

Fertile Ground

A mapping and analysis of
the vibrant ecosystem of
organisations across Europe
working to transform our
economic system



Metabolic

Colophon

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Foreword

Ten years ago, Partners for a New Economy was created by a group of visionary funders who wanted to tackle the economic root causes of environmental destruction. A decade and \$35M of grant-making on, we have seen early seeds of alternatives blossom into a vibrant and growing network of organisations.

We commissioned this study because it can be difficult, day to day, to understand what is shifting across the landscape. To know whether hunches about growing momentum or challenges are borne out by the data. To see patterns across the dozens of countries and cultures that are summed up by the single word, Europe. To tell a story about the emergence of new economic ideas and practices, especially when the work ranges across many subject domains, and there aren't neat boxes about what constitutes a new economy.

This analysis is offered in a spirit of discovery and curiosity to fellow funders and all those working to cultivate a new economy. Naturally, it is not intended to be the last word on describing the field. By sketching the shape of the evolving ecosystem of new economy work, we hope it will help people to get their heads around it more easily, spark healthy debate, and inform decision-making.

This report builds on the 2022's landscape review, "Turning the Tide" by Demos Helsinki (supported by Laudes Foundation in collaboration with P4NE), and links to forthcoming research by The Hour Is Late on philanthropic funding flows for the new economy. The typology will also be the basis for a self-populated online directory of new economy actors across Europe. I encourage you to use this tool for connection and collaboration, finding fellow travellers working in a similar or complementary track, whether in the same country or elsewhere in Europe. Do please share the insights with friends and colleagues. Most importantly, please take 5 minutes to [add your organisation to the directory](#), creating a more powerful resource for the whole field.

Neoliberal economic assumptions are so embedded it can be hard to imagine that alternatives are possible. There isn't a single, simple linear path to change. This review showcases just some of the rich tapestry of innovative thinking and pioneering practice that show a better economy is possible. Like snowdrops poking through frozen ground, hinting at the potential of spring, what ultimately flowers will depend both on what seeds were planted and what has been successfully nurtured by the soil.

The economic system has changed before, and it can – and must – change again. We are excited to see new economics emerging from fertile ground.

Jo Swinson
Director
Partners for a New Economy



Summary

Why: Context

We face interconnected and compounding crises – climate change, biodiversity loss, rising inequality, political instability, and unchecked technological risks – that all stem from the way our economy is structured. This system is not a law of nature; it is a human creation that can and must change.

In response, a diverse and growing ecosystem of organisations across Europe has been working to transform our economic model to meet the needs of all people within the sustainable means of the living planet. In an effort to further support this ecosystem, it is important to understand its scale, strength, needs, and gaps.

What: Objectives

This study maps and analyses the “new economy” field in Europe. We identified 735 organisations across 35 countries, spanning think tanks, grassroots initiatives, advocacy networks, research institutes, and practical builders of alternative local systems. Together, they represent a broad and unevenly connected ecosystem seeking to realign economic life with justice, wellbeing, and nature.

Objectives of the work:

- **Map** the field of organisations advancing systemic economic change.
- **Categorise** activity and thematic clusters through a usable typology framework.
- **Understand** the ecosystem’s strengths, gaps, and emergent dynamics.
- **Inform** funders, practitioners, and other stakeholders with insights and recommendations.

How: Methodology

Our methodology combined desk research with participatory engagement and included:

- 35 interviews, a survey of 125 respondents, and 3 field workshops with 75 participants.
- Desk research, including a literature review, manual searches of networks, publications, and country-level ecosystems, as well as AI-supported searches with additional quality checks.
- Both qualitative study of practitioner perspectives and quantitative analysis of geographic and chronological trends.
- Iterative testing with an advisory panel and stakeholders across Europe.

KEY INSIGHTS

A window of opportunity: A growing field with strong momentum worth seizing



FINDING #1:

The ground is fertile, with hunger for alternatives entering the mainstream

Across Europe, citizens increasingly feel the system is rigged and failing them, creating both urgency and openness. This is a critical window to channel discontent into systemic solutions.



FINDING #2:

Crises are key turning points, and the field should prepare for the next rupture

New economy organisations have historically surged in response to crises — from the 1970s environmental movement to the 2008 crash and later Covid-19. With future ruptures looming, the field needs stronger infrastructure and coordination to seize opportunities when they arise.



FINDING #3:

The field is expanding fast, and is increasingly diverse

Our mapping of 735 organisations across 35 countries shows a young, fast-growing ecosystem, with half the field founded in the past decade. It spans a growing amount of activities and thematic areas, offering multiple entry points for both practitioners and funders.

Challenges of a field that remains fragmented and under-resourced



FINDING #4:

Funding is the binding constraint — especially patient and flexible capital

The field remains quite underfunded, particularly when compared to past neoliberal movements, operating at roughly one-tenth of their scale. Long-term, flexible, and infrastructure-oriented capital is essential if new economy organisations are to compete and win durable influence.



FINDING #5:

The field remains fragmented, but bridges can unlock potential

Pluralism is a strength, but fragmentation often dilutes collective impact. That is true for both terminology and across East-West divides where capacity and legitimacy gaps persist. Bridging infrastructure could compound diversity into real power.

Addressing gaps to build power and unlock further momentum



FINDING #6:

The field must elevate macroeconomic planning

Without credible models for post-growth stability, policymakers, unions, and other key stakeholders lack usable alternatives to growth-centric economics. Investing in applied macroeconomic planning is critical to give the field the influence and tools it needs to shape feasible and effective pathways forward.



FINDING #7:

The field risks staying in a bubble unless it roots more work in everyday life

While policy and advocacy is critical, there is a risk of a technocratic bubble disconnected from basic, everyday needs. The field needs to put more focus on creating real legitimacy through bottom-up and grassroots power building that addresses the urgent challenges of citizens.



FINDING #8:

A “missing middle” constrains replication and systemic scale

Grassroots initiatives like energy cooperatives and community land trusts show that essential needs and services can be organised differently, but they remain fragmented and small-scale. A stronger middle layer is needed to translate community models into replicable, financeable solutions that connect to national and EU agendas.



FINDING #9:

The field needs an explicit and dual-track political strategy – both to govern and to enable broader coalitions

Diversity is a strength, but without strategy it risks fragmentation or vague messaging. The field should invest pro-actively in two complementary wings: one explicitly political, building durable party infrastructure and coalitions; the other cross-partisan, creating civic institutions that defend key principles across the spectrum. Together, such a dual approach can provide the breadth and depth needed to embed the new economy into lasting political infrastructure.



FINDING #10:

Building *new wealth* should be seen as critical infrastructure

Redirecting outside capital is important but insufficient to resource the scale of the challenge. The field must also generate its own resources. Community wealth building offers a start, but requires scaling into a macro-level strategy. Steward-owned firms, perpetual trusts, and revenue-generating non-profits point the way. If coordinated, these models could supply the long-term financial muscle to drive real systemic change.

01 Introduction

INTRO

CONTEXT

MAP

NAVIGATE

UNDERSTAND

STRENGTHEN

CONCLUSIONS

APPENDICES

”

The **economy isn't a fact**, it isn't a law of nature, it isn't centrifugal force or gravity. **It's a story, it's a human creation, it's a social construction.** The basic character of the story is *Homo economicus* – literally Economic man – who is presumed to be rational, calculating, self-interested, and always trying to maximise benefit for himself...

This story completely ignores our better angels – the side of us as human beings that is cooperative and caring and loving and altruistic. And, in fact, that is how human beings have survived throughout our history – by working together in cooperation...

So if our current story isn't serving our needs, **we can change it.**

-Emily Kawano, US Solidarity Economy Network¹

As a society, we face compounding crises – climate breakdown, biodiversity loss, deepening inequality, and political-economic instability.² **At the root of these challenges lies the same driver: the structure of our economic system.**

For decades, practitioners, funders, thought leaders, and allies have worked to reimagine this system and move beyond treating its symptoms. What was once seen as niche has grown into an increasingly vibrant and diverse ecosystem, spanning grassroots cooperatives and solidarity networks to major NGOs and new policy agendas. The urgency has never been greater – and the appetite for alternatives never stronger.

Today, the new economy field is not simply about responding to crises. It is about unlocking creativity, cooperation, and innovation to build an economy that puts human wellbeing and ecological regeneration at its core. The momentum is real: hundreds of organisations across Europe are pioneering new ownership models, financing mechanisms, governance structures, and cultural narratives. This report aims to make that ecosystem visible: to map its diversity, highlight its strengths, and clarify what it needs to grow and thrive in the years ahead.

Objectives

This work – which was commissioned by Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) and follows from Demos Helsinki's initial report *Turning the Tide* (2022) – has the following objectives:

- **Conduct an updated mapping** of organisations within Europe working on economic systems change
- Identify and **synthesise shared challenges, needs, and structural gaps** across the ecosystem
- Develop a practical **typology to support new economy actors and supporters to navigate** and understand the field
- Surface **key trends, shifts, and emergent dynamics** since the 2022 *Turning the Tide* report
- Identify where **points of cohesion, traction, and progress** can be further supported
- **Offer recommendations** to funders and the field itself on how to strengthen the field and support its objectives

Why Europe

Our scope is deliberately contained to Europe, both as a direct continuation of the earlier landscape study and because the region provides a distinct vantage point from which to study the new economy ecosystem.

Europe is not the only, nor necessarily the best, context for economic transformation. Many societies elsewhere are closer to realising the economic models underpinned by new economic principles. Precisely because Europe is further from this starting point – with its oversized material footprint, entrenched consumption patterns, and structural dependence on extraction – it represents a crucial context in which transformation must occur.

Europe is also incredibly diverse, which makes common approaches more challenging but an essential proving ground for collaboration across cultures and contexts. At the same time, Europe remains highly geopolitically significant. As collectively one of the world's largest economies, it possesses considerable economic and political power, a legacy of social welfare systems that – despite their limitations – have sought to put people at the center, and a multi-layered governance structure that facilitates cooperation and policy innovation across borders. These features make Europe an important testing ground for economic alternatives.

Methodology

In doing this work, we sought an equal balance between desk research and participatory approaches. Our approach can be summarised as follows:

- A set of inclusion criteria was developed, prioritising nonprofit and not-for-profit entities engaged in economic systems change.
- Coverage looked at all European countries, with deeper engagement and additional interviews in regions where the field is already more developed. While practical, this created a bias that we mitigated by doing extra layers of research in underrepresented regions.
- Validation was supported through multiple iterations of feedback – 35 interviews, a Europe-wide survey of 125 respondents, advisory panel sessions, and three field workshops with 75 participants.
- Both qualitative methods (content analysis of practitioner perspectives) and quantitative methods (mapping trends by geography, founding dates, activities, and clusters) were applied to generate an evidence base to synthesise.

A more extended overview can be found in [Appendix E](#) of this report.

02

The Necessity of an Economic Transition

For those deeply familiar with our economic challenges and the principles of the new economy, feel free to skip to the next chapter:

[JUMP TO MAPPING THE FIELD](#)

The Economy as a System

We define an economy as a **system that governs how a society manages resources, distributes value, and facilitates exchange.**

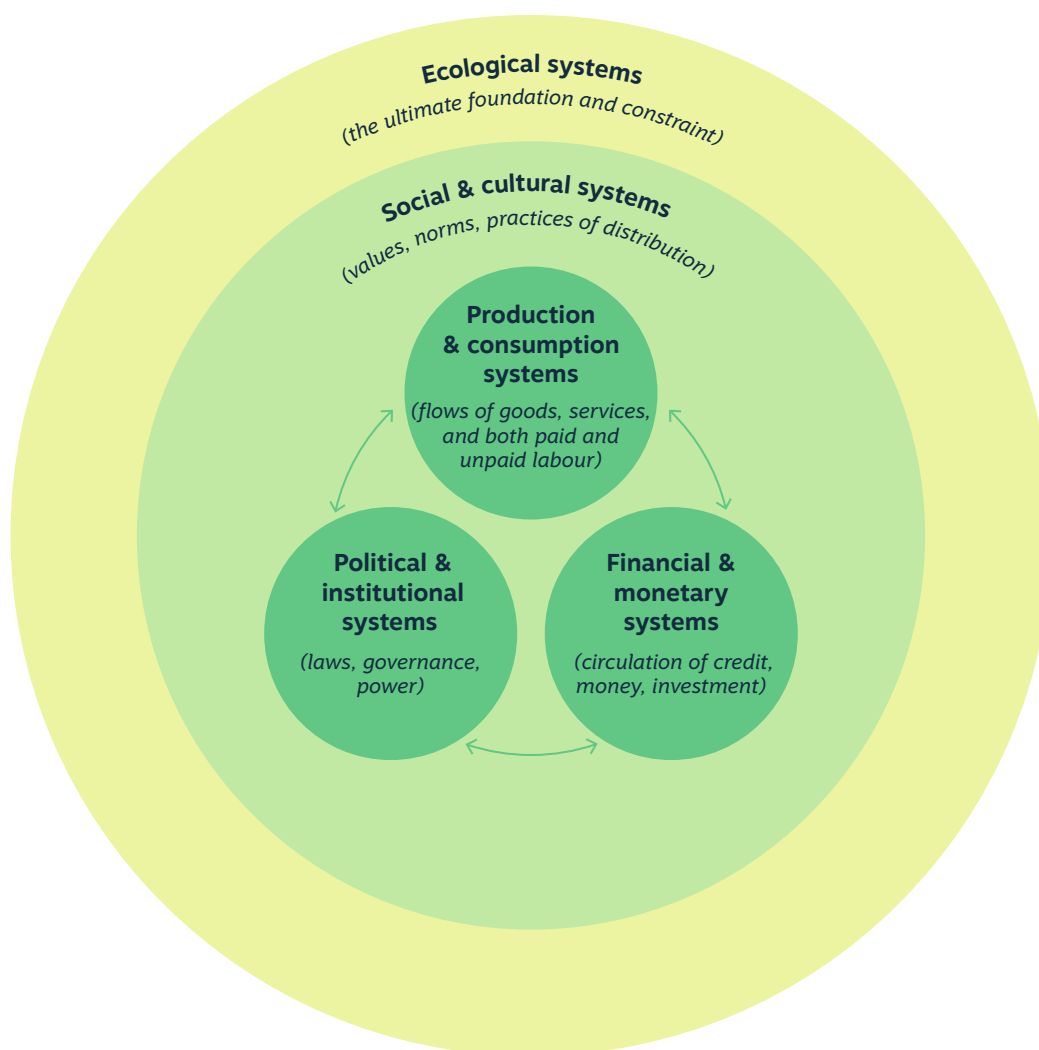
The understanding of how our economy functions has evolved over time. A linear, mechanistic model is being replaced by an understanding of an economy that is complex and dynamic, deeply embedded in real limited ecosystems, and consisting of socially constructed power relations.³ Fields like ecological economics, institutional economics, complexity economics, feminist economics, evolutionary economics, and behavioural economics have improved the sense that an economy is more like an ecosystem than a machine.

One way to understand our economic system is as multiple subsystems that interact, influence, and shape one another continuously.

Through this system lens, we can begin to understand how changing one sub-system can affect all others. This is also why we need many organisations working separately (but collaboratively) on the various components of our economy in order to effectively change it.

We are faced with a system that is increasingly complex and interdependent...the system is constantly evolving and is neither in, nor converging towards, a steady state.

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)⁴



A simplified visual overview of the nested layers and components of our complex economic system.

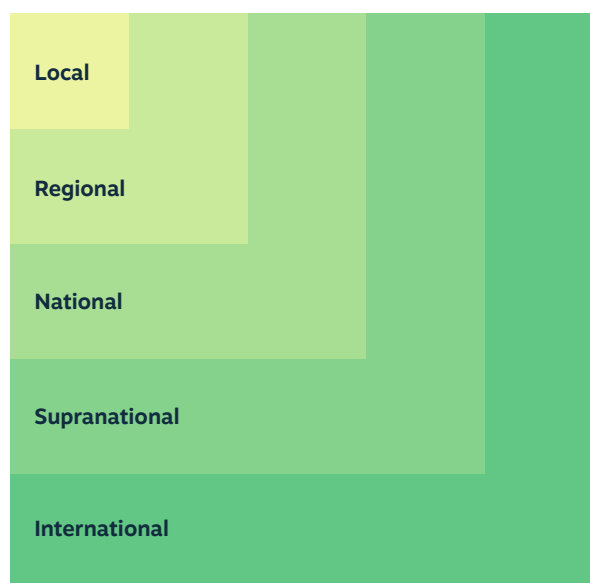
The nested experience of the economy – from local to global

People do not experience one homogeneous economy. Instead, economies are nested and overlapping, each with particular characteristics and geographical boundaries. How an individual experiences these layers depends both on their work and circumstances, and on the structural position of their geography (city, country, etc.) within the broader global economy.

Consider the shop owner in Northern Finland, the stock trader in Amsterdam, and the artist working as a barista in Bucharest. Each engages the layers of the economy differently: the shop owner is primarily tied to local networks of supply and demand; the stock trader operates in global financial markets; and the artist depends on supranational institutions such as EU cultural funding while navigating a regional labour market that may depend, in part, on tourism.

Elinor Ostrom described this as a “polycentric” system. People navigate overlapping layers of local, national, and global markets whose interactions are uneven. This explains why two people – even in the same city – can experience the economy so differently. The resilience of someone’s livelihood often depends not just on work, but on how these layers fit together where they live.

Even within Europe, differences can be stark. Finland’s welfare state buffers citizens from global volatility, while Romania’s more peripheral role and limited public budgets leave its citizens more exposed. Transitioning the economic system therefore means transforming both the global order and the local and regional economies that form the fabric of daily life.



Spatial layers of an economic system. People experience different layers in different intensities depending on who and where they are.



A Very Brief History of Economic Transformation

This section seeks to illustrate three key points:

- Our economy is always changing.
- Change rarely happens by accident; it reflects the work of thought leaders, movements, and powerful actors— sometimes to advance collective wellbeing, and sometimes to further entrench particular interests.
- Which direction it takes depends on political-economic context and the strength of these movements.

Historical Efforts to Evolve Economic Governance

Economic systems have been reshaped continuously in response to societal challenges. The Mayans responded to the reality of poor soils and a growing population by embedding sustainable agricultural practices and expanding trade routes.^{5,6} The Romans – seeking to manage a vast empire, feed large urban populations, and legitimise inequality – invested in public infrastructure to ensure access to basic services and create a more integrated and urbanised economy.⁷ Imperial Chinese society, working to create stable governance and avoid monetary fragmentation across extensive territories, regulated a standard currency, expanded trade networks, and facilitated private commerce.⁸

The Transition to Industrial Capitalism

In the mid-1700s, Adam Smith and contemporaries like David Hume advocated for a transition away from a mercantilist system – which they viewed as monopolistic and restrictive – toward an early form of capitalism that they felt could empower individuals to act freely and guide them through enlightened self-interest.⁹ Smith published *Wealth of Nations* in 1776, which coincided with the American Revolution and a wider reconsideration of political and economic liberty. Smith's text was seen as accessible and systematic – a significant departure from the arcane economic treatises of the time, and became a useful reference point for policymakers.^{10,11}

A century later, during the mid-1800s, Karl Marx was observing the upheavals of industrialisation. Cities were overcrowded, workers (including children) were being exploited, and widening inequality was spreading across Europe. In 1848, *The Communist Manifesto* was published amid a wave of political and social uprisings sweeping Europe. In their work, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels argued that capitalism was inherently unstable and exploitative, and they called for revolutionary change toward a system of collective ownership and class emancipation.

Beyond aligning with a broader public desire to challenge political repression and bleak working conditions, Marx's ideas spread for two notable reasons.

1. **Accessible Communication.** Like the comparative accessibility (for its time) of *The Wealth of Nations*, Marx's work was even more consumable; it had a strong rhetorical style¹² – concise while feeling scientific, combative while feeling universal – which made it memorable, and it was quickly translated into other languages.
2. **Financial support.** Friedrich Engels was heir to a textile fortune, and his resources essentially provided Marx with structural funding – resources to support himself and to publish and distribute his work.¹³

By the 1930s, the Great Depression had devastated economies worldwide. Traditional economic orthodoxy – based on *laissez-faire* assumptions that markets would self-correct – was incapable of addressing mass unemployment, collapsing demand, and financial instability. John Maynard Keynes proposed active government intervention: spend during slumps, rein in spending during booms. His economic approach viewed regulations, social protections, and redistribution as central to managing demand and curbing inequality.

By the 1940s, Keynesianism shaped national policy and reconstruction. Its spread owed less to Keynes' dense *General Theory* (1936) than to allies like John Hicks and Paul Samuelson, who distilled the ideas into models and textbooks that trained generations of economists.^{14,15}

Neoliberalisation and the Informative Role of Philanthropies

In the 1950s, as Keynesianism reigned, neoliberal thinkers such as Friedrich Hayek promoted market-centric alternatives. A transatlantic network of think tanks – including the Institute of Economic Affairs (UK), American Enterprise Institute, Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, and the Adam Smith Institute – refined neoliberal ideas and, through the Atlas Network, linked hundreds of free-market think tanks worldwide.

In the 1970s, Milton Friedman and the Chicago School popularised neoliberal prescriptions: deregulation, lower taxes, minimal government intervention, and shrinking the state via the privatisation of public services. Major philanthropists, especially Charles and David Koch, institutionalised these ideas by investing hundreds of millions in think tanks, university centres, advocacy groups, and political action committees. Institutions like the Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation, and the Mercatus Center provided the backbone of what scholars call a “Kochtopus” of influence, ensuring neoliberalism moved from academia into policy, courts of law, and public opinion.^{16,17}

A period of ‘stagflation’* was leveraged for further political gain, culminating in the elections of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, who implemented neoliberal policies enthusiastically. Their legacy has endured to this day: deregulation and privatisation concentrated wealth, widened inequality, weakened public services, and eroded trust – leading to social instability and fueling public anger.^{18,19} The policies have also further commodified nature, viewing natural capital as an economic input and the environment as an externality, driving today’s ecological crises.

Lessons for Funders

Larry Kramer – historian, former Dean of Stanford Law School, and former President of the Hewlett Foundation – used his essay *Beyond Neoliberalism*²⁰ to outline how neoliberalism, despite being a damaging economic philosophy, was “one of the most successful examples of effective philanthropy in history.” A few lessons worth emphasising:

1. Investing in people and intellectual communities builds the soil

Philanthropic support built fellowships, academic posts, and networks that allowed key voices to become influential leaders.

2. Durable infrastructure can amplify ideas

Ecosystems with collective infrastructure are key. Groups like the Mont Pèlerin Society, the Atlas Network, and numerous think tanks created resilient platforms for research, advocacy, and policy diffusion, which in turn reinforced momentum.

3. Strategic, patient investments in ecosystems can shift paradigms

By funding think tanks, journals, and conferences, donors helped embed free-market ideas – which seemed radical only a decade or so prior – into mainstream policy.

* An economic condition of stagnant growth combined with high inflation and unemployment.

EMERGING PATTERNS FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

From historical examples, we can begin to craft a list of core ingredients that are necessary for changing the economic system.



Crises can be Catalysts

Economic transitions rarely happen in calm times; they emerge in response to systemic shocks (soil degradation for Mayans, Great Depression for Keynes, stagflation for neoliberalism). Crises create “windows of possibility” where new ideas gain traction because the old system is failing.



Accessible Ideas Travel Further and Faster

Thought leaders craft frameworks that re-interpret reality (Smith's Wealth of Nations, Marx's Manifesto, Keynes' General Theory). Simplicity and accessibility matter; the ideas must be scientific and communicable.



Messengers and Networks are Critical

Ideas spread when embedded in trusted messengers and institutions. Marx spread his ideas through pamphlets, Keynes through the Royal Economics Society and textbooks, and neoliberal thinkers through the Atlas Network of think tanks. Translation channels (academic networks, media, training institutions) become critical multipliers.



Resources and Infrastructure Anchor Change

Structural funding enables persistence; Marx was bankrolled by Engels, while neoliberal think tanks were funded by philanthropies and private wealth aligned with that ideology. More durable platforms (which at the time were journals, think tanks, professional societies, and universities) anchored the ideas to ensure they served beyond the individuals.



Political Alignment Embeds Ideas Into Systems

Ideas only truly reshape systems once they are taken up by political actors and embedded in law or institutions. With Keynes, this happened through influence on the UK Treasury and New Deal Agencies in the United States. With Neoliberalism, it required Reagan and Thatcher to be elected and institutionalise deregulation.

What the *New Economy* Responds to

There is much to learn from indigenous cultures that have long recognised the need to live within the cycles of Earth's systems, treasuring reciprocity and stewardship.

- Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics* (2017)²¹

Built Upon a Long Lineage

The push for what we call a 'new economy' is not new. Critiques of neoliberalism emerged early, and while the ideology gained dominance in North America and Europe, many regions never accepted it as a credible path for development. In the 1970s, the Club of Rome's *Limits to Growth* (1972), Ernst Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful* (1973), and Herman Daly's *Steady-State Economics* (1977) seeded the field of ecological economics, which warned that endless growth on a finite planet would lead to ecological breakdown, inequality, and potentially towards complete collapse.

Long before these debates, local and Indigenous communities across the world were practising forms of economics rooted in reciprocity, solidarity, and stewardship of nature — whether as intrinsic traditions or as strategies of resistance. In the Andes, people resisted Spanish rule through hidden fields and barter networks;^{22,23} the Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand used land-use restrictions and collaborative governance to limit colonial impact;²⁴ in India, Gandhi promoted self-sufficient village economies;²⁵ the Mouride Brotherhood in Senegal organised autonomous cooperatives to counter the impacts of French rule;²⁶ and the Haudenosaunee in North America sustained collective land tenure and cooperative enterprises.²⁷

Today's European "new economy" ecosystem builds directly upon this lineage. It responds to the ecological contradictions of growth while drawing inspiration from past movements, including post-Keynesian welfare capitalism, solidarity economy movements in Latin America, and community cooperatives in Africa. Each of these movements carried forward older traditions of sufficiency, reciprocity, and resilience while experimenting with democratic and sustainable ways of organising economic life. As ecological economists like Kate Raworth and Clive Splash often point out, new economics arises from "weaving together ecological limits, social justice, and alternative cultural traditions to imagine different ways of organising economic life."

What *Is* New: The Enormity and Complexity of the Challenge

What distinguishes the present moment is the scale, interconnectivity, and urgency of our current challenges. Fifty years of neoliberalism liberalised trade but in its wake left inequality, fragility, and environmental destruction.

What follows is a brief overview of many of these challenges to underscore the severity and the urgency, as well as to highlight their connection with an economic model that prizes growth and profitability at all costs.

How to refocus the economy toward the common good may well be the most important challenge of our generation.

- Otto Scharmer, MIT lecturer and co-founder of the Presencing Institute

WHAT THE *New Economy* RESPONDS TO



Resource Extraction and Consumption

Economic growth remains tightly coupled to material throughput. Global resource use has more than tripled since 1970, with less than 10% recycled. From fossil fuels and cement to rare earths and metals, what is framed as progress is in practice an accelerating conversion of living systems into “anthropogenic mass,” now outweighing all life on Earth.



Unchecked Technological Expansion

Humanity is generating new forms of power at unprecedented speed, a pace of change accelerated in part by the incentives intrinsic in our economic model. Without adequate governance, the benefits risk being captured by the few while the costs – ecological disruption, inequality, and systemic instability – are borne by the many.



Environmental Harm and Transgressing Planetary Boundaries

Our current economy is in direct tension with the biophysical systems upon which we, as well as our economy, depend. An obsession with growth and profits – and the power embedded in interest groups that want to maintain the status quo – pose an existential threat to human society. The transgression of planetary boundaries is arguably the starkest and clearest example of why our economic system needs to urgently change.



Financialisation and Growing Risks to the Financial System

Financialisation is a systemic reorientation toward short-term financial gain. It diverts capital away from innovation, jobs, and resilience to invest in speculative extraction, with the effect of widening inequality, destabilising economies, and eroding the real foundations of society.



Rising Costs of Living and Growing Inequality

Rising costs of living are going beyond just straining household budgets to become a systemic driver of social instability. Traditional safety nets are no longer sufficient. To safeguard both economic resilience and democratic trust, new approaches are needed that rebalance power, guarantee access to essentials, and re-design systems for long-term wellbeing.



Extreme Wealth Accumulation

Extreme wealth concentration doesn't just reflect inequality — it reinforces it. As resources accumulate at the top, the costs are pushed onto those with the least: higher living expenses, stagnant wages, and greater insecurity. Meanwhile, innovation slows, power concentrates, and trust in institutions declines.

Resource Extraction and Consumption

The rapid pace of resource extraction and consumption has had a staggering impact.

Economic growth, as conventionally measured by GDP, is tightly bound to material throughput: every percentage point of growth translates into more minerals mined, more forests cleared, more fossil fuels burned, and more pressure on fragile ecosystems. Global material use has surged from about 27 billion tonnes in 1970 to over 100 billion tonnes today, with less than 10% cycled back into supply chains despite significant efforts to create efficiencies and embed circularity principles. Much of this demand is concentrated in construction (sand, gravel, steel, cement), fossil fuels for energy, and the accelerating appetite for metals and rare earths to power digitalisation and the green transition.

According to a landmark study published in *Nature*, 2020 marked a turning point; the total mass of all human-made objects – concrete, steel, plastic, infrastructure, etc. – surpassed the dry mass of every living organism on Earth for the first time.²⁸ This “anthropogenic mass” is now growing at a rate of more than 30 billion tons per year, roughly equal to the body weight of every person on the planet added each week. While our economy currently depends on this scale of material throughput, such levels are completely unsustainable.

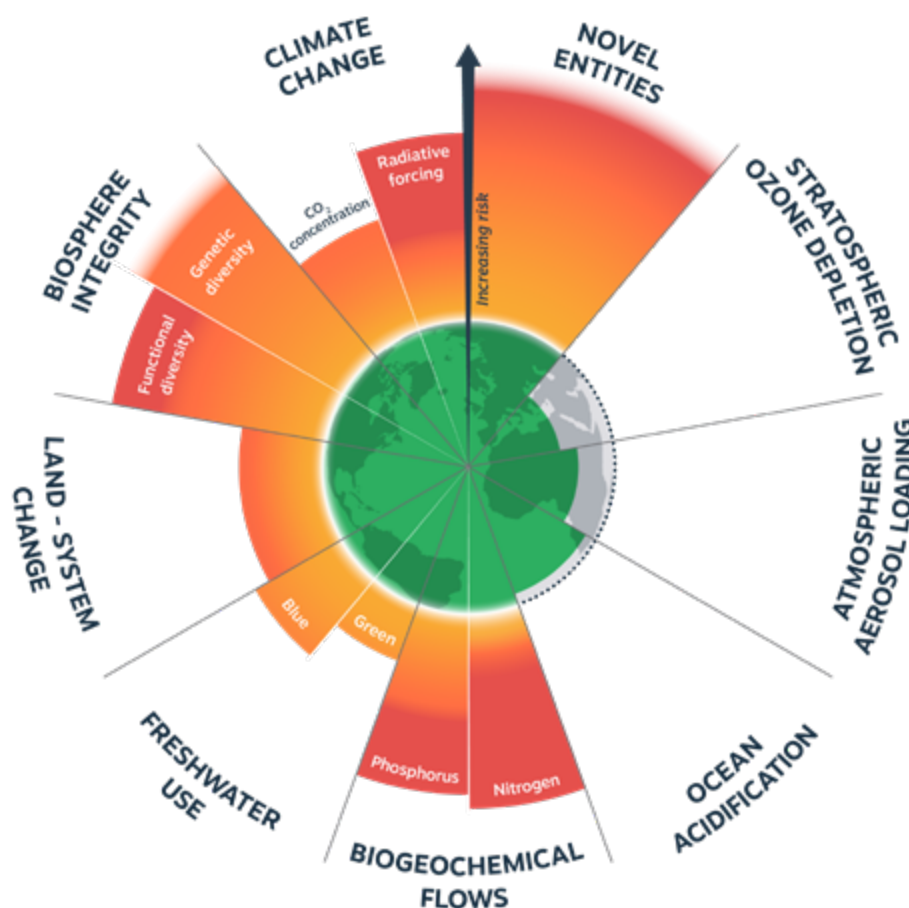


Unchecked Technological Expansion

Technology has the incredible ability to improve our lives, but it also drives increased demand for resources and expands our ability to transform nature into economic inputs.

Meanwhile, the global race toward advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence is being driven by powerful incentives: geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China, the promise of vast corporate profits, and the belief that early dominance will yield enduring strategic advantage. These incentives create a “race to the bottom” dynamic in which companies and states push ahead with ever-larger AI systems while regulation lags behind – or, worse, is pro-actively dampened. Even assuming the worst fears of runaway Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) don’t come to pass, the human consequences of an ungoverned transition will be profound: over 30% of workers could see at least 50% of their job tasks disrupted by generative AI by 2030, raising risks of unemployment and inequality even as productivity gains concentrate wealth among a few firms and investors.²⁹

AI is just one piece of a broader technological challenge. Breakthroughs in biotechnology, robotics, and geoengineering promise dramatic leaps but also pose deep uncertainties – ranging from ethical dilemmas and social dislocation to severe environmental risks if deployed at scale without serious oversight. Each of these fields, like AI, is advancing faster than the safeguards designed to govern them – propelled forward in part by opportunities to capture great wealth and power, and creating a widening gap between technological capability and what society is ready for.



The Planetary Boundaries Framework, with six boundaries already crossed. Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2023³¹

Environmental Harm and Transgressing Planetary Boundaries

In the 53 years since *Limits to Growth* was published, the transgression of planetary boundaries – which define the safe operating space for humanity within the Earth’s biophysical systems – has continued unabated. Beyond climate change, researchers have identified that five other boundaries are already crossed: biospheric integrity (biodiversity loss), land-system change, freshwater change, biogeochemical flows (nitrogen and phosphorus), and novel entities (chemical pollution such as plastics and PFAS, a group of long-lasting synthetic ‘forever chemicals’ used in products from non-stick pans to waterproof clothing).

Despite efficiency gains, absolute global resource use shows no sign of decoupling at the scale required to stay within planetary boundaries. What is often celebrated as economic progress is, in material terms, an accelerating drawdown of the Earth’s stocks of resources and carbon sinks. Until this link is broken, growth in the current model will mean more pressure on ecosystems, more waste, and more destabilisation of the climate – all of which are already flashing red.

A society that believes in infinite growth in a finite system is either mad or an economist.

– Donella Meadows, *The Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update* (2004)³⁰

The risks and pace of change are likely to surprise even those who are well aware of these issues. Evidence shows we are destabilising the Earth system faster than many models predicted, raising the likelihood of abrupt and irreversible tipping points.

Some tipping points are already alarmingly close. Arctic summer sea ice is shrinking at around 12% per decade and is projected to vanish at least once in the 2030s, reshaping weather patterns across the Northern Hemisphere. Tropical coral reefs, which support over half a billion people, are on track for near-total collapse if warming exceeds 1.5°C. Other tipping points may unfold more slowly but carry planetary-scale risks; the weakening or collapse of the Atlantic overturning circulation (AMOC), which is the primary driver of Europe’s temperate climate, would disrupt rainfall systems and food production for billions.³²

Taken together, these shifts threaten cascading social and economic consequences – mass displacement, food insecurity, financial shocks, and political instability – which current systems are ill-prepared to absorb.

Financialisation and Growing Risks to the Financial System

Financialisation refers to the growing dominance of financial motives, markets, actors, and institutions over domestic and global economies – shifting priorities from real production (e.g., building factories and producing goods and services) to speculative finance (e.g., betting on the future value of something). Prominent critics of this trend include Greta Krippner, who describes financialisation as a pivot toward profit-making through financial channels instead of trade and production.³³ A striking measure of this shift toward a financial economy is in derivatives markets, where the turnover (value of contracts bought and sold) regularly exceeds €600 trillion.³⁴

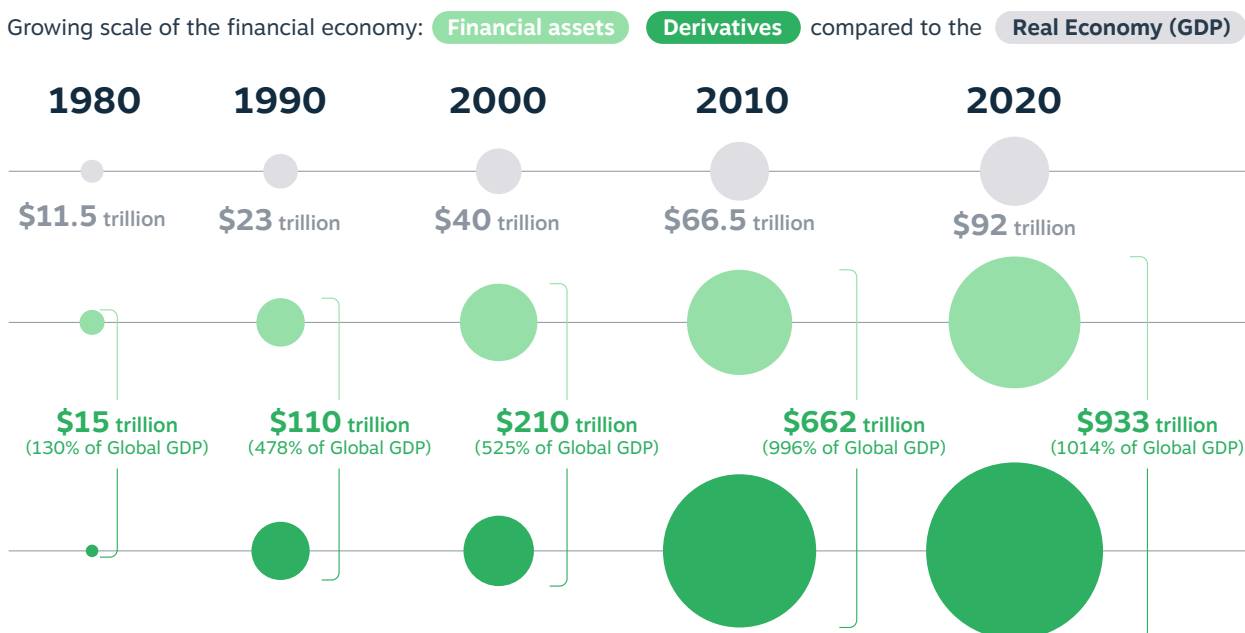
Beyond derivatives, global stock and bond markets exceed €200 trillion, with another €65 trillion in shadow banking. Taken together, finance has swollen far beyond the economy it is meant to serve.

Economist William Lazonick shows how stock buybacks and executive pay siphon earnings away from workers and innovation.³⁵ Another economist, Moritz Schularick, highlights how credit booms, fueled by financialised markets, amplify economic fragility by inflating bubbles and deepening inequality.³⁶

In Europe, only a fraction of financial flows end up as new productive assets. EU firms invest about 23% of their value added in fixed capital (i.e., long-term assets like factories, machinery, and intellectual property), while the bulk of financial activity circulates in property, trading, and asset markets.³⁷ Household credit is nearly 80% mortgages,³⁸ and Europe's shadow-banking sector now exceeds the size of its traditional banks – evidence of a financial system geared more toward asset inflation and extracting rents than making productive investments.³⁹

The effects are serious: homes, pensions, land, and food have been turned into speculative assets, pricing housing out of reach and exposing basic essentials to market volatility. The 2008 crash clearly illustrated these risks. As Daniela Gabor warns, complex leveraged instruments are again pushing economies from stability toward cascading collapse. Without systemic reform, another even larger shock looms.⁴⁰

These dynamics intersect dangerously with ecological limits. Climate shocks and biodiversity loss are systemic risks coursing through balance sheets, insurance markets, and sovereign debt. The possibility of a “climate Minsky moment” – a sudden collapse in asset values triggered by environmental tipping points or abrupt policy shifts – is becoming increasingly likely. Recent reports such as *No Time to Lose*⁴¹ and proposals for *Planetary Solvency*⁴² highlight the urgency of aligning financial systems with the reality of planetary boundaries.

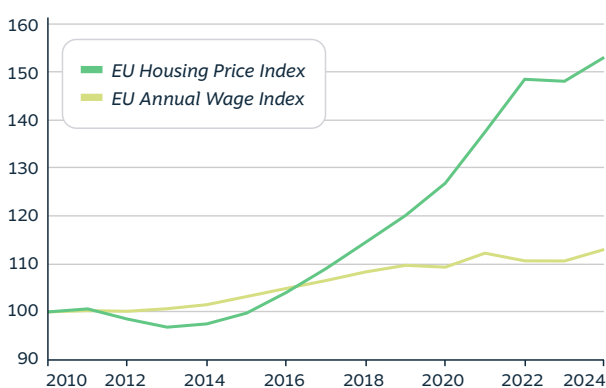


Data on financialisation visualised here is compiled through World Bank data on GDP and McKinsey data on the financial economy.⁴³ It builds on work done by Transnational Institute, but uses more conservative estimates.⁴⁴

Rising Costs of Living and Growing Inequality

“Cost of living” is a bleak phrase the more you think about it, suggesting that survival itself carries an ever-growing price tag. If financialisation illustrates how wealth is siphoned upward, the rising cost of living shows how the pressure lands downward in everyday life. Even in Europe’s strong welfare states, households are being squeezed as essential costs surge while incomes stagnate.

Housing, energy, food, and healthcare — the pillars of well-being — are governed by profit-maximising logics and concentrated corporate power. Nowhere is this clearer than housing: in 2024, one in five EU renters spent over 40% of income on housing, while prices rose 58% and rents 28% since 2010.⁴⁵



EU housing prices vs. wages (Index, 2010=100)

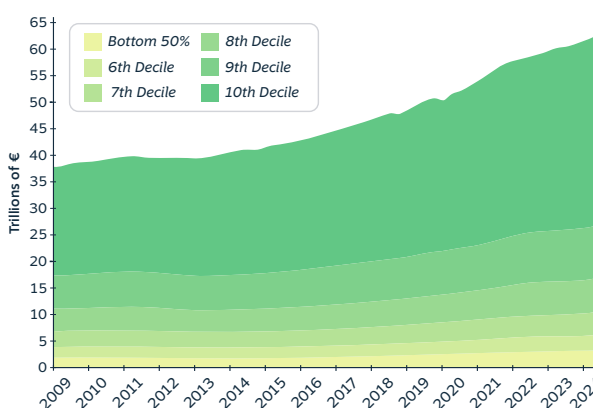
Other costs have also risen sharply.⁴⁶ Inflation has driven up food and energy prices, yet productivity gains since the 2008 crisis have failed to translate into higher incomes.⁴⁷ The outcome is a shrinking European middle class, with a rising threshold to avoid poverty in real terms.⁴⁸

The consequences ripple outward. Housing, once a source of stability, has become a stress point. Full-time work no longer guarantees security.⁴⁹ Households are forced into trade-offs like “heat or eat.” And beneath these daily struggles runs a deeper erosion: trust in institutions and the social contract itself is breaking down and leading to political polarisation. Anger at elites and frustration with mainstream parties are increasingly channelled into far-right populism, threatening not only social cohesion but democratic stability as a whole.

Wealth Accumulation

The same forces that make daily life more expensive — housing shortages, food price shocks, soaring energy bills — are also funneling wealth upward. What households lose in disposable income is recaptured higher up the chain as profits and asset gains.

The scale of this shift at the global level is significant. According to Oxfam, since 2015 the richest 1% have increased their wealth by €33 trillion, an amount equivalent to about 14.6% of global GDP — a striking concentration.⁵⁰ Billionaire fortunes rose by an estimated €2 trillion in 2024 alone.⁵¹ In Europe, the top 10% hold ~58% of household wealth while the bottom half own less than 4%.⁵² This slow drift upward is less dramatic than in the U.S., but it reflects a similar structural pattern.



Distribution of wealth across household deciles. From “[Wealth inequality in the Eurozone—in 8 charts](#)” by Positive Money.⁵³

Sectoral dynamics have followed a similar trend, with market share and power accumulating throughout the economy. Four supermarket chains control over 70% of some national markets; four firms dominate global seeds and chemicals; Google and Meta capture 80% of online ad revenue. These choke points — monopolies, duopolies, and cartels — consolidate both profits and power. OECD research links such concentration to higher mark-ups, weaker investment, and slower productivity.⁵⁴

The outcomes of this concentration are increasingly visible. During the 2021-23 inflation spike, the ECB and IMF both identified rising corporate profits as a major driver of euro-area price increases.⁵⁵ Meanwhile, labour’s share of GDP shrank by 1.2 percentage points between 2019 and 2023, even as margins climbed.⁵⁶ This means that a lower portion of what the economy produces is being paid out as wages to workers. The World Inequality Report shows a clear correlation: higher wealth concentration coincides with higher poverty rates and reduced social mobility.⁵⁷ And as automation and AI advance, these trends threaten to further decouple profits from employment, cementing wealth concentration and eroding the redistributive role of wages in society.

New Economy: Principles of a Big Tent

The new economy is not just a reaction to today's crises but an alternative vision of shared prosperity within safe environmental limits. It seeks to ensure dignified livelihoods, fair access to life's essentials, and economies that restore nature rather than exhaust it. This requires reorienting wealth and resources toward collective wellbeing, ensuring costs of living are affordable, and creating pathways for all — including the wealthy — to contribute to a more just and sustainable future.

The term “new economy” is intentionally broad. It is less about choosing one school of thought and more about recognising a shared intent: an economy designed for wellbeing and justice, rooted in and respectful of nature and planetary boundaries. The term serves as an umbrella – or big tent – for the various efforts that share these objectives.

I think of the wellbeing economy ... as a kind of ‘picnic blanket’ [...], they'll have their slightly different emphasis and different terminology ... but at their core, they really share this idea of an economy that is in service of people and planet, rather than the other way around.

- Katherine Trebeck, Political Economist and Co-Founder of Wellbeing Economy Alliance

Speaking the Same Language

Across Europe and the world, the movement to transform our economic system is rich with ideas and terminology. Advocates invoke a wide range of labels. Among them: *next, foundational, social, solidarity, circular, wellbeing, doughnut, feminist, post-growth, degrowth, sufficiency, steady state, ecological, regenerative, prosumer, sharing, moral, and concepts like Buen Vivir and Ubuntu.*

Each framework in the new economy landscape has its own intellectual roots, communities of practice, and policy agendas. Some are distinctly academic fields (like ecological or feminist economics), others are policy paradigms that build on those fields (such as Doughnut Economics), while many others blur the line between scholarship and activism (post-Keynesian economics, degrowth, solidarity economics).

Where each framework differs is usually in emphasis (e.g., justice vs. ecological limits), scope of change (reform vs. replacement), and cultural origin (some grounded in Western policy and academic discourse, others in indigenous traditions). This diversity is a strength. Multiple framings help the movement resonate across communities, sectors, and political contexts. The task is not to resolve the labels but to nurture the overlaps – where coalitions, organising strategies, and policy innovations can take root.

Across these families of frameworks, four core principles are evident:



OVERVIEW OF THE VARIOUS APPROACHES TO ECONOMIC CHANGE

Thematic Family	Term	Meaning	Distinctive Focus or Origin
Policy-Led & Reform-Oriented	Wellbeing Economy	Policy agenda that targets human & ecological wellbeing (not GDP) as primary outcome.	WEGo governments (e.g., Scotland, NZ), WEAll; public-policy uptake.
	Social Economy	Enterprises prioritising social purpose over profit (co-ops, mutuals, associations, foundations).	Democratic ownership & solidarity; strong EU policy lineage.
	Social Solidarity Economy	Grassroots, democratic production and exchange across co-ops, mutual aid, community finance.	Movement-rooted; explicitly transformative beyond “social economy.”
	Next Economy	Broad umbrella for models replacing extractive logics with equitable, sustainable ones.	Common in innovation / venture / philanthropy; cross-disciplinary.
	Post-Keynesian Economics	Highlights uncertainty, demand, and the central role of money and finance, advocating active fiscal policy for stability and jobs.	Advanced by Keynes’s followers (e.g., Robinson, Minsky); strands include Modern Monetary Theory (MMT).
Ecological-Limit & Post-Growth	Doughnut Economy	Balance a social foundation (no one left behind) with an ecological ceiling (planetary boundaries).	Kate Raworth; widely piloted in cities/regions.
	Ecological Economics	Economy embedded in the biosphere; biophysical limits, distribution, and justice central.	Academic field (Daly, Martínez-Alier); core to post-growth.
	Steady-State Economy	Stabilise material/energy use at sustainable scales over the long term.	Herman Daly; alternatives to growth dependency.
	Post-Growth Economy	Viable systems not reliant on GDP expansion; focus on sufficiency, redistribution, resilience.	Policy-oriented “beyond growth”; overlaps with degrowth.
	Degrowth	Planned downscaling of production/ consumption in wealthy economies to cut impact and improve equity.	Ecological-justice focus; challenges capitalism’s growth imperative.
	Regenerative Economy	Design economies to restore ecosystems, communities, and institutions (net positive social-ecological outcomes).	Place-based transitions; complements circular economy with justice & renewal.
	Circular Economy	Design out waste/pollution; keep materials in use; regenerate nature.	Strong EU & business adoption; can be technical unless paired with justice.
	Prosumer Economy	Models where people are simultaneously producers and consumers, contributing labour, knowledge, or energy to shared systems.	Prominent in energy transitions, digital commons, and cooperative models.

Thematic Family	Term	Meaning	Distinctive Focus or Origin
Justice- & Equity-Led	Feminist Economics	Exposes gendered power, values care work, embeds intersectional justice in provisioning systems.	Feminist economic scholarship and activism.
	Foundational Economy	Protect and improve essential goods/services (housing, care, utilities, food) from market volatility.	UK/EU policy concept. Designed mostly around infrastructure.
	Ubuntu Economics	“I am because we are”: relational prosperity rooted in community and mutual aid.	Rooted in Southern African traditions, originating from Nguni Bantu languages.
	Sharing Economy	Systems where individuals share access to goods, services, or skills, often mediated by digital platforms.	Began about access, increasingly about community alternatives.
	Moral Economy	Economic practices rooted in fairness, reciprocity, and community wellbeing, rather than profit maximisation.	Historical framing (Thompson, Scott); resurging in justice and inequality debates.
Pluriversal & Indigenous Worldviews	Buen Vivir	Collective wellbeing and harmony with nature as constitutional principles.	Andean origins (Ecuador/Bolivia); decolonial development critique.
	Sufficiency Economy	Moderation, prudence, resilience; balance economic activity with social & ecological wellbeing.	Thailand; policy-inflected cultural frame.
	Pluriversal Economics	Many coexisting economic worlds; rejects single universal model.	Decolonial scholarship; “pluriverse” framing.

Principles of a New Economy

Recent scholarship has surfaced underlying principles of the new economy. There is not one single set of principles used throughout the field, but there is quite some commonality. We first explore

the commonality and divergence across frameworks, and then outline the principles highlighted by four commonly cited works from the past 15 years.

Commonality	Distinctive Focus or Origin
<p>1. Purpose shift: All reject GDP growth as the primary goal, and replace it with wellbeing within ecological limits.</p> <p>2. Embedding the economy in society and nature: Each framework stresses that the economy is not autonomous, but nested within social and ecological systems.</p> <p>3. Justice and distribution: All frameworks highlight equity, fairness, and/or solidarity as non-negotiable.</p> <p>4. Participation and democracy: All stress the importance of deliberation, democratic participation, and enfranchisement.</p> <p>5. Regenerative design: A recurring theme is the shift from extractive to regenerative systems.</p>	<p>Lineage: Felber’s Common Good Economy grows from grassroots activism and values-based economics. Raworth’s Doughnut translates academic insights into a policy paradigm. EY applies new economy ideas through a corporate strategy lens, while the 2025 synthesis distils principles across dozens of frameworks at a meta-level.</p> <p>Emphasis: Felber foregrounds ethical values like dignity and solidarity. Raworth focuses on systems thinking and reframing goals, EY stresses practical levers such as circularity, and the 2025 synthesis leans into political economy, including post-capitalism and decolonisation.</p> <p>Scope of change: Felber and Raworth are often read as reformist but open to deeper shifts. EY remains largely within-system, aiming to green and regenerate capitalism, whereas the 2025 synthesis calls explicitly for transformative, post-capitalist alternatives.</p>

The book *Gemeinwohl-Ökonomie* (Economy for the Common Good),⁵⁸ written by Christian Felber in 2010, talks about an economy with five core values:

- **Human dignity:** Respecting the intrinsic worth of every person
- **Solidarity:** Standing together and supporting one another
- **Ecological sustainability:** Living within planetary limits and regenerating ecosystems
- **Social justice:** Ensuring fairness in opportunity, rights, and outcomes
- **Democratic participation:** Sharing power and decision-making openly and inclusively

In 2017, Kate Raworth published *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist*,²¹ which called for an economic framework that balances and ecological ceiling with a social foundation, and took a more playful approach in highlighting seven underlying principles:

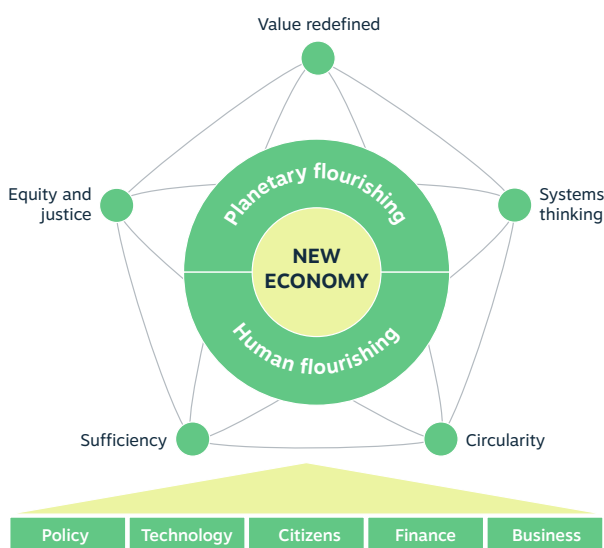
- **Change the goal:** From endless GDP growth to thriving within the doughnut
- **See the big picture:** Embed the economy within society and the living world
- **Nurture human nature:** Recognise people as socially adaptable, cooperative beings, not just self-interested agents
- **Get savvy with systems:** Embrace complexity, feedback loops, and emergence
- **Design to distribute:** Ensure equity and fairness are built into economic design
- **Create to regenerate:** Shift from degenerative to regenerative resource use
- **Be agnostic about growth:** Aim for economies that can thrive whether or not they grow



Doughnut Economy Framework (2017)

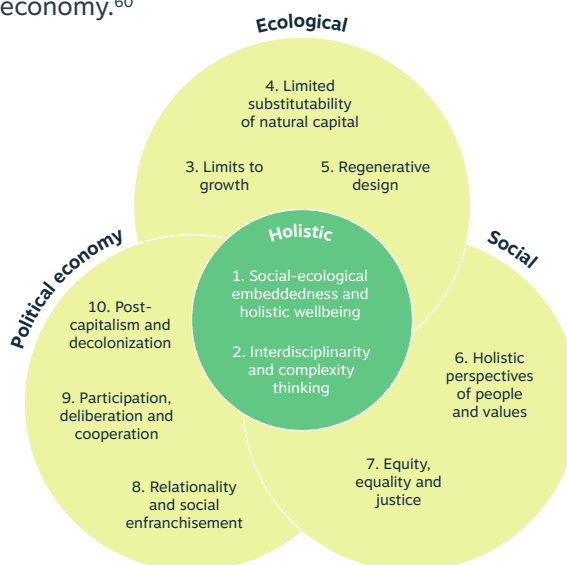
EY's *New Economy Report* (2024),⁵⁹ which approached the task more from a business angle, outlined five principles to guide “regenerative transformation”:

- **Sufficiency:** Ensuring enough for all
- **Circularity:** Keeping materials in use while restoring ecosystems
- **Systems thinking:** Acknowledging interdependence
- **Redefining value:** Tracking prosperity across multiple capitals, not just finance
- **Equity and justice:** Ensuring the benefits of transition are fairly shared



EY's Principles and Framework of a New Economy (2024)

Earlier this year, in 2025, the paper *Ten Principles for Transforming Economics in a Time of Global Crises* conducted a synthesis of 38 economic frameworks and distilled ten shared principles for rethinking the economy.⁶⁰



Ten Principles for Transforming Economics in a Time of Global Crises (2025)

03

Mapping the Field

Introduction

Across Europe, many organisations are experimenting with, adopting, or fully embodying principles of the new economy in practice. Yet the diffuse nature of this field makes it challenging to articulate. This mapping aims to help make the field more visible and demonstrate that the new economy includes a constellation of diverse initiatives that together are beginning to form a broader movement.

Demos Helsinki made an important step in 2022 with the publication of *Turning the Tide*, which mapped 128 organisations across Europe. Our aim with this mapping was to:

- **Expand the geographical scope** to better represent regions like Eastern and Southern Europe
- **Widen the scope of activities** beyond think tanks and advocacy groups to capture a fuller breadth of the field

Through an iterative research process, we identified and documented **735 organisations across Europe** (see [Appendix F](#) for a full list) that are engaged in work aligned with the new economic principles.

Methodology

We identified organisations to review and potentially include using the following approach:

- Reviewing existing new economy indexes and related reports
- Interviewing organisations that act as key “node” organisations* in their regions
- Gathering input through online workshops with new economy organisations and our advisory panel
- Conducting desk research with multiple keywords and multiple languages in each country in focus
- Using AI to surface additional possible organisations we may have overlooked

Each identified organisation was reviewed against our inclusion criteria to assess its relevance and fit. Developing these criteria was itself an iterative process, as we tested the boundaries of what constitutes the New Economy field.

Further explanation of our methodology, inclusionary criteria, and countries in scope can be found in [Appendix E](#).

* An organisation that holds relationships with multiple actors and has a potential overview of information and resources.

Inclusionary Criteria	Explanation	Additional Comments
Mission-alignment	Organisations working explicitly or implicitly toward transforming economic systems. Includes economy-wide initiatives and sector-specific work (e.g. energy, housing, agriculture) when linked to systemic change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: organisations focused only on (broadly defined) sustainable development or social entrepreneurship; environmental NGOs unless explicitly linking their work to economic systems change; environmental economics. • Included: unions with systemic ambitions.
Organisational Status	Generally, entities mapped needed to be formally incorporated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: informal or inactive groups. • Included: Highly aligned but unincorporated networks, consortia, and chapters were included if deemed important for the field to be aware of.
Legal Form	Eligible: nonprofits (NGOs, foundations, associations, charities) and not-for-profits (cooperatives, social enterprises) reinvesting surpluses into their mission and meeting other criteria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: For-profits, short-term and EU projects. • Included: Academic “centres” if mission aligned.
Geographic Presence	Must be based in, or maintain a legal entity/office in, a European country in focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: groups based in Europe but working primarily outside Europe. • Exception: those addressing extractive North–South dynamics (e.g., debt relief).
Scale of Activity	Organisations operating at regional, national, or international levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: Hyper-local projects, unless they demonstrated wider relevance.
Web Presence	An accessible, up-to-date website was required as a proxy for activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: Entities with inactive websites. • Included: Entities without a website but with active social media presence.

Necessary Caveats

We aimed for this mapping work to be as comprehensive as possible, but there are likely many organisations that we left out.

In going about this work, there is a spectrum that quickly becomes clear. On one end of the spectrum are ‘core’ new economy organisations that focus explicitly on economic transformation – typically think tanks, advocacy groups, and networks. On the other end of the spectrum is every organisation focused on some form of social or environmental change. Landing on one side of the spectrum or the other would limit the usefulness of this work, but landing somewhere in the middle can be a world of grey area and subjective judgement calls.

For example, based on feedback from the field, we agreed early on to include sectoral-focused organisations (e.g., providers of tangible necessities like food, housing, energy) that met other criteria,

as these organisations embody an important aspect of the new economy put into practice. However, many organisations do this kind of work without an explicit link to economic systems transformation, and it was not feasible to include them all. We thus decided to include only those organisations that 1) were recommended to us as being part of the field by those we interviewed, 2) were part of a new economy-aligned network, or 3) arose through desk research and used explicit language about how their work connects to economic systems change.

Another example is the threshold of transformation. We excluded organisations focused on environmental economics (which differs from ecological economics, see overview below) given frequent criticism of the approach throughout the field. But it wasn’t an easy call, as while it does not advocate for broader changes in economic governance, it can be argued as a pragmatic step forward.



Environmental economics works within mainstream economic theory, treating environmental harm as a form of market failure. Its aim is to fix this failure by internalising externalities through things like pricing harm or valuing ecosystem services – while largely retaining a growth-oriented model.

Ecological economics, by contrast, begins from the premise that the economy is a subsystem of the biosphere, bounded by energy and material flows. It rejects the idea that natural and human-made capital are infinitely substitutable, and prioritises ecological integrity and social equity over perpetual growth.

There will be reasonable criticisms, both of organisations that were included, and of others that were left out. We acknowledge these limitations with humility: this is a best-effort snapshot of a fast-moving and diverse field using our judgment alongside adherence to applied criteria – not a definitive or final list.

A Living Directory

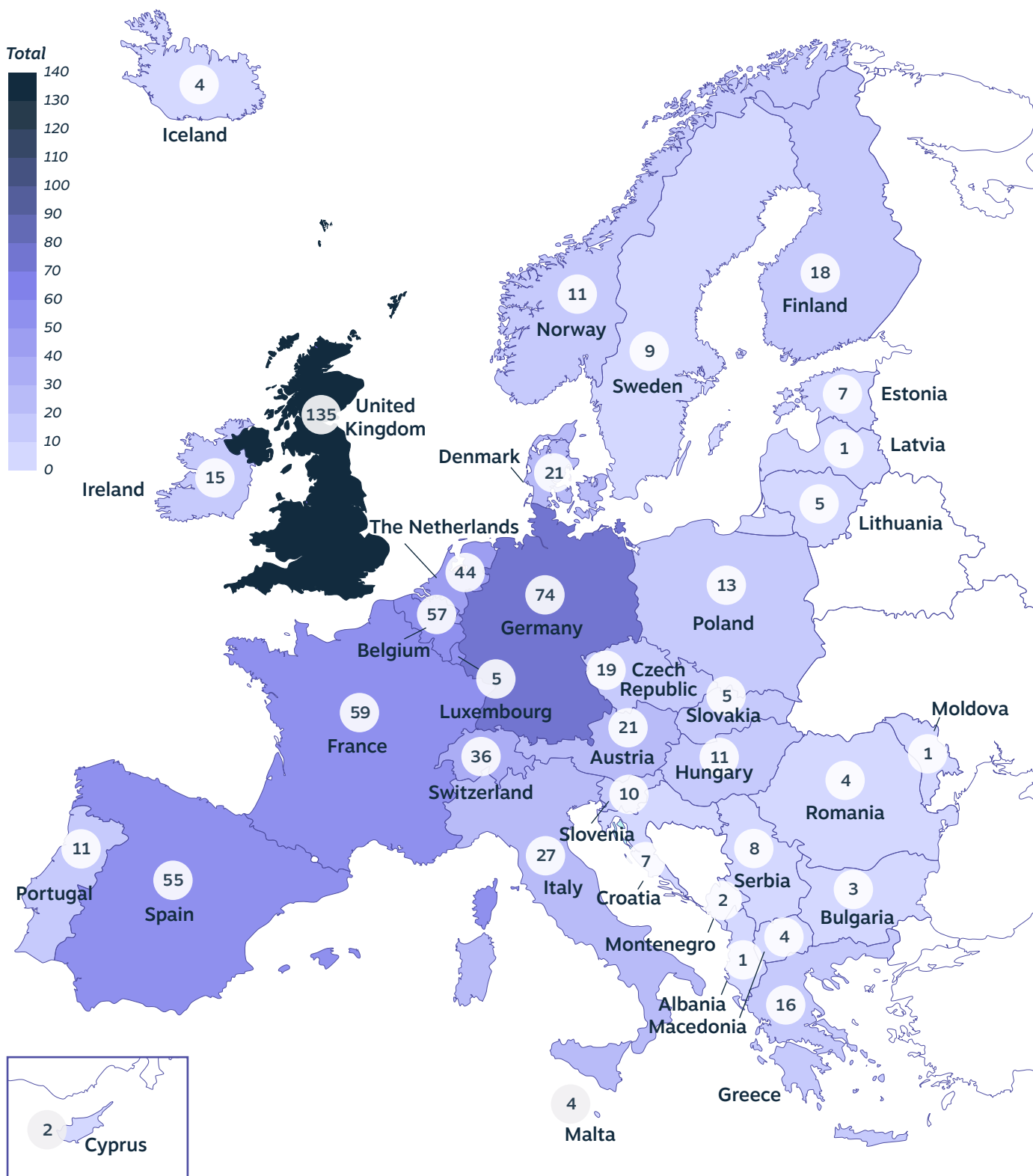
This index will be turned into a living directory that serves as a user-friendly resource for stakeholders to identify like-minded actors, explore opportunities for collaboration, and gain a clearer understanding of this emerging field. While we had to draw firmer lines for the purposes of this analysis of what organisations to include, the directory will be more open to additional organisations who see themselves as part of the field.

The directory will be launched in January 2026, with a beta version available this fall to gather feedback and refine its functionality and design. To stay updated and receive more information, you can [visit the site](#) and sign up for further updates, or use the QR code on the side of this page.



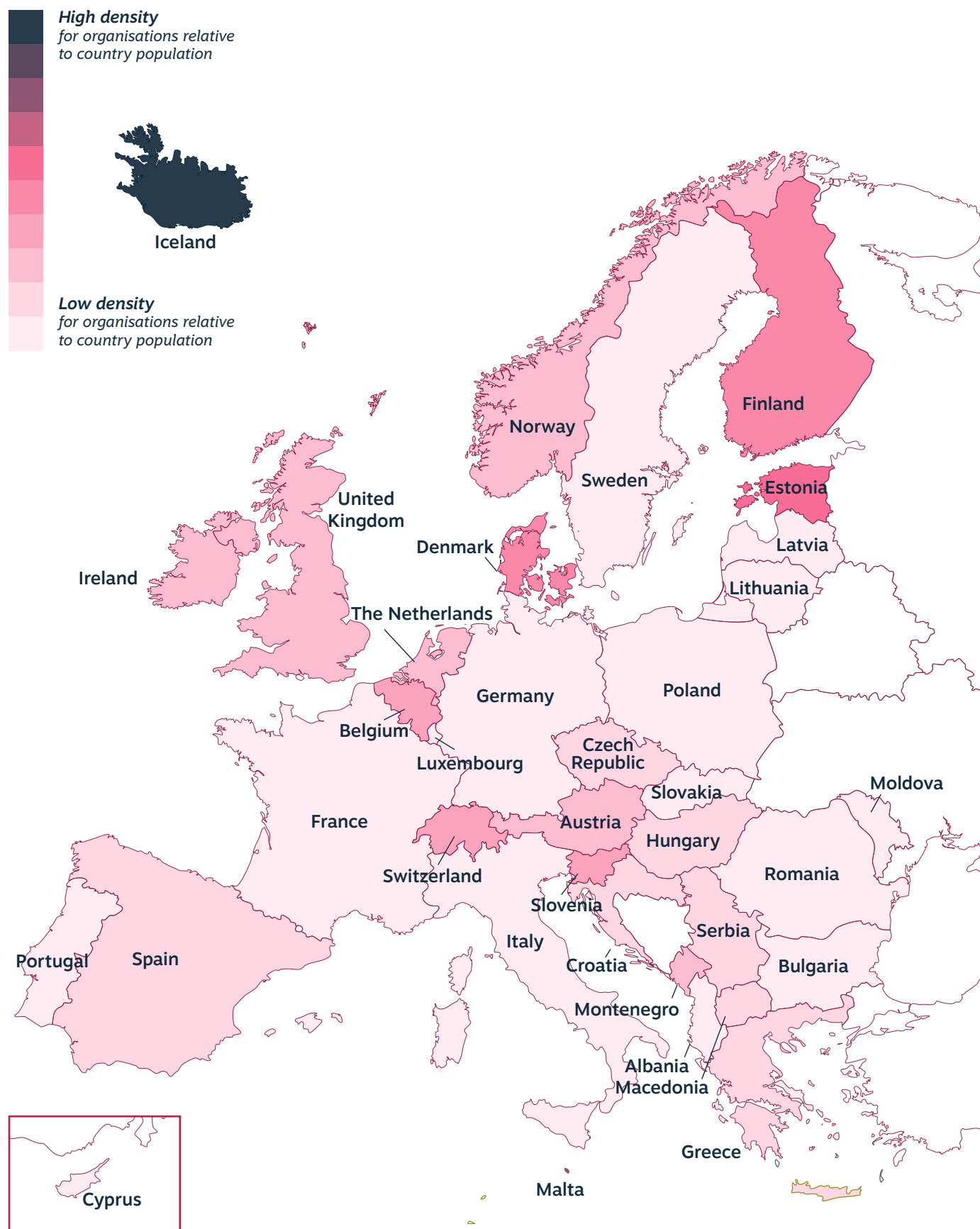
Mapping the field

Our mapping included 735 organisations across 35 European countries. The complete list of organisations can be found in [Appendix F](#).



A map of the field – absolute numbers of organisations indexed per country

Per 10.000 people



A map of the field – per-capita numbers of organisations indexed per country.

How the New Economy Field has Evolved

The new economy field has not grown in a straight line, but rather in waves — often catalysed by moments of social, ecological, and financial crises. What emerges is a picture of an ecosystem that is expanding in scope, geography, and connective strength.

GROWING AS AN ECOSYSTEM, MAINLY IN RESPONSE TO CRISIS

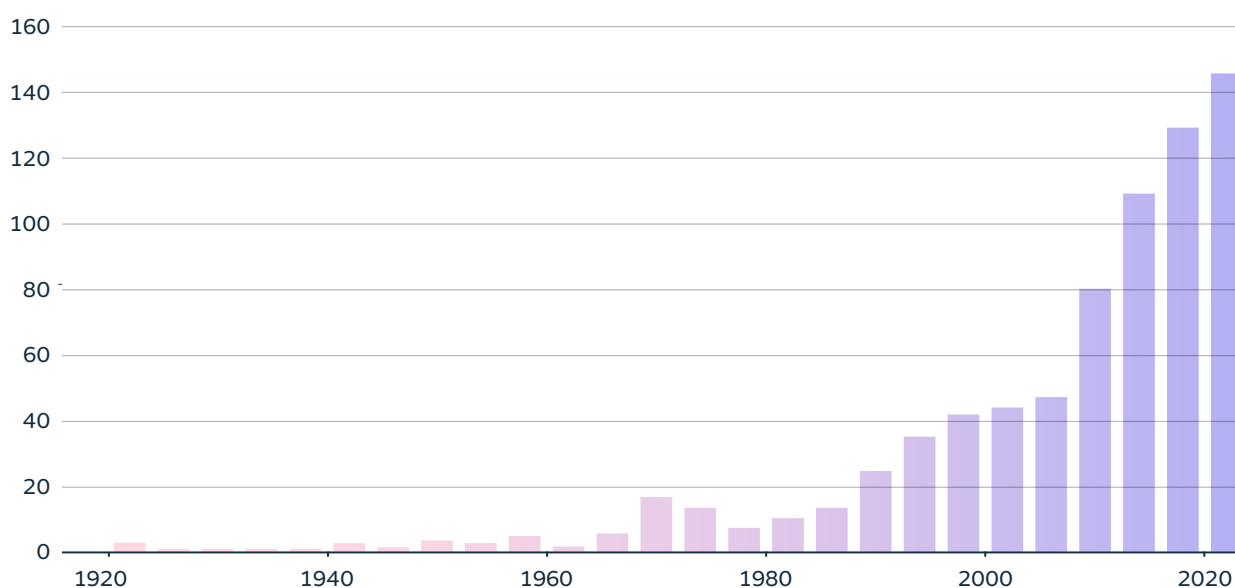
The further back we go, the less data tells a clear story. Many organisations founded 50+ years ago have closed or merged, and only those still active today were included in our mapping. Most of the organisations founded before 1930 tend to be labour unions and cooperatives, which laid the groundwork for worker solidarity and collective ownership. In the mid 1900s, a new wave of international solidarity organisations appeared, reflecting initial efforts of decolonisation and development.

“The development of the Social & Solidarity Economy in Greece was not by coincidence - it started [in 2009] in response to the financial crisis, when the need for alternative social and economic systems became urgent.”

In the past 50 years, we can observe surges of organisations being founded as part of the new economy field, often in response to crises or other parallel areas of activity:

- **1970s:** A turning point when environmentally focused groups and early sustainability think tanks emerged, catalysed by *Limits to Growth* (1972).
- **1990s–2000s:** Sustainable development enters the mainstream via the Brundtland Report (1987) and Rio Summit (1992), prompting new NGOs and ecological economics institutes. As the effects of neoliberalism set in, the Cold War ends, and traditionally center-left parties abandon labour in the US and the UK, we also see the growth of explicitly economic advocacy organisations, including feminist economics networks, anti-poverty campaigns, and a proliferation of social and solidarity economy initiatives.
- **2000s:** Climate urgency accelerates, from the Kyoto Protocol to the IPCC’s 2007 report, spurring climate justice coalitions and sustainability advocacy.
- **Post-2008 financial crisis:** The financial crash exposes systemic fragility, sparking explicitly “new economy” organisations (e.g. Rethinking Economics, Finance Watch, Positive Money, Economy for the Common Good).
- **2010s–2020s:** The Paris Agreement, climate strikes, and Covid-19 galvanise expansion of post-/degrowth and justice-focused organisations, connecting ecological crises to systemic economic reform (e.g., Wellbeing Economy Alliance, Doughnut Economics Action Lab).

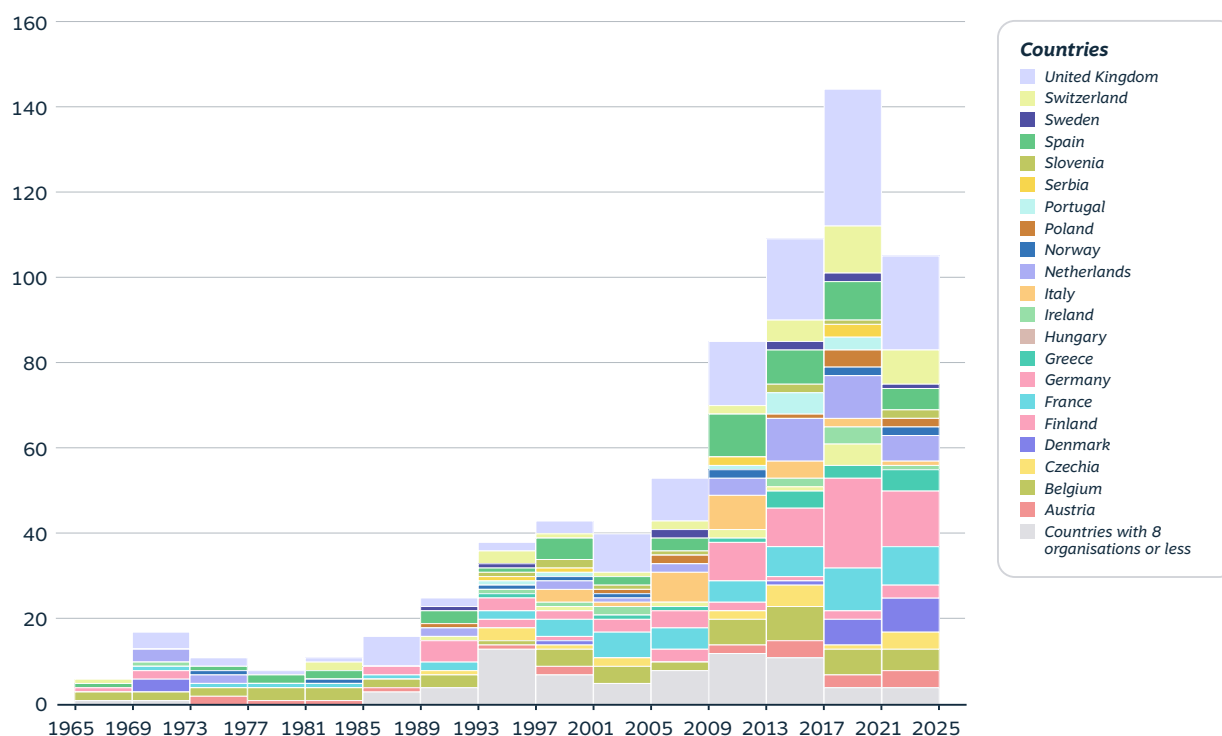
NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS FOUNDED BY YEAR



A YOUNG AND EMERGING FIELD

The new economy landscape across Europe is emergent and thriving, and also relatively young. **Roughly half of the organisations we mapped have been founded in the past 10 years.** This was primarily driven by a sharp increase following the

2008 crash, and the climate emergency becoming more pressing and building momentum in 2018-2019. Zooming in, 145 (or 20%) of those we mapped were founded the past five years.



Note: Founding years of organisations were grouped into 4-year increments, which was deemed the best balance for visualising the data (as opposed to 1-year or 5-year increments). The numbers appear to decline in the last period primarily because organisations that were founded in the past year would be unlikely to be identified in our mapping work.

DIVERSIFICATION: IN GEOGRAPHY AND SCOPE

The new economy field in Europe has expanded in both geographical distribution and scope of activity.

A Robust Field in Western Europe

There is a heavily weighted representation across Western Europe (including the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands).

The United Kingdom hosts by far the most organisations – perhaps due to living with the effects of neoliberalisation for much longer than other parts of Europe, its more robust philanthropic ecosystem, and / or the presence of strong movement builders like New Economy Foundation, New Economy Organisers Network (NEON), and others.

Meanwhile, Brussels hosts the densest cluster of policy institutes and networks due to its proximity to EU policymakers.

Pro-Active Ecosystem Development in the Nordics

There is a conscious and pro-active development of the new economy field in Nordic countries. The field here is more nascent compared to the field in Western Europe, but it is developing quickly and is driven by strategic, coordinated efforts across well-linked organisations.

Emergence in Eastern and Southeastern Europe

In Eastern and Southeastern Europe, where philanthropic and state funding streams are less developed, we see more NGOs, grassroots initiatives, and labour unions as central actors in the new economy space. Think tanks and field builders are slower to emerge.

“The demand is bigger than the supply, at least in Eastern Europe – there is a lot higher interest in this topic from civil society.”

Regional environmental NGOs are beginning to anchor new economy principles. Alongside, small but strategic actors – think tanks, advocacy groups, grassroots initiatives – are emerging in countries like Poland, Czechia, Hungary, and the Baltics, often working at the intersection of economic transformation, democracy, and climate transition.

A larger family of activities

The field has become more diverse, with a broader set of both activities and thematic areas seen as central to the work. Over the past decade, the field has evolved from a relatively narrow policy-advocacy space into a far more diverse and interconnected ecosystem.

“This new paradigm and larger field that’s emerging needs to actively cultivate diversity and plurality – and see it as a strength, not fragmentation.”

Equally, a growing number of organisations in particular fields (like affordable housing, food security, nature conservation, etc.) are explicitly connecting their efforts and objectives to economic transformation. Today, the field spans climate-transition advocates, digital-commons builders, community wealth practitioners, post-growth researchers, and regenerative business coalitions.

Strengthened as an Ecosystem

Most respondents hesitated to yet call the new economy field a joined up *movement*, but the perception is that it has definitely grown – not just in quantity of actors but in the quality of the networks and connections.

“It’s not just that the field has grown in size and diversity – over the last decade its connective tissue has matured, with stronger relationships and healthier networks giving it a resilience it lacked before.”

Collaboration has become more common and fruitful. Practitioners are working in cross-sector partnerships that bridge trade associations, industry groups, and activist coalitions. These collaborations often adopt “team-of-teams” models or shared narrative platforms, reflecting a growing comfort with emergence and distributed leadership.

“There is increased attention for collaborative systems change approaches – collectively addressing root causes. This requires openness, continuous learning, and the ability to work in emergent, fluid structures.”

There is also a rising recognition that economic systems change depends on shared infrastructure – legal frameworks, digital tools, financial mechanisms, and narratives that legitimise democratic, regenerative economies as viable. There is a feeling that the field is starting to move from isolated projects toward building the connective tissue that allows the field to begin acting like a more coherent system. It’s slow, uneven, and requires dedicated time from already overstretched organisations, but it is happening.

An aerial photograph of a river valley. A wide river flows through the center, with a multi-lane highway running parallel to it on the left. A town is nestled in the valley, surrounded by green fields and forested hills. The sky is clear and blue.

04

Navigating the Field

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Why Categorise

Efforts to transform our economic system encompass a wide range of activities and issue-areas. The categorisation framework that follows is offered as a tool to build shared language and collective understanding across the new economy field.

Like any framework, it carries limitations, blind spots, and embedded biases. Categorising can risk oversimplifying, reinforcing existing power dynamics, or privileging certain perspectives over others. The intention here is not to define the field from above, but to provide a working structure that can be adapted, contested, and reshaped by those within it. The proposed categorisation is therefore less of a static map and more of an invitation – a tool that can evolve as the field does.

The framework offered below is a set of typologies – a classification scheme that consists of “theoretically derived, and more or less intuitively categorised, qualities of observed phenomena.”⁶¹ These typologies aim to:

- **Inspire and Connect:** Help different actors navigate and make sense of the field in ways that spark collaboration and new ideas.
- **Offer a Shared Language:** Provide accessible, intuitive terms for “who is doing what” for insiders and newcomers alike.
- **Reveal Patterns and Gaps:** Segment activity to highlight overlaps, complementarities, and opportunities.
- **Tell a Bigger Story:** Communicate the diversity, momentum, and vision of the field in ways that funders, policymakers, and practitioners can all recognise.

The typologies have also formed the basis of an analysis of philanthropic funding streams to the new economy in Europe, a piece of work that will be published in late 2025.

Methodology

The typology was built through a layered process:

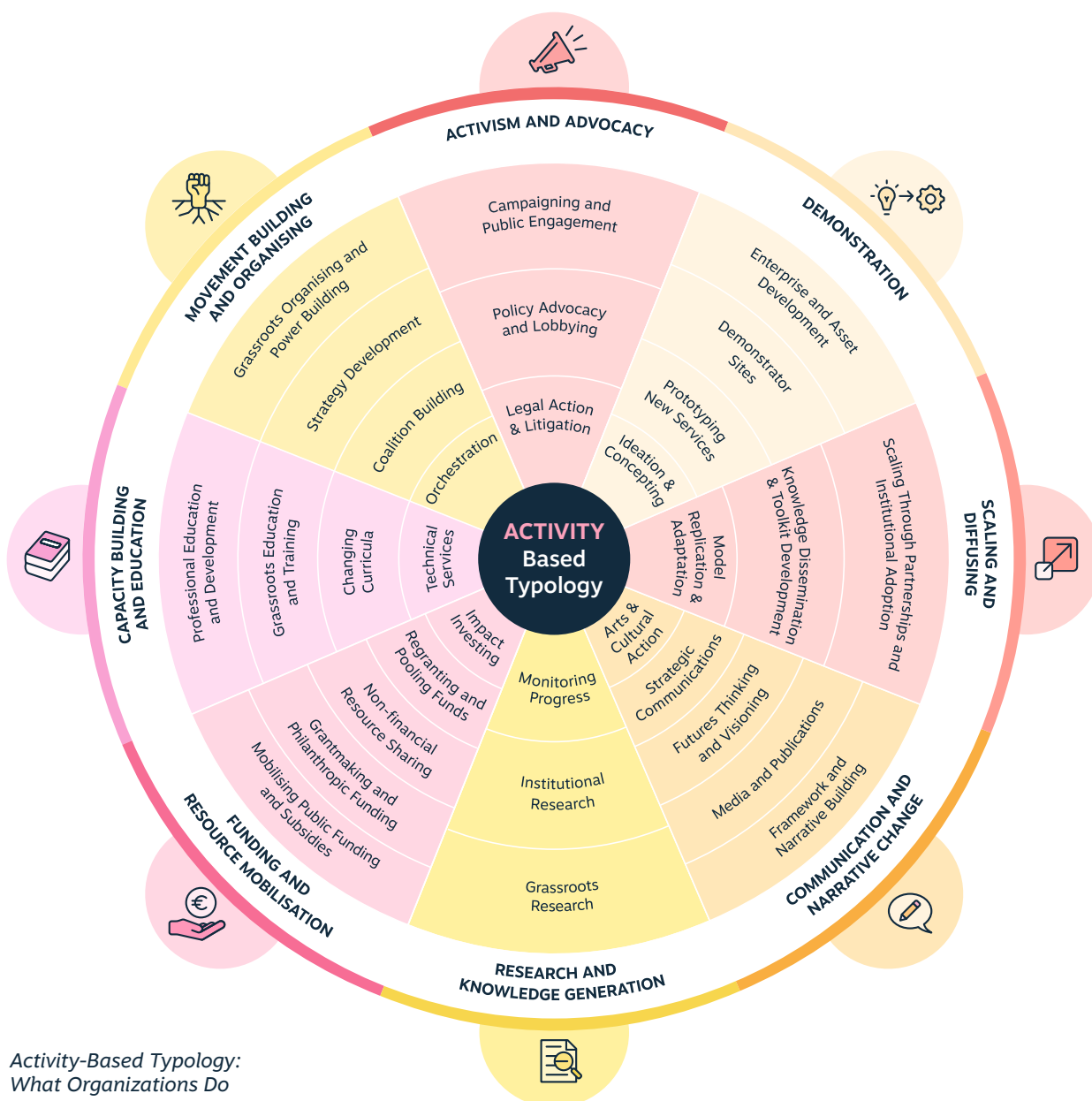
- **Reference frameworks:** We mapped existing approaches ranging from outcomes and leverage points, branches of the new economy field, scales of intervention, and existing governance models.
- **Deductive and inductive design:** Starting from prior literature and categories already used by practitioners, we added new clusters inductively as organisations described their own activities and themes.
- **Iterative validation:** We tested and refined categories through interviews, surveys, workshops, and through our advisory panel. Categories had to feel intuitive, practically usable, and avoid unnecessary fragmentation.
- **Guiding principles:** We were guided by principles of clarity, accessibility, and pluralism. We wanted to avoid leaning too heavily on jargon or qualifiers, but also wanted the new economy field to feel distinct.

More information on our methodology can be found in [Appendix E](#).

To capture the richness of the new economy field, we created two typologies that form a way to navigate the field without oversimplifying it. These typologies are meant to be two different lenses for navigating the field. Both typologies are meant to be pluralistic, in that an organisation can identify working across multiple activities and multiple themes.

Typology of Activities

This typology categorises organisations by **what they do**, capturing modes of action and strategies for change. Jump to definitions and examples in the appendix [here](#).



Activity-Based Typology:
What Organizations Do

Activism & Advocacy: Driving social and policy change by raising public pressure, influencing decision-makers, and holding power to account.

Demonstration: Testing innovative solutions in real-world contexts to validate feasibility, learn, and refine before wider adoption.

Scaling & Diffusing: Expanding proven solutions to reach broader communities, sectors, or markets, and sharing them for replication or adaptation.

Communications & Narrative Change: Shaping public discourse, perception, and understanding through storytelling, media, framing, and cultural expression.

Research & Knowledge Generation: Creating new insights, evidence, & ideas through participatory, academic, and foresight methods to inform action & policy.

Funding & Resource Mobilisation: Securing and directing financial and non-financial resources to support transformative initiatives and shared goals.

Capacity Building & Education: Equipping individuals and institutions with the skills, tools, and knowledge needed to lead and sustain transformative change.

Movement Building & Organising: Strengthening collective power by developing leadership, aligning actors, and coordinating efforts for systemic change.

Typology of Thematic Areas

This typology categorises organisations by *the issues they work on*, capturing topical and thematic areas. Jump to definitions and examples in the appendix [here](#).



*Thematic-Based Typology:
What Organizations Work On*

Market Governance & Oversight: Redesigning rules and oversight of markets and industries to ensure democratic accountability, public interest, and ecological integrity.

Democratic Participation & Economic Democracy: Expanding people's collective agency in shaping decisions, policies, and institutions through inclusive governance, organising, and participatory democratic infrastructure.

Alternative Finance Systems: Building new financial models and institutions that operate outside the logic of mainstream finance to prioritise sustainability, democratic control, and the common good.

Alternative Economic Models: Exploring economic paradigms that reorient economies toward ecological balance, collective wellbeing, and justice — challenging dominant assumptions of growth, competition, and extractivism.

Public Finance & Financial System Reform: Transforming the rules, institutions, and governance of the public and private financial system to promote stability, equity, and alignment with long-term public and ecological goals.

Socio-Economic Security & Justice: Ensuring everyone has the security and resources to meet their basic needs, live with dignity, and participate fully in society.

Sectoral System Transformation: Transformative changes across the essential sectors that underpin daily life to ensure that basic societal functions are delivered in ways that are sustainable, equitable, and resilient. These shifts focus on deeply restructuring systems of provisioning and infrastructure to serve people and planet over the long term.

Place-Based Resilience: Place-based strategies that strengthen ecological integrity, climate adaptability, and community self-determination — ensuring territories are restored, resilient, and governed for long-term sustainability and justice.

Other Lenses

We also surfaced interest from the field in complementary lenses that help organisations reflect strategically, reveal gaps, and identify synergies with other practitioners.

These lenses will be incorporated in the living directory that follows from this report to help organisations further categorise who they work with, the scale of their activities, and to what extent they work with policy, power, and implementation.

Geographic Scale of Action: From local to international

This lens indicates the scales at which an organisation operates, from deeply local initiatives to explicitly European or global engagement. Organisations can select multiple scales, reflecting the often layered nature of the work.

Proximity to Power: From grassroots power-building to working inside institutions

This lens captures an organisation's relationship to power — whether they build it from the ground up, amplify grassroots voices, or engage directly within institutions. Each organisation identifies a single point that best describes its approach.



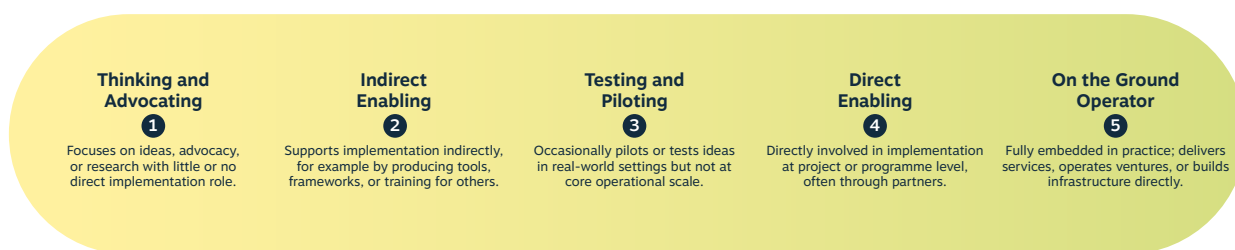
Proximity to Policy: From policy-distant activism to policy makers

This lens illustrates how closely an organisation works with policy and policymakers. Each organisation chooses the point that best reflects their engagement with policy.



Proximity to Implementation: From thought-leaders to on-the-ground activities

This lens identifies how close an organisation is to practice: from producing ideas and frameworks to enabling and fully delivering solutions on the ground. Each organisation selects the point that best matches its approach.



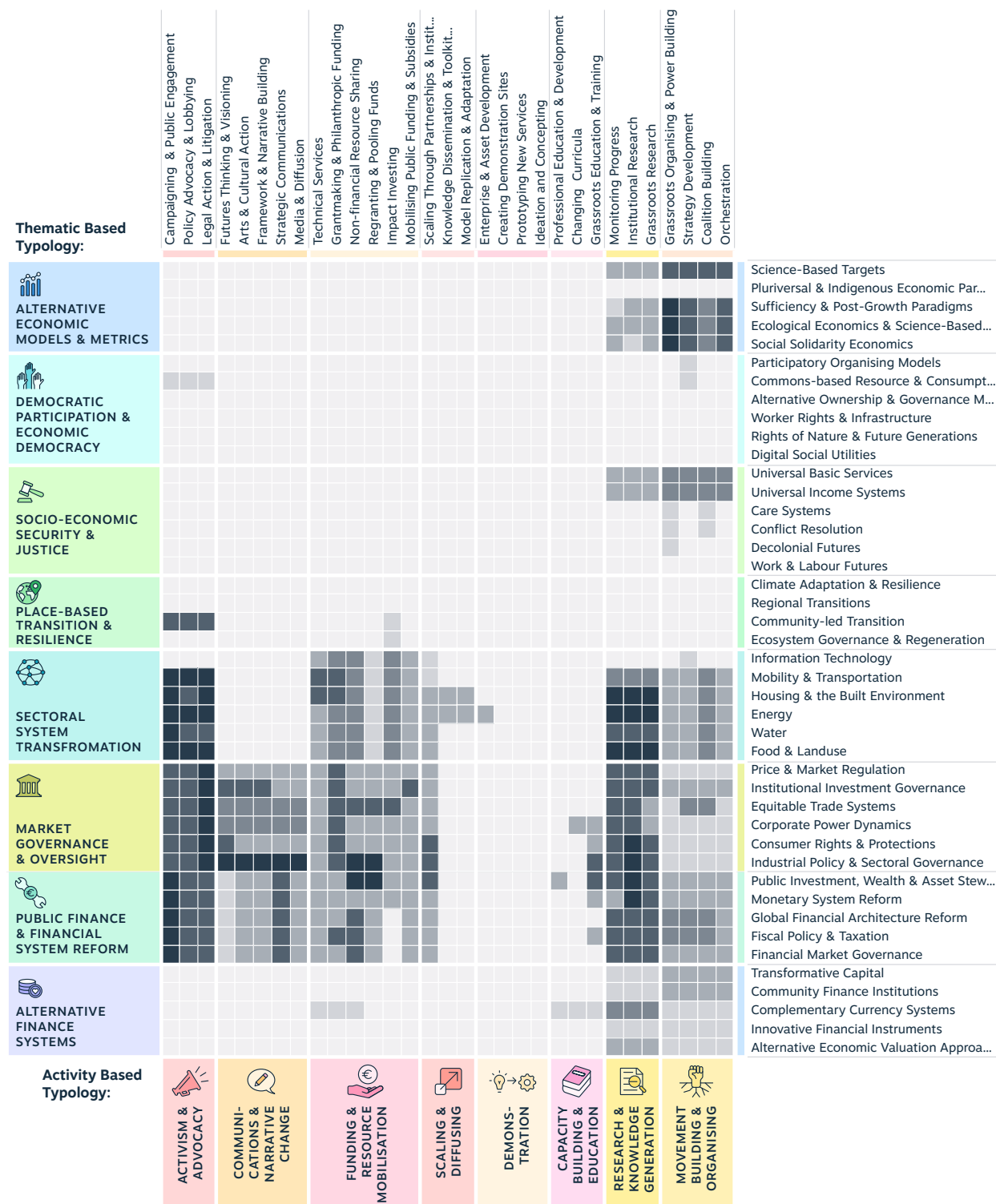
Stakeholders Engaged

Through this lens, organisations can identify which stakeholders they work with on a consistent basis. In the aggregate, it becomes easy to, for example, identify all new economy organisations in Europe that are working with financial institutions, or which German organisations are working with labour groups.

Local Communities <p>Residents and place-based groups organising around shared needs or goals at the local level.</p>	Social Enterprises <p>Mission-driven businesses that pursue social and/or environmental objectives.</p>	Activists and Social Movements <p>Informal or organised collectives advocating for systemic change through protest, campaigns, or community mobilisation.</p>	Youth and Student Movements <p>Organised groups of young people advocating for social, environmental, or political change, often tied to education spaces.</p>
Small Businesses <p>Locally-owned or independent enterprises operating at a small scale within the market economy.</p>	Labour Groups and Trade Unions <p>Organisations that represent workers' rights, advocate for fair labour conditions, and negotiate with employers or policymakers.</p>	Corporations <p>Large for-profit companies with significant influence over markets and supply chains.</p>	Media / Communicators <p>Journalists, media outlets, and communication professionals shaping narratives and public awareness.</p>
Cultural Institutions and Artists <p>Museums, theatres, artists, and other actors using cultural expression to influence meaning and imagination.</p>	Elected Officials <p>Individuals chosen through elections to represent the public and make or oversee public policy decisions.</p>	Education Sector Beyond Academia <p>Individuals or institutions conducting theoretical or applied research, often based in universities or think tanks.</p>	Funders / Philanthropic Organizations <p>Grant-making institutions, foundations, and donors supporting causes financially and strategically.</p>
Civil Servants <p>Public sector professionals and administrative staff responsible for developing, advising on, or implementing public policy and services.</p>	International Organizations & Networks <p>Multilateral institutions, NGOs, and cross-border coalitions working across countries or regions.</p>	Faith-Based Organizations <p>Religious institutions and initiatives motivated by spiritual or ethical values to serve communities.</p>	Financial Institutions <p>Banks, credit unions, insurers, and investors managing capital flows, credit, and financial services.</p>

This matrix approach has potential to give a snapshot of the activities and thematic areas an organisation works on. Perhaps more usefully, the set of typologies can be used as a quick snapshot of a regional ecosystem. For example, mapping the

field of a particular country onto the matrix could, in one graphic, show across which activities and themes the field is concentrated, and where there are gaps.



An example of a country-level mapping of new economy organisations, and how the heatmap can show strengths and gaps.

Uses for different stakeholder groups

For organisations & practitioners:

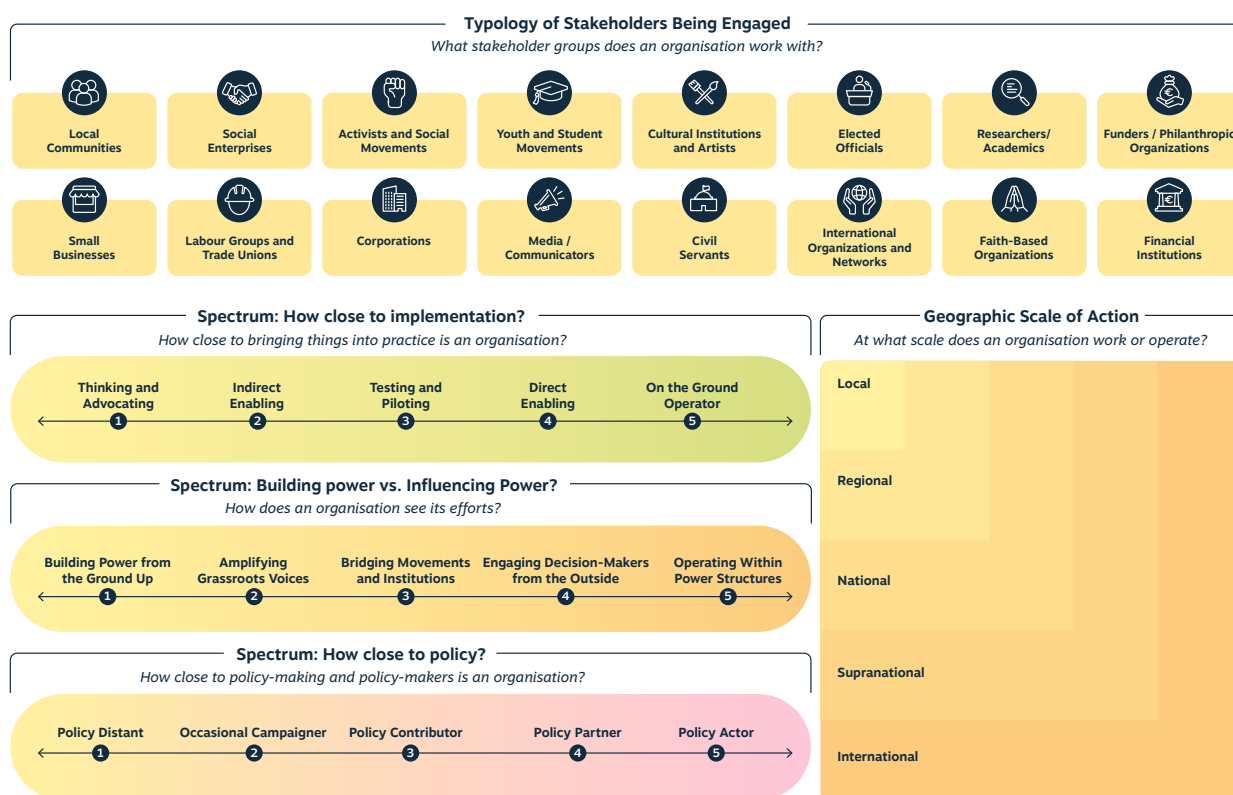
- **Positioning and reflection:** Enabling organisations to ask “Where do we sit? What are we not doing, and who is?” This helps avoid duplication and surface complementary strategies.
- **Find allies:** By situating themselves across activities, themes, and lenses, organisations can identify natural partners — whether aligned on theme (e.g. energy transitions) or complementary in approach (e.g. connecting campaigners with litigators).

For funders:

- **Portfolio analysis:** Overlay portfolios with the typology to reveal where funding flows, where gaps remain, and how strategies differ.
- **Portfolios design:** Use the lenses to test alignment with a theory of change, stress-test balance across strategies, and identify new engagement opportunities.

For networks & coalitions:

- **Map member diversity:** Explore how activities, themes, and geographies are covered across an alliance or network.
- **Shape joint strategies:** Find alignment around complementary roles and approaches to stitch together more impactful interventions.



Template for use: “Other Lenses for Organizations” - where does your organisation sit in this template? If surveying a group of organisations, where do they sit relative to each other?



05

Understanding the Field

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Overview

This section looks beyond mapping and categorisation to better grasp the dynamics of Europe's new economy ecosystem. We set out to understand not only who makes up the field, but also how it functions: what barriers organisations face, how they collaborate, and where gaps remain.

Questions we set out to answer:

- What **trends** does the field point to as most relevant?
- How has the **field evolved** in the past few years?
- Where is there **strong momentum or traction** for ideas and concepts?
- What are the **barriers and challenges** organisations face to creating impact?
- What **resources are needed** across the field?
- What **roles** are missing?

Key Trends

Here, we highlight and unpack the key external trends that surfaced most during surveys, interviews, and other engagements. Where we could, we have also included quotes that could strengthen the picture – anonymised and edited lightly for clarity.



POSITIVE TRENDS

1

Recognition of Systemic Failure and Openness to Alternative Economics

Growing awareness of the systemic roots of today's crises is fuelling bold action and investment in new economic models.

2

Rising Citizen Engagement

More Europeans are building bottom-up alternatives that demonstrate how communities can meet needs differently.

3

Embrace of New Funding Models

Funders increasingly see finance as central to systemic change, creating momentum to channel resources into transformative infrastructure.

4

Re-Acknowledged Role of Government

Governments are re-emerging as active economic architects, shaping markets and investing in long-term transitions.



NEGATIVE TRENDS

1

General Feeling of Decline and Resulting Fatigue

Amid constant crises, many feel exhausted and disoriented even as urgency drives demand for alternatives.

2

Political Polarisation and Far-Right Political Shift

Rising far-right populism, fuelled by living costs and distrust, threatens the field but also underscores the need for broad coalitions.

3

Backsliding & Backlash Towards Environmental Policies

Environmental issues are facing backlash, requiring reframing around health, resilience, and community benefits.

4

Geopolitical Destabilisation and Europe's Military Industrialisation

Geopolitical turmoil is diverting resources and attention, challenging organisations to adapt without losing focus.



MIXED TRENDS

1

Covid's Lasting Scars and Lessons

The pandemic left lasting scars but also sparked mutual aid, stronger safety nets, and openness to state intervention.

2

Adapting Narratives to Shifting Politics

Shifting politics are forcing the field to adapt language, embrace pluralism, and find resonance beyond its own circles.

3

AI as Both Tool and Threat

AI boosts capacity but concentrates wealth, raising governance challenges while potentially galvanising broader support for change.



POSITIVE TRENDS

1

Recognition of Systemic Failure and Openness to Alternative Economics

There is a growing sense that the current paradigm is failing. People differ on who to blame or what to do, but clarity is emerging that our economic model drives harmful outcomes.

This recognition was long delayed by the post-war boom, the binary narrative of the Cold War, and optimism of the 1990s. But shocks from the 2008 crash, the Covid pandemic, persistent inflation, and accelerating ecological breakdown have exposed deep structural flaws.

“The bigger the crisis, the more people step up with new solutions and want to do things differently.”

This shift is reflected in public opinion. A 2017 Eurobarometer showed majorities across the EU believe income differences are too big and governments should act to reduce them.⁶² By 2022, 81% of citizens said inequality was too high, while agreement that “things in life are fair” fell from 51% to 38%.⁶³

“There is growing scrutiny of neoclassical economics, with policymakers increasingly seeking out economists who offer alternative perspectives. It’s not that politics have shifted, but there’s a recognition that traditional thinking hasn’t addressed today’s challenges—and won’t solve many of the problems we’ll face in the coming decades.”

Support for growth-critical perspectives is also on the rise. Studies suggest that over 60% of Europeans favour post-growth ideals,⁶⁴ and in Spain 61% hold agrowth or degrowth positions.⁶⁵ Among experts, alignment is even stronger: 86% of EU climate policy researchers are skeptical of “green growth” and favour post-growth approaches.⁶⁶

“There is increasing skepticism about the idea of infinite economic growth, especially in light of ecological limits. I think this is also an outcome of the international climate and environmental movement. The European Parliament had recently had discussions on post-growth policies, which I wouldn’t have thought would be possible 15 years ago.”

Internationally, interest is also growing in new measurement frameworks.⁶⁷ Resistance from entrenched systems remains, but the appetite for practical, systemic alternatives is spreading across sectors and constituencies.

2

Rising Citizen Engagement

Across Europe, citizens are increasingly taking matters into their own hands, particularly in food, water, and energy. Faced with barriers at national and EU levels, many turn to local initiatives that let them directly shape the futures they want.

Community structures — from energy cooperatives to neighbourhood hubs — serve as gateways to alternatives, sparking dialogue on how to meet basic needs outside dominant market logic. Today, citizens drive over 10,500 renewable energy projects in 30 countries, involving 2 million people and billions in investment that generate more than 8 GW of clean power.⁶⁸ Participation in community gardens has surged since 2018,⁶⁹ while Germany alone hosts 1,200 repair cafés, reflecting a growing culture of resilience and sufficiency.⁷⁰

“We’re investing more into community, and I think that’s our main response to these changing circumstances. People seem quite lost and in need of that community.”

These initiatives demonstrate that essential services can be organised differently – through localism and decentralisation. They prioritise community craftsmanship, anchor wealth in local economies, and create spaces for agency and connection. Two groups are especially active: young people squeezed by high costs and precarious jobs, and over-50s seeking renewed purpose and community ties.^{71,72}

3

Embrace of New Funding Models

As the urgency of systems change grows, funders and practitioners are moving beyond conventional grantmaking. New mechanisms – from steward-ownership to systemic finance – aim to mirror the inclusive, resilient economies they seek to build.

Participatory and Collaborative Grantmaking: Shifting who decides

Philanthropy is becoming more collaborative, with donors pooling resources around shared outcomes. A scan of 310 collaboratives (during the years 2022 - 2024) shows this trend gaining traction.⁷³ Decision-making is also shifting: participatory grantmaking (PGM) is moving from principle to practice through peer panels and municipal-level experiments.

Community Foundations

Community foundations are leading place-based, democratised funding. A 2022 survey identified 851 across 22 European countries, supported by 32 infrastructure organisations in 25 countries.⁷⁴ Guided by citizen boards and rooted in local needs, they sit within a broader ecosystem of ~175,000 European public-benefit foundations with €516bn in assets and €76bn in annual spending.⁷⁵

Systemic Finance and Capital Orchestration

Emerging “systemic finance” approaches combine tools like steward finance, blended finance, and capital orchestration – sequencing grants, loan guarantees, concessional debt, and evergreen equity – to mobilise aligned capital at the scale required for place-based transitions and other efforts.⁷⁶

4

Re-Acknowledged Role of Government

After a few decades of retreat, governments are beginning to reclaim their place at the centre of economic governance. This has been boosted by thought leaders like Mariana Mazzucato, whose Entrepreneurial State helped shift the conversation from “state as bureaucrat” to “state as a mission-driven investor and market-creator”.

“The pivotal role of the government in economic development is increasingly recognised after decades of being ignored or actively denigrated, hence broader acceptance of industrial strategy.”

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend, exposing the need for governments with dynamic capabilities to manage systemic risks. Geopolitical shocks further spurred a resurgence of industrial policy. In 2024, former ECB President Mario Draghi called for €750–800 billion in annual public investment, coordinated industrial strategy, capital market reform, and pan-EU bonds to drive digital and green transformation. Rising U.S. protectionism and intensifying competition with China have only reinforced this view.



NEGATIVE TRENDS

1

General Feeling of Decline

Respondents described a widespread sense of decline, driven by overlapping crises: climate breakdown, rising living costs, housing shortages, geopolitical instability, and demographic change. These issues collide with political systems seen as outdated, short-term, and captured by entrenched interests.

“Chaos...and Exhaustion since Covid has impacted our ability to convince the public there’s hope or that change is possible. People are exhausted with crisis.”

The constant churn of crises has worn people out, making sustained participation and organising more difficult.

“Faced with an acceleration of things, which makes the work more and more difficult. We need longer processes to involve people, to have real democracy. But the velocity of change is a big challenge. We don’t have the oxygen to be able to breathe at the pace we need.”

These stressors dovetail with fragmented public concerns. A study by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) found Europeans increasingly grouped by dominant crises – climate, immigration, pandemics, or military conflict – rather than traditional political divides.⁷⁷

At the same time: Amid this instability, moments of disruption have opened rare windows for alternative solutions to break through and capture public and political attention.

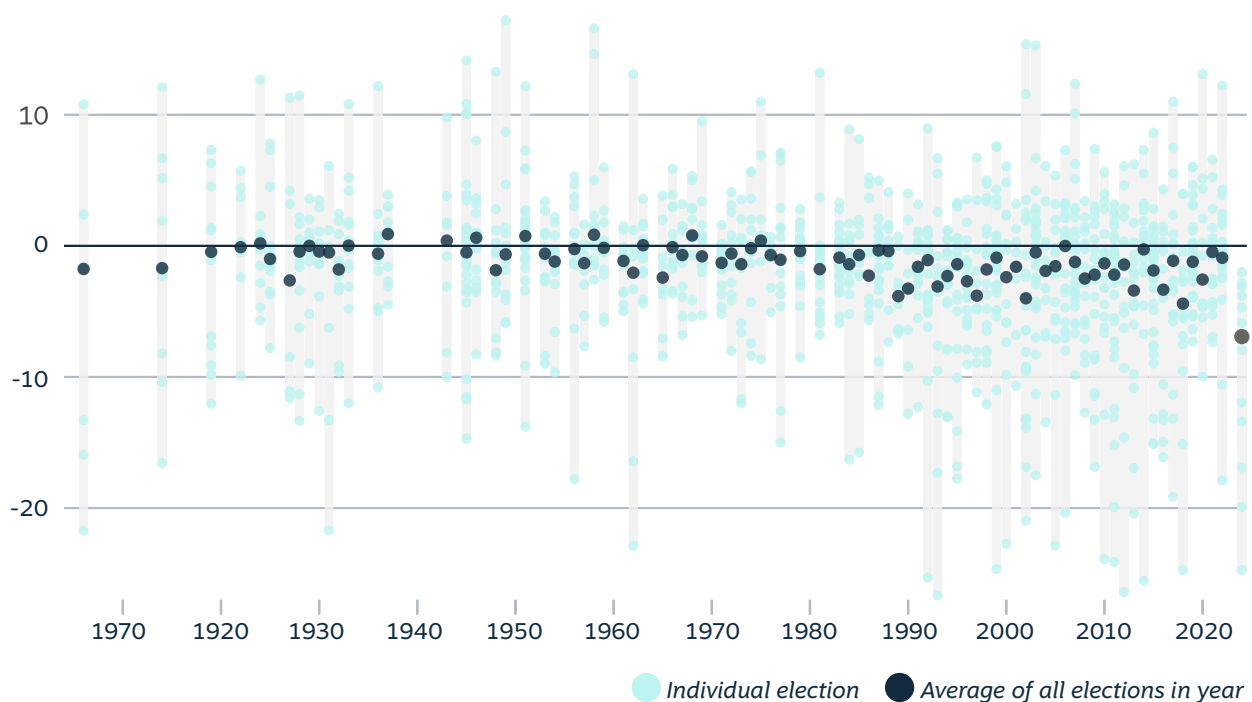
2

Political Polarisation and a Far-Right Political Shift

Across Europe and beyond, far-right parties are gaining strength, fuelled by a public sense that the economy and mainstream politics no longer serve them.

“We see the rise of the far right here [in the UK]. And this far right, as they have elsewhere, has seized on the economic justice demands.”

RISE/FALL IN VOTE SHARE FOR GOVERNING PARTIES IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS (% pts), by year



Excludes years where fewer than five countries had elections. FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch. Sources: ParlGov, FT research ©FT

This does not mean voters are all moving sharply to the right. Rather, economic strain tends to drive people toward simple narratives and quick fixes, while politicians – often backed by wealth and power – exploit that discontent.

“The welfare state in most western countries has been increasingly dismantled, leaving an opening to far-right parties who leverage grievances of populations increasingly in hardship and looking for change.”

The backlash is widespread. In 2024, the *Financial Times* reported that every governing party in developed countries lost vote share – the first time on record.⁷⁸

This backlash has real implications for elements of the new economy field working to influence policy. By confronting the economic drivers of polarisation, the field can offer upstream solutions that undercut the appeal of reactionary politics. But equally, if policy-making is moving in the opposite direction, the scope of one’s work is limited.

“There’s a clear rise of the extreme right. It’s very difficult to think about what our work looks like in a country governed by the extreme right”

At the same time: Not all conservatives are adversaries. The centre-right often shares priorities like supporting small businesses, ensuring truly competitive markets, and supporting stewardship of communities and nature. This can form the basis for challenging but necessary alliances.

3

Backsliding & Backlash Towards Environmental Policies

Many perceive climate and social policies being sidelined in favour of competitiveness and security. Drivers include economic rivalry with China, U.S. isolationism, and broader geopolitical instability.

“We are realising that our work on climate may have to take a backseat to political stability over the medium term.”

Political shifts have also played a role. Many right-leaning groups perceive rapid decarbonisation as at odds with healthy local economies and good jobs. These groups are often wary of international climate agreements, supranational regulations, or measures they see as expanding bureaucratic control.

“There was quite a lot of good momentum from 2020 - 2024, and there’s been a worrying shift in the past year where there’s been a lot of changes in politics at various levels. There’s a sense that we have to pick ourselves up and start over again.”

As a result, the past year has seen clear rollbacks, with Green Deal provisions softened and climate policy reframed through a competitiveness lens. The Commission’s *omnibus simplification package* – pitched as cutting red tape – has been criticised for diluting climate and corporate accountability laws.

At the same time: Past progress is not erased. Since 2020, civil society infrastructure, expertise, and networks have grown substantially. A recent Eurobarometer shows 85% of Europeans believe tackling climate change is essential for health and quality of life.⁷⁹

4

Geopolitical Destabilisation and Europe’s Military Industrialisation

Geopolitical shocks are reshaping the operating space for civil society and movements across Europe. The Russian invasion of Ukraine upended energy systems, prompting a scramble that risks locking in new fossil fuel dependencies.

“One of the biggest changes in geopolitical context during the last years has been the Russian invasion in Ukraine, because it turned energy infrastructure in Europe upside down.”

Simultaneously, defence spending has surged with broad public support: EU states increased expenditure by over 30% between 2021-24, reaching €326 billion (1.9% of GDP), with defence investments rising to €102 billion – more than 30% of the total increase.^{80,81} Funding flows are also becoming less predictable as governments prioritise defence spending and ensure they can respond to crises.

In this context, many practitioners are reframing their work through narratives of security, resilience, and strategic autonomy. Others are holding their ground, choosing to protect the integrity of their core mission.

At the same time: Disruption has also opened doors to link climate, energy, and justice agendas with security and sovereignty. It strengthens arguments that fiscal exceptions made for military spending should also apply to ecological transition and public infrastructure.



MIXED TRENDS

1

Covid's Lasting Scars and Lessons

Covid sent shockwaves through society, intensifying stress, polarisation, and economic strain. For 3-6% of people, so-called “Long Covid” created what some call the greatest mass-disabling event in modern history.⁸²

Yet it also shifted public attitudes. It showed the value of state intervention: 68% of Europeans agreed the EU should have more powers to handle crises, and 56% supported giving the EU more resources to act.⁸³

“Covid helped shake people up. People are reflecting more about what the economy is actually for.”

Covid also underscored the importance of mutual aid and sparked greater openness to rethinking the purpose of the economy. Disability advocacy and mutual aid during the pandemic shifted norms around care and income security. In the UK, approximately 4,000 grassroots groups launched during lockdown, and 41% of them remained active 25 months later, often pivoting to address the cost-of-living crisis.⁸⁴

It also redefined workplace flexibility and normalised online organising. Conferences and cross-border collaborations are now cheaper and easier.

2

Adapting Narratives to Shifting Politics

Across Europe, the language of sustainability, climate, and justice often encounters headwinds. This has prompted many in the field to reframe and diversify their narratives. Simpler, more emotionally resonant terms – like “health,” “wellbeing,” and “adaptation” – seem more effective in the current climate.

“In Croatia, interestingly, the translation of the phrase ‘new economy’ is much better. It means to mature, to grow up, to be aware of limitations.”

Within the field, many resist reductive language. A single “common narrative” feels both unrealistic and undesirable; instead, there is a push to celebrate diversity and pluralism as strengths rather than weaknesses.

This includes moving beyond binary frames like “capitalism or not,” or “state vs. market.” A fuller picture recognises the interplay of civil society, cooperatives, and nonprofits – as well as the often-overlooked role of unpaid labour such as parenting and care work. The challenge is to communicate this richness without overwhelming audiences: keeping messages accessible while expanding the public’s sense of what counts as part of the economy.

3

AI as Both Tool and Threat

The rapid and competitive acceleration of AI adoption in Europe is both useful and alarming.

The growth of AI has brought perceptible productivity gains for people working in knowledge-oriented fields, which can feel particularly useful to those under significant resource constraints.

But the downsides loom large: wealth concentration, job displacement, inequality, and added pressure on electricity and water systems. One study found that for every doubling of regional AI innovation, the labour share declines by 0.5% to 1.6%, with a particularly negative impact on high- and medium-skill workers through wage compression.⁸⁵

Such concerns have also underscored and reinvigorated citizen demands for digital sovereignty and reducing reliance on U.S. platforms. Polling across major EU countries shows overwhelming support for robust enforcement of tech regulations, with two-thirds unwilling to back down even if it strains transatlantic ties. And support for breaking up Big Tech is roughly twice in favor as compared to opposed.^{86,87}

SURVEY SNAPSHOT

As part of this research, we ran a short survey to hear directly from practitioners across the field. Over one month, more than 120 organisations in 24 countries shared how they see their work contributing to economic systems change, along with the opportunities and challenges they face. Below is a snapshot of the quantitative data we gathered through the survey, while the rest of the report weaves

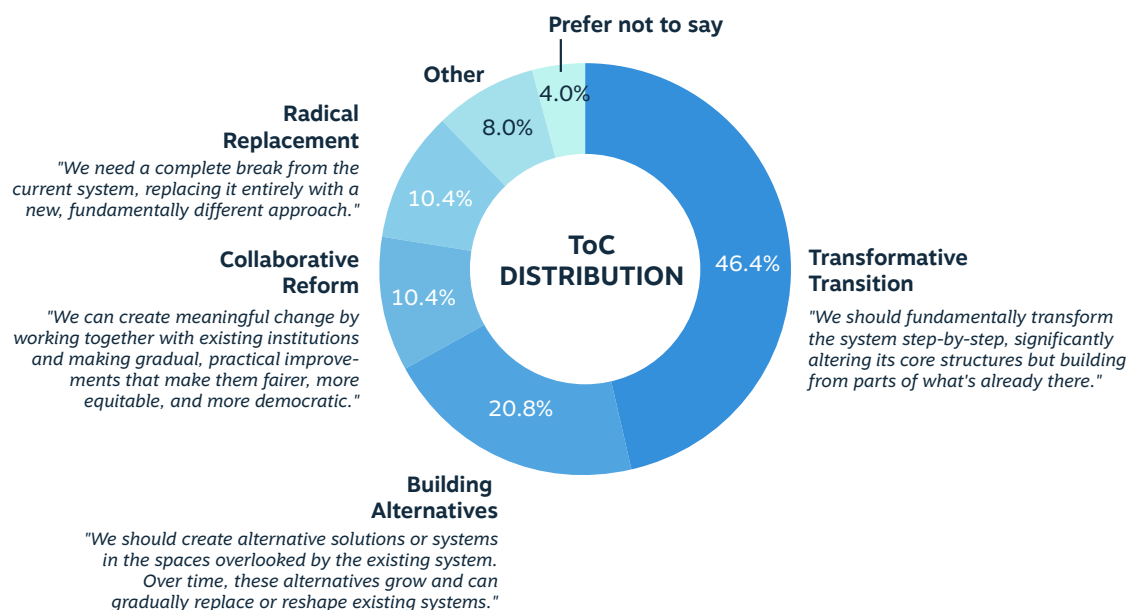
in the rich qualitative insights collected along the way.

While the sample isn't representative of the entire field, the responses provide valuable insight into the ways organisations approach change, the key activities organisations are involved in, and the stakeholders that new economy organizations are closest to.

SURVEY INSIGHT #1:

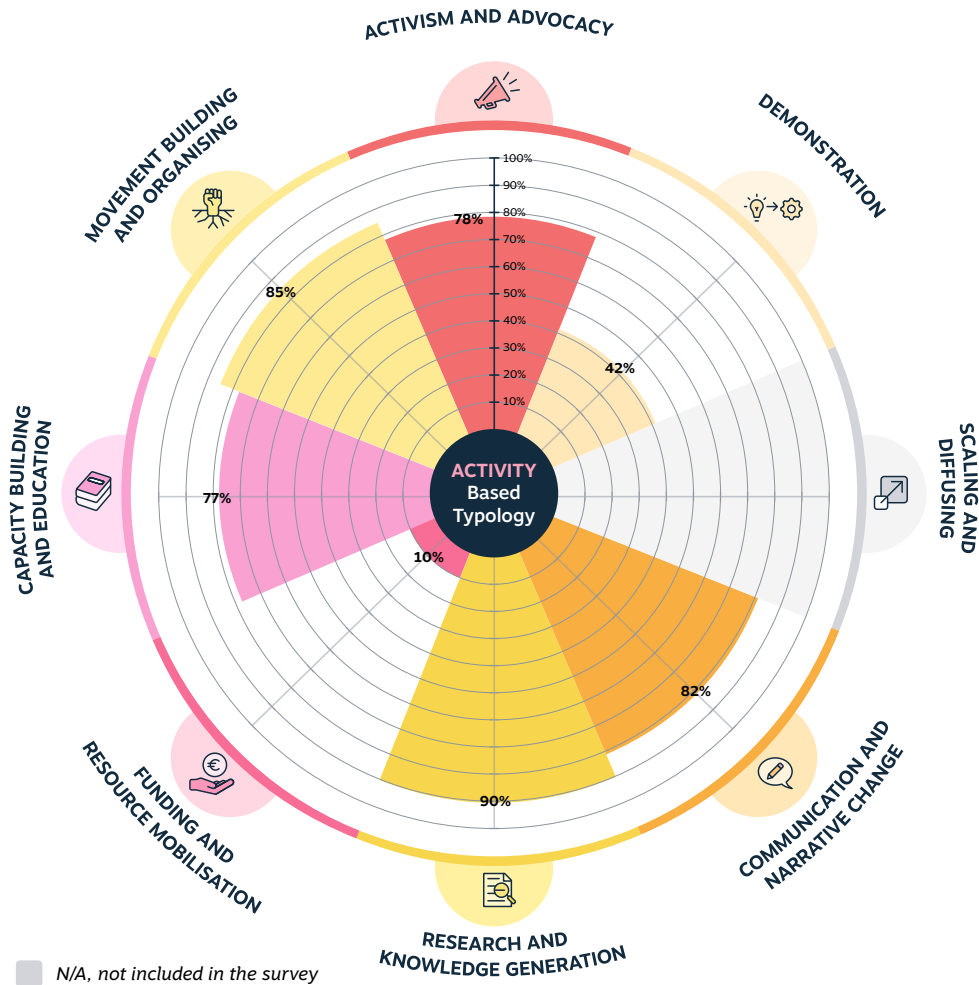
Change calls for systemic transformation – more so than reform or radical replacement

When asked, “How do you believe positive change can best occur in society?” most respondents didn't sit at either extreme of gradual reform or total rupture. Instead, the majority saw themselves working in the middle ground: pushing for deep transformation while still engaging with existing structures of the system.



SURVEY INSIGHT #2:**Most organisations span several activities, with knowledge and power-building as dominant clusters while demonstration and resource mobilisation play a smaller role**

Most respondents selected at least 2-3 activities they were engaged in, and over one-third of organisations preferred not to select one primary activity or approach to change. Rather than clear-cut clusters of activities, the data suggests that most organisations operate across multiple fronts, reflecting the inherently multi-faceted nature of systems change work.



Three key clusters of activities emerged:

CLUSTER 1: Knowledge and Translation

(majority of surveyed organisations)

A strong nexus exists between Advocacy, Research, and Communications, often in tandem with Movement Building. The majority of organisations working in one of these areas also engage in the others. For example, 77% of advocacy organisations also conduct research, while 78% also focus on communications and narrative change.

CLUSTER 2: Power-Building

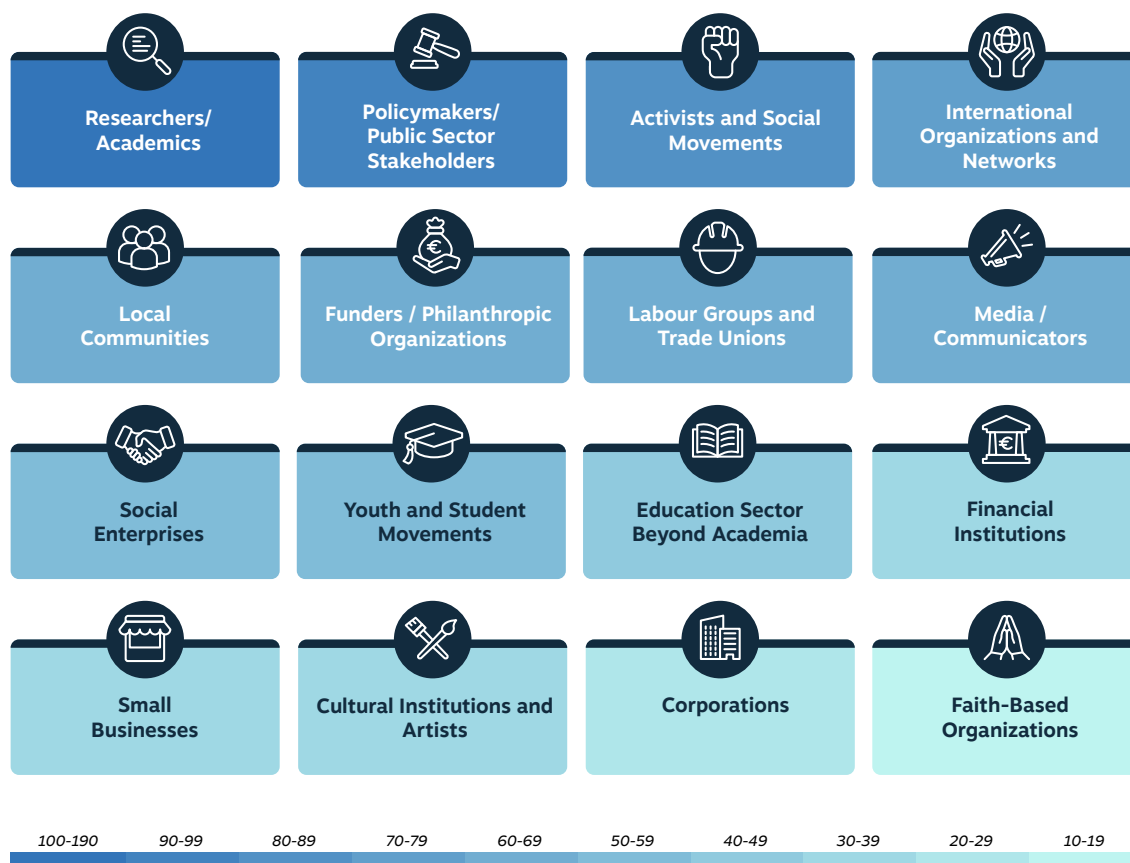
A second cluster links Movement Building, Advocacy, and Capacity Building. Nearly four in five advocacy organisations are also involved in movement building, while over 70% of both advocates and capacity builders report strong ties to movement organising.

CLUSTER 3: Experimentation

Organisations engaged in Demonstration projects tend to pair this with Research, Movement Building, and Capacity Building (71%).

SURVEY INSIGHT #3:**Stakeholder engagement is concentrated in knowledge, policy, and movement-building, while ties to resource mobilisers and business remain weak**

Survey respondents were also asked which stakeholders they actively engage with. The results show both a wide range of collaborations and some clear concentrations.



Survey results show that organisations are most deeply engaged with knowledge and policy ecosystems — especially researchers / academics and policymakers / public sector stakeholders. Strong ties also exist with media / communicators, labour groups, youth movements, and local communities,

suggesting that many organisations combine policy influence with mobilisation and public discourse. By contrast, engagement with funders, businesses, financial institutions, and cultural actors is far less common, pointing to weaker connective tissue with these parts of the ecosystem.

Where the Field Sees Traction

Here we focus on what surfaced most commonly through interviews, surveys, and other discussions.

For more information beyond our qualitative research, a recent paper, “Post-growth: the science of wellbeing within planetary boundaries” (2025),

outlines a number approaches that are maturing and finding traction (as well as points of contention and necessary gaps across each approach) – from carbon and wealth taxes to universal basic income and universal basic services.⁸⁸



1. ALTERNATIVES TO OUR ECONOMIC MODEL

Alternatives to growth

Alternative indicators of progress

Anti-monopoly and digital economy regulation

Tax and wealth contribution

Curriculum reform



2. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLACE-BASED APPROACHES

Agroecology and local food systems

Housing and land as common resources

Municipal governance

UBS and UBI initiatives

Alternative ownership models

Bioregionalism



3. CLIMATE TRANSITION AND INTERSECTIONAL POLICY

Economic justice

Alternative trade policies

Holistic circularity



1. ALTERNATIVES TO OUR ECONOMIC MODEL

In the general public, there's a sweeping undercurrent of critique of the current economic system. Supply chain shocks, climate disruption, and geopolitical instability have revealed the fragility of growth dependency and profit maximisation, as well as their impacts on daily life. A narrow focus on GDP is seen as absorbed in market-based interaction, overlooking household economies, the commons, cultural value, and non-monetary collaboration.

Interviews and survey responses suggested a rising resonance among the public and policy-makers with post-growth ideas such as sufficiency, resilience, and strategic autonomy. While terminology is debated, the core principles of an alternative model are broadly shared.

Basic resonating principles

- **Ecological ceilings** - Reducing energy and material throughput to stay within planetary boundaries.
- **Equitable distribution** - Reallocating resources, wealth, and power to ensure fairness and justice.
- **Local resilience and democratic revival** - Re-localising production and governance to strengthen democratic control.
- **Wellbeing first** - Re-valuing care, health, and quality of life over consumerism and accumulation.
- **New measures of progress** - Shifting beyond GDP toward indicators of human flourishing and ecological balance.

Terms commonly used can range from regeneration to wellbeing to more holistic framings of circularity – terms that are typically more politically viable. But the underlying ethos is shifting the economy from a focus on *quantity* to a focus on *quality*.

Alternatives to Growth

The idea that prosperity does not need to be tethered to GDP growth is moving from the margins toward the mainstream.

In a recent pan-European survey, 61% of respondents supported post-growth approaches, suggesting openness to narratives decoupling prosperity from GDP.⁶⁴ The European Parliament's "Beyond Growth"

conference in 2023 drew 2,000+ participants including EU Commissioners and the President of the European Commission.⁸⁹

Well-read thought leaders like Timothée Parrique,⁹⁰ Mariana Mazzucato,⁹¹ and Thomas Piketty⁹² are helping to shape debates on post-growth and redistribution. On the ground, policies aligned with sufficiency – such as the 4-day work week trials in Spain, UK, and Iceland – have shown positive results for metrics like productivity and wellbeing.⁹³

Within the field, post-growth research now constitutes a visible and interdisciplinary domain within sustainability science. It draws from ecological, anthropological, historical, sociological, and political traditions to rethink human provisioning systems. As an umbrella term, it encompasses diverse models and various policies stewarded by new economy practitioners. Recently, post-growth research has established "a new generation of national ecological macroeconomic models", which explore practical questions around alternative social and economic policies.⁹⁴

Tax and Wealth Distribution

Across Europe, critiques of extreme inequality and wealth concentration are fuelling new momentum for progressive tax reform. The wealth share of the top 1% has grown steadily across Europe, with billionaires' fortunes rising 30% during the pandemic alone.⁵¹ Polling shows broad cross-party support for taxing extreme wealth.

Emerging areas of traction:

- **Wealth taxes.** France, Spain, and Norway continue to experiment, while Finland's recent corporate tax cuts sparked public backlash.
- **Movements and narratives.** Campaigners like Gary Stevenson and groups such as Patriotic Millionaires and Tax Me Now are reframing tax avoidance as oligarchic theft, which resonates with younger audiences.
- **Coalition building.** "Tax the rich" unites climate activists, social movements, and centrist policymakers seeking fiscal space.
- **International frameworks.** The OECD/G20 global minimum corporate tax deal (2021) proved coordinated reform is possible.

Unlike abstract debates about growth, taxation makes redistribution concrete: who pays, who

benefits, and what futures are funded. For the new economy field, it offers a moral narrative, essential financing for a green transition and other infrastructure, and a political entry point to build broad coalitions.



TAX & WEALTH DISTRIBUTION: **Finanzwende**

Finanzwende, founded in 2018 to counter financial-sector lobbying, played a pivotal role in exposing Germany's Cum-Ex tax fraud scandal – one of the largest tax theft schemes in EU history, estimated to have cost state treasuries over €10 billion. Their advocacy helped trigger public scrutiny and stopped politicians who aimed at curbing further criminal investigations, together with Anne Brorhilker, the lead prosecutor, later joining Finanzwende to lead its financial crime unit. They've since continued seeking to recover billions in lost revenue and dismantle the power of finance lobbyists.



TAX & WEALTH DISTRIBUTION: **JustMoney Movement**

The JustMoney Movement (legal name: Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility) is steering a growing moral and political shift toward fairer wealth taxation in the UK. Against the backdrop of the Covid pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis, and the costs of tackling the climate crisis, they have mobilised church leaders and faith communities to advocate for progressive wealth taxes – turning ethical reflection into practical campaigning and elevating the narrative around redistributive justice.

Alternative Indicators of Progress

Within the field, there is a consensus that new metrics for measuring the health of economies (and their outcomes) are necessary – not just in principle, but as essential tools for policymakers, researchers, activists, and other key stakeholders working towards shared outcomes.

Replacing the GDP regime with a democratically articulated smart metric that promotes general welfare could provide a unifying goal.

- Dr. Dirk Philipsen, economic historian at Duke University⁹⁵

A growing ecosystem of indicators is reframing what counts as progress. Wellbeing metrics are most visible, with governments and institutions beginning to track – and sometimes budget against – multidimensional wellbeing. Other frameworks measure ecological health, inequality, trust, and even creativity.

Some notable cases:

- **The OECD's *How's Life? 2024*:** 80+ indicators across 11 wellbeing dimensions and four types of capital, explicitly designed to steer policy beyond GDP.
- **European institutions:** The Commission's Joint Research Centre runs a Beyond GDP programme, and the Parliament's 2023 Beyond Growth work reinforced this work.⁹⁶
- **National frameworks:** Wales' Well-being of Future Generations Act legally requires reporting against seven wellbeing goals (now extended to 56 bodies).⁹⁷ Scotland's National Performance Framework tracks 11 outcomes with 80+ indicators.
- **Cities:** Amsterdam has embedded the Doughnut framework in its Circular 2020–2025 Strategy, supported by a Circular Monitor.⁹⁸
- **Global benchmarks:** The Social Progress Index, adopted by the European Commission, tracks outcomes from participation to environmental performance.⁹⁹

These frameworks open opportunities for advocacy groups to align with official measures, press governments to act on what they track, and use “wellbeing” as a bridge concept that broadens debate and resonates with funders.



ALTERNATIVE INDICATORS: **Economy for the Common Good**

Economy for the Common Good (ECG), a movement with 170 local chapters across 35 countries, developed the Common Good Balance Sheet, a values-based reporting&rating tool that allows companies, municipalities, schools, and communities to measure their contribution to society – beyond financial profit – across dimensions like human dignity, ecological sustainability, social justice, and democratic participation. The Balance Sheet is today being used by 1,400 organizations. Pilot projects with Common Good Indexes (alternatives to GDP at local and regional levels) serve as a stepping stone toward a national-level framework in development called “Common Good Product”.



ALTERNATIVE INDICATORS: *Economía Creativa*

Economía Creativa has advanced the field of alternative indicators through its report *Mapping Creativity in the European Union*, positioning creativity as a systemic driver of social and economic development. At its core are two original measurement frameworks – the *Creative Talent in Workplaces Index* and the *Creative Society Index* – which capture both organisational capacity for creativity and the broader societal conditions that sustain it. Developed from Eurofound data and set in relation to more than 25 socioeconomic and sustainability variables drawn from Eurostat, the UN, and the World Bank, the indexes provide a rigorous, comparative benchmark across the EU-27 countries and the United Kingdom.

Anti - Monopoly and Digital Economy Regulation

Europe is clamping down on platform monopolies and setting guardrails on AI. This traction is notable not only for real enforcement, but also for uniting unusual allies around citizen protection, fair competition, and democratic safeguards.

Examples include:

- **Digital Services Act:** Empowers the EU to fine platforms up to 6% of global turnover for failing to protect users.¹⁰⁰
- **Digital Markets Act:** Reshapes how gatekeepers like Apple and Meta operate, with first penalties issued in 2025.¹⁰⁰
- **Council of Europe AI Convention:** The world's first binding AI treaty, embedding human rights and democratic principles.¹⁰¹

Alongside regulation, a wave of critical voices are gaining ground. Emily Bender's "Stochastic Parrots" speaks of environmental, labour, and bias risks.¹⁰² The work of the Distributed Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (DAIR) delves into data exploitation and labour issues.¹⁰³ And the Weizenbaum Institute's papers on AI's sustainability limits have become well referenced.¹⁰⁴

Europe is proving that even the most powerful platforms can be held accountable, showing how regulation can redirect digital innovation toward fairness, competition, and human rights.

Curriculum Reform

Efforts to bring heterodox economics into curricula began in the early 2010s and have faced resistance, but momentum is growing.

At the university level, student-led initiatives like Rethinking Economics have been central in challenging orthodox curricula and creating demand for pluralist perspectives. Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik's Exploring Economics platform has become a widely used resource for accessible heterodox teaching materials, and Our New Economy in the Netherlands has developed practical resources for both teachers and students. Together, these efforts are slowly reshaping the landscape of economics teaching, introducing themes like ecological limits, inequality, and power.

In secondary education, progress is more uneven. While sustainability and equity are increasingly woven into broader curricula — for example in the International Baccalaureate, Switzerland's *Lehrplan 21*, and some German state programs — heterodox economics is still slow to be embedded. Nonetheless, teachers and advocates, including Jennifer Hinton's Regenerative Economics curriculum, are experimenting with ways to introduce system-change thinking earlier, offering promising signals of what could grow in the future, while Curriculum Open-access Resources in Economics (CORE-Econ) integrates inequality, power, and climate risk into mainstream syllabi.

While progress is uneven, particularly in universities and in Eastern and Southern Europe, these initiatives collectively build pipelines of economists, policymakers, and citizens who can carry new perspectives into ministries, central banks, and academia.



CURRICULUM REFORM: *CORE Economics Education*

CORE Economics Education has transformed how introductory economics is taught worldwide. Its free, online textbooks are now used in more than 500 universities, reaching an estimated 165,000 students each year. Combining academic rigour with accessible pedagogy, CORE offers a compelling alternative to the traditional textbooks that have long dominated the field, bringing real-world issues like inequality, climate change, and innovation into the classroom. The effort is a good example of how some transition efforts balance pragmatic considerations of what can be widely adopted.



2. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN AND PLACE-BASED APPROACHES

Community-led initiatives are becoming visible laboratories of economic transformation, with engagement seen as central to democratising the economy. These approaches build trust and create ownership by rooting economic innovation in practical experience. Models such as care cooperatives, urban commons, and community

wealth-building strategies treat citizens not as service recipients but as co-creators of economic infrastructure.

A range of approaches

The forms are diverse, but the underlying essence is the same: place-based and participatory.

Domain	Who drives it?	Examples	Evidence of Traction
Social Services	Residents, caregivers, mutual aid networks	Care Cooperatives & Participatory Care Models	Co-ops are serving over 100,000 people in Spain's care sector
Food	Farmers, consumer co-ops, municipalities	Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)	2,800+ CSA farms in Europe
Housing	Tenants, housing co-ops, municipalities	Tenant Unions	Major success stories in Catalonia (Spain) and Berlin (Germany)
Energy	Citizen energy co-ops, municipalities	Remunicipalised energy utilities	400+ cases of energy remunicipalisation in Europe since 2000 ¹⁰⁵
Income Security	Civil society alliances, local/regional governments, research institutes	Universalism Pilots	UBI pilots in over 15 EU countries, showing positive effects on wellbeing and employment security. ¹⁰⁶
Governance & Agency	Municipalities, anchor institutions, local cooperatives	Community Wealth Building	Community Wealth Building as a model in 30+ municipalities in Europe. Measurable impacts on local procurement, jobs, and democratic participation. ^{107,108}
Place-Making	Citizen collectives, municipalities	Urban Commons & Civic Spaces	Participatory Urban Commons in Bologna (Italy), ¹⁰⁹ Community Green Spaces in Vienna (Austria) ¹¹⁰



A RETURN TO COMMUNITY & PLACE: Trag Foundation

Trag Foundation's 'Our Local Foundation - Community Has the Say!' program has facilitated the creation of community foundations across Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. These foundations strengthen local philanthropy by mobilising resources, engaging citizens, and setting locally defined priorities. The initiative is fostering durable civic infrastructure and trust by placing long-term development decisions directly in the hands of communities.



COMMUNITY & PLACE-BASED: P2P Lab – Tzoumakers

Peer to Peer (P2P) Lab's Tzoumakers is a rural community makerspace in the Tzoumerka region of Greece where villagers, farmers, and makers co-design and produce open-source tools for small-scale agriculture and rural life. Over time, it has inspired a growing network of rural labs, each tailored to local needs (from addressing depopulation to preserving traditional practices) while fostering cooperation and shared innovation.

Agroecology & Local Food Systems

Food and farming are key arenas for reimagining economies. Agroecology — both a farming system and a broader movement — links ecological sustainability with community ownership and territorial development. It has gained traction because of its practical application and because it sits at a nexus: climate mitigation, biodiversity, food security, rural resilience, and local financial flows all benefit.

Principles of agroecology and regenerative agriculture

- **Soil health & regeneration:** Protect and enrich soils as living ecosystems.
- **Biodiversity & synergy:** Integrate diverse species, crops, animals, and landscapes.
- **Closed loops & efficiency:** Recycle nutrients, energy, and water while reducing external inputs.
- **Climate resilience & carbon drawdown:** Build systems that can withstand shocks and help mitigate climate change.
- **Local knowledge & co-creation:** Combine science with knowledge from farmers and Indigenous groups.
- **Equity & social wellbeing:** Ensure fair livelihoods, gender equity, and community empowerment.
- **Cultural & food sovereignty:** Honor traditions, local diets, and community control over food systems.

Adapted from FAO 2019; Regeneration International 2015; Rodale Institute 2020

Agroecology is recognised in EU policy debates (e.g., CAP reform discussions), and is supported by a growing network of farmers and researchers. Short supply chains and territorial markets (e.g., AMAPs in France, solidarity markets in Spain, regional cooperatives in Greece) are expanding alongside crowdfunding campaigns to buy land for rewilding or cooperative farming.

These emerging systems embody the new economy in practice – decentralised, cooperative, and rooted in place. They show how climate transition, new ownership models, and wellbeing agendas can converge and serve local communities.



FOOD SYSTEMS:

Be The Earth Foundation

Be The Earth Foundation, together with a small group of funders, helped establish Farming the Future, a UK-based coalition for agroecology supported by participatory, trust-based funders. Now in its fifth year, the initiative has distributed increasing resources to farmers and grassroots projects, pooling funds through collaborative philanthropy to strengthen regenerative food systems.

Housing and Land as Common Resources

With housing prices surging, communities are turning to social models. Community Land Trusts are spreading across Europe (mainly in the UK, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands), while Cooperative Housing International counts over 27,000 co-ops housing millions of people; in cities like Zurich and Vienna, co-ops and non-profits represent more than a quarter of the local housing stock.¹¹¹

The EU now frames the right to housing as a structural priority, linking affordability to wellbeing and cohesion. Cities are experimenting with anti-speculation tools: Berlin is pursuing expropriation of large landlords, and Barcelona has restricted short-term rentals.

These initiatives show housing and land can be governed as common goods rather than speculative assets. As affordability crises deepen, such models offer replicable, institution-ready solutions that municipalities and funders can apply. Framing housing as a right also creates political space for structural reforms and sets a precedent for treating other essentials (e.g., food, energy, care) as part of a commons.



HOUSING AND LAND COMMONS:

Re-set

Re-set has been instrumental in launching the first nationwide, member-driven tenant union in the Czech Republic. Known as the Tenants' Initiative, it now counts over 500 members across six major cities. The union operates much like a trade union for renters – organising collective action, supporting members in negotiations with landlords, and pushing for systemic reform to tackle one of the EU's most acute housing shortages. With momentum building, the initiative is on track to achieve financial independence and longer-term sustainability.



HOUSING AND LAND COMMONS:

Codha - APRÈS-Ge

Founded in Geneva in 1994, Codha has become one of Europe's leading participatory housing cooperatives. Emerging from the squatting and affordable housing movements of the 1980s, Codha pioneered the principle of self-managed, resident-led housing through its innovative "associative lease" model, which later became enshrined in Geneva's General Housing Law. Over three decades, it has grown into an umbrella organisation supporting residents' associations to build and renovate housing projects. Today, Codha boasts over 7,000 members across 20 buildings and 834 homes, with 12 new projects under development expected to deliver nearly 700 additional units in the years ahead.

Municipal Governance

Despite budget and legal constraints, localism and city-level programs are showing real progress. Municipalities are piloting innovative services, shifting power to communities, and creating models others can emulate.

Policies on housing, energy, mobility, and civic participation often prove more resilient than national measures, a scale which is often more politically polarised.

Examples include:

- **New municipalism:** Barcelona en Comú and Ahora Madrid centre governance on citizen participation, commoning, and environmental justice¹¹²
- **Re-municipalisation:** Water and energy services are being reclaimed from private operators, notably in the UK, France, and Germany.
- **Participatory budgeting:** Adopted in dozens of cities, including Bilbao, Helsinki, and Reykjavik.

By reclaiming services and embedding participation, cities are demonstrating how power can move closer to communities — and how commons-based models can spread across contexts.

UBS and UBI Initiatives

UBS and UBI have become important testing grounds for reimagining how societies guarantee dignity, participation, and security.

Across Europe, dozens of UBI pilots — in Finland, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland — show positive effects on wellbeing, stability, and civic engagement. While results are still debated, the momentum shows a growing appetite to test income floors as a foundation for resilience.

In parallel, UBS has gained traction at the municipal level: Barcelona, Helsinki, and Vienna have expanded access to housing, mobility, and childcare as rights rather than commodities.

While still experimental, these initiatives are catalytic, showing how income floors and service guarantees can reduce inequality, build resilience, and link to broader innovations in community wealth building and holistic urban design.

Alternative Ownership Models

Alternative ownership models can be framed as the 'legal and governance software' that powers local economic 'hardware' like community energy grids, food cooperatives, non-profit housing, and worker-owned companies.

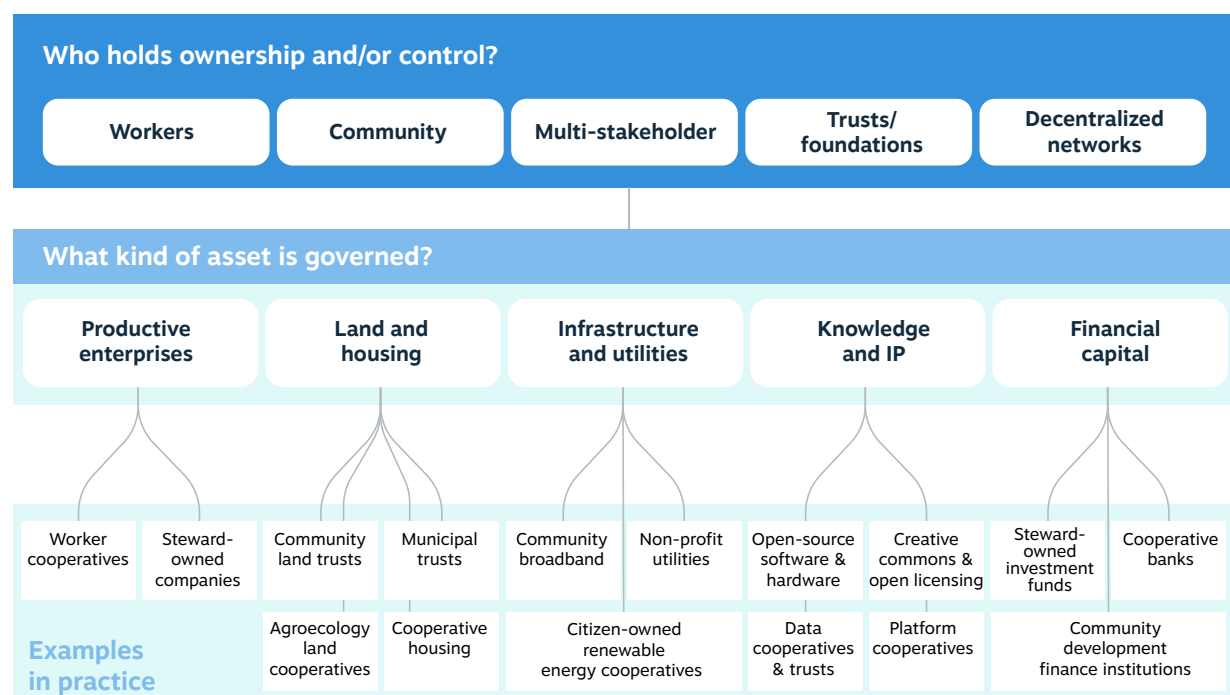
Most people encounter these alternative ownership models daily, often without realising it — from Wikipedia and open-source software to CSAs and municipal utilities.

Traction is becoming clear:

- Steward ownership is advancing in Germany and the Netherlands.¹¹³
- Europe counts ~140,000 worker co-ops employing 4.5 million people.
- There are over 3,500 renewable energy co-ops engaging over 2m citizens.
- The UK hosts over 350 community land trusts, providing over 20,000 affordable homes.

There are many alternative models of ownership, but one way to organise them is by:

1. **What kind of asset is being governed:** From immaterial (knowledge, data, software) to material (land, housing, energy systems)
2. **Who holds ownership or control:** From individual stewardship to collective governance



There are also other models like Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAOs) that are exploring how organising large groups of people into legal mechanisms can be cheaper and simpler.

What unites these approaches is their ability to encode new economy principles like stewardship and collective benefit directly into governance structures. These structures make it easier to creatively navigate the vast operating space between civil society, governments, and businesses.

Bioregionalism

Traction is building around bioregionalism — the idea that economies and governance should align with ecological and cultural boundaries rather than only political ones. It emphasises democratic ownership, embedding cultural contexts, and regenerative infrastructures, tying livelihoods and decision-making to the health of watersheds, foodsheds, and landscapes.



ALTERNATIVE OWNERSHIP: **Locality**

Locality kicked off a cross-sector campaign that helped create the UK government's £150 million Community Ownership Fund in 2021. The fund enables communities to take over at-risk local assets such as pubs, parks, and cultural venues, anchoring them in community ownership. This achievement underscores how grassroots organising and advocacy can unlock national policy shifts in support of community-led economic models.



This re-emergence of place-based experimentation is visible in watershed-scale energy systems, food sovereignty initiatives rooted in local ecologies, and cross-border cooperatives managing shared resources like rivers and mountain regions.

For the new economy field, bioregionalism signals a shift beyond the binary of state vs. market toward commons-oriented, multi-stakeholder approaches. Still flying largely under the policy radar, these projects are pioneering resilience and stewardship models that could redefine how transitions are resourced and governed.



BIOREGIONALISM:

Bioregional Weaving Labs

The Bioregional Weaving Labs (BWL) Collective – a consortium of 20+ system changing organisations – has established seven multi-stakeholder Labs across Europe (Poland, Ireland, Netherlands, France, Spain, Romania, and Greece). These Labs engage key local change leaders per bioregion in regenerative landscape development processes guided by a holistic 4 Returns framework to generate social, natural, financial and inspiring returns. Through five strategic pathways including bioregion mapping, capacity-building, portfolio weaving, activating changemakers and developing place based financing mechanisms, BWL has worked to scale a hands-on model for holistic, place-based transformation.



3. CLIMATE TRANSITION AND INTERSECTIONAL POLICY

Despite recent backlash, climate policy has achieved significant traction over the past five years. Climate is now taken seriously across policy, media, and finance, with every extreme weather event reinforcing the risks in our economic model and the urgency of transition.

Climate debates anchor many other economic shifts by forcing a reckoning with systemic risk. The movement has also shown unusual capacity to unite constituencies and turn urgency into organised power.

Key areas of traction:

- **Coalition Building and Mobilisation:** From Fridays for Future's mass youth mobilisation to farmer-activist alliances and city-civil society coalitions, climate has spurred some of Europe's most effective cross-sector organising.
- **Policy and Infrastructure:** The EU's Green Deal and Fit-for-55 have enshrined ambitious targets. Green finance instruments, renewable energy cooperatives, and municipal adaptation plans are rapidly expanding despite backlash.
- **Civil Society & Finance Collaborations:** Groups like Finance Watch and the Green Finance Observatory are shaping EU rules on sustainable finance and green bonds.



CLIMATE TRANSITION & POLICY : *Energiewende*

A reform introduced under the Social Democratic-Green government created the framework for Germany's energy transition. While arguably not revolutionary, it transformed institutional practice and remains the backbone of Germany's renewable sector today. While the law itself was drafted by the government, it was anchored in a political-civil society ecosystem that included Green-linked foundations, research institutes, and environmental NGOs – many of whom are part of the new economy field.

Economic Justice

Economic justice in Europe is advancing through frameworks that link equity, climate resilience, and decolonial transformation.

The climate transition is widely seen as a democratic and distributive project, using the effort to enhance democratic processes and negotiating limits fairly so that those with the least historic responsibility do not shoulder disproportionate burdens.

The EU's Just Transition Mechanism alone is channeling over €100 billion to support carbon-dependent communities through decarbonisation.¹¹⁴ Green and social enterprises, especially youth-led and rooted in marginalised communities, are proliferating. The EU's social economy now comprises nearly 2.8 million organisations – co-ops, mutuals, social enterprises – that drive local resilience and anchor economic development.¹¹⁵ And scholars such as Fadhel Kaboub and the Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity are shaping policies that restore economic and monetary sovereignty to postcolonial nations.¹¹⁶

For funders and practitioners, advancing economic justice means backing intersectional, place-based initiatives, including:

- Bridging green transition with community resilience in vulnerable regions
- Supporting justice-centered enterprises that embed values in local economies
- Strengthening governance models that institutionalise equity beyond profit
- Elevating perspectives from poorer and less powerful countries that reclaim economic sovereignty
- Reinforcing policy advocacy that holds corporations and resource use accountable



ECONOMIC JUSTICE: Movement Hub

In 2023-2024, Movement Hub collaborated with the strike alliance #WirFahrenZusammen (“We Ride Together”), which brought together public transport workers (bus and train drivers) and the youth climate justice movement. The alliance campaigns for better working conditions, more staff, and a doubling of public investment in local transport, framing these demands as essential for both social and climate justice. Movement Hub supported the coalition with message development, testing, and a campaign film, while helping adapt the race-class narrative* to the German context for the first time. The work demonstrated how local organising can bridge the often false divide between social issues and climate justice.

Alternative Trade Policies

A growing coalition of civil society actors and progressive thinkers are reviving “trade for people and planet,” pushing frameworks built on equity, sustainability, and democratic oversight. The Alternative Trade Mandate Alliance, for example, brings together activists from around the world to propose EU trade policies that prioritise social and environmental well-being over corporate profit.¹¹⁷

Trade is also becoming a lever for climate transition. The EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), launched in 2023, requires importers of high-emission goods to purchase CO₂ certificates that reflect embedded emissions.¹¹⁸ While controversial, CBAM has sparked debate and inspired proposals such as “CBAM-plus,” which would channel revenues into supporting decarbonisation in exporting countries.¹¹⁹

These developments suggest a renewed opening for the field. Trade policy is no longer seen as purely technocratic but as a contested space for justice-aligned reform, green industrial strategy, and coalition-building.

* The “race-class narrative” is a communications framework developed by Ian Haney López, Heather McGhee, and collaborators. It emphasises linking racial and economic justice, showing how division is used to block shared prosperity and how cross-racial solidarity can win material gains for all. See Haney López & McGhee (2018); Haney López (2019).



ALTERNATIVE TRADE POLICIES: Alternative Trade Mandate Alliance

A coalition from 2012-2014 linking European activists with many areas across the globe proposed a rethinking of EU trade to serve social and environmental wellbeing rather than corporate profit. It highlighted how trade, seen mainly as technocratic, can become a lever for human-centered reform. Perhaps more importantly, although it was over 10 years ago, its ideas were absorbed into other campaigns on EU trade investment, including the opposition to Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in 2015, and entered into debates on the carbon border adjustment mechanism in 2021. Core members included Friends of the Earth Europe, Attac, Seattle to Brussels Network, Transnational Institute (TNI), Both ENDS, Corporate Europe Observatory.

Holistic Circularity: A Key Translation Role

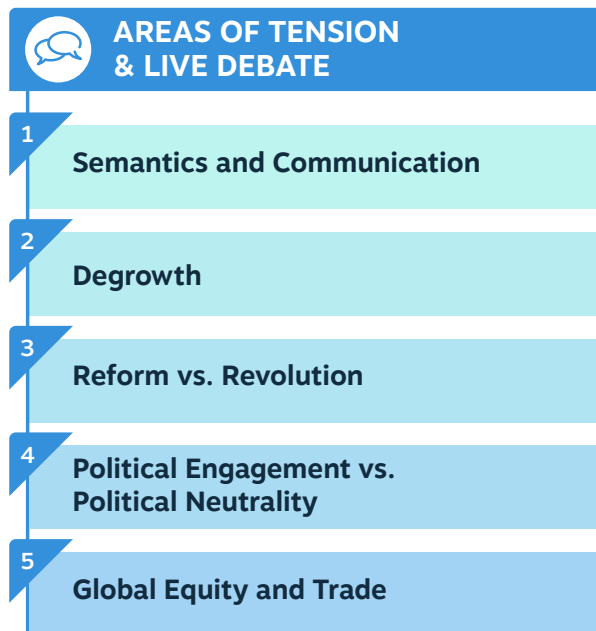
A circular economy calls for decoupling prosperity from the consumption of finite resources. This involves massively reducing material throughput and creating ‘closed loops’ that keep products and materials in use at their highest value. While a shallow interpretation of the concept – which takes a narrow focus on increased recycling and recycled materials – has been criticised as greenwashing, a holistic approach to circularity is seen as an integral part of implementing post-growth economic models.

True circularity involves designing products and systems that avoid waste and harmful byproducts from the start, and requires fundamental changes to business models, governance, and culture. It aligns with equity principles, insisting on fair distribution of resources and benefits, and overlaps with key social policies like the right to repair. It also involves aspects of regeneration: returning nutrients to soils, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring renewable resource use (such as wood and other biomass) stays far within ecological limits.

If post-growth approaches offer a macro-economic compass, circularity provides a key part of the ‘how’ – part of the toolkit of practical strategies for realising such a transition. It represents a useful entry point for engaging with businesses and some policy levers, granted its principles are not watered down.

Areas of Live Debate

While there is broad agreement on core principles, areas of tension are more pronounced when it comes to specifics of priorities, policies, and language. This is to be expected in a diverse field, but suggests a need for further deliberation, strategy, and coordination.



1 Semantics and Communication

Language is one of the liveliest tensions in the new economy space. The field is slowly finding a shared vocabulary, but terminology is still contested. Words like “degrowth,” “solidarity,” “wellbeing,” and “post-growth” inspire some and alienate others. Parts of the field see language as a bridge – a way to frame change in terms that resonate locally and politically. For other parts of the field, it’s a battleground that risks fragmenting energy into fights over language rather than collective action.

This diversity of terms can be a strength, offering multiple lenses and points of entry. But it can also create silos, with each camp rallying around its own vocabulary. As one respondent framed it: “progressive movements often fail because they get stuck in language battles instead of building power and delivering change.”

The debates are often sharpest at the “edges” of the field, where actors are newer and language

inevitably carries more weight. At more strategic levels of the field, practitioners tend to be more pragmatic, with the sentiment being summarised as: “call it whatever works in the room.”

Some common reflective questions:

- **Rebranding vs. radical honesty:** Should the field increasingly adopt terms that are more palatable (like “wellbeing economy”) or do more to embrace uncompromising language like “degrowth” that challenges the current system more directly?
- **Clarity vs. coalition:** A common language would help unite the field, but too much insistence on one term risks alienating allies who could otherwise align on substance.
- **Identity vs. implementation:** Do we spend energy aligning over terms, or do we accept messy diversity in vocabulary and focus on building tangible alternatives?

2 Degrowth

The degrowth movement calls for an equitable downscaling of production and consumption to achieve ecological balance and social well-being. It has spurred valuable provocations, academic research, and grassroots experiments, but faces several critiques.

- **Lack of macro-scale strategy and economic planning:** Degrowth excels in regard to community initiatives and local economies but is underdeveloped at a macro scale. Pathways for democratic planning and sectoral contraction remain vague, and clear macroeconomic strategies that could be politically viable are missing. Recent work that proposes multi-level, public planning institutions guided by both expert and bottom-up inputs suggests a pathway forward.¹²⁰
- **Weak ties to the developing economies:** Though framed in terms of global justice, degrowth is rooted in European thought and risks overlooking struggles in poorer regions, which are often centered around sovereignty, redistribution, and survival. Degrowth scholars emphasise that planned downscaling of global industries should not come at the expense of poorer nations, but tensions remain over what equitable pathways look like, especially as technology and wealth transfers lag.¹²¹

- **Limited engagement with labour:** Organised labour has often been sidelined in degrowth discourse, despite being central to social change. Workers' dependence (or perceived dependence) on growth for jobs and wages makes alliances difficult, though degrowth proposals like job guarantees, reduced working hours, and non-wage related provisioning could form common ground.¹²²
- **Geopolitical implications:** The geopolitical implications of degrowth remain underexplored. First movers face risks like capital flight or diminished global influence. Some have proposed the creation of "post-growth clubs" in which nations can coordinate policies and penalise free riders. But competition between nations, as well as implications for security and militaries over the long term, are mostly unexplored.

Degrowth's strength lies in naming the growth imperative as the root of ecological crisis and inspiring bottom-up, community-oriented action. Most practitioners we heard from also suggest the debate about degrowth is overblown – that it's a useful provocation, a rich academic field, and the language around it often shifts pragmatically depending on the context. Yet, reaching its potential will require addressing these perceived gaps.

3

Reform vs. Revolution

One clear tension in the new economy field is whether we work within the current system to fix it, or if we work to fundamentally replace it.

Part of the reason for this tension is the big tent; the new economy field consists of neo-socialists and pragmatic green growers, with many ideologies in between. But based on our research, this isn't necessarily a debate between radicals and conservatives within the field, nor do people approach this issue with naivete. It's a common tension observable in many movements. Within the new economy field, given the political realities on the one hand and the existential concerns on the other, it's an important ongoing debate that shows up in a few key ways:

1. Pragmatism vs. Idealism

Incremental reforms can make real differences now, but may fall short of tackling root causes. More radical visions promise systemic change, but risk feeling too distant or unattainable. Practitioners often reflect on: *What's "radical enough"?* Are small policy shifts stepping

stones to deeper transformation, or do they just reinforce the existing system? For example, is tweaking interest rates for "green" projects representative of real progress or a distraction from deeper financial reform? These are not just questions of ideology or philosophy, but those of strategy and feasibility.

2. Different Philosophies and Theories of Change

On a different axis, there are key distinctions between what one respondent called "political economy" actors on the one hand, and "systems designers" on the other.

The political economy practitioners have long been organising people and engaging with policy, and see economic transformation as a political struggle over power (who controls resources, how states and banks operate, etc.). The systems designers are focused on building new models and infrastructures from the ground up and see the necessity in creating new pathways toward urgent change. Each side has implicit critiques of the other: the systems designers as naïve about power, the political economy folks as too slow and rooted in old ways for the urgency we find ourselves in. While there are many possible synergies between these two groups, their work rarely overlaps.

3. Role of the state

Some argue the state can be reshaped into a steward of the commons that regulates markets, redistributes wealth, and invests in public goods. Others distrust state-led solutions, seeing governments as too captured by (or susceptible to) corporate or other financial interests. They instead place hope in bottom-up alternatives like cooperatives, community utilities, or local currencies that bypass state structures altogether. For many, the real debate is whether the state is a lever for transformation or part of the very system we need to overcome.

There's no clear line that separates 'reform' from 'revolution'. Few in the field are calling for a world without markets or money. Most work happens in the gray area in between, where reforms can open pathways to deeper shifts, and revolutionary visions help set the horizon for action today. The tension is less a problem to be solved than a useful creative friction. It keeps the field questioning what "going far enough" means, and ensures that new economy work doesn't lose sight of either immediate wins or the longer-term horizon of systemic change.

4

Political Engagement vs. Political Neutrality

A recurring tension in the new economy field is how to engage with politics.

On the one hand, structural change is impossible without shifting public policy: pioneering initiatives rarely scale without municipal or state support, and entrenched pro-growth policies and corporate power limit what grassroots actors can achieve on their own.

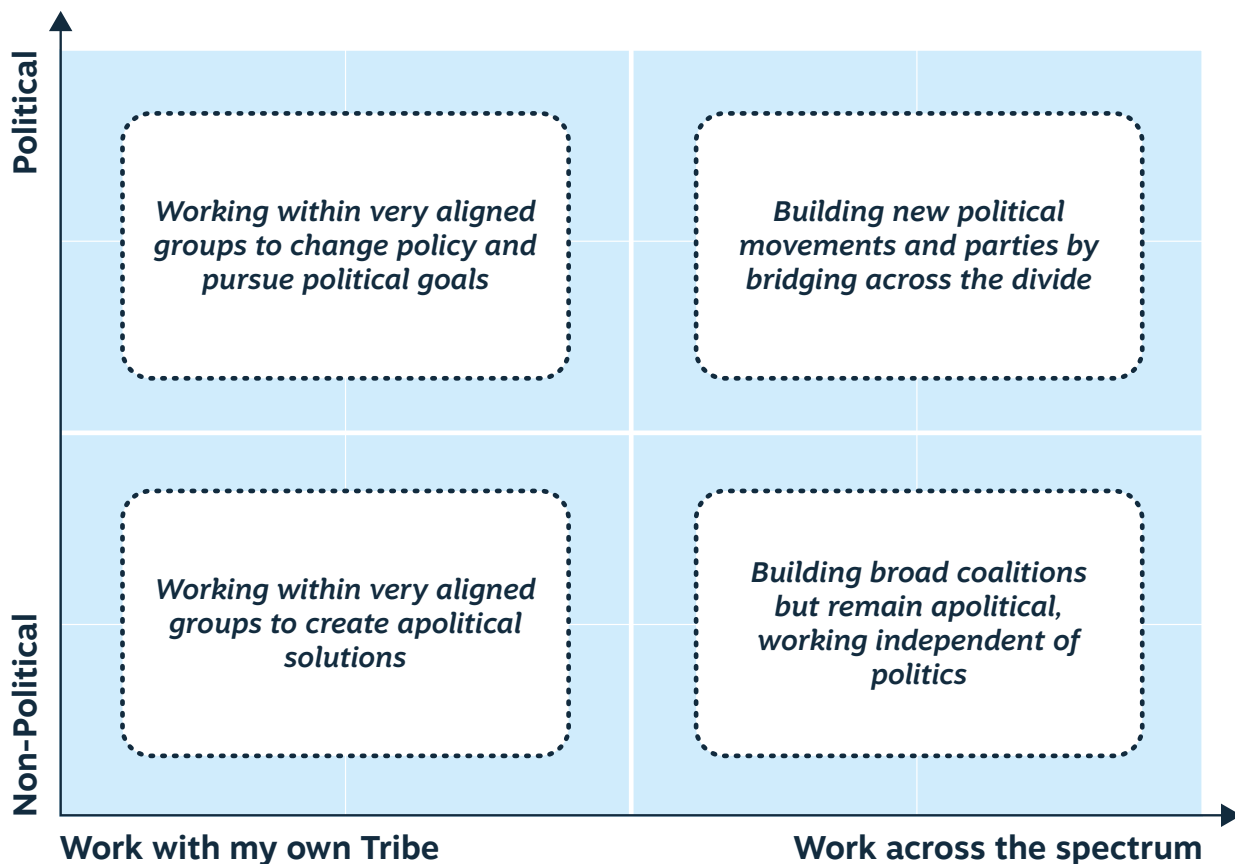
On the other hand, overt alignment with parties or elected governments can compromise independence, expose leaders in the field to backlash, or narrow the movement's appeal. Most new economy principles are broadly supported by the public, but when they're tied to a political party platform, it has proven harder to build coalitions.

Much of this disagreement comes down to divergent political strategies. Some organisations adopt a diplomatic tone and cultivate relationships with policymakers; others take a more antagonistic

stance, prioritising adding pressure from the outside. This echoes broader debates (as noted in Demos's *Turning the Tide*) about whether movements should seek change inside the system or from outside of it. Should advocates cultivate privileged relationships with parliamentarians, or confront them publicly? Should civil society actors aim to become trusted advisors to policymakers, or mobilise opposition when policy entrenches the status quo?

In general, this is less a tension within the field as a whole and more of a tension within many organisations and networks. There is a broad embrace of "all of the above" – of seeing a necessity in a plurality of approaches across the field.

Where it becomes more of a tension is coalition building and opportunity costs: building joined up strategies, considering where to put resources, and how to think about appropriate order of operations. For example, too much attention on advocacy can leave too little energy for building alternatives in practice, which many feel would lead to broader public support, more proof points for policy makers to act upon, and so on.



A basic matrix of approaches, from political to non-political and from working within a niche to working across diverse coalitions.

5

Global Equity and Trade

As briefly mentioned in the tension around Degrowth, the new economy debate is shaped largely in Europe and other advanced economies, which raises the question of its global relevance and implications for poorer countries that naturally desire further economic development.

Few issues reveal the tensions as starkly as trade. On one hand, many new economy actors advocate for re-localising production, protecting key industries, and shortening supply chains. On the other, complete withdrawal from global trade is neither realistic nor desirable. The aim is to design international trade that genuinely serves the common good, and the tension arises when deciding on where to prioritise benefits.

Key dimensions of the debate:

- **Growth, redistribution, and supply chains:** Calls for reduced consumption in Europe intersect with many other geographies and their experience with centuries of extraction. Supply chains and value chains still reproduce colonial patterns of extraction and exploitation. Yet calls to drastically reduce consumption run up against the reality that global supply chains underpin livelihoods elsewhere. Curtailing demand in rich countries can have ripple effects – positive (less exploitation, lower emissions) or negative (lost income, stunted development).

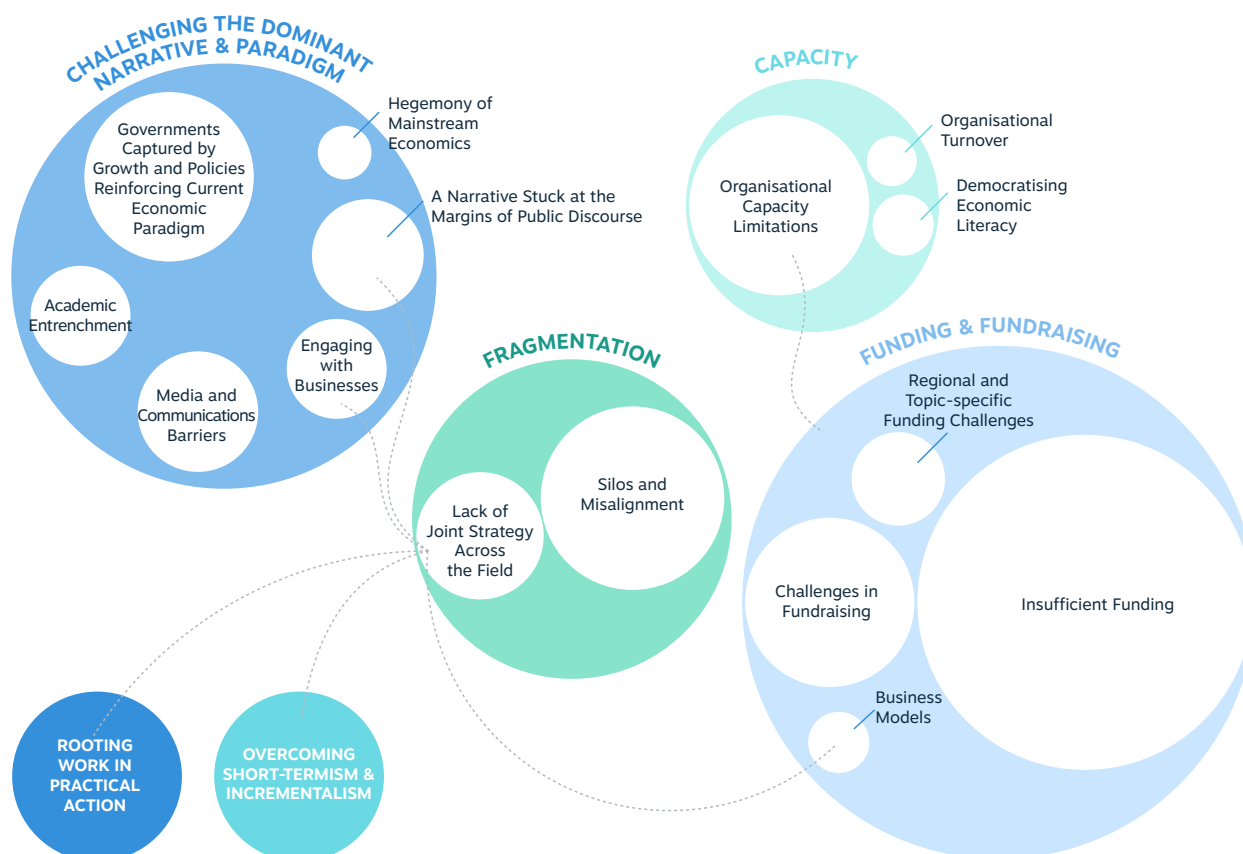
- **Protectionism vs. openness:** Should Europe protect its own clean energy industries, or embrace cheaper imports of solar panels and batteries from Asia? Advocates of protectionism argue for sovereignty and resilience, while critics warn this risks slowing down the climate transition and undermining global cooperation.
- **Trade as a tool for justice:** Should trade agreements be fundamentally restructured to prioritise climate goals, human rights, and global equity, or will the political costs of such a prioritisation make progress less likely? Supporters see this as a chance to flip trade into a force for justice, while skeptics caution that entrenched corporate interests, geopolitical frictions, and national politics could blunt its impact.

Even as relocation gains traction, global interdependence remains vital for knowledge, technology, and solidarity. The challenge is how to trade *differently*. At stake is whether an economic transition reinforces or finally breaks from a history of extraction. Avoiding a two-speed economy – where wealthy nations design post-growth futures while poorer nations are left navigating the fallout of supply chain disruptions, debt crises, and climate shocks – requires humility from Europe (particularly Western Europe) and genuine partnerships that center reparative justice and mutual learning.



Challenges Facing the Field

The research uncovered a common set of challenges frequently identified by organisations working toward economic transformation. Each challenge is explained and qualified in brief, and anonymised quotes from the field add color wherever possible.



Graphical overview of the challenges surfaced through engagement with the field, with the size of each bubble corresponding to the frequency in which the topic was mentioned.

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Financing remains a persistent challenge across all social and environmental organisations, but evidence suggests it is *especially acute* for organisations pursuing systemic economic change.* Their focus on long-term, less tangible outcomes makes them less legible to conventional funders, leading to chronic underfunding compared to more visible work with direct outcomes. A recent article

in SSIR on “Better Philanthropy for Systems Change” highlights how philanthropic funding “tends towards short-term projects that follow a straight line of cause and effect and are hence easier to evaluate.”

This funding challenge can be further broken down into a few component parts:

* The dynamic is well documented via Philea’s publications on systems change. ClimateWorks also documented in 2020 how only 2% of global philanthropic giving was dedicated to climate change mitigation, with only a tiny fraction of that to systemic economic change.

Insufficient Funding

There is a very limited pool of funds for work related to economic systems change. The perception* is that, despite momentum and a growing acknowledgment of root economic issues, this pool of funding is dwindling – whether due to cuts in public budgets, temporary reprioritisation, or a broadening field competing for similar pots of funding.

“The external environment facing community organisations is hugely challenging and getting harder all the time. Demand pressures keep rising, as do costs, all the while the funding environment tightens. We believe community organisations have a crucial system transformation role. But so often they are filling in gaps in service provision, providing crisis support, and firefighting.”

Several factors drive this tightening funding environment:

- **Competing global priorities:** The pandemic, geopolitical instability, and gaps in health and development funding (especially after U.S. political shifts) have drawn philanthropic and public resources elsewhere.
- **Cuts in social and environmental funding:** Across Europe, austerity and shifting priorities have reduced support for community and civil society organisations, even as demand for their services and operating costs rise.
- **Backlash in the climate space:** The strength of the climate movement previously created spillover funding for tangential activities like new economy work, but that effect has weakened due to political backlash and shifting donor priorities.
- **Structural tension among funders:** Many philanthropic endowments are built with wealth created by the very economic structures the new economy field seeks to challenge, making this work politically or institutionally uncomfortable.
- **Lack of a clear constituency:** Systemic transformation often lacks obvious “clients.” Governments are often focused on short-term fixes and remain stuck in growth-driven policies, political parties fund their own think tanks, and individual donors can sometimes struggle to connect with the abstract challenge of changing a complex system.

To survive, more organisations are investing in side activities that can bring in other forms of revenue – e.g., tool development, service provision, participating in EU-funded projects – but these often pull energy from their core mission.

“We’re investing in diversifying our income sources, but that effort is requiring us to make big investments, which is sapping resources from our core work.”

Challenges in Fundraising

For most organisations in the new economy space, fundraising itself becomes a full-time job. While some competition for funding is certainly healthy – ensuring accountability and avoiding complacency – the sheer amount of time required to secure resources drains capacity for the core work organisations were founded to do.

“Funding is one thing probably everyone would say, especially in what feels like a continually squeezed funding environment. The amount of time we need to spend chasing funding is definitely an ongoing barrier. We try to be collaborative and not compete with our pals, but we’re all competing for quite small pots of funding.”

Several dynamics make this burden particularly acute for this field:

- **Mismatch with funder expectations:** Traditional funders often seek direct, measurable outputs and short-term project outcomes. But systems change relies on enabling activities such as responsive research, convening, orchestration, and field-building, which take longer to show results and resist simple metrics.
- **Project vs. structural barriers:** There may be grants for discrete initiatives (e.g. community energy projects), but little funding for work that tackles the regulatory and systemic conditions that determine whether such projects can succeed in the first place.
- **Scarcity of stable/core funding:** Few funders provide unrestricted support, forcing organisations to run like consulting firms or think tanks – securing piecemeal contracts rather than focusing on their mission.

* This perception will be further and more empirically explored in follow-on work. The Hour is Late will be publishing a report in December 2025 that examines trust and foundation grants to new economy work in Europe over 2024. The work will help build a picture of which geographies and thematic issues are receiving the most and least funding, the approximate scale of funding available, and an indication of the numbers of foundations supporting new economy work.

- **Leadership drain:** The burden of constant fundraising often falls on senior staff, undermining their ability to focus on strategy, partnerships, or the work itself.

“There’s a lack of stable funding. We constantly have to conduct commercial research projects as if we were a think-tank, but we are essentially a network. Securing 50k EUR/year would allow us to focus 100% on movement-building.”

Regional and Topic-specific Funding Challenges

Funding flows follow a “success to the successful” dynamic, concentrating in mature ecosystems, visible initiatives, and familiar narratives. This creates gaps for regions and topics where conditions are less favourable – places like Eastern Europe with weaker philanthropic infrastructure, politically constrained civic space, or cultural contexts where certain economic ideas (like post-growth or collective ownership) resonate less. These contexts require tailored support: investing in locally grounded alternatives and building bridges across regions to avoid reinforcing inequalities within the field.

CAPACITY GAPS

Capacity gaps in the new economy field are partly a causal effect of chronic funding shortages. When organisations lack stable core funding, they rely heavily on volunteers, struggle to build professional teams, and operate without the core functions that established institutions take for granted. The result is a field with high commitment but limited bandwidth.

“Capacity: we are almost entirely volunteer-run. We need more person-hours to do all the work we want to do. But reliable volunteers are hard to find.”

Several recurring themes emerged:

- **Volunteer reliance and fragility:** Many organisations are almost entirely volunteer-run. While this speaks to strong grassroots energy, it creates fluctuating capacity, limited time commitments, and makes it difficult to deliver professional services.
- **Small, overstretched teams:** Where professional staff exist, they are often very small teams (3 - 7 people) and pulled in too many directions, limiting headspace for strategic action.
- **Missing core functions:** Few organisations can sustain dedicated staff for communications,

operations and finance, or advocacy – functions that are important for long-term credibility, visibility, and influence.

- **Lack of champions and field coordination:** Too few organisations have the capacity to serve as visible champions for the field. The fragmentation involved in many small initiatives trying to survive further dilutes collective voice and limits shared communication capacity.
- **Organisational turnover:** High turnover weakens continuity in the field. When visionary leaders step out, institutional memory often collapses into project management routines, reducing an organisation’s ability to drive transformation
- **External capacity gaps:** There is also limited external capacity; policymakers, academics, businesses, and the public often lack exposure to heterodox economics, systemic approaches, or even community organising, which requires significant investment in awareness-building and education.

“The community is too separated. Many small initiatives are trying to survive and, although there is a good spirit of cooperation, there is not enough capacity to bundle forces – especially in communication.”

FRAGMENTATION

Silos and Misalignment

Many within the field perceive challenges of silos and misalignment within the ecosystem. Organisations share broad values but often operate with different lenses: ecological, social, cultural, or political. This makes common frameworks, metrics, and policy goals challenging to align around. The fragmentation is reinforced by small, overstretched teams and limited funding, which pushes groups to focus narrowly on their own survival rather than collective strategy.

“We’ve worked with academia, commons economy, developed social auditing systems... But we struggle to find common metrics. There’s fragmentation in lenses – ecological, social, cultural, political.”

Different schools of thought also contribute to misalignment. As noted earlier, some actors adopt a political economy lens, focused on power and social mobilisation, while others pursue systems design and innovation, building alternatives from the ground up. These camps rarely engage, creating parallel (and potentially synergistic) but disconnected approaches.

“Real challenge: fragmentation of our movements. There used to be a larger comprehensive process happening. But it’s become more fragmented.”

Academia reflects similar dynamics: specialised literatures, disciplinary silos, and journal structures that reward narrow expertise rather than integrated research. The result is a fractured ecosystem with too little collective capacity to build credible proposals at the scale required.

Lack of Joint Strategy Across the Field

Partly as a consequence of fragmentation, the field lacks a coherent set of joined-up strategies with a shared understanding of the roles different organisations can play. Organisations align on single issues (e.g., renewable energy), but there seems to be limited shared vision for economic systems change across Europe. Certainly, one shared strategy is not desirable or feasible, but more work on strategy alignment would benefit the field. Strong narratives like “beyond GDP”, local sufficiency and resilience, and housing as a human right remain influential as ideas but lack actionable strategies that large groups of actors in the field can get behind and push forward.

“There’s a lack of alignment between organisations. We align on specific topics but there’s no bigger systems change strategy.”

Many groups acknowledge the absence of a common voice or entity capable of uniting agendas and articulating credible alternatives. Some organisations like ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies in Germany and the Center for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) in the Netherlands are working on ways to fill this gap, but the field remains quite scattered.

“If we don’t have the vision of where we’re going and how we get there, and if we don’t have the collaboration in place, then even 10 million for communications would be wasted.”

OVERCOMING SHORT-TERMISM AND INCREMENTALISM

Many organisations in the new economy field are caught between urgent short-term pressures and the slow pace of systemic change. Rallying opposition is easier than defining alternatives. Designing proposals that are both politically feasible today and aligned with long-term transformation remains a thorny challenge. Practitioners seek to find ways to advance incremental policies without ‘greenwashing’, while also articulating credible pathways for deeper change.

“We need proposals that work today, without EU treaty changes, but that still point toward the transformation we want.”

On one side, community organisations are stretched thin. Rising demand for crisis services, tightening funding, and political short-termism push them into firefighting mode.

“So often we are filling in gaps in service provision, providing crisis support, and firefighting. These immediate pressures make it hard for us to find the strategic headspace to play our long-term community-building and system-shaping role.”

On the other side, when organisations do manage to carve out space for systemic work, progress often feels too slow compared to the urgency of ecological and social breakdown. Many actors are frustrated with the inertia of institutions: universities resisting curriculum reform, EU directives celebrated yet watered down in practice, or governments hesitant to move beyond “green growth.”

“Systems change takes longer than we expected. But we don’t have time.”

This creates a vicious cycle. Short-term demands limit capacity for long-term work, while incremental progress dampens momentum and frustrates movements. Yet short-term firefighting is often unavoidable — and sometimes even essential. The EU Omnibus bill earlier this year, for example, demanded urgent mobilisation to block harmful provisions. Responding to these emergent issues is critical, as it has real impact and builds muscle in organisations and the field as a whole. But when all energy goes into emergencies, the deeper transformation agenda risks being sidelined.

“We are faced with an acceleration of things, which makes the work more and more difficult. We need longer processes to involve people, to have real democracy. But the velocity of change is a big challenge, and we don’t have the oxygen to be able to breathe at the pace we need. Participation is hard when people lack time or capacity.”

ROOTING WORK IN PRACTICAL ACTION

A recurring theme from respondents was the perception that the field was too distant from everyday challenges. Too often, economic systems change is debated in seminar rooms or in Brussels, disconnected from the lived struggles of people facing rising rents, eroding job markets, and declining public services. This risks the new economy appearing abstract, elitist, or technocratic — when in reality, it should be about solving tangible problems and improving lives.

The Brussels Bubble and Disconnection

In the European context, respondents noted a “Brussels bubble” effect: advocacy dominated by policy professionals, with limited engagement of ordinary citizens. Without visible real-world wins, the fear is the new economy narrative risks being seen as detached.

“There’s limited engagement with the masses, no popular narratives. We’re seen as part of the problem — hippy technocrats.”

Missing Translation from Theory to Practice

Respondents also highlighted a gap between big ideas and their implementation. Academic debates and visionary frameworks abound, but the “missing middle” — translating these into practical experiments, political strategies, or community solutions — remains thin. Local initiatives exist, such as land trusts and remunicipalisation efforts expanded upon elsewhere in this report, but without scaling pathways they struggle to add up to systemic change.

“There’s a big gap within the new economy movement between policy and practice. There’s an over focus on influencing government and political debate.”

Risks of Technocratic Framing

When the focus is on “the economy” itself rather than the society it is meant to serve, there is a risk of furthering abstractions. The feeling from a number of actors was that the economy should be framed as an enabler of wellbeing, community resilience, and ecological balance — rather than an end in itself.

“We need to talk about the new economy to serve a better society, not just the new economy for its own sake.”

Engaging with Businesses

Businesses shape economies and value chains, yet engagement between them and the new economy field is limited and debated. Larger firms remain locked into growth imperatives, while more progressive business actors often lack the bandwidth for sustained collaboration. A growing distrust regarding misaligned motives of big business adds another barrier.

“At EU level, access is dominated by corporate voices. If we don’t engage progressive firms, we leave the field to corporate lobbyists.”

CHALLENGING THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE AND PARADIGM

Transforming the economy requires not only building alternatives but also dismantling the grip of mainstream economic narratives. Respondents repeatedly highlighted how dominant pro-growth frames, academic orthodoxies, and media echo chambers marginalise new economy ideas.

“We fight with unequal weapons. You can’t confront economic discourse with moral discourse.”

Governments Captured by Growth and Policies Reinforcing Current Economic Paradigm

Despite growing recognition of ecological and social limits, most governments remain locked into growth orthodoxy. Political leaders are constrained by growth dependencies and are compelled to placate markets, while public ownership, post-growth policies, or heterodox ideas remain fairly taboo.

“At the local level we have governments completely obsessed with growth through any means.”

A Narrative Stuck at the Margins of Public Discourse

Mainstream economics dominates universities, business schools, media, and politics, framing itself as “common sense.” New economy narratives, by contrast, are complex, academic, or moralistic, and are often dismissed as fringe or utopian.

“Our narratives are too complex. The message of those against us is simple. We need easy-going narratives that resonate with the general public.”

Media and Communications Barriers

The media landscape remains hostile or indifferent. Business interests dominate coverage, while small new economy groups lack communications capacity and aligned strategies. This absence from mainstream media limits both public visibility and political traction.

"It's almost impossible to become visible — and so politicians shy away from your work."

Academic Entrenchment

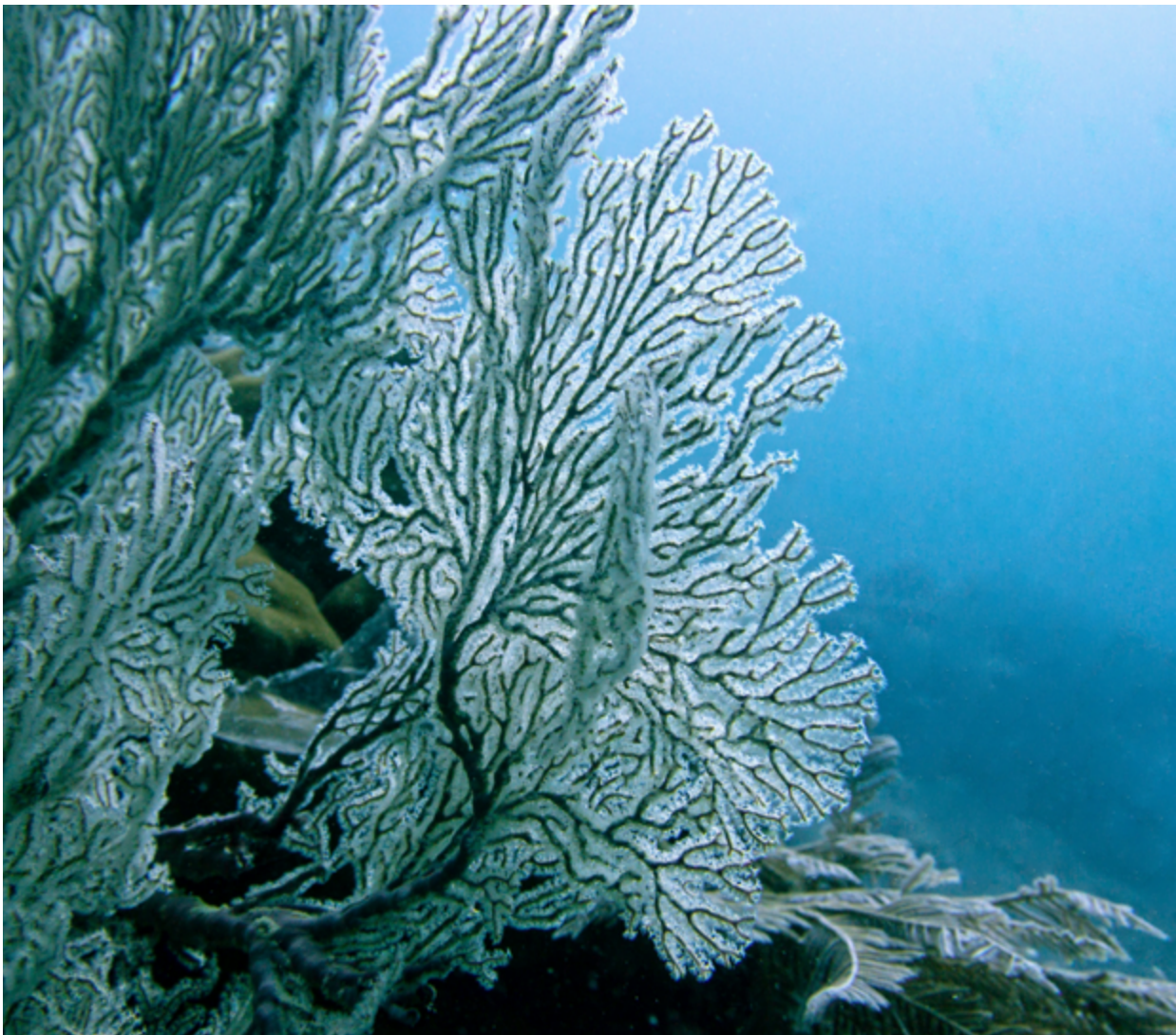
Orthodox economics remains entrenched through "publish or perish" incentives, journal monopolies, and rigid curricula. Heterodox approaches remain marginalised, limiting influence on both public debate and future generations of economists.

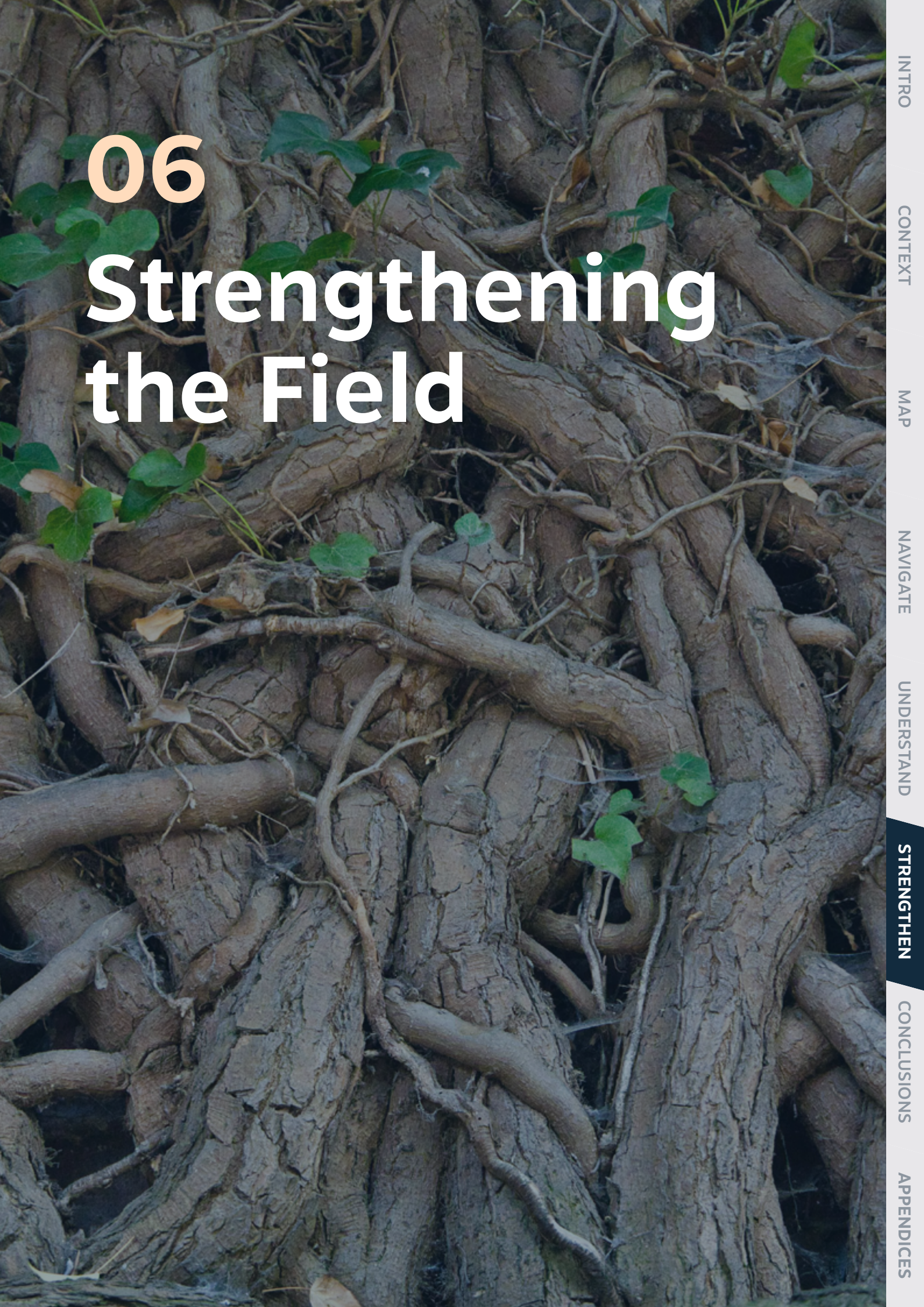
"The tyranny of the top 5 journals keeps economists locked into old ideas."

Democratising Economic Literacy

Economic debates remain dominated by technocratic expertise, leaving civil society, policymakers, and the public at a disadvantage. Many activists lack confidence to speak on economics, even when it underpins their work. Without accessible narratives and recognisable spokespeople, movements face an uphill battle against entrenched orthodoxies.

"Economics is the one field where you never feel qualified to speak. We need translators — people like Gary Stevenson or Timothée Parrique — who can cut through the jargon and make economics accessible. Civil society groups need support to speak about these issues in holistic, everyday terms."





06

Strengthening the Field

INTRO

CONTEXT

MAP

NAVIGATE

UNDERSTAND

STRENGTHEN

CONCLUSIONS

APPENDICES

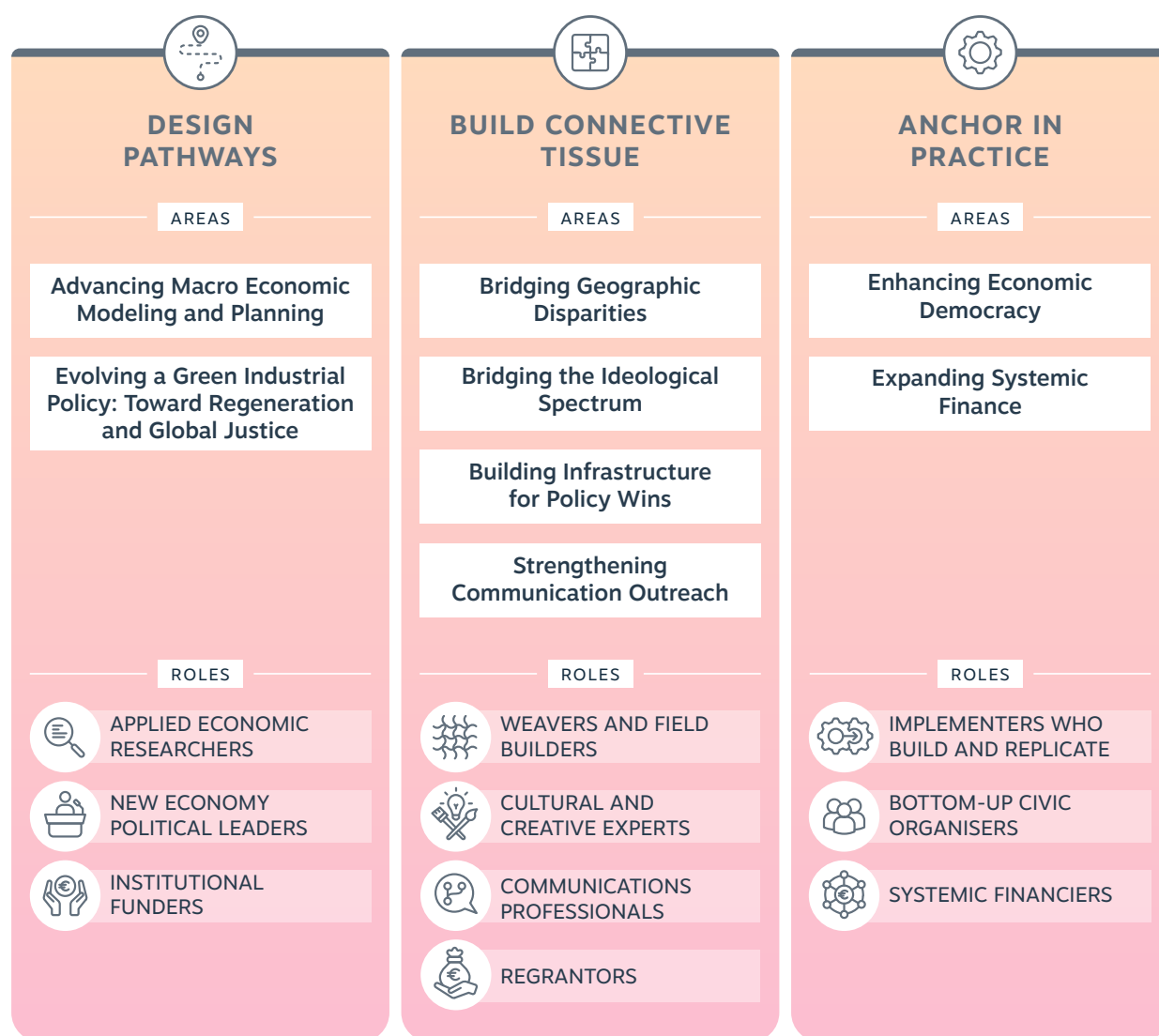
Where More Resources and Attention are Needed

There is a very long list of ways the new economy field can be strengthened. This section aims to encapsulate what most commonly surfaced from the field and other recent publications.

Naturally, theories of how change happens vary across the field, and as a result views of where resources are most needed and how they should be prioritised will differ. Our aim is not to propose a macro strategy, nor is it to imply that items left

off this list are not important. Instead, our goal is to synthesise the common input we gathered from across the field and highlight a handful of areas worth further attention.

We also indicate a set of roles that were perceived as gaps worth filling. These roles map onto the major areas we recommend for strengthening the field, serving as a practical illustration of how targeted resourcing and attention can manifest in practice.





DESIGN PATHWAYS: PLANNING AND MODELING

Although there is broad recognition that a shift beyond growth will require intentional design, the role of planning remains debated and largely neglected, and practical macroeconomic modeling is still a gap perceived by many in the field.

Advancing Macroeconomic Modeling & Planning

Further Development of Macroeconomic Models and Scenarios

While there has been progress on macroeconomic modeling that aligns with climate goals, there remains a real need to do more to answer key questions around post-growth economics, such as what happens to employment, debt, public budgets, pensions, or investment if GDP stops expanding.⁸⁸

Without these models, it's hard to counter the mainstream assumption that growth is a structural necessity, and it's difficult to provide credible pathways that policymakers and other critical stakeholders feel they can rely upon.

Planning as a Multi-Level Process

Macroeconomic gaps go beyond modeling and scenario building; it's also about *planning* – ongoing democratic and policy processes that navigate how the economy functions over time. For decades, discussions about planning have been constrained by the negative legacy of Soviet-style central planning, leaving little explicit engagement with what democratic ecological planning could look like. Much of the existing work has been confined to urban or spatial planning, with little exploration of macroeconomic or national approaches.

There seems to be a clear need for designing participatory, multi-level processes and can coordinate provisioning systems, manage ecological limits, and balance social priorities.¹²⁰ This is hard work, as it involves some elements of building new systems of participation and enhancing our democratic processes. But strengthening civic governance at different geographical scales can lay the foundation for adaptive planning approaches that currently appear lacking.

Evolving a Green Industrial Policy: Toward Regeneration and Global Justice

Europe's green industrial policy is gaining political momentum and is seen as a key leverage point where macroeconomic modeling, planning, and new economic policies can be readily applied. But it needs more steering.

The current approach risks reinforcing “green colonialism” – securing raw materials from the poorer and less powerful countries under the banner of “green mining” and extractivism – thus inadequately addressing historic inequalities and issues around trade. A similar issue with circularity has been highlighted, which holds promise for a largely self-sufficient and sustainable European material economy if taken seriously and holistically, but risks being watered down to the point of reinforcing the same patterns of growth, exploitation, and wealth accumulation.

To be genuinely transformative and a critical pathway towards a new economic system, green industrial policy must integrate decolonising principles, holistic circularity, and truly regenerative approaches. Embedding such principles will require finding better ways to build and sustain cross-border policy networks and putting forward bold but credible ideas for system redesign.

Needed Roles Identified



APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCHERS

Researchers who connect academia with the pragmatic needs of policymakers – developing models that explore impacts of post-growth pathways on employment, debt, pensions, and budgets, while also shaping participatory planning processes. Their work provides policymakers with credible, democratic alternatives to growth-dependency and grounds new economy ideas in rigorous modelling and real planning practice.



NEW ECONOMY POLITICAL LEADERS

Political actors who embed system-change agendas into legislation and governance. They frame ideas as pragmatic solutions, build coalitions across party lines, and translate grassroots priorities into durable policy wins. Their leadership helps new economy principles gain political traction and institutional staying power.



INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

Large foundations, public agencies, and multilateral institutions that shift mandates toward systemic transformation. They legitimise new economy approaches, provide resources and scalable infrastructure, and anchor experimental initiatives in durable institutional ecosystems, signalling important recognition from the mainstream.



BUILDING CONNECTIVE TISSUE

There has been real progress in building connective tissue across the new economy field — from alliances providing common narratives, to regional hubs and thematic coalitions experimenting with shared strategies. Yet, the field still remains quite dispersed, with under-resourced organisations doing important but isolated work.

This connective tissue also relates to an emerging sense that success in complex systems is best measured through the relational maturity of the system. As Indy Johar from Dark Matter Labs describes, movements like the new economy field should aim to: “[have] capacity to host diversity without fragmentation, to reconfigure in response to feedback, and to generate evolving coherence without external command. Governance therefore shifts from enforcing outcomes to stewarding the emergence of futures that are continually negotiated, contextually grounded, and collectively owned.”¹²³

Translating this into practice means cultivating the conditions, capabilities, and infrastructures that enable the field to act as more than the sum of its parts. In concrete terms, this could include building shared platforms for knowledge, tools, and data that reduce duplication and allow organisations to build on one another’s work. It also involves bridging and convening organisations that link grassroots actors with funders, policymakers, and researchers, ensuring ideas and resources circulate effectively. Narrative hubs can help synthesise diverse framings — from wellbeing to degrowth — into language that resonates across sectors and geographies, while regional translation layers are needed to adapt concepts to local contexts and build trust across geographical divides. Finally, relational funding models — in which funders explicitly support collaboration and networks, not just isolated projects — are important to support this diversity compound into power.

Bridging Geographic Disparities

The new economy field remains disproportionately driven by actors in Western and Northern Europe, leaving significant potential untapped in Southern and Eastern regions.

While countries like Spain, Italy, and Portugal host vibrant ecosystems, they often operate under more precarious conditions — weaker funding pipelines, lower institutional support, and higher economic vulnerability.

In Eastern Europe, the gap is even more pronounced, with underdeveloped networks and limited cross-border collaboration. Post-communist legacies make post-growth narratives less resonant, and cooperatives face cultural resistance due to associations with Soviet control.

Tailored support for these emerging ecosystems and creating East-West knowledge exchange are essential for developing a truly European field.

Bridging the Ideological Spectrum

While much of the new economy thinking emerges from progressive spaces, some provocative ideas are coming from other points on the political spectrum. Many in the field see strong potential in moving beyond the progressive bubble in order to enhance the strength of the field and the application of its principles.

For example, *Radical Markets* by Glen Weyl and Eric Posner (both of whom are considered more centrist) offers bold experiments in market design aimed at greater participation and fairness. Relatedly, center-right Nobel laureate Edmund Phelps’s *Mass Flourishing* offers a humanist view of competitiveness rooted in individual agency, creativity, and widespread access to the tools of production.

Engaging with such thinkers matters not only for the ideas themselves, but for their ability to bridge ideological barriers, broaden the coalition for economic systems change, and demonstrate that market redesign for equity is not confined to one side of the political spectrum.

Building Infrastructure for Policy Wins

The perception from many in the field is that we don’t have the right infrastructure to collectively choose battlefields, mobilise our ecosystem, and work with a diverse set of aligned actors.

Such infrastructure would include spaces and mechanisms for shared agenda-setting, where diverse organisations can align on priorities while respecting differences. It also requires coordinating bodies and campaign platforms that can quickly mobilise coalitions across countries and sectors when windows of opportunity arise. Another ingredient is cross-party and cross-movement alliances —

connective platforms that bring together unusual allies, from conservative groups prioritising mutual support and community resilience, to municipalist and regionalist movements focused on commons-based governance, to centrist reformists advancing cooperative finance and pragmatic policies like carbon taxes.

With this kind of scaffolding in place, the field can better collaborate on shared goals — like reducing corporate influence and taxing extreme wealth — with far greater reach and impact.

Strengthening Communications and Outreach

The new economy field has useful evidence and arguments, but often lacks important narrative work that translates them into emotionally resonant ideas that connect with every-day issues and fuels the imagination of what the new economy can look like.

Relatedly, communications capacity remains fragmented, underfunded, and poorly coordinated. The field lacks a communications and campaigning muscle that can match its relatively strong intellectual and policy capabilities — the outlets, podcasts, newsletters, and other channels that can reach different audiences.

This is not *always* the case throughout the field (e.g., New Economy Organisers Network (NEON) has been building this muscle effectively in the UK), but it's seen as largely a gap in most parts of Europe.

Effective communication is about strategically reaching policymakers, business leaders, investors, and the wider public with messages that resonate outside the field's familiar circles — messages that can, for example, link economic transformation to everyday struggles over wages, housing, climate, and care. Done effectively, this can shift public sentiment, legitimise new ideas in mainstream debate, provide room to maneuver for policy-makers, and inspire action far beyond the field's current reach.

Needed Roles Identified



WEAVERS AND FIELD BUILDERS

Leaders who connect fragmented initiatives into coherent alliances. They bridge divides across geographies, sectors, and ideologies to foster collaboration. By weaving these relationships, they create the strong connections that break down silos, amplify impact, and mobilise collective action.



CULTURAL AND CREATIVE EXPERTS

Artists, cultural practitioners, and heritage workers who bring in the power of creativity, storytelling, and collective imagination to revitalising places and regenerating cultures. Often overlooked, they are crucial for shifting narratives, sparking engagement, and grounding change in collective identity.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS

Communications specialists who craft clear, compelling narratives that cut through noise and make systemic ideas accessible. They translate complex analysis into stories that resonate with policymakers, funders, and the public, while ensuring consistency across channels.



REGRANTERS

Intermediary organisations that pool resources and re-distribute them into localised, experimental, or under-resourced initiatives. They act as bridges between large-scale funders and grassroots actors, ensuring capital reaches diverse and emergent efforts. Regrantors increase accessibility, reduce barriers, and foster distributed experimentation across the field.



ANCHOR IN PRACTICE

The new economy field is rich in ideas, frameworks, and policy proposals, but can struggle to move them beyond its echo chamber. This is partly because there is an implementation gap that, if addressed, could root its principles in everyday life.

In regenerative design, there is a philosophy that building a field of demonstrative practice makes the power of an approach undeniable. The work starts to have a gravitational pull in its own right, as people want to be part of the alternatives being demonstrated.

The good news is that there's not an idea gap here. The methods are largely well tested and proven. For example, democratic ownership models like cooperatives and community trusts have been around for ages and have many variations. Instead, the need is for more organisations working to transition local and regional economies trained to use the many tools and mechanisms that are already proven and need further implementation – as well as for a “missing middle” of organisations connecting local initiatives to macro-scale policy and research.

Enhancing Economic Democracy through Expanding Alternative Ownership Models

Alternative ownership models are gaining momentum but need replication and scaling efforts to make them more accessible and work towards more widespread economic participation. Community land trusts, housing cooperatives, and non-profit utilities demonstrate how essential services can be governed for public benefit rather than speculation. Municipal strategies such as community wealth building (e.g. the Preston model) show how procurement, finance, and cooperative development can manifest and anchor this transition.*

Policy momentum is also building: Germany is advancing a legal form for steward-ownership, the Netherlands is exploring similar options, and cities like Barcelona are backing Social Solidarity Economy initiatives with multi-year plans. At EU level, the Social Economy Action Plan and OECD Recommendation provide legal, financial, and procurement levers.

* The Preston Model is a community wealth building approach developed in Preston, UK, starting around 2013. It focuses on using the economic power of anchor institutions—such as local government, universities, hospitals, and housing associations—to strengthen the local economy by 1) redirecting procurement, 2) fostering cooperative development, 3) keeping wealth local, and 4) encouraging democratic ownership.

Support structures must catch up. Worker unions need support to build cross-sector alliances and prepare for oncoming changes from AI. Tenant organisations need mechanisms that enable them to take action like collective ownership of housing. Cooperatives would benefit from digital governance tools, while federations of cooperatives can fill gaps such as access to capital.

The opportunity is to expand and normalise these approaches, reclaiming key assets such as land, housing, and essential services from speculation and aligning them with long-term public benefit.

Expanding Systemic Finance

As the Club of Rome notes, we must move from simply “*financing change*” to “*changing finance*”, which is inseparable from changing the broader economy. Finance is the invisible fuel that enables societies to regenerate ecosystems, secure livelihoods, and build lasting institutions.

Ultimately, this is a challenging area that straddles both policy and implementation. On the implementation side, there has been significant movement around systemic finance mechanisms that build upon years of blended capital experiments (which combine grant capital and investment capital) and green or social bond structures. But its scale remains far below what is required. Annual green, social, and sustainability bond issuance passed €1 trillion by 2021 — which is still under 5% of the global bond market. Public development banks hold €23 trillion in assets, yet only a fraction aligns with the Paris Agreement. By contrast, the 60 largest banks have channelled more than €5.5 trillion into fossil fuels since 2015, which has far outpaced climate finance.

Expanding systemic finance means rewiring the core plumbing of the financial system in order to redirect the flows of capital at the scale required for essential infrastructure, the climate transition, nature regeneration, and broader economic transformation. This means leveraging the vast pools of capital in pensions, insurers, and sovereign wealth funds — together worth around €100 trillion. It also involves strengthening cooperative, municipal, and

mission-driven banks, which currently make up less than 10% of banking assets in OECD countries, to ensure finance is both accessible and accountable at local levels.

Needed Roles Identified



IMPLEMENTERS WHO BUILD AND REPLICATE

Builders who turn alternative economic concepts into operational institutions – utilities, cooperatives, land trusts, or non-profit services. They provide proof-points and replicate what's working, develop enabling infrastructure, and make democratic ownership models accessible. In demonstrating what works, they expand adoption and embed systemic alternatives in everyday life.



BOTTOM-UP CIVIC ORGANISERS

Grassroots organisers who mobilise citizens, especially those excluded from decision-making. They build trust across class lines, engage faith groups, neighbourhoods, and youth, and create pathways for local participation. Their work roots economic transformation in everyday realities, ensuring it is not perceived as technocratic but community-owned and inclusive.



SYSTEMIC FINANCIERS

Funders who provide catalytic, patient, flexible capital for systemic work. They underwrite invisible tasks like orchestration and sensemaking, while convening peer financiers to normalise post-extractive financial mechanisms. They serve as a bridge to mainstream capital sources, expanding the pool of resources available for long-term economic transformation.

A Note on Geographic Differences in Role Gaps

There are many geographic nuances one should consider when thinking about role gaps. For instance, many of those surveyed and interviewed mentioned that we don't need more researchers or advocacy groups. But in some places and topics we clearly do. Even in Germany, think tanks focused on new economics were perceived to be an important gap that needs to be addressed. Likewise, a similar gap of relevant think tanks was identified in the Nordics. Western Europe may find itself largely sufficient in field building activities, but it's an important gap in Eastern Europe where the field is much more emergent.

And some areas might be sensitive to particular things or uniquely suited to different strategies. For instance, areas like Eastern and Southeastern Europe have recent memories of authoritarian rule that may put neoliberalism in a different light, and make new economic logics of commoning, socialisation, etc. slow to take root. But these parts of Europe also invite experimentation and economic innovation, particularly among the younger generations.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

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Conclusions and Recommendations

This study set out to understand Europe's "new economy" field: what organisations the field consists of, how the field is evolving, where it is gaining traction, and what it needs to thrive.

For funders, allies, and practitioners, this work provides a map: of organisations, activities, emerging models, and the challenges that remain. Across Europe, there are diverse and concerted efforts to build economic systems that work within ecological limits and for the common good. The field is under strain, but it is alive with possibility.

Economic systems change is one of the highest-leverage bets we can make – an investment that unshackles all other efforts.

Changing our economic system will be incredibly difficult. It's a high-risk, high-reward approach that requires going up against entrenched interests that have much more power and resources. But it's a long-bet worth making, as without a shift in our economic model, everything else is immeasurably harder. Advances can and will be made in any particular field – climate, agroecology, housing, democratic renewal, etc. – but they will remain fragile when pursued within the current economic logic. Without changing the rules of finance, ownership, and distribution, each advance must be fought over repeatedly, and at great cost. Conversely, with real change to our economic system, movements no longer have to fight issue by issue against strong headwinds, but rather operate on a new playing field where resilience, fairness, and sustainability are rewarded by default.



A window of opportunity: A growing field with strong momentum worth seizing



FINDING #1:

The ground is fertile, with hunger for alternatives entering the mainstream

What marginalised groups long knew – that “the system is rigged” – is now widely felt. Across Europe, frustration with rising living costs, insecure livelihoods, and a sense that political and economic institutions no longer serve them is fueling urgency and openness to new ideas. People are asking existential questions about their future and showing greater appetite for bold alternatives.

This creates a critical window of opportunity. If new economy actors can channel this discontent into constructive, systemic solutions, the field can gain traction well beyond its current reach – before climate change and biodiversity loss become unmitigatable, and before disillusionment is channelled even further by far-right populism.



FINDING #2:

Crises are key turning points, and the field should prepare for the next rupture

The field has often grown in response to rupture – environmental movements in the 1970s, neoliberal pushback in the 1990s, the 2008 crash, Covid-19, and today’s cost-of-living and climate shocks. Such moments jolt awareness, open new narratives, and mobilise actors.

Transformation rarely happens gradually, but rather accelerates in moments of disruption. The challenge is to build infrastructure that can seize these windows – networks that meet core needs during shocks, and macro-level policy infrastructure that chart a systemic alternative. More ruptures are inevitable, from AI-driven unemployment to converging climate, financial, and geopolitical crises that are already testing the limits of our institutions.



FINDING #3:

The field is expanding fast, and is increasingly diverse

Our mapping of 735 organisations across 35 European countries shows that the new economy ecosystem is relatively young, increasingly diverse, and growing. Roughly half of these organisations have been founded in the past decade, underscoring a surge of activity catalysed by the worsening impacts of our current system. As our mapping deliberately excluded hyper-local projects such as regenerative farms, community energy cooperatives, and land trusts, the true scale of the movement is even larger and more vibrant on the ground.

Established NGOs such as Oxfam and Greenpeace are now linking their missions to systemic economic change, joining grassroots pioneers and emerging think tanks. The result is a maturing ecosystem that spans advocacy, research, campaigning, community ownership, and practical experimentation – across themes from climate transition and digital commons to community wealth and post-growth. This diversity creates many possible entry points, but also a need for stronger connective tissue.

Challenges of a field that remains fragmented and under-resourced



FINDING #4:

Funding is the binding constraint — especially patient and flexible capital

There is an acute need for long-term, trust-based philanthropic capital, helping organisations break out of short-term funding cycles and stressful bootstrapping. Interviewees converged on two needs: (a) long-horizon, trust-based grants that allow organisations to escape short-term project cycles and (b) flexible small grants that help grassroots actors survive and adapt.

The bigger issue is scale. Neoliberal philanthropies invested hundreds of millions annually in the 1970s–1990s to build lasting infrastructure – including university departments, journals, fellowships, and litigation vehicles. Today's new economy field operates at roughly one-tenth that scale. The lesson from neoliberal philanthropy is that it is possible to transform the economic system, but that durable idea-ecosystems consistently outperform episodic projects. The new economy field needs a step-change in funding to compete at the level required for it to win.



FINDING #5:

The field remains fragmented, but bridges can unlock potential

Pluralism is an asset; fragmentation is a tax. The new economy is rich with models – from doughnut economics to degrowth, wellbeing, and solidarity frameworks. This diversity offers many entry points, but too often organisations work in parallel or compete for attention instead of amplifying one another.

Geographically, the divide is especially visible. In Eastern and Southeastern Europe, mainstream NGOs often carry new economy values in the absence of specialist field-builders, while cooperatives face cultural resistance rooted in memories of the communist era. Without stronger east-west bridges, the field risks deepening inequalities in capacity, leaving large parts of Europe excluded from shaping and benefiting from key shifts. Investing in translation, trust-building, and shared platforms across regions could unlock a far broader base of legitimacy and power.

Interviewees repeatedly stressed the lack of connective tissue that would allow plurality to compound into power – not just in shared infrastructure and bridging functions, but through a collective rallying cry that moves beyond criticism of the existing system and towards a shared vision of what a viable alternative can look like. The field is gaining sophistication, and there is certainly some of this bridging work being done in places like the UK, but it is still far from the scale and coherence needed to contest dominant economic narratives or to set the agenda in moments of crisis.

Addressing gaps to build power and unlock further momentum



FINDING #6:

The field must elevate macroeconomic planning

The new economy field excels at vision and experimentation, but lags in the structural tools that make systemic transformation viable. Macroeconomic planning is a critical gap. Progress has been made by ecological economists and post-growth thinkers, but practical models remain thin. The field needs to more clearly be able to answer questions about what happens to jobs, debt, pensions, and public budgets if GDP stops growing, and how states can ensure stability and wellbeing in a post growth era.

Without credible models, it is difficult to counter the mainstream narrative that growth is the only path. This leaves policymakers, unions, and even sympathetic economists without credible tools to work with. Interviewees repeatedly stressed that governments and major institutions are actively looking for alternatives but find the field's outputs too fragmented or theoretical.

Elevating macroeconomic planning is therefore critical. This means investing in applied research, building interdisciplinary teams that combine ecological economics with labour, fiscal, and financial expertise, and developing real-world scenarios that show how transitions could work in practice. Filling this gap could give the field the credibility and influence needed to more effectively influence policy.



FINDING #7:

The field risks staying in a bubble unless it roots more of its work in everyday life

Think tanks and advocacy groups are indispensable for shaping ideas and policy, but ideas alone don't build power. Respondents repeatedly warned of the danger of technocratic isolation – an “ivory tower” disconnected from basic needs. People judge change by what they experience directly – whether they can afford rent, keep the lights on, or rely on local services. Rising costs and precarious livelihoods demand visible alternatives that meet those needs directly: housing co-ops, community energy providers, remunicipalised utilities, land trusts, local food systems, and other bottom-up mechanisms that build agency, sufficiency, and wellbeing.



FINDING #8:

A “missing middle” constrains replication and systemic scale

Local initiatives show what's possible, but they remain scattered and often inaccessible to the average citizen. What is missing is a “middle layer” – a connective layer of organisations that can translate grassroots successes into financeable, repeatable models and connect them to national and EU agendas. This layer is what makes community initiatives legible to public and private capital, proactively enables replication, and embeds practical solutions into broader policy frameworks. Without this middle layer, the ecosystem risks remaining a patchwork of inspiring but isolated projects. With it, the field could turn community-based initiatives into systemic pathways that make resilience, fairness, and sustainability mainstream.



FINDING #9:

The field needs an explicit and dual-track political strategy – both to govern and to enable broader coalitions

Pluralism is rightly seen as a strength of a young and diverse field seeking common ground across movements. Yet its breadth – spanning from neo-socialists to green growthers – can become a weakness without a proactive strategy. The risk is either vague “all of the above” messaging or the fragmentation that has stalled many past progressive projects.

A stronger path is to pro-actively build two complementary wings. One is *explicitly political*: forging parties, leaders, litigation functions, media platforms, and coalitions to embed new economy ideals in governance – much as neoliberalism once did by investing in durable infrastructure. The other is *explicitly cross-partisan*: advancing policy shops, think tanks, and civic institutions that defend and pursue new economic principles across the spectrum, echoing the formative years of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and its UK counterpart Liberty UK, which safeguarded core rights and principles regardless of political ideology.



FINDING #10:

Building new wealth should be seen as critical infrastructure

The neoliberal shift of the 1970s–1990s showed that lasting change requires major financial resources. Most current efforts focus on redirecting existing flows of capital towards more impactful initiatives – through philanthropy, public budgets, or blended finance. These are important efforts, but they rely on *outside capital*. To build real independence, the field must also generate new forms of wealth – created and managed in line with new economic principles – to power the movement from within.

Community wealth building shows both the limits and the promise. Local initiatives alone won’t produce the resources to shift whole systems, but the field needs a *macro-level strategy* for community wealth creation. Relevant models already exist: steward-owned enterprises reinvesting surpluses into collective missions, perpetual purpose trusts holding assets in the commons, or non-profits spinning out revenue-generating ventures. If scaled across the field as a coordinated effort, such models could provide the long-term financial muscle needed to sustain a growing movement to succeed.

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Appendix B: Typologies

ACTIVITY-BASED TYPOLOGY



ACTIVITY-BASED TYPOLOGY			
CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Activism & Advocacy Driving social and policy change by raising public pressure, influencing decision-makers, and holding power to account.	Campaigning & Public Engagement	Mobilising people and resources to publicly demand change through action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions and protests • Awareness campaigns • Direct action • Media work • Community organising • Political campaigning
	Policy Advocacy & Lobbying	Shaping policy debates by developing proposals, building broad-based support, and engaging policymakers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy briefs • Engaging with policymakers • Providing expert input • Shaping legislation
	Legal Action & Litigation	Using courts or legal systems strategically to advance rights, enforce laws, or challenge injustices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic use of courts • Judicial advocacy • Public interest litigation
 Demonstration Testing innovative solutions in real-world contexts to validate feasibility, learn, and refine before wider adoption.	Ideation & Concepting	Developing new concepts, solutions, or innovations to address systemic challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hackathons • Innovation labs • Creative workshops • Crowdsourcing solutions
	Prototyping New Services	Designing and testing early versions of services or products to explore feasibility and gather user feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum viable services • Early-stage community-based offerings
	Enterprise & Asset Development	Creating or growing enterprises or assets aligned with deep social and ecological principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing nonprofit or not-for-profit organisations • Building community-owned utilities • Managing shared assets or properties
	Demonstrator Sites	Establishing physical or virtual spaces where innovative models can be experienced, refined, and showcased in action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban living labs • Regenerative farm pilots • Circular economy hubs

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ACTIVITY-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Scaling & Diffusing Expanding proven solutions to reach broader communities, sectors, or markets, and sharing them for replication or adaptation.	Model Replication & Adaptation	Supporting the direct copying or tailoring of successful approaches so they can be implemented in new contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping communities set up similar food co-ops • Adapting a proven community land trust model to a new city
	Knowledge Dissemination & Toolkit Development	Sharing materials, frameworks, and evidence that make it easier for others to learn from and apply successful innovations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing practical guides • Open-source manuals • Case studies of working models
	Scaling Through Partnerships & Institutional Adoption	Expanding proven solutions by building partnerships and embedding models within public institutions, policies, or established organisations to ensure broad and sustained adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with local governments to embed community land trust models • Partnering with rural networks to spread regenerative farming practices • Securing policy changes through mainstream participatory budgeting
 Communications & Narrative Change Shaping public discourse, perception, and understanding through storytelling, media, framing, and cultural expression.	Framework & Narrative Building	Crafting overarching frames, storylines, or discourses to shape understanding and public debate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing issues • Shaping public awareness • Influencing public discourse
	Arts & Cultural Action	Using creative media, artistic expression, and cultural practices to inspire, engage, and mobilize people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling • Experiential engagement • Public installations • Film and theatre
	Strategic Communications	Planning and executing coordinated communication efforts to influence public opinion, shift narratives, and advance social or political goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messaging strategies • Coordinating communications across coalitions • Mapping narrative ecosystems to identify influencers and opponents
	Media & Publications	Publishing, distributing, or amplifying information and stories through traditional and digital channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating scientific data • Magazine publishing • Dissemination campaigns • Distribution activities
	Futures Thinking & Visioning	Exploring possible, probable, or preferred futures to inform strategies and inspire action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing scenarios • Conducting foresight exercises • Crafting shared long-term visions • Exploring preferred futures

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ACTIVITY-BASED TYPOLOGY			
CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Research & Knowledge Generation Creating new insights, evidence, and ideas through participatory, academic, and foresight methods to inform action and policy.	Grassroots Research	Collecting knowledge directly from communities through participatory or citizen-led methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-driven research • Participatory and experiential approaches • Citizen-led data collection
	Institutional Research	Conducting formal research by experts or organisations to provide evidence or analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured academic research • Think tank studies • Expert-led applied research • Formal institutional research
	Monitoring Progress	Tracking, measuring, or evaluating changes over time to assess impact or inform decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and learning practices • Developing indicators or metrics • Impact assessments • Monitoring policy outcomes
 Funding & Resource Mobilisation Securing and directing financial and non-financial resources to support transformative initiatives and shared goals.	Grantmaking & Philanthropic Funding	Providing financial support through grants to advance mission-aligned work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing calls for proposals • Managing grant portfolios • Participatory grantmaking
	Regranting & Pooling Funds	Aggregating and redistributing resources to multiple organisations or initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating collective investment vehicles • Movement funds • Ecosystem grant pools
	Impact Investing	Deploying patient capital to generate measurable social and environmental impact alongside financial returns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalytic blended-finance funds • Mission-aligned equity stakes • Social-impact bonds • Revenue-based financing for climate-tech ventures
	Mobilising Public Funding & Subsidies	Securing government or institutional funding to support projects or organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Horizon grants • National green-industrial subsidies • Municipal innovation vouchers • Guaranteed-loan programmes
	Non-financial Resource Sharing	Exchanging or pooling in-kind resources, knowledge, or services among partners or networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement generosity • Time banks • In-kind resource pooling among ecosystem actors

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ACTIVITY-BASED TYPOLOGY			
CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Capacity Building & Education Equipping individuals and institutions with the skills, tools, and knowledge needed to lead and sustain transformative change.	Grassroots Education & Training	Building skills and leadership among community members, frontline organizers, or marginalized groups through accessible, community-rooted formats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Peer-to-peer learning • Political education • Community organizing schools • Mentorship for local leaders
	Professional Education & Development	Providing formal or ongoing development for professionals, practitioners, or institutional leaders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured trainings • Executive education • Certification programs • In-house capacity building • Sectoral fellowships • Academic degree programs
	Changing Curricula	Transforming what and how key subjects like economics are taught by integrating diverse theories, pluralist perspectives, and real-world challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating alternative university courses • Transforming economics curricula • Embedding pluralist and systems thinking
	Technical Services	Designing practical resources, tools, or technical assistance to support effective action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission-aligned advisory • Tailored support with specialized expertise • Practical toolkits for practitioners
 Movement Building & Organising Strengthening collective power by developing leadership, aligning actors, and coordinating efforts for systemic change.	Grassroots Organising & Power Building	Strengthening the capacity of communities to identify issues, build collective power, and take action to change their conditions from the bottom up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base-building in communities • Leadership development • Training local organisers • Mobilising collective action
	Strategy Development	Creating clear, shared plans to guide collective action toward long-term goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing theory of change frameworks • Setting long-term priorities • Aligning stakeholders around shared pathways • Facilitating strategic planning processes
	Coalition Building	Forming a structured alliance of diverse actors to coordinate efforts, amplify influence, and advocate around a shared set of objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing together NGOs, labour unions, and advocacy groups • Coordinating towards shared political goals • Sharing resources and advocacy under a unified banner
	Orchestration	Aligning diverse actors to bridge silos, coordinate actions, and maintain coherence in complex, long-term collaborations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating a cross-sector task force on regenerative agriculture • Aligning roles across government, farmers, researchers, and funders • Coordinating meetings and monitoring progress • Adapting shared action plans over time


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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY			
CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Alternative Economic Models Exploring economic paradigms that reorient economies toward ecological balance, collective wellbeing, and justice — challenging dominant assumptions of growth, competition, and extractivism.	Ecological Economics & Science-Based Frameworks	Economic and governance approaches that integrate planetary boundaries and regional ecological limits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planetary boundaries and ecological ceilings • Doughnut Economics • Carbon budgeting and ecological fiscal rules • Macroeconomic modeling that integrate climate
	Sufficiency & Post-Growth Paradigms	Paradigms that prioritise wellbeing and equity within limits, rejecting endless economic expansion and focusing on enoughness, redistribution, and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downscaling of material throughput • Sufficiency-based policy • Post-growth planning • Limits to resource extraction • Holistic circular economy approaches
	Pluriversal & Indigenous Economic Paradigms	Frameworks grounded in relational ontologies and Indigenous knowledge, advancing wellbeing and responsibility across people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buen Vivir • Ubuntu economics • Decolonial critiques
	Social Solidarity Economics	Economies organised around collective ownership, democratic control, and meeting shared needs — challenging profit-maximisation and private capital concentration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) • Commons-based economies • Cooperative economics • Participatory planning • Foundational Economy


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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Public Finance & Financial System Reform Transforming the rules, institutions, and governance of the public and private financial system to promote stability, equity, and alignment with long-term public and ecological goals.	Global Financial Architecture Reform	Transforming international financial institutions and rules to promote equity and sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of international currency clearing union • Sovereign debt workout frameworks • Ending austerity-based conditionalities • Growth-independent money creation • Global capital controls
	Monetary System Reform	Reforming monetary systems to support ecological integrity and social justice by steering capital toward regenerative activities and away from destructive ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint climate & nature investment strategies • Public banks directing credit to regenerative sectors • Central banks restricting finance to destructive sectors • Aligned monetary mandates • Green and nature-linked sovereign bonds
	Public Investment, Wealth & Asset Stewardship	Mobilising and governing public resources and collective assets to promote equity, collective wellbeing, ecological regeneration, and long-term value preservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sovereign wealth funds for public benefit • Green public banks • Resilient infrastructure development • Publicly-owned enterprises • Social dividend systems
	Fiscal Policy & Taxation	Designing fair tax and spending systems that raise public revenues equitably and redistribute them to reduce inequality, fund collective goods, and correct harmful economic externalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive income and wealth taxes • International tax coordination • Closing loopholes • Carbon levies • Land value taxes • Digital infrastructure fees • Redirecting revenues to fund public goods
	Financial Market Governance	Establishing rules and oversight to ensure financial markets serve the common good and avoid systemic risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial transaction taxes • ESG standard reform • Capital flow controls • Integration of climate considerations


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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY


CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Socio-Economic Security & Justice Ensuring everyone has the security and resources to meet their basic needs, live with dignity, and participate fully in society.	Care Systems	Promoting and creating systems that prioritise holistic physical, mental, and social wellbeing, with accessible and equitable care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centering care in socioeconomic systems • New models of social security • Childcare, elderly care, disability justice • Supporting unpaid care • Preventative care
	Universal Income Systems	Guaranteed, unconditional cash payments provided regularly to all individuals, ensuring a baseline of financial security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unconditional cash transfers • Negative income tax • Social dividends • Income-based welfare programs
	Work & Labour Futures	Adapting labour systems and job structures to respond to technological change, automation, and evolving worker needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortened workweek • Job guarantees • AI displacement strategies
	Universal Basic Services	Providing guaranteed access to essential public goods and services as a right for all, regardless of income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decommodification of public goods • Publicly funded housing • Universal healthcare • Free public transit • Access to education
	Decolonial Futures	Challenging systems of oppression and extractivism while supporting transitions that elevate Indigenous, racialized, feminist, and historically marginalized perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging extractive and patriarchal systems • Land rematriation

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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Sectoral System Transformation Transformative changes across the essential sectors that underpin daily life to ensure that basic societal functions are delivered in ways that are sustainable, equitable, and resilient.	Food & Land Use	Shifting agricultural and land systems toward sustainable, equitable, and regenerative practices that support ecological health and food justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerative agriculture • Agroecology • Food sovereignty movements • Land back and land commons initiatives
	Energy	Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable, decentralized, and just energy systems that empower communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community energy cooperatives • Fossil fuel phase-out policies • Renewable energy access • Energy democracy initiatives
	Water	Transforming water management to ensure equitable access, ecological integrity, and climate resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed-based management • Water governance reform • Climate-adaptive infrastructure
	Housing & the Built Environment	Redesigning how we build, inhabit, and own space to enable inclusive, affordable, and sustainable living environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social housing cooperatives • Retrofitting and energy efficiency programs • Climate-adaptive urban design • Land value capture
	Mobility & Transportation	Redesigning mobility systems to prioritize low-carbon, accessible, and equitable transportation options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit expansion • Walkable and bikeable cities • Electrified logistics • Inclusive transport access
	Information Technology	Reclaiming the governance, ownership, and economic value of digital systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging platform monopolies • Regulating Artificial Intelligence efforts • Community-owned data commons • Digital labour platforms • Privacy-protecting digital infrastructure

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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY			
CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
<div>  </div> <div> Place-Based Resilience </div> <div> Place-based strategies that strengthen ecological integrity, climate adaptability, and community self-determination — ensuring territories are restored, resilient, and governed for long-term sustainability and justice. </div>	Ecosystem Governance & Regeneration	Reviving and sustaining ecosystems through models that reconnect ecological health with community stewardship, equitable governance, and regenerative economic value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewilding initiatives • Community-based conservation • Air-quality management • Ecosystem restoration alliances • Biodiversity trusts
	Community-led Transitions	Local, citizen-driven initiatives at the neighbourhood or town level that reimagine how communities organise resources, culture, and decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood food initiatives • Ecovillages and intentional communities • Local transition groups • Eco-neighbourhood pilots
	Regional Transitions	Designing locally tailored strategies that strengthen communities' ability to adapt and transform in response to systemic challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioregional transition strategies • Community wealth-building • Climate-adaptive infrastructure plans • Localised circular economy hubs
	Climate Adaptation & Resilience	Building adaptive capacity through socially just and community-led systems that redistribute risk, embed local knowledge, and rewire economic and governance structures to support long-term climate resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-owned flood infrastructure • Climate resilience hubs • Adaptive commons governance • Participatory climate budgeting • Localised insurance and risk-pooling

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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Market Governance & Oversight Redesigning rules and oversight of markets and industries to ensure democratic accountability, public interest, and ecological integrity.	Consumer Rights & Protections	Ensuring individuals are protected in markets through safety standards, transparency, and equitable access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right-to-repair laws • Fair pricing regulations • Product labeling requirements • Anti-predatory lending laws
	Industrial Policy & Sectoral Governance	Using policy to steer specific sectors toward public interest outcomes, innovation, and ecological transformation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green industrial strategies • R&D funding • Clean tech subsidies • Procurement mandates
	Corporate Power Dynamics	Limiting corporate concentration and influence through anti-monopoly action and democratic oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking up dominant platforms • Lobbying transparency rules • Platform accountability regulations • Supply chain audits
	Equitable Trade Systems	Restructuring trade systems to center justice, sustainability, and local resilience in global economic relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair trade agreements • Local procurement rules • Carbon border adjustments • Just transition clauses in trade deals
	Institutional Investment Governance	Reforming mandates, incentives, and governance of large financial institutions — such as pension funds and insurers — to align capital allocation with long-term public, social, and ecological goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirecting pension fund investments • Reforming fiduciary duties
	Price & Market Regulation	Using rules, subsidies, and pricing mechanisms to make essential goods and services affordable, prevent profiteering, and reflect true social and ecological costs in markets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting fair prices for essentials • Targeted subsidies and social tariffs • Embedding ecological costs through polluter-pays rules • Portable benefits and price stabilisation


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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Democratic Participation & Economic Democracy Expanding people's collective agency in shaping decisions, policies, and institutions through inclusive governance, organising, and participatory democratic infrastructure.	Worker Rights & Infrastructure	Ensuring democratic representation, fair wages, and safe conditions for workers through mechanisms like unions, job guarantees, and collective bargaining.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective bargaining structures • Union modernization • Job guarantees • Worker councils • Labour protections
	Participatory Organising Models	Building systems and tools that enable inclusive, deliberative, and empowered citizen participation in economic governance and public decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens' assemblies • Tenant Unions • Digital democracy tools • Community councils • Community planning boards
	Digital Social Utilities	Publicly or cooperatively owned digital infrastructure designed to serve collective needs, such as open-source platforms and community-controlled technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-source platforms for public use • Federated social networks • Municipal broadband • Data and platform cooperatives
	Commons-based Resource & Consumption	Collectively managing and consuming material and ecological resources through equitable, regenerative, and non-extractive systems that prioritise shared access and community control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing economy platforms • Community-led reuse and repair networks • Open-source knowledge production • Local food cooperatives
	Alternative Ownership & Governance Models	Ownership systems that distribute power, decision-making, and benefits across stakeholders to better align with social and ecological goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperatives • Steward-owned businesses • Land trusts • Platform cooperatives • Governance by trusteeship • Legally embedded mission locks
	Rights of Nature & Future Generations	Recognising and protecting the intrinsic rights of nature and the interests of people not yet born, embedding ecological integrity and intergenerational justice in present-day governance, law, and decision-making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting intergenerational justice frameworks • Embedding long-term thinking in law and policy • Recognising legal rights of ecosystems • Creating guardianship models

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THEMATIC-BASED TYPOLOGY

CATEGORY	SUB CATEGORY	DEFINITION	EXAMPLES
 Alternative Finance Systems Building new financial models and institutions that operate outside the logic of mainstream finance to prioritise sustainability, democratic control, and the common good.	Innovative Financial Instruments	Structured financial tools designed to channel investment into environmental and social goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem services valorization • Impact bonds
	Community Finance Institutions	Locally rooted or mission-driven financial institutions offering credit, banking, and lending aligned with community wellbeing and equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative banks • Credit unions • Ethical lending schemes • Community development finance institutions
	Transformative Capital	Ecosystems of capital flows designed to shift the logic of finance toward long-term impact and justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic investment • Re-imagining philanthropy • Blended finance • Patient capital • Mission-aligned investment vehicles
	Complementary Currency Systems	Non-mainstream exchange systems aimed at building local resilience and diversifying economic value exchange.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New payment systems • Digital public money • Time banks • Mutual credit systems • Local currencies
	Alternative Economic Valuation Approaches	Measurement approaches that assess societal progress across ecological integrity, equity, and wellbeing, complementing or replacing GDP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing indexes • Social value frameworks • Multidimensional poverty metrics • Footprint and natural-capital accounting

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Appendix C: Sources

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Appendix D: Policies

AI Policy

We applied AI and AI-supported tools selectively to enhance the project's objectives, particularly for efficiently mapping new economy initiatives and processing information. Our approach followed five principles:

1. **Transparency:** Clearly documenting where AI was used in our methodology.
2. **Informed Consent:** Obtaining participant consent before using AI-supported tools in interviews, with clear explanation of use and storage.
3. **Human Oversight:** Ensuring at least one team member reviewed all AI outputs for accuracy and nuance.
4. **Purpose Alignment:** Using AI only for tasks that supported project goals, avoiding overextension beyond intended purposes.
5. **Continuous Improvement:** Reviewing AI use in team methodology sessions and refining our approach as needed.

Data Policy

We handled all participant and organisational data in line with ethical research standards, using the following principles:

- **Confidentiality:** Participant data (interview and survey) was stored securely on a restricted-access drive.
- **Anonymisation:** Identifying information was not shared outside the research team. Qualitative inputs were anonymised in reporting unless explicit permission was obtained.
- **No AI Processing of Raw Qualitative Data:** No raw participant data was processed by AI systems; qualitative analysis was conducted manually in Atlas.ti.
- **Compliance:** All data handling complied with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), ensuring participants' rights to privacy and data protection.

Appendix E: Methodology

MAPPING THE FIELD

This work presents a systematic effort to map the diverse ecosystem of organisations contributing to the emerging new economy landscape across Europe. The primary aim was to create a robust evidence base: allowing new economy stakeholders to identify like-minded actors, and better understand this evolving field. Unlike earlier mappings, this review applied a transparent and iterative methodology, drawing on multiple sources and inclusion criteria to capture a comprehensive sample of over 735 organisations (see [Appendix F](#) for the full list).

Conducting this work was challenging. Organisations vary widely in how they describe their activities, articulate their mission, and how much information they share publicly.

We began with a narrow and strict set of criteria: the organisation had to be a nonprofit, located in Europe, and have an explicit mission statement that was transformative. As we moved deeper into the process, however, we faced an important question: where should we draw the line of inclusion when mapping organisations focused on economic systems transformation? Sticking to the original criteria would have yielded only about 100-150 organisations dedicated purely to systemic change. But loosening the boundaries too much risked including almost any mission-driven sustainability or social justice initiative, resulting in a list so expansive as to lose its meaning.

Navigating this tension required constant discussion and refinement. We wanted to avoid arbitrary rules that excluded organisations that were clearly aligned. As a result, we expanded the nonprofit rule to also include not-for-profit cooperatives and social enterprises, unincorporated networks, and affiliated chapters of larger organisations. We broadened the “located in Europe” rule to include international organisations with a European office or legal presence. We also included organisations that may not state their mission explicitly in transformative terms but nonetheless clearly embodied New Economy principles in practice.

At the same time, we sought to maintain a rigor of exclusion. We excluded short-term projects, hyper-local initiatives that were too informal or opaque in their activities, sectoral or purely environmental organisations that did not reference the economic system directly, and any entity that upheld mainstream or market-driven approaches

without systemic critique. In particular, we excluded organisations operating under “green capitalism” logics that do not represent a significant enough shift in the economic system.

Ultimately, our aim was to create an index that was useful and appropriately represented the field. It is both robust and rooted in systemic transformation. Any organisation that wasn’t mapped in this work should feel inherently welcome in this growing ecosystem and will be welcome to add themselves to the directory that will follow.

Countries in Scope

Our aim was to cover the continent as comprehensively as possible while recognising that the depth of engagement needed to vary by context. To achieve this balance, we applied a tiered approach: all countries were included at a baseline level through desk research, while countries with larger or more active ecosystems were prioritised for more interviews and deeper engagement. This allowed us to capture the full regional picture, while also generating richer insights where the field is most developed or diverse.

- **Desk research + interview outreach:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (Scotland, England, and Wales analysed separately).
- **Desk research only:** Andorra, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Bosnia, Albania.
- **Excluded:** Russia, Vatican City, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus.

Some micro countries (e.g., Vatican City) were excluded because the scale of activity is very limited. Other countries (e.g., Ukraine, Belarus, Turkey) were excluded because they were considered outside the current boundary of Europe.

Sourcing

Our sourcing approach combined desk research, AI-assisted search, stakeholder engagement (interviews, survey, workshops), and both qualitative and quantitative analysis. Given the plurality of definitions surrounding the “new economy,” we adopted an iterative process: starting broad, refining

our categories as we engaged with practitioners, and validating our emerging understanding through multiple feedback loops.

The initial compilation of organisations drew on existing resources provided by Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) and other publications from ecosystem partners.

To identify additional relevant organisations, we drew on multiple complementary sources:

- **Existing resources.** For example, open-source databases maintained by networks and thematic coalitions within the field, and member lists of major European or transnational networks in the New Economy space.
- **Field-specific sources.** For example, attendee lists from the 2023 Beyond Growth conference, members and affiliates of the International Degrowth Network, and known actors in established New Economy networks across Europe.

Desk research and AI-assisted searches

To supplement these resources and address gaps in geographic coverage, we conducted targeted desk research and used AI-assisted searches. We tailored prompts for ChatGPT's deep research function for each country, incorporating translated keywords. This proved particularly useful for surfacing organisations less visible in English-language searches or standard web queries. As our typologies developed, we re-ran AI searches using refined terminology, which helped capture additional organisations missed in earlier rounds.

Community input and validation

Finally, interviews and survey respondents were invited to suggest additional organisations. All recommendations were independently reviewed against our inclusion criteria before being added to the directory.

Inclusion Criteria

Each organisation was reviewed systematically against a set of inclusion criteria, developed iteratively as our understanding of the field evolved. Defining the contours of what constitutes the New Economy was not straightforward: organisations describe their activities in diverse ways, public information is often incomplete, and translation challenges added further complexity. To ensure rigour, we combined manual and AI-supported reviews, applying the following criteria:

Mission focus

- Organisations had to work explicitly or implicitly toward transforming economic systems.
- We excluded organisations primarily focused on mainstream aspects of sustainable development or social entrepreneurship. This had an adverse effect on the number of Eastern European actors included in the mapping, where post-growth organisations are more rare.
- Strictly environmental organisations were excluded unless they explicitly included social and economic approaches, critiqued the economic system, or linked their work directly to systemic transformation.
- Labour unions were included when they demonstrated systemic ambitions (e.g. aligning with broader movements or advocating structural change).

Sub-thematic relevance

Organisations working in thematic areas or particular sectors (housing, food, energy, transport, etc.) were included only if they connected their work to building or advocating for a new economic system. Organisations providing essential services in collective, cooperative, or not-for-profit ways were included, as they were seen to embody alternative economic logics.

Organisational status

Initially, we considered only formally incorporated entities. To avoid excluding significant networks and consortia, criteria were later expanded to include non-incorporated but active initiatives if they were highly aligned with our scope.

Legal form

- For-profit organisations were excluded.
- Eligible forms included nonprofits (NGOs, foundations, associations, charities) and not-for-profits (cooperatives, social enterprises) explicitly reinvesting surplus into their mission.
- Legal categories were harmonised across countries for comparability. For example:
 - In the UK, a nonprofit is often registered as a charity or a Community Interest Company (CIC).
 - In France, they are typically registered as associations under the 1901 law.
 - In Germany, they are usually eingetragener Verein (e.V.) or gemeinnützige GmbH (gGmbH) if operating in a charitable capacity.
 - In the Netherlands, nonprofits are often stichtingen or verenigingen.

Geographic presence

- Organisations had to be based in a European country of focus or, if international, maintain an office/legal entity in Europe.

Scale of impact

- Eligible organisations operated at regional, national, or international levels.
- Hyper-local projects were excluded unless their work demonstrated a larger geographic scope.

Primary activity based in Europe

- Organisations based in Europe but working primarily on international development outside Europe were excluded.
- Exceptions were made for organisations addressing extractive North-South dynamics (e.g., debt relief advocacy) given their direct implications for Europe's economy.

Active status

- An accessible and up-to-date web presence was required as a proxy for organisational activity. Purely informal groups and organisations with inactive websites were excluded.

Scraping Process

For each included organisation, we extracted key details from official websites to ensure consistency and comparability across the directory:

Founding Year

When available, the earliest founding year mentioned on the organisation's website was selected—regardless of when formal incorporation may have occurred. For example, in the case of EMES, the founding year is listed as 1996, even though it became a registered non-profit in 2002. If no founding year was available, we used the date of the earliest publication or blog post as a proxy. For instance, Greentervention was assigned 2019 based on its first post.

Mission Statement

Mission statements were copied verbatim from the organisations' websites.

- If the original was not in English, it was translated directly.
- When statements were written in third person, we reformulated them in the first person for consistency and coherence.
- If no formal mission statement existed, we selected a representative sentence from the "About" page

that included clear action language (e.g., "we strive," "we aim" etc.)

- In cases of lengthy mission texts, we extracted a concise phrase or sentence that best captured the organisation's core aims.

These decisions aimed to preserve the integrity and voice of each organisation, while ensuring consistency and comparability.

Legal Status

Each organisation was classified into the following harmonised categories based on their legal status, including:

- Non-profit (University, Association, Foundation, Public sector entity, Charity/Philanthropy, Chapter/Affiliate, Other)
- Unincorporated (Network/Coalition, Chapter/Affiliate)
- Not-for-profit (Cooperative, Social enterprise, Other)

NODE SELECTION AND INTERVIEWS

Identifying node organisations

Node organisations were defined as central connectors within their national or regional New Economy ecosystems. Nodes were prioritised because of their ability to:

- Identify additional relevant actors that might not appear in desk research or AI-assisted searches.
- Provide rich qualitative insight into trends, challenges, and tensions shaping the field.

They were selected using the general inclusion criteria (see above), with the additional requirement that they met at least three of the following node-specific characteristics:

- Network-centric role (acting as a convenor or hub for others)
- National or multinational scope
- Cross-sector engagement (working across multiple domains)
- Multi-topic focus beyond a single niche
- High visibility through outputs, convenings, or policy influence

Purpose of interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted to:

- Trace the evolution of the field in recent years.
- Gather practitioner perspectives on categorisation and typology development.
- Capture lived experiences of successes, challenges, and emergent trends.

Scope of interviews

- In total, 35 interviews were carried out across 17 countries. We aimed to reach a representative set of nodes in each major region of Europe. While a small number of planned interviews did not materialise due to availability constraints, the final sample nonetheless ensured geographic diversity and representation across the spectrum of New Economy practice.

Survey

A survey was designed to both validate and enrich the mapping, complementing desk research and interviews by gathering structured input directly from organisations across Europe. It provided a way to cross-check our typology framework, surface additional actors, and capture practitioner perspectives at scale.

The survey included four main components:

1. **Organisational profile** - basic details such as name, country, year founded, scale of operation, and key stakeholders.
2. **Thematic focus and activities** - multi-select questions to inform typology development and identify overlaps or gaps across the field.
3. **Networks and collaborations** - information on memberships, partnerships, and affiliations to better understand ecosystem linkages.
4. **Experiences and perspectives** - open-ended questions on successes, barriers, emerging trends, resource needs, and missing actors.

Responses yielded both quantitative data (to strengthen the mapping and categorisation) and qualitative insights (to deepen our understanding of challenges, needs, and opportunities across the field).

Typology Development

The first stage was to map existing conceptual frameworks and typologies that could be used to segment the new economy field. At this early stage, the goal was not to fix a typology but to generate multiple lenses we could test and refine later through interviews, surveys, and workshops.

Reference points we examined included approaches based on:

- Outcomes or intended system impacts
- Points of leverage within economic systems
- Types of activity (policy, direct action, advocacy, service provision, etc.)
- Branches of the New Economy (e.g. solidarity economy, post-growth, wellbeing economy)
- Sectors/domains of work (e.g., food, housing, finance)
- Target groups and beneficiaries
- Scale of intervention (local to international)
- Governance models
- Alignment (explicit or implicit) with the principles of new economy transformation

In addition, we drew on existing literature on taxonomy and typology design to ensure conceptual robustness. Relevant methodological references include:

Deductive and inductive process

High level typology category design combined both deductive and inductive approaches:

- **Deductive:** We began with pre-existing categories used by practitioners (e.g. how networks organise domains of work) and classifications from prior literature on economic system change and field segmentation.
- **Inductive:** As we built the organisational repository, we iteratively expanded the list of activities and thematic focus areas based on what organisations themselves described. This enabled us to cluster emerging themes, add sub-categories, and identify gaps or overlaps in existing frameworks.

Iterative validation

Throughout the process, the typology was tested and refined through multiple feedback loops:

- Interviews provided practitioner perspectives on how categories reflected their personal experiences and contexts.
- Survey results helped validate the coverage and coherence of categories.
- Field workshops allowed us to test typologies interactively, exploring whether categories were intuitive, useful, and avoided unnecessary fragmentation.

Principles guiding typology design

From this iterative process, several guiding principles emerged:

- **Clarity** - Categories needed to be distinct, well-defined, and easily interpretable.
- **Practical usability** - Typologies had to be useful for both funders and practitioners navigating the field.
- **Avoiding fragmentation** - The design sought to cluster related activities rather than proliferate overly narrow categories.
- **Reflecting pluralism** - The typology needed to accommodate diverse traditions (e.g. degrowth, wellbeing economy) while identifying overlaps.
- **Flexibility** - Recognising the field is evolving, categories were defined as adaptable “buckets” rather than fixed boundaries

Advisory Panel Engagement

To strengthen the robustness and usability of the typology and other report findings, we convened an advisory panel of practitioners and funders active in the New Economy space (see Acknowledgements in [Appendix A](#) for more details). Their role was to provide structured feedback at key stages of the process. Engagement took place through three main rounds:

- **Stage 1** - Asynchronous Input: Panel members were invited to review the early draft typology, initial mapping, and analysis questions. Feedback was provided in a shared document, with priority placed on improving categorisation frameworks (typology), flagging omissions in mapping, and refining guiding questions for analysis.
- **Stage 2** - Online Advisory Session: We convened a two-hour workshop to gather qualitative insights around three guiding questions: (1) What is most concerning in the field today? (2) What is most motivating? (3) What is most needed for the New Economy space to succeed? This session also served as a live feedback round on the emerging typology.
- **Stage 3** - Final Review: As the report neared completion, panel members were invited to optionally share comments and reflections on the draft report and conclusions.

The panel brought together a diverse set of perspectives from philanthropy, research institutions, advocacy networks, and practitioner organisations. Their inputs were advisory in nature, helping to validate assumptions, highlight blind spots, and ensure pluralism in how the field is represented.

Field Workshops

In June 2025, we convened three field workshops with organisations already identified in our mapping. The goals were to share emerging findings, test and refine the typology, and create space for peer exchange.

Each two-hour session combined a short presentation of early results with breakout exercises on Miro, where participants gave feedback on the typologies in development and discussed challenges and opportunities in the new economy field. Across the three workshops, around 75 participants contributed.

The input gathered was central to refining the typology. Participants flagged missing categories, suggested clearer labels, and highlighted risks of fragmentation. While not intended to build consensus, the workshops allowed us to validate our analysis with a broad community and connect practitioners across Europe.

Data Analysis

Qualitative

To analyse practitioner experiences of the new economy field (including challenges, successes, trends, and tensions), we applied an inductive Qualitative Content Analysis approach.

Interview transcripts and open-ended survey responses were reviewed line by line in Atlas.ti. Sub-codes were generated directly from participant language and concepts, rather than from a predefined coding frame. Through iterative review, these sub-codes were clustered into higher-level categories and meta-themes. This process ensured that the thematic structure reflected both common patterns and unexpected insights present in the raw data. Outliers and contradictions were deliberately retained, as they often signal tensions or divergent perspectives within the field.

Quantitative:

- Mapping geographic distribution of organisations
- Tracking organisational founding dates to see trends over time
- Mapping organisational activities to intervention areas
- Identifying clusters of activities that are usually undertaken by the same organisation

Appendix F: List of Organisations

Albania

- Co-PLAN – Institute for Habitat Development

Austria

- Umweltdachverband (UWD) (Environmental umbrella organisation)
- Debt for Climate
- Südwind (South wind)
- GLOBAL 2000
- Beirat für gesellschafts-, wirtschafts- und umweltpolitische Alternativen (BEIGEWUM) (Advisory Board for Social, Economic and Environmental Policy Alternatives)
- Euromemo
- Attac Österreich (Attac Austria)
- Caring Economy
- Economy for the Common Good (ECG)
- Cooperative for the Common Good
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien: Institut für ökologische Ökonomie (WU) (Institute for Ecological Economics)
- HabiTAT
- Competence Center for Everyday Economy
- Stay Grounded
- Degrowth Vienna
- Economists for Future (E4F)
- Momentum Institut in Wien (Momentum Institute in Vienna)
- Fair Sorgen! (Fair Care!)
- Shift slow
- Wachstum Im Wandel Österreich (WIWÖ) (Growth in Transition Austria)
- Doughnut Wien (Doughnut Vienna)
- Community Arts Network (CAN)

Belgium

- Oxfam Belgique
- Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE) (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity)
- Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD-11.11.11)

(National Center for Development Cooperation)

- Présence et Action Culturelles (PAC) (Cultural Presence and Action)
- Febecoop
- Socio-Environmental Dynamics Research Group (SONYA)
- Institute for European Environmental Policy
- Universiteit Gent: Economy, Ecology, Demography (EED)
- Open Society Foundations
- 11.11.11
- Saw B
- FairFin
- Credal
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Oikos Think Tank
- Women in Development Europe Plus (WIDE+)
- Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt
- European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
- L'EMergence de l'Entreprise Sociale en Europe (EMES) (The Emergence of Social Enterprises in Europe)
- Diesis Network
- De Transformisten (The Transformists)
- European Network Against Racism (ENAR)
- Social Economy Europe
- Fédération Européenne d'Éthique et d'Alternatives Financières (FEBEA) (European Federation of Financial Ethics and Alternatives)
- European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)
- RREUSE (Reuse and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises)
- Observatoire européen de l'Économie sociale (l'ESS)
- European Climate Foundation (ECF)
- Foundation for European Progressive Studies
- Solidar
- Community Land Trust Brussels (CLTB)

- Finance Watch
- Gresea
- Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC)
- Equal Times
- European Sharing Economy Coalition (EURO-SHE)
- REScoop.eu
- Zero Waste Europe
- Ecolise
- Financité (Financing)
- International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)
- Minerva
- DiEM 25 (Democracy in Europe Movement 25)
- Syndicat European Trade Union
- More Than Enough
- All Policies for a Healthy Europe
- Greentervention
- Kaira Fund
- Nest Family Office
- Fiscal Matters
- INclusion, Égalité, Solidarité (INES) (Inclusion, Equality, Solidarity)
- European Community Land Trust Network
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Growth Kills
- Democratic Society (Demsoc)
- European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES)
- Green European Foundation
- Domaine de Graux (Graux Estate)

Bosnia & Herzegovina

- Centar za ekologiju i energiju (CEE) (Center for Ecology and Energy)

Bulgaria

- Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)
- За Земята (Friends of the Earth Bulgaria)
- Ideas Factory

Croatia

- Zelena Mreža Aktivističkih Grupa (ZMAG) (Green Network of Activist Groups)
- Pravo na grad (Right to the City)
- Baza za radničku inicijativu i demokratizaciju (BRID) (Base for Workers' Initiative and Democratization)
- Zelena energetska zadruga (ZEZ) (Green energy cooperative)
- Institute for Political Ecology (IPE)
- Zadruga za etično financiranje (ZEF) (Cooperative for Ethical Financing)
- MOBA European Cooperative Society (SCE)

Cyprus

- Οι Φίλοι της Γης (Friends of the Earth Cyprus)
- Cyprus Energy Agency

Czechia

- Friends of the Earth Czech Republic
- Družstevní Asociace ČR (Association of Cooperatives)
- CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) Bankwatch
- Ekumenická akademie, z.s. (Ecumenical Academy Prague)
- Nadace Via (Via Foundation)
- NaZemi
- CZECHGLOBE Global Change Research Institute (CAS)
- Alternativa Zdola (Alternative Idol)
- Tematická Síť Pro Sociální a Ekonomiky (TESSEA) (Thematic Network for Social Economies)
- Nadace Pro Půdu (Foundation for Soil)
- Asociace Místních Potravinových Inicativ (AMPI) (Association of Local Food Initiatives)
- Pábení
- Sdílené Domy (Shared Houses)
- Slušná Firma (Decent Company)
- Re-set: Platforma pro socio-ekologickou transformaci (Re-set: Platform for Socio-Ecological Transformation)
- Nerůst (Degrowth)
- Institut Církulární Ekonomiky (INCIEN) (Institute of Circular Economy)

- Unie Komunitní Energetiky (UKEN) (Community Energy Union)
- Doughnut Czechia

Denmark

- Kooperationen (Cooperations)
- Oxfam Denmark
- NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark)
- Department of Environmental Science at Aarhus University
- Roskilde Festival Foundation
- Rådet for Grøn Omstilling (The Danish Council for Green Transition)
- Østiftern
- Gode Penge (Good Money)
- The Syndicate of Creatures
- Rethinking Economics Denmark (Denmark)
- Andelsgaard (Cooperative Farms)
- Tænketanken Demokratisk Erhverv (The Danish Research Institute for Democratic Businesses)
- Fagbevægelsens Hovedorganisation (FH) (The Main Organization of the Trade Union Movement)
- Copenhagen Doughnut
- KR Foundation
- Post Growth Guide
- Wellbeing Economy Lab (WELA)
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Denmark
- Queen Mary's Centre at University of Copenhagen
- Fremtidskoalition (Future Coalition)
- Common Agenda
- Den Grønne Ungdomsbevægelse (The Green Youth Movement)

Estonia

- Eesti Roheline Liikumine (Friends of the Earth Estonia)
- Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance at TalTech University
- Eesti Korterühistute Liit (Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations)
- Eesti Rooma Klubi (Estonian Association for the Club of Rome)
- Eesti Hoiu-laenuühistute Liit (Union of Credit Cooperatives)

- Rohetiiger (Green Tiger)
- Tasaarengu Eesti (Degrowth Estonia)
- Eesti Roheline Liikumine (Friends of the Earth Estonia)
- Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance at TalTech University
- Eesti Korterühistute Liit (Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations)
- Eesti Rooma Klubi (Estonian Association for the Club of Rome)
- Eesti Hoiu-laenuühistute Liit (Union of Credit Cooperatives)
- Rohetiiger (Green Tiger)
- Tasaarengu Eesti (Degrowth Estonia)

Europe

- Green Peace International
- International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)
- European Common Space for Alternatives
- GivingTuesday
- European Work Time Network
- Global Working Group Beyond Development
- European Society for Ecological Economic (ESEE)

Finland

- Osuustoimintakeskus Pellervo (Pellervo Cooperative Center)
- Sitra Finnish Innovation Fund
- Suomen Ammattiliittojen Keskusjärjestö (SAK) (Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions)
- Nessling Foundation
- Ajatuspaja Visio (Green Think Tank Visio)
- Maan ystävä (Friends of the Earth Finland)
- Eettisen kaupan puolesta ry (Eetti) (Pro Ethical Trade Finland)
- Demos Helsinki
- Kalevi Sorsa-säätiö (Kalevi Sorsa Foundation)
- Vasemmistofoorumi (The Left Forum)
- Talousdemokratia (Economic Democracy)

- Suomen sosiaali ja terveystyö ry (SOSTE) (Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health)
- BIOS
- Global Extractivisms and Alternatives Initiative (EXALT) at the University of Helsinki
- Donitsitalousverkosto (Doughnut Economy Network Finland)
- Rethinking Economics Finland
- Hyvinvointitalousalliansi (Wellbeing Economy Alliance)
- Uuden talousajattelun keskus (UTAK) (Center for New Economic Thinking)

France

- Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) (General Confederation of Labor)
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD) (French Development Agency)
- Make Mothers Matter
- Aide à Toute Détresse (ATD) Quart Monde (Aid to the Distressed Fourth World)
- Les Amis de la Terre (Friends of the Earth France)
- Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement (CIRED) (International Center for Research on Environment and Development)
- Alternatives Économiques (Alternatives Economics)
- Cler
- Le Mouvement des Régies (The Movement of Regies)
- Reporterre
- Fondation Jean Jaurès (Jean Jaurès Institute)
- La Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme (The Foundation for Nature and Man)
- Réseau Action Climat (Climate Action Network France)
- Union Syndicale Solidaires (Solidarity Trade Union)
- Union Fédérale d'Intervention des Structures Culturelles (UFISC) (Federal Union of Intervention of Cultural Structures)
- Réseau Inter-universitaire de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire (RIUESS) (Inter-university Network of the Social and Solidarity Economy)
- Acteurs pour une économie solidaire (APES) hauts-de-france (Actors for a solidarity economy in Hauts-de-France)
- Le Mouvement de l'économie solidaire (MES) (The Solidarity Economy Movement)
- Le Réseau des collectivités Territoriales pour une Économie Solidaire (RTES) (The Network of Local Authorities for a Solidarity Economy)
- Le Laboratoire d'Économie Appliquée de Grenoble (GAEL) (Grenoble Applied Economics Laboratory)
- Terre de Liens (Land of Links)
- Les entreprises de l'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS) (Social and Solidarity Economy Forum International)
- Enercoop Bretagne
- Urgenci
- Environnement et ressources naturelles à l'université Toulouse (Environmental and natural resource economics at Toulouse School of Economics)
- Oxfam France
- Mouvement Colibris (Hummingbird Movement)
- Le Labo de l'Économie sociale et solidaire (l'ESS) (The Social & Solidarity Economy Laboratory)
- The Shift Project
- Institut Veblen pour les réformes économiques (The Veblen Institute for Economic Reforms)
- Institut Momentum
- The Fondation de l'Écologie Politique (Foundation for Political Ecology)
- Un Projet de Décroissance (A Degrowth Project)
- Basic
- Collectif Pour une Transition Citoyenne (Collective for a Citizen Transition)
- Chambre Française de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire (ESS France)
- Chaire l'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS) (Chaire Social and Solidarity Economy)
- World Inequality Lab
- Fondation Terre Solidaire (Earth Solidarity Foundation)
- Alternatives Économiques (Alternative Economics)

- Social Good Accelerator
- Soutenabilité, Transition, Environnement, Économie biophysique et Politiques locales (STEEP) (Sustainability, Transition, Environment, Biophysical Economy and Local Policies)
- Les Greniers d'Abondance (The Granaries of Abundance)
- Notre Affaire à Tous (Our Business to All)
- Le Pacte du Pouvoir de Vivre (The Pact for the Power to Live)
- Centre Lillois d'Études et de Recherches Sociologiques et Économiques (CLERSÉ) (Lille Center for Sociological and Economic Studies and Research)
- Reclame Finance
- La Maison Commune de la Décroissance (The Common House of Degrowth)
- Centre sur le bien-être, l'inclusion, la soutenabilité et l'égalité des chances (WISE) (Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity)
- Alter Kapitaë
- Observatoire de la Post-Croissance et de la Décroissance (OPCD) (The Post-Growth and Degrowth Observatory)
- EU Tax Observatory
- Noesya
- Financer Accompagner Impacter Réunir (FAIR) (Finance Accompany Impact Reunite)
- The Other Economy
- Institute Avant Garde
- Pro(to)topia
- Le Mouvement de l'économie solidaire (MES) Occitanie

Germany

- Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB) (German Trade Union Confederation)
- TechNet
- Oxfam Deutschland
- NETZ für Selbstverwaltung und Kooperation Berlin-Brandenburg (Network for Self-Government and Cooperation Berlin-Brandenburg)
- Mietshauser Syndikat (Tenement Syndicate)
- Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- Wuppertal Institute
- Copernicus Alliance
- Social Impact
- BUNDjugend Berlin
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit (Foundation for Sustainability)
- Global Marshall Plan
- BonVenture
- Ethecon – Stiftung Ethik und Ökonomie (Foundation for Ethics and Economics)
- Active Philanthropy
- Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik (Network for Pluralist Economics)
- Euclid Network
- Das Progressive Zentrum (The Progressive Center)
- Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)
- Common Future
- Wachstumswende (Changing Patterns of Growth)
- Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie (Laboratory for New Economic Ideas)
- Agronauten
- New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC)
- MacroFinance and MacroHistory Lab
- Care Revolution Network
- rehab republic
- Hochschule für Gesellschaftsgestaltung (University for Social Design)
- Environmental Justice Institute
- Disruption Network Lab
- Economy for the Common Good
- Wirtschaft ist Care Association (Economy is Care)
- Exploring Economics
- Guerrilla Foundation
- Purpose Foundation
- Social Entrepreneurship Netzwerk Deutschland (SEND) (Social Entrepreneurship Network Germany)
- Goliath Watch
- Global Solutions Initiative
- Dezernat Zukunft (Department for the Future)

- Finanzwende Recherche
- Bürgerbewegung Finanzwende (Citizens' Movement for Financial Change)
- Ernährungsrat Freiburg & Region (Nutrition Council Freiburg and Region)
- Forum New Economy
- Hot or Cool Institute
- Feminist Strike Alliance
- Änderwerk (Change Work)
- Communia
- Institut für zukunftsfähige Ökonomien (ZOE) (Institute for Future-Fit Economies)
- Next Economy Lab (NELA)
- The New Institute
- Leaders for Climate Action
- Climate Farmers
- The Leap Collective
- Gemeinschaftsgetragenen Wirtschaften (CSX) (Community-supported Economics)
- Social Economy Berlin
- Social-Ecological Systems Institute (SESI) at Leuphana University Lüneburg
- Realutopien (Reinventing Society)
- Ecobytes
- European Macro Policy Network (EMPN)
- d\carb future economy forum
- Bündnis Sorgearbeit Fair Teilen (Alliance Care Work Fair Share)
- Das Momentum (Momentum Hub)
- Foyer Futur
- Junge Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (JABL) (Young Working Group for Rural Agriculture)
- Polyclinic Union
- Initiative Wachstum im Wandel
- Growing out of Growth
- Verbund Kooperatives Wirtschaften (Social Solidarity Economy)
- Surplus Magazine
- Fiscal Future

Germany, Austria, Switzerland

- Netzwerk Vorsorgendes Wirtschaften (Network for Precautionary Economics)

Greece

- Το Ινστιτούτο Αστικού Περιβάλλοντος και Ανθρώπινου Δυναμικού (UEHR) (The Institute of Urban Environment and Human Resources)
- Το Μεσογειακό Ινστιτούτο για τη Φύση και τον Άνθρωπο (MedINA) Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos
- Επιστημονική Εταιρεία Πολιτικής Οικονομίας (GAPE) (Greek Association of Political Economy)
- Heinrich Boell Stiftung Greece
- People's University of Social Solidarity Economy
- Peer to Peer (P2P) Lab
- Electra Energy
- Communitism
- Dock
- Ινστιτούτο Εναλλακτικών Πολιτικών (ENA) (Institute for Alternative Policies)
- Green Tank
- μέτα
- Samos Energy Community
- Life After Growth
- Αλληλεγγύη για Όλους (Solidarity for All)
- Μινώα Ενεργειακή Κοινότητα (Minoan Energy Community)

Hungary

- Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (MTVSZ) (Friends of the Earth Hungary)
- Kis-Társaság Fejlesztők Szakmai Egyesülete (KIFESZ) (Small Area Developers Professional Association)
- Profilantrop
- A Város Mindenkié (The City is For All)
- Cargonomia
- Green Formation
- Fenntarthatósági Menedzsment és Környezetgazdaságtan Tanszék Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem (Department of Sustainability Management and Environmental Economics at Corvinus University)
- Szolidáris Gazdaság Központ (Solidarity Economy Center)
- New Vision

Iceland

- Elfing
- Attac Iceland
- Alda (Association for Sustainability and Democracy)
- Bjarg íbúðafélag (Bjarg Housing Foundation)

Ireland

- Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
- An Taisce (The National Trust For Ireland)
- Oxfam Ireland
- Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Financial Justice Ireland
- The Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (FEASTA)
- University College Dublin (UCD) Environmental Policy
- Social Entrepreneurs Ireland
- Social Justice Ireland
- Talamh Beo (Living Earth)
- An Áit Eile (The Other Place) (Irish Regenerative Land Trust)
- Fórsa Trade Union
- Irish Doughnut Economics Network
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Ireland
- SolidNetwork

Italy

- Italianeuropei
- Cittaslow
- Altreconomia
- Sbilanciamoci! (Let's take a risk!)
- Fondazione Finanza Etica (Ethical Finance Foundation)
- Associazione per la Decrescita (Association for Degrowth)
- Libera Terra (Free Land)
- Movimento per la Decrescita Felice (MDF) (Movement for Happy Degrowth)
- Fondazione Unipolis (Unipolis Foundation)
- Associazione per l'altraeconomia a Venezia (AERes) (Association for the Alternative Economy in Venice)
- European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (EURICSE)

- Action Research for CO-development (ARCO)
- Solidarius
- Oxfam Italia
- Fondazione Bervenuti in Italia (Welcome to Italy Foundation)
- NeXt Nuova Economia per Tutti (New Economy for All)
- Horcynus Orca Park
- Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane (Alliance of Italian Cooperatives)
- Commune Info
- Italia Che Cambia
- The Foundational Economy
- Fairbnb
- Future Food Institute
- MonViso Institute
- Fondazione Social Venture Giordano Dell'Amore (Giordano Dell'Amore Social Venture Foundation)
- Rete Italiana di Economia Solidale (RIES) (Italian Solidarity Economy Network)
- Ecological Economics in Tuscany

Kosovo

- Forumit për Iniciativa Qytetare (FIQ) (Forum for Civil Initiatives)

Latvia

- Zaļā brīvība (Green Liberty)

Lithuania

- Asociacija Lietuvos Kredito Unijos (ALKU) (Association of Lithuanian Credit Unions)
- Nacionalinis skurdo mažinimo organizacijų tinklas (National Poverty Reduction Network)
- DEMOS kritinės minties institutas (Institute of Critical Thought)
- Socialinių Inovacijų Centras (Centre for Social Innovations)
- Gegužės 1-osios profesinė sąjunga (G1PS) (May 1st Trade Union)

Luxembourg

- Mouvement écologique (Ecological Movement)
- Etika
- Centre for Ecological Learning Luxembourg (CELL)

- Transition Minett
- International Climate Finance Accelerator (ICFA)

Malta

- Friends of the Earth Malta
- Moviment Graffiti (Graffiti Movement)
- Koperattivi Malta (Cooperatives Malta)
- Malta Co-operative Federation (MCF)

Moldova

- EcoVisio

Montenegro

- Green Home (NVO)
- OZON Ekološki pokret (Ecological Movement)

Netherlands

- Oxfam Novib Netherlands
- Plaats de Kleine Aarde (Place the Little Earth)
- Financierings-Maatschappij voor Ontwikkelingslanden (FMO) (Financing Company for Developing Countries)
- Social Trade Organisation (STRO)
- Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth Netherlands)
- Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- Transnational Institute
- World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO)
- Stichting DOEN (DOEN Foundation)
- Wiardi Beckman Stichting (Wiardi Beckman Foundation)
- dyne
- Drift
- Platform Duurzame en Solidaire Economie (DSE) (Sustainable and Solidarity Economy)
- Ontgroei (Outgrowth)
- The Ex'tax Project Foundation
- ClimateKIC
- Metabolic
- Ons Geld (Our Money)
- B Lab Europe

- Commonland
- Bioregional Weaving Labs Collective
- Ashoka Netherlands
- Degrowth.Info
- Stichting Stad in de Maak (City in the Making Foundation)
- Rethinking Economics Netherlands
- Sustainable Finance Lab
- Commons Network
- Noorderwind (North wind)
- Our New Economy
- Rechten voor de Natuur (Rights for Nature)
- Goldschmeding Foundation
- Foundation for International Law for the Environment (FILE)
- Coöperatie Energie Samen (Cooperative Energy Together)
- We Are Stewards
- Catalyst 2030
- CatalystNow
- Amsterdam Donut Coalitie (Amsterdam Doughnut Coalition)
- RE-PEAT
- Systemic Justice
- Law and Political Economy in Europe (LPE)
- Postgroei Nederland (Postgrowth Netherlands)
- Post Growth Entrepreneurship
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Nederland
- Stichting Constitutie voor de Commons (Constitution Foundation for the Commons)
- TransCap Initiative

North Macedonia

- Движењето на Екологистите на Македонија (The Ecologist's Movement of North Macedonia)
- Eko-svest (Eco Awareness)
- Организација за социјални иновации (APHO) (Organization for Social Innovation)
- Smart Up Social Innovation Lab

Norway

- Framtiden i våre hender (The future in our hands)
- Fafo

- Fresnam
- Velferdsstaten (The Welfare State)
- Spire
- Ferd Social Entrepreneurs
- Tax Justice Norge
- Rethinking Economics Norge (Norway)
- Smultringøkonomi Norge (Doughnut Economics Norway)
- Gemini Centre for Post-Growth Futures

Poland

- Krajowa Rada Spółdzielcza (National Cooperative Council)
- Fundacja Inicjatyw Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (FISE) (Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives)
- Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Spółdzielni Socjalnych (Association for Social Cooperatives)
- Centrum Rozwiązań Systemowych (CRS) (Centre for Systems Solutions)
- Ogólnopolski Związek Rewizyjny Spółdzielni Socjalnych (OZRSS) (National Audit Union of Social Cooperatives)
- Huba Foundation
- Lipinski Foundation
- Polish Economists Network
- Polska Sieć Ekonomii (PLSE) (Polish Network of Economics)
- FAMILOK Spółdzielnia Socjalna (Social Cooperative)
- PLZ Spółdzielnia (Cooperative)
- Instrat
- Ogólnopolski Związek Zawodowy Inicjatywa Pracownicza (National Trade Union Workers' Initiative)

Portugal

- Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Local (Animar) (Portuguese Association for Local Development)
- Cooperativa Regional de Economia Solidária (CRESACOR) (Regional Cooperative of Solidarity Economy)
- Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (CASES) (António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy)
- Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research (CENSE)

- Coopérnico – Cooperativa de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (Sustainable Development Cooperative)
- Rede Portuguesa de Economia Solidária (RedPES) (Portuguese Network of Solidarity Economy)
- Cooperativa Integral Minga (Minga Integral Cooperative)
- ZERO – Associação Sistema Terrestre Sustentável (Sustainable Earth System Association)
- Zero Waste Lab
- Associação pelo Rendimento Básico Incondicional Portugal (RBIP) (Association for Unconditional Basic Income Portugal)
- Portugal Inovacao Social (Portugal Social Innovation)

Romania

- Asociația Bankwatch România (Bankwatch Romania Association)
- Centrul de resurse pentru inițiative etice și solidarare (CRIES) (Resource Center for Ethical and Solidarity Initiatives)
- Mai Bine (Better)
- Energy Policy Group (EPG)

Serbia

- Zadružni savez Srbije (Cooperative Union of Serbia)
- Belgrade Open School (BOS)
- Trag fondacija (Trag Foundation)
- Centar za politike emancipacije (CPE) (Center for Politics of Emancipation)
- Ministarstvo prostora (Ministry of Space)
- Zajednicko (Jointly)
- Energetska zadruga Elektropionir (Energy Cooperative Elektropionir)
- Koalicija za razvoj solidarne ekonomije (KoRSE) (Coalition for Solidarity Economy Development)

Slovakia

- Centrum pre podporu miestneho aktivizmu (CEPA) (Center for the Promotion of Local Activism)
- Priatel'ia Zeme (Friends of the Earth Slovakia)
- Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI)

- CETIP Network
- Aliancia pre sociálnu ekonomiku na Slovensku (ASES) (Alliance for Social Economy in Slovakia)

Slovenia

- Umanotera – Slovenska fundacija za trajnostni razvoj (Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development)
- Centar za mirovne studije (CMS) Centre for Peace Studies
- Mama Multimedia Institute (MI2)
- Focus Association for Sustainable Development
- Focus: društvo za sonaraven razvoj (Association for Sustainable Development)
- Korimako
- Center za družbene raziskave (CEDRA) (Center for Social Research)
- Institute for Economic Democracy (IED)
- Policy Lab
- Energetska zadruga Zeleni Hrastnik (Green Hrastnik Energy Cooperative)

Spain

- la Unión General de Trabajadoras (UGT) (General Union of Women Workers)
- Oxfam Intermón
- FUHEM
- Oikocredit
- Fundación Pablo Iglesias (Pablo Iglesias Foundation)
- Amigas de la Tierra (Friends of the Earth Spain)
- La Federación de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU) (The Federation of Consumers and Users)
- Greenpeace Spain
- Fundación “la Caixa” (Foundation “La Caixa”)
- European Anti-Poverty Network Spain (EAPN-ES)
- Asociación Española de Agricultura Ecológica (Spanish Association of Organic Agriculture)
- Red de Redes de Economía Alternativa y Solidaria (REAS) (Network of Alternative and Solidarity Economy Networks)

- Economistas sin Fronteras (Economists without Borders)
- Attac Spain
- Ecologistas en Acción (Environmentalists in Action)
- Fundación Biodiversidad (Biodiversity Foundation)
- Fundación Esplai (Esplai Foundation)
- EcoHabitat
- Xarxa d'Economia Solidaria (XES) (Solidarity Economy Network)
- Ulex Project
- Grupo de Energía, Economía y Dinámica de Sistemas (GEEDS) Energy, Economics and Systems Dynamics Group
- Irehom
- New Economy and Social Innovation (NESI) Forum
- Political Watch
- Asociación Española de Recuperadores de Economía Social y Solidaria (AERESS) (Spanish Association of Recyclers of Social and Solidarity Economy)
- Research & Degrowth
- Economía Creativa (Creative Economy)
- Entrepatrios
- RIPESS Europa – Economía Solidaria Europa (Solidarity Economy Europe)
- Oficina de Ecología e Sociedad (ECOSOC) (Ecology and Society Workshop)
- Plataforma del Tercer Sector (PTS) Platform of the Third Sector
- Plataforma por un Nuevo Modelo Energético (Platform for a New Energy Model)
- Foro de Transiciones (Transitions Forum)
- Instituto de Estudios Cooperativos de Mondragón Unibertsitatea (Institute of Cooperative Studies of Mondragón University)
- Guerrilla Media Collective
- Alianza por el Clima (Climate Alliance)
- Futuro en Común (Common Future)
- La Janqera
- Revo - Prosperidad Sostenible (Sustainable Prosperity)
- European Network of Innovation for Inclusion

- Instituto Resiliencia (Resilience Institute)
- Extinction Rebellion
- Disco.Coop
- Juntos
- Lichen Social Innovation
- Talento para el Futuro (Talent for the Future)
- Rebelión Científica (Scientific Rebellion)
- Post Growth Innovation Lab
- Colectivo de Organización Local - Ciudad Real (Local Organization Collective)
- La Alianza Dónut España (ADE) (Donut Spain)
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Iberia
- Pioneers of our time
- Asamblea Catalana per la Transició Ecosocial (Catalan Assembly for the Ecosocial Transition)
- Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (The Debt Observatory in Globalisation)
- Alvelal

Sweden

- Katalys – Institut för facklig idéutveckling (Institute for Trade Union Idea Development)
- Arena Gruppen (Arena Group)
- Stockholm Resilience Centre
- Stockholm Resilience Center
- Omställningsnätverket (Transition Network)
- Oxfam Sverige (Sweden)
- The Movement Hub
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Sweden
- The Institute for Degrowth Studies

Switzerland

- Club of Rome
- The Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès Humain (FPH) (Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress)
- Oak Foundation
- Codha
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

- Stiftung Mercator Schweiz (Mercator Foundation Switzerland)
 - Sunflower foundation
 - Apres-GE
 - Réseau Objection de Croissance (Growth Objection Network)
 - Women in Development Europe (WIDE)
 - Après-VD
 - Humanistic Management Network
 - Büro für Feminismus (Office for Feminism)
 - Partners for a New Economy (P4NE)
 - Fondation Bernard
 - Monnaie Leman
 - décroissance alternatives (da) (alternative degrowth)
 - Dezentrum (Decenter)
 - B Lab Suisse
 - Beyond Lab
 - Achetez Moins (Buy Less)
 - Rethinking Economics Switzerland
 - Social Entrepreneurship Network Switzerland (SENS)
 - One Planet Lab
 - NatureFinance
 - Laudes Foundation
 - Economie Feministe (Feminist Economics)
 - CloseEconDataGap
 - Degrowth Switzerland
 - Council on Economic Policies
 - Earth4All
 - Meso
 - Swiss Donut Economics Network
 - Third Horizon
 - Arketa Institute for Post-Growth Finance
 - UNIL Sustainability Transformation Research Initiative
- United Kingdom - England**
- Co-operatives UK
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)
 - Oxfam UK
 - War on Want
 - Pluto Press
 - Global Justice Now
 - Friends of the Earth UK
 - All-Party Parliamentary Group on Limits to Growth
 - Green Alliance
 - Platform London
 - New Economics Foundation (NEF)
 - Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)
 - Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF)
 - European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE)
 - Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)
 - Post-Keynesian Economics Society
 - Women's Budget Group
 - Just Money Movement
 - Med Act
 - Bond
 - Debt Justice
 - Nesta
 - Association For Heterodox Economics
 - Open Democracy
 - Social Enterprise UK
 - Social Finance
 - Development Trusts
 - Compass
 - Tax Justice Network
 - World Future Council
 - Friends Provident Foundation
 - Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G)
 - The Schumacher Institute
 - ShareAction
 - Business Fights Poverty
 - Transition Network
 - Stamp Out Poverty
 - B Corp UK
 - European Alternatives
 - ClientEarth
 - Grantham Institute
 - Finance Innovation Lab (FIL)
 - The Cambridge Trust for New Thinking in Economics
 - Post-growth Economics Network (PEN)
 - Green Economy Coalition (GEC)
 - Just Fair
 - Positive Money
 - Policy Research in Macroeconomics (PRIME)
 - High Pay Centre
 - Locality
 - Centre for Thriving Places
 - Post-crash economics society
 - Onion Collective
 - Stir to Action
 - We Own it
 - The Restart Project
 - Future-Fit Foundation
 - The Basic Income Earth Network
 - Bteam
 - Curriculum Open-access Resources in Economics (CORE-Econ)
 - Rethinking Economics International
 - Fair Tax Foundation
 - New Economy Organisers Network (NEON)
 - The Equality Trust
 - The Solidarity Economy Association
 - Institute for Global Prosperity at University College London
 - Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK)
 - Centre for the understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP)
 - Dark Matter Labs
 - Promoting Economic Pluralism (PEP)
 - Joy is Enough
 - People's Economy
 - Green Finance Observatory
 - Autonomy
 - Kinfolk Network
 - Huddlecraft/Money Movers
 - Bioregional Learning Center
 - Tax Justice UK
 - Universal Basic Income (UBI) Lab
 - Fair By Design
 - Progressive Economy Forum (PEF)
 - Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll)
 - Degrowth UK
 - London Renters Union
 - Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) England
 - Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL)
 - Class Work Project

- Economic Change Unit (ECU)
- Resource Justice
- Common Wealth
- Thirty Percy Foundation
- Business Declares
- Together We Invest for Systems Transformation (TWIST)
- Be The Earth Foundation
- Civic Square
- Degrowth Journal
- Earth thrive
- Future Narratives Lab
- Healing Justice London
- Lawyers for Nature
- Moral Imaginations
- Navigate
- World Wellbeing Movement
- Green New Deal Rising
- The Social Guarantee
- Balanced Economy Project
- Fairness Foundation

- Better Futures CoLab
- Institute For Innovation & Public Purpose at University College London
- Sustainable Economies Research Group (SERG)
- Strategic Climate Risk Initiative
- workers.coop
- RegenfarmCo
- Diversifying and Decolonising Economics (D-Econ)
- Care Full
- Working Class Climate Alliance (WCCA)
- Rewriting Earth
- Global Fund for a New Economy
- Exploring Economics UK
- Iris and Birch

United Kingdom - Northern Ireland

- Development Trusts Northern Ireland (DTNI)

United Kingdom - Scotland

- Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)
- Carnegie UK
- Friends of the Earth Scotland
- Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG)
- Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF)
- Common Weal
- Living Rent
- Scotland CAN B
- Community Land Scotland
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Scotland
- Scotonomics
- Regenerative Futures Fund
- Future Economy Scotland

United Kingdom - Wales

- 4theRegion
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Cymru-Wales
- Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen (CAT) (Centre for Alternative Technology)



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