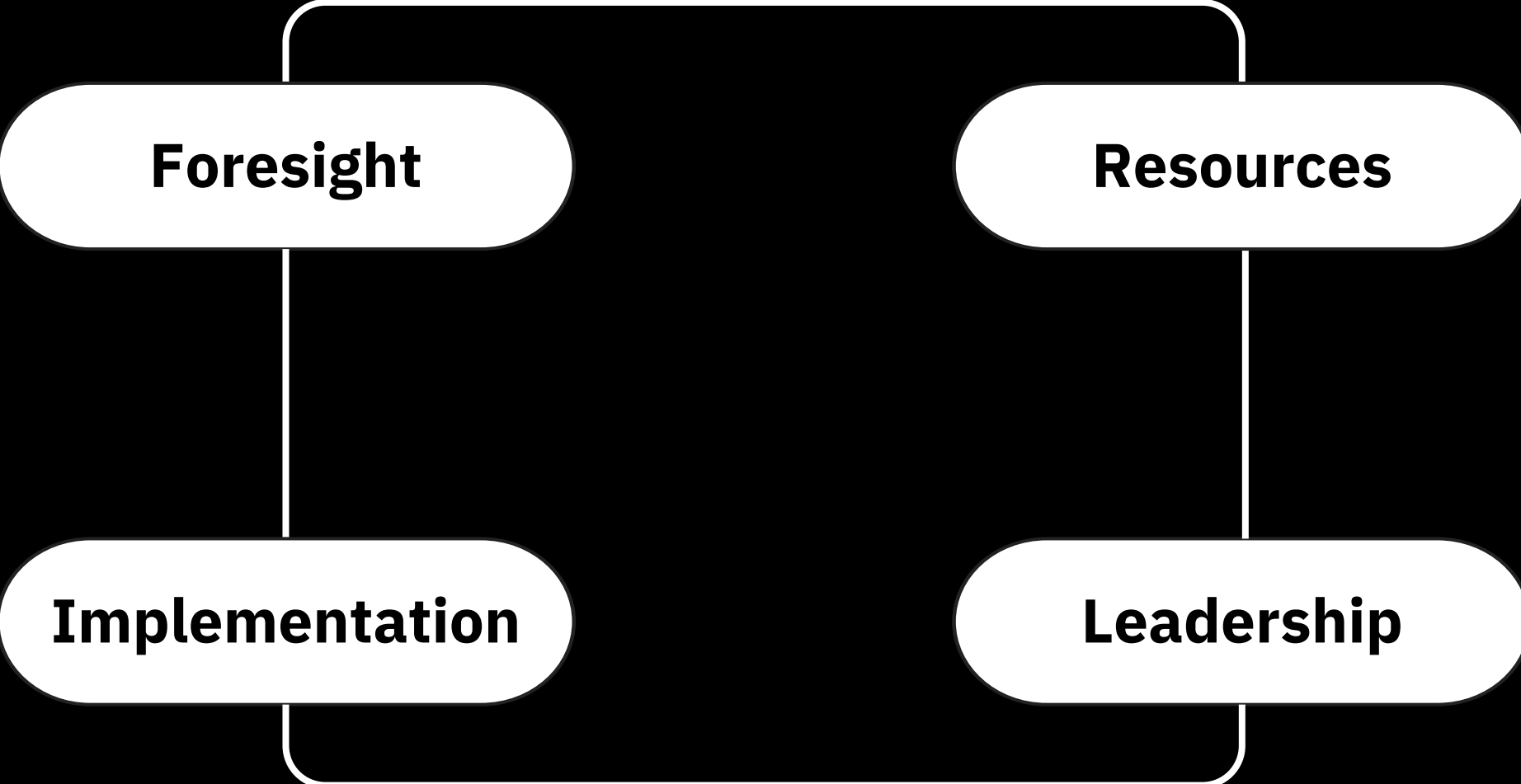
Outlook 2025 & 2026

Taking a systemic approach to urban planning and service provision ensures that local initiatives can be integrated into broader city planning and governance structures in a way that promotes environmental regeneration and social equity. The transformative ideas, developed 2024, aim for measurable and visible improvements in various sustainability categories in the short term. At the same time they sharpen our understanding of the systemic interrelationships of the transformation in the medium term and can contribute to a new social contract between the stakeholders in the long term - overcoming individual interests and securing the foundations of life for many future generations.

Further Connections and Dissemination

Contribution to ‘New European Metabolic Politics’ and ‘Learning Research Agendas’ through collective foresight approaches e.g. JRC and Decision Theatre

Local Implementation Alliances at the intersection of Smart Cities, Sustainability, Bioeconomy, Culture and Public Services e.g. Berlin and Mannheim



Network for financing location-based transitions with a focus on urban ecosystem services for effective microclimate adaptation e.g. with Stuttgart, Fellbach

Capacity building for civil servants who are interested in facilitating and procuring systemic change processes within their influence e.g. with Linz, Bern, Dessau

Emerging Themes for EFA25 & EFA26

Development of Next Institutional Models

- Develop insitutional models to manage supply chain integrations e.g. food logistics, supporting local economies.
- Implement cooperative governance structures to enhance community benefits and ensure solidarity in supply chains.

Commons-Public-Private Partnerships

- Focus on structuring resilient commons-public-private partnerships to ensure long-term value generation and community benefits.
- Target partnerships for managing urban spaces and local food systems in connection with regional hubs.

Technology and Governance Integration

- Integrate technology to manage logistics and governance of food systems.
- Explore cooperative or commons-based models for digital platforms that can automate administration across different levels.

Innovative Economic and Finance Approaches

- Research new economic models to support public services, like child nutrition programs in schools.
- Approach community land trusts and other communal financial mechanisms to fund local priorities as a network or with bioregional currency.

“The next big thing will be many small things.”



This document has been developed based on the inputs, conversations, divergences and dialogues between many excellent people.
If you would like to join the conversation, please reach out to: Caroline Paulick-Thiel, cpt@politicsfortomorrow.de or alliance@10x100.cc