



**BlueAdapt**

# Transitions in Planning

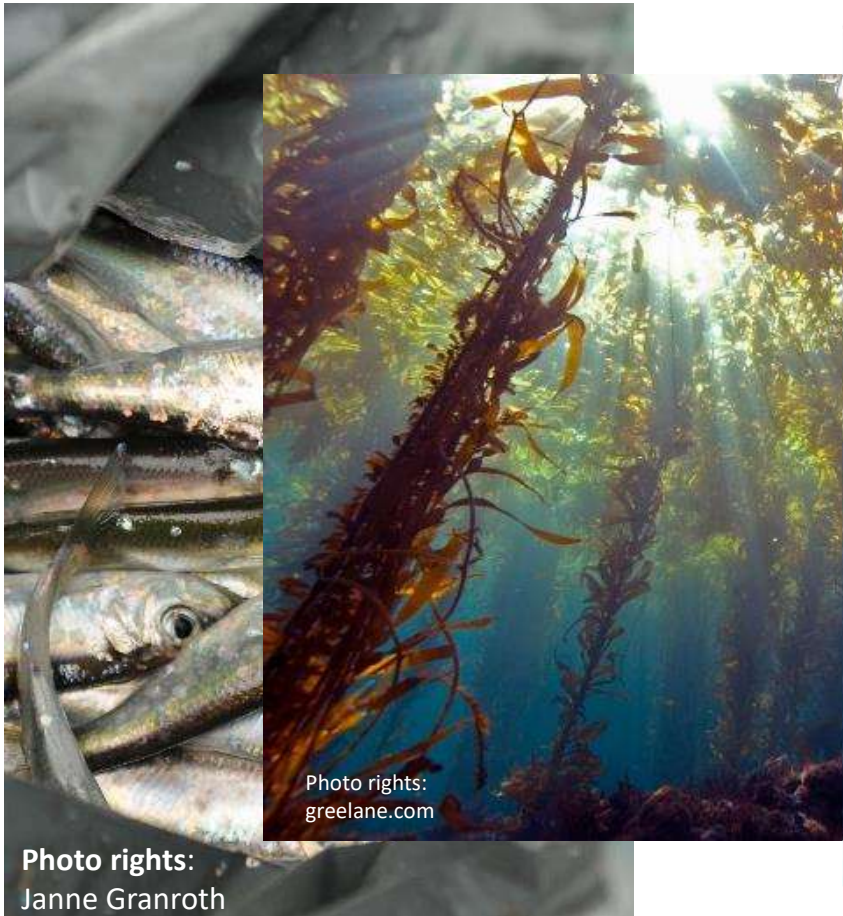
**5.10.2023 BlueAdapt final seminar**

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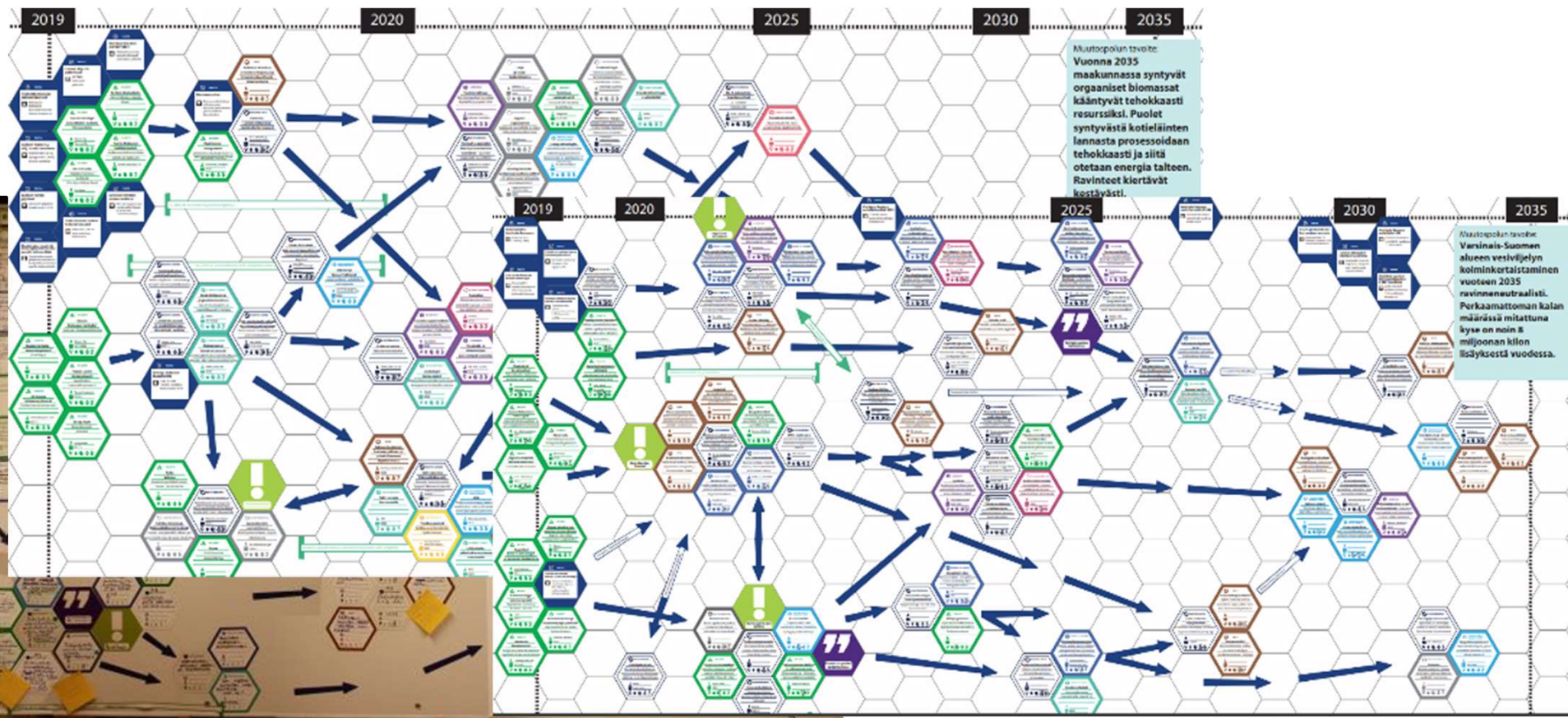


# Once upon a time...





# ...there were two transition arenas...





...on blue economy.





## Transitions in planning: transformative policy visions of the circular economy and blue bioeconomy meet planning practice

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### ABSTRACT

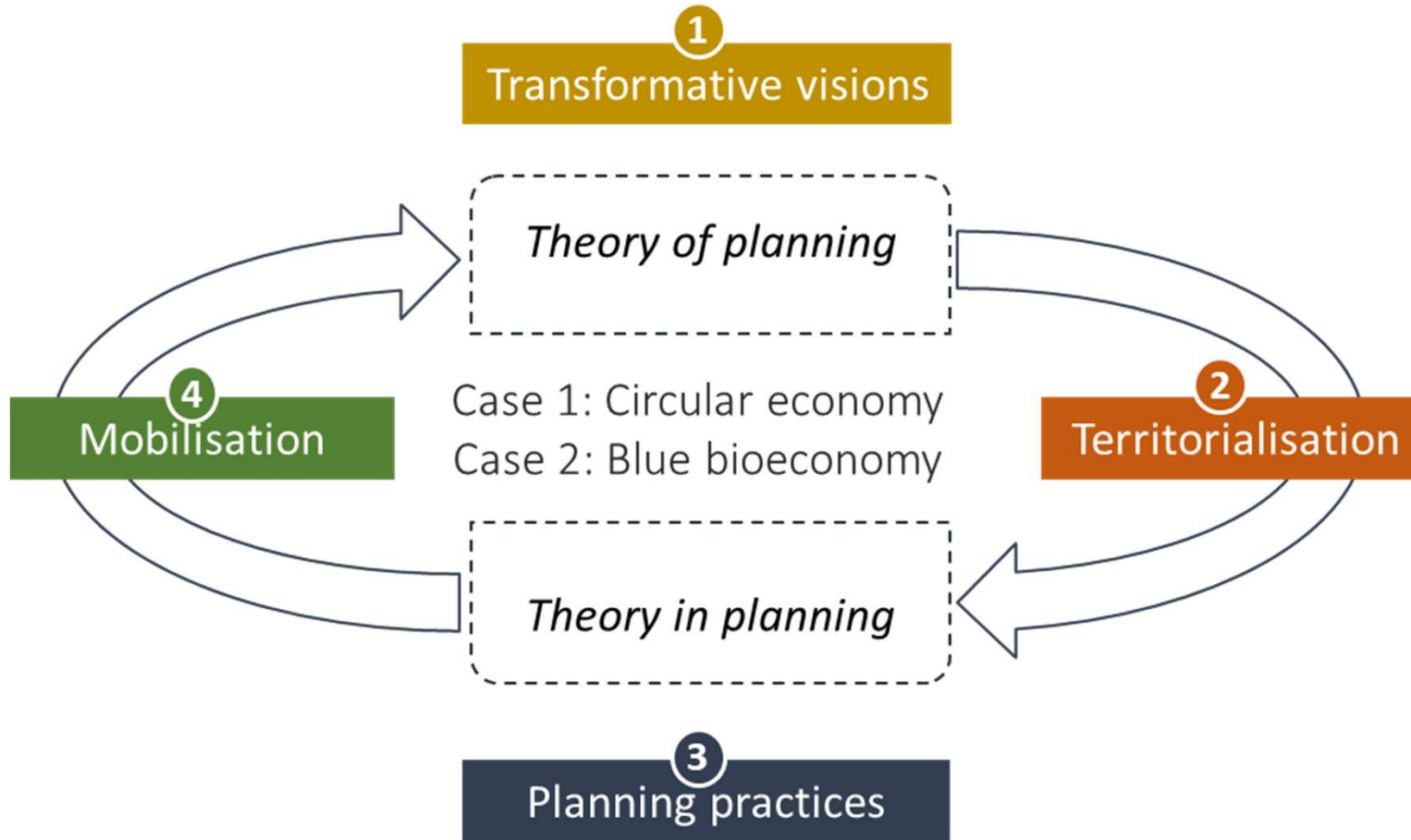
Ongoing sustainability challenges create pressure on planning practices and institutional arrangements. Transformative policy visions, such as the circular economy and bioeconomy, create promises for designing and planning sustainable pathways in society. Moreover, research agendas on sustainability transitions, such as transition management, are developing toolkits and attempting to shift planning practice by applying evidence-based policy-making processes. In this paper, we ask what happens when sustainability visions are exposed to planning practices, and vice versa, by developing an analytical framework to discuss processes of territorialization and mobilization. We draw lessons from two contextually differing case studies in Finland; on the evaluation of spatial planning processes for the circular economy and a strategic planning intervention for the blue bioeconomy. The disparate cases show that the planning process act as a bidirectional intermediary space, refining both the general transition visions and established planning practices.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 5 July 2021  
Revised 20 January 2022  
Accepted 25 March 2022

### KEYWORDS

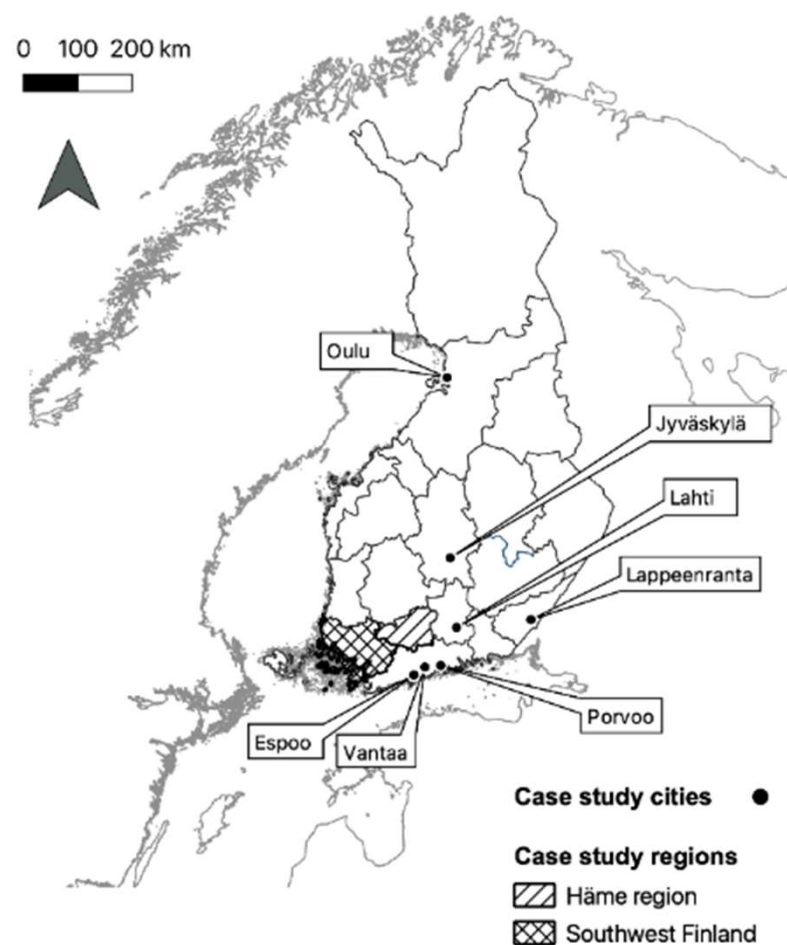
Sustainability transitions;  
transformative planning;  
circular economy; blue  
bioeconomy; planning  
practice

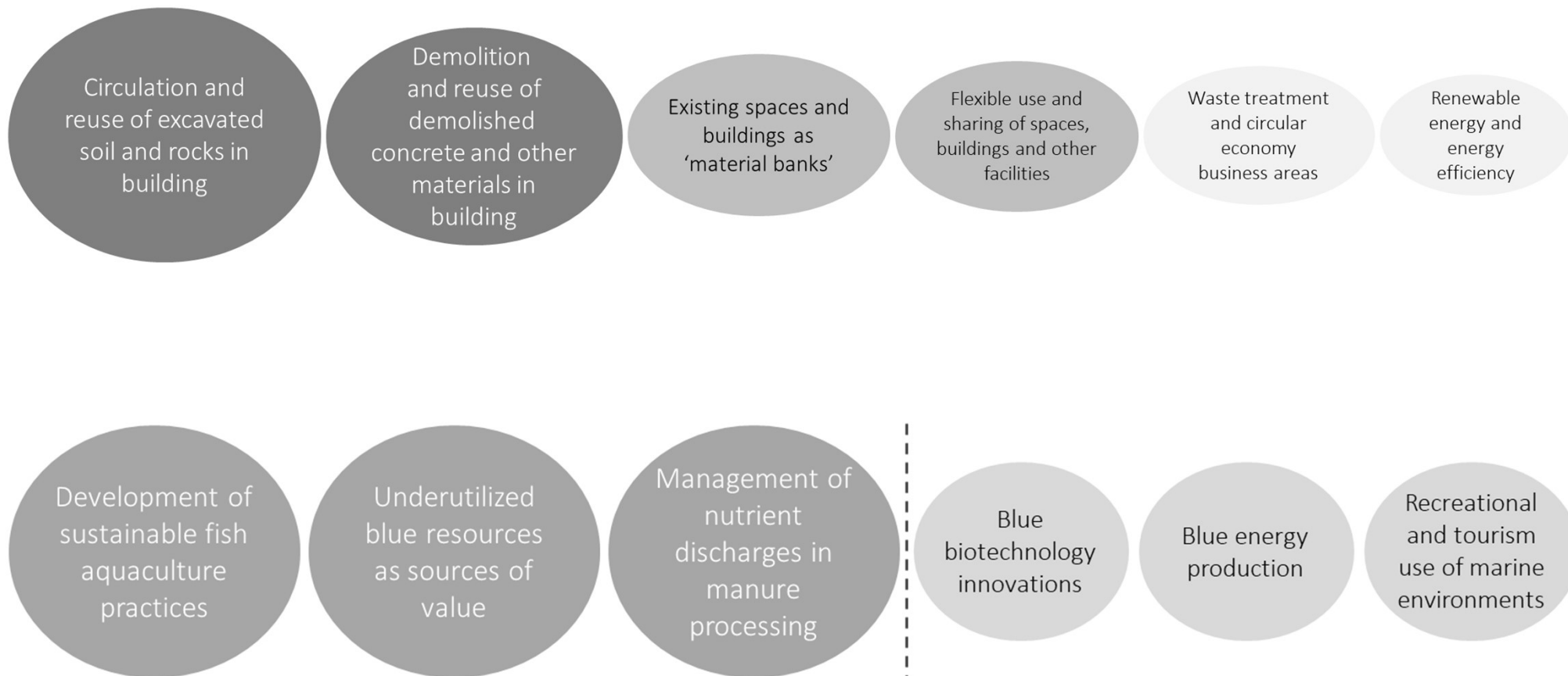




## Two cases in planning

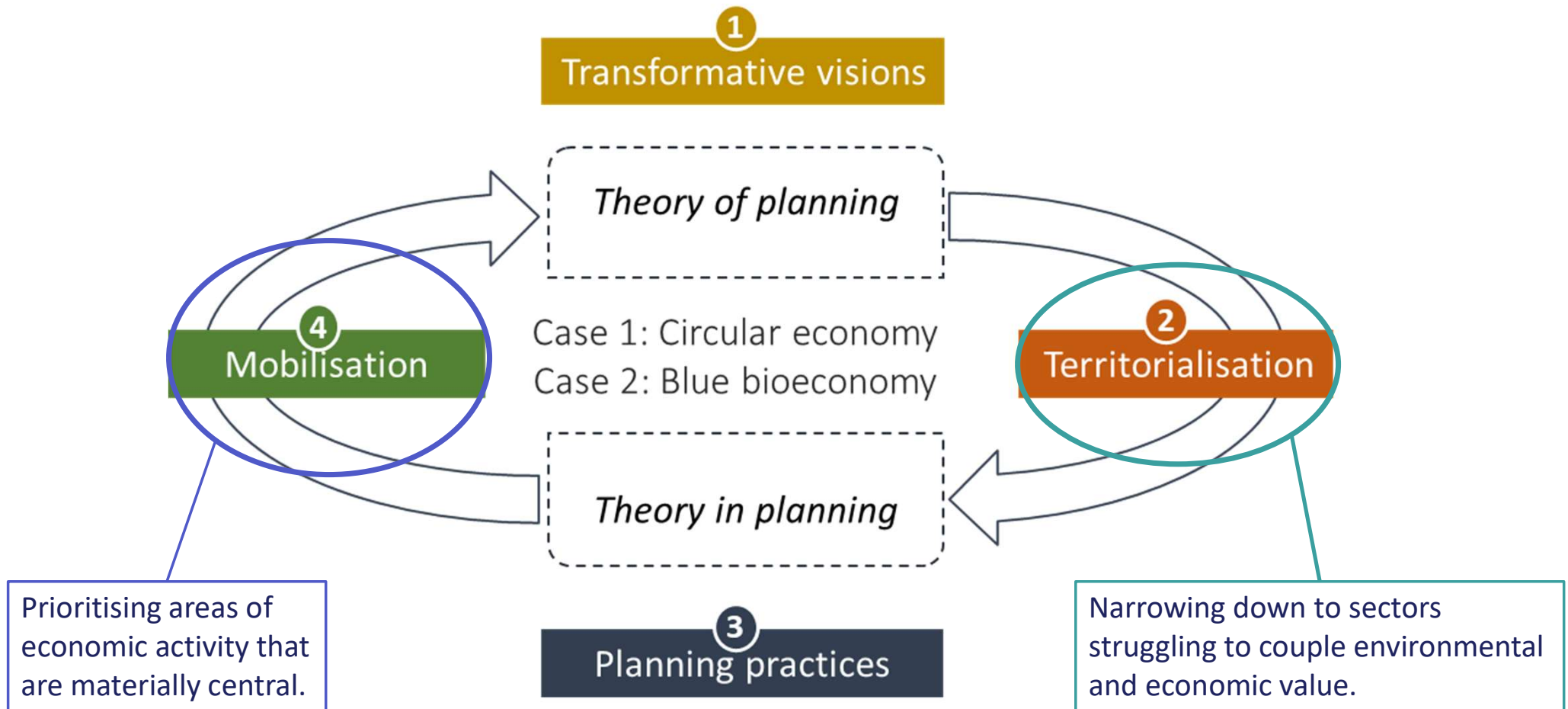
- ❖ **Circular economy case**  
Evaluation project of seven cities and one region on how circular economy is approached.
- ❖ **Blue bioeconomy case**  
Transition arena process to develop a regional transformative vision and change steps.
- ❖ Both were research-based interventions.







	<b>CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b>	<b>BLUE BIOECONOMY</b>
<b>TRANSFORMATIVE VISIONS</b>	The shift from linear production and consumption systems to circular and slow material loops decoupling environmental impact from economic growth.	Rejuvenation of water ecosystem capabilities and development of novel solutions to solve environmental crises and provide welfare benefits.
<b>TERRITORIALISATION</b>	Policy opening for reconfiguring planning activities and regulations through intermediary work and experimentation in temporary projects.	A planning space to identify policy barriers, complement patchy governance frameworks and orchestrate actor-networks.
<b>PLANNING PRACTICE</b>	Navigation between enabling and controlling roles of planning practice.	Explicit focus on enabling role of planning and creating new systemic connections.





# So what does this entail for blue economy?

- Transformations are a loose enough framework to generate multiple loosely connected visions. What is important, is how we reflectively refine and orient our planning practices to meet these visions.
- "Territorialising": what kinds of transition pathways become prioritised, what unsustainable lock-ins are challenged through changing planning practice?
- "Mobilising": what sectors become institutionalised in blue economy, how are the transformative visions refined to meet new challenges?
- And finally, what is to be transformed: economy, planner, or the system of planning?

**Thank you for your interest!**



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