



Trailing Research

A New Concept for an Age-old Challenge

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Development.

"Urban Allotment Garden in European Cities"- Summer School, Salzburg,
Austria, Wednesday 02.07.2014

Trailing Research?

- Off-trail?
- De-rail?
- Trail building?
- Trailing along?

Origin

- Finne, Levin and Nilssen (1995)
Trailing Research: A Model for Useful Program Evaluation
- Olsen and Lindøe (2004)
Trailing Research Based Evaluation; Phases and Roles

What is Trailing Research?

- An alternative to Action Research
 - same foundation
 - views knowledge as context-bound
 - knowledge can not be separated from action
- Does not require researcher to be a change agent
- Lies between traditional Positivistic Research and Action Research

(Olsen and Lindøe, 2004)

Is not a multi-stage positivistic approach!

Corresponding concepts

- Formative Dialogue Research (Baklien)
- Continuing Research (Landstad)
- Following Research (translating the Norwegian common phrase)

Why Trailing Research?

- Complex situations
 - not necessary large-scale rather number of actors, stressors, aggressors....
- Multiplicity
 - often many ongoing at same time (simultaneous participating in several processes)
- Non-Replicability.
 - It's now or never....

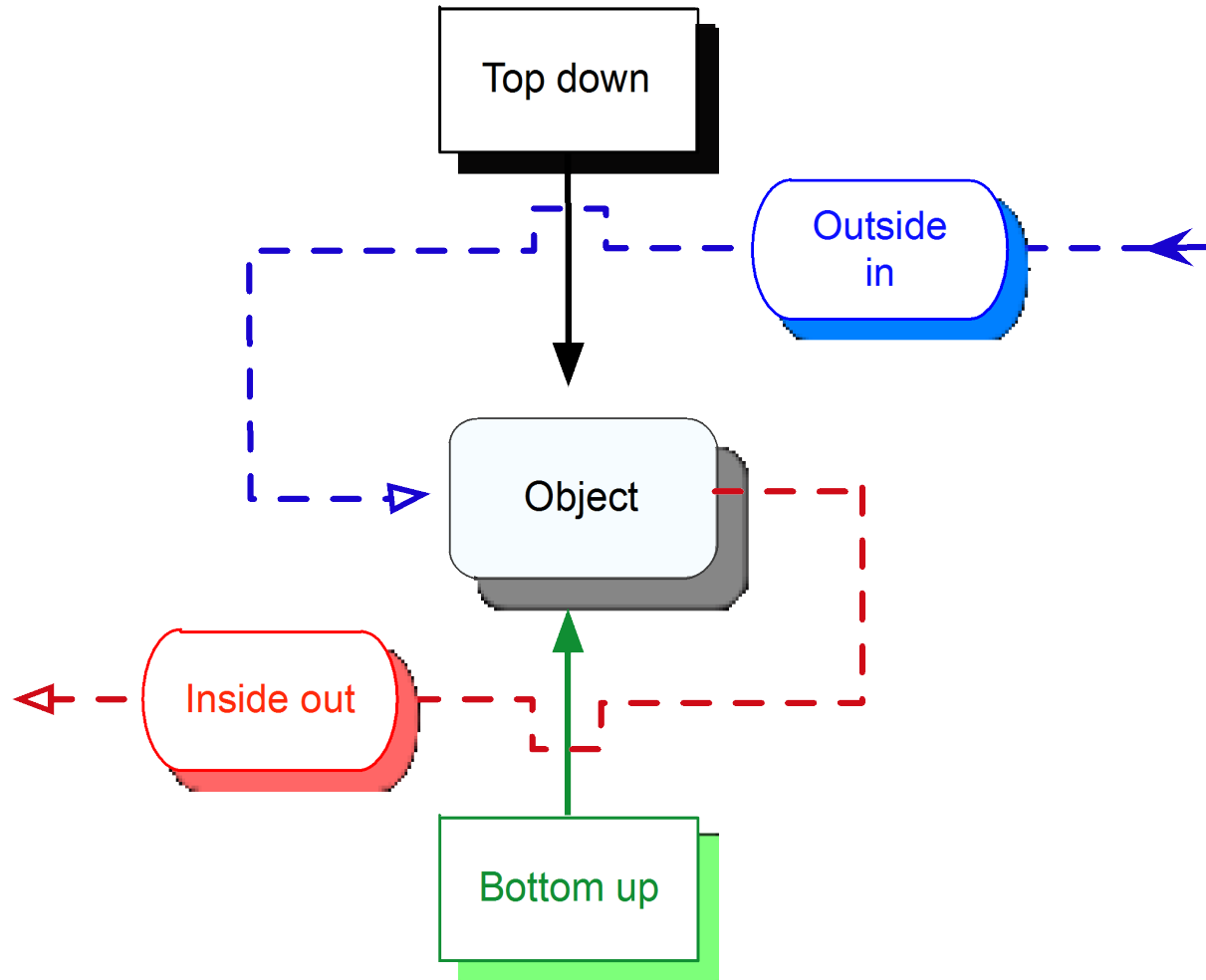
Why.... (ctnd)

- Participation is a Goal in itself
 - more (and better) participation leads to better results and easier implementation
 - how does participation work
 - how to improve participation
 - implementation knowledge

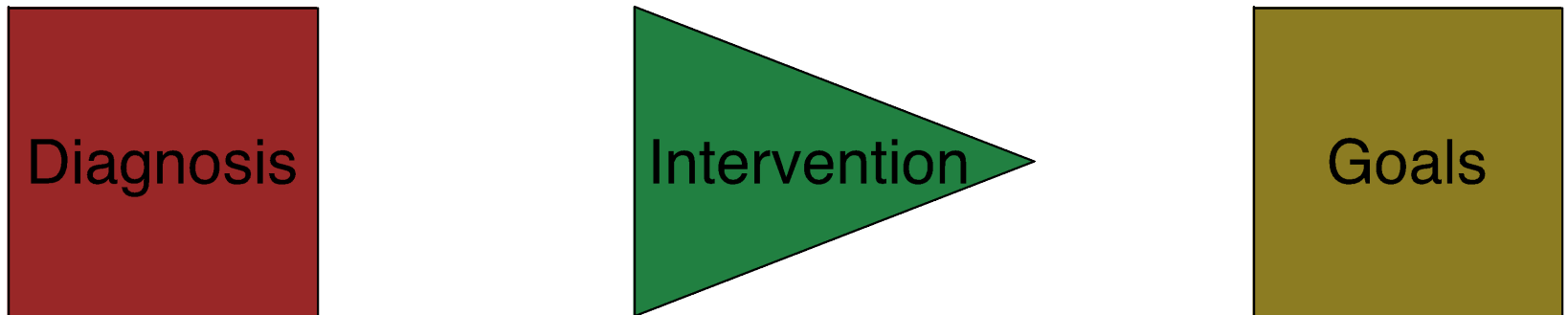
This leads to shift in power:

- from government and authorities to individuals and organisations
- Still, the system retains the formal power
 - decision-making systems (laws and regulations)
 - representative systems
 - bureaucracy
- But depends on 'Grassroots activism' to function

GOVERNANCE



Knowledge is Situated – always...



(P. Salmon, 2014)

Inspired by

- John Friedmann; Planning in the public domain (1987)
– (empowerment)
- Jürgen Habermas; The Theory of Communicative action (1984 – 1987)
- Patsy Healey; Institutional Capacity Building, (1999)

Inspired by (more down to earth)

- There's a huge difference between kneeling down and bending over
(Frank Zappa, divine musician)





Runa Bakke

18 hrs · 

Gledeleg brev frå Volda kommune!

Friluftsföreninga Volda
Engesetgeila 5C

6102 Volda

Arkivsak nr.	Løpnr.	Arkivkode	Avd/Sakshandamar	Dato
2012/151	5766/2014	2011009	UTV/ TS	26.06.2014

**PLANID 2011009 REGULERINGSPLAN TURVEG ROTEVATNET - MELDING OM
PLANGODKJENNING – PBL 12-12**

Vi melder med dette frå at kommunestyret den 19.06.14, hadde føre ovannemnde som sak PS 88/14, der det vart gjort slikt vedtak:

- 1. I samsvar med reglane i Plan- og bygningslova § 12-3 vert detaljreguleringsplan turveg Rotevatnet eigengodkjent, slik det går fram av planomtale, plankart og foresegner datert 06.05.2014.*
- 2. I høve gjennomføring av planen i samsvar med pbl kap. 16 er tiltaket vurdert å vere tvillaust meir til gagn enn skade.*

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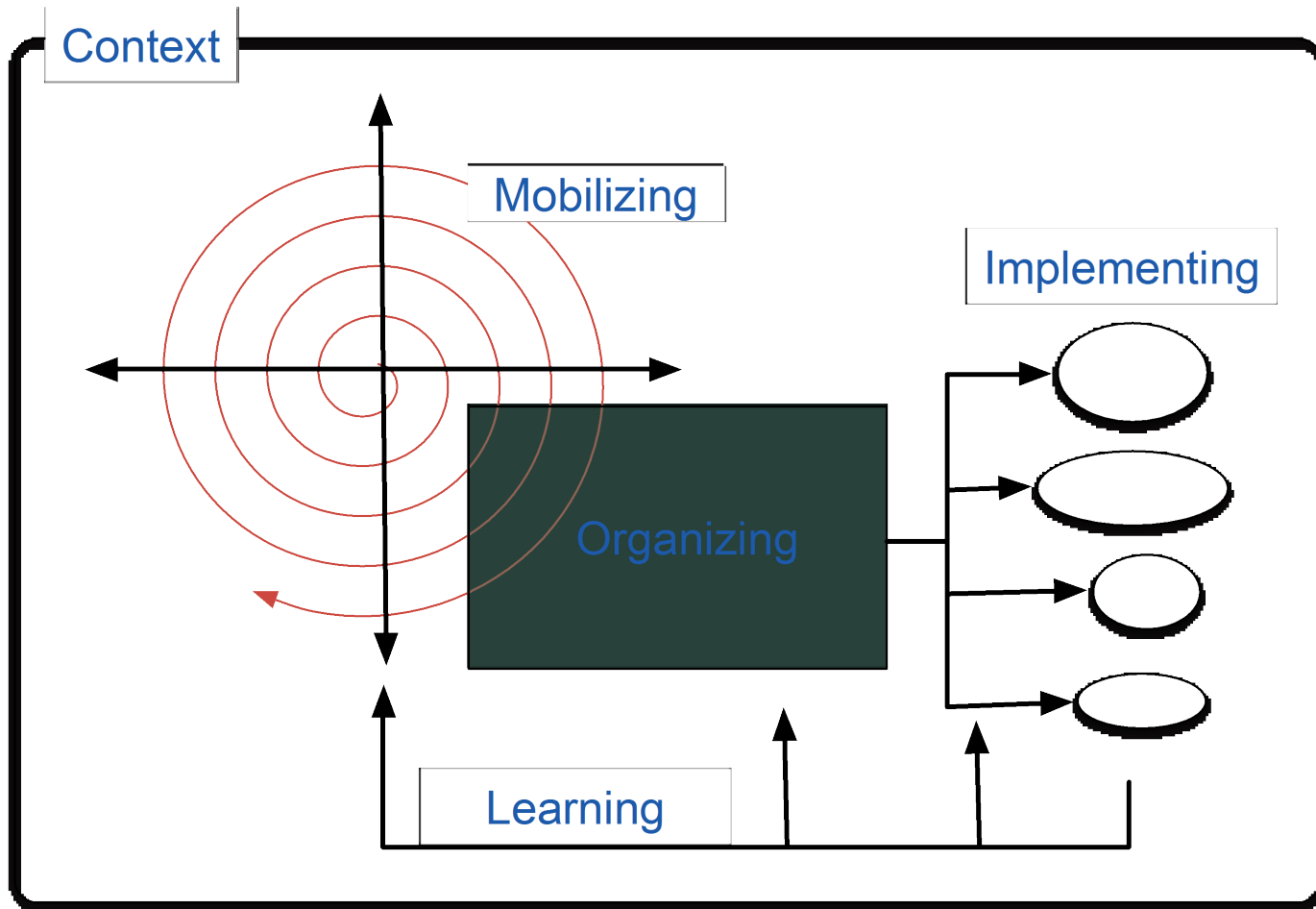






Communicative Model

(Amdam and Amdam 2000)



Mobilization

- Realistic (and shared) understanding of situation?
- Documentation that is accepted?
- Agree there is focus on the most important development straits?
- Shared and accepted vision of future?
- Accepted aand realistic strategies to reach visions?
- Actors willing and able to engage?

Organisation

- Does the structures contribute to implementation?
- Is ther support from the community/-ies?
 - (what are the communities??)
- Existence of usable arenas
 - intra – inter – extra
- management structures that are up to the job
 - Prioritization, envisioning realistic solutions..

Implementation

- Finding the good methods for how to implement/make things happen
 - this is often the crucial point
 - actively phase in different tires and desisors

Implementation

- Find, include and nurture the "Firy Souls"
 - persons with competence, knowledge, creativity, time and engagement
- Control of neccesary rescources
- Know how to get participants going
- Use of activity-agreements
- Be based upon (relevant) laws and rules

Learning

- Understand processes of learning (simple – deep) practice – structure – policy
- Know how to value experience
- Be alert, see and use possibilities when they arise
- Documentation and formal processes for learning (suit the needs)
- New learning to produce new knowledge and new action

Group Work

Situation yesterday; the community garden

- Aspiration: include more low income and persons with minority cultural background

How to do so?

- List 3-5 most important challenges
- List 3-5 "most promising" strategic actions



Thank You Very Much

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