

Grassroots innovations in the French Alps

Which potential for regional socio-ecological transitions?

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Grassroots innovations in the French Alps

1

Sites and networks of civil grassroots initiatives in the French Alps

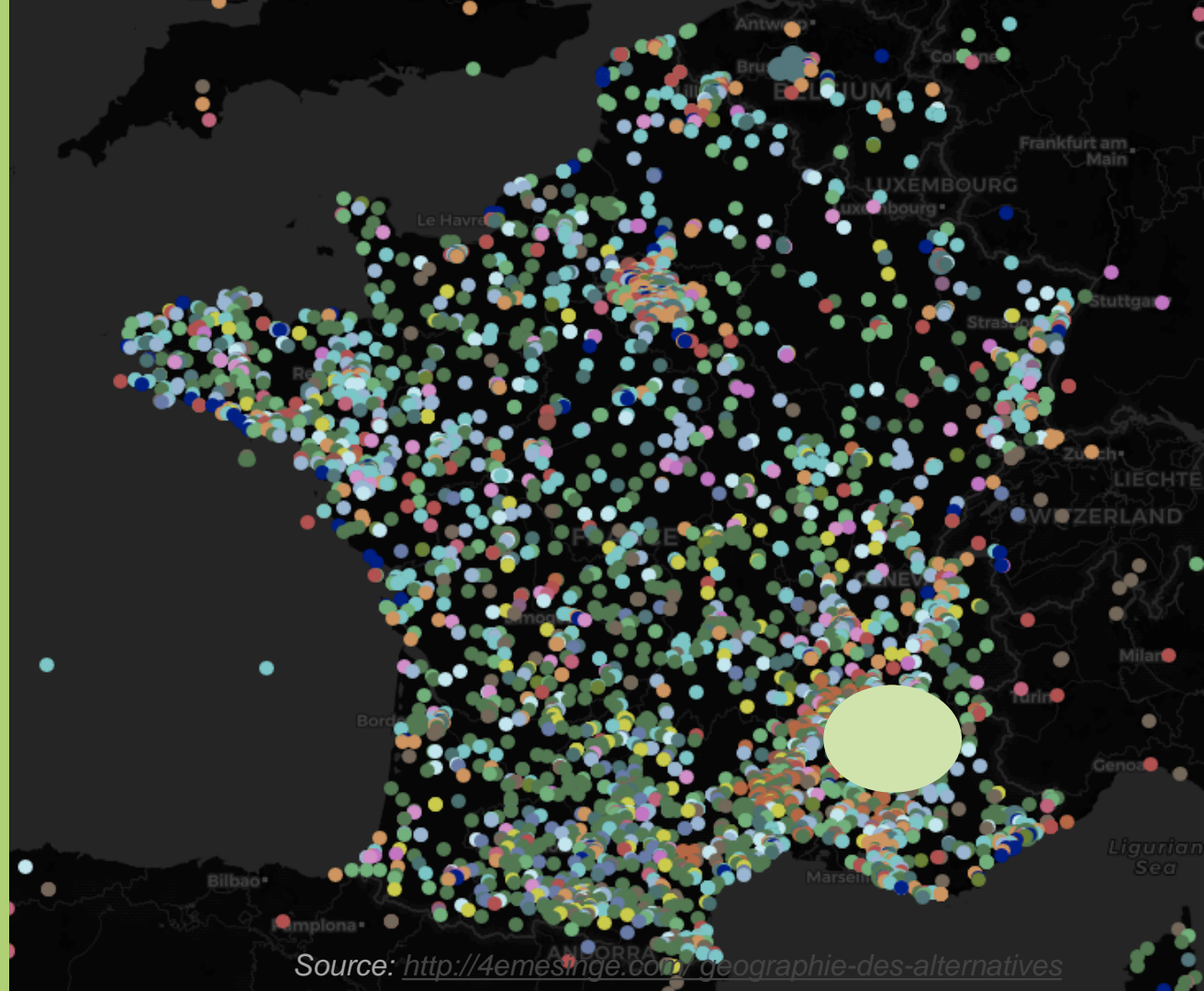
2

Focus in the emergence and spreading of new values and new modes of doing and being.
Theoretical background and research results

3

Potentials and obstacles for regional socio-ecological transitions

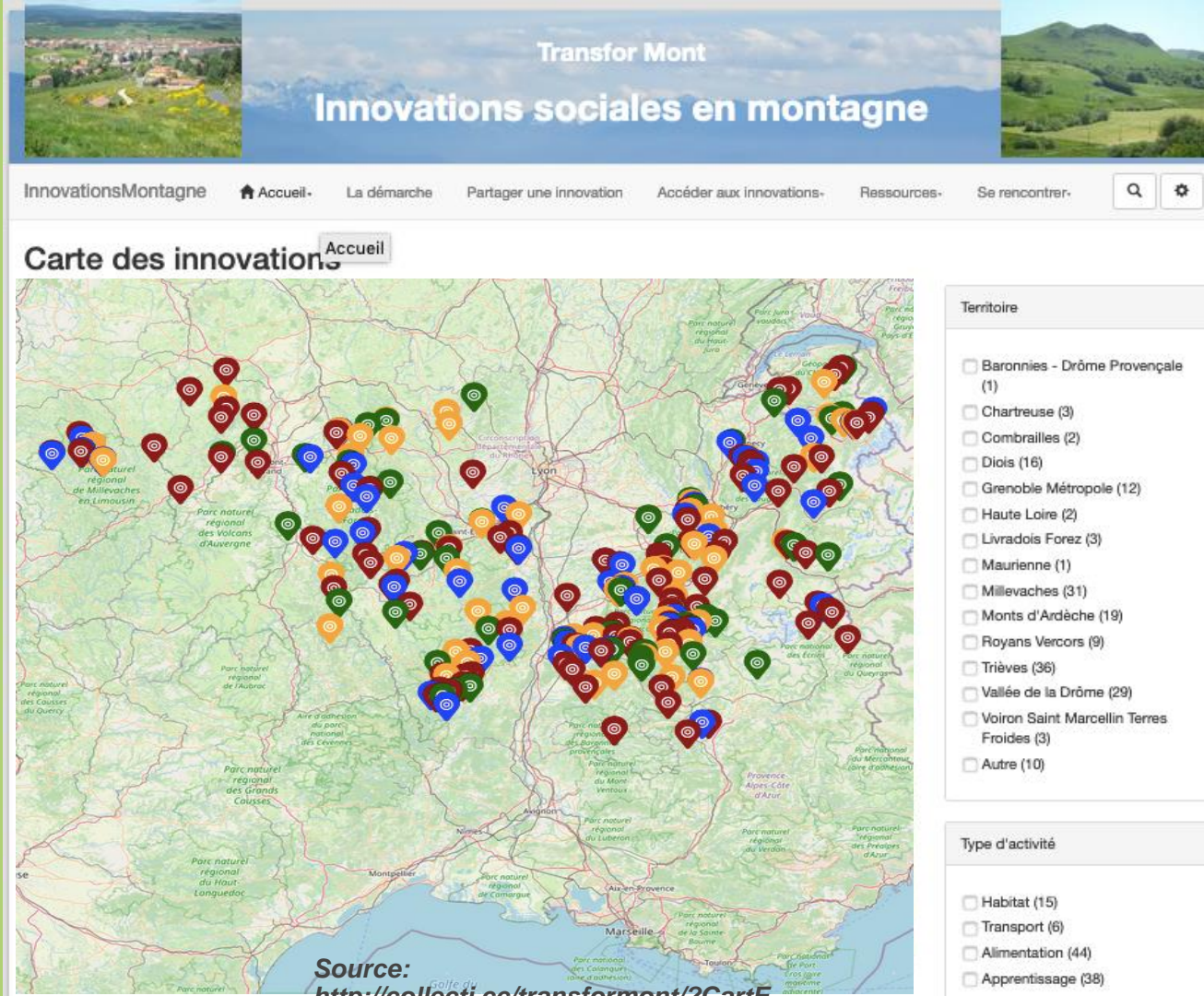
**Mushrooming of
grassroots
innovations in
France...**
... and in the
French Alps



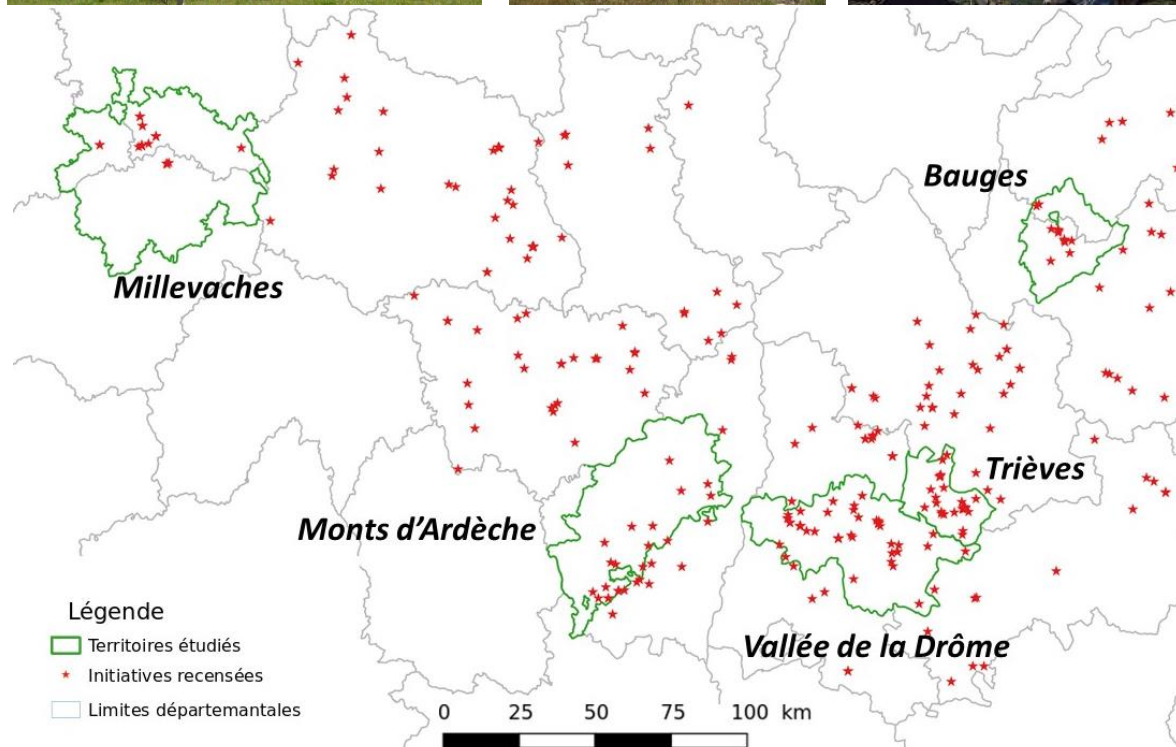
Source: <http://4emesinge.com/geographie-des-alternatives>

Research project TransforMont 2018-2023

Programme 'Innovation
and Territorial Transitions'
- ITTEM
Grenoble Alps University



Qualitative surveys
in peripheral rural
mountain regions
with high density of
grassroots
innovations



Some general research results

- Rapid growth of projet creations between 2000 and 2015, decrease since 2015
 - All sectors concerned - no sectoral specialisation by region
 - Multiplication of links and intensification of networks at local and translocal scale
- ⇒ *How to **conceive** and **measure** the potential for broader regional socio-ecological transitions?*

1

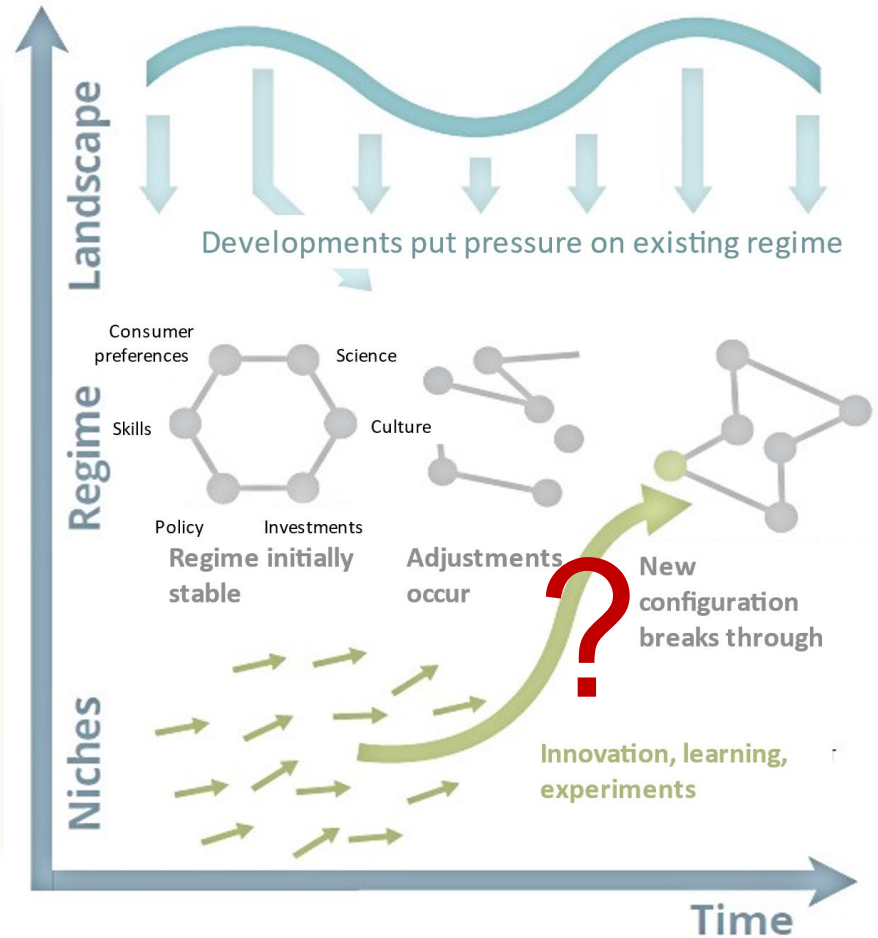
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3

Focus in the emergence and spreading of new values and new modes of doing and being.
Theoretical background and research results

Theoretical framework:

The multi-level perspective (Geels, 2002)



Source: Simplified according to Geels, 2002

Sites 'of difference'

Characteristics:
Creation of new
sense/meanings
through alternative
values,
improvisation,
experimentation,
innovation

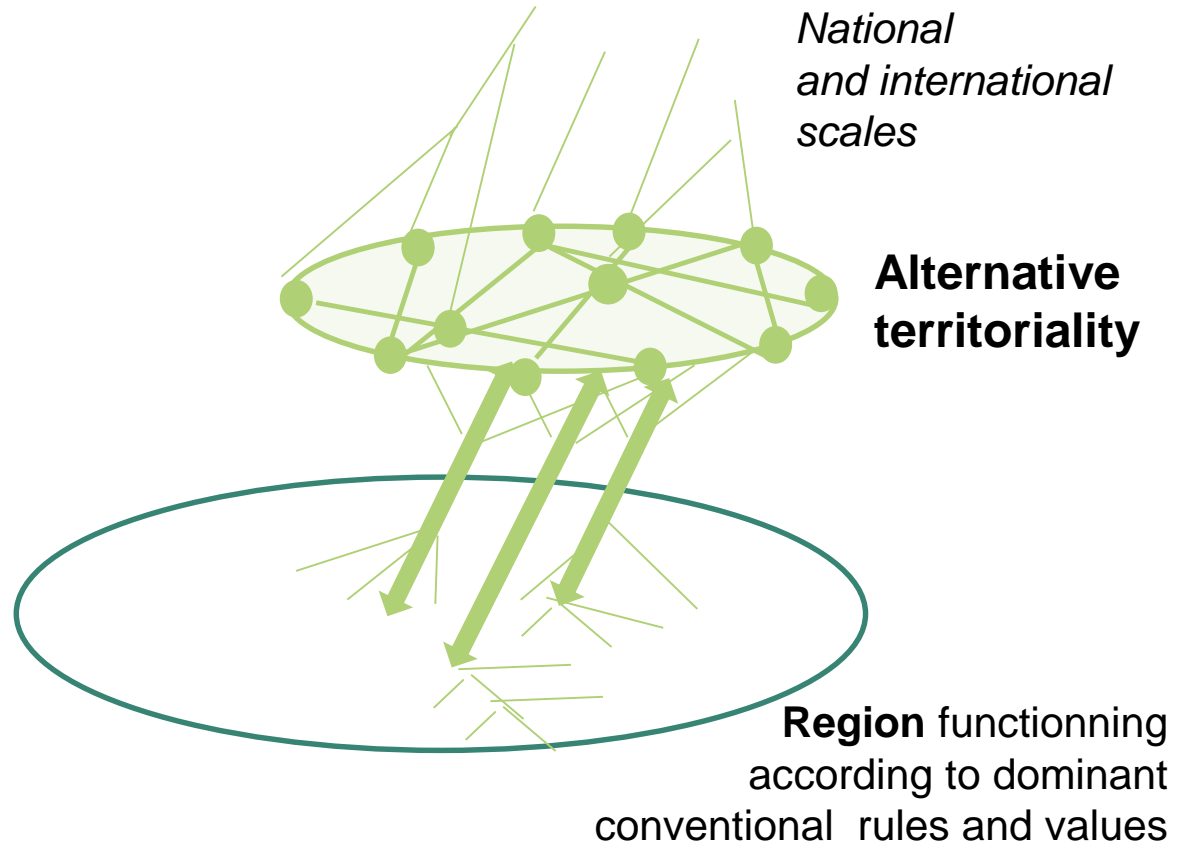


Pictures: Lucas (2014), Koop (2020)

Alternative territorialities

Characteristics:

Networked sites with divergent social-cultural, economic, and political meanings



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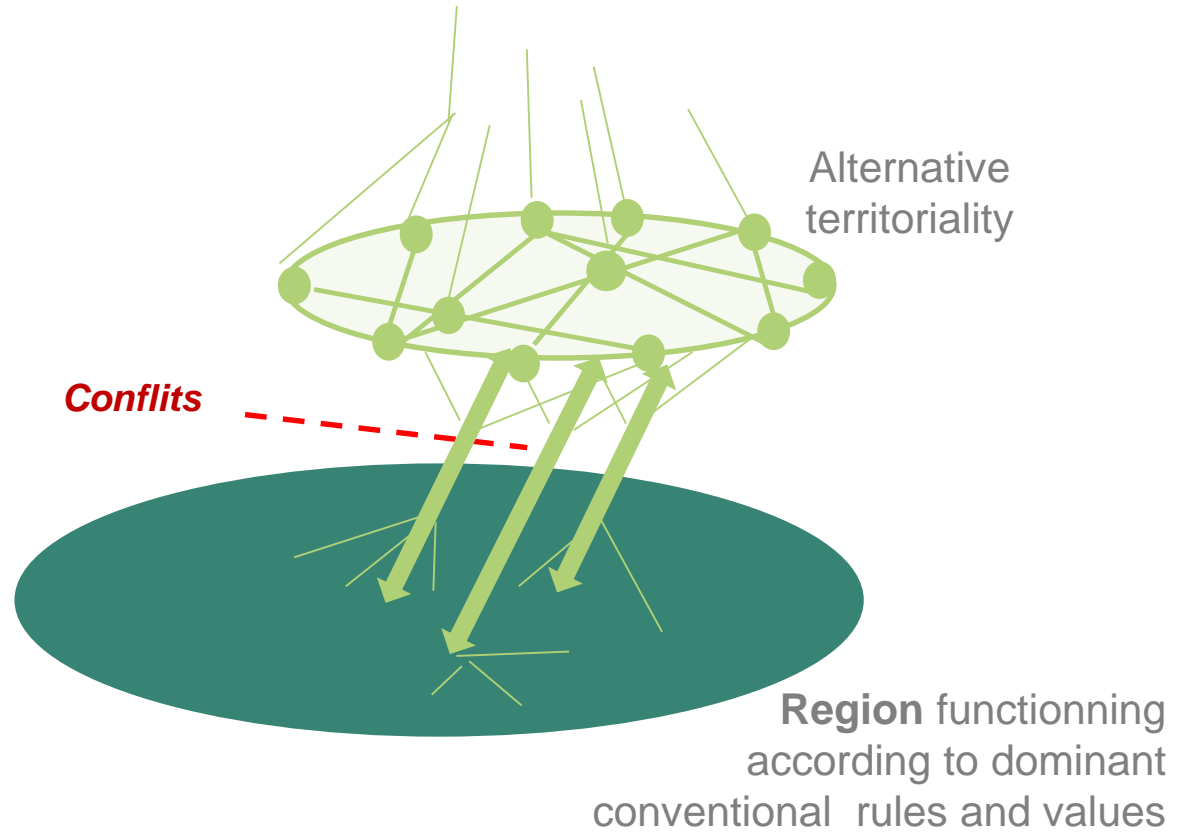
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Potentials and obstacles for regional socio-ecological transitions

Conflicts

Divergent
conceptions of
what exists and
their meanings
amongst regional
actors



Potential for broader regional socio-ecological transitions?



Photo : PAT Grand Clermont,
2021

Depends on the interactions between actors of alternative territorialities and local/regional public institutions and inhabitants

Four possible constellations

1. **Tolerated** otherness
2. Open **conflicts**
3. **Arrangements** without profound change/transition
4. **Adoption of alternative ways of doing and being** in their context of meaning (*requires reinterpretation / change of conventional arrangements*)



Merci

Questions?



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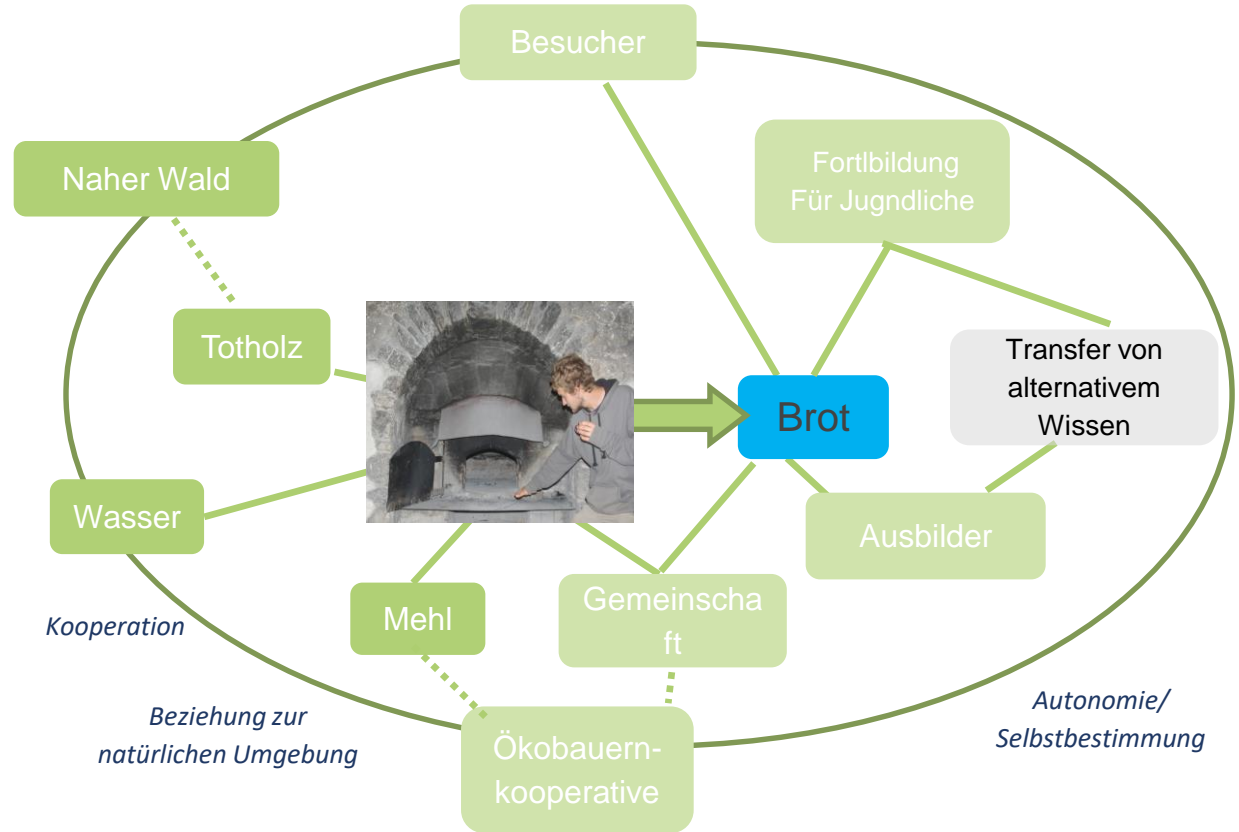
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Innovation als die Produktion neuer Bedeutung

Der traditionelle Holzofen im Ökoweiler 'Veil Audan'
im Beziehungsgefüge



Fazit

