Mark Majewsky Anderson
Director, Research and Innovation

Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange

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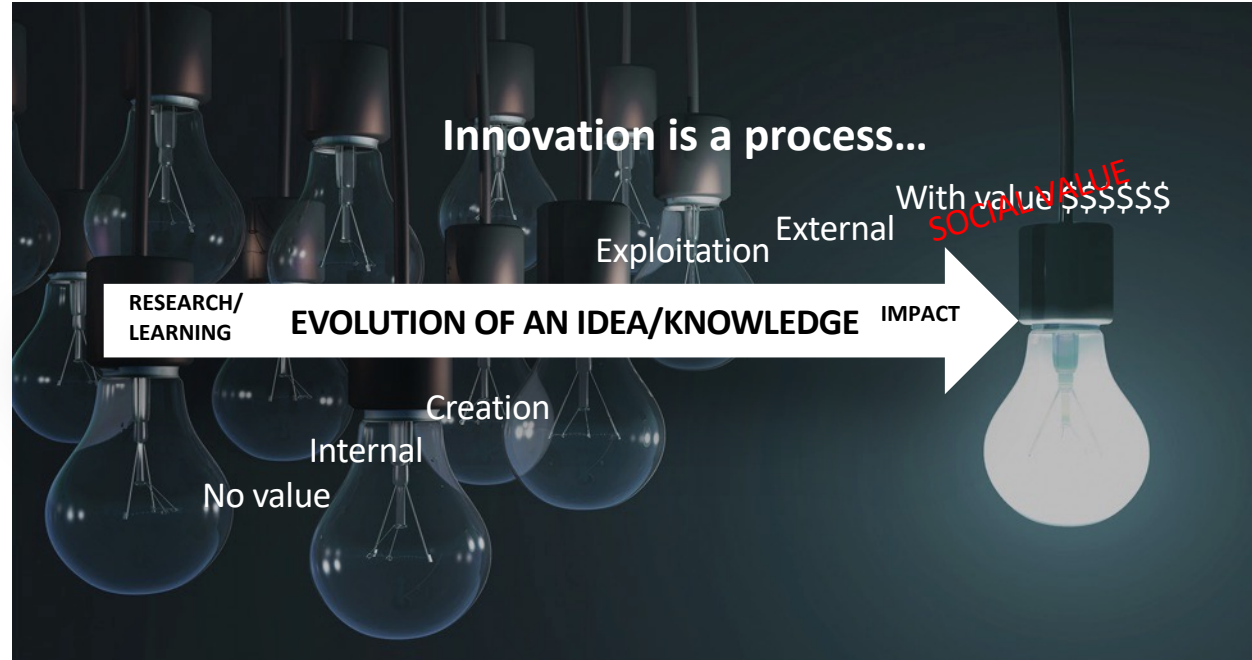Glasgow Caledonian
University

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This is personal!

"[We] need to…mobilise the full energy of entrepreneurship and innovation, but channel it more to social needs and opportunity for all; accelerate the next generation of technologies in ways that enhance humanity rather than replacing it; and reinvigorate democracy and politics in ways that respect peoples' need for belonging, and for a share in power ."
Mulgan, G. (2016). What Will Make a Prosperous Society in the 21st Century? Brussels: European Policy and Strategy Analysis System

With the recent crises in democracy, the covid pandemic and the climate emergency, the need to understand the processes involved in transforming society at a systemic level is more urgent than ever.

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Social Innovation in the University Context

Innovation is a process...

With value $$$$$$ SOCIAL VALUE

Exploitation   External

RESEARCH/ LEARNING   EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA/KNOWLEDGE   IMPACT

Creation

Internal

No value

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Where are we now?

Researchers and policymakers have come to recognise the crucial role that SI plays in driving social change…

But Universities have still to develop effective mechanisms for supporting social innovation at an institutional level through knowledge exchange…

And social innovators often do not see the benefits of working with universities – measurement of their success is often anecdotal and lacks due diligence or academic rigour, and as a result they do not attract the kind of investment of commercial innovators…

Martin Ungar

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Muhammed Yunus

Mel Young
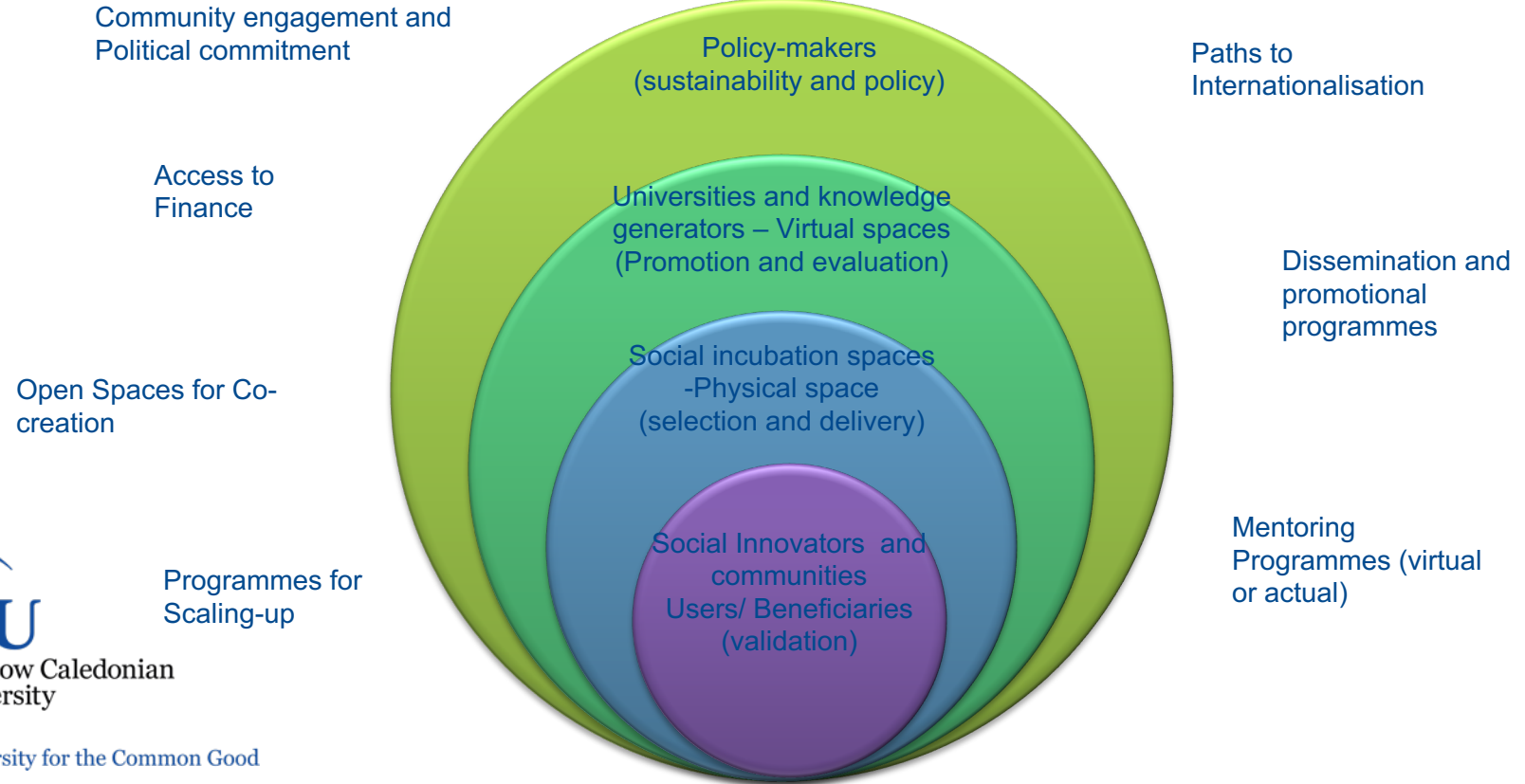
'Social Innovation has inspired me to change the way we look at science'
Carlos Moedas

Social innovation is too reliant on single personalities rather than networks, systems and support structures…

For the moment it remains the 'poor cousin' of more conventional innovation processes and is measured inadequately using inappropriate tools.

Defining an ecosystem…

Community engagement and Political commitment

Access to Finance

Open Spaces for Co-creation

Programmes for Scaling-up

Policy-makers (sustainability and policy)

Universities and knowledge generators – Virtual spaces (Promotion and evaluation)

Social incubation spaces -Physical space (selection and delivery)

Social Innovators and communities Users/ Beneficiaries (validation)

Paths to Internationalisation

Dissemination and promotional programmes

Mentoring Programmes (virtual or actual)

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Research:

"…social innovation is an emerging field; it remains ill-understood and poorly researched in comparison to its counterparts in business, science and technology" *(Murray, Calulier-Grice and Mulgan, March 2010).*

- Intermediaries between the subversive nature of SI and its need for institutional and political recognition.

- Provide robust evaluations of the effectiveness of SI

- Help to provide an understanding of what can accelerate and scale-up SI, beyond the anecdotal.

- Technical expertise in specialised areas and the means to help SI grow and expand.

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The role of Universities…

But also…

Universities are providers of a range of support to their community that provide real added value to SI:

- exploitation of their tacit and codified knowledge

- capacity building, mentoring and training

- specialised equipment

- provision of spaces for networking

- hot-desking or more formal incubation facilities

- selection and evaluation expertise

- lobbying etc.

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LASIN

LASIN LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK

Establishing **Social Innovation Support Units** in Latin American Universities

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Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Establishing **Social Innovation Support Units** in Southeast Asian Universities

Applying our experience in Southeast Asia and Latin America in Europe…
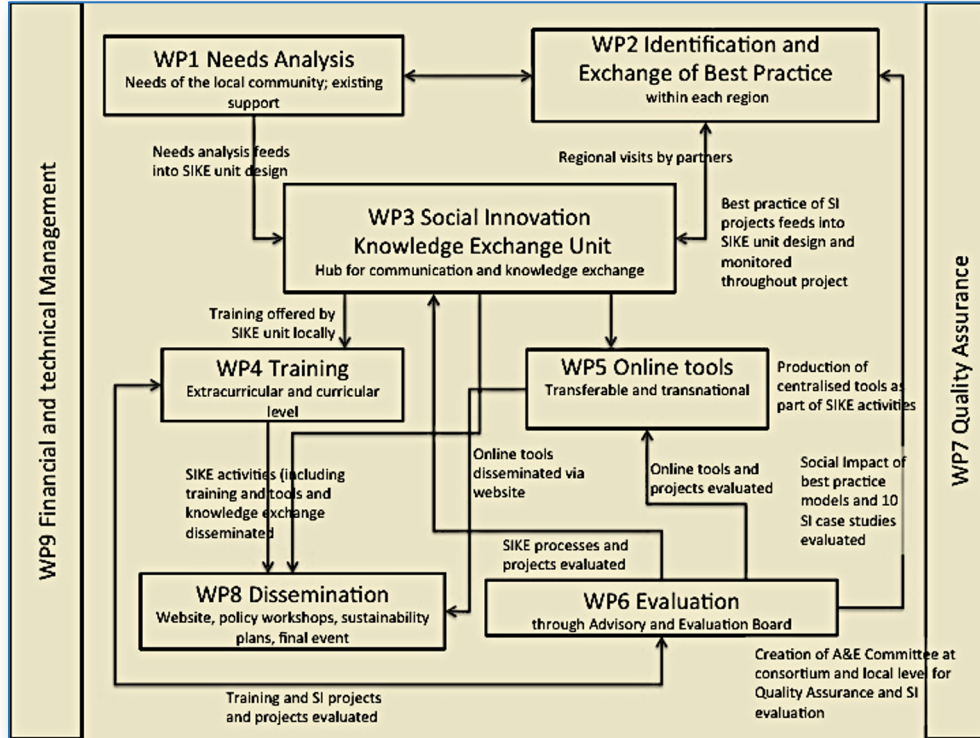
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A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR UNIVERSITY SOCIAL INNOVATION INTERACTION

Local AND Global
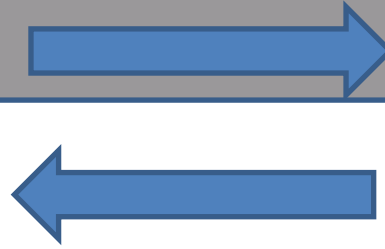
The Glocal Network – Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange

https://theglocal.network/company/sike

The Glocal Network – Social Innovation through Knowledge Exchange

…to widen our community, linking Universities and Social Innovators

http://glocal.sike-eu.org

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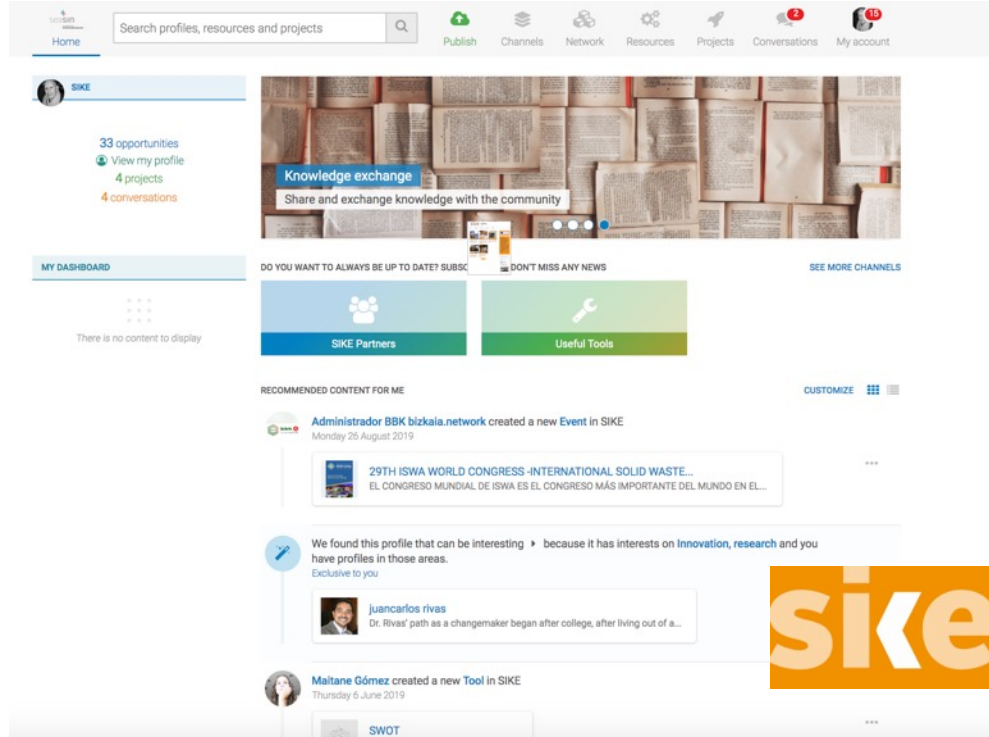
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