



# Societal Readiness Framework for place-based innovation

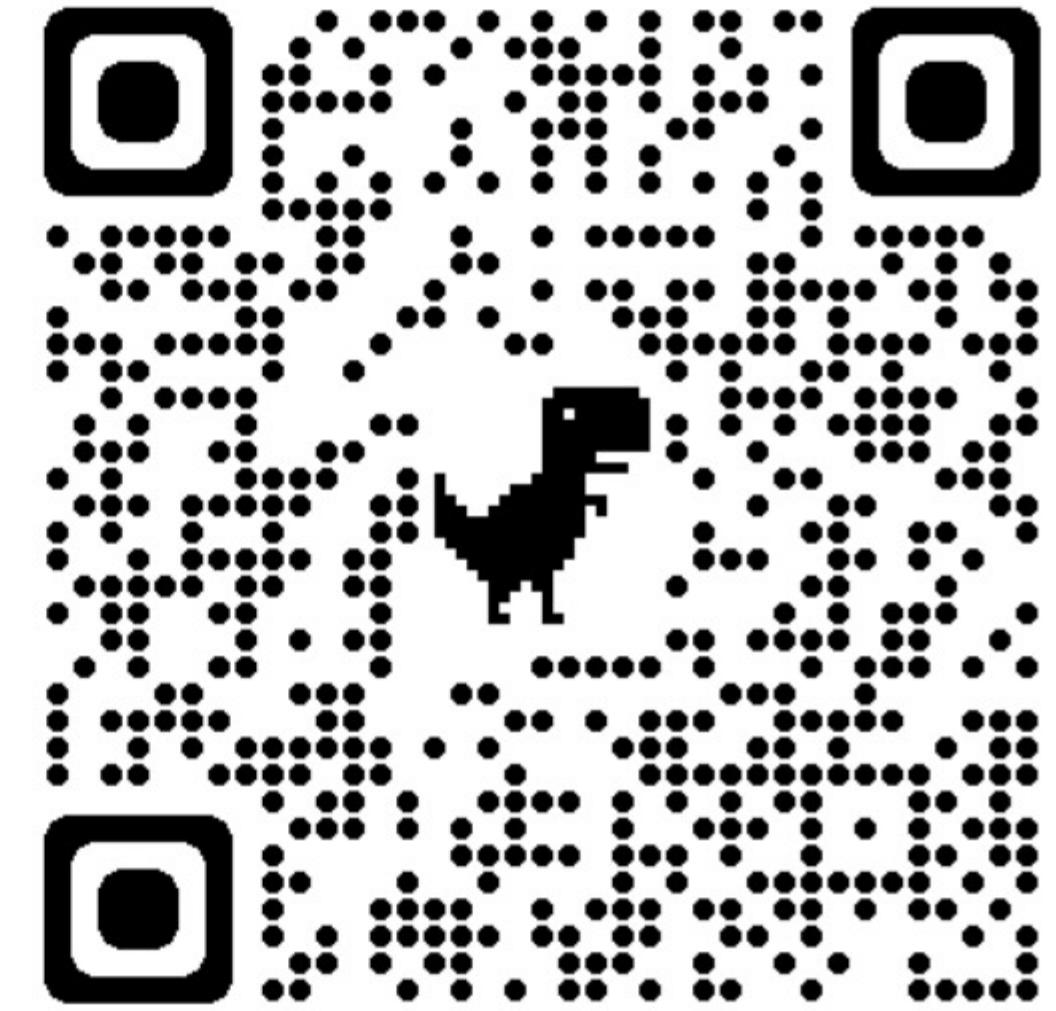
**Dr Lara Salinas**

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## ToC

1. About me
2. The building blocks: SRL
3. SoRA proposition
4. SoRA in action



## Dr Lara Salinas

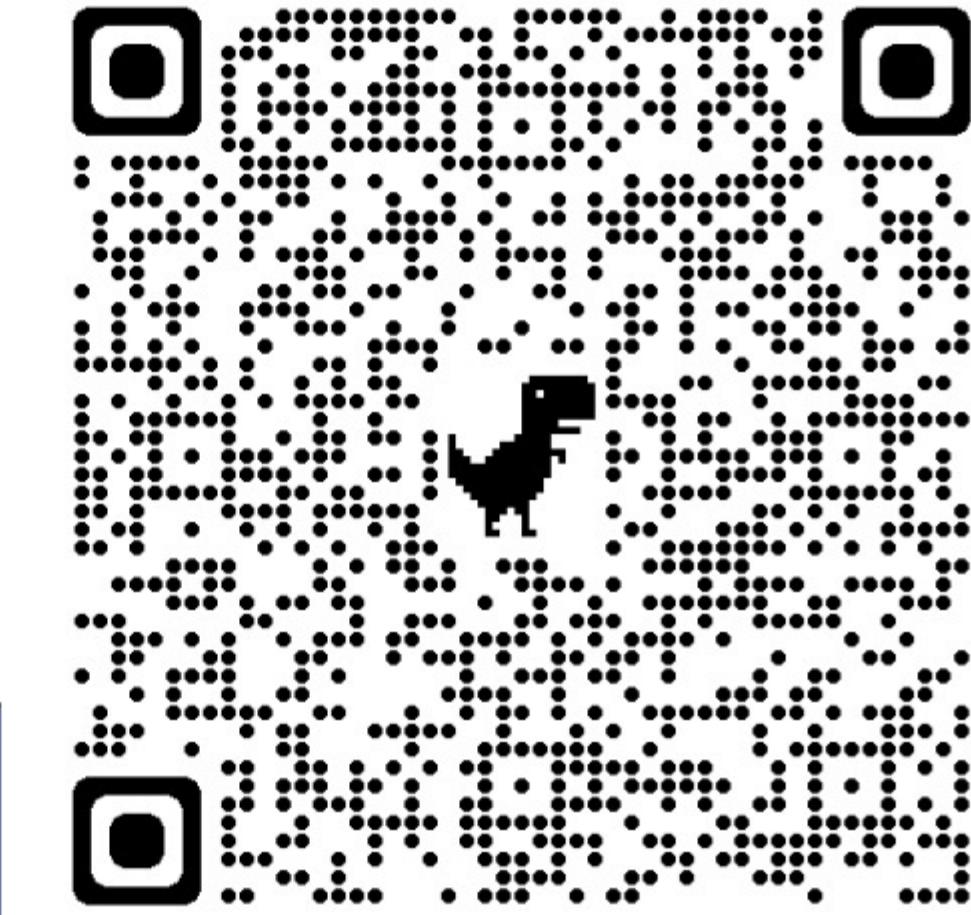
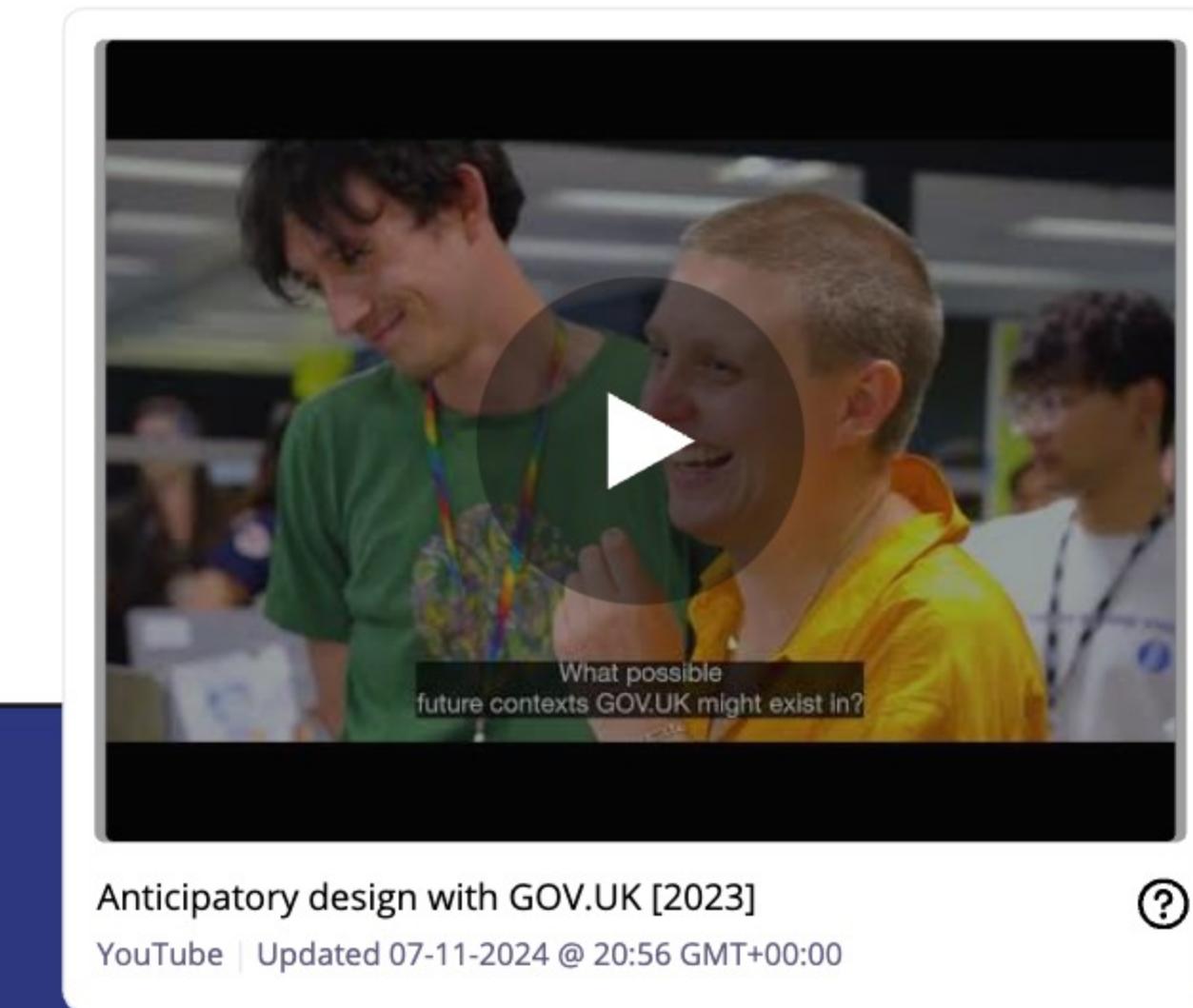
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Government  
Digital Service

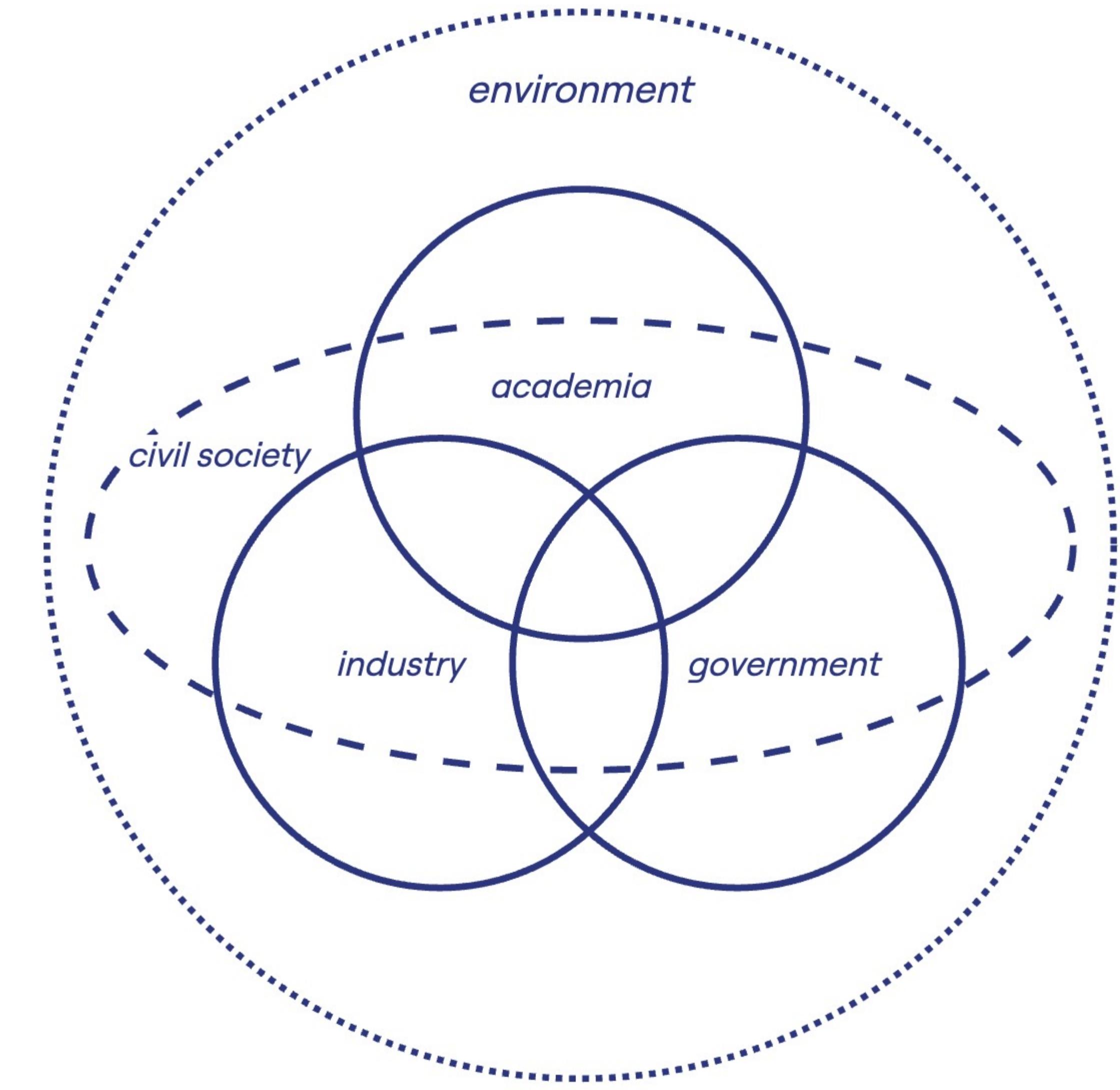


Design for Public Sector Innovation (public policy and services)  
Design-led anticipatory innovation

business-as-usual is not fit to tackle the complex challenges of our time

technological innovation alone is not good enough and social factors must be considered

design (as a process) enables alternative and complementary ways of working



*Quintuple Helix of Innovation*

# *1. the building blocks: societal readiness levels*



The Decarbon8 network focused on tackling surface transport emissions.

The network, worth £1.25m and funded by the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#) (EPSRC), will comprise experts from the N8 Research Partnership, a collaboration of the eight most research intensive universities in the North of England, as well as experts from Government and industry.



**technological innovation  
alone is not good enough**

**innovations fail for lack of attention  
to social factors**

can you think of an innovation gone wrong?

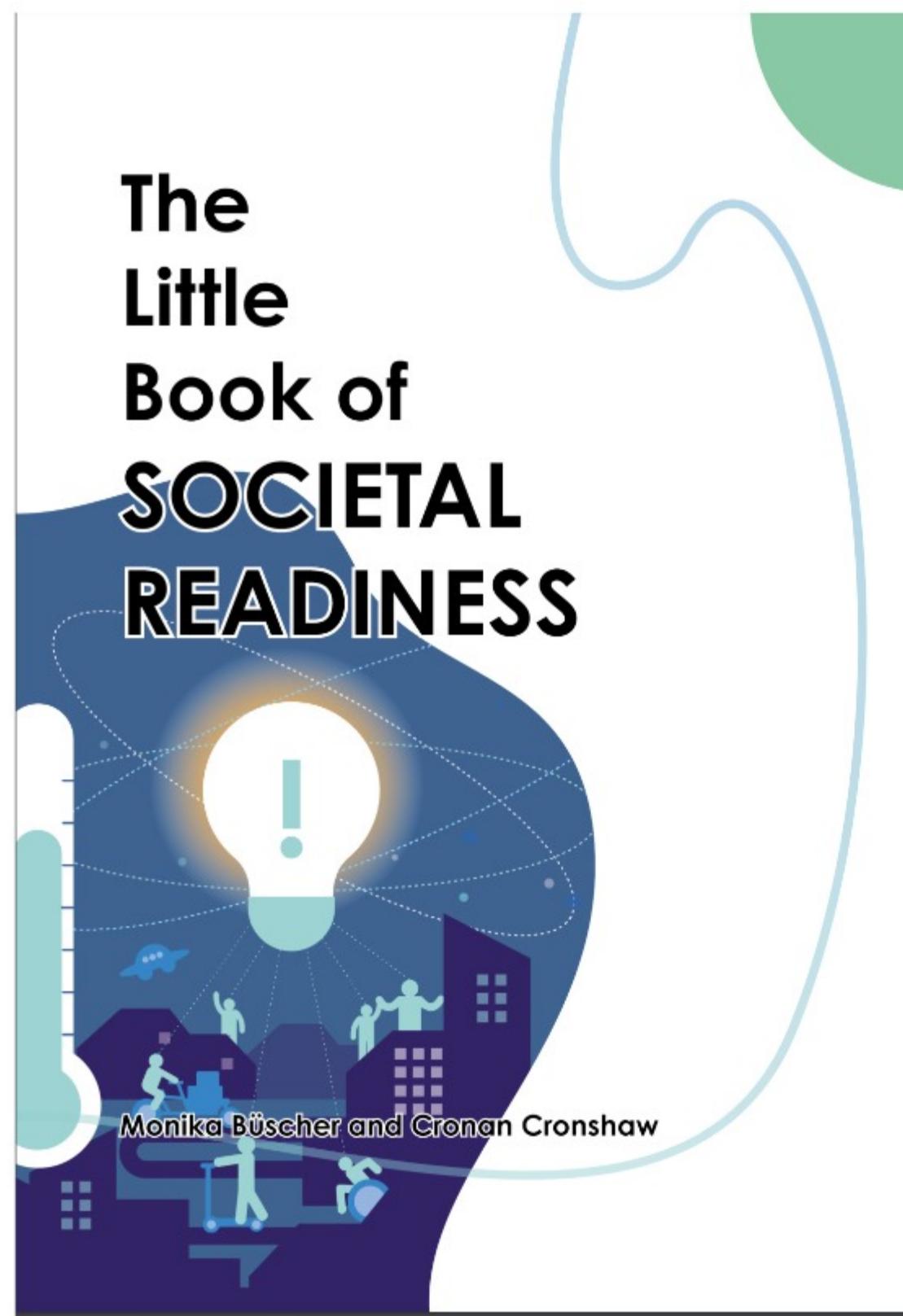


**Technology Readiness Level (TRL), Market Readiness Level (MRL) and Societal Readiness Level (SRL)** are frameworks to assess the maturity, feasibility and impact of innovations. Each framework provides a structured approach to assess different aspects of an innovation and guide its development.

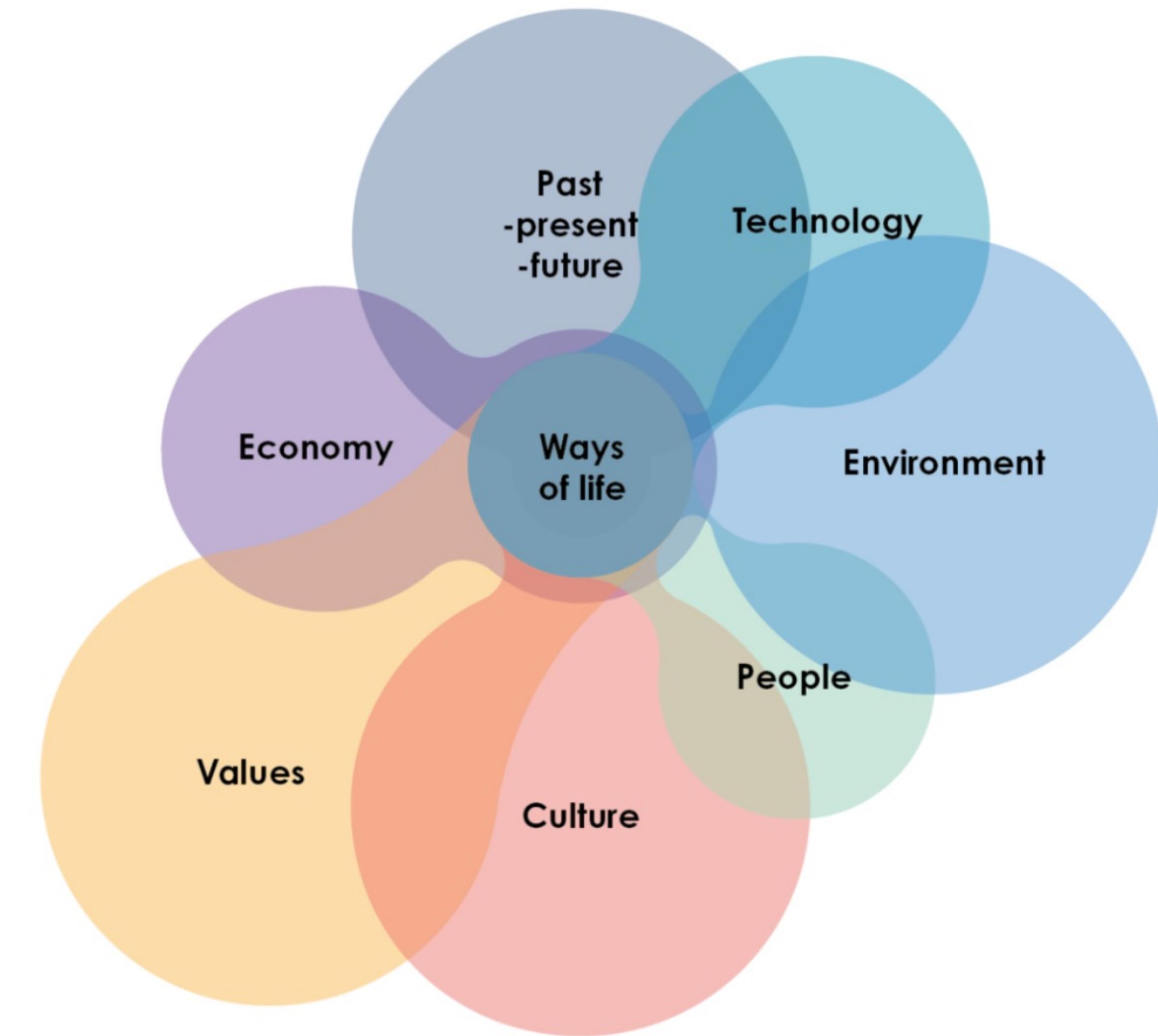
New table

TRL assesses the technical feasibility of a technology. Originally developed by NASA, standardised and widespread.	TRL: Innovations fail if they are not technologically feasible
MRL assesses the readiness of an innovation to enter the market. Less standardised but gaining adoption.	MRL: Innovations fail if they are is no market for them.
SRL assesses the impact of an innovation on society and the environment. Novel, less standardised and gaining adoption.	SRL: Innovations fail if they harm people or the planet.

**Social Readiness is about innovations being  
ready: good for people and places**



(Buscher & Cronshaw 2022)



# From tackling surface transport emission to a **framework for place-based responsible innovation**

*Take away:*

*framework for place-based responsible innovation*

*informed by international research*

*in tune with Responsible Research Innovation (RRI) frameworks and  
desire for standardisation of evaluative frameworks*

*counter the existing bias towards techno-fixes and short-term  
solutions*



## *2. unique SoRA proposition*



# What is unique about SoRA framework for place-based responsible innovation?

ual:

**Lara Salinas**

Director of SoRA  
University of the Arts  
London

**Monika Buscher**

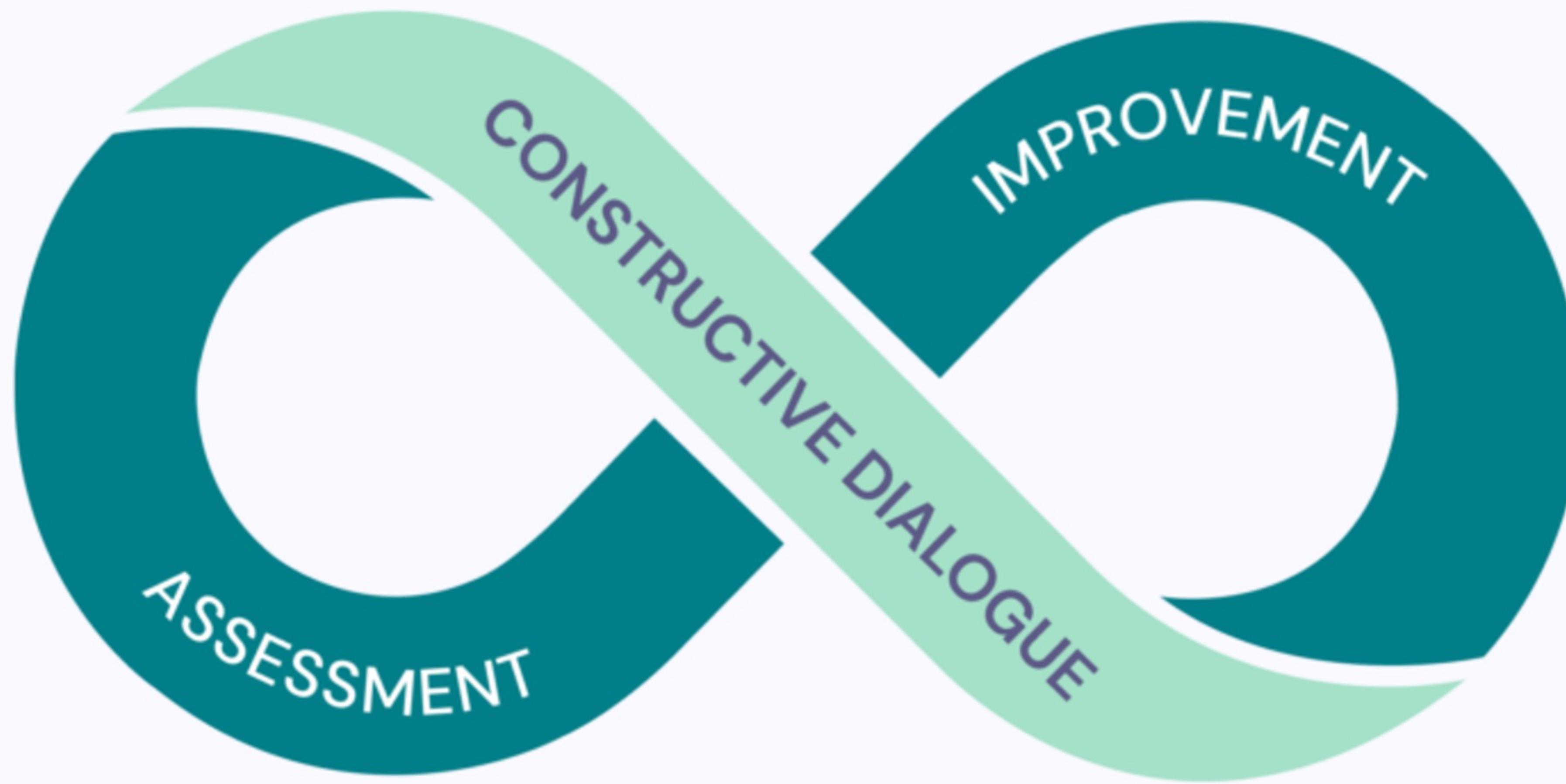
Professor of Sociology  
Lancaster University

**Alistair Kirkbride**

Low Carbon Destinations CIC

**Safenetics****Veron Lai****Maitreyee  
Kshirsagar****Namita  
Manohar****Sofia  
Kallimasoti**

Award winning team:  
Transport Research and Innovation Academic Leadership Award 2023



The societal readiness of innovations is defined in relation to four dimensions:

- 1. Carbon reduction:** the innovation maximises carbon reduction and is in alignment with key strategic priorities and targets
- 2. Social justice and EDI:** the innovation considers a wide range of stakeholders views to ensure equity, inclusion and fairness.
- 3. Social good:** the innovation contributes broader social, environmental and economic co-benefits.
- 4. Fit for a decarbonised society:** the innovation is in alignment with existing and preferable future systems.

Awareness + Ambition + Deliver-ability





## How to improve your SRL?

CARBON REDUCTION	SCORE 6/9
SOCIAL JUSTICE	SCORE 6/9
SOCIAL GOOD	SCORE 6/9
FIT FOR A DECARBONISED SOCIETY	SCORE 6/9

Click on the legend below the graph to see your score for each section with regard to Awareness, Ambition & Deliverability



### Your responses suggest that:

This is good! Societal readiness is a complex challenge. To improve further, utilise the [SoRA Toolbox](#). Use the SoRA Stakeholder and Value Mapping tools to strengthen your efforts. Use the [SoRA Facilitating Dialogue and Dissent](#) tool to make the most of diverse perspectives.

## PART 2 – SOCIAL JUSTICE

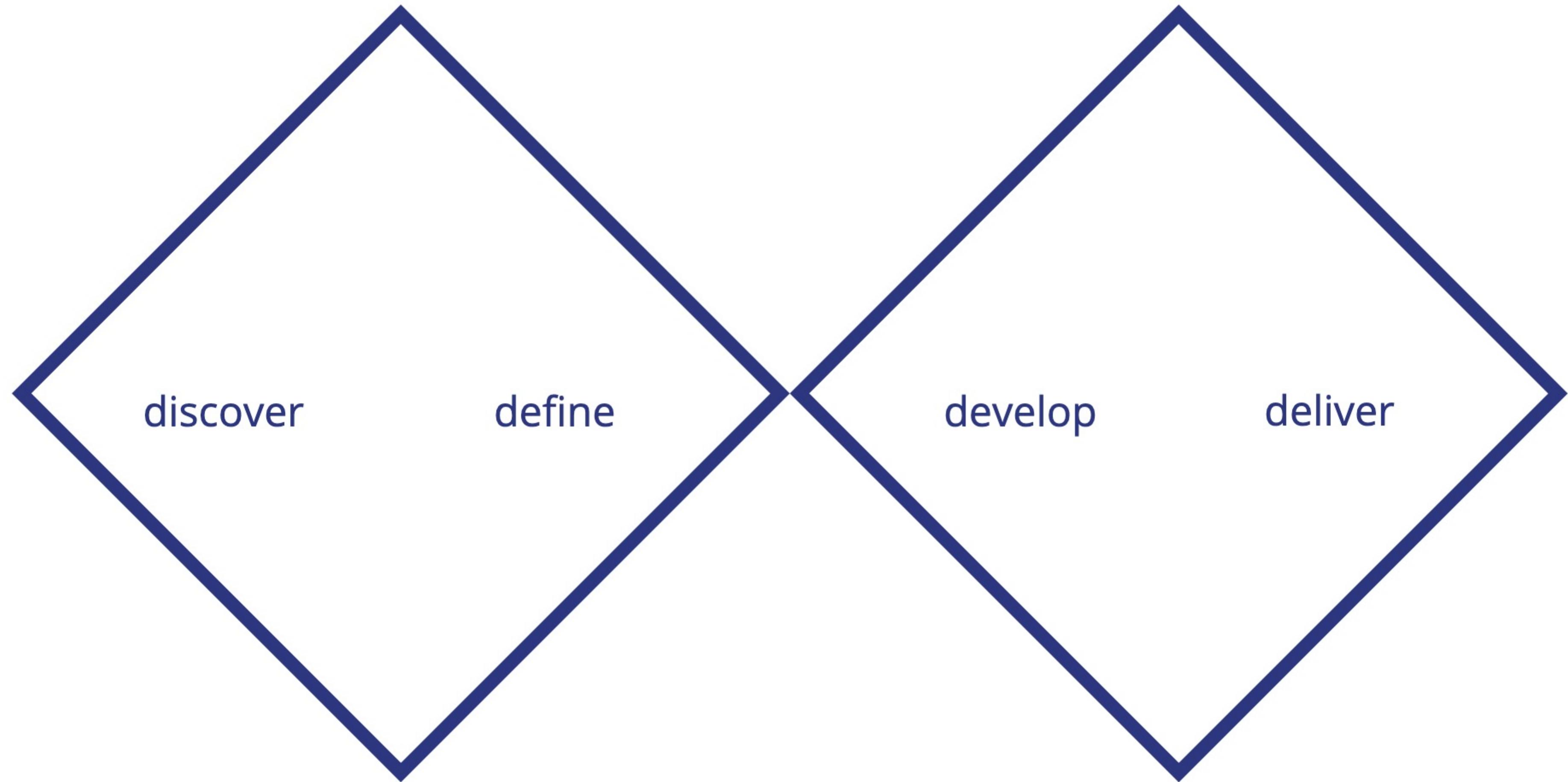
Embedding consideration of equity, inclusion and fairness, engaging a wide range of stakeholder views in the project's design and development.

### Your results for this section:

Action in this area would boost the societal readiness of the innovation. Social justice is essential to achieving an inclusive low carbon transition. It is an end in itself, of course, and employing social justice as an orienting principle can also increase the political feasibility of low-carbon policies.

Your response suggests that you could increase your awareness and ambition for social justice, and improve the deliverability of your ambitions.

1. Demonstrate alignment with carbon reduction targets.
2. Better integrate an innovation within existing local, national and international systems.
3. Articulate EDI value proposition and co-benefits for multiple stakeholders and localities, ensuring EDI.
4. Align an innovation's impact with compelling visions of a better future.



## Double Diamond Design Process

*Take away:*

- place-based and context specific
- assessment and support for improvement
- informed by design approaches
- supports innovation process at different stages
- facilitates dialogue and agonism



### *3. SoRA in action*





"a source of inspiration and creativity"

"a method for formative assessment of the societal readiness of solutions and visions that enables critical attention to carbon reduction, social justice, social impact and fit for a decarbonised future"





Department  
for Transport



Research & Innovation Policy Tool  
Guiding efforts on place-based decarbonisation  
Providing case studies to inform policy formulation

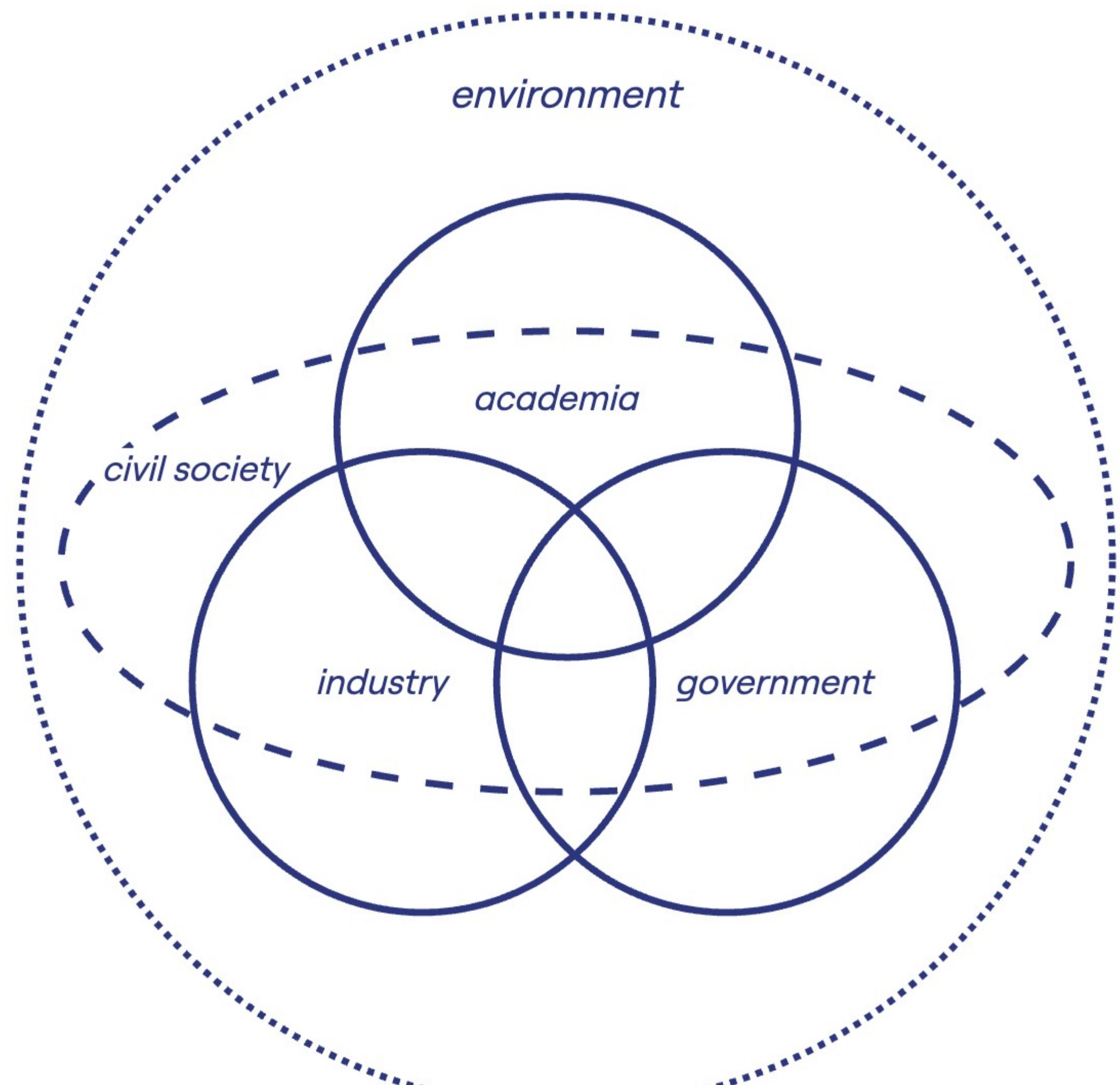
# CATAPULT

Connected Places

Ensuring responsible innovation at programme level



Align with strategic priorities at marco, meso and micro levels



*Formats:*

**Off-the-shelf**

**CPD**

Training

Coaching

Masterclass

**Consultancy**

1-2-1

Workshops





Projects inevitably have unexpected societal ripple effects. Decarbonising transport can bring co-benefits such as clean air and well-being, but also negative unanticipated consequences. For example, increased home-working can intensify worker surveillance. To what degree are co-benefits, unanticipated consequences, ethical or wider societal implications considered?

High (e.g. There are clear processes to review and consider a wide range of consequences.)

Medium (e.g. The process is community driven, but not all of these are used.)

Low (e.g. There is little assessment or consideration for outcomes in the final decision.)

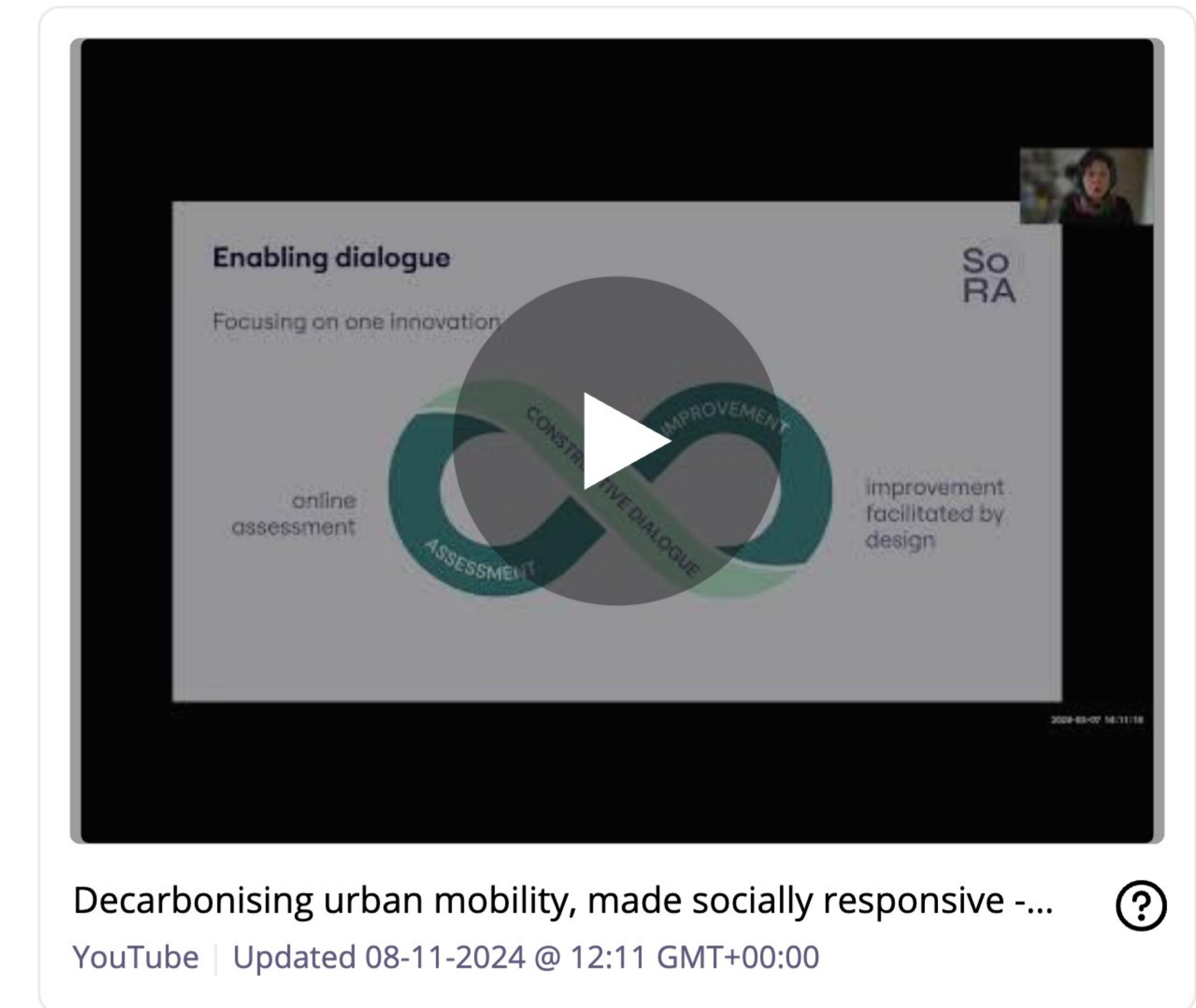
80

~ Back TAKE ~

and put one car club bay in instead, then that's a huge, big saving for people.

SoRA Dashboard: Carclub in a Box (September 2023) ?

YouTube | Updated 08-11-2024 @ 12:10 GMT+00:00



Enabling dialogue

Focusing on one innovation

online assessment

ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

IMPROVEMENT

improvement facilitated by design

2009-03-07 16:11:18

SoRA

Decarbonising urban mobility, made socially responsive -...

YouTube | Updated 08-11-2024 @ 12:11 GMT+00:00

*Take away:*

across scales: national, regional, local

across sectors

across public policy and public service

flexible delivery mechanisms depending on needs





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