



Hi there!

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REVES

Region
Östergötland

Gobierno
de Navarra

Nafarroako
Gobernua

AGENDA
2030

diesis
network

anel

COOMPANION
KOOPERATIV UTVECKLING

Torres Vedras
Câmara Municipal

COOMPANION
KOOPERATIV UTVECKLING

Making the invisible innovation system visible

Key findings from PARI – Paths for rural innovation | Östergötland, Sweden

Innovation in rural areas is already happening (of course!) – but our innovation system does not recognise it?



TWO INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN ÖSTERGÖTLAND

Different actors. Different logic. Same goal: a sustainable and innovative region.



Established innovation logic	Rural (local) innovation logic
Technical innovation	Social & place-based innovation
Scalability	Adaptation to local needs
Specialisation	Multifunctionality
Competition	Collaboration
Companies as key actors	Multiple sectors working together
Economic value	Social + ecological + economic value

Important
finding!

KEY FACT



**Innovation is not only about ideas –
*it's about:***



who gets to define problems



which solutions are considered legitimate

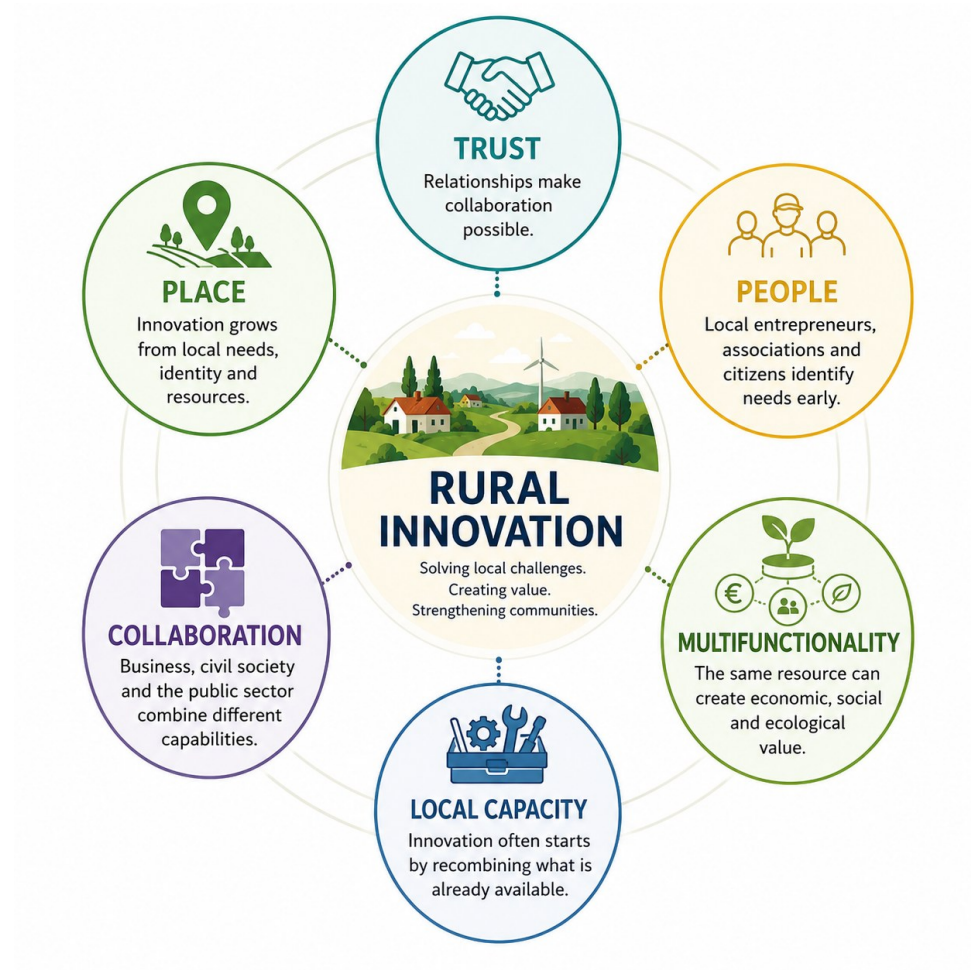


which actors are given room to act

We looked for clusters –
“but cluster”
was not
enough



What makes rural (local) innovation happen?





KEY FINDINGS

1

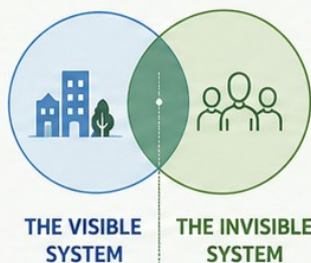
We thought we were looking for clusters



We started by looking for sectoral clusters in areas such as food, crafts, tourism, culture and local services.

2

We discovered two innovation systems



A formal, established system – and a vibrant, largely unseen system of local actors and initiatives.

3

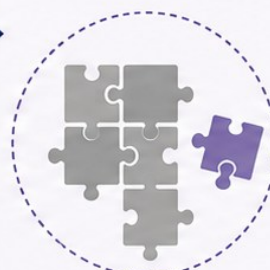
Rural innovation follows another logic



It is place-based, collaborative, needs-driven and creates social, ecological and economic value – not just scalable technology.

4

The cluster concept was too narrow



Real innovation happens in networks, micro-clusters and informal collaborations that the traditional cluster lens does not capture.

5

We identified what makes local innovation happen



Trust, place, people, collaboration, multifunctionality and local capacity are key drivers of rural innovation.

6

Now we need to connect the systems



The challenge ahead is to build bridges between the visible and the invisible systems – and strengthen them together.



Different starting points – same goal: connecting and strengthening innovation for a thriving Östergötland.



A close-up photograph of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other to form a heart shape with their fingers. The hands are light-skinned. The hand on the left has a pink string bracelet with small silver beads. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is centered over the hands, containing the text "Thank you!" in white.

Thank you!