Systems Innovation

Ecosystem Template

Overview

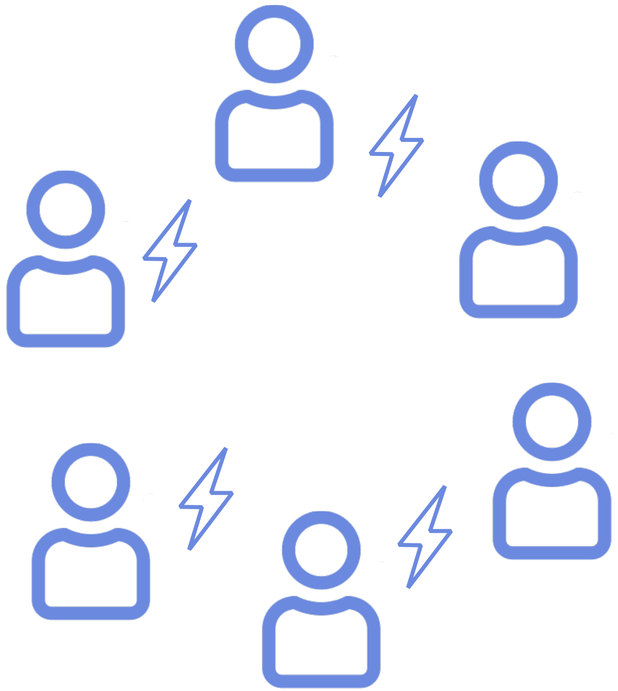
This template is designed to help you think through and map out the different aspects of developing a platform to support a systems innovation ecosystem. Si ecosystems constitute a community of diverse actors - individuals and organizations - aimed at collaboratively improving their individual and collective capacity for tackling wicked challenges on a systemic level.

What is an Innovation Ecosystem?

Innovation is the value-adding process of creating and applying new ideas to enable the adaption and transformation of existing ways of doing things. An innovation ecosystem describes how a set of diverse actors interact to enable constant innovation outcomes in a given region or domain. It is about connecting and coordinating. The added value beyond that of the individual parts comes from the synergies between diverse actors.

Why do we need an Ecosystems Approach?

The aim is to shift the equilibrium for piecemeal competition to systemic collaboration.



Piecemeal Competition

Each organization has to recreate the wheel and compete with others

Systematic Collaboration

Create an infrastructure of collaboration for the emergence of systems level functions

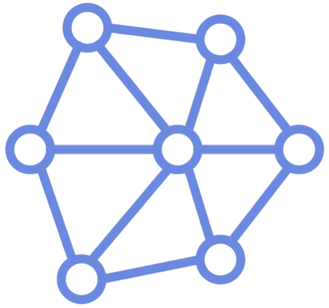
Ecosystems Building Template

Framing

Setting the overall purpose and narrative for the ecosystem

Challenges

Mapping the system to identify key challenges and places to intervene

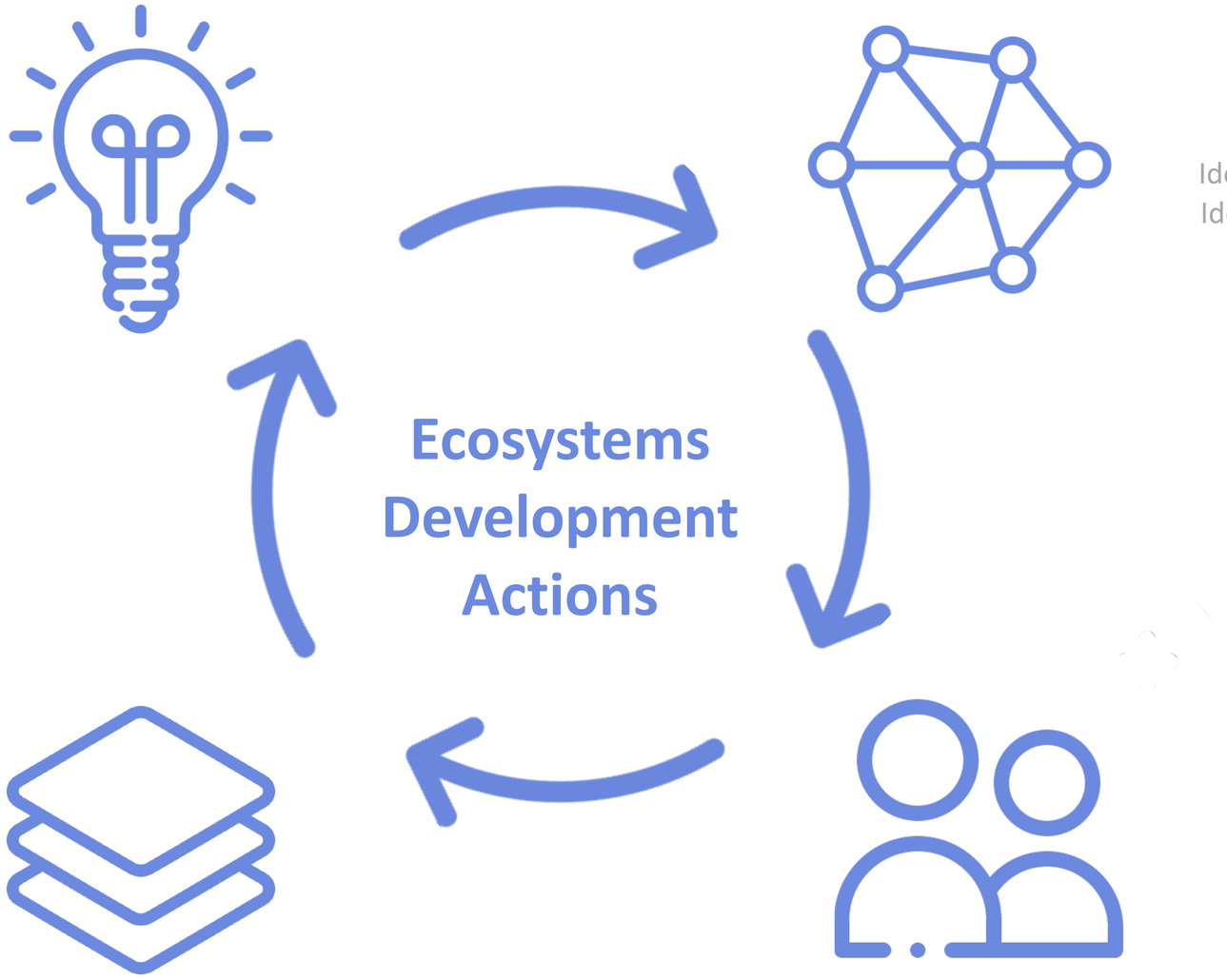


Actors

Identify the relevant actors, connect and develop the ecosystem’s capacity

Platform

Develop a platform that will support the new ecosystem to learn, create value & scale.



Challenges

Map out factors
Identity key challenge areas
Identity intervention points

Framing

Define ecosystems purpose
Create vision
Create narrate

Challenges

Map out factors
Identity key challenge areas
Identity intervention points

Platform

Define the tech platform
Value model
Toolkits and Templates

Actors

Identity relevant actors
Identify capacity gaps
Define capacity building activities

Vision

Narrative

Purpose

Social

Economic

Challenges

Environmental

Industiral

Value Model

Assessment

Platform

Technology

Toolkits

Informing

Connecting

Actor Map

Collaborating

Learning

Framing

For we need to define what is the purpose of the ecosystem. Why does it exists, what is the vision and narrative around it.

Purpose and Vision Statement

We are doing this because…

Why are we building is ecosystem?

We envision…

What does success look like?

Narrative - Our Ecosystem Will…

Brings together…

Who are the people we will gather?

To do this together…

What activities will the members do?

So that we can…

What results will come from this?

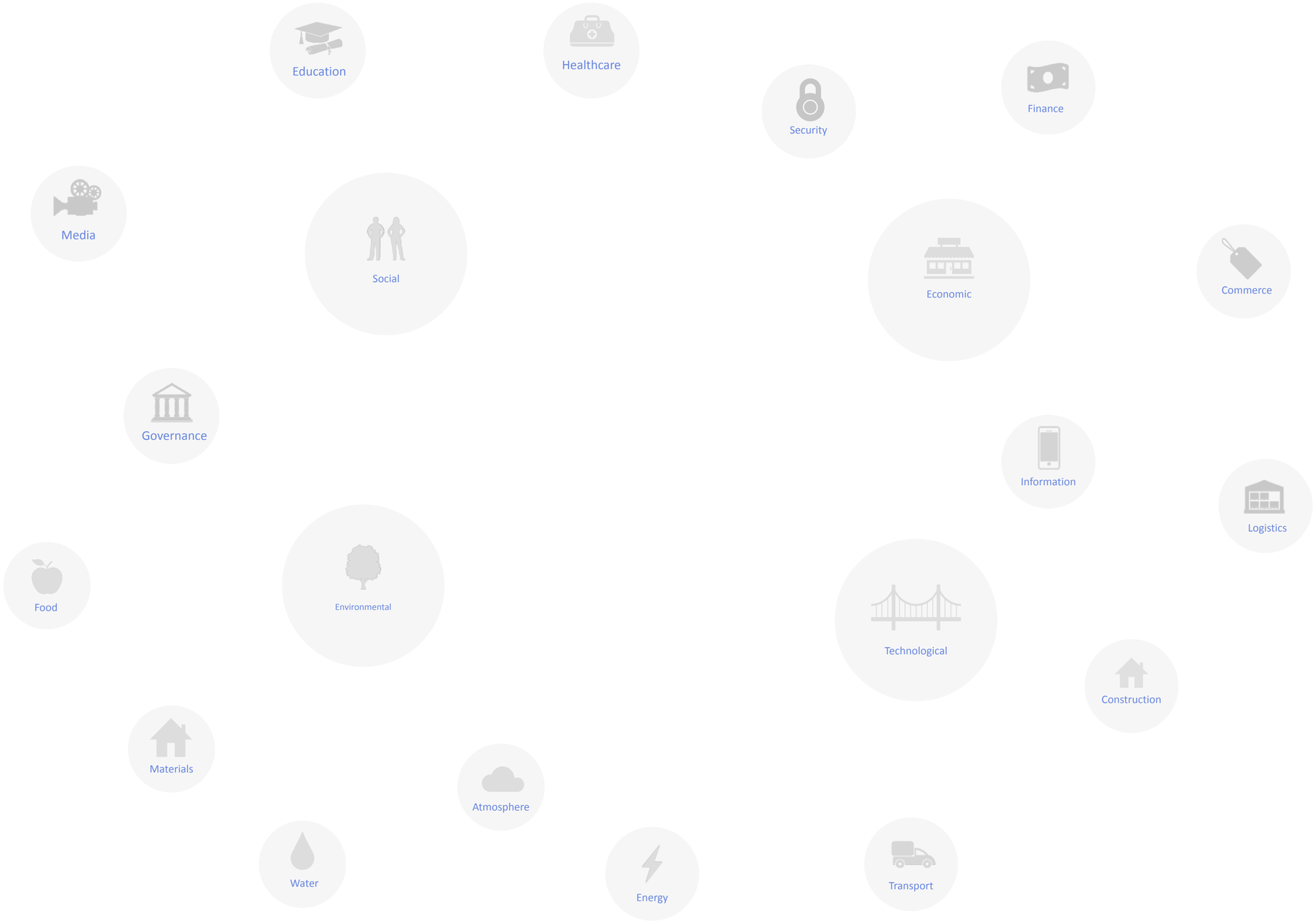
Challenge Mapping

Now we need to map out what are the factors effecting the issue. Social, economics, technological, environmental.

We need to think about what are the changes that need to take place and what are the innovations or startups we need to have as part of our ecosystem to address the factors previously mapped.

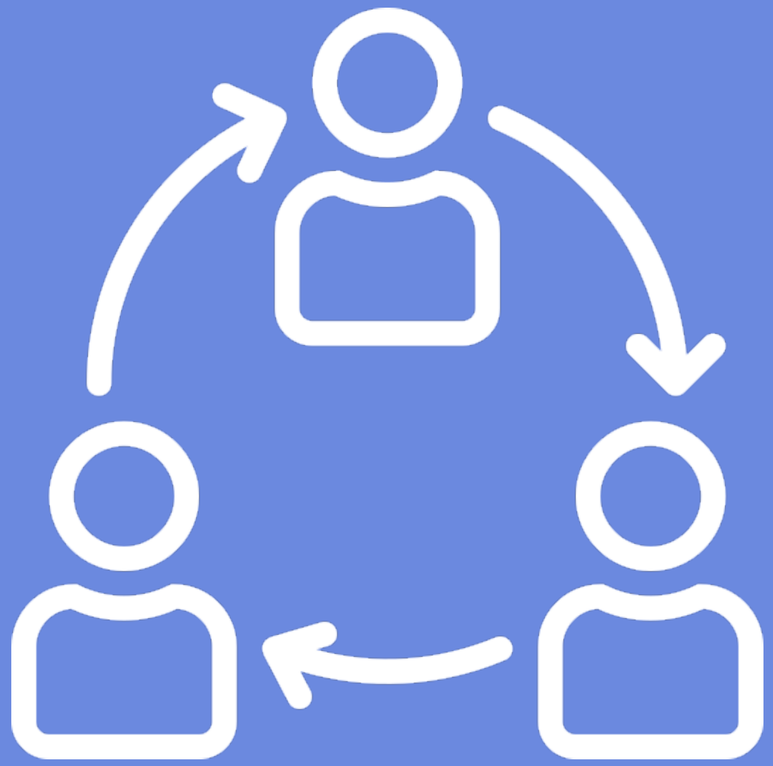
Education
Security
Media
Finance
Social
Economic
Governance
Logistics
Challenges
Areas
Healthcare
Info Tech
Materials
Environment
Technological
Manufacturing
Water
Construction
Food
Energy

Challenge Mapping Template



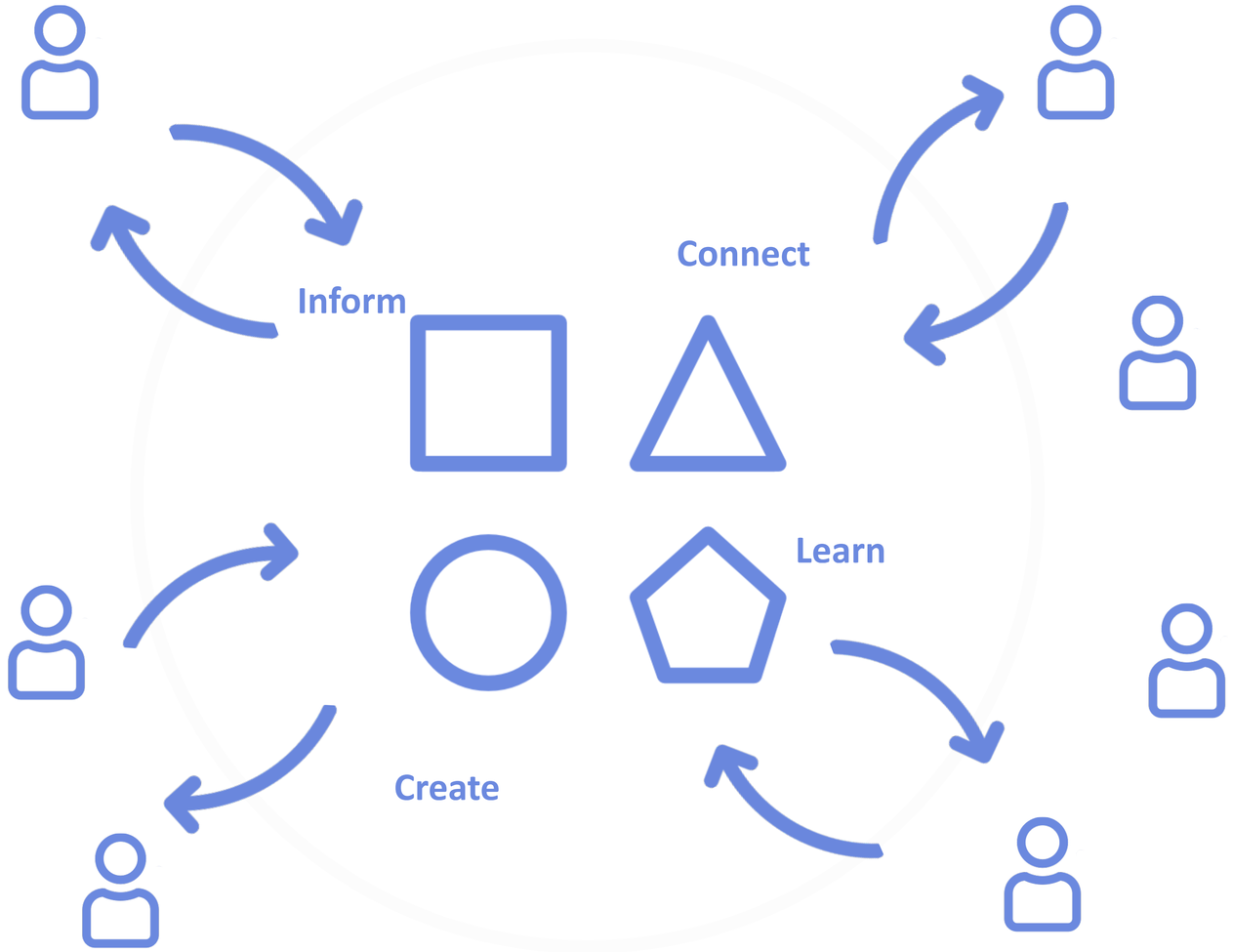
Actors

Now we need to think about what are the different capacities and organizations we need to support the new innovations. We will also idea no what activities we may do to develop and build the capacity of the ecosystem over time.



Template

Now add the organization types to the template. We will use the template here as a container for our ecosystem map. Create a Miro board with it or print it out if doing an offline workshop.



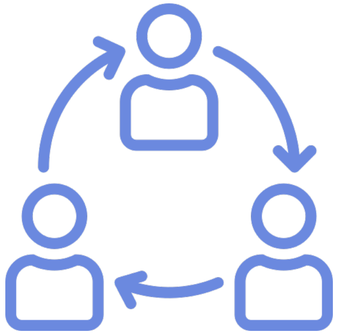
Activities

Activities are the events the platform does to activate and develop the community. Such as learning sessions, networking events, workshops, etc.

Ecosystem Activities

Informing

Raising awareness, sharing information, informing people of what is happening



Connecting

Connecting people and building the ecosystem through networking events

Learning

Providing learning opportunities, training, workshops, etc.

Collaborating

Enabling collaborates for member to work on real world projects

Platform

An ecosystem requires some underlying platform for organizing, activating, and enabling its development. In this section, we outline the key elements of the ecosystem's platform design.

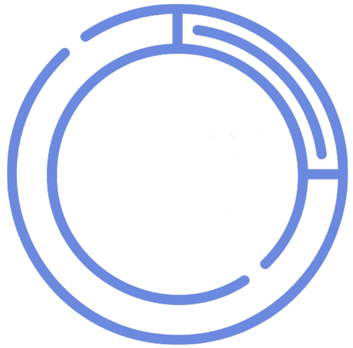
Ecosystem Activities

Tech

What software tools will we need to operationalize the ecosystem, communicate, run events, store data, etc.

Value Model

Connecting people and building the ecosystem through regular networking events



Assessment

How do we assess the development of the ecosystem?

Toolkits

What shared templates, playbooks or guides do we need?

Website

Wix

Workspace

Miro

Social Media

LinkedIn/Twitter

Collaboration

Slack/Mighty Network

Documents

Google Docs/Slides

Communications

Zoom

Storage

G Drive

Suggested Technology

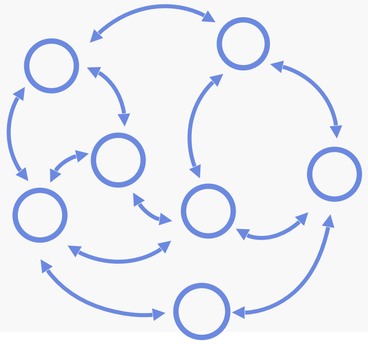
Value

Our ecosystem will have to create and deliver value of some kind. We need to define what that value is and how do we generate revenue for the organization if relevant. We need to define our value proposition and the strategic narrative we use to communicate the value of our ecosystem to others. Ideally, we can create a story to share with others that sums all of this up in an accessible fashion

Assement

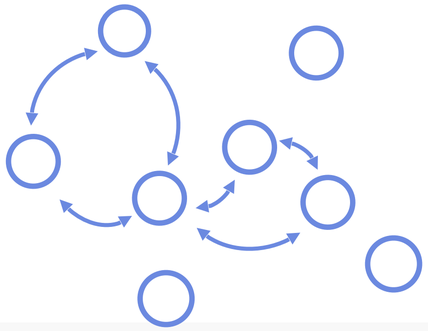
We now need to think about how to assess the level of development of the ecosystem. The canvas on the next page will help with this as well as also walk you through a set of questions to help you ask and answer key questions as to how to get to the next level of maturity in the community's development. This is done from the perspective of connectivity, collaboration and overall ecosystem alignment. The canvas will help you to think about how connected the actors are, how well they are working together and how to realized systems awareness and alignment among the actors toward systems change.

Systems Change



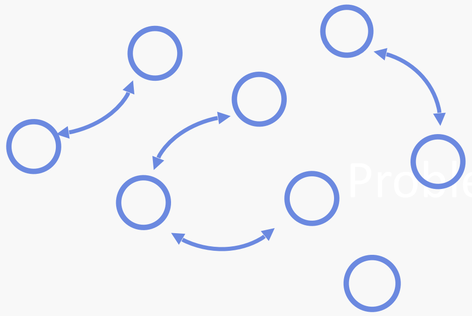
How can we enable systems level identity and shared direction to emerge?

Collaborations



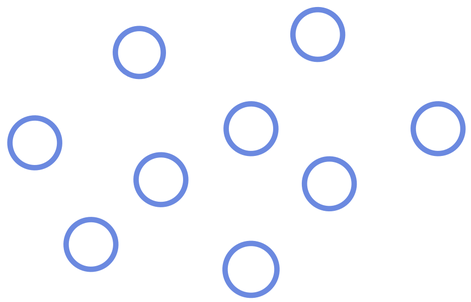
How can we connect across networks and develop systems awareness?

Exchanges



How can we build shared intent to strengthen real collaborations around shared purpose?

Group



How might we build connections between the actors? E.g. host events, networking, etc.

Toolkits

To support the community's development we will need to create a shared set of toolkits, guides, and playbooks. This will work as something of a knowledge base on how to do things. These templates need to be simple and accessible as well as useful for the member of the community - or else they will likely not use them. You will need to create a shared repository for storing them and a coherent way of structuring them so that everyone knows where to find what.

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