

What soft skills do we need to connect value chain actors and support innovative networks??

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What are we talking about when we refer to soft skills ?

Soft skills are *interpersonal*
characterize how a person interacts in his / her relationships with others

communication, listening, empathy, creative thinking, work ethics,
team work, flexibility, problem-solving, positivity, critical thinking,
conflict resolution... »»»»» **crucial for engaging with others**



Difficult to assess

Not possible to obtain in a
classroom

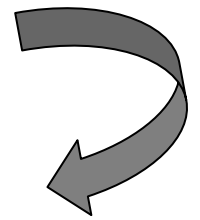
Only learning in life



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Connecting value chain actors + innovative networks



require collective actions

across different actor groups



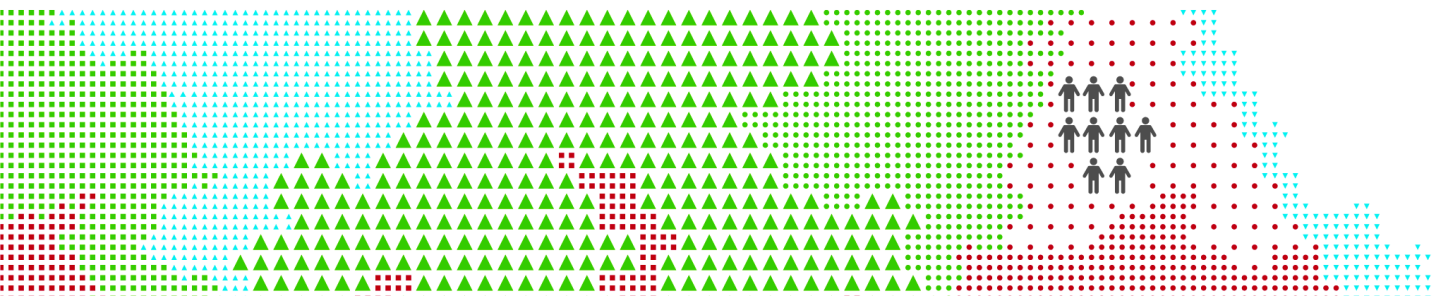
EX: Mediterranean Europe

»» small and large scale farming, intensive and extensive, mosaic of farming systems

»» much proximity collaboration, supported on informal channels and hybrid connections, often one-to-one linkages at the very local scale

»» new urban demands and new entrants in farming increase retro-innovations and new farming systems and market chains

»» new formal spaces to knowledge and information sharing



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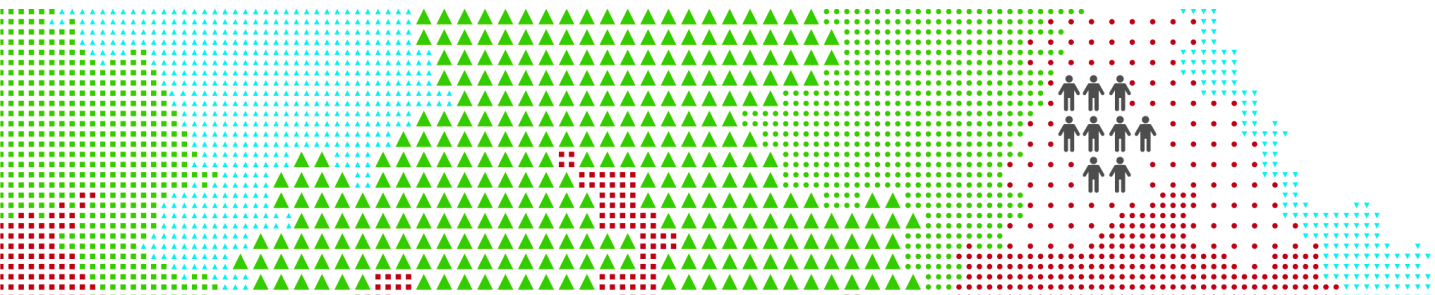


BUT, to face complexity

collective actions require trust and organization capacity

....different case studies in Southern Europe show that:

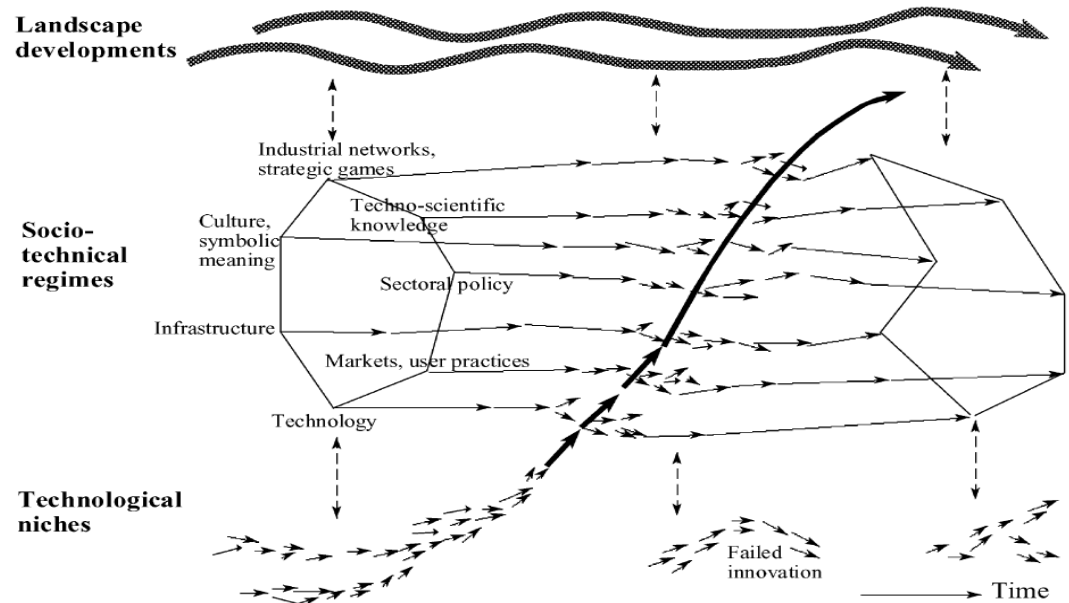
- * high potential for new value chains to emerge**
- * among actors soft skills for collaboration and networking strongly missing**
- **leaders lack support and do not have the institutional position or capacity to guide complex networks**
- **public authorities lack flexibility and capacity to adapt to new demands**
- **innovative initiatives remain un-seen and thus also un-supported**



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Transition theory shows us
...niches appear but fail to anchor
in the regime



**The established mindset is not only of farmers,
but also of many other regime actors**

**>> change in management paradigms and value chain functioning require
a transition pathway where multiple factors need to play together**



**CAN SOFT SKILLS BE ENHANCED ?
HOW ? WHICH ACTORS SHOULD BE THE TARGET ?
»» A NEW CHALLENGE FOR PUBLIC INTERVENTION**

THANKS!

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