Odyssee – MURE project

Webinar on:

Multi-level governance: linking up local, regional and national levels for delivering integrated sustainable energy action planning and projects

Stefano Faberi (ISINNOVA)

1st March 2018

Innovation for sustainability
isiNNOVA

Summary of this presentation

- The starting point: why a Multi-Level Governance (MLG) activity is necessary to increase the effectiveness of the energy efficiency measures

- The roles of the different government levels and the aims of an effective governance system

- How to frame the governance modes

- Factors to organize and manage a successful MLG

- A concrete example of a MLG activity

The starting point (1/3)

- To achieve the energy efficiency potential is proving difficult

- This is especially true when thinking to the 2030 challenging targets set by the Commission

- And that the recovering from the economic crisis may favour an increase of final energy consumption

- So, to achieve these targets, EU countries not only will have to adopt strong energy efficiency measures, but have to make sure that the end users effectively apply them.
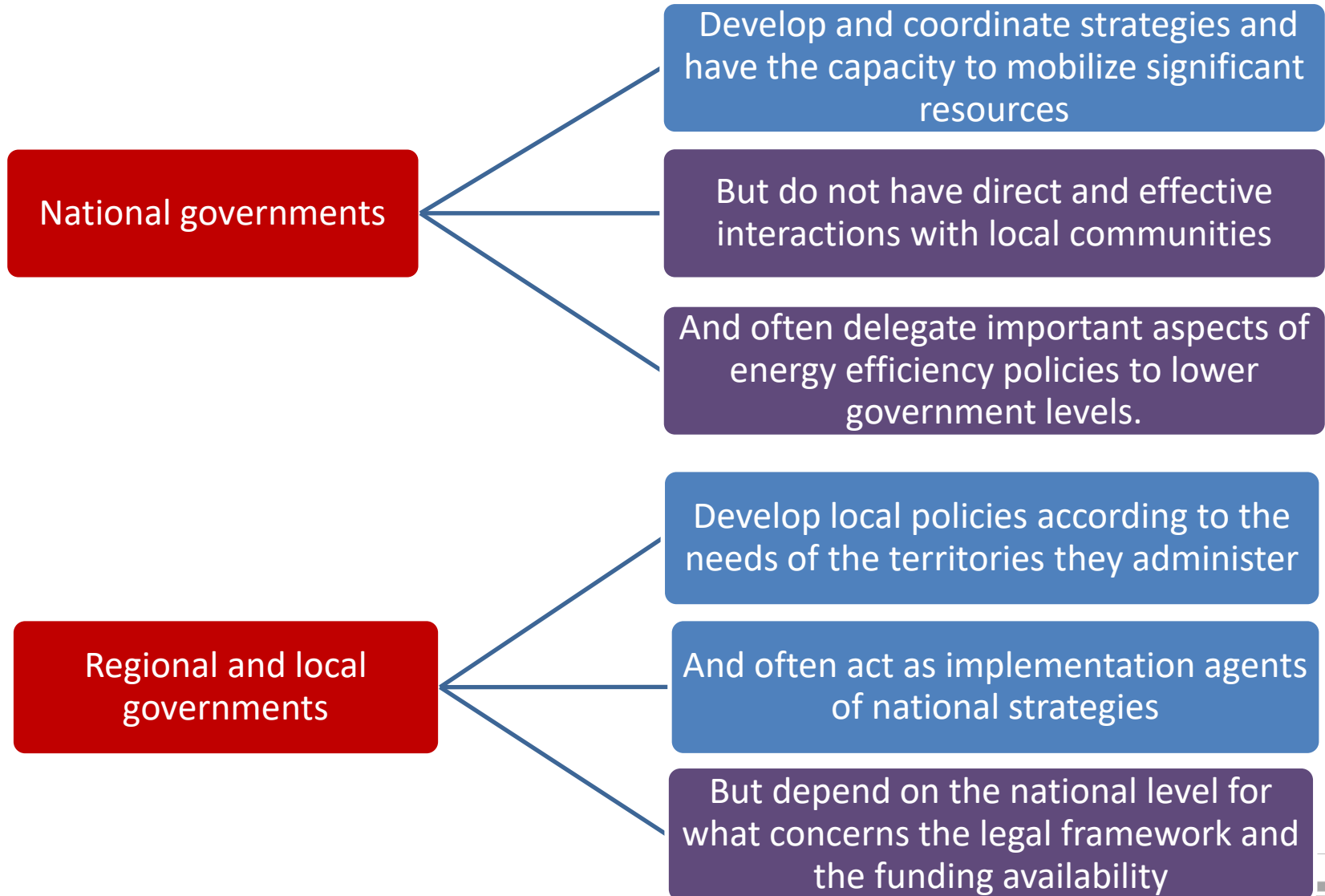
The starting point (2/3)

- A good way to make the measures more effective is to set coordinated actions between multiple levels of government: local, regional, national and European

- And to engage the whole system of actors that influence energy productivity patterns.

- It has been increasingly proven that this type of cooperation (if well enacted) may improve the capability of policy makers to design robust and effective programs:
  - By modifying under-performing programs.
  - By connecting and sharing experience with policy makers of the same and/or different level of government.
  - By better understanding the final users needs, problems and behaviour.

The starting point (3/3)

- It generally happens that the different levels of government directly engage "non governmental actors"

- But this engagement might be made more effective by coordinating the efforts of these government levels.

- Each of these levels play an important role in the energy efficiency implementation process, and if they act in isolation, the energy efficiency potentials may not be achieved.
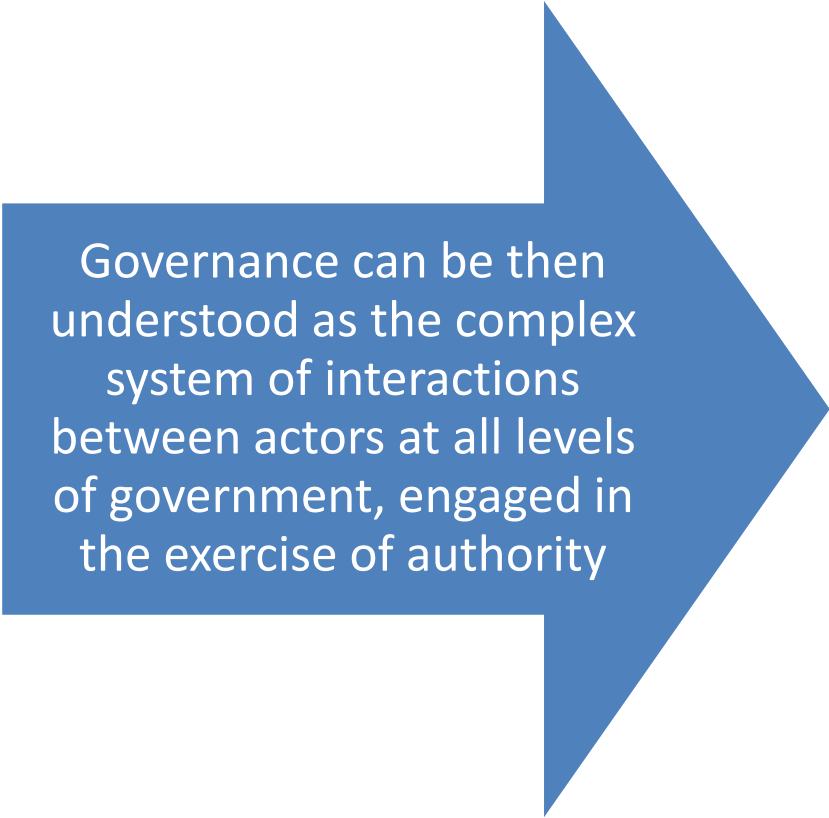
Role of the different government levels

National governments

- Develop and coordinate strategies and have the capacity to mobilize significant resources
- But do not have direct and effective interactions with local communities
- And often delegate important aspects of energy efficiency policies to lower government levels.

Regional and local governments

- Develop local policies according to the needs of the territories they administer
- And often act as implementation agents of national strategies
- But depend on the national level for what concerns the legal framework and the funding availability

What an effective governance system should aim for

- **The need to focus on understanding the system of governing** in all its complexity – rather than just as a traditional hierarchical, linear form of control from national to regional and local levels

- **The understanding of the role of different actors in the governing process** when national actors are not necessarily the only or most significant participants.

- **The understanding of the way these actors interact** according to the "world of overlapping and competing authorities at different scales"

From Bulkeley, 2006…

Governance vs Multigovernance

Governance can be then understood as the complex system of interactions between actors at all levels of government, engaged in the exercise of authority
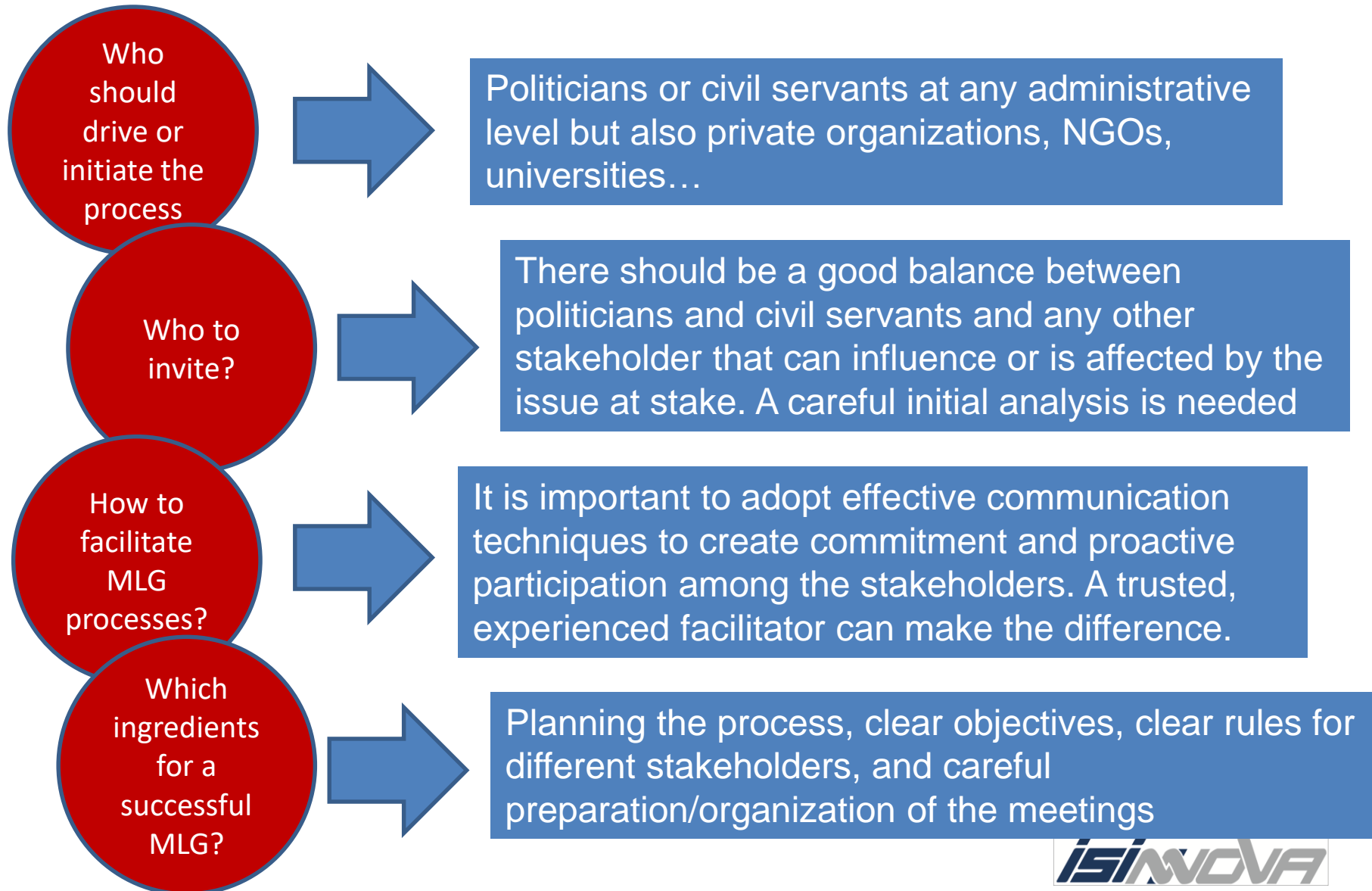
MLG is a decision-making processes that allow the engagement of various independent but interdependent stakeholder

Framing the different governance modes

Governing by	That is…	MLG contribution
Authority	Command and control process	To reach the consensus
Provision	Subsidies, provision of services	To reach agreement on how to implement at local level these provisions and enabling activities
Enabling	Information campaigns, guidelines, best practices, voluntary commitments	
Self Governing	autonomous local initiatives enacted to reinforce or tailor to specific local requirements	To frame the local actions within the national context and, in cooperation with the regional/national governments

From IEA, 2009…

Innovation for sustainability
isinnova

Factors to organize and manage a successful MLG

Who should drive or initiate the process → Politicians or civil servants at any administrative level but also private organizations, NGOs, universities…

Who to invite? → There should be a good balance between politicians and civil servants and any other stakeholder that can influence or is affected by the issue at stake. A careful initial analysis is needed

How to facilitate MLG processes? → It is important to adopt effective communication techniques to create commitment and proactive participation among the stakeholders. A trusted, experienced facilitator can make the difference.

Which ingredients for a successful MLG? → Planning the process, clear objectives, clear rules for different stakeholders, and careful preparation/organization of the meetings

ISINNOVA

An example: the RES H/C SPREAD project

- The objective was to design regional plans to foster the use of renewables for the heating and cooling end uses.

- In each of the six participating EU countries, multi-level stakeholder participation was organized to agree on and support the plan development.

- In particular, in the Italian Emilia Romagna region, almost 100 people were involved, coming from regional and local administrations, universities and the private sector.

- These participants developed a comprehensive strategy for the development of RES heating technologies composed of several policy measures.

An example: Lesson learned and achivments from this MLG activity

- Key success factors have been:
  - A careful design of the decision process: objectives and agendas planned beforehand
  - The careful identification the most important stakeholders for a regional RES heating and cooling planning process.
  - The direction of the meetings entrusted to a skilled animator
- And, at the end, the role of this multi-level focus group was essential for the development of the regional H/C plan that was eventually endorsed and implemented by the regional authorities

Thank you for your attention

Stefano Faberi

sfaberi@isinnova.org