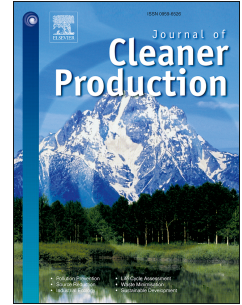


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Keywords

Acceleration, urban transitions, transition initiatives, sustainability, transition governance

Abstract

In recent years, multiple transformative initiatives have been set up in cities across the world to kick-start transitions of urban systems towards sustainability. Yet to what extent do these initiatives influence systemic change or accelerate sustainability transitions? We apply an analytical framework, conceptualizing five mechanisms representing acceleration dynamics of sustainability transitions – replicating, partnering, upscaling, instrumentalising and embedding – to examine transition dynamics in the Belgian City of Genk. The focal unit of analysis are the innovative activities and related actor-networks from the city region, defined as ‘transition initiatives’, situated within the local governance context. We selected 10 local transition initiatives with a clear focus on environmental sustainability and set out to understand their origins and identify conditions and

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