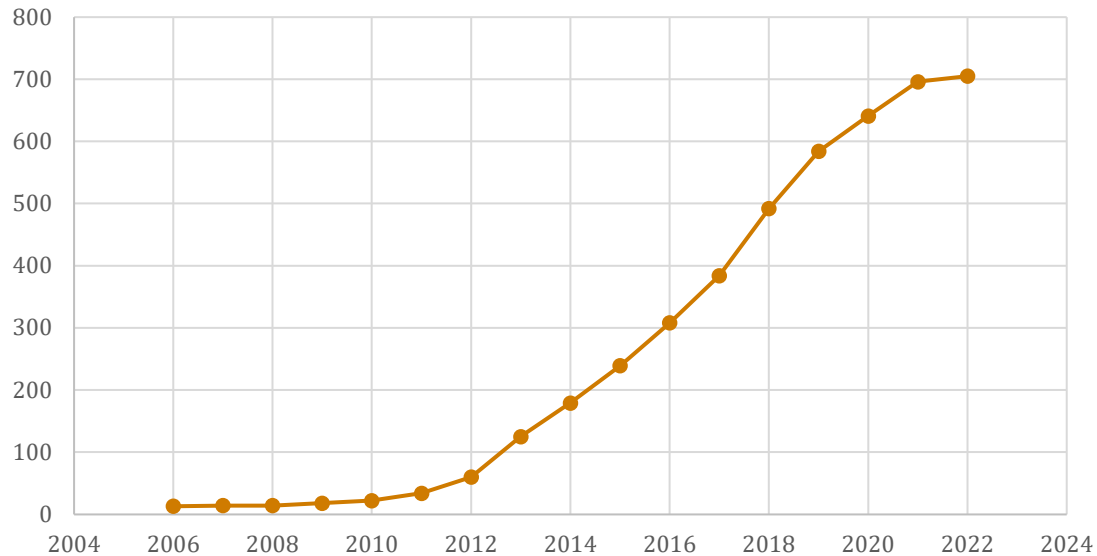
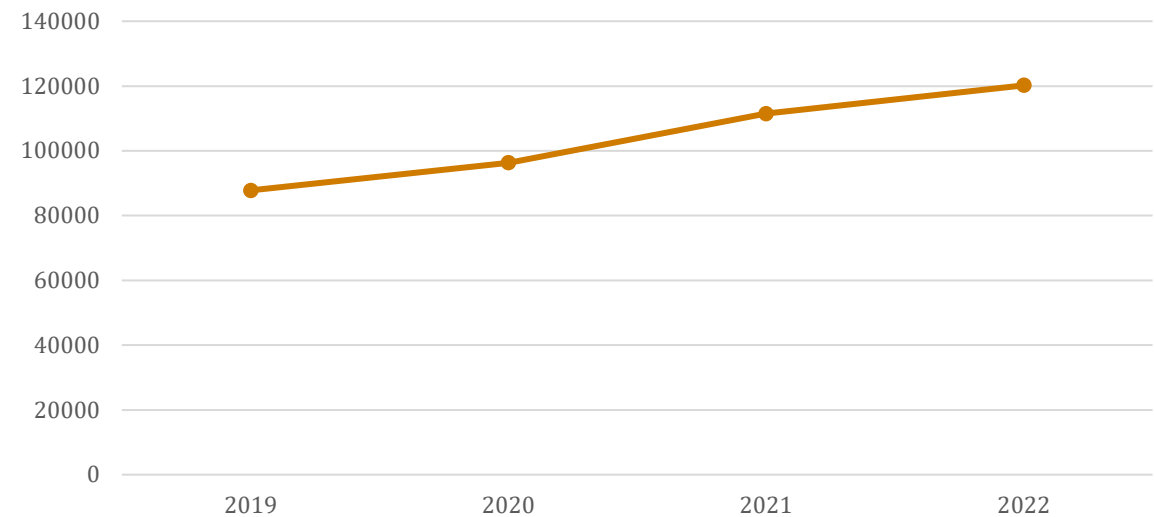


Local energy initiatives in the Netherlands

Number of local energy cooperatives in the Netherlands



Number of citizens involved in local energy cooperatives in the Netherlands

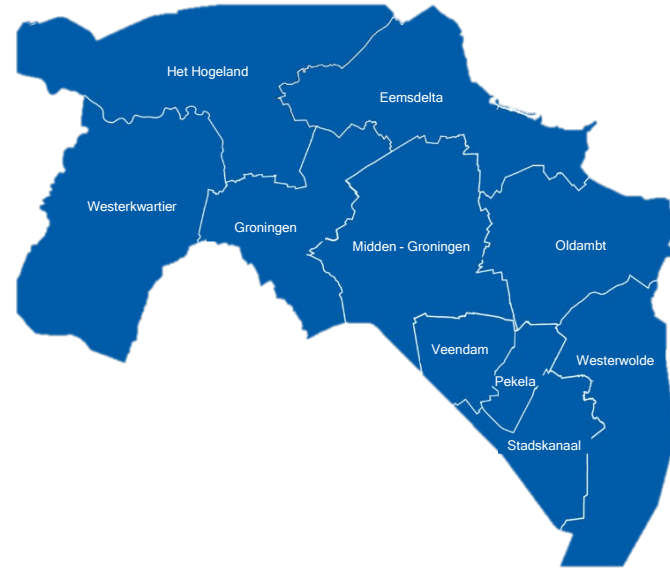


Source: Hieropgewekt (2022)

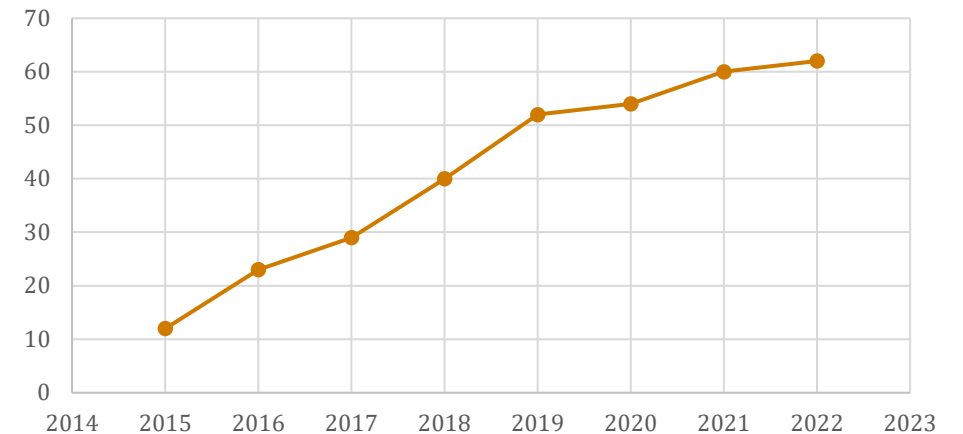
Local energy initiatives in the Netherlands

- Although the number of local energy initiatives (LEIs) and the number of local citizens involved in LEIs have increased, **only 1,5% of the total households** in the Netherlands are currently involved in LEIs.
- The **impact** of LEIs on the energy transition is, not only in the Netherlands, **still limited** (Germes et al., 2021; Berka et al., 2018; Seyfang et al., 2014).

LEIs in the province of Groningen



Number of local energy cooperatives in the province of Groningen



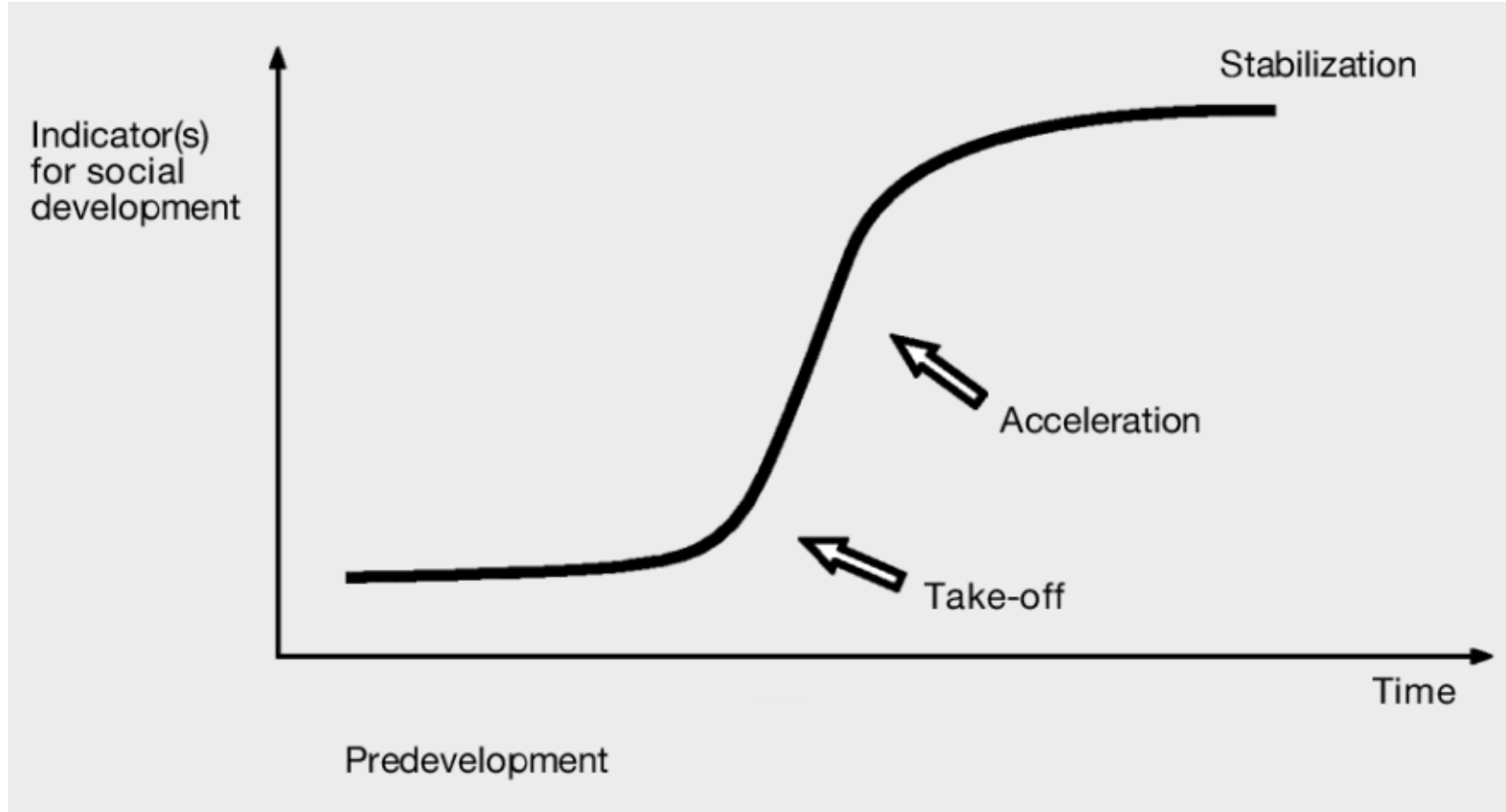
LEIs in the province of Groningen

- The impact of the LEIs in Groningen was measured in 2019 (Germes et al., 2021):
 - Impact was **hard to measure**, because most LEIs did not have specific and measurable objectives and/or did not monitor their progress.
 - **Impact** regarding generation of renewable energy and involvement of local citizens of LEIs in the province was **limited**.
- **Questions from the intermediary organisations in Groningen:**
 - How did the local energy sector evolve over the past years?
 - What is needed to grow as a sector to have more impact in the future?

LEIs as niches

- Earlier research has compared the development of LEIs with the development of **niches** (Ruggiero et al., 2018; Hamilton et al., 2014; Seyfang et al., 2014; Seyfang & Smith, 2007; Hargreaves et al., 2013).
- Niches aim to become more robust to **challenge the regime** (Seyfang & Smith, 2007).
- So far, LEIs are currently **far from a robust niche** (Seyfang et al., 2014; Ruggiero et al., 2018).

Transition Management (TM)

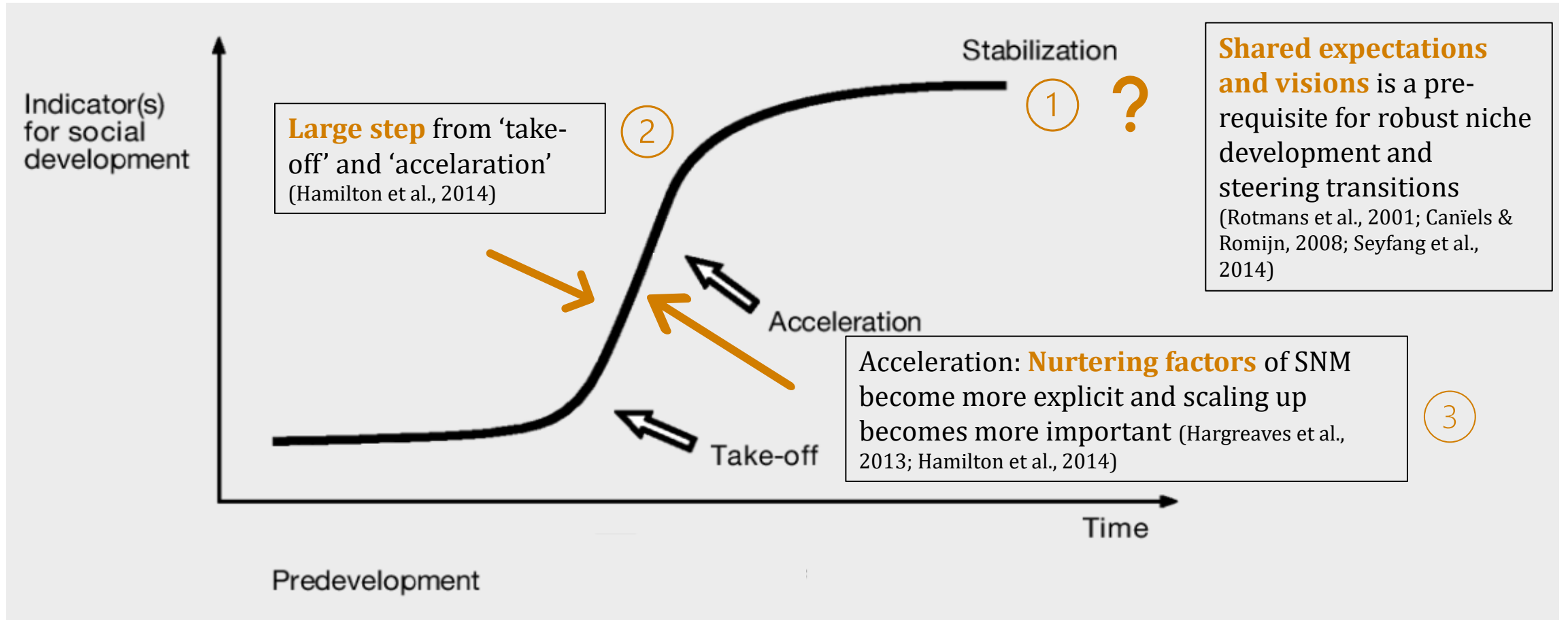


The four phases of transition (Rotmans et al., 2001)

Strategic Niche Management (SNM)

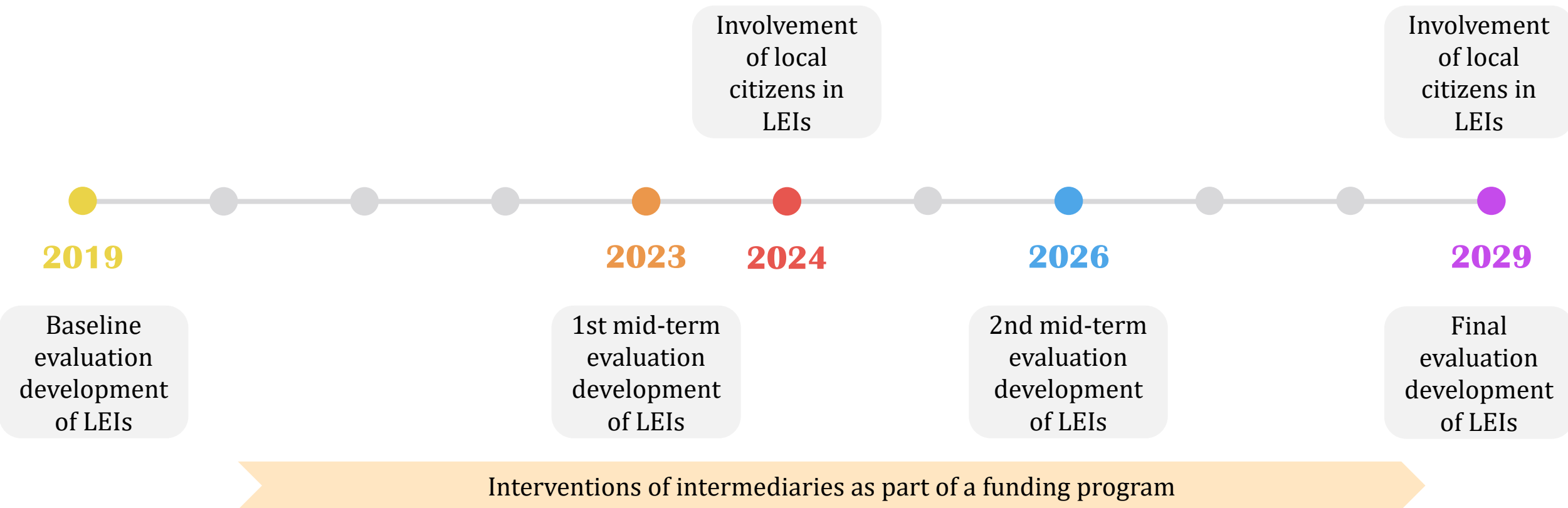
- **Nurtering factors** (Kemp et al., 1998):
 - Managing expectations
 - Learning processes
 - Building social networks
- **Scaling up** to have more impact as a local energy niche (Seyfang & Haxeltine, 2012; Hamilton et al., 2014):
 - Replication (more LEIs)
 - Grow in scale (more citizens involved)
 - Mainstreaming (involve other sectors)

Aim of this study



The four phases of transition (Rotmans et al., 2001)

Research context



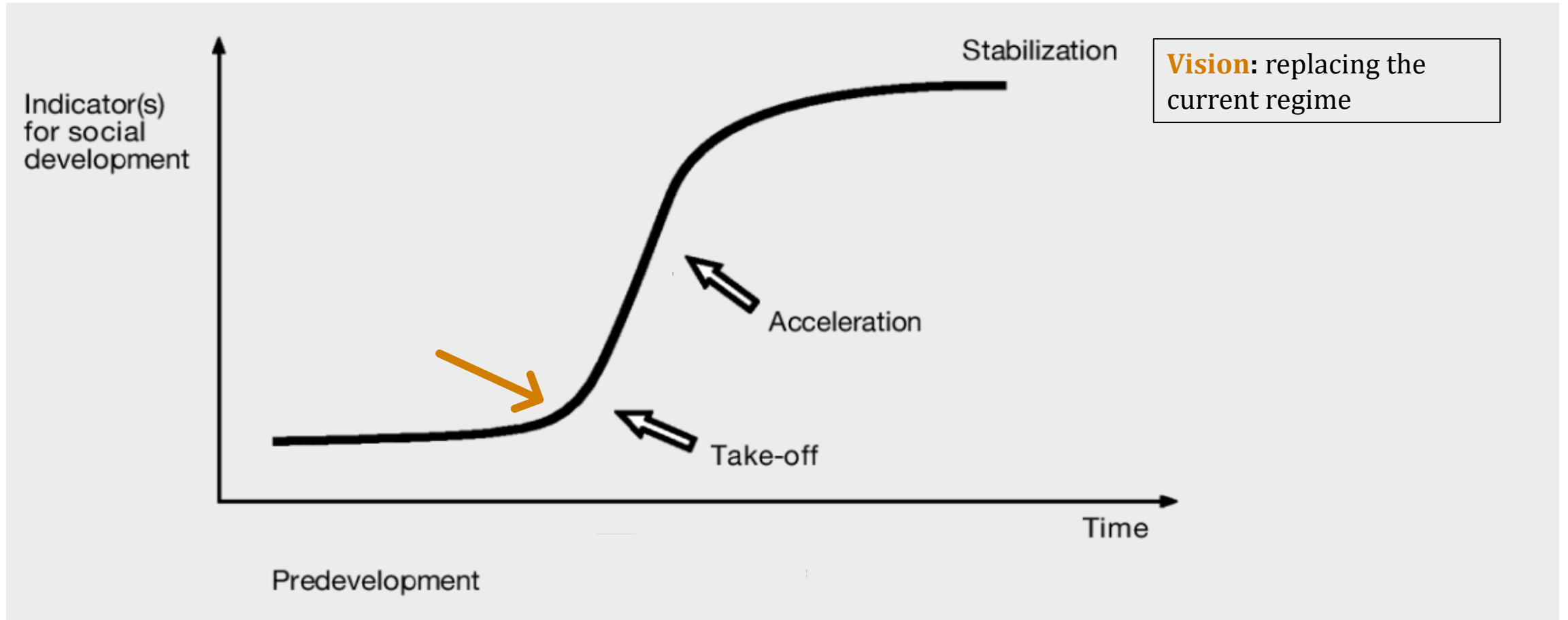
Method

- Semi-structured interviews:
 - **47** initiators of **local energy initiatives** (Mean duration interview: 77 minutes)
 - **7** representatives of the **municipalities** in Groningen
 - **3** boardmembers or employees of **intermediary organisations**
- Several topics, including:
 - Objectives (future, 3 years and 6 years)
 - Impact of LEI
 - Development of LEI in the past and future
 - Involvement of local citizens
 - Social network of LEI
 - Future local energy sector
- Analyses: Atlas.ti 22

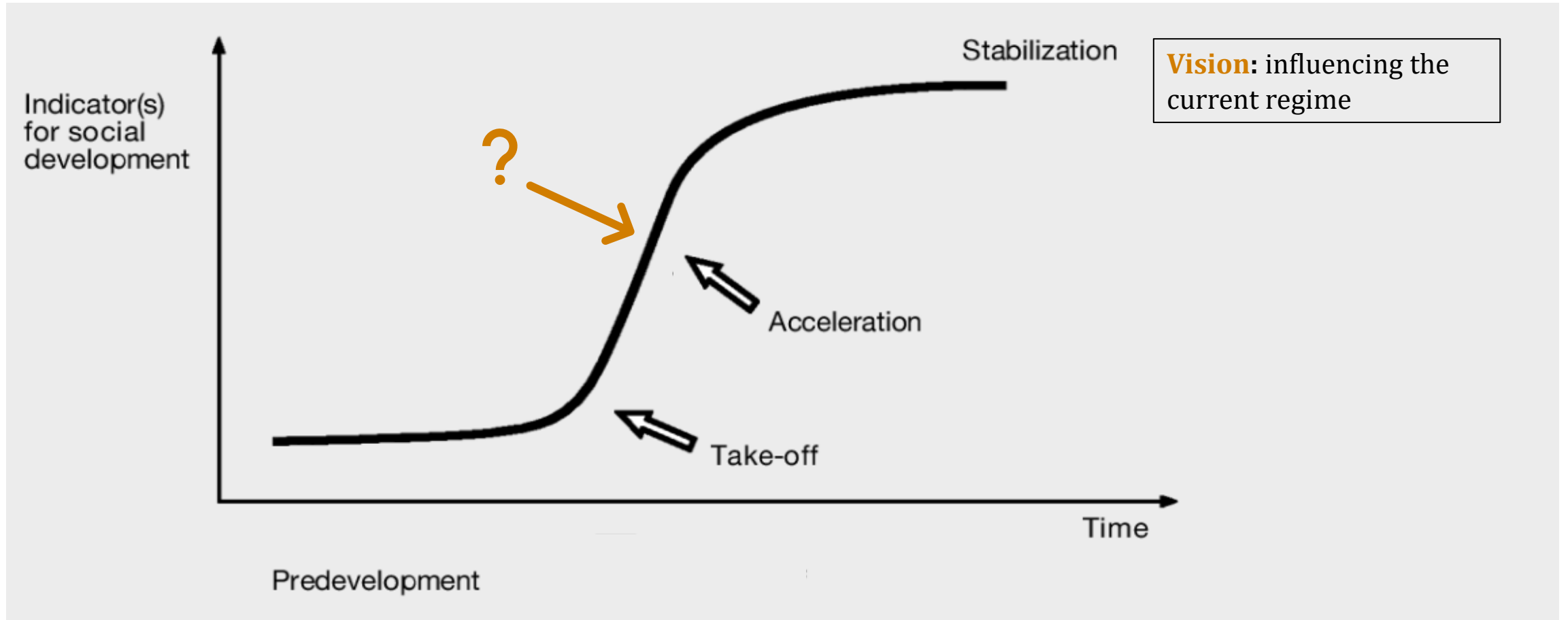
Preliminary results

- Different visions, not one shared vision
 - Differences in vision regarding to what extent the current **regime** must be **challenged**.
 - Influence versus replace the current regime
 - Contributing to the **energy transition** versus contributing to the **local community**.
 - '**Simple niches**' (not seeking regime change) versus '**Strategic niches**' (seeds for wider transformation), see also Seyfang & Smith (2007)
- LEIs often focus on **short term goals** (within the next three years)
- Different visions affect the outcome regarding the developmental phases

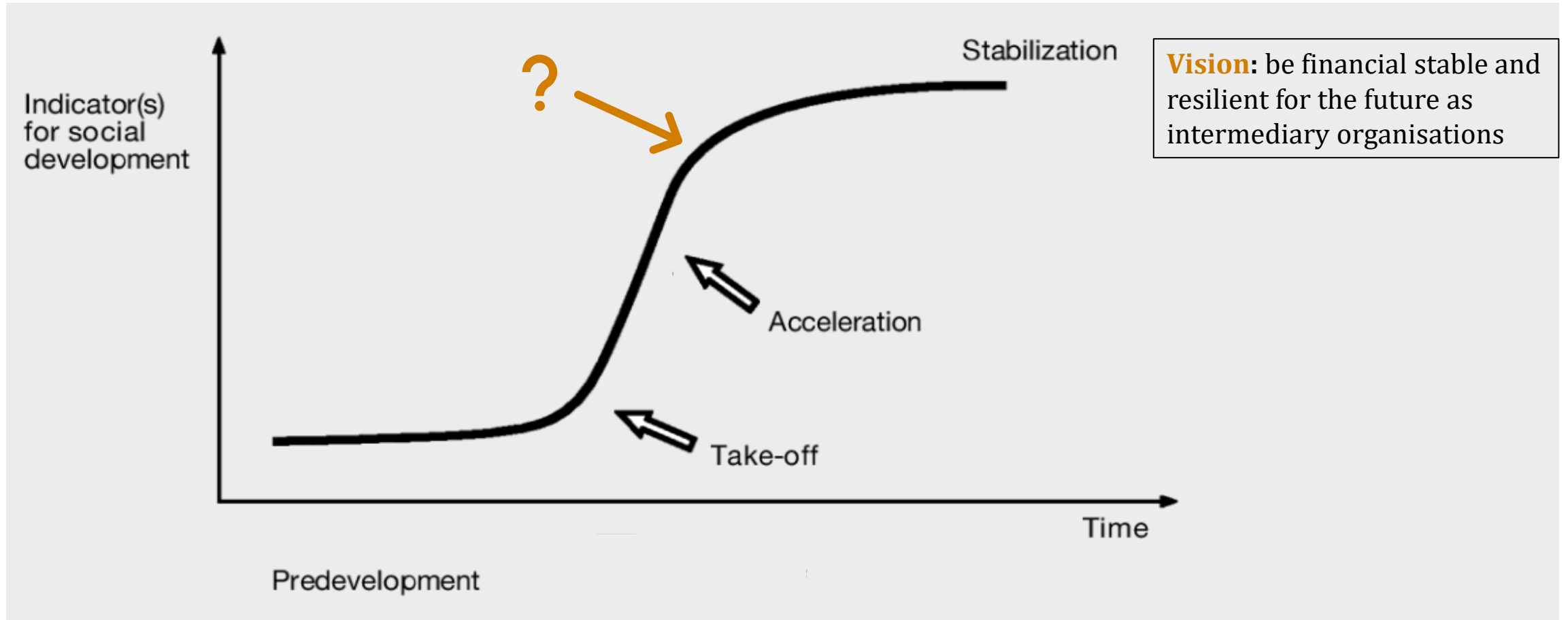
Examples



Examples



Examples



Points for discussion

- A **shared vision** initiated by the intermediary organisation, which is acknowledged by the individual LEIs, is necessary for the development and the evaluation of the development.
- The grow and scaling up of the local energy sector must not be competing with the '**core values**' (local with focus on community) of LEIs, see also Seyfang et al. (2014).
- In the shared vision there must be room for **different LEIs** regarding ambition, scale and focus.

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