



# Culture challenging and contributing to Sustainable Development

Dr. Katriina Soini, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Why culture is needed?



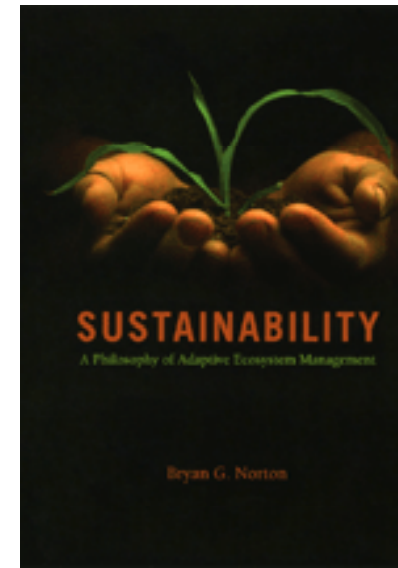
UN Conference on Human Environment 1972

UNESCO: Mexico Conference 1980

Rio Conference, 1992



UNESCO: Culture: Key Dimension of Sustainable Development, 2013



UNESCO: Convention of Cultural Diversity

Agenda 21 for Culture

UN: Post-Development Goals 2015

Rio + 20; Sustainable development

1962

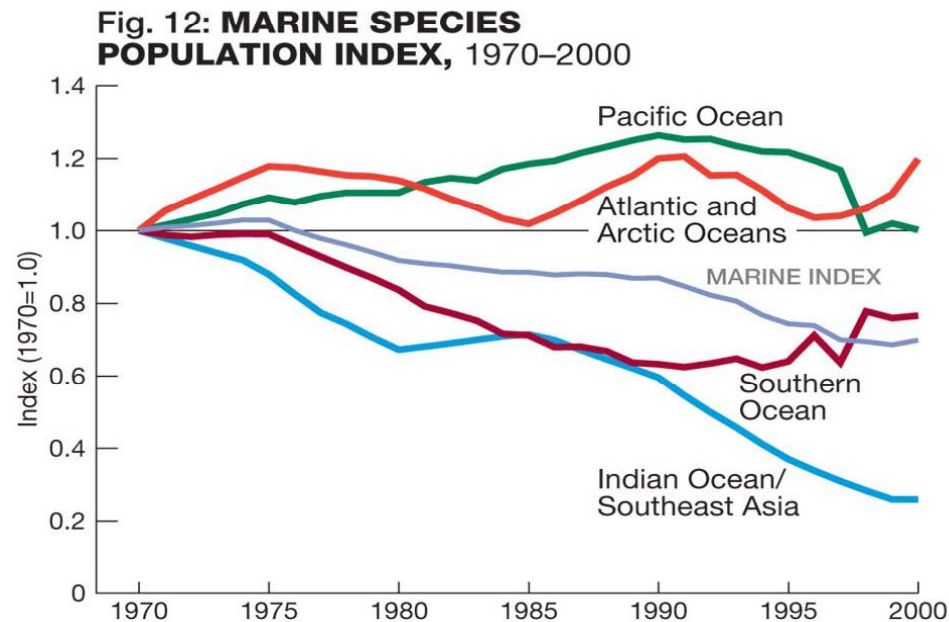
1987

2005

2012

# Unsustainability of development

- ▶ Increased environmental degradation and decreased biodiversity
- ▶ Increased social exclusion and inequity
- ▶ Challenges to manage increased cultural diversity
- ▶ ....



*”There is no context, content or process without culture. Therefore culture needs to be considered as an aspect of sustainable development.”*

O’Connor, J. 2013



What are the challenges?

# Complexity of the concepts

---

- ▶ Culture
- ▶ Development
- ▶ Sustainability

=> Disciplinary and cultural differences to use these concepts

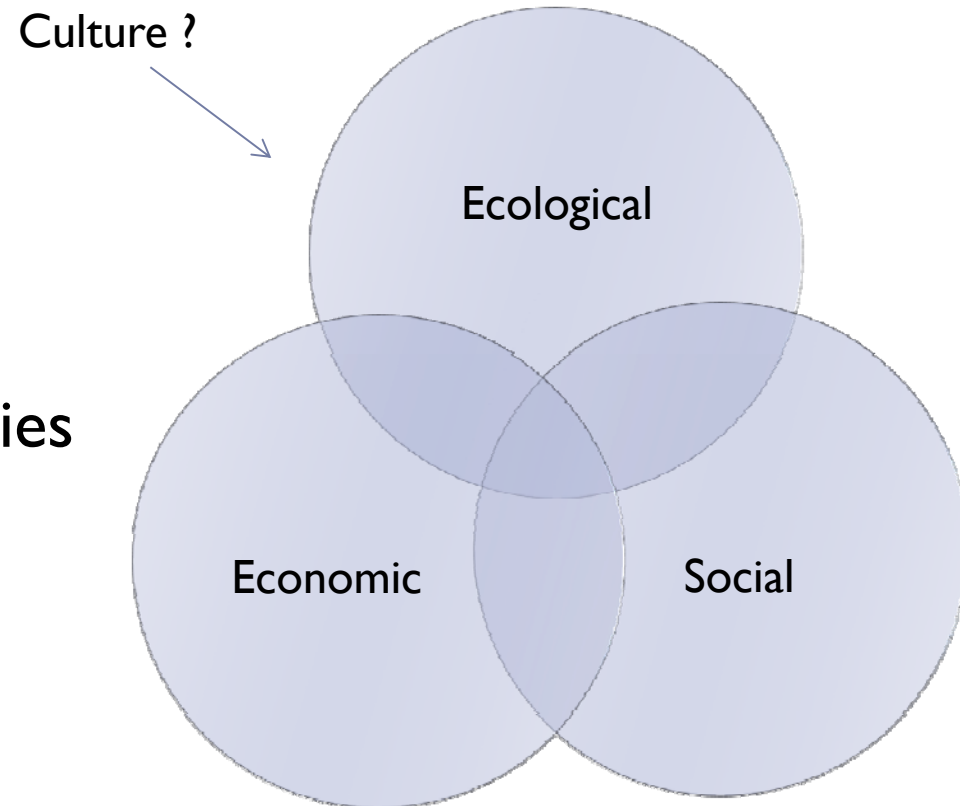
=> Multi-, transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches needed!



# Institutionalized view of sustainability

---

- ▶ New policy approaches and cross-sectoral policies are needed





**How to make culture visible and operationalized in the policies?**



COST IS1007 2011-2015

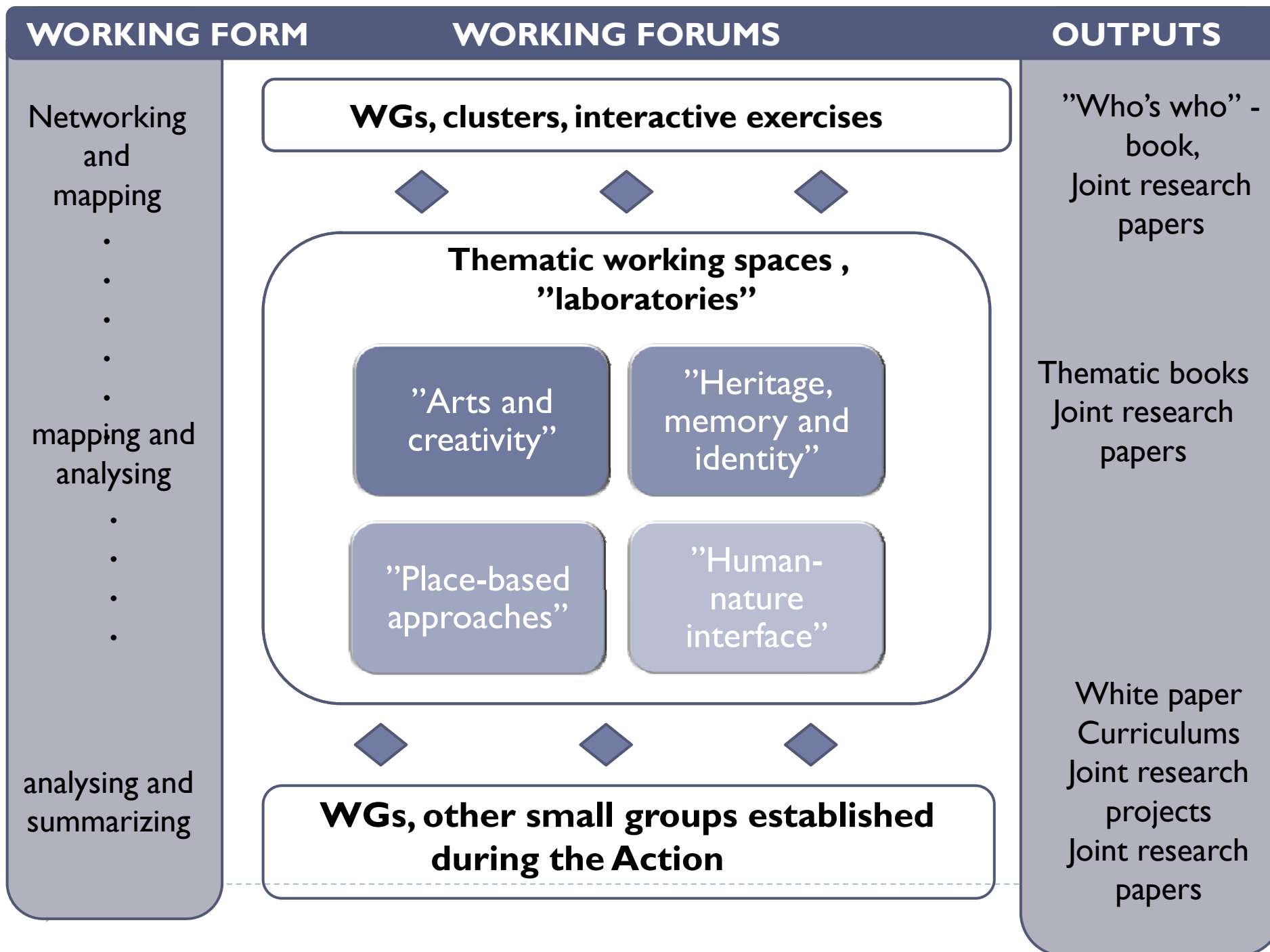
# Aim

---

...”to increase the understanding and to determine the role of culture in SD based on multidisciplinary principles”  
(COST ISI007 MoU)

- ▶ Themes:
  - ▶ Concepts
  - ▶ Policies
  - ▶ Assessments

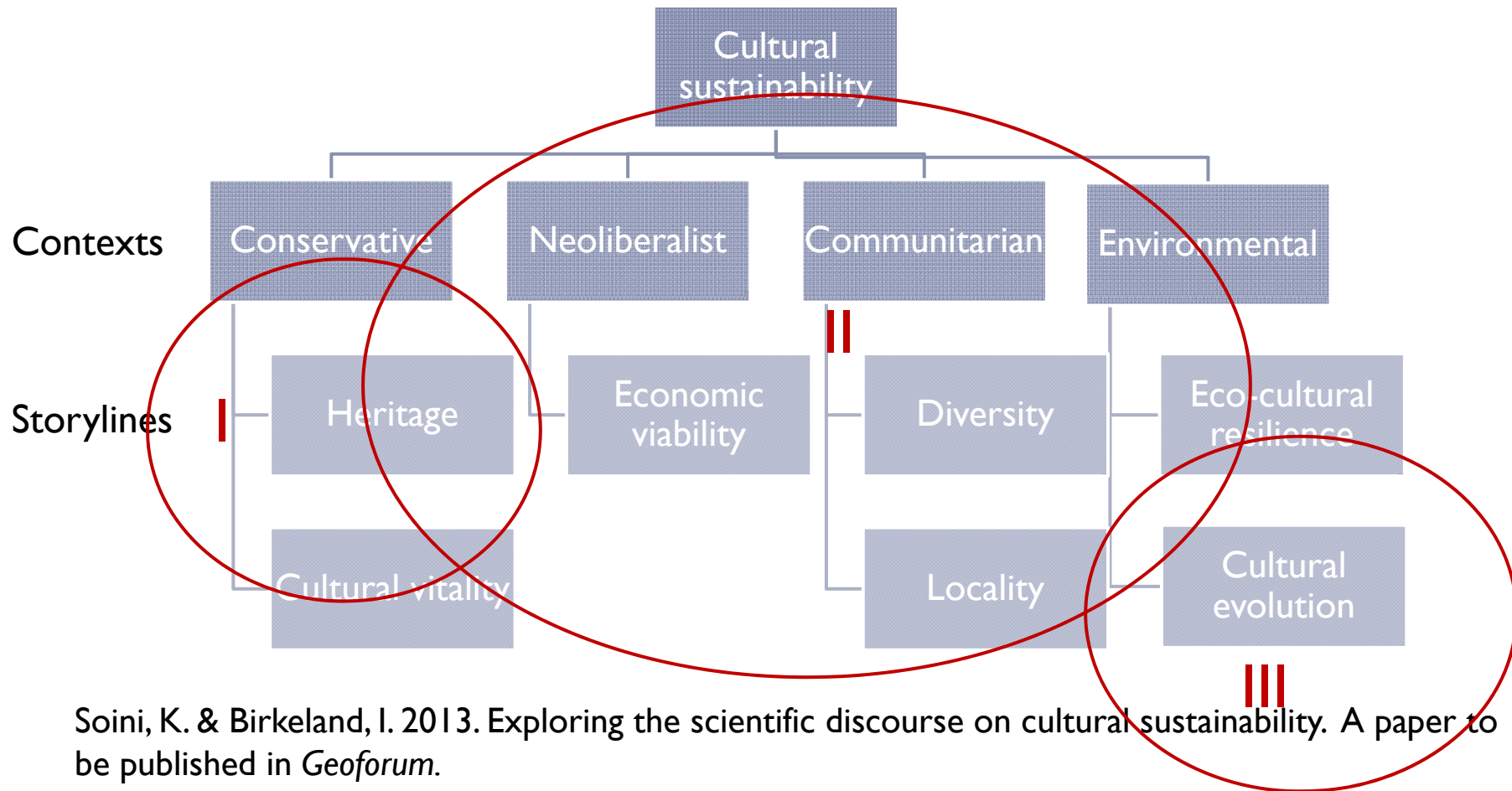






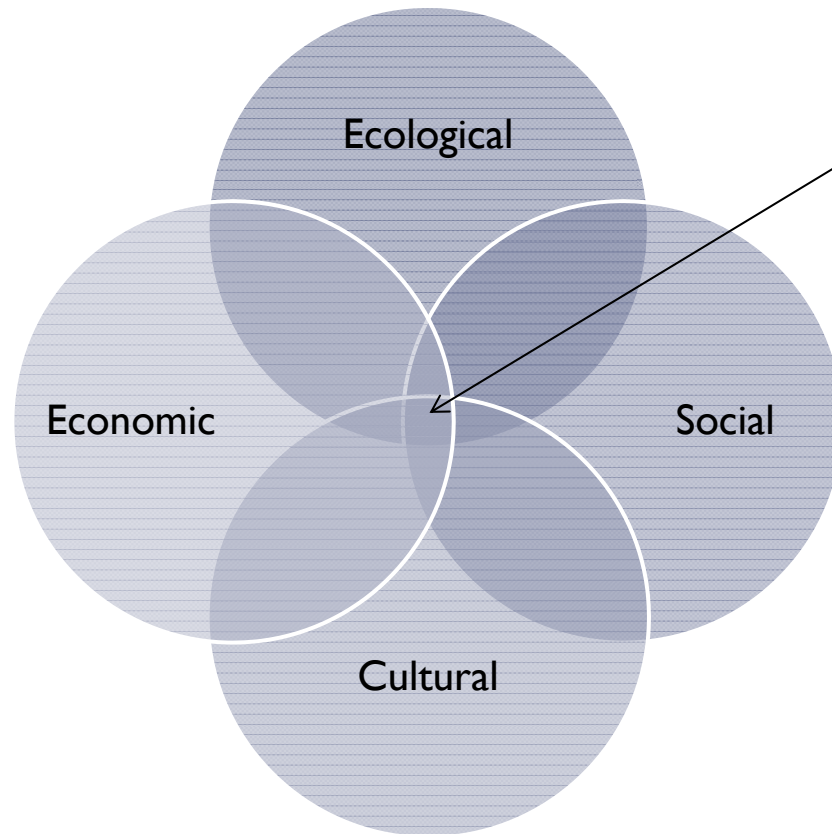
# Three approaches

# Academic discourse on "cultural sustainability"



# I Self-standing

---



Culture as a fourth pillar of sustainability :

Cultural aspects need to be considered in addition to the ecological, social and economic ones, in order to achieve sustainability.

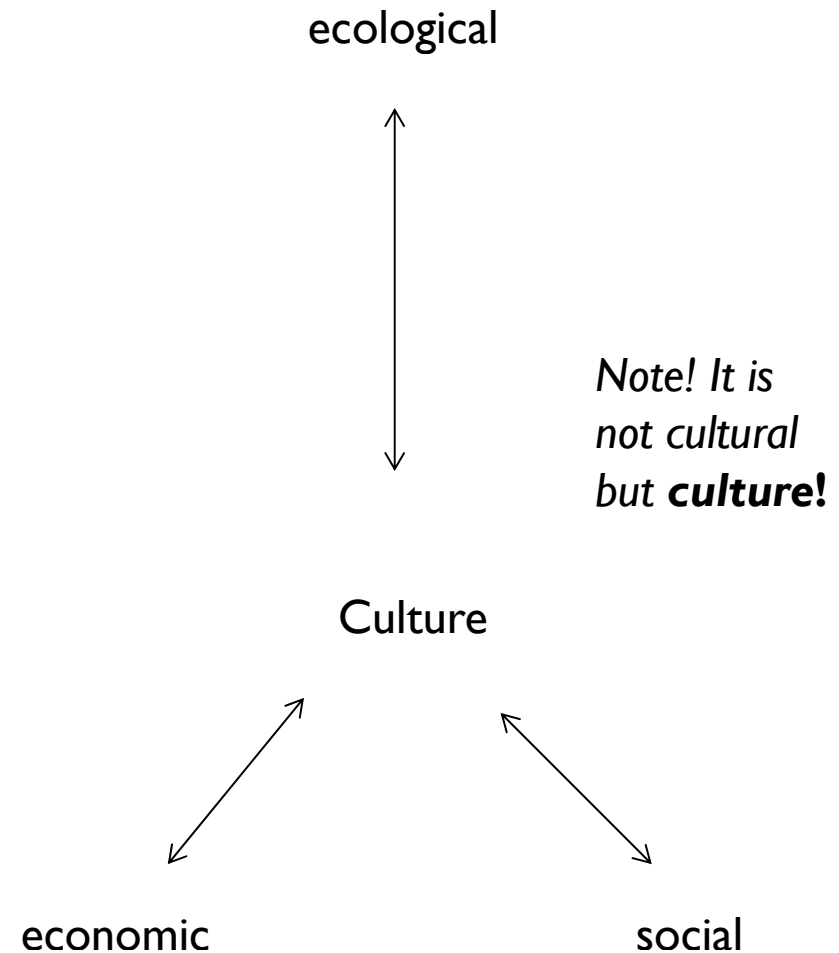


# II Transversal

---

## Culture as a catalyst in sustainable development

- ▶ culture drives, processes and translates the drawbacks and benefits of ecological, economic and social development.



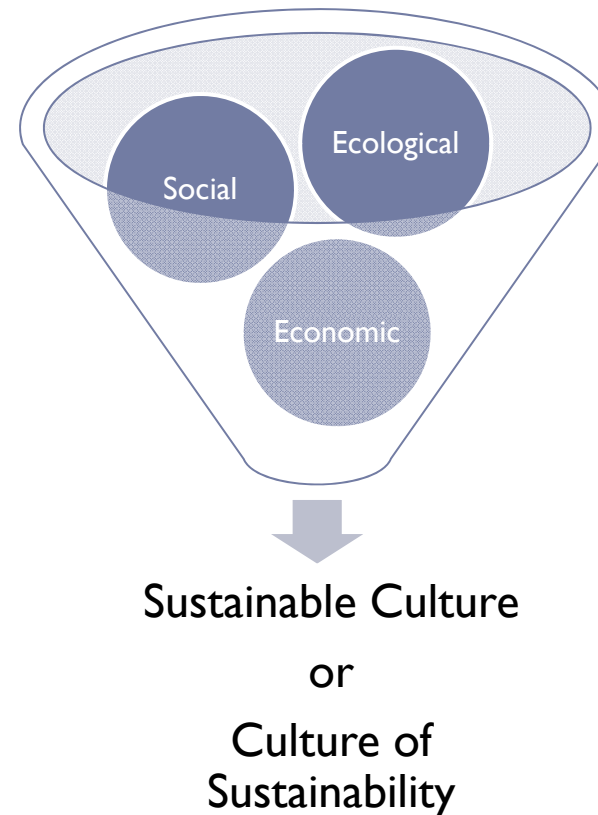


# III Fundamental

---

## Culture as a new paradigm of sustainability

- ▶ Cultural transition or “eco-cultural civilization” is needed to achieve more sustainable society.



# List of main outputs

---

- ▶ **Book series launched by the "Routledge Studies in Culture and Sustainable Development"**
- ▶ **Four thematic books**
  - ▶ Culture and Sustainability
  - ▶ Heritage and Sustainable Development: Theory and Practices
  - ▶ Place-based approaches in sustainable regional development
  - ▶ Culture, sustainability and the environmental realm
- ▶ **Three books in "pipeline"**
  - ▶ Art and environment
  - ▶ Metropolies
  - ▶ Theoretical book

## List of outputs

---

- ▶ "White paper": summary of the results
- ▶ European Master Course in Cultural Policy
- ▶ Special issue in International Journal of Cultural Policy
- ▶ Research Strategy and Joint Research Projects
- ▶ Joint research papers

