



Xavier Boivert
Director General, Mordelles – Policy lead SNDGCT

***LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE CHALLENGES OF DRIVING
THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION
& A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY RECOVERY***

*Navigating the EU maze to finance recovery: 2021-27 funding for the
ecological transition*

Vendredi 15 octobre, 2021 - Friday 15th October, 2021

Facing complexity with time running out

- ❖ Everywhere, various crises have revealed the weaknesses of our systems and the need for new responses to tomorrow's challenges. The climate change, the pandemic, species collapse, pollution threats, energy matters... none of those problems can be simply resolved by individual stakeholders alone.
- ❖ We have known for decades that time is very short to make the difference between a sustainable development and our current trajectory. The metronome is running at a tempo we won't be able to sustain for much longer.
- ❖ Though the confinement created a unique range of pressures, local government has at least reacted and adapted by assuming significant roles in the management of the pandemic and its impact locally. This role has given us the appetite to be engaged early on in the recovery actions going forwards. Our contribution so far must count in the discussions about recovery planning and delivery.

Besides the crisis, the ecological transition needs changes in local government

- ❖ We need to go from an optic of plan/regulate/control to a 'can do approach' that focuses on delivery and impact through a partnership approach that builds together and continually improves through thorough evaluation of the results we achieve.
- ❖ This approach will require us to evaluate the likely impacts of political decisions and then once approved delegate power to local authorities to deliver local projects with real impact and ownership locally. This is more difficult than it seems though!
- ❖ Cities and local authorities are in the front line and have the responsibility for a diverse range of services that touch upon the economic, social, environmental fabric of the local area.

The energy example in France (1/2) : each territory is different

- ❖ Local authorities are key because they know their territory and each one is different in many ways
- ❖ Considering energy, the situation depends on the production means, the population density of the cities, the industry needs... and sometimes if things come together at the right time, with both public investment in innovation and the public debate little revolutions are possible!
- ❖ In the Brittany Region (Région Bretagne), energy is a real deal because as it is a net importer despite having a growing population.

The energy example in France (2/2) : The solutions are sitting in front of us locally

- ❖ Before addressing the funding question, there is the project engineering question which must be assessed properly by taking into account all the local potential and constraints.
- ❖ What's important is not the level of action or the size of the territory. It is the ability to gather everyone, from the individual citizen to local government. In the Brittany Region, we are lucky to have been able to create our own “smart village”. Near Rennes it has won the national award of “territoire d’innovation” (Innovation territory) and has successfully brought together 52 entities with its partnership.
- ❖ National and European funding frameworks and EU legislation are key to improving standards and investment but it is only local government that can translate these drivers into day to day project deliverables

Partnership at every scale

- ❖ So, the transition seems to be a hard challenge for local government but even harder for national and European government who are all confronted by an accelerating pace of changes if we are to avoid future crises.
- ❖ ‘Business as usual’ won’t be enough, we must find other ways of working effectively together if we are to deliver successful outcomes. Local government is best placed to facilitate and mobilise everyone, from every level of government, the private sector and civil society in the territory.

A case study from France



TERRITOIRES D'INNOVATION




Créer des services innovants

Valorisation Locale Durable

#FlexibilitéEnergétique
#Mobilité
#Données




Valoriser les ressources énergétiques

Territoires d'Innovations Locales

#Hydrogene
#Hydrolien
#Solaire
#Bâtiments

#Éolien
Maritime
Terrestre




Tirer profit du potentiel de la donnée

Smart Territoires

#Internetdesobjets
#PlateformePublique
#DataCenterPublic
#Hypervision



- 9 collectivités engagées
- 28 entreprises investies
- 12 organisations représentant le territoire et ses habitants
- 3 universités partenaires

19th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

Together for Recovery

Thank you for your attention



<https://www.ville-mordelles.fr/>



<https://sndgct.fr/>



19th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

Together for Recovery

*Navigating the EU maze to finance recovery: 2021-27
funding for the ecological transition*

*Naviguer dans le labyrinthe de l'UE pour financer la
relance: le financement de la transition écologique
en 2021-27*

*Robert Schuman Congress Centre, Metz France
Vendredi 15 octobre - Friday 15th October, 2021*

