

Interaction between stakeholders and levels  
of governance in Green Infrastructure plans:  
Lessons learnt from two strategic planning  
processes in Galicia and The Netherlands.

Rocío Losada-Iglesias\*, Emilio Díaz-Varela, David Miranda

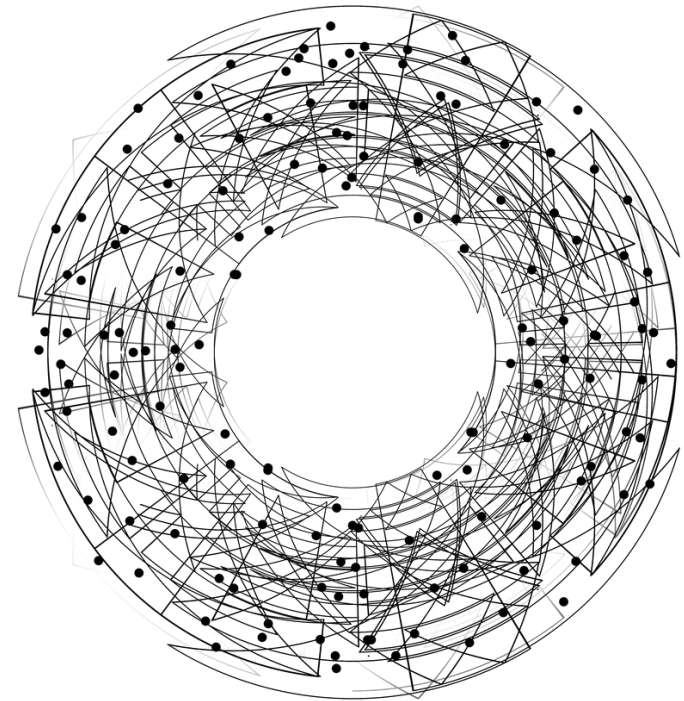
University of Santiago de Compostela, EPSE, Campus  
Universitario s/n, 27002, Lugo, Spain

[rocio.losada.iglesias@usc.es](mailto:rocio.losada.iglesias@usc.es)

XX European Rural Development Network Conference:  
"Green transformation in the European rural areas"  
11-13 September 2024 - Vilnius, Lithuania



1. Introduction
2. Objective
3. Case studies
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Conclusions



# 1. Introduction

- Green Infrastructure (GI):  
Spatial planning tool

*“A **strategically planned network** of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity” (EC)*

- GI plays a fundamental role in improving the ecological integrity of rural areas

European level



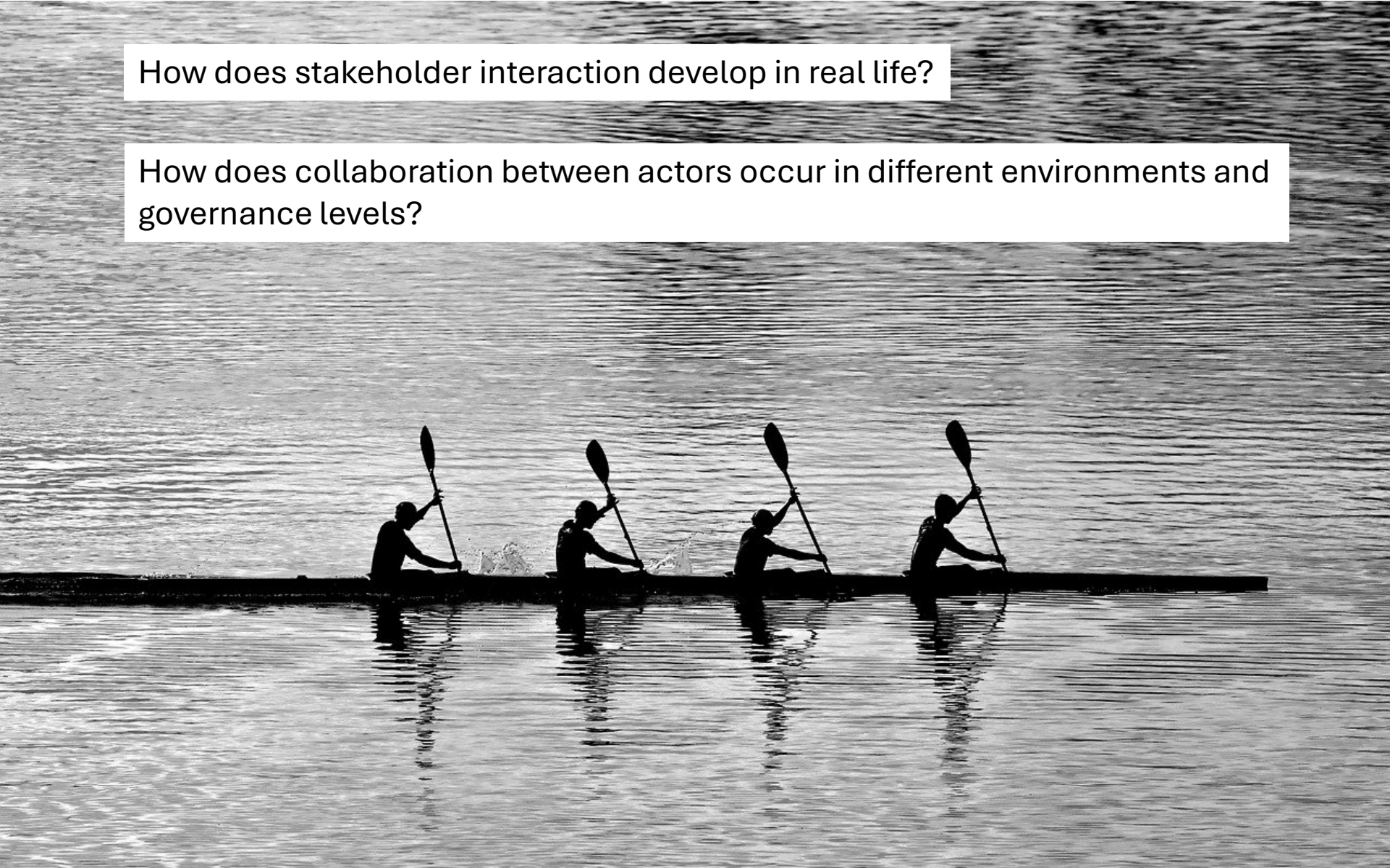
Local level



# 1. Introduction

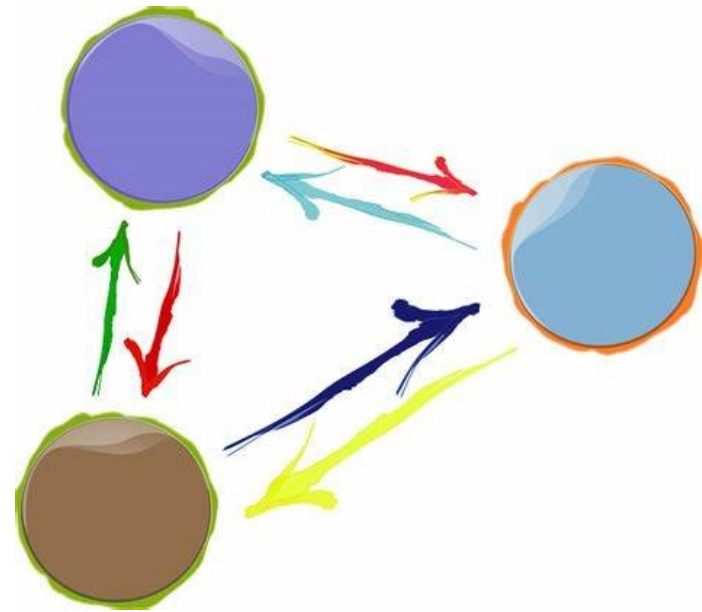
How does stakeholder interaction develop in real life?

How does collaboration between actors occur in different environments and governance levels?

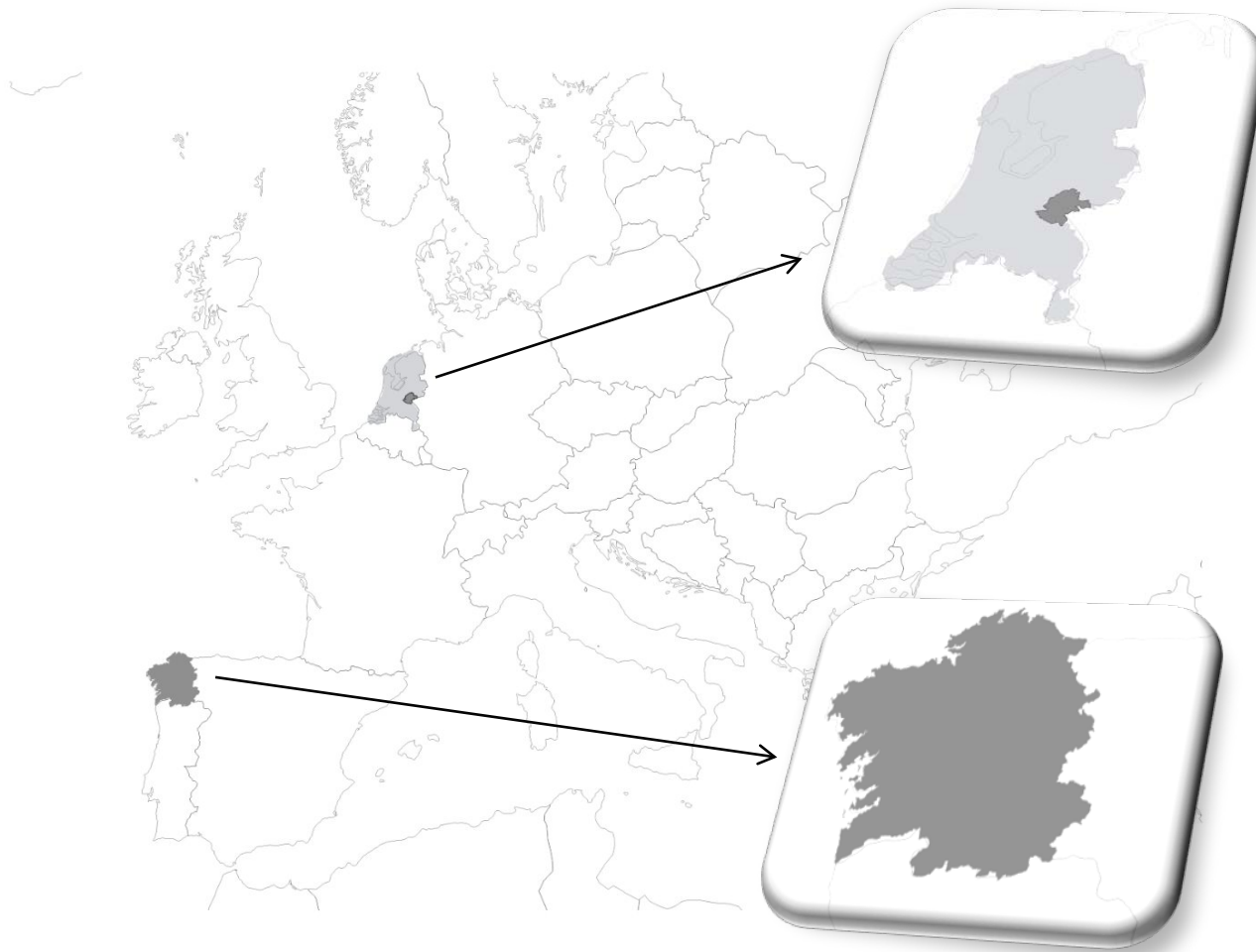


## 2. Objective

The aim is to understand the dynamics in two strategic planning projects in order to explore the interrelationships between stakeholders and learn from them.



# 3. Case studies



**GMR2120 vision**  
Gelderland province, NL  
Vision 2120  
Bottom-up approach

**Galician GI strategy**  
Galicia region, ES  
Vision 2050  
Top-down approach



# 4. Methodology

29 semi-structured interviews.

Each interview, 30-90 min, was audio-recorded and transcribed.



# 4. Methodology

online published documents,  
technical reports and  
press releases.



## La Estrategia gallega de la infraestructura verde está muy "adelantada" y verá luz "antes" de la fecha máxima de julio

El BNG critica "la parálisis" de este instrumento, que ya se encuentra en el "tiempo de descuento" de la legislatura

Europa Press | Miércoles, 4 de octubre de 2023, 15:27

El BNG critica "la parálisis" de este instrumento, que ya se encuentra en el "tiempo de descuento" de la legislatura

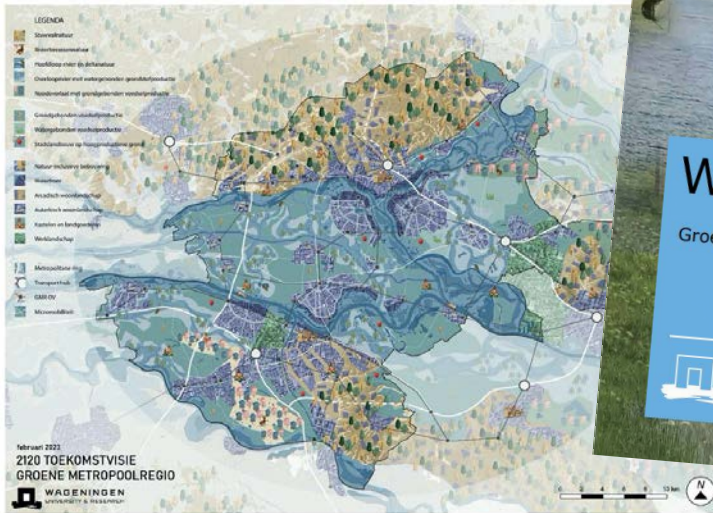
La Xunta ha avanzado que aprobará "antes de lo establecido" la Estrategia gallega de la infraestructura verde, que tienen "mucho adelantado" y que "poco queda" para tener el documento definitivo que tiene julio de 2024 como fecha máxima.

El BNG critica "la parálisis" de este instrumento, que ya se encuentra en el "tiempo de descuento" de la legislatura



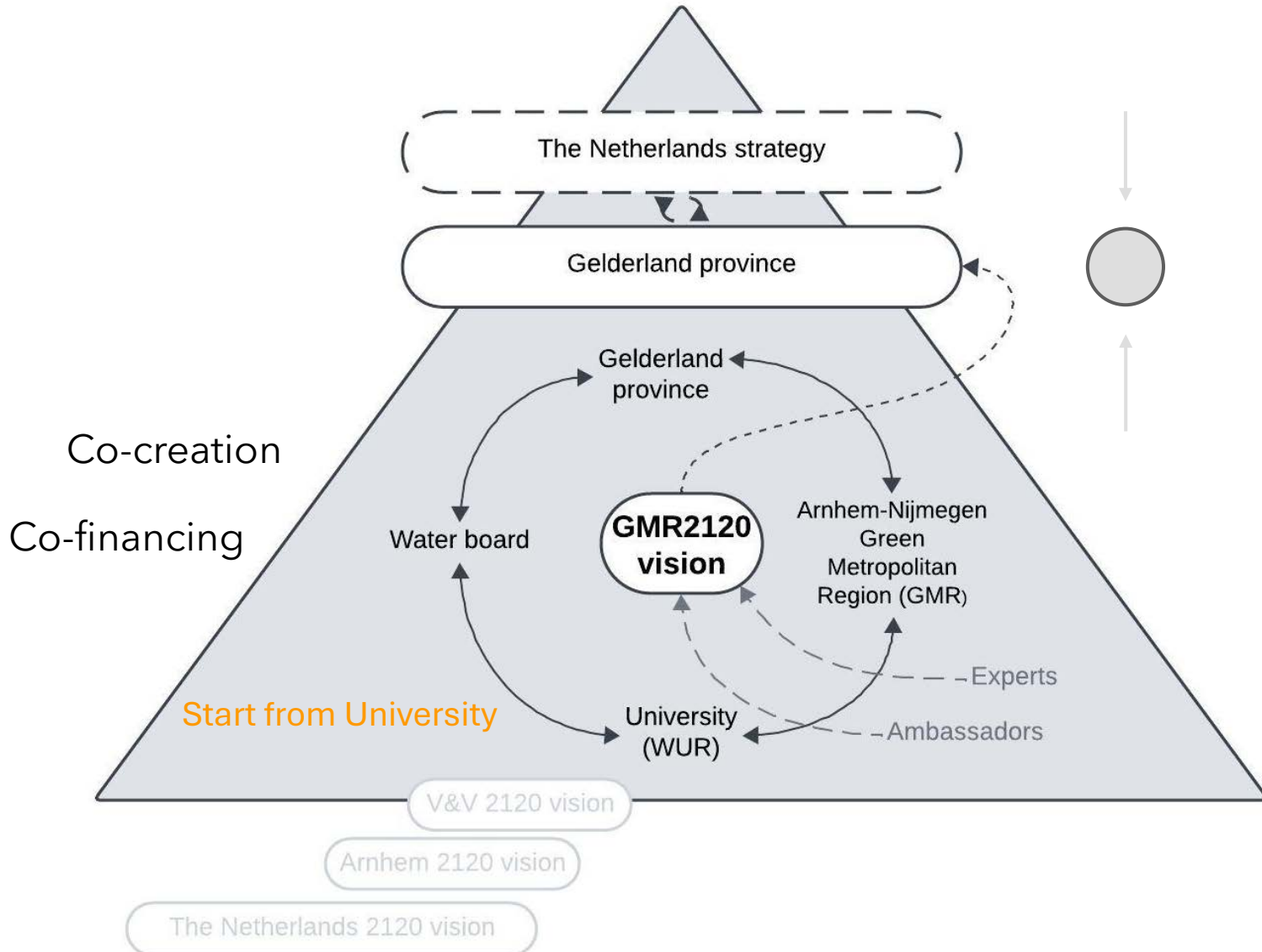
# 5. Results

## GMR2120 vision



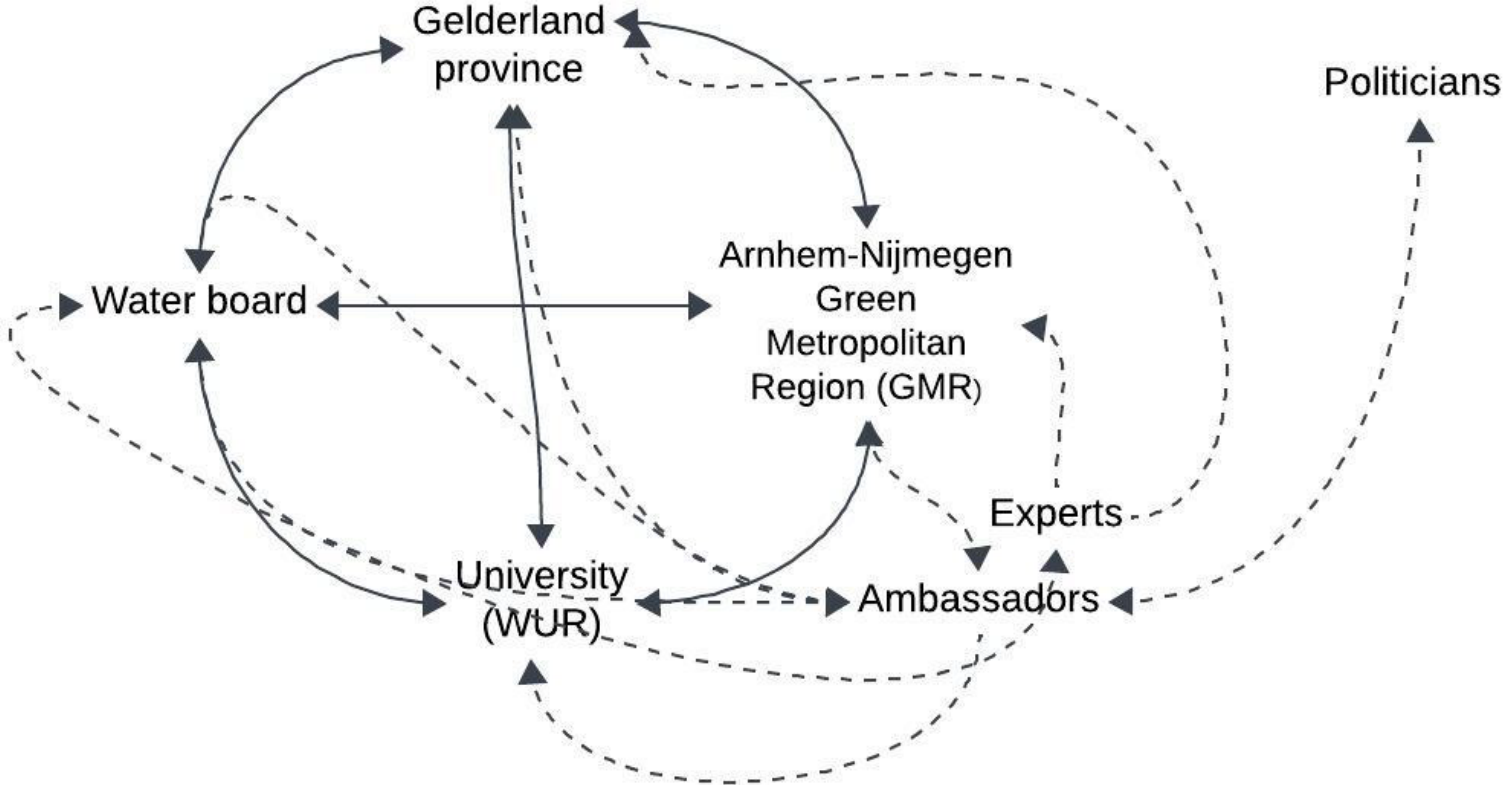
# 5. Results

## GMR2120 vision story



# 5. Results

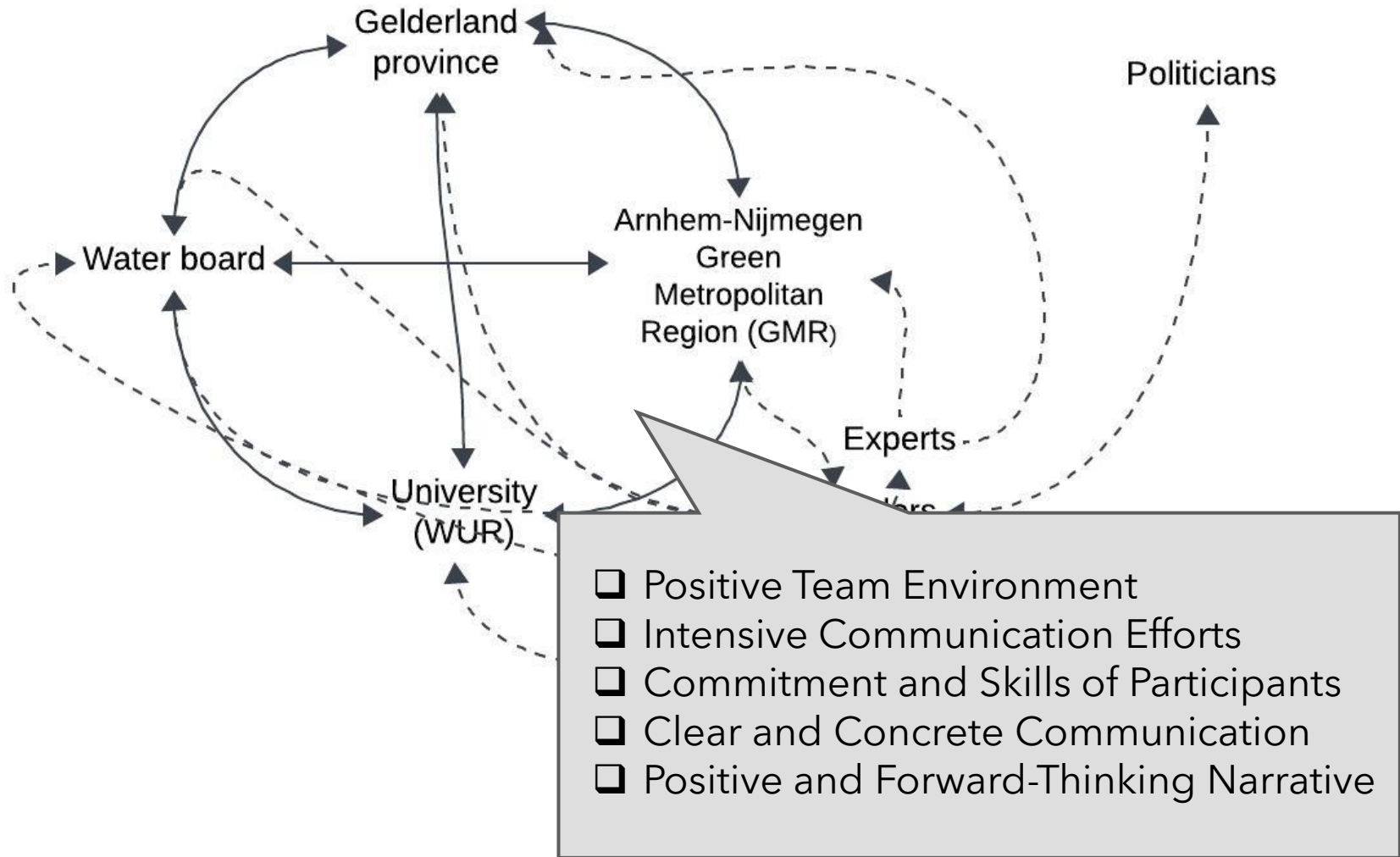
## GMR2120 stakeholders interactions





# 5. Results

## GMR2120 stakeholders interactions



# 5. Results

## Galician GI strategy



ESTRATEGIA DE  
INFRAESTRUTURA  
VERDE de GALICIA

Orden de .... de ..... de 2022, por la que se aprueba la Estrategia gallega de la Infraestructura verde y de la conectividad y restauración ecológicas.

La Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia, según establece el artículo 27 del Estatuto de autonomía de Galicia en los párrafos 3 y 30, tiene competencia exclusiva, respectivamente, en materia de ordenación del territorio y del litoral, así como de normas adicionales sobre protección del medio ambiente y del paisaje en los términos del artículo 149.1.23 de la Constitución española.

El Decreto 73/2022, de 25 de mayo, fijó la estructura orgánica de las vicepresidencias y de las consellerías de la Xunta de Galicia. En su artículo 4 establece los órganos de dirección de la Consellería de Medio Ambiente, Territorio y Vivienda figurando entre ellos la Dirección General de Patrimonio Natural. Según la referida normativa y de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el Decreto 42/2019, de 28 de marzo, por el que se establece la estructura orgánica de la Consellería de Medio Ambiente, Territorio y Vivienda, éste es el órgano de la Administración de la Comunidad Autónoma, al que le corresponden las competencias y funciones en materia de medio ambiente, ordenación del territorio y urbanismo, y conservación de la naturaleza, conforme a lo establecido en el Estatuto de autonomía para Galicia en los términos señalados en la Constitución española.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

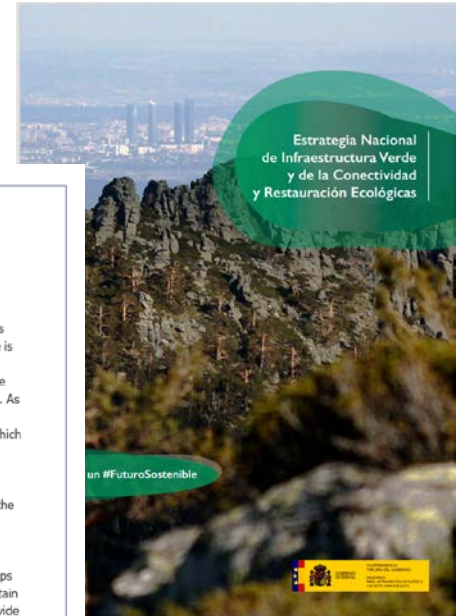
Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital

### 1.1. Background

Human society depends on the benefits provided by nature such as food, materials, clean water, clean air, climate regulation, flood prevention, pollination and recreation[1]. However, many of these benefits, frequently referred to as ecosystem services, are used as if their supply is almost unlimited and treated as free commodities whose true value is fully appreciated. This can result in public authorities turning to built infrastructure — grey infrastructure — as a substitute for natural solutions to problems such as flood prevention. In Europe we consequently continue to degrade our natural capital, jeopardising our long-term sustainability and undermining our resilience to environmental shocks. As noted in the Resource Efficiency Roadmap[2], the failure to protect our natural capital and to give a proper value to ecosystem services will need to be addressed as part of the drive towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth which the EU's priority Europe 2020[3]. The roadmap identifies investing in GI as an important step towards protecting natural capital. The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020[4] includes a commitment for the Commission to develop a GI strategy[5]. The Resource Efficiency Roadmap states that the Commission will draft a Communication on GI. This document is the Commission's response to these commitments[6]. It sets out how EU-wide action can add value to the initiatives currently underway.

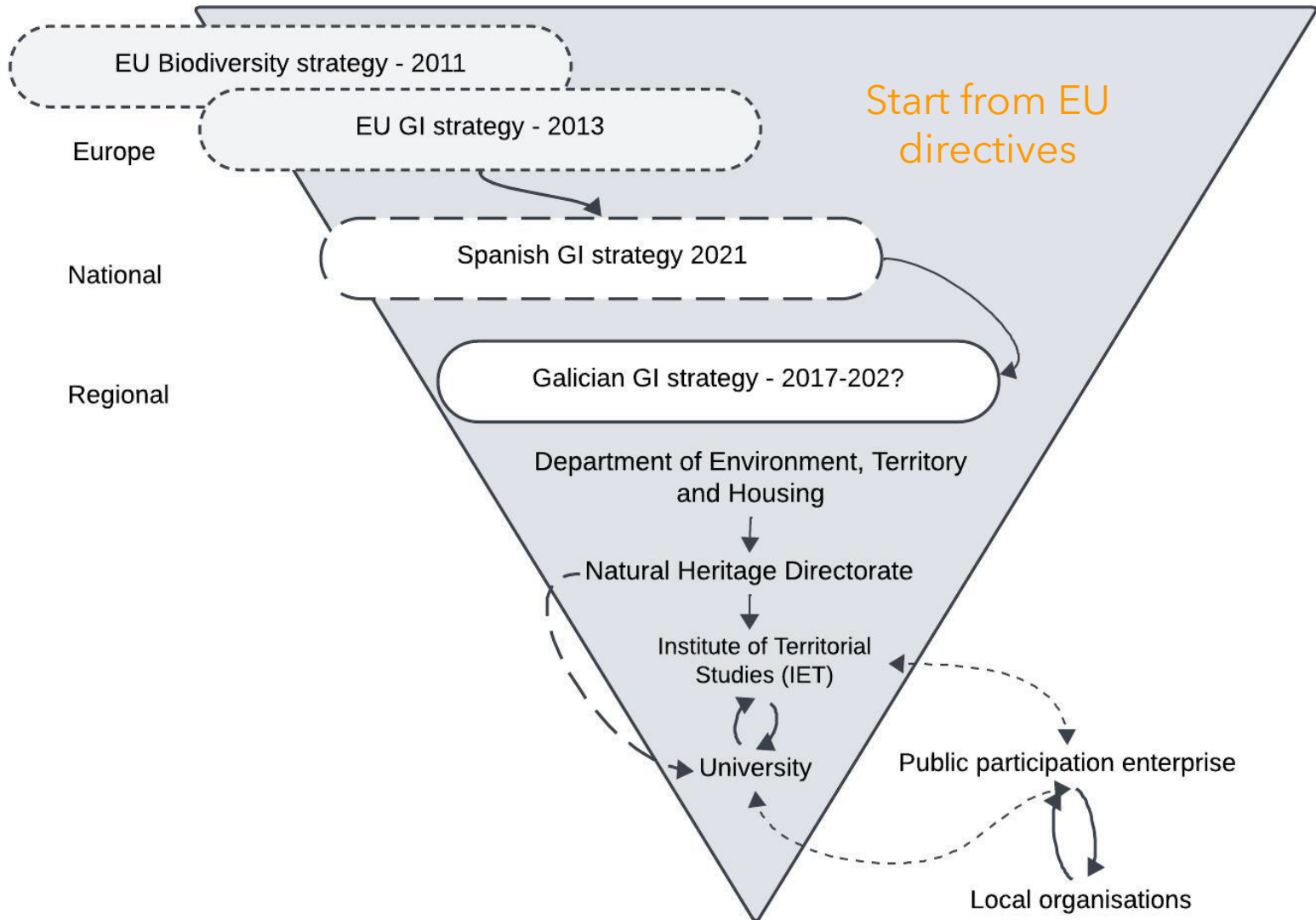
### 2. What is GI?

GI is a successfully tested tool for providing ecological, economic and social benefits through natural solutions. It helps us to understand the value of the benefits that nature provides to human society and to mobilise investments to sustain and enhance them. It also helps avoid relying on infrastructure that is expensive to build when nature can often provide cheaper, more durable solutions. Many of these create local job opportunities. Green Infrastructure is based on the principle that protecting nature is essential for sustainable development.



# 5. Results

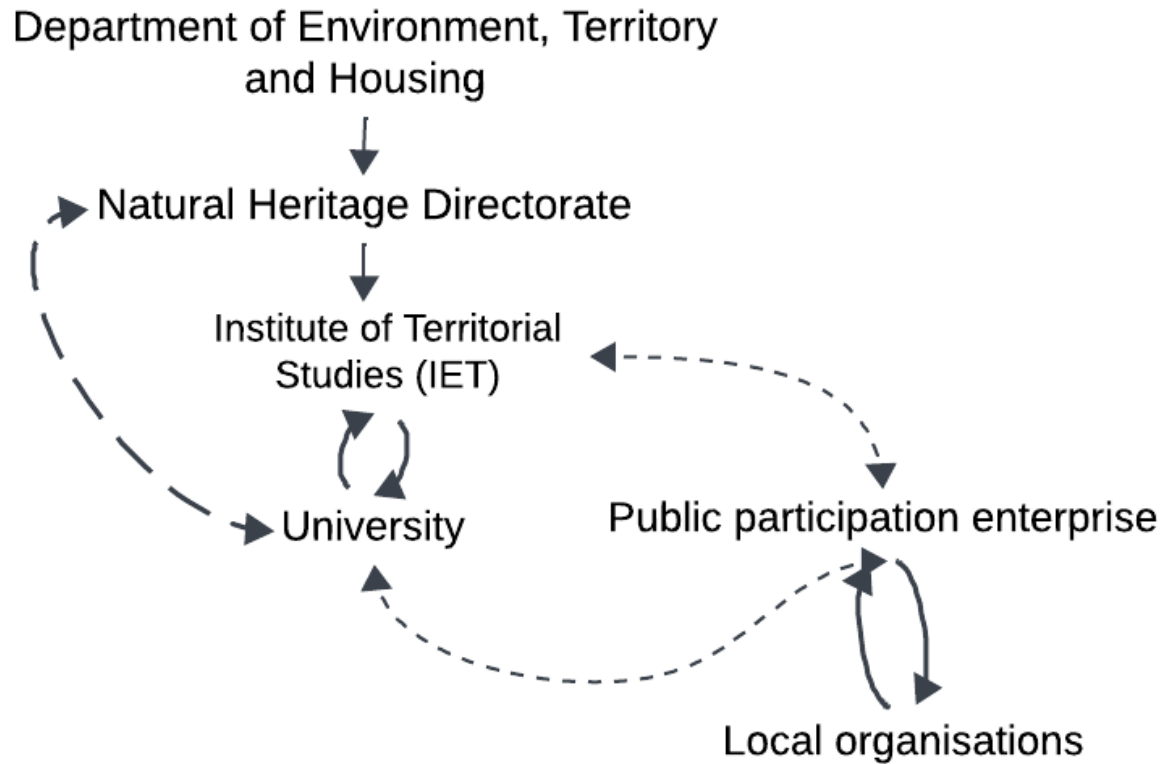
## Galician GI strategy story





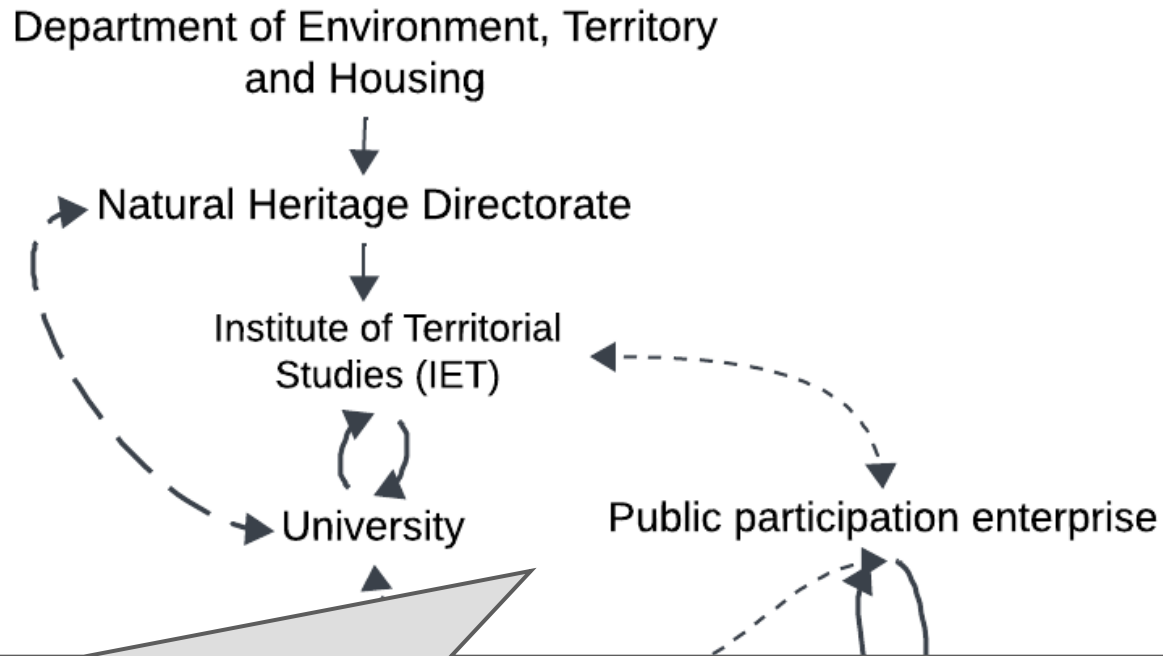
# 5. Results

## Galician GI strategy stakeholders interactions



# 5. Results

## Galician GI strategy stakeholders interactions



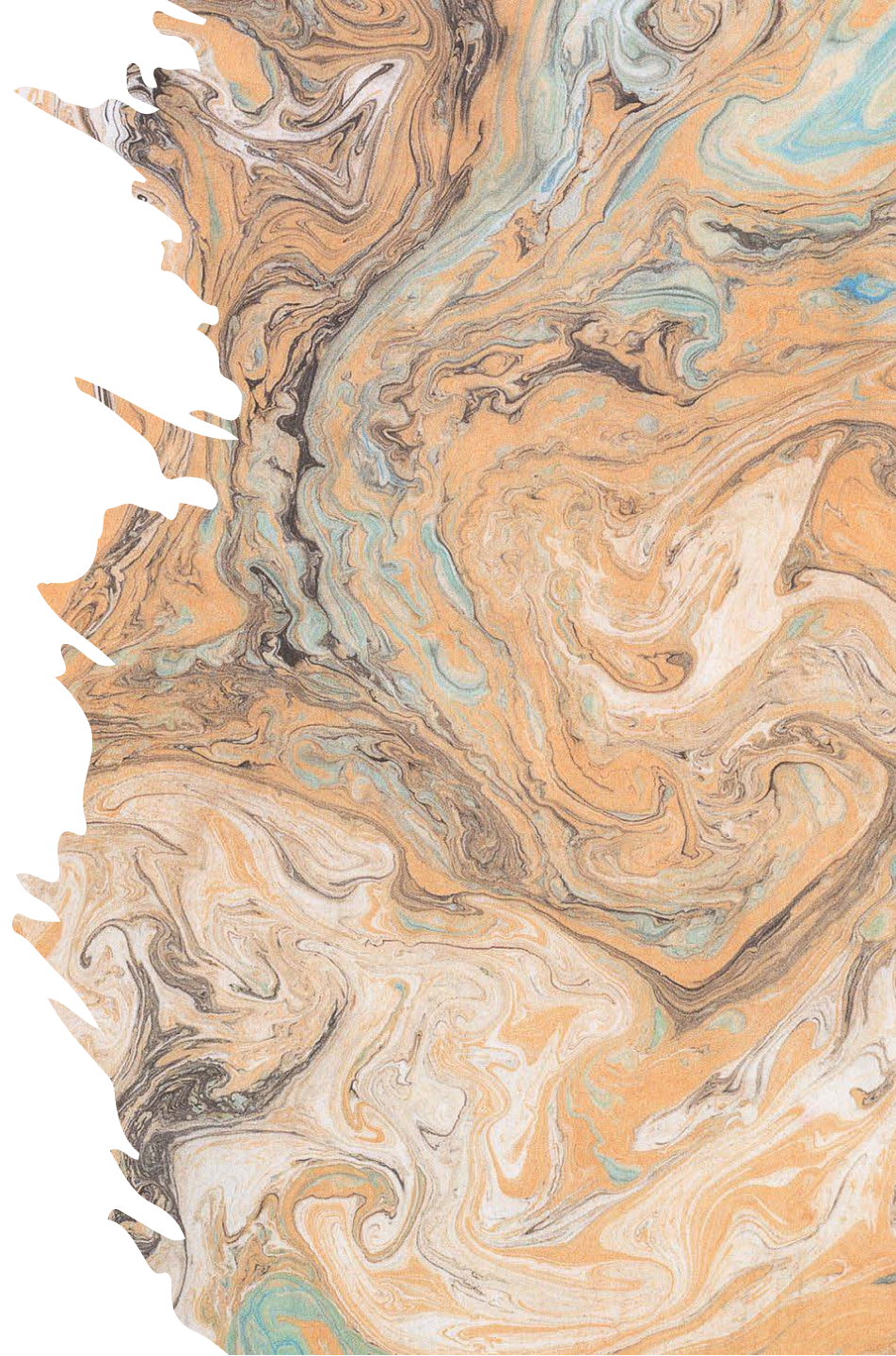
- Complexity and coordination issues
- Lack of clear guidelines, lack of dialogue, and synergy
- Slow and uncoordinated administration response
- Imbalance in performance and an impression of improvisation
- Prejudices and conflicts of interest

# 6. Conclusions

Indeed, in some projects there is more collaboration than in others. And this collaboration is most effective when:

- There are networks of people whose coordination is effective, communication is clear, and objectives are aligned.
- This is accompanied by a hopeful narrative that successfully engages stakeholders.
- Frameworks remain flexible and are tailored to the project's needs throughout the process.





Thank you for  
your attention !

This file is available at:  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13810876>