GREAT TRANSITION

as a view informing Smart CSOs thinking:

an attempt at synthesis
So what is the Great Transition or Great Transformation..?
Overview & Rationale

- Emphasis on indefiniteness/openness → room for diversity

- TODAY: Emphasis on contours → brings out ambiguities/contradictions as well as agreements → room for building coherence

- Purpose of this presentation: link the outcomes of our discussion to existing debates and framings (systematization and further clarification, possibly highlighting points in need of deeper insight)
Mapping of views on sustainable development
(Hopwood et al. 2005)

Variations and extrapolations of present patterns carried forward
Figure 1. Mapping of views on sustainable development

Variations and extrapolations of present patterns carried forward

Mapping of views on sustainable development
(Hopwood et al. 2005)
Key Pillars of the Great Transition

Overcoming the market paradigm and growth obsession

Not possible within the rationale of today’s dominant economic and political institutions.

Fundamentally reinventing and redefining what we call progress and how to achieve it.
Key Pillars of the Great Transition

Cultural transformation

Away from today’s consumerist and nationalist thinking

Towards a culture of good-living with simplicity and a sense of planetary identity.
Not just localism

We need more localised economic structures that will bring about positive effects on the diverse interconnected systemic crises (ecological, economic, social, cultural).

But global interdependence demands a global governance system.
Key Pillars of the Great Transition

Experiments at all levels

Not a detailed vision. Pillars…

Nobody knows all the answers for how we can create the new economy and how it will look like.

Ask new questions instead of providing old answers. Societal conversation. New social contract.
CULTURE

Old culture
Values, frames and worldviews of consumerism, marketisation, (national) self interest and growth

New culture
Values, frames and worldviews of wellbeing, sufficiency and (global) solidarity

REGIMES

Old unsustainable economic system
Dominant political, economic & social institutions

New eco-solidarity economy

NICHERS

Seeds of the new economy
Sufficiency and solidarity economy, the Commons, new democratic governance etc.

Economic system is path dependent, self stabilising and growth and market oriented.
Many niches and often isolated change agents. Niches are tolerated by the mainstream system.
Imagining what could be, reflection on how to get there, and acting as if it mattered gives soul and sight to the blind march of history

Paul Raskin (2010)