Diagnostic Tool How is our TI working?

In order to understand how your TI is working in enough detail to be able to then develop a way to understand the difficulties and then do something about it, we are proposing a tool which help to make sense of what is and isn’t important in the initial stages of Transition and then get a sense of what to do if your TI isn’t thriving, or what might be the areas you can improve performance and make your TI be all it can be.

The following is a way of organising the first two stages of ingredients (based on the Transition Companion) into what are the important components. What we have come up with is a dog as the key image when thinking of a TI. The dog stands on four legs – representing Networking and Partnerships, Groups, Raising awareness, and Practical projects. With a tail- representing Having fun or evaluation, and a head- representing Vision or where are we going? The dog also stands in a place, which represents the Context of your TI.

There are the seven areas with the corresponding ingredients laid out where they belong. Although some ingredients could be put into different headings – such is the nature of complexity. There are seven ingredients in the first two stages that don’t belong in any of these categories and could probably be thought of as not that critical to the success of your TI. These are: Arts and Creativity, Backcasting, Having an office or not, Education for Transition, Creating a Space for Inner Transition, Measurement, and Ensuring Land Access.

How to diagnosis your TI

In small groups, go through the statements rating the answers on a scale of 1-5; 1 being don’t agree at all, or this statement doesn’t describe our TI and 5 being we whole heartedly agree with this. Then draw on the star diagram with 5 being out at the perimeter and 1 being at the centre each for each statement in each of the seven areas, filling in each section of the pie according to how you feel you are doing in the area. Note anything significant that comes up, and ‘the penny dropped’ sort of moments. So you will come out with something that looks a bit like this
for each of the seven areas. Feel free to add in other statements which might help you to evaluate how you are doing. Have fun!

(FYI- This is in Swedish)

Questionnaire
1) **Context- What context are you operating in?**

We have seen that Transition works better in some communities – certainly in terms of how the model is set out in the publications. It’s more challenging in other contexts. This section is about creating realistic expectations.

I. Many people are confident about taking initiative or starting up projects and or businesses in your community.
II. There is a strong artistic or alternative culture.
III. There is a strong sense of connection to the place, its history, and local pride.
IV. There are many, active community or volunteer groups in your community.
V. We are connected to other TIs around us.
VI. We have groups or projects working at neighbourhood or street level as well as community level.
2) **Vision**

I. In our group we spend time exploring our visions of a positive, transitioned future.

II. We have engaged out community in developing a positive vision of the future.

III. We understand the need to balance planning with flexibility to meet the unknown future.

IV. There is a shared understanding within our TI of some of the challenges that we are facing live resource depletions, pollution, inequality, economic vulnerability, etc.

V. We have explored differences in vision of where we are going, and understand how to include diverse visions and work well together.
3) **Having Fun- How are we doing?**

I. We take time to celebrate our achievements.

II. We take time either within our community or TI to be together socially and get to know each other.

III. I feel well supported and resourced to continue my current workload within my TI.

IV. We take time to reflect on how we are doing, including what feelings come up, explore our process, and evaluate how we are doing.

V. I feel appreciated and valued for the contributions I am making and so do others.
4) **Practical Projects**

I. We have achieved a range of visible practical projects which are benefiting local people’s lives.

II. We have a range of practical projects in different areas; food, energy, building, or local economy.

III. We have been able to find the resources we need to do what we want to do.

IV. We have raised funds when needed.

V. We have set up projects using appropriate legal structures, policies, understanding our legal and other responsibilities.

VI. We have the skills necessary to manage projects effectively.

VII. We know who has expertise locally and know how to draw upon it.
5) **Networking and Partnerships – being embedded in the community**

I. We have connections with key local groups, organisations, landowners, and businesses.

II. We have contacts with local government.

III. A high proportion of people involved in the TI have lived in this place for many years

IV. We make an effort to do things in partnership with other groups or organisations.

V. We promote the work of other groups in our community.

VI. We are also involved and connected to other community groups

VII. We are seen by other groups as positive, collaborative, and useful.

VIII. We are connected to both elders and young people.

IX. We are aware of other groups who have felt threatened by us and have successfully managed this friction.
6) **Awareness Raising**

I. We’ve taken time thinking about how we communicate.

II. We understand the current local issues and can relate Transition to these.

III. We have thought about who’s in our community and how to communicate to them in a meaningful way (for them).

IV. We spend time listening to what’s important for different segments of the community.

V. We use a range of different styles and types of awareness raising:
   a. For people at different stages of change
   b. On different themes
   c. Involving diverse ways of communicating through head, heart, and hands

VI. Our activities are accessible to those on low income, with disabilities, and different cultures.

VII. We engage a wide range of people through our awareness raising activities.

VIII. We have good relationships to our local media and use them to promote what we do.
7) **Groups**

I. There are clear pathways for people to move from interested to becoming active in our TI.

II. We have agreement about key pieces of group structure:
   a. Purpose
   b. Code of conduct
   c. Decision making

III. We have a clear structure for the organisation.

IV. In our groups we have a good understanding of the role and importance of facilitation.

V. Our meetings feel effective with clear agendas and outcomes and decisions being made.

VI. We have good discussions which take us forward.

VII. It's clear how people join and leave the group.

VIII. There is a high level of trust and understanding, sharing, power, and leadership and responsibility within our group(s).

IX. We spend time reflecting on how we run meetings.

X. We are well resourced for what we do.

XI. We are able to work well with conflict when it has arisen.