



**SOLINSA**

Support of Learning and Innovation  
Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

Agricultural Knowledge Systems In Transition :  
Towards a more effective and efficient support of Learning  
and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture

solinsa.net

# Social learning and transition partnership

# SOLINSA

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# Project Background: SOLINSA

## SOLINSA Project

**Support  
of  
Learning and  
Innovation  
Networks for  
Sustainable  
Agriculture**

### **Researchers from 8 countries**

France, England, The Netherlands,  
Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Latvia

### **16 LINSAs = practice partners**

networks or communities of practice

### **Experts**

**2/2011 – 1/2014**

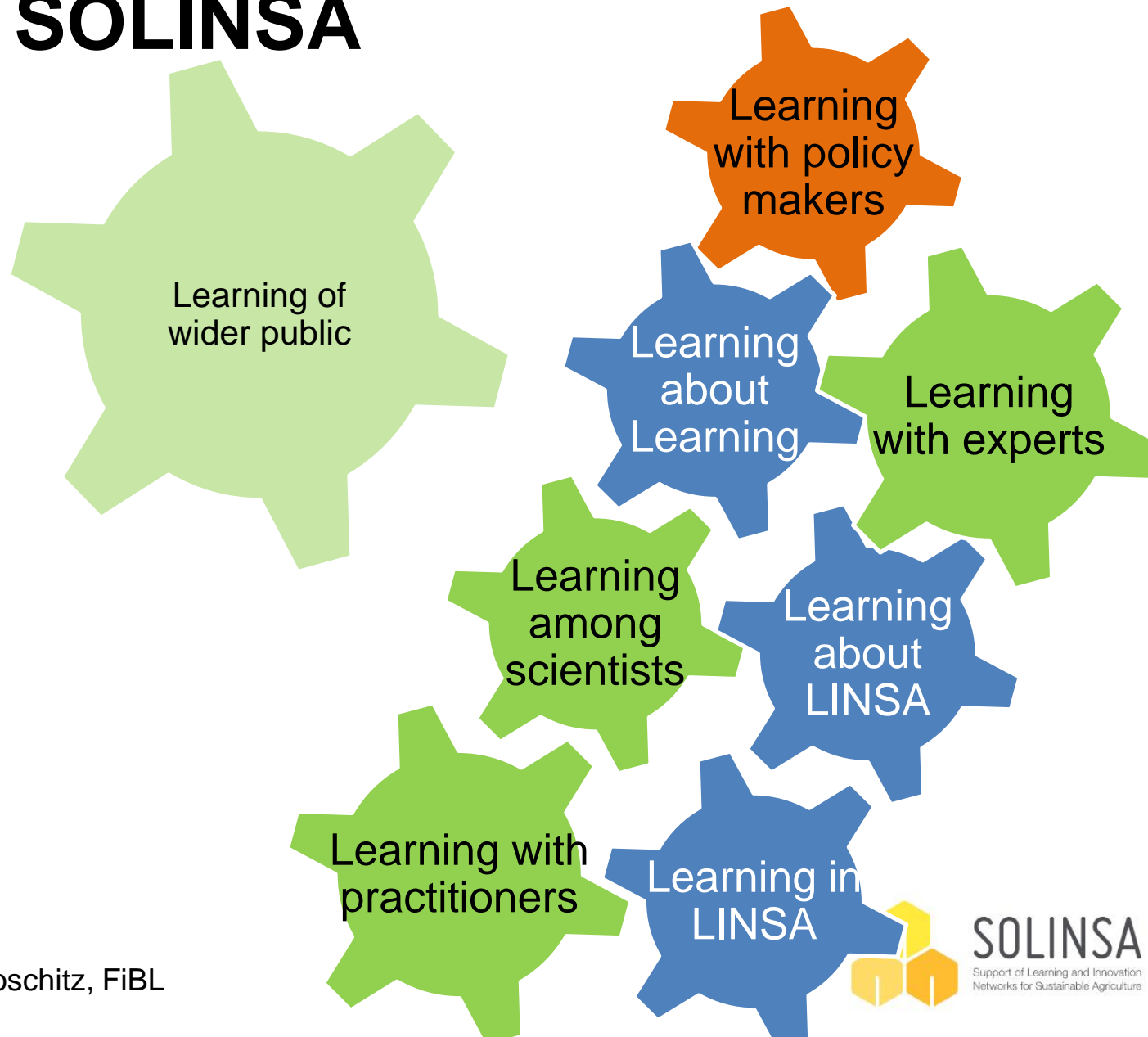
**7th Framework Programme of the EU**



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# Social learning processes and facilitation in SOLINSA



# Social learning processes and facilitation in SOLINSA

**Facilitated  
Capacity Building Workshops  
& Project Meetings**

**Participative Research:  
Researchers as  
facilitators, incl.  
facilitation training**



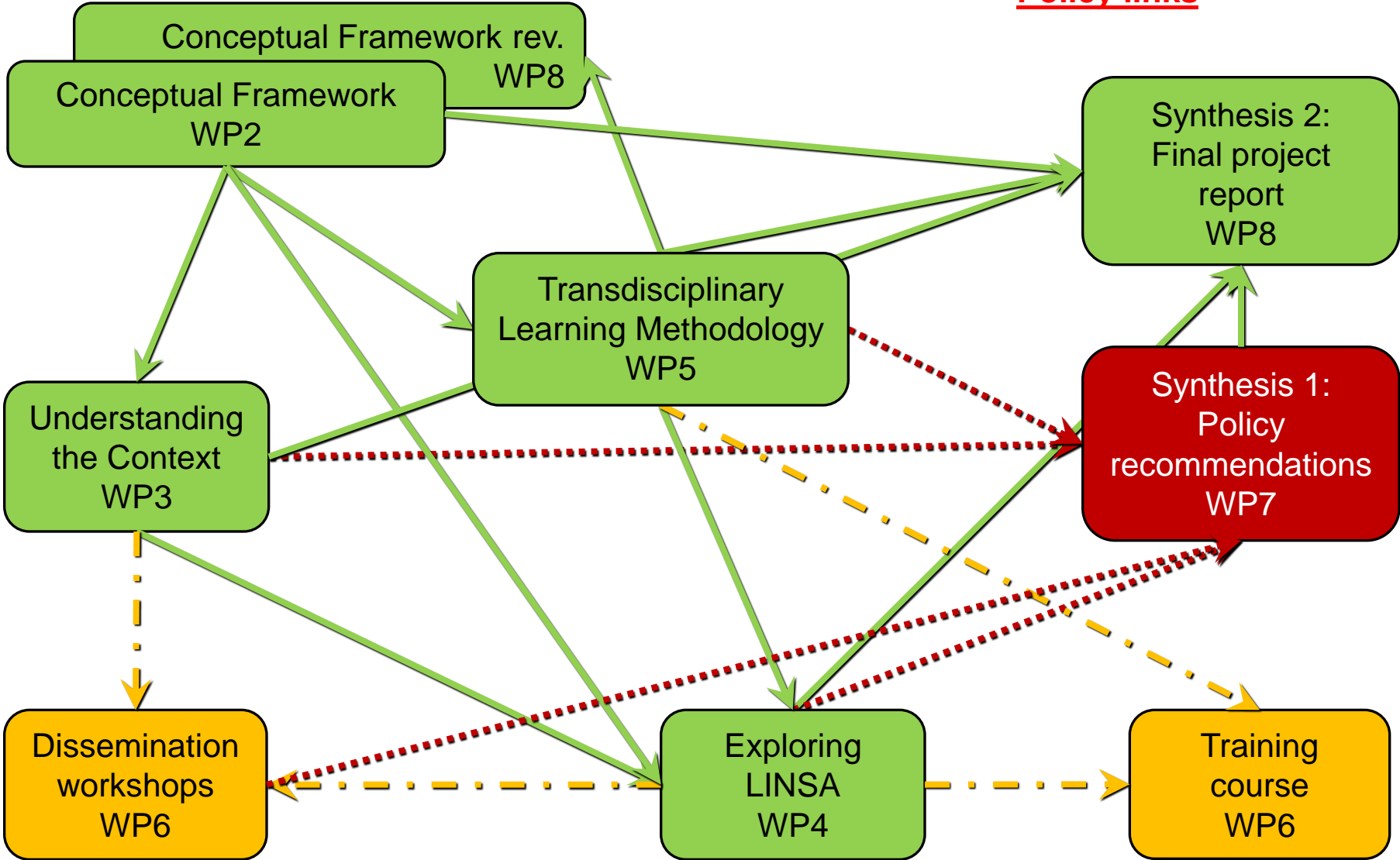
**CBWs, show cases,  
dissemination &  
interactive policy  
conferences in  
Brussels and  
Riga**

**Training in Paris  
for people who work  
with LINSA  
= Transition Partners  
Content & Methodology**

# Links between work packages

Research links  
Dissemination links  
Policy links

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# Key elements of SOLINSA learning processes

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CBWs, show cases,

- **Facilitation to enhance participation between people, coming from different backgrounds**
- **Open, non-directive process orientation**
- **Joint scientific analysis, due to participatory research**
- **Establishing trust – based on communication roles, self-responsibility, and curiosity**
- **Webtools (intranet, webinar, skype, homepage)**

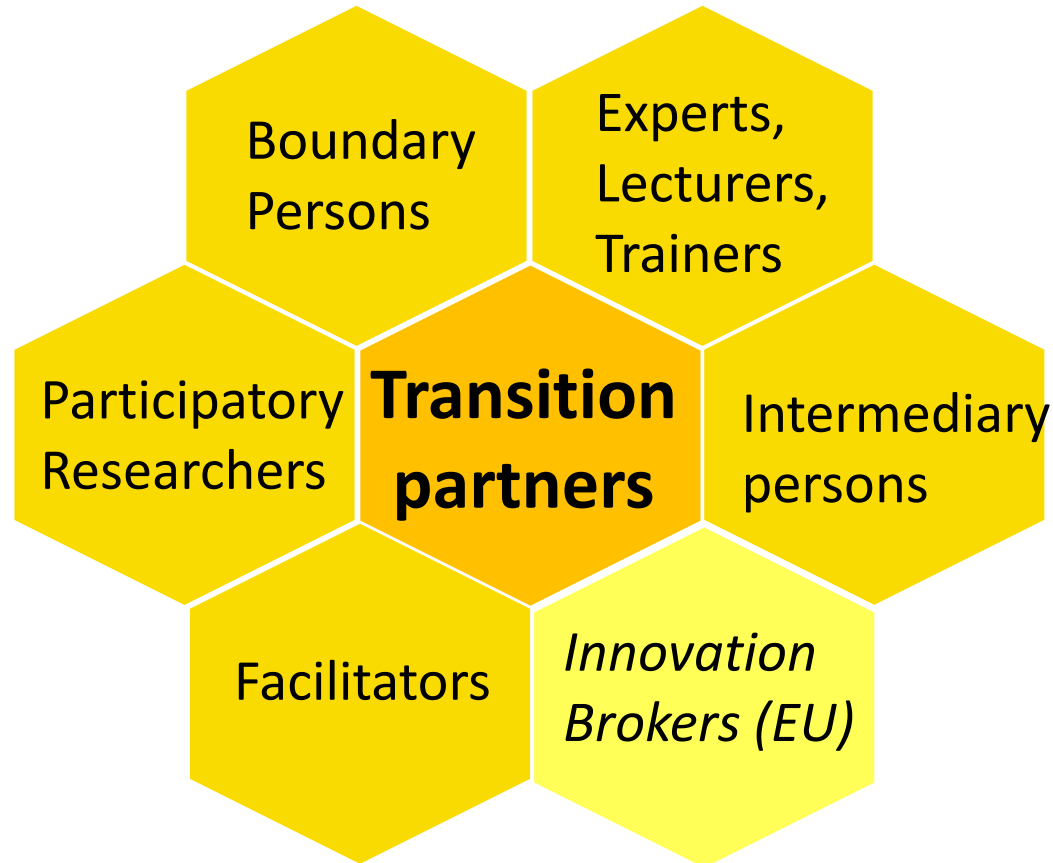
facilitation training



with LINSA

= Transition Partners  
Content & Methodology

# Transition partners for learning, innovation and networking towards sustainable agriculture and rural development



S. Helmle



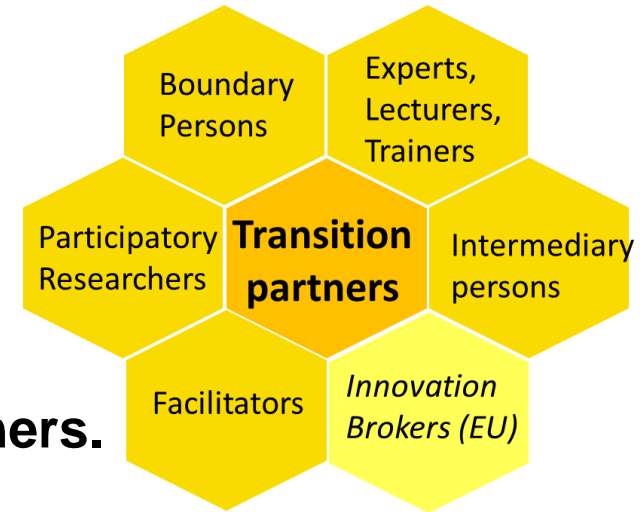
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# Transition partners for learning, innovation and networking towards sustainable agriculture and rural development

**Transition partner is a collective term for actors supporting LINSA in their development in a co-operative way.**

**Important is that these actors show a self-understanding of being learners and listeners. Basic attitudes are authenticity, empathy and appreciation, as well as patience and sincere curiosity.**



**The intention of transition partners is to stimulate social learning processes, new developments respectively advancements of innovations, and network development with the aim of supporting sustainable development.**

Deliverable 7.2, p34



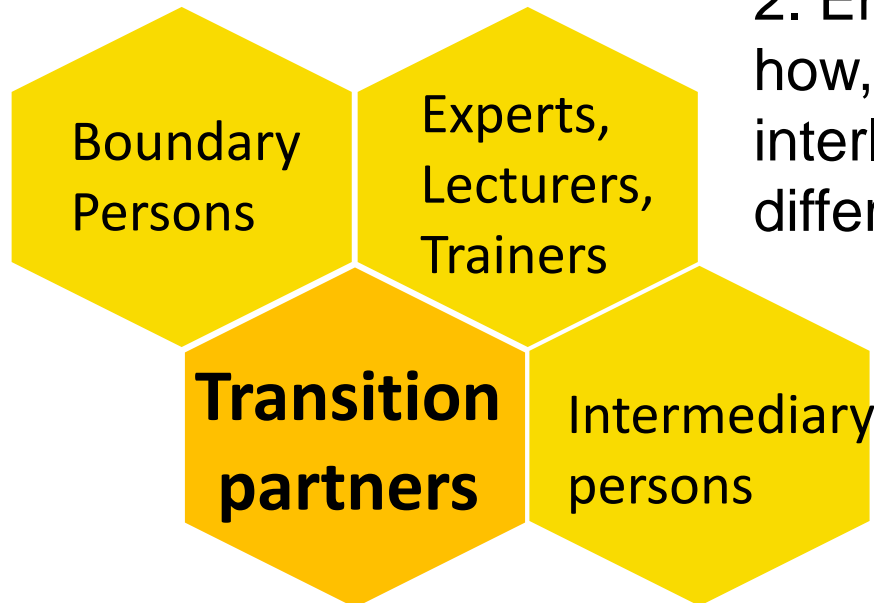
# Transition partners: Facilitation for learning, innovation and networking

1. social skills development  
management and communication  
developing competences for social  
learning and collaboration  
Training in participative communication  
techniques
2. periods of reflection of LINSAs -  
visions and further development,  
identity, dealing with diversity of network  
partners, needs of network partners
3. Research practice collaborations:  
empowerment, new insights, endeeep LINSAs  
identity, more than getting attention



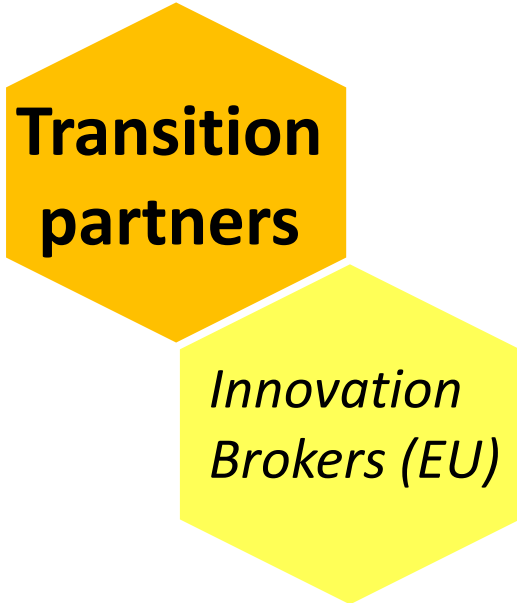
# Transition partners: Boundary work, Linkages to the AKIS

1. development of boundary objects:  
mainly projects, but also logos or  
websites, training materials, projects,  
dissemination materials



2. Enlarging technical know-how, room for experimentation, interlinking knowledge from different perspectives

3. Recognition of LINSA from the AKIS, mutual partnership, new balances of relationships, dissemination, participative conferences



1. Considering LINSA as OG partners
2. Project structure of OG  
long term structure of LINSA
3. Volunteerism of LINSA member
4. Multi task / leadership / open processes /  
open directions



## Working with LINSAs

- Give guidance to processes of decision making
- Open spaces for reflection & experimentation
- Participative development of boundary objects
- Training
- Connecting LINSAs with LINSAs & AKIS actors

## Roles and functions

- Facilitator
- Participative Researcher
- Boundary person
- Trainer, Expert, Lecturer
- Intermediary Person
- Innovation Broker (EU)

# Transition Partners

## Basic attitudes

- Learner and listener
- Authenticity, empathy & appreciation
- Patience & sincere curiosity

## Professional background

- Farming / Rural development
- LINSAs leader / co-worker / member
- Free lance / facilitator
- Extension / advisory work
- Transdisciplinary research
- Administration

## Network of Transition Partners

- Reflection & personal development on self awareness
- Enlarging participative method competences
- Improving analytical skills regarding LINSAs
- Reflecting the complexity of change processes