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Sustainable urban development and innovation:
Aligning policies for change

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Overview

- **Cities & the Pandemic**
- **The Wellbeing Economy**
- **Cities in the multilevel polity**
- **The foundational economy lens**
- **Urban innovation in practice**
- **Mission-led innovation... needs a stronger spatial sensibility**

Cities & the pandemic: peak density?

- COVID-19 - triggered new debates about the future of cities
- Agglomeration, density and F2F communications - normally associated with innovation and prosperity
- Now they are associated – in the public mind - with mortality and morbidity
- But density per se is not the problem – high density cities have low mortality rates, low density areas (North Dakota) the highest
- Hard to distinguish ephemeral v enduring changes, but C-19 has certainly caused us to view and value things anew – especially wellbeing!

Wellbeing Economy

Measuring the Wellbeing Economy:

How to Go Beyond-GDP



	INDEX	INDICATOR DASHBOARD
Conceptual foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic concepts (Green Accounting) Measure of Economic Welfare Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare Genuine Progress Indicator Genuine Savings/Adjusted Net Savings/ Comprehensive Wealth (World Bank) Inclusive Wealth Index (UN) Depletion-Adjusted Net Value Added* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic concepts Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (OECD) Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendation on Measuring Sustainable Development (UN/OECD/EC) Better Life Initiative (OECD) Living Standards Framework (New Zealand) Monitor of Wellbeing (The Netherlands)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing concepts Subjective Well-being U-index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing concepts Quality of Life Dashboard (Eurostat) Measures of National Well-Being Dashboard (UK)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biophysical concepts Ecological Footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biophysical concepts/Social Floors Planetary boundaries (Stockholm Resilience Institute) Doughnut Economics (Kate Raworth)
Stakeholder/Mathematical foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematical index Human Development Index (UN) Sustainable Society Index Happy Planet Index Social Progress Index SDG index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder/Political Sustainable Development Goals (UN)

Wellbeing Economy Government (WEGo) Network



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



New Zealand Government
Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa



Government of Iceland



Government
of Canada

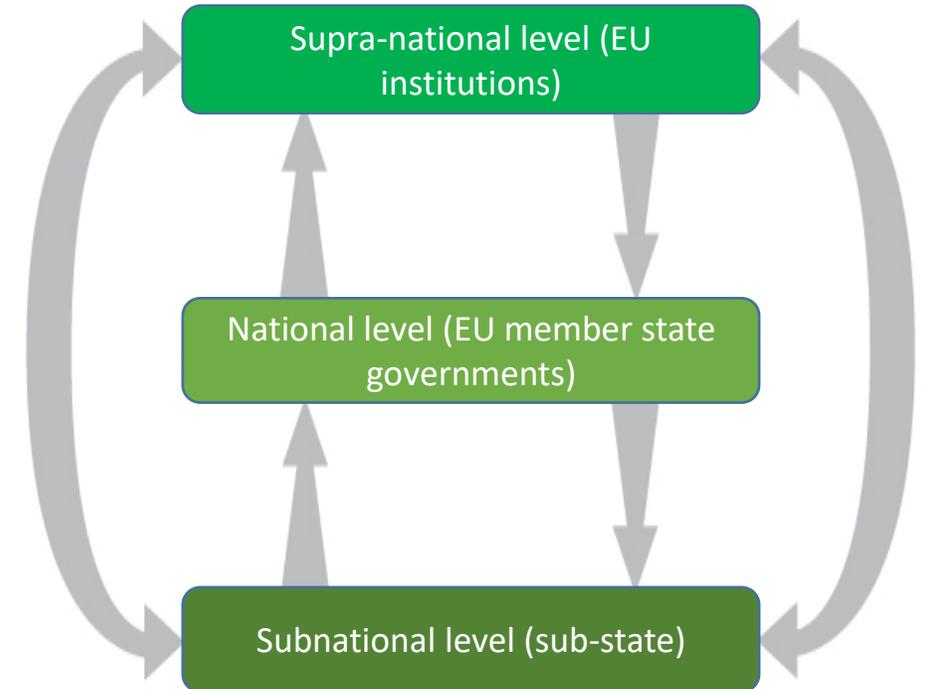
Gouvernement
du Canada



FINNISH
GOVERNMENT

Multi-level governance concept

- The multi-level governance (MLG) concept is a useful way to highlight the **inter-dependence** between institutional levels
- But it doesn't **explain** very much!
- Key problem – it implies the **subnational level** is the lowest and least important level
- But in **impact** terms it is the most important because it is where policies are **implemented** and where **citizens** are most directly engaged



Horizontal and vertical alignment

- The MLG concept implies that the **vertical** axis is all important in terms of power relations and policy networks
- But the **horizontal** axis is equally important if we want to design **and** deliver policies that are genuinely aligned
- All 3 levels of the multi-level polity – the European, the Member State and the Sub-state – struggle to align their **horizontal** policy networks
- Robust **horizontal** networks are essential for co-production
- **Co-production** is essential for European Green Deal, RIS4, SDGs, and the Wellbeing Economy (e.g. Foundational economy)

Foundational Economy

- The foundational economy focuses on place-based wellbeing and consists of 2 key components:

- i. **Providential services** like health services and care, universal primary and secondary schooling, public food provisioning
- ii. **Material infrastructure** of pipes and cables connecting households to systems which make everyday life safe, sound and civilised (and added an extra 20 years to urban life after 1880)

- **The FE constitutes the infrastructure of everyday life** that has something to offer everyone everywhere (unlike the spatial competition for FDI which pits places against each other)

Urban innovation in practice

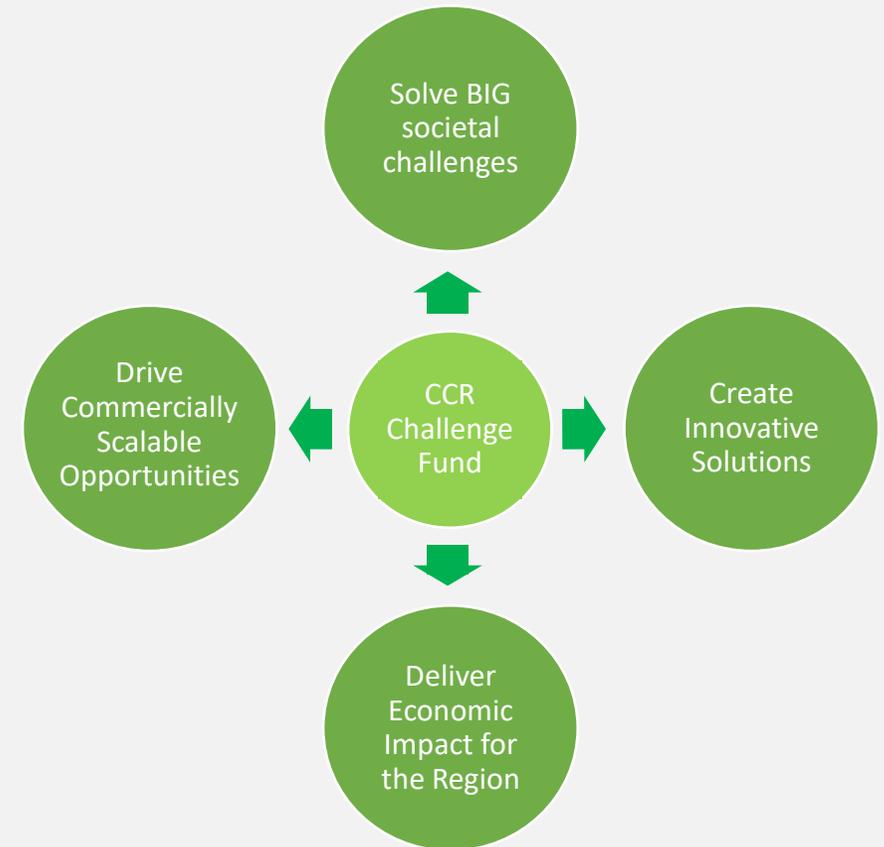
Cardiff Capital Region Challenge Fund

The £10m Challenge Fund aims to build local wealth through creating commercial opportunities for organisations across the CCR, by inviting them to propose solutions to Public Sector challenges in and around the foundational economy



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Cardiff Capital Region Challenge Fund

Three priority themes

- i. Supporting, enhancing and transforming communities
- ii. Accelerating decarbonisation
- iii. Improving health and well-being of citizens



Horizon Europe

- Research & innovation policy in the EU is informed by the mission-oriented perspective
- Suggested missions include:
 - i. conquering cancer
 - ii. climate-neutral cities
 - iii. plastic-free oceans
 - iv. healthy soils/food

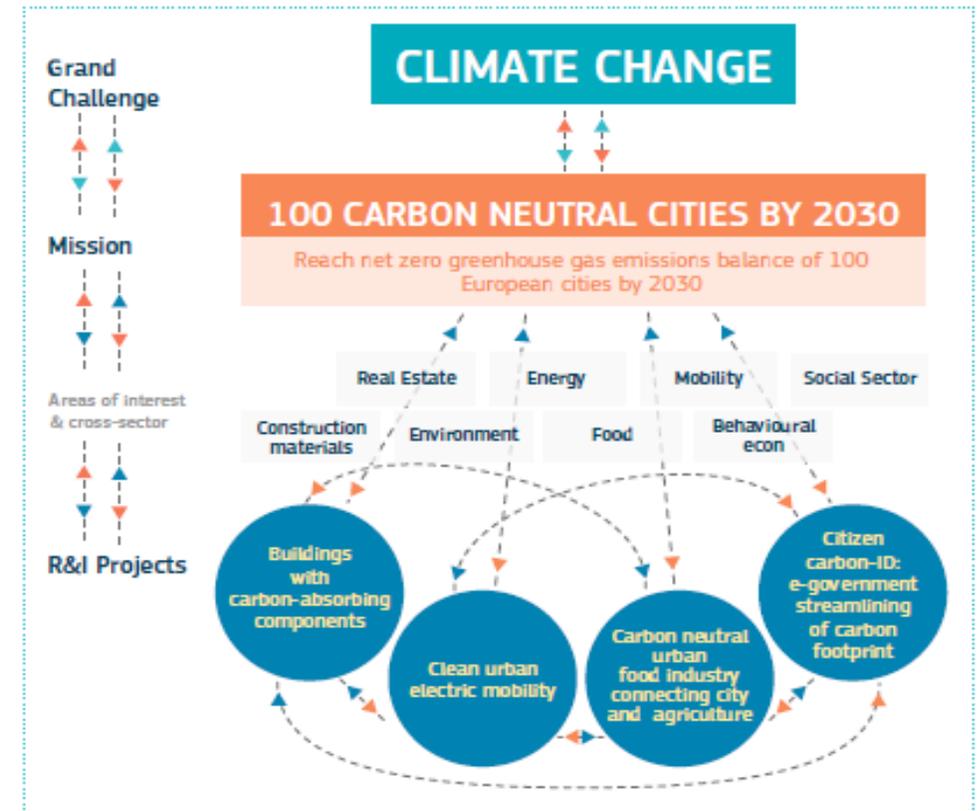


Future missions for cities?

- The report said certain conditions were crucial to the success of mission-led R&I policy, especially:

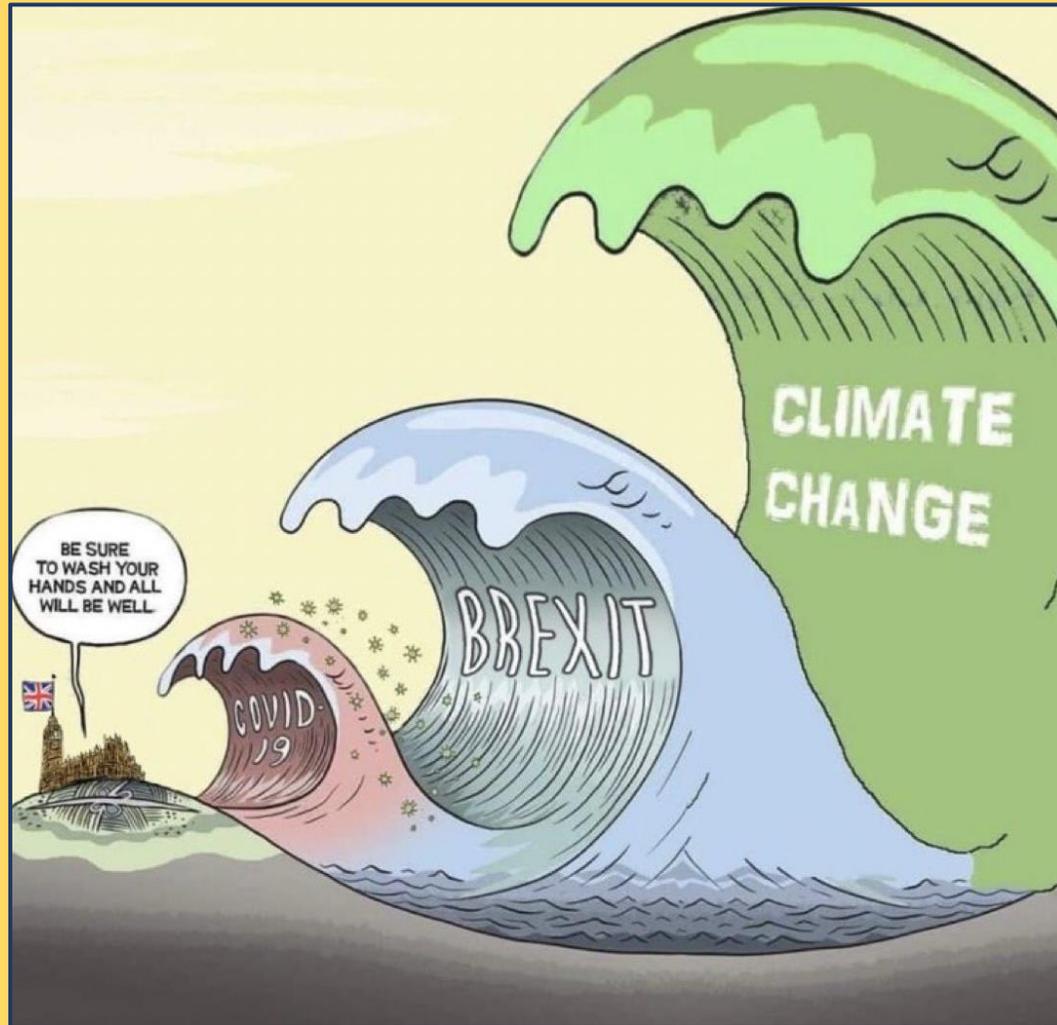
- public participation** is vital in the selection and for the sustained political commitment to societal missions
- public institutions** at all levels need to have the capacity and expertise to design, deliver and coordinate missions

- Missions are clearly **multi-level experiments** in which cities, regions and municipalities are key players
- Aligning policies – vertically and horizontally – will be the biggest challenge



Missions need a stronger spatial sensibility

- Multi-level governance highlights the challenge of forging more effective **vertical** policy alignment - from supra-national to the subnational level of cities, regions and municipalities
- But **horizontal** policy alignment is just as important – especially for place-based outcomes
- Subnational govts need to be **empowered** - to deploy local knowledge and harness civic engagement
- If **power and knowledge** are divorced at the subnational level we will never deliver on the promise of the European Green Deal, RIS4, SDGs, and the Wellbeing Economy



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