

Understanding regional decision structures and the role of key actors



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Tailored Improvement of  
Brownfield Regeneration  
in Europe

# Drivers and Barriers in Regeneration Projects: the Project Ecology Approach

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# Content



1. Why are there differences in regeneration?
2. Explaining the differences: the PE model
3. Findings from the Timbre countries
4. Brief recommendations

# Why differences in regeneration?



D  
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## Drivers and Barriers

- ❏ Drivers = characteristics – regulatory, economic and institutional/cultural factors – of a given country, region or locality that foster the regeneration of brownfields
- ❏ Barriers = characteristics having the opposite effect, of retarding or blocking regeneration projects.
- ❏ Drivers and barriers (henceforth D & B) as convenient way of understanding differences in regeneration



# Existing research... and the Timbre sociological approach



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- Identifies & classifies drivers & barriers according to different criteria (spatial, economic, technological)
- Interest in stakeholders' perceptions of D & B
- However, D & B are seen as independent from the actors involved

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- D & B are not absolute categories but *become relevant* for actors as they act
- We ask: where do actors encounter D & B when they engage in regeneration projects?



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# What is a project?

- 📦 Projects refer to “groups comprising a mix of different specialist competences, which have to achieve a certain goal or carry out a specific task within limits set as to costs and time” (Sydow et al. 2004: 1480).

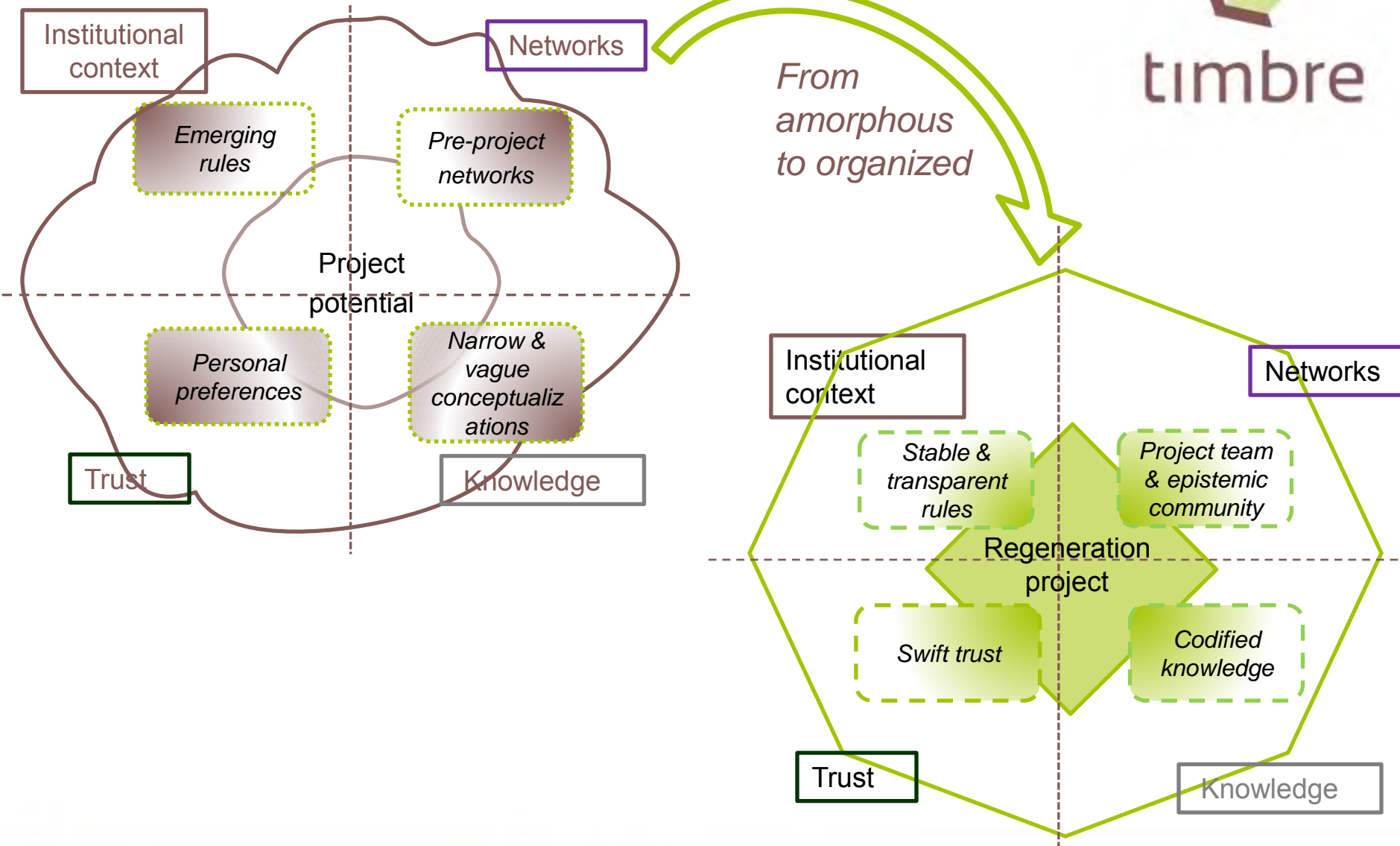
## *Important:*

- 📦 Mix of competencies – inputs from a range of actors
- 📦 Limits of time and costs – analytically meaningful unit of analysis
- 📦 Indicates where relevant D & B will cluster: 4 areas

# The Project Ecologies Model



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# Methodology in brief



Interviews (22) and focus groups (3) carried out in the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania

Coded & analysed with a qualitative software (Maxqda) and interpreted from the PE perspective

A screenshot of the MaxQDA qualitative data analysis software interface. The left pane shows a hierarchical "Code System" with categories like "Terminology and values Confusion", "Understanding Remediation", "Romanian Reality", "Environmental attitude", "Expectations", "Science, practitioners' conflict", "Old and new practices", "Contradictory practices", and "EU Funding". A central box labeled "System of codes" is overlaid on this pane. The right pane displays a transcript of an interview with various codes applied to different parts of the text. A green box highlights a section of the transcript with the text: "Transcripts of interviews, focus groups etc. refers to).". The transcript includes dialogue between a researcher (F) and a participant (CT) discussing the approach to a project and the complexity of contamination.



# Findings from the Timbre countries (3)



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## *The institutional context*

- ❖ Coherent and stable: in the Czech Republic, entrepreneurs & others are supported by CzechInvest, find guidance in a national strategy for BFs and have environmental liabilities covered by the National Property Fund.
- ❖ Incomplete and unstable: in Romania, actors see their ability to promote brownfield regeneration hampered by a lacking legal framework.



# Findings from the Timbre countries (2)



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## *Networks: from inchoate to organized*

- ❖ Hunedoara, RO: Actors have difficulty in organizing themselves for regeneration due to political changes, lack of trust & lack of national-level support
- ❖ Ostrava, CZ: organized project network (with core team & enterprise) in charge of cleaning up the Ostrava lagoons.



# Findings from the Timbre countries



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## *Trust*

- ❏ Experts/engineers are trusted because they are seen as applying “valid principles of engineering” (Grabher 2002: 210)
- ❏ Investigation on rubble in HD: “These are [trivial] problems... such project should bring up problems of [greater] scope, to really pose some [important] questions”




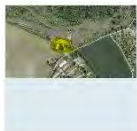
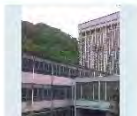
# Findings from the Timbre countries (4)



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## *Knowledge: stories, culture, tools*

- Stories: actors speak about the past & present of a BF, but not about its future
- Culture: actors find a common understanding on what is to be done
- Tools: actors can codify this understanding into (re)usable tools

<b>Cukrářství, Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou</b>	
- Municipality:	Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou
- Type of site:	Complex (land with buildings)
- Previous use of the site:	Agriculture
- Size of site:	12477 m <sup>2</sup>
	
<b>Cvičiště A, Mikulov</b>	
- Municipality:	Mikulov
- Type of site:	Complex (land with buildings)
- Previous use of the site:	Military complex, barracks, gunnery range
- Size of site:	87474 m <sup>2</sup>
	
<b>Část bývalého areálu výroby tiskářských strojů, Adamov</b>	
- Municipality:	Adamov
- Type of site:	Complex (land with buildings)
- Previous use of the site:	Industry
- Size of site:	72000 m <sup>2</sup>
	





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## Conclusions - recommendations

- ❖ For national & regional regulators: strengthen institutional frameworks for regeneration (stable & transparent goals, rules & decisions)
- ❖ For BF/problem owners: organize project networks with stable & resourceful core teams & active networks of experts
- ❖ For all stakeholders: both personal and impersonal (swift) trust are important – the latter can channel essential resources for BF regeneration
- ❖ For all stakeholders: accumulate and codify knowledge over successive regeneration projects.



Thank you very much!

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