

TRANS-NATIONAL LEARNING ON REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

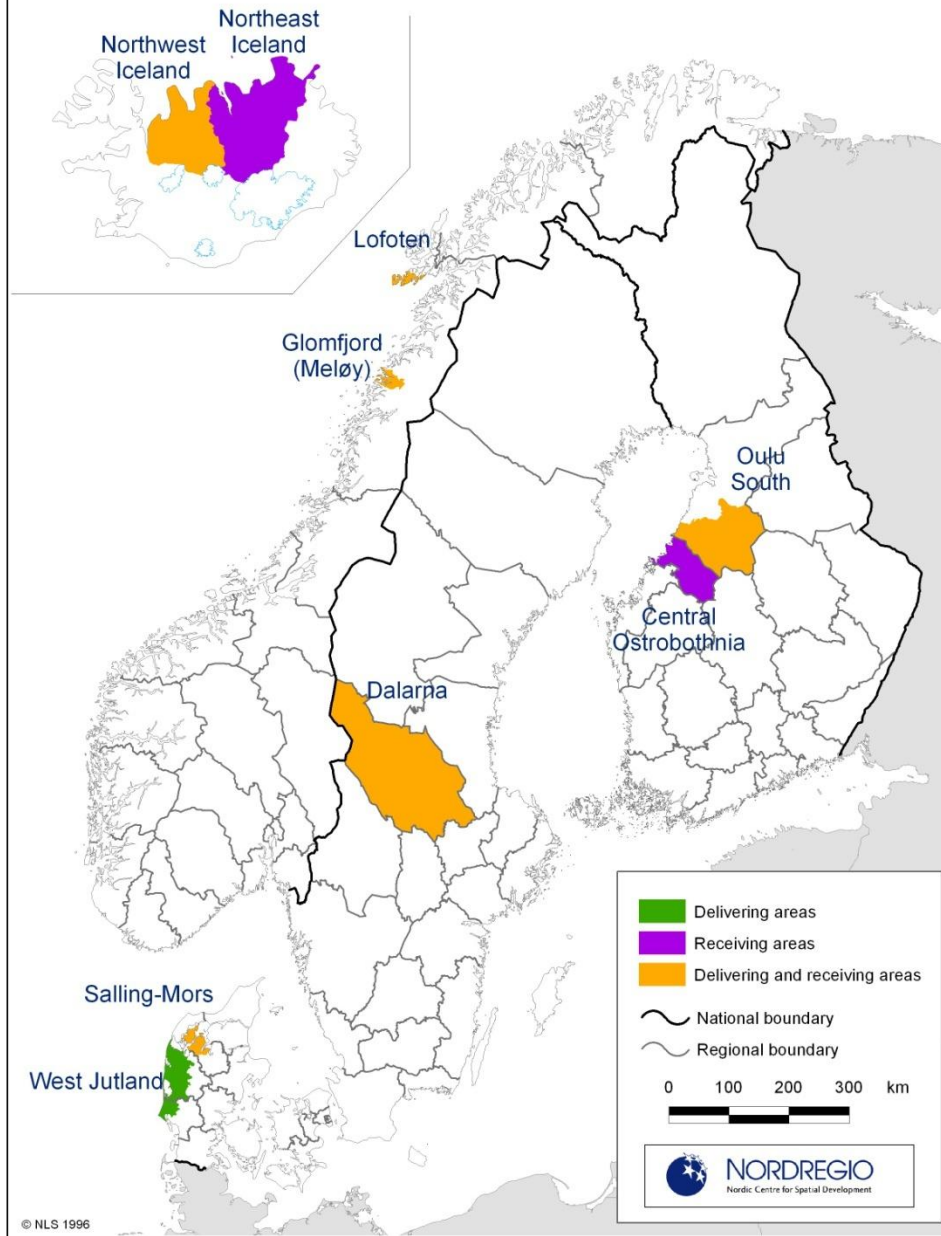
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PLIP Case Study areas



Concepts

- Individual learning vs. collective learning
- Organisational learning
- Regional learning
- Modern innovation theory:
 - Innovation are learning processes
 - Innovations are interactive processes
 - firm level: firm's interaction with its milieu

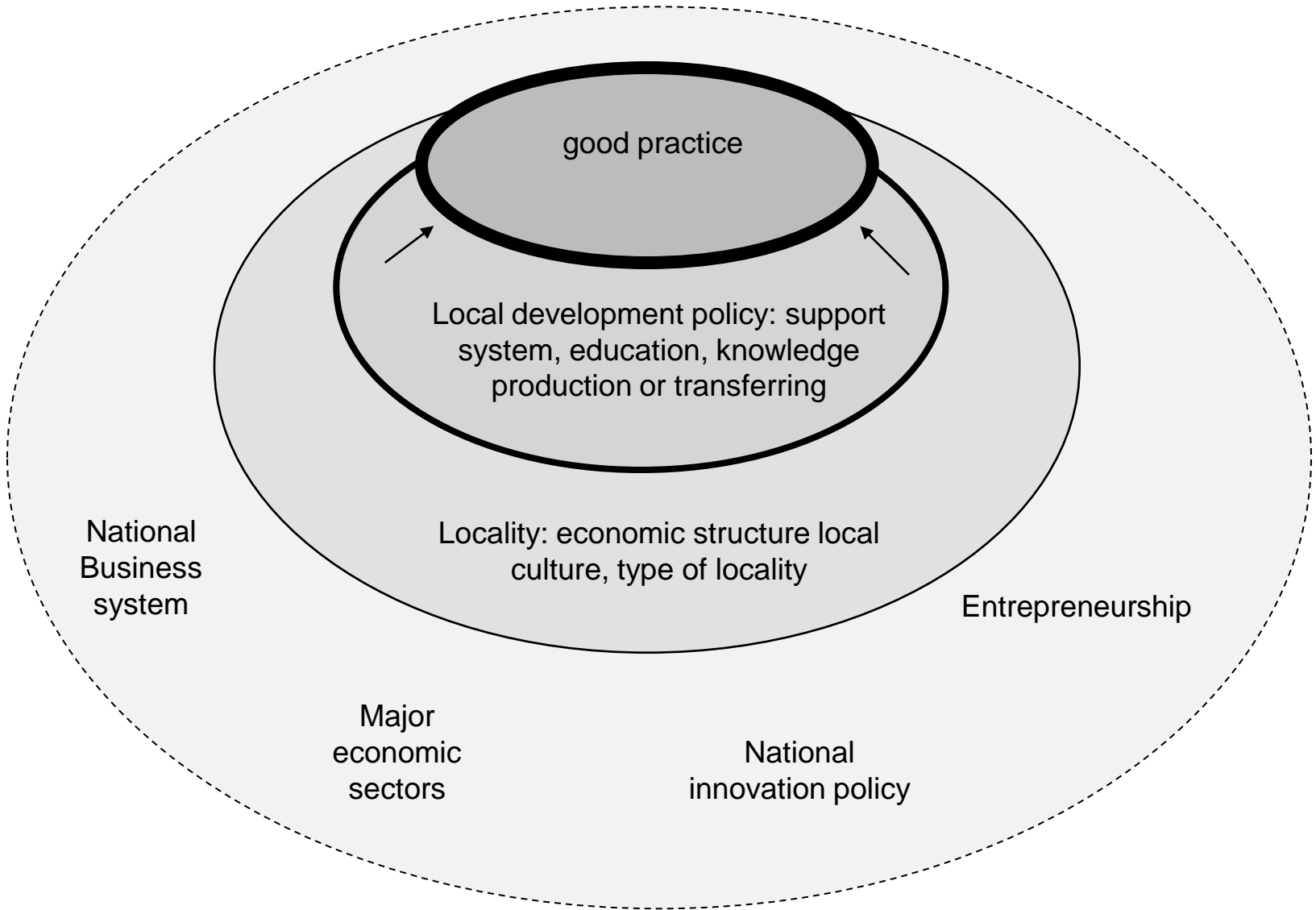
New innovation approaches: transfer of good practices

Open Method of Coordination

- "trendchart style" indicators
- Monitoring through indicators
- soft governance (no hierarchy)
- Peer review (dialogue)
- The forces of path dependency prevails

Good practice

- is a separate entity (unit, process, sector, network etc.)
- has something from which the other can learn.
- brings something new to the development of the locality.
- has some kind of formal structure.
- has measured or expected outcome which increases the regional learning capability.



Research framework

Background

- Innovations in SMEs in rural areas and small cities
- Comparative Nordic studies Innovation system and the periphery
- Findings:
 - Many small scale and incremental innovations in the case study areas;
 - no single innovation model, instead variety of innovation types

Conclusion: Action research in transferring good practices

- Developing the methods of action research in transnational learning
- Peripheral Localities and Innovation Policies (PLIP) – Optimizing conditions for innovation through transferring good practice, a Nordic project 2005-2006
- New models for regional mobilisation in BotniaAtlantica regionen” project 1.10. 2008- Cross border co-operation (“Interreg”)

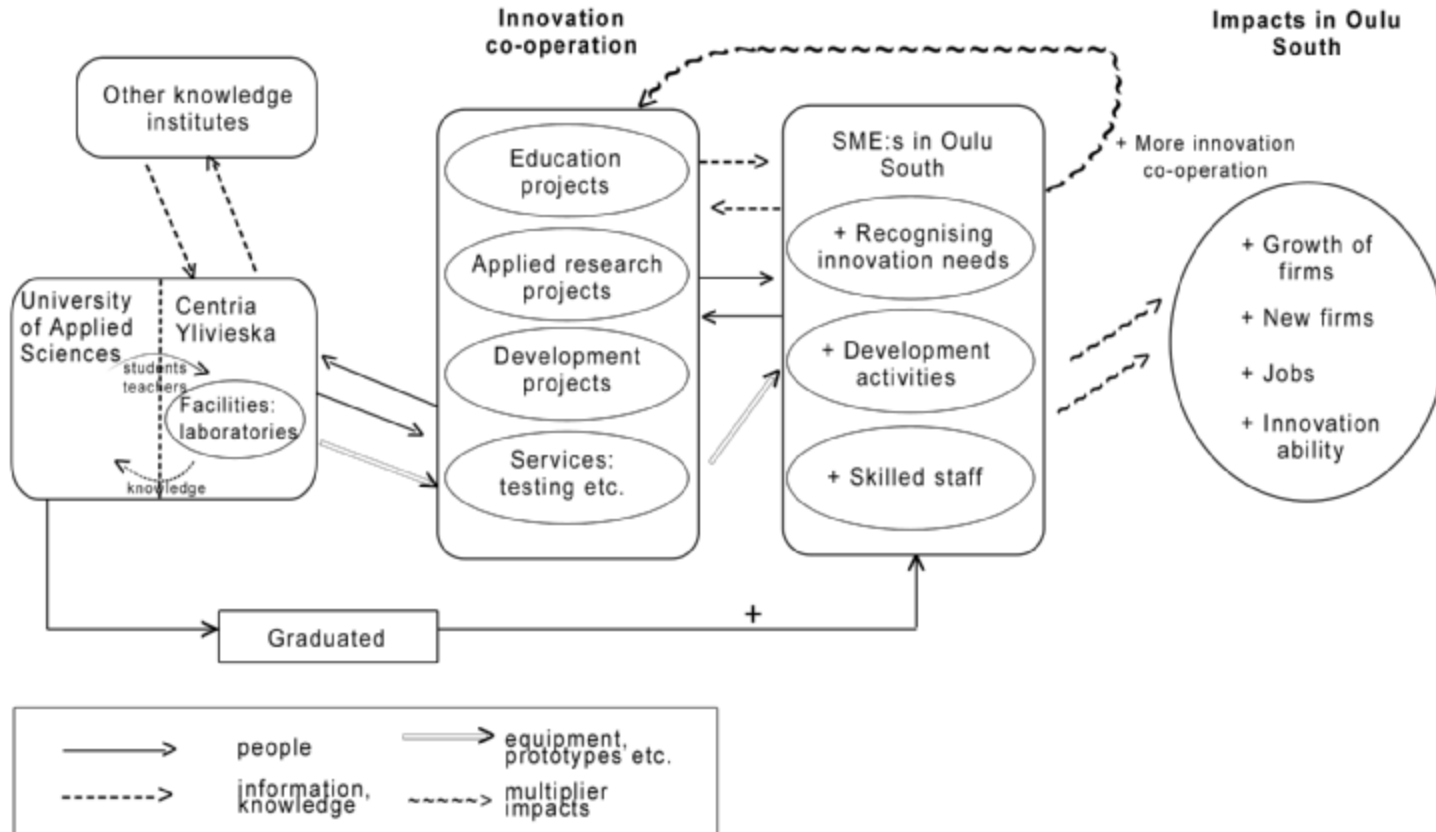
Methodology

- Learning history approach
- Nonaka/ Takeuchi

Trans-national learning

- Region A has "development problems" or a willingness to learn from others' experiences.
- Region B has good practice which might help the actors in region A to solve the problem.
- Researchers tasks:
 1. analysis of the problem
 2. analysis of good practice
 3. benchmarking seminars for local actors in region B
 4. reports of the results.

The Good Circle of Innovation Co-operation between Centria and SMEs in Oulu South



Method: Learning history approach

- Based on grounded theory
- Codifying tacit practice through narratives
- Actors involved in the process will reflect upon the story
- Generating a thicker story of the process of good practice, its impacts and achievements.
- Dis-embedding = abstracted elements
- Re-embedding (from abstract to the concrete in a new context) through dialogue

The story

- A thicker story of the success and process of a good practice. Stories/narratives with plot or other themes
- The achievement of a good practice
- The impacts of a good practice
- Reflexive interviews of insiders and outsiders
- Outcome: Abstracted elements of the thicker story of good practice

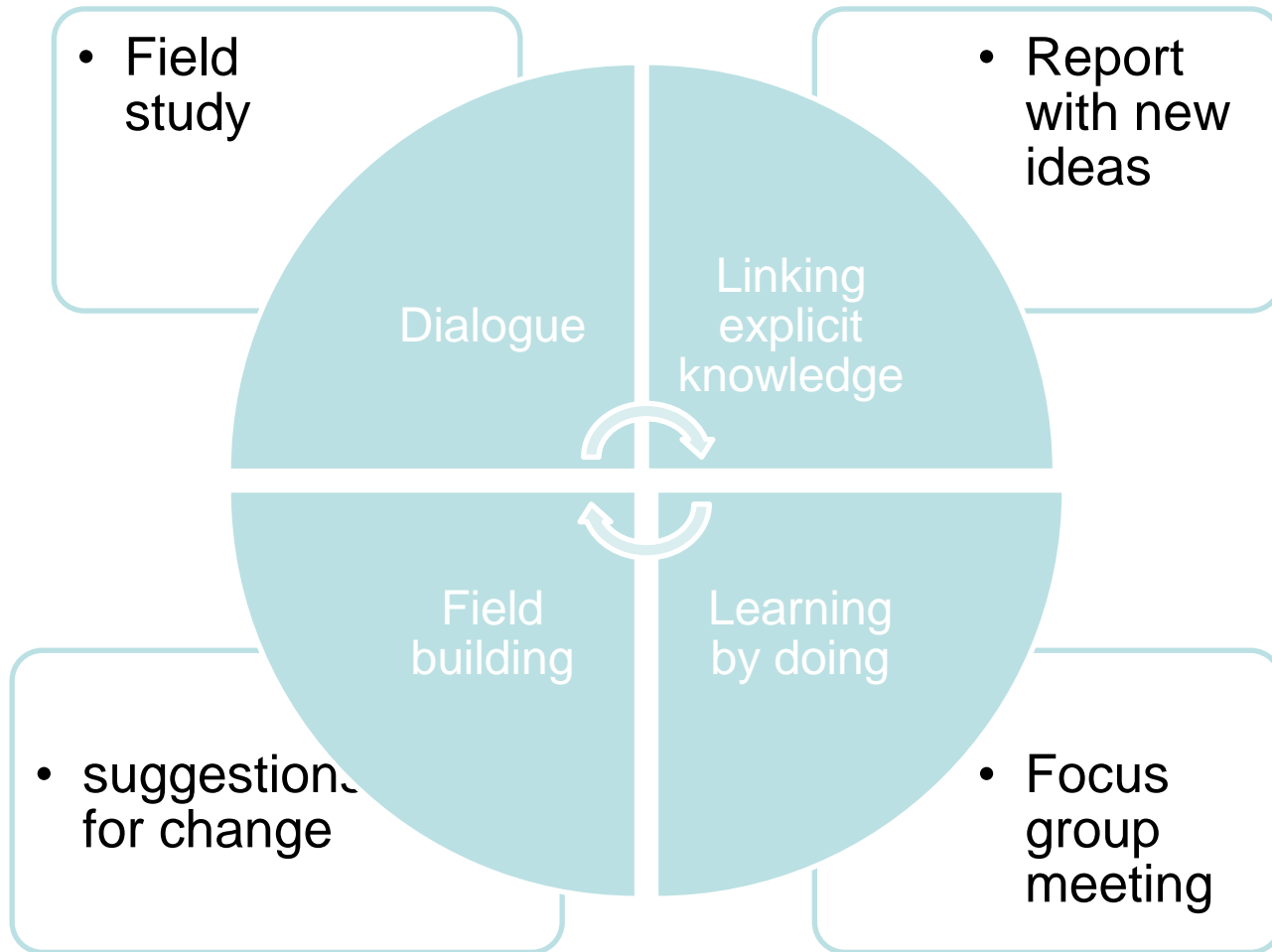
“Transfer” of good practice

- Workshops with researchers and local actors
- Evaluation of good practice transferability in workshops
- Inputs from outsiders stimulate actors looking for problems to be solved. Destabilising is a pre-condition for learning
- What are the local actors doing? Does the story of good practice improve their own performance?
- Reports by the researchers

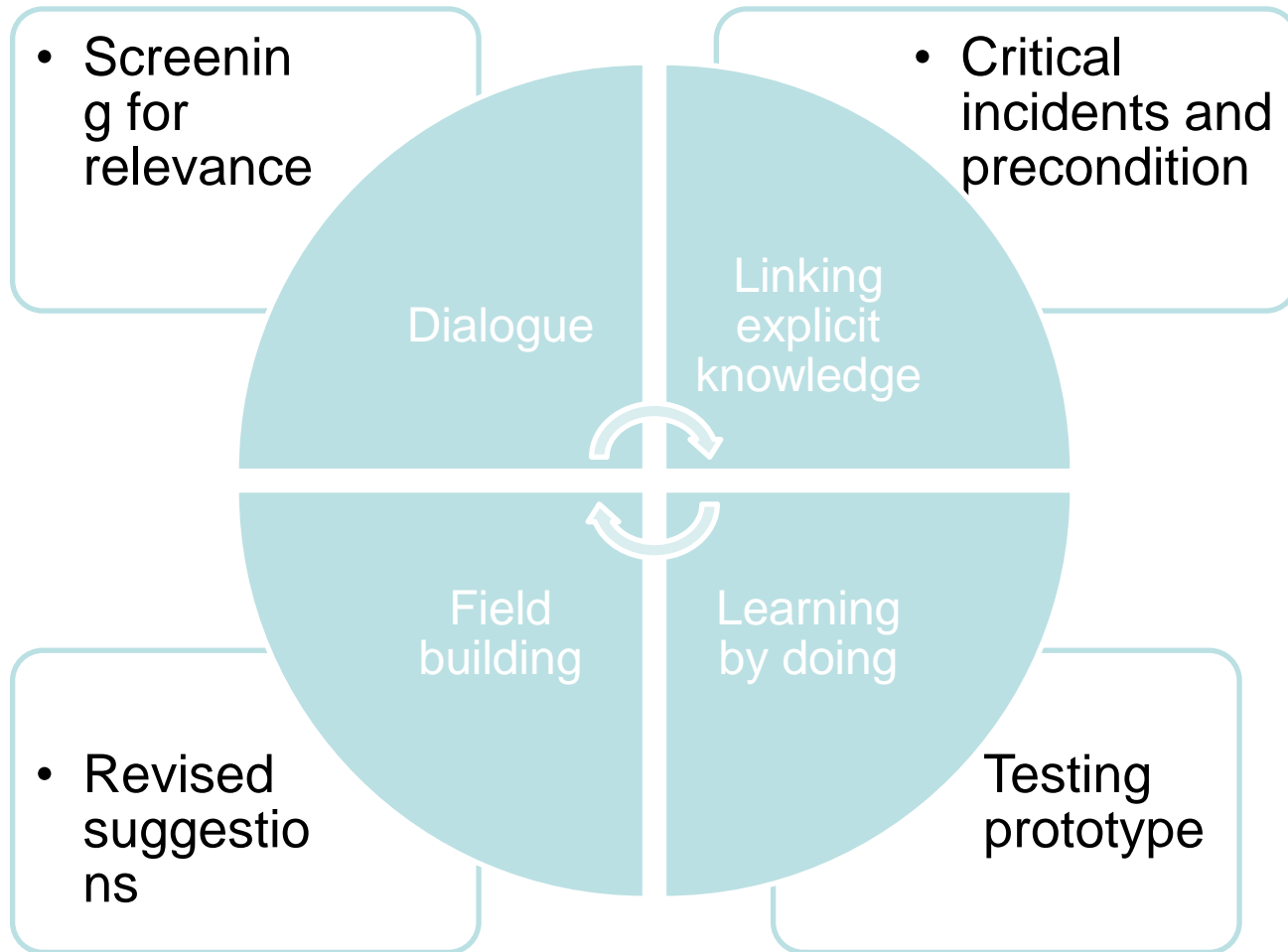
Nonaka/ Takeuchi

- SECI socialization (field building) – externalization – combination – internalization (innovations in the field)
- Concrete context – abstract mental models, archetypes
 - The Umeå model of sub-municipal democracy
 - The Vaasa model

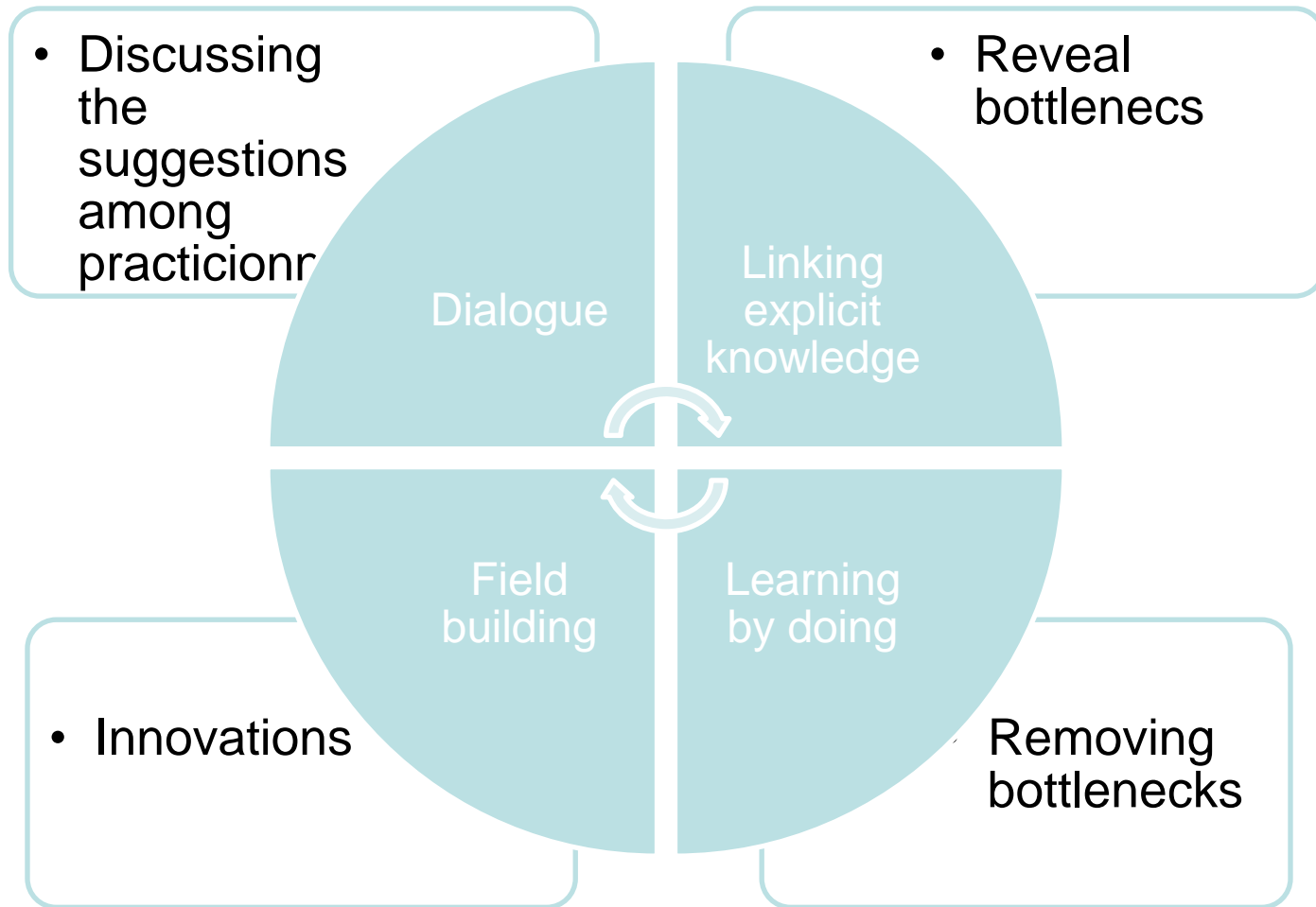
SECI step 1



SECI step 2



SECI step 3



Evaluation of our method

- Learning history is a basic tool, but it cannot stay alone
- SECI provide continuous interactive peer-review learning

Good practice in the "Peripheral localities and innovation policies" project

- Competence building:
 - Innovative co-operation between Centria Ylivieska and the SME's in Oulu South, Finland
 - The Skive Technical Institute -Innovation Centre competence-building activities for the furniture industry, Denmark
- Entrepreneurship and product innovation:
 - Emigration Centre at Hófsos in Northwest Iceland – innovation in culture-based tourism
 - Glomfjord – successful local-global networking, Norway
- Networking and co-ordination:
 - Collaboration in tourism industry in Lofoten, Norway
 - Small food producers' network and the Knowledge Centre for Food Development (VIFU), Denmark
 - Networking and knowledge transfer between large and small firms – IUC Dalarna, Sweden

Virkkala & Niemi 2006, <http://www.nordicinnovation.net/prosjekt.cfm?id=1-4415-47>