SOCIAL INNOVATIONS AND CREATIVITY IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS AS LEVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION?

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Contemporary development and change in mountain regions

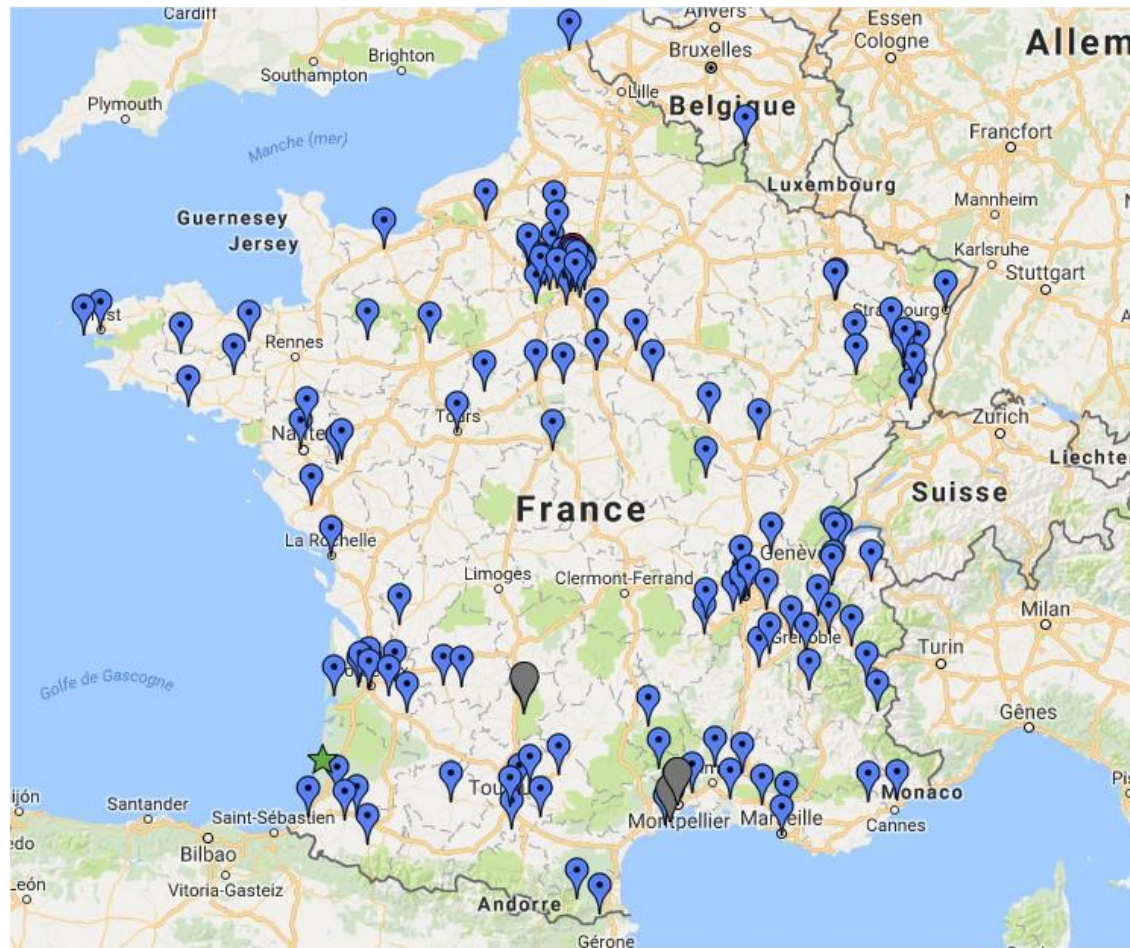1. Adaptation and integration into dynamics of the dominant regime
   - *Innovative (economic) milieu's*
   - *Residential economy*
   - *Valorization of territorial heritage and specificities*
   - *Institutional innovations*

2. Innovation and creativity for systemic change
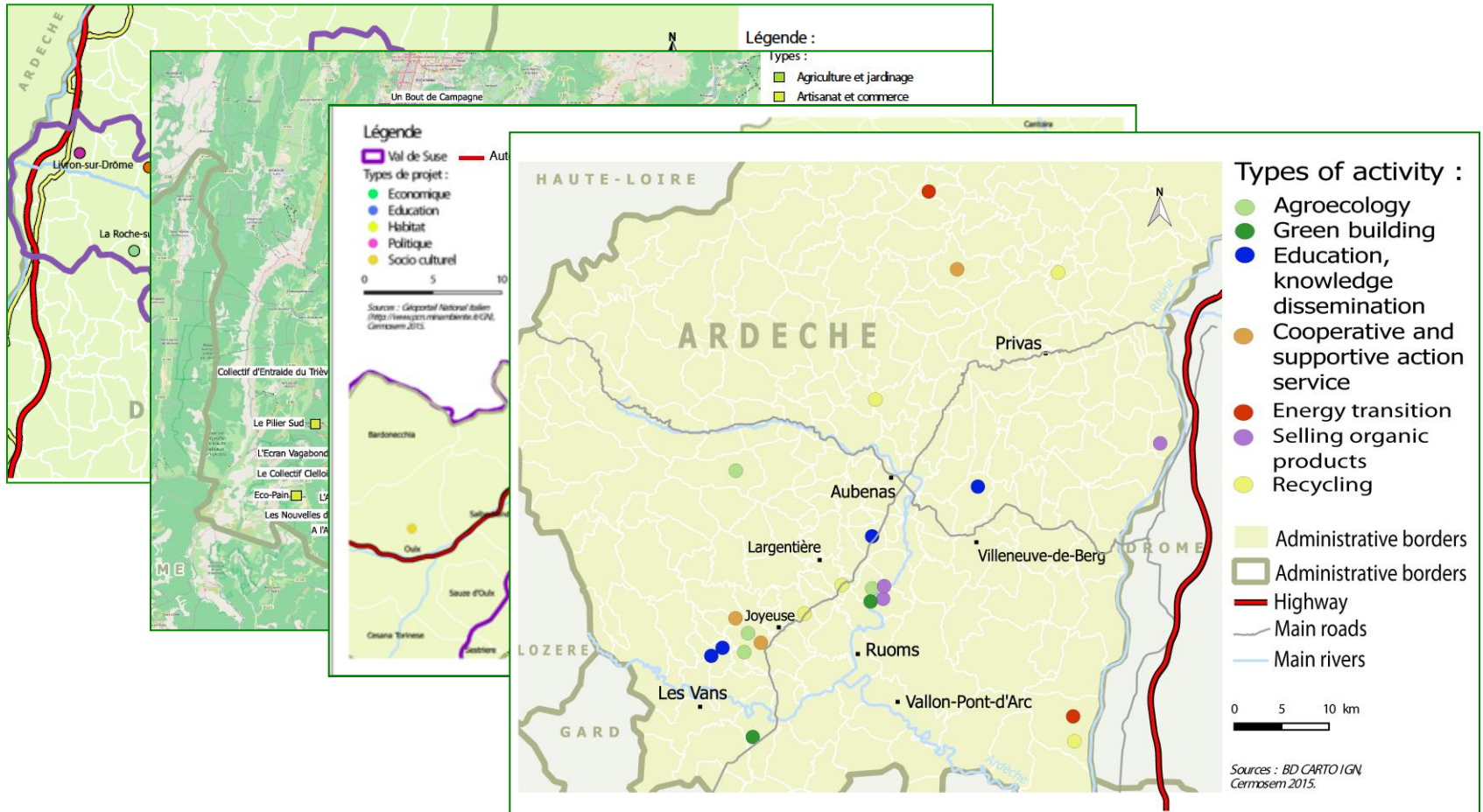   - *transformative social innovations*

*Voluntary engagement of individuals or social groups for **societal transformation/transition***

Mountain regions as favorable sites for transition initiatives in Europe

Concentration areas of alternative initiatives in European mountain regions

Source: Research results of various projects of the research center PACTE, France

Underlying values of alternative initiatives challenging some fundamental principles of Modernity

Alternative values*	Characteristics of modern societies**
Living with nature, preservation of natural resources	**Transformation of nature**, overuse of natural resources
Sharing, caring, conviviality, inter-generational living, become independent from money	**Individualism, competition**
Local economy	Globalized economy
Autonomy, independence, self – sufficiency, creativity, community, pooling of resources and collective action	**Division of labor**, industrialism, **trust in abstract system**
Self blossoming, learning by doing	**Expert knowledge** - expert systems
Frugality	**Growth – accumulation** – consumerism
Deceleration	Most effective use of time
More circular thinking, personal journey	Rationality - linearity – progress
Horizontal translocal networks	**Hierarchic structure, control, order**, regulation
Diversity	Standardization, homogenization
Partial local re-embedding	Disembedding of social relations from local context
Reflexivity	Reflexive ordering and reordering of social relations
Humanised technology	Technology

Source: Koop/Senil (2015) Habiter l'alternative. La construction de "Mondes de vie" en Ardèche. Submitted to: Revue du developpement territorial.

Spatial enactment of heterotopia through improvisation

Common set of alternative values as guiding principles for improvisation by …

- *exploration*
- *dicovering*
- *Experimentation*
- *Intuition*
- *learning by doing*
- *Hybridization of local and external knowledge*

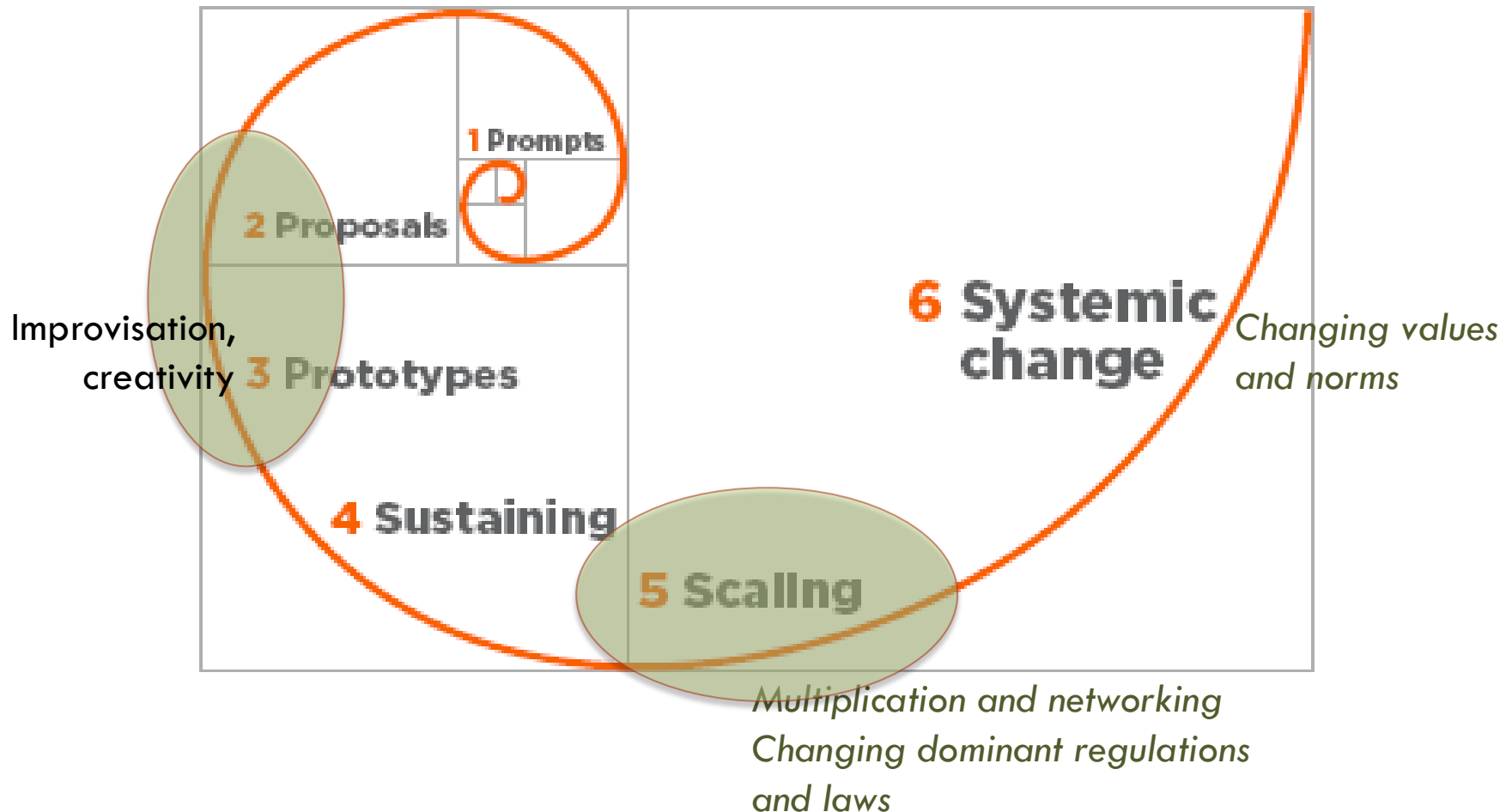= *"alternative lifeworlds", "places of difference", "cosmopolitan localism*

Pictures: Lucas (2014)

Under which conditions such alternative initiatives can be levers for sustainable territorial transition?

Social, economic environmental and institutional impact on the dominant system?

Scaling up of transformative social innovations : creativity and improvisation are needed at all stages

Improvisation, creativity

1 Prompts
2 Proposals
3 Prototypes
4 Sustaining
5 Scaling
6 Systemic change

Changing values and norms

Multiplication and networking
Changing dominant regulations and laws

Towards « territorial arrangements »

Source: *Caussanel (2016), Analyse et caractérisation des relations entre collectivités territoriales et acteurs de l'innovation sociale. Etude de cas en Drôme-Ardèche, Rapport de recherche.*