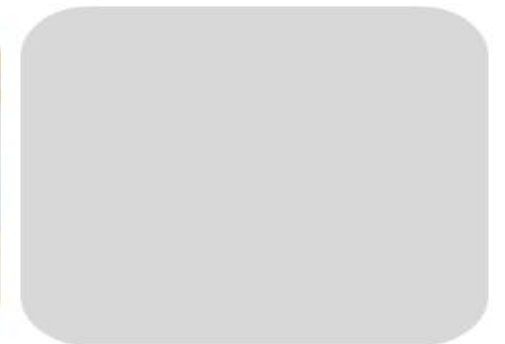


New Pathways to Social Change - Creating Impact through Social Innovation Research

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Howaldt

Pathways to Impact from SSH Research

Vienna, November 2018



„Innovation“ as a key concept of modern societies





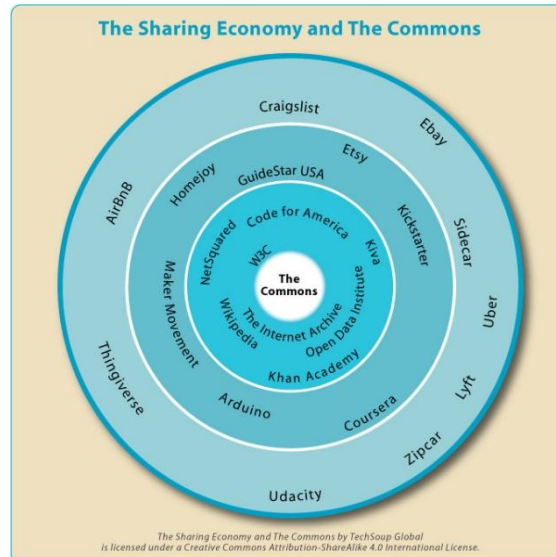
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

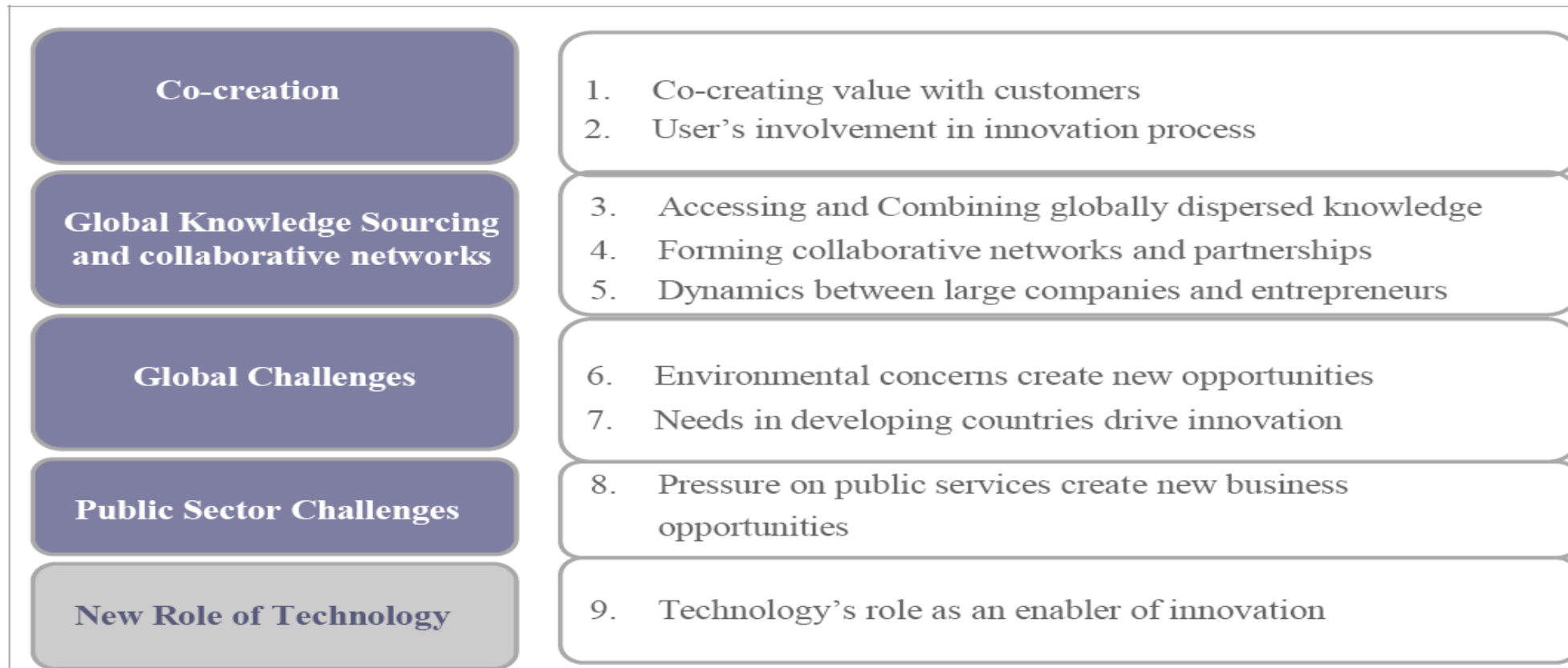




Social Innovation: new social practices
addressing the social, economic, political and
environmental challenges of the 21st century
(Howaldt/Schwarz 2010)



New Innovation Paradigm: Opening up the innovation process to society by co-creation, user involvement, empowerment of citizens



A New Nature of Innovation (OECD 2011)

*“Although social innovations pop up in many areas and policies and in many disguises, and social innovation is researched from a number of theoretical and methodological angles, **the conditions under which social innovations develop, flourish and sustain and finally lead to societal change are not yet fully understood both in political and academic circles.**”*

Jenson/Harrisson





SI-DRIVE Project

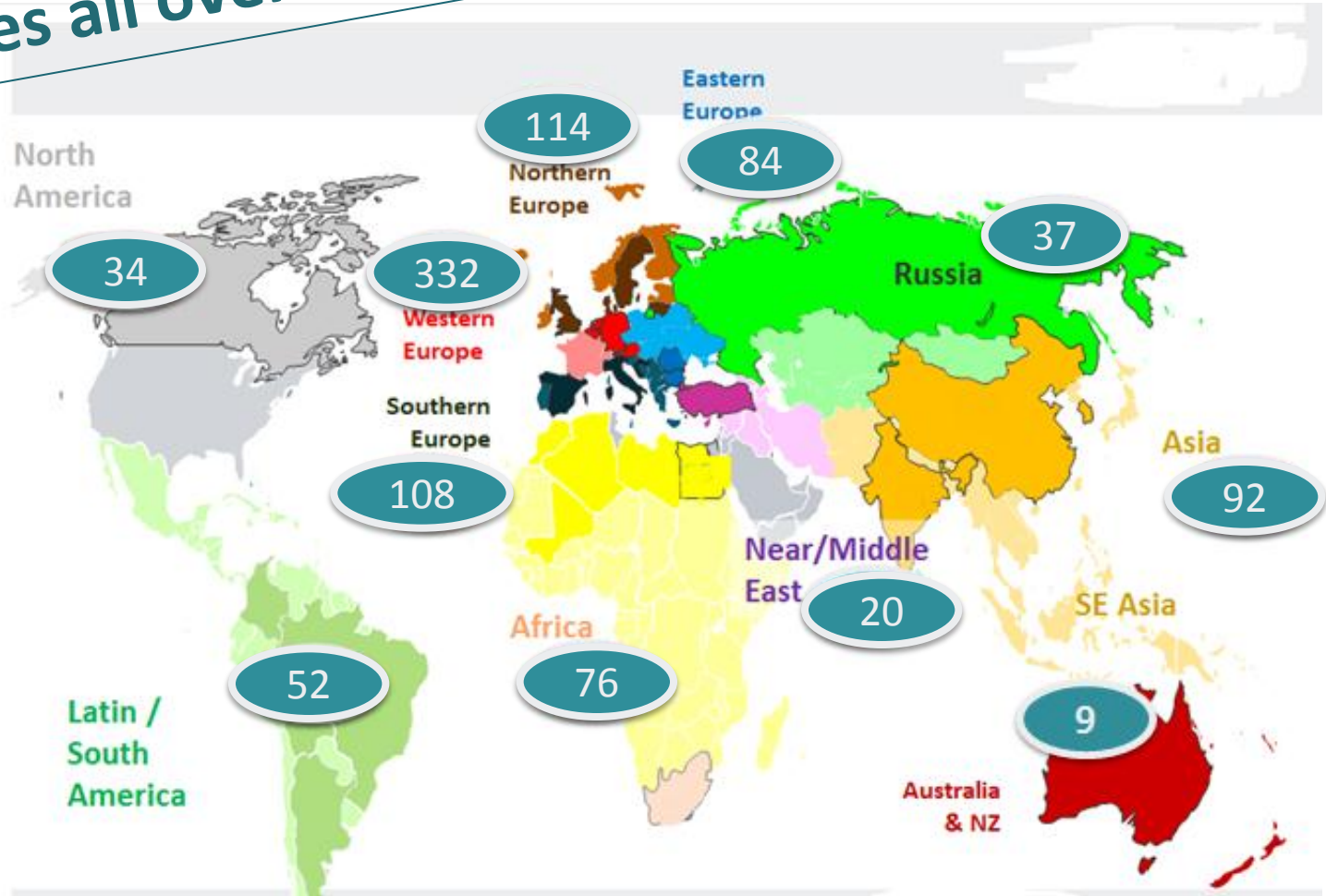
Mission: Extending knowledge about Social Innovation as a driver of social change

First global mapping of Social Innovation initiatives



1.005 SI Cases all over the world

Region, where the initiative was implemented

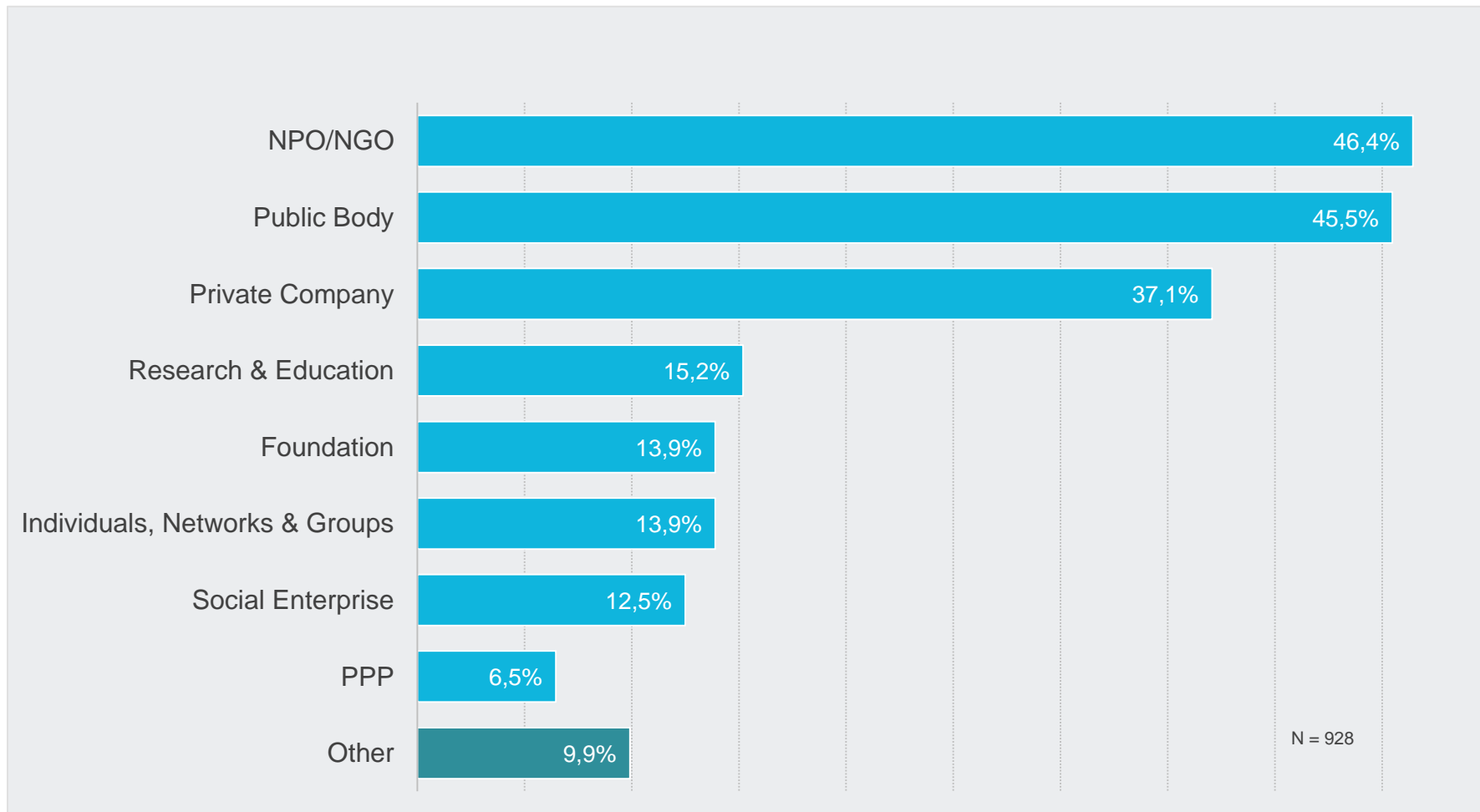


47 Cases N/A

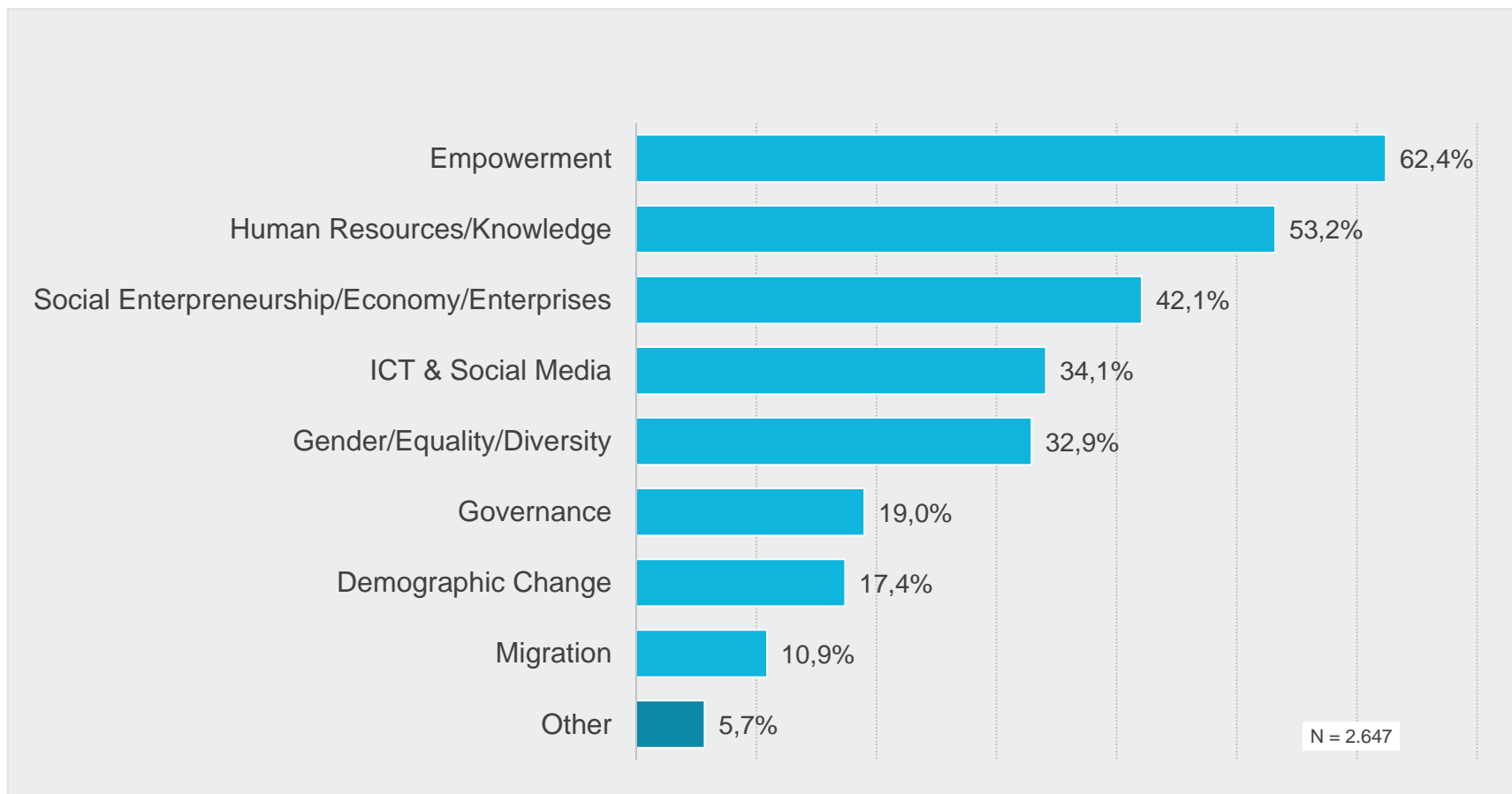
Case Studies (Policy Fields)

| | Cases | Practice Fields |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Education | 18 | Disadvantaged groups, new learning arrangements, new digital environments, quality improvement, partnership education and economy |
| Employment | 10 | Youth unemployment and vulnerable groups, social entrepreneurship, workplace innovation |
| Environment | 10 | Circular Economy, Alternative sustainable food production and distribution, Alternative sustainable food production and distribution, smart city context |
| Energy Supply | 7 | Energy collectives, Providing examples and inspiration, Local production of energy |
| Transport and Mobility | 9 | Car-sharing, mobility of vulnerable groups |
| Health and Social Care | 15 | Shift in care location, self-management, Integrated care delivery, E-health, m-health, New models of care |
| Poverty Reduction | 13 | Micro financing & safety nets, community capacity building & advocacy, displacement & refugees |
| Total | 82 | |

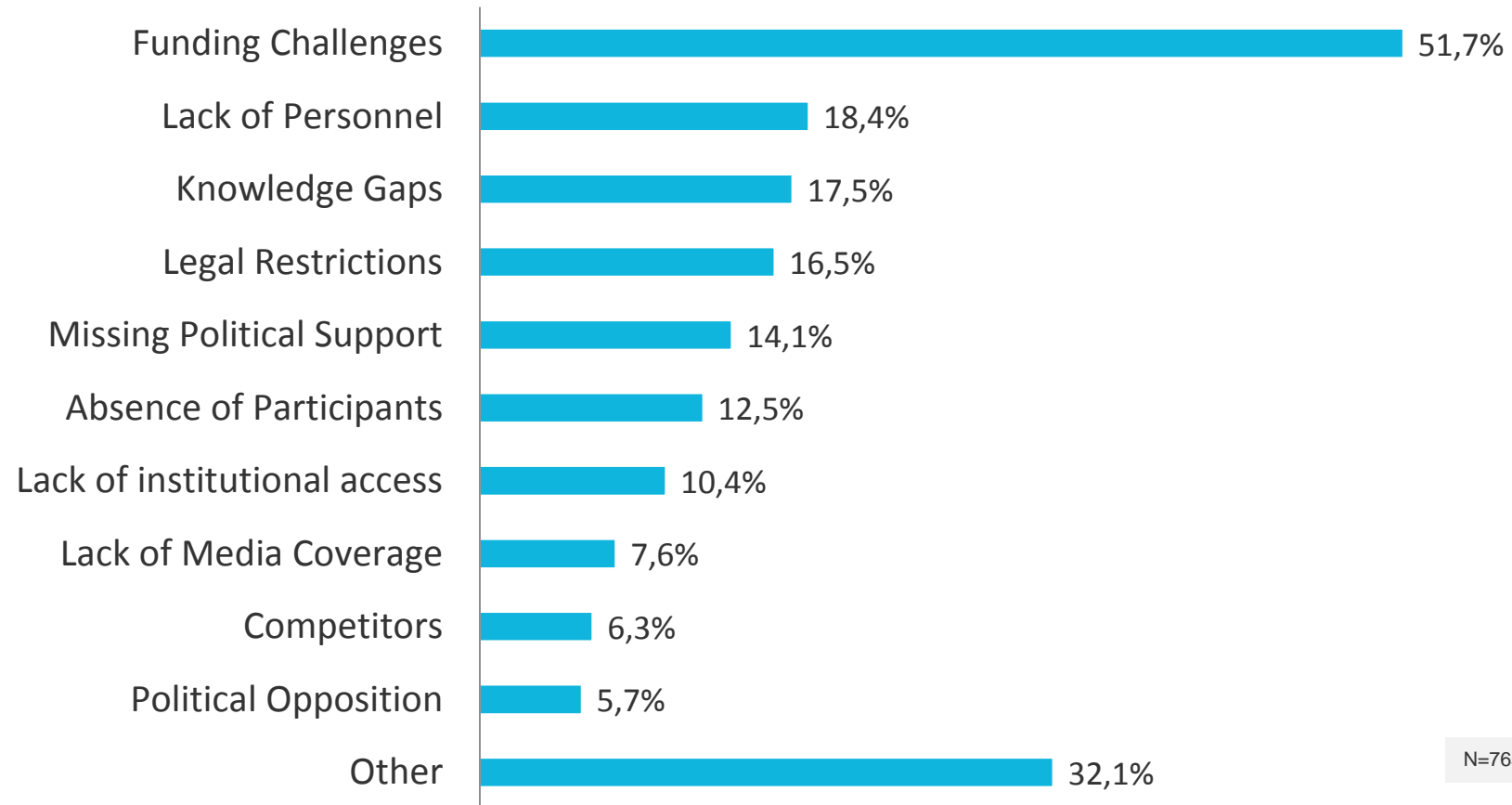
Type of Partners



Cross-Cutting-Themes the Initiatives are Addressing



Main Barriers



Increasing Importance and Undeveloped Potential

The global mapping revealed the **strong need for social innovation in the seven policy fields.**

But at the same time

“... policy field related documents of public authorities such as the European Commission, the United Nations, the OECD, the World Bank, etc. often do not refer to social innovations (exceptions are Horizon 2020 documents as well as publications of other DGs such as DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs). “

Source: Compiling report

A comprehensive innovation policy creating differentiated funding opportunities

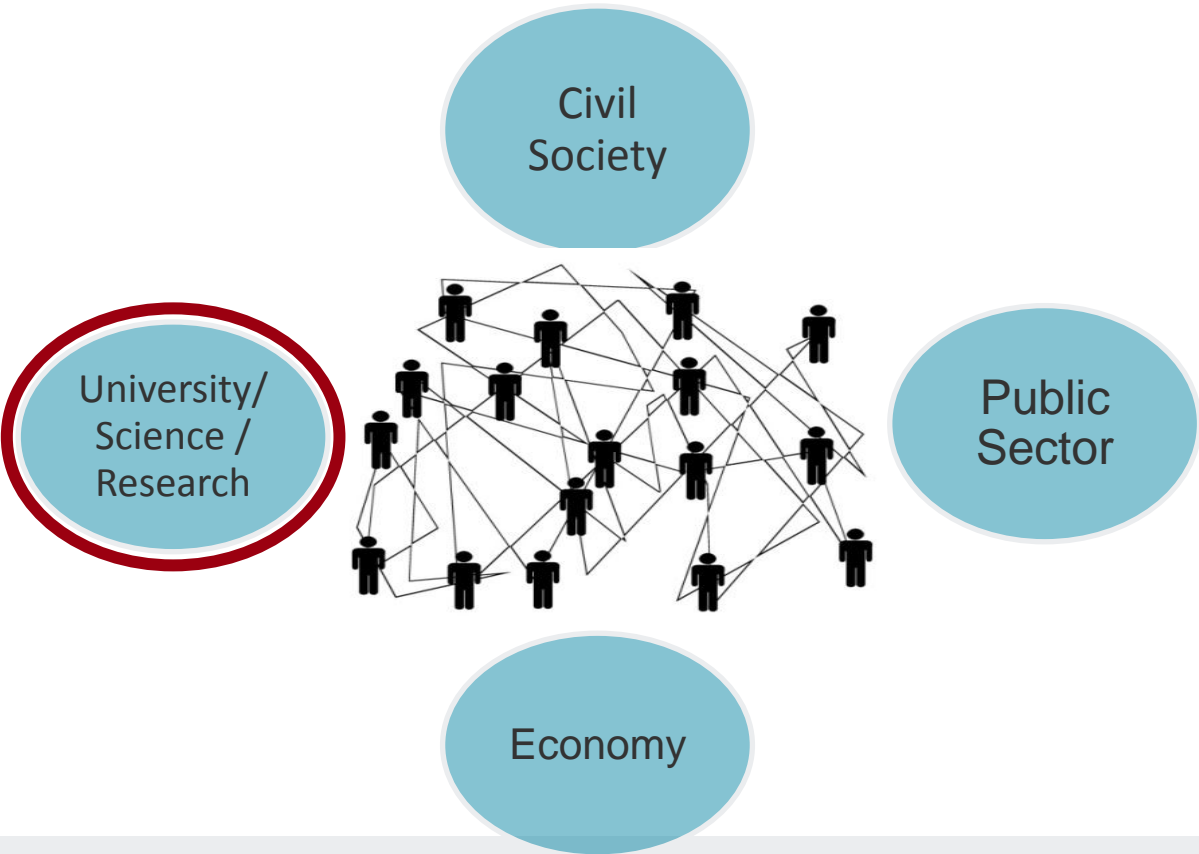
One of the most important challenges of the future is creation of **funding formats** which enable impulses for the development, experimentation and diffusion of social innovations.

This includes funding which

- explores the specifics of social innovations,
- merges social and technological innovations in a synergistic way.



Ecosystems of Social Innovation: Development of new alliances



Social Innovation for Germany



Today we see universities and research institutions confronted with the challenge of realizing their potential in the sense of a comprehensive understanding of innovation regarding technological *and* social innovations.

- To integrate the topic of social innovation in class and teaching
- To research social innovations and to give an impulse to processes of societal change
- To include societal actors at an early stage in research and transfer and to increase the potential of innovation for SI in the society

Innovation Research focussing on technologies

In recent decades, social science research has contributed largely to developing the social preconditions for innovations and the social character of innovation processes.

But: the central focus rests on the social preconditions and influencing factors for (predominantly) technological innovations.

Division of Labor

The social sciences have analysed the innovation process while natural and engineering sciences produce innovations or the prerequisites for innovations.

Towards an autonomous research field...

Working on *conceptual clarity and theoretical foundation* of SI is becoming increasingly important for dealing with specific thematic areas, e.g. (Domanski & Kaletka 2017):

- Public sector innovation
- Digital social innovation
- Intermediaries
- Social economy
- Cities and regional development
- Collaborative and sharing economy
- Community-led innovation
- Corporate social innovation



https://www.siceurope.eu/sites/default/files/field/attachment/exploring_the_research_landscape_of_social_innovation.pdf

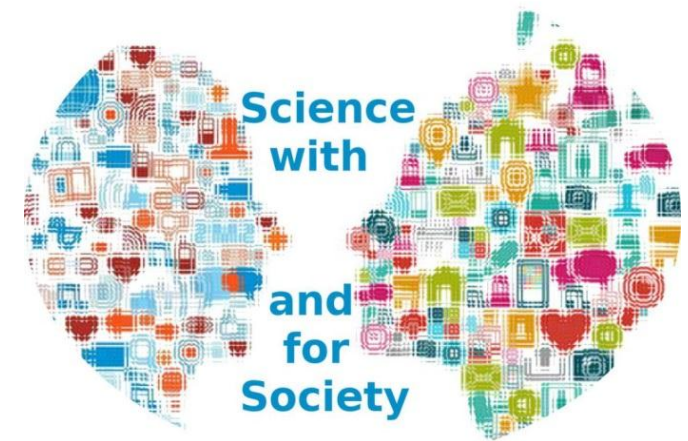
Social Innovation: A Challenge for SSH

Impulses for societal change

When researching social innovations and their preconditions, those approaches and constellations draw interest in which science is an active driver and stakeholder of the process.

Therefore, new concepts and formats are required.

- *Participatory Action Research*
- *Design-Thinking*
- *Transition Research and Design*
- *New Mode of Knowledge Production*
- *Citizen Science*
- *Responsible Research and Innovation*
- *Social Innovation Centres/Labs/Incubators*



“SSH have been precursors of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research for decades and should be encouraged to pursue their efforts.

They have created interdisciplinary fields (urban and regional studies, human ecology and geography, governance studies, policy studies, ...) in which interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary cooperation has been conceived and implemented.”

“SI should ... be seen as an arena of opportunities for bottom-linked governance reconnecting local communities to Europe and for setting up customised delivery systems for social services.”

Moulaert et al. 2017, 51 & 43f



A 'new mode of knowledge production' combining sociological reflection and social action

- Problem definition as a process of consensus building and negotiation
- Problem solving and knowledge production in the framework of trans-and interdisciplinary networks
- Orientation towards the production of 'robust' knowledge' (Nowotny et al. 2001)
- New approaches, methods and tools of research
- Multi-dimensional criteria of evaluation

(Howaldt/Kopp 2012)



Conclusion

The great challenge for contemporary innovation research lies in analysing the potential of Social Innovation in the creation of new social practices that enhance an inclusive, equitable, democratic, participative, and above all socially anchored future. This will allow people to live richer, more fulfilled and prosperous lives.

<https://www.socialinnovationatlas.net/>



SIdrive