

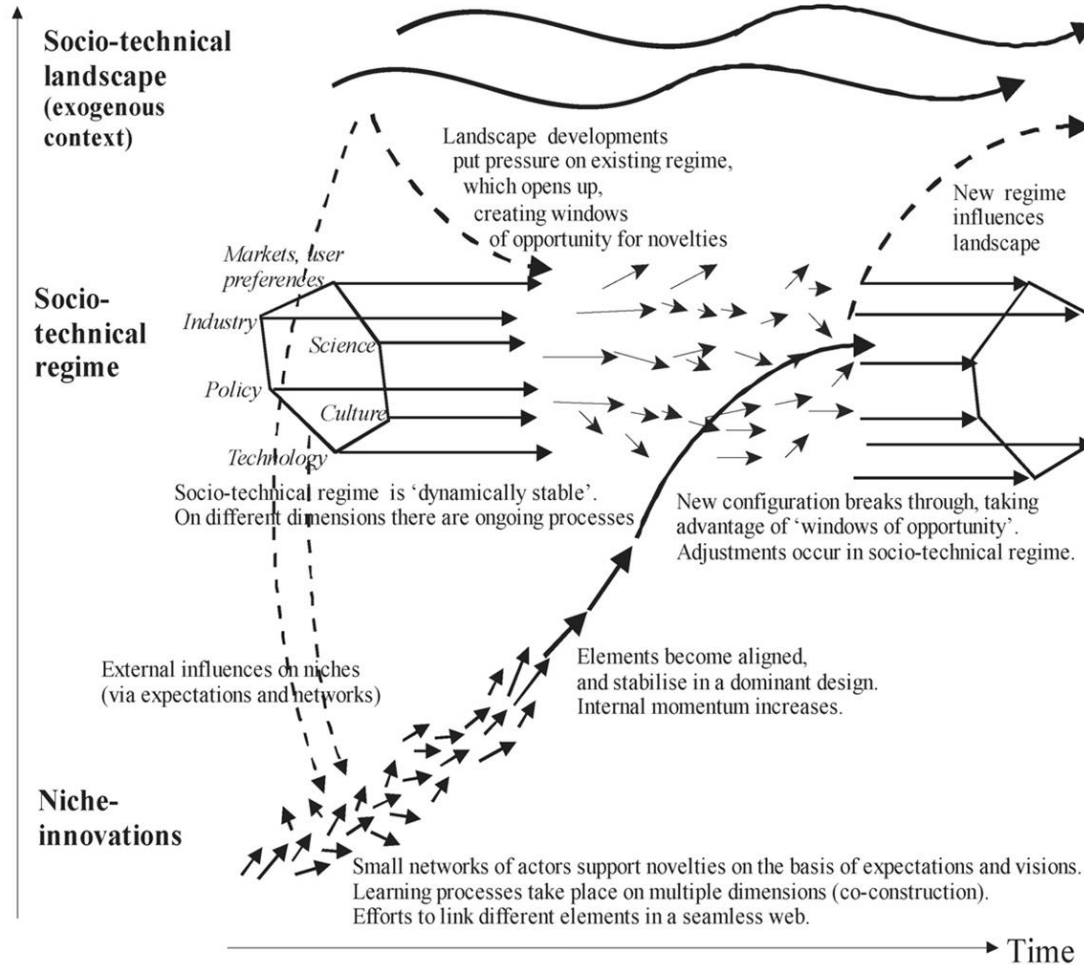
Territorial transitions dynamics towards organic farming

Confrontation of Italian, Austrian and French case studies

Claire Lamine et Sibylle Bui, INRA Ecodéveloppement



Increasing structuration
of activities in local practices



Theory of socio-technical transitions

The Multi-Level Perspective
Geels, 2002



Input production and distribution

Research agendas

Public policies



Market and users preferences



Storage
Transformation
Distribution



Extension

Farming practices

Culture and symbolic meanings



Hypothesis

The territory is a governance level that may facilitate impulsing a transition process towards agroecology



Methodology

Ethnographic study

- Observations
- Qualitative interviews
- Archival analysis

➔ Long-term evolution of practices and social configurations

Methodology

3 case studies

Methodology

3 case studies:

- Public policies

→ how local authorities progressively become a major actor of the agri-food system



Methodology

3 case studies:

- Public policies
- Agricultural cooperative



➔ how a « traditional » farming organisation ends up playing a leading role in promoting OF as a viable model

Methodology

3 case studies:

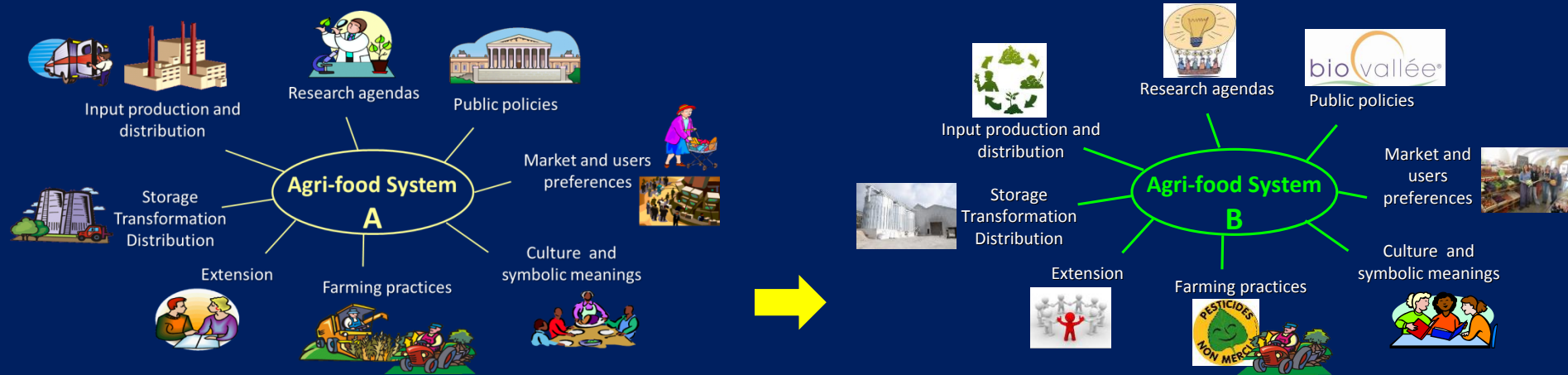
- Public policies
- Agricultural cooperative
- Consumers' initiative

→ how civil society becomes an actor of the agri-food system

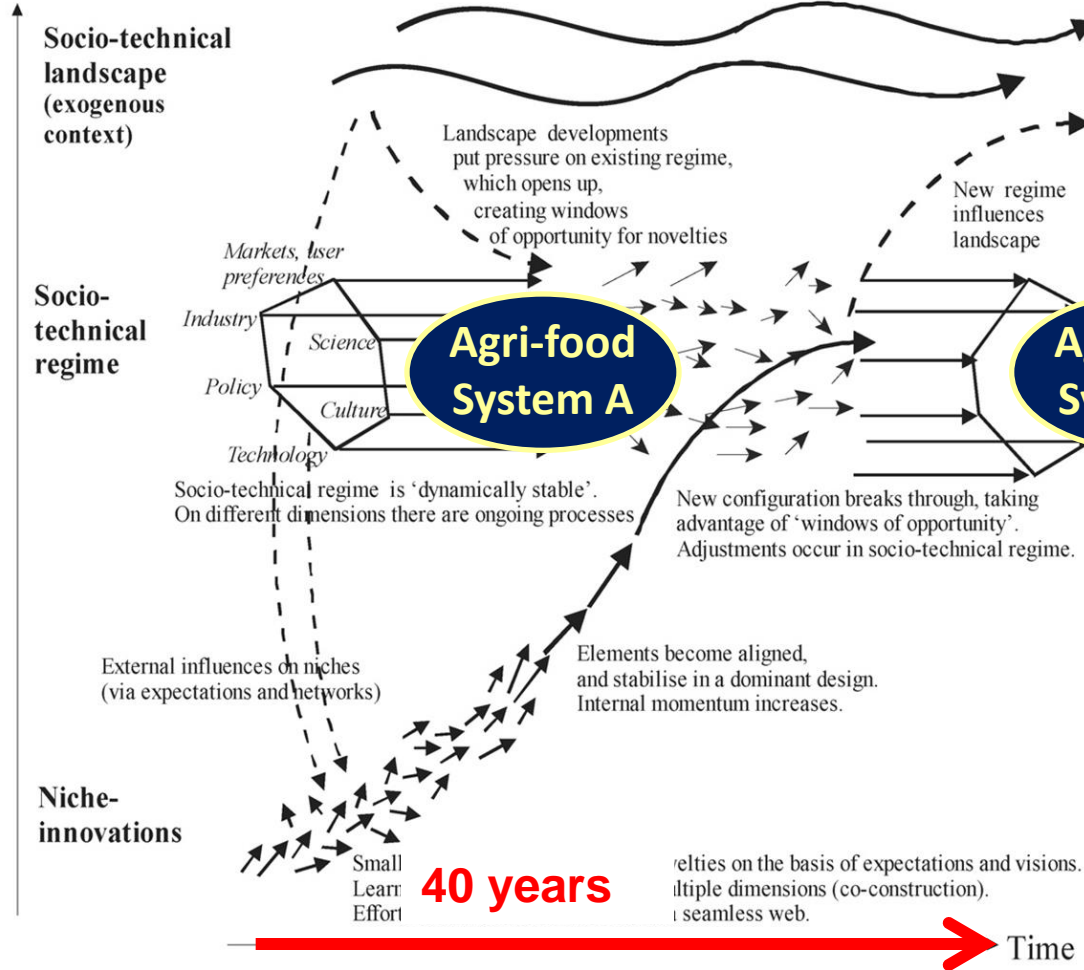


Results

3 case studies → identification of transition processes



Increasing structuration
of activities in local practices

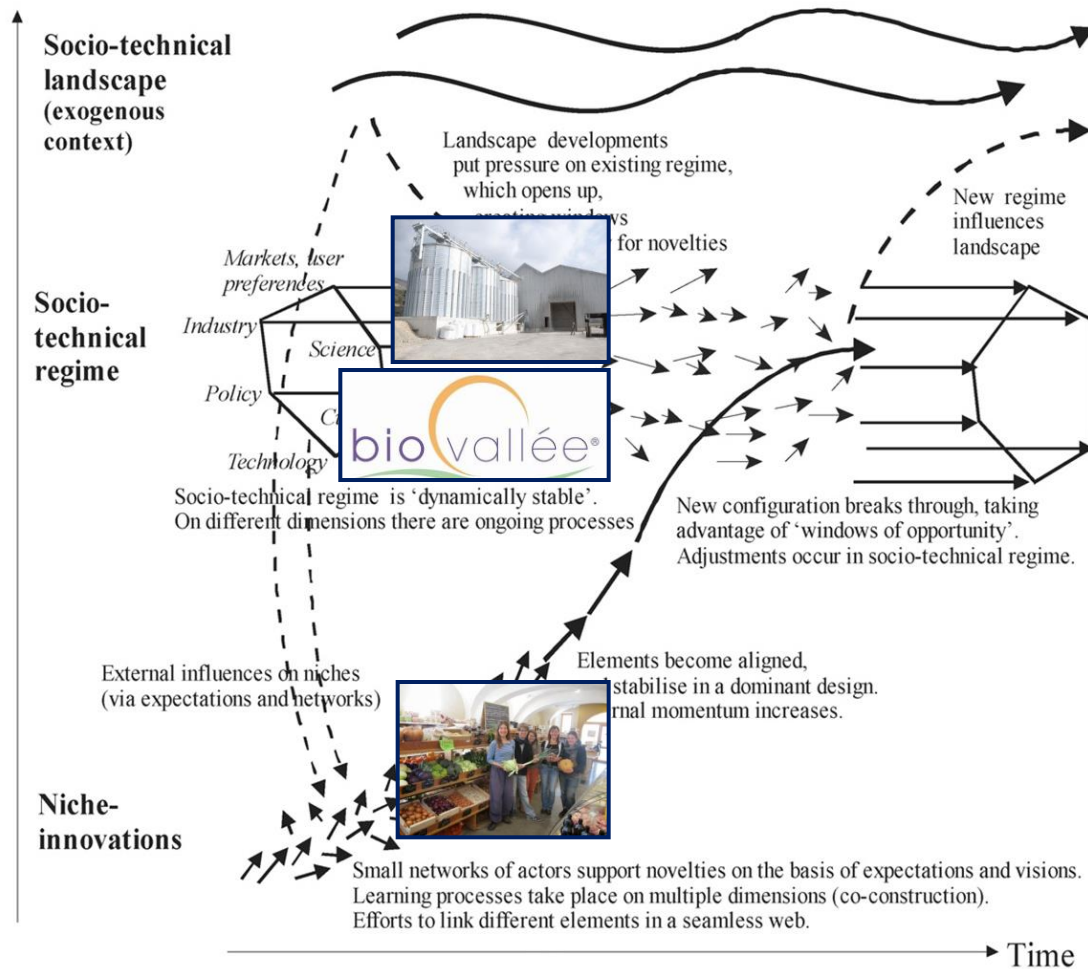


→ Characterization of long term processes

→ Empirical testing of the MLP at the territorial scale

The Multi-Level Perspective
Geels, 2002

Increasing structuration
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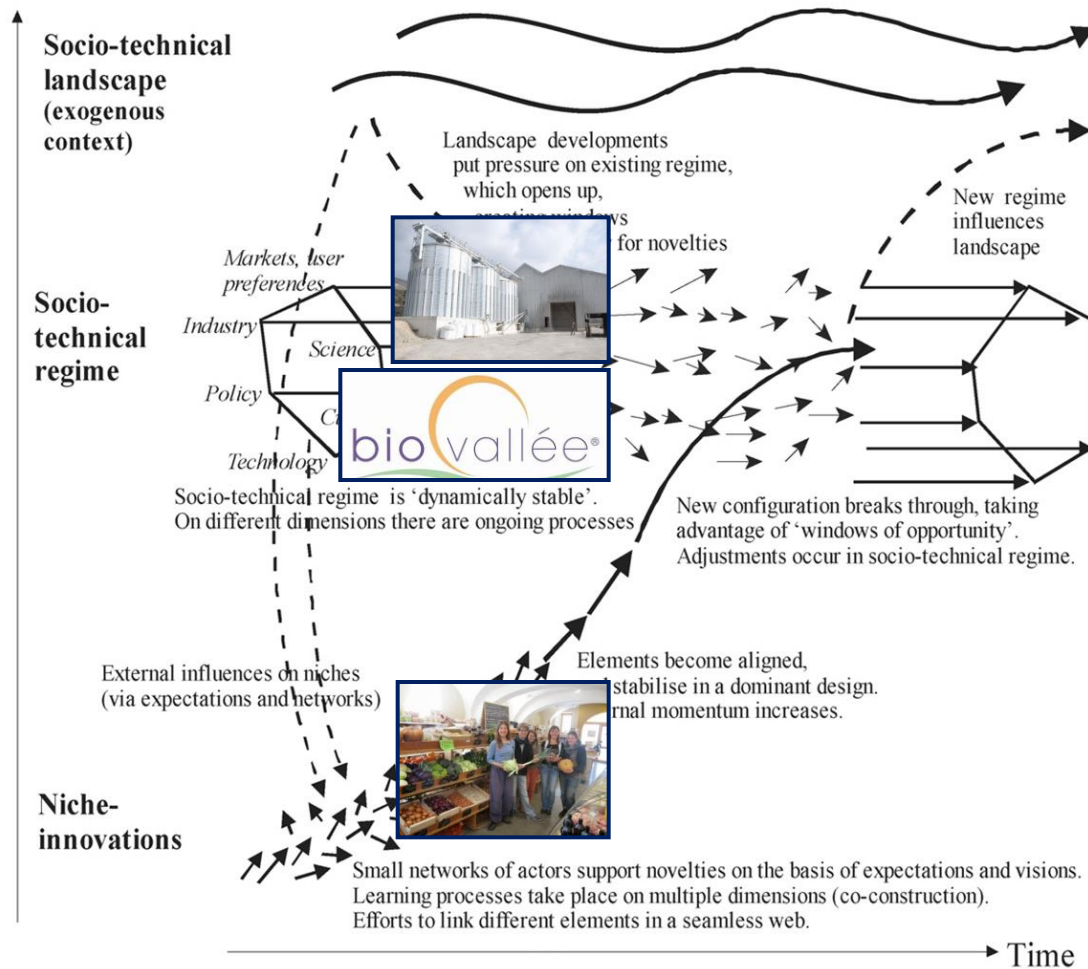
→ Characterization of long term processes

→ Empirical testing of the MLP at the territorial scale

→ A transition dynamic driven by both niche and regime actors

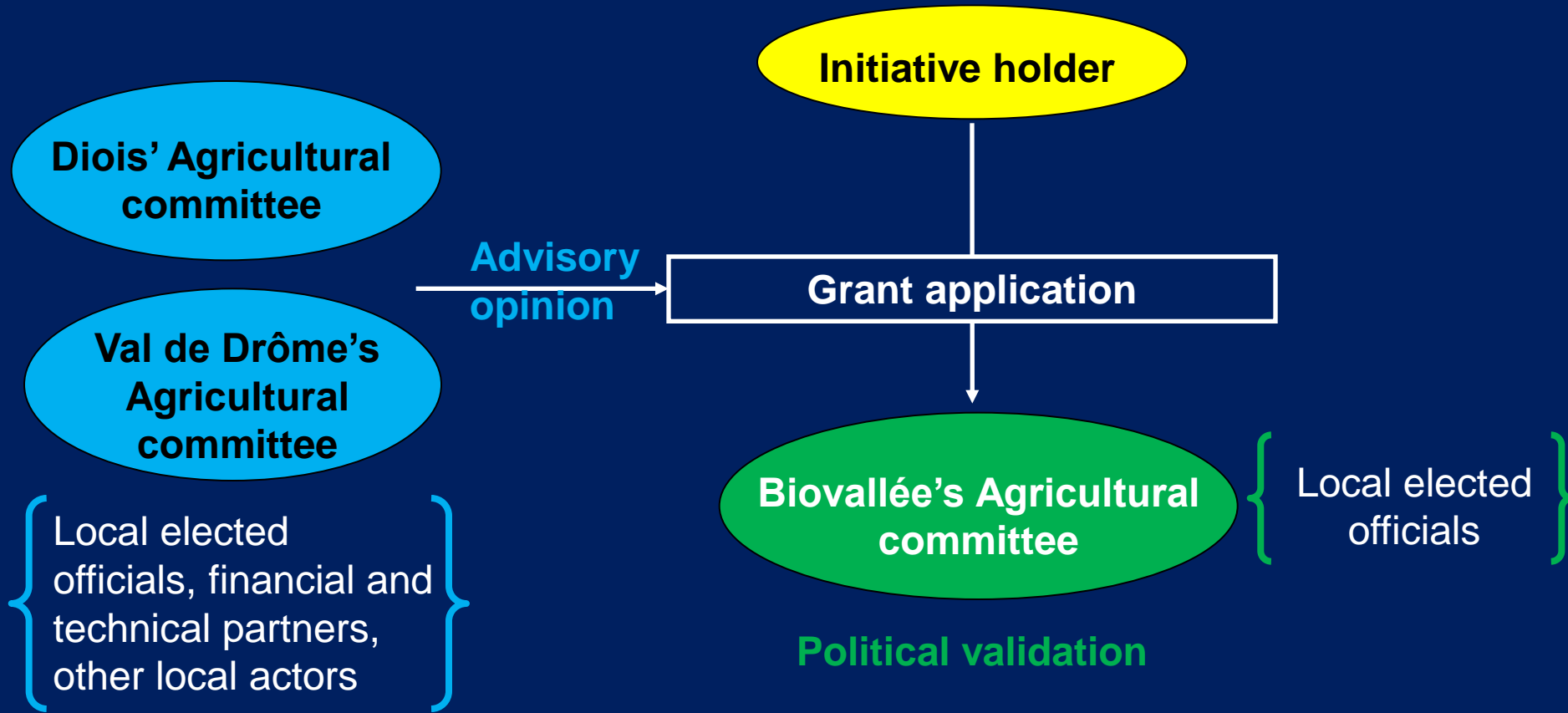
The Multi-Level Perspective
Geels, 2002

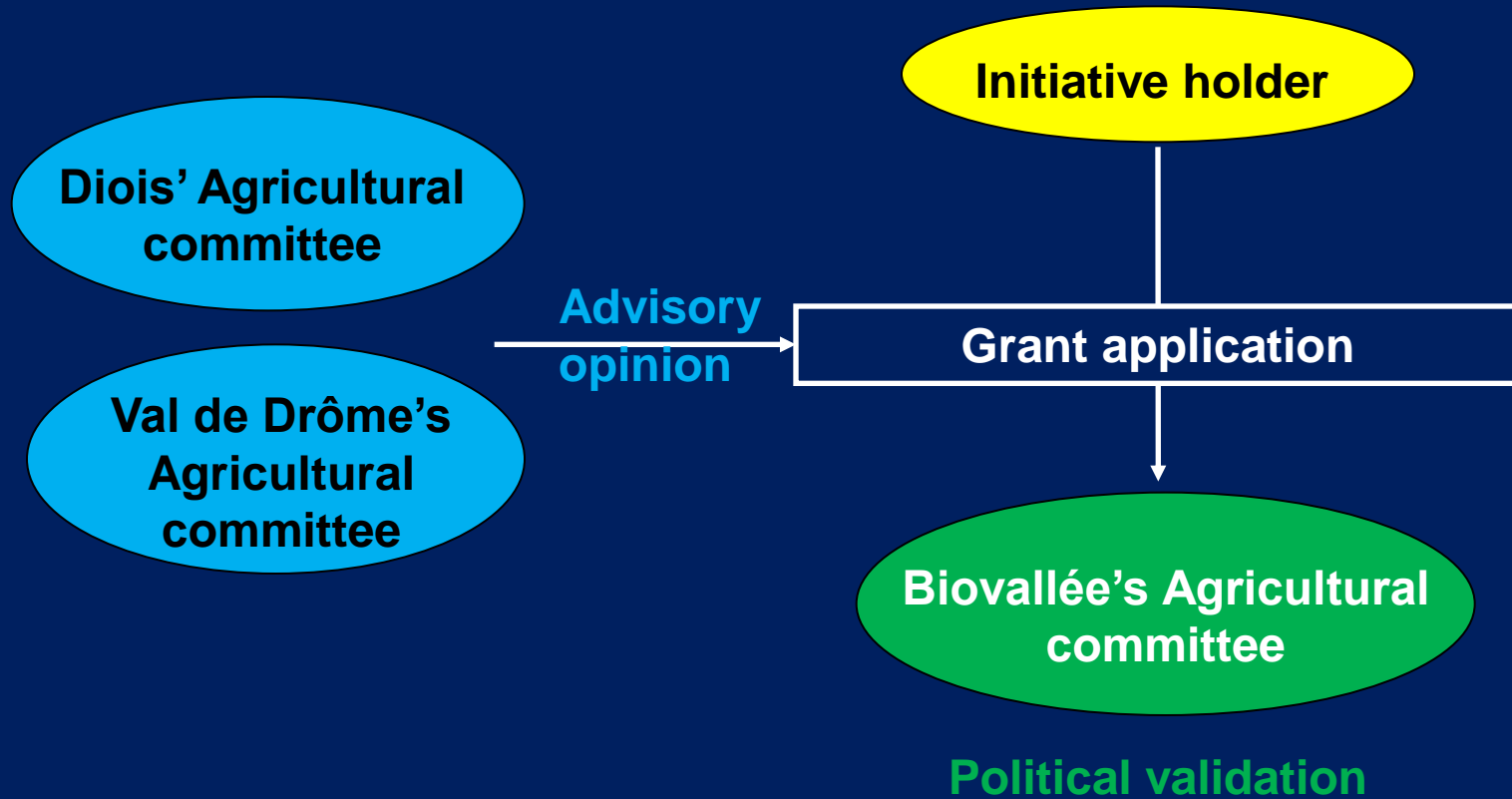
Increasing structuration
of activities in local practices



- Characterization of long term processes
- Empirical testing of the MLP at the territorial scale
- A transition dynamic driven by both niche and regime actors
- **How do actors gain a grip on the agri-food system?**

The Multi-Level Perspective
Geels, 2002





→ A concerted management but not a shared governance

- Analysis of the governance system
 - Analysis of controversies
- ➔ Biovallée's agricultural program cristallized oppositions between proponents of conventional ag. and proponents of alternative agri-food models

Brand Biovallée®

-> association Biovallée®

- Objective:
« To get local actors who embrace the values of Biovallée to join in and to know each other »

Association Biovallée®

- Objective:
« To get local actors who embrace the values of Biovallée to join in and to know each other »
- 3 colleges : local authorities, private companies, associations → a genuine shared governance

Association Biovallée®

- A rallying structure

Association Biovallée®

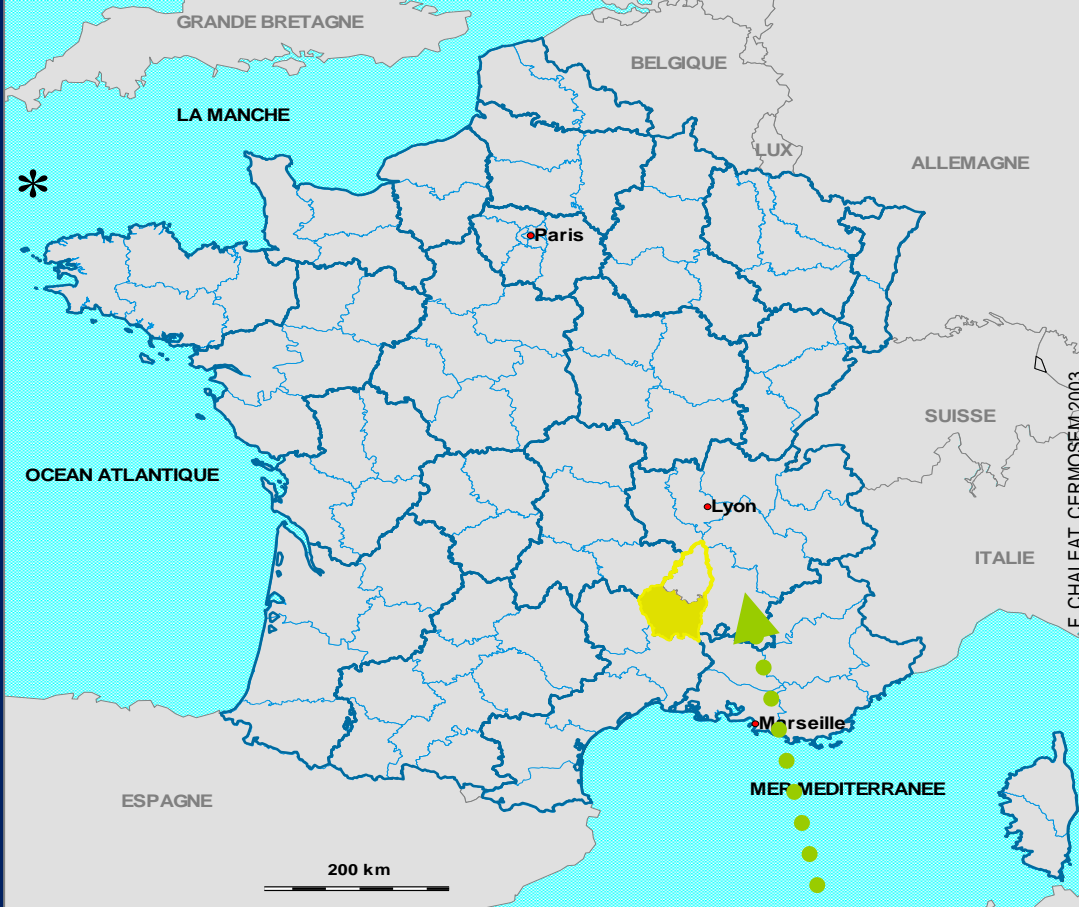
- A rallying structure
- > somewhere to exploit synergies and complementarities and to override controversies?

Association Biovallée®

- A rallying structure
 - > a space to exploit synergies and complementarities and to override controversies?
 - > a space where emerge a new actors' network and new problem definitions

Comparing 3 « bioregions » FR/AU/IT

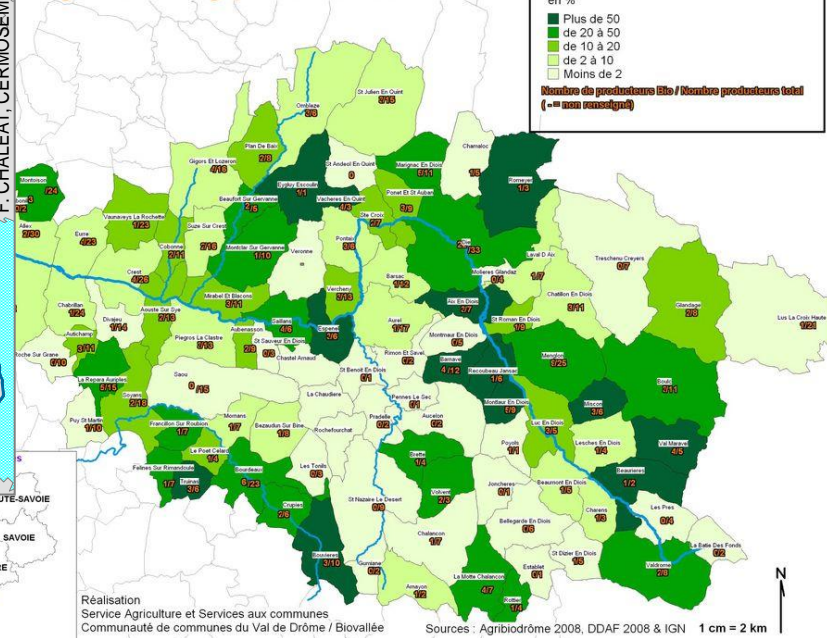
- Biovallée, Bioregion Mühlviertel (AU), Biocilento (IT)
- Within the European project « Healthygrowth » (Core Organic)
- Ongoing work
- First insights based on several internal meetings and cross-readings
- An open seminar here in Biovallée on the 10th of June



Drôme valley

Bioregion Mühlviertel (Austria)

de l'agriculture biologique sur Biovallée en 2008



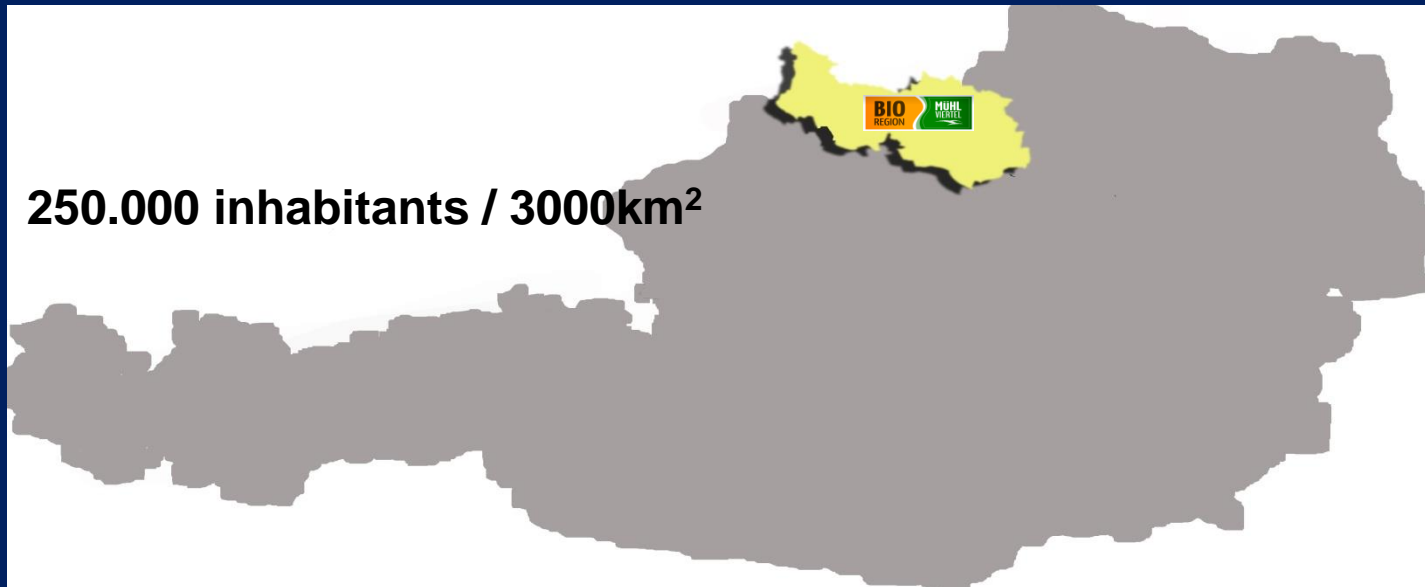
F. CHALEAT, CERMOSEM 2003.



- Ascea -1-
- Auletta -2-
- Caggiano -3-
- Casal Velino -4-
- Castellabate -5-
- Castelnuovo Cilento -6-
- Castel San Lorenzo -7-
- Centola -8-
- Ceraso -9-
- Controne -10-
- Cuccaro Vetere -11-
- Gioi -12-
- Laurito -13-
- Morigerati -14-
- Monte San Giacomo -15-
- Novi Velia -16-
- Orria -17-
- Pisciotta -18-
- Pollica -19-
- Prignano Cilento -20-
- Rofrano -21-
- Rutino -22-
- Salento -23-
- San Pietro al Tanagro -24-
- Sanza -25-
- Sassano -26-
- Sessa Cilento -27-
- Sicignano degli Alburni -28-
- Stella Cilento -29-
- Stio -30-
- Torraca -31-
- Vallo della Lucania -32-



Bioregion Mühlviertel (Austria)



Comparing 3 « bioregions » FR/AU/IT

	Biovallee	Bioregion Mühlviertel	Biocilento
Area	2200 km ²	3090 km ²	3200 km ²
Population	54.000	270.000	
Population density	ca. 25/km ²	ca. 90/km ²	
Average farm size	58 ha (but large differences)	20-30 ha	
Municipalities	102	122	32 (out of 95)
Districts	2	4	
Percentage of Organic (farms)	30% (vs 20% in in 2008/09)	27% (national average 18,5%)	15% (450 farms)
Main product types	Arable crops Extensive livestock (mountains) Wine Poultry/eggs, Fruits, Seeds Medicinal and herbal plants	Milk & Dairy production Beef & Pork Arable crops, potatoes Some herbs and hops	

Comparing 3 « bioregions » FR/AU/IT

	Biovallee	Bioregion Mühlviertel	Biocilento
Foundation	2005	2002 (first idea) – 2010 (project)	2004
Institutional form	Public project + a Biovallee brand association		Association , + national biodistretti network
Leaders/ members	Districts	Leader regions, OF org., enterprises	Region, province, national parc, municipalities, AIAB
Budget	10M€ for 2009-2014		No regular funding
Use of the « brand »	Based on a charter, run by an independent association , and not for products	yes, based on criteria (agriculture + tourism)	yes, based on criteria

Common features and differences

- 3 regions with a historical presence of organic farming (pioneers)
- A diversified agriculture (less in AU) and therefore a cross-products/industries ambition and action
- Projects that are more focused on agriculture and tourism (AU/IT) or that aim a more encompassing ecologisation strategy
- A shared capacity to mobilize public funds but instability
- Different leaders/initiators (local authorities in FR, organic org. In IT)
- Some dependency towards key persons (IT, less in FR/AU)
- Difficulties in gaining in legitimacy towards farmers and/or institutions and/or general public
- Biovallee's social innovations are inspiring to others: *test area*, observatory, public food procurement

Some research questions raised by this first comparison

- Different sociologies of farmers and populations (ex. neorurals in France) -> does it lead to different conceptions of what a bioregion can be?
- The respective weight of local authorities, agricultural stakeholders (organic/others), civil society, and their inclusion in the governance
- The different conceptions of participation, the way controversies are handled, and the link to the projects' perception and legitimacy
- Boundary issues over what is (part of) the bioregion or not (more than organic, less than, different)
- Networks effects, at the national scale (case of IT with 2 competing networks), and at the European one