Scaling the energy transition through effective interorganizational knowledge sharing – a practical framework for intermediary actors

Extended Abstract (3-035-22)

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About LightSwitch

We catalyse planet-positive impact through challenge-focused knowledge sharing, innovation and capacity building.

Specialised in developing, leading and facilitating partnerships for trans-disciplinary knowledge sharing, innovation and co-creation. Building capacity in people and organisations to accelerate the transition towards a truly sustainable society.

Clients & Partners (selection)

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CO₂ reductions needed to keep global temperature rise below 1.5°C

Annual emissions of carbon dioxide under various mitigation scenarios to keep global average temperature rise below 1.5°C. Scenarios are based on the CO_2 reductions necessary if mitigation had started – with global emissions peaking and quickly reducing – in the given year.

Our World in Data

We have the knowledge...

...now is the time to scale it!
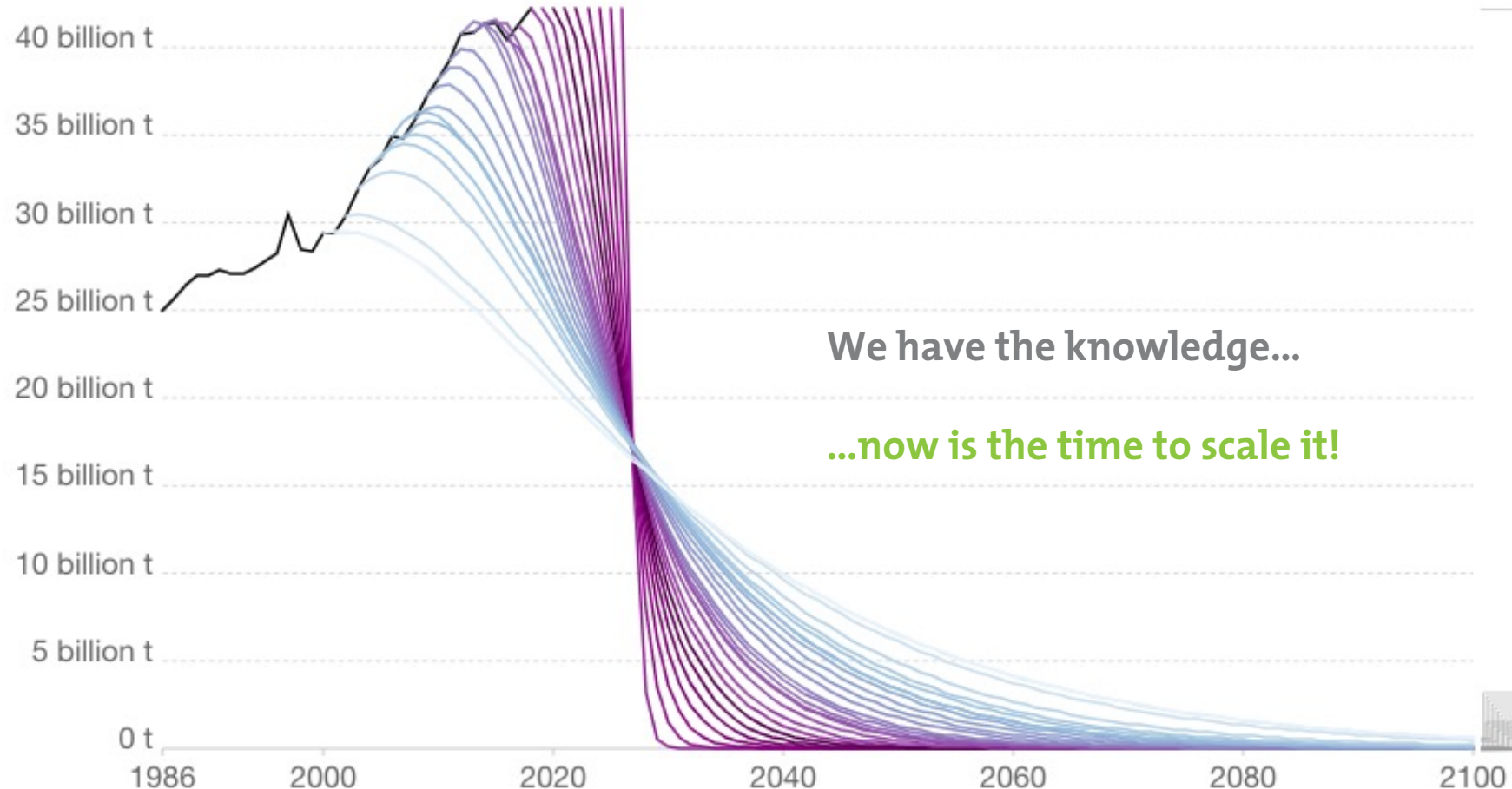
Source: Robbie Andrews (2019); based on Global Carbon Project & IPPC SR15
Note: Carbon budgets are based on a >66% chance of staying below 1.5°C from the IPCC's SR15 Report.
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

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Content

- Introduction

  o Scaling and demand-driven knowledge sharing

  o The role of intermediaries

- Challenges in **planning and organising** impactful inter-organisational knowledge sharing

- A stepwise approach for intermediaries

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4 Dimensions of Scaling

Spontaneous diffusion

Vertical scaling

Horizontal scaling

Functional scaling

Reference: A review of scaling concepts, Thao Do, SWEDESD Uppsala University (2015)

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Scaling as learning

Scaling = a learning process

Building capacity in people and organisations to enable change

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The key role of intermediaries in scaling the energy transition

✿ Formal/Informal, Niche/Systemic, e.g. Energy Agencies, Sector organisations, NGOs, Regional government, International organisations, individual change agents...

✿ Helicopter view of socio-technical systems

✿ Knowledge Brokers and Catalysts for Change

✿ Access to larger networks + resources for coordination of multi-stakeholder collaboration

*"Actors and platforms that positively influence sustainability transition processes by **linking actors and activities**, and their related **skills and resources**, or by connecting transition visions and demands of networks of actors with existing regimes in order to **create momentum for socio-technical system change**, to create new collaborations within and across niche technologies, ideas and markets, and to **disrupt** dominant unsustainable socio-technical configurations"*
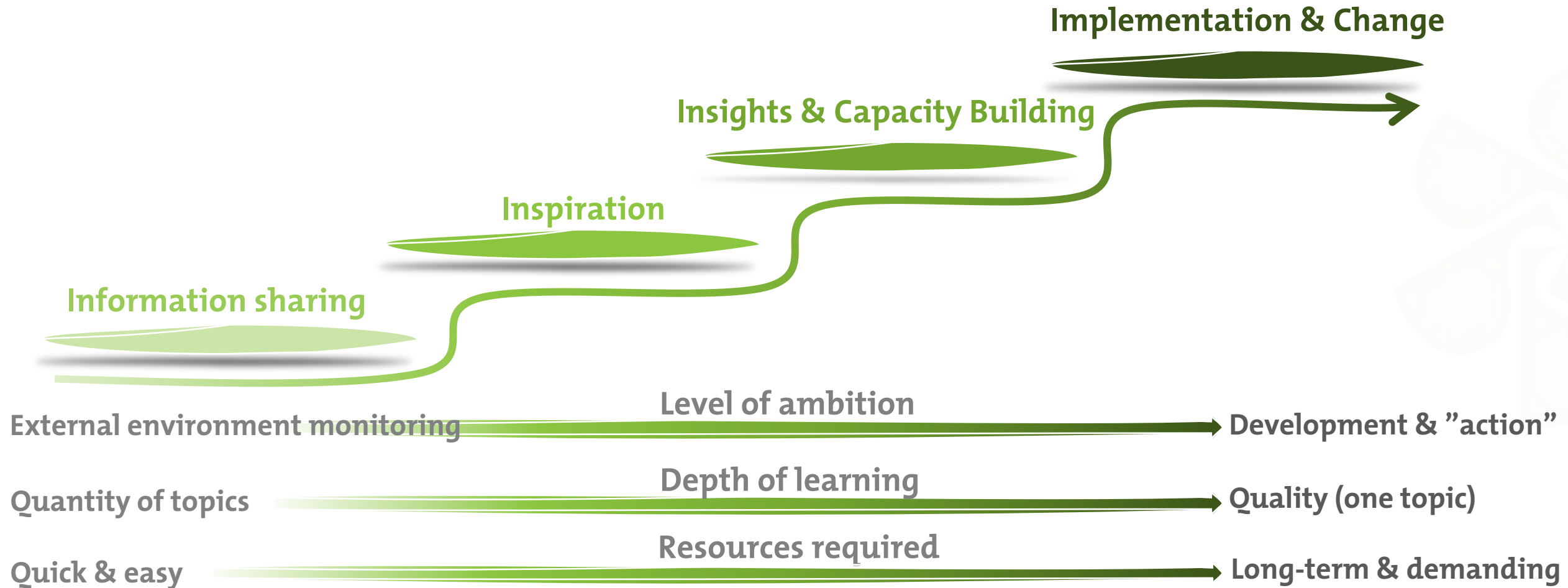(Kivimaa et al., 2018)

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Different starting points for an intermediary's scaling initiative

❑ The intermediary...

- o ...identifies **challenge** or development need shared by several stakeholders in their stakeholder ecosystem

- o ...recognises **pioneering solutions/practices** that could be scaled (e.g. an "example of good practice") to deliver greater impact

- o ...receives **demands by stakeholders** to coordinate knowledge sharing and co-creation to promote sector development or joint problem-solving

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Different purposes and levels of inter-organisational knowledge sharing

Implementation & Change

Insights & Capacity Building

Inspiration

Information sharing

	Level of ambition	
External environment monitoring		Development & "action"
	Depth of learning	
Quantity of topics		Quality (one topic)
	Resources required	
Quick & easy		Long-term & demanding

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So many questions to answer before we can even get started...

Why? Vision? What impact do we want to achieve? Theory of change? Level of ambition? Concrete objectives?

What? What subject matter are we tackling? Which perspectives? Which disciplines/competences? Trade-off between breadth (system view) vs. depth (details)? Supply & demand of knowledge?

Who? Who will benefit? Who must contribute to reach our goals? Who's interests and needs must be met? Who are we in relation to the stakeholders? The composition of involved stakeholders (homogenous/heterogenous)? Relationships?
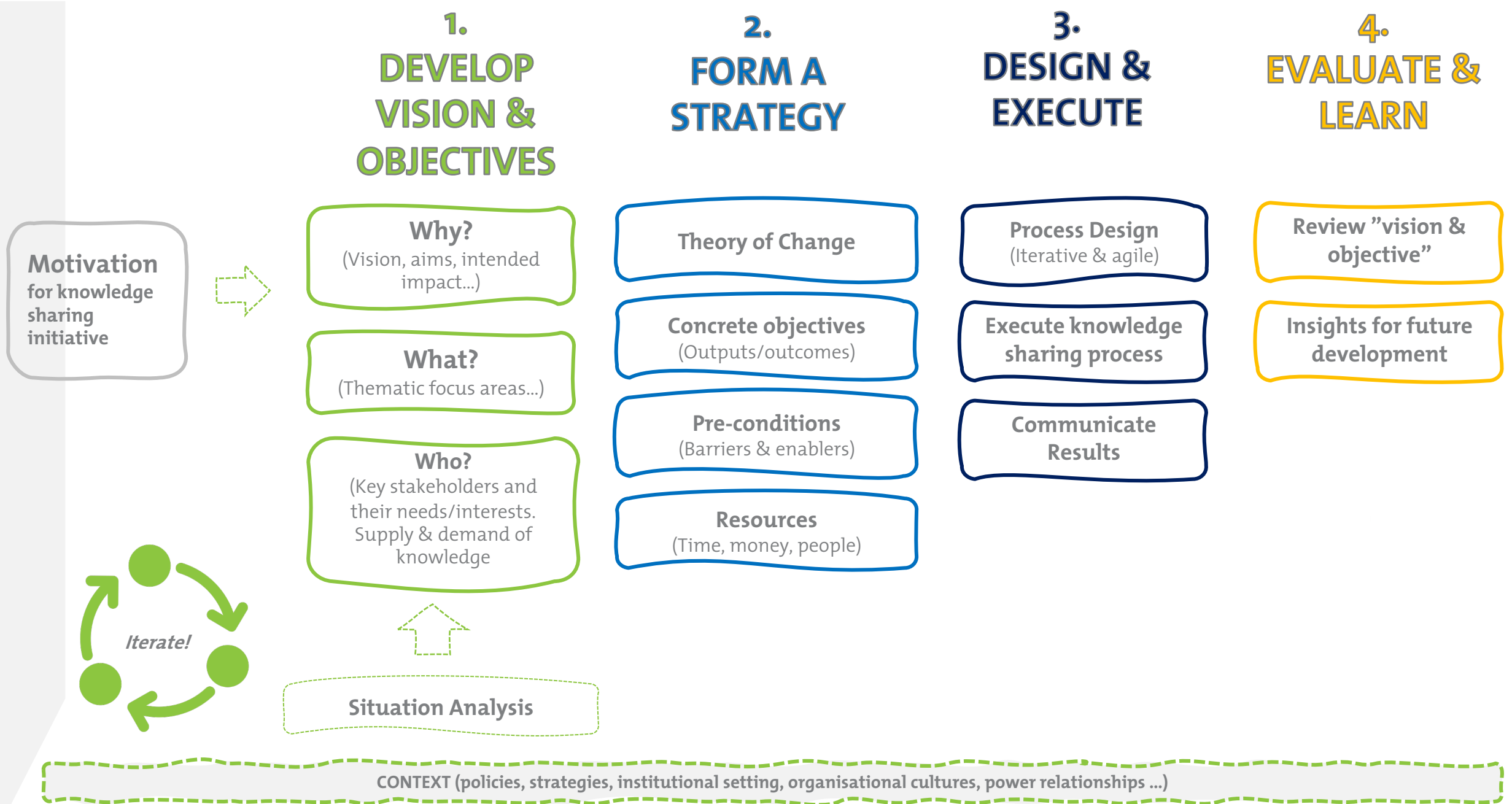
Where? What is the context? Synergies with other initiatives? Opportunities and barriers?
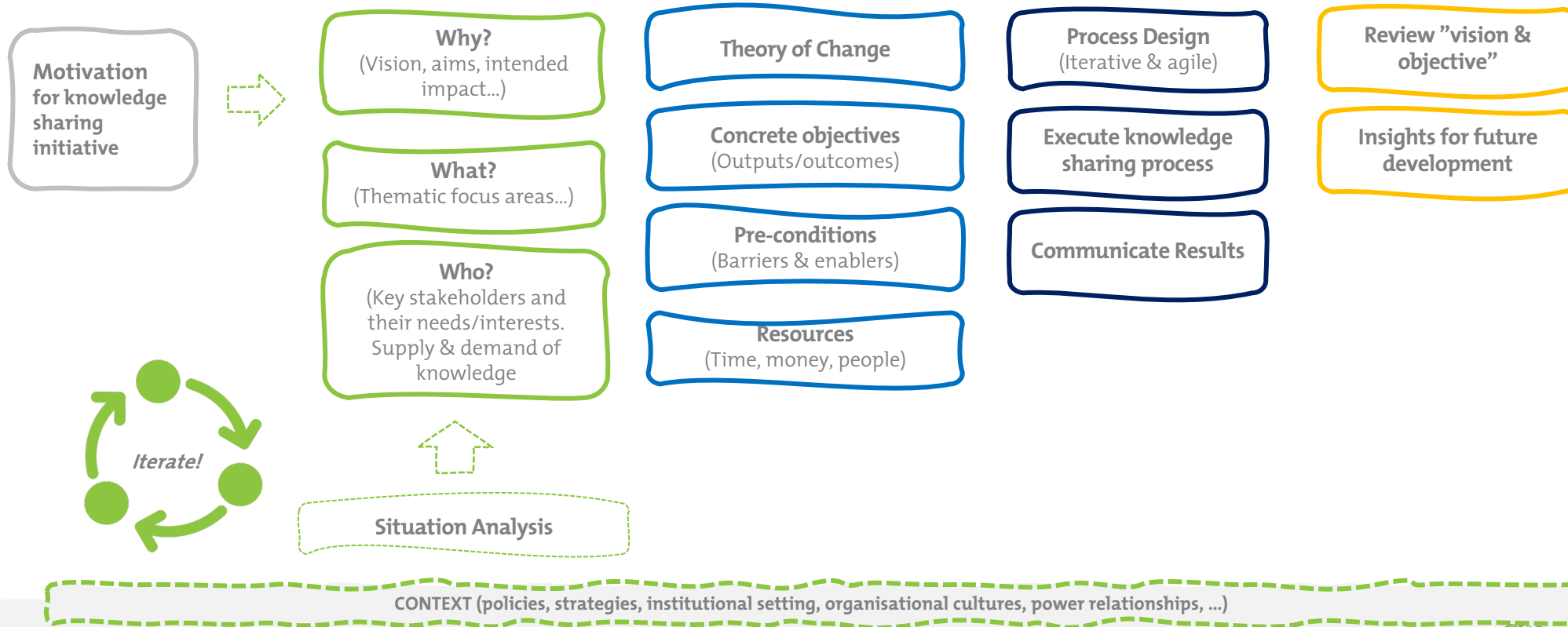
When? How much time can we and our stakeholders invest? How long a process is desirable? Timing?
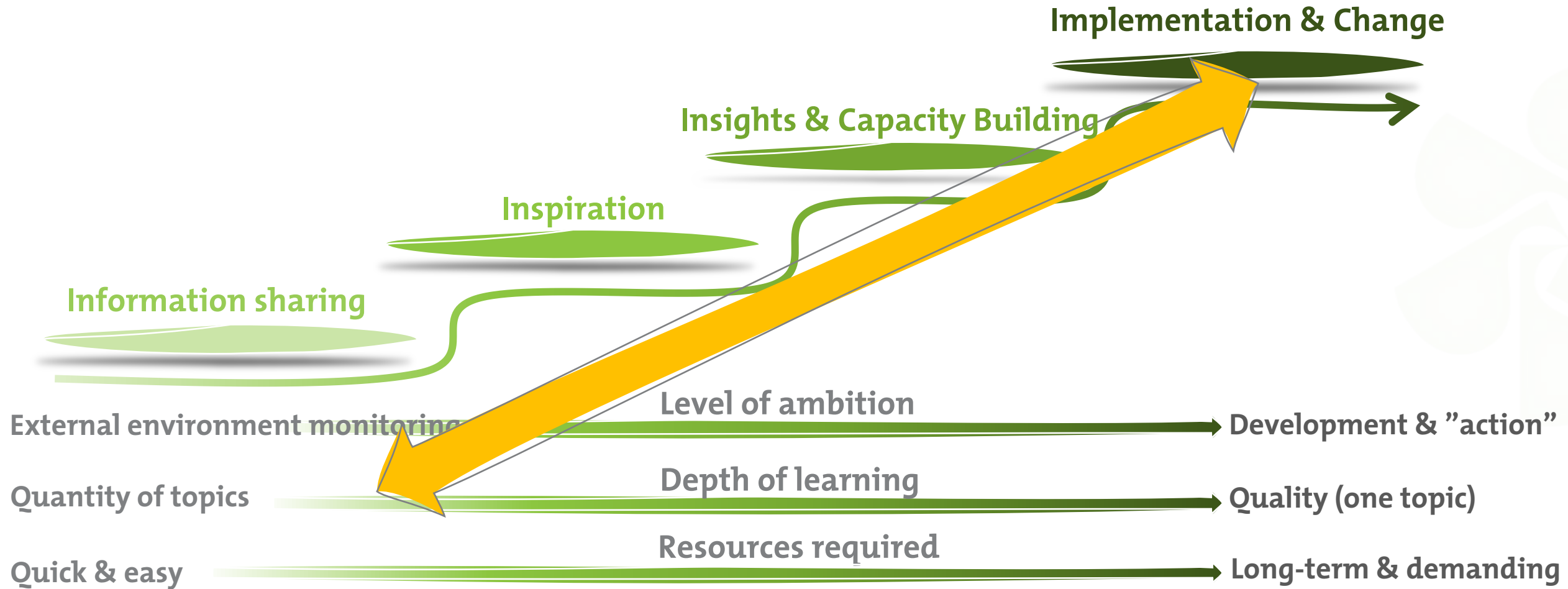
How? How can we design a process that takes all of the above into account? What methods should we use?

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High ambition! Focus on impact!

Don't give up! Be proactive & creative!

Be agile and focus on capacity building to enable change!

Capture key insights & keep on learning!

1.
DEVELOP VISION & OBJECTIVES

2.
FORM A STRATEGY

3.
DESIGN & EXECUTE

4.
EVALUATE & LEARN

Motivation for knowledge sharing initiative

Why?
(Vision, aims, intended impact...)

What?
(Thematic focus areas...)

Who?
(Key stakeholders and their needs/interests. Supply & demand of knowledge

Theory of Change

Concrete objectives
(Outputs/outcomes)

Pre-conditions
(Barriers & enablers)

Resources
(Time, money, people)

Process Design
(Iterative & agile)

Execute knowledge sharing process

Communicate Results

Review "vision & objective"

Insights for future development

Iterate!

Situation Analysis

CONTEXT (policies, strategies, institutional setting, organisational cultures, power relationships, ...)

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Thank you!

Curious to learn more? Get in touch!

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