

Acting proactively on living conditions through local collaborations: The case of the *Initiative montréalaise de soutien au développement social local*

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CONTEXT

What can be done to ensure a district fosters health? One solution involves “action intersectorielle territoriale” (AIT or territorial intersectoral action), which calls for bringing local actors together so they can jointly work on prioritizing actions related to living conditions and ensure those actions are implemented in the neighbourhood.

The *Initiative montréalaise de soutien au développement social local* is an example of a program to support territorial intersectoral action that funds 30 neighbourhood committees (*Tables de quartier*) in Montréal.

Research question — What are the effects of neighbourhood committee AIT processes in Montréal and how do they come about?

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

- Structure (and a place) where stakeholders from a setting can meet
- Structured and permanent — continuously facilitated
- Share a common, comprehensive vision of the issues
- Sets down its priorities in an action plan
- Generates or coordinates actions that impact citizens' quality of life and living conditions

METHODOLOGY

HOW DO WE CONNECT EFFECTS TO THE AIT ACTION PROCESS?

- Prospective and retrospective case study in four neighbourhood committees in Montréal (2011-2016) that documents collaborative processes in real time to identify those that lead to changes.

- Iterative approach — On-site development of a tool modelling the transitory output of the effects produced with AIT, using a deductive-inductive approach.

- Data processing — Reduction and analysis of four data sources (documents, field notes, log books, interviews) based on a registration system that uses the actor-network theory.

Performed on a first case, this step is employed to develop a generic modelling of the effect-producing process that includes a list of provisional results. The list is then used to document three other cases that bolster the process.

- The study of effects is based on the study of processes that links it with the observed results, in terms of changes in living conditions.

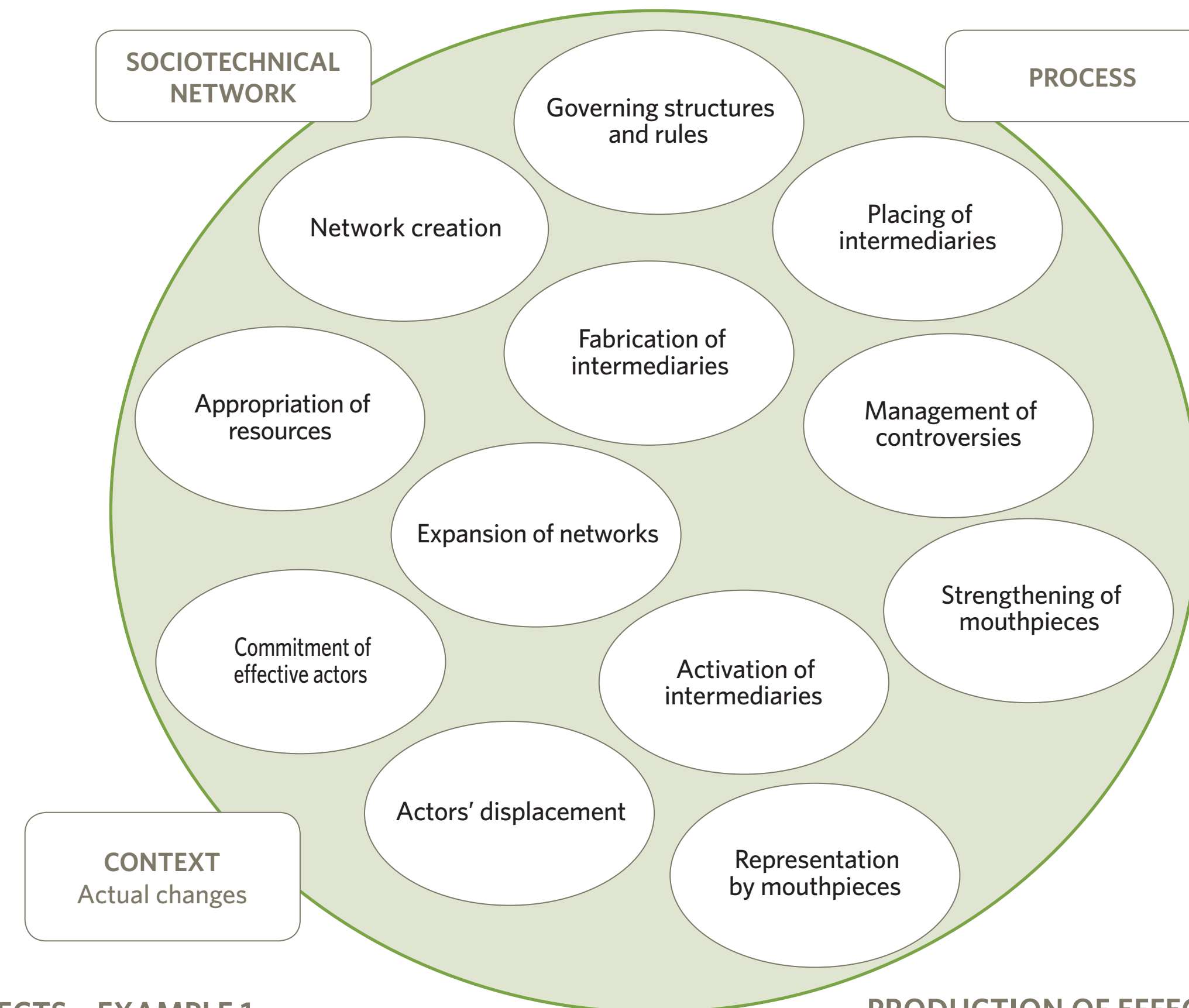
The list of 12 provisional results is the outcome of interchange between concepts of the actor-network theory and their empirical manifestations, observable in the field, using the territorial intersectoral action process.

RESULTS

This study proposes a conceptual tool to model the effects of the action process used to link the AIT process to effects of physical or social change in populations' local living conditions.

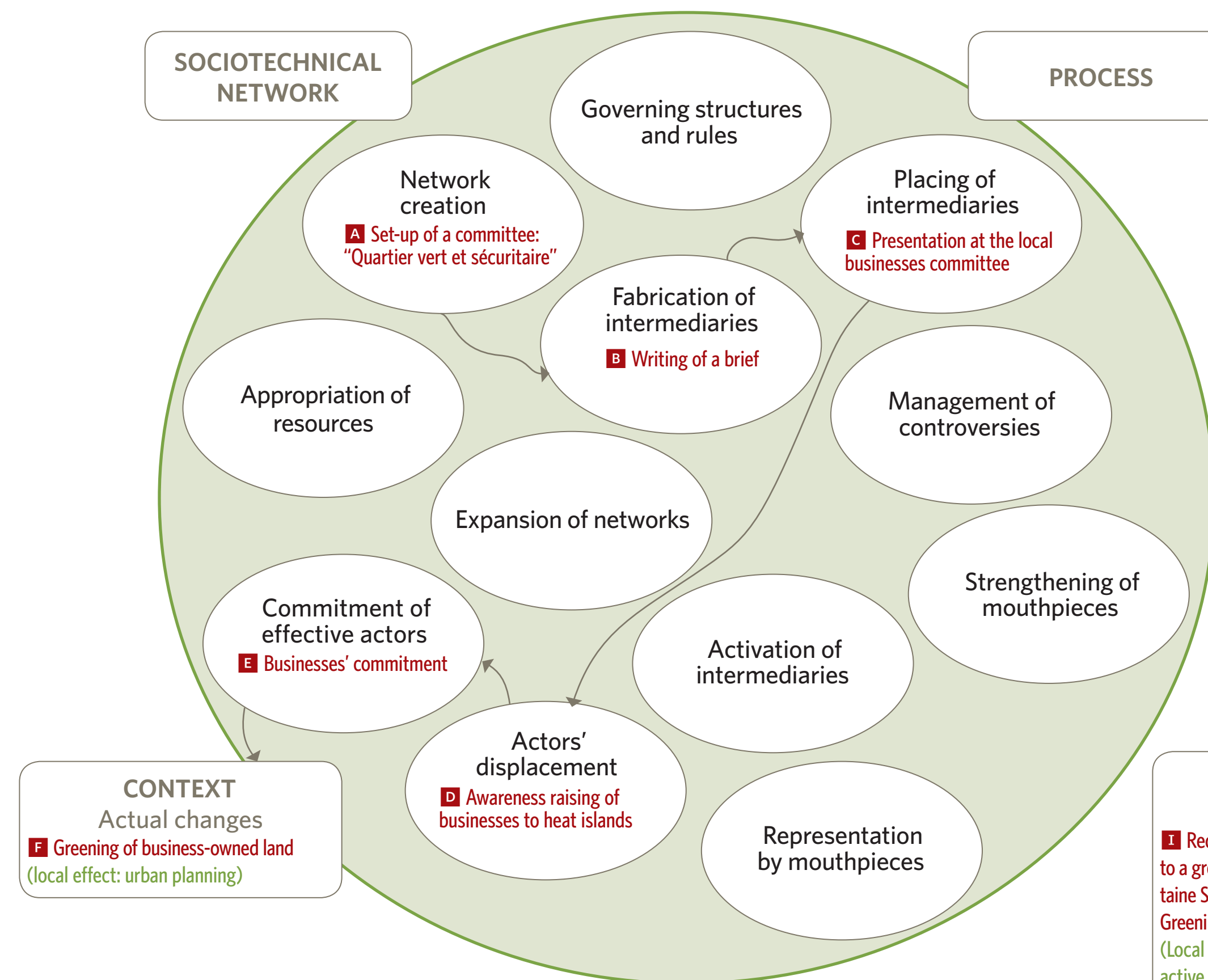
In the AIT action process conducted by networks of stakeholders, provisional results are critical operating steps that characterize movement toward end results, that is, effects in terms of actual material or social changes in living environments. The AIT action process is a collection of provisional results, until effects in living environments are achieved.

MODELLING OF THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS IN THE TERRITORIAL INTERSECTORAL ACTION PROCESS



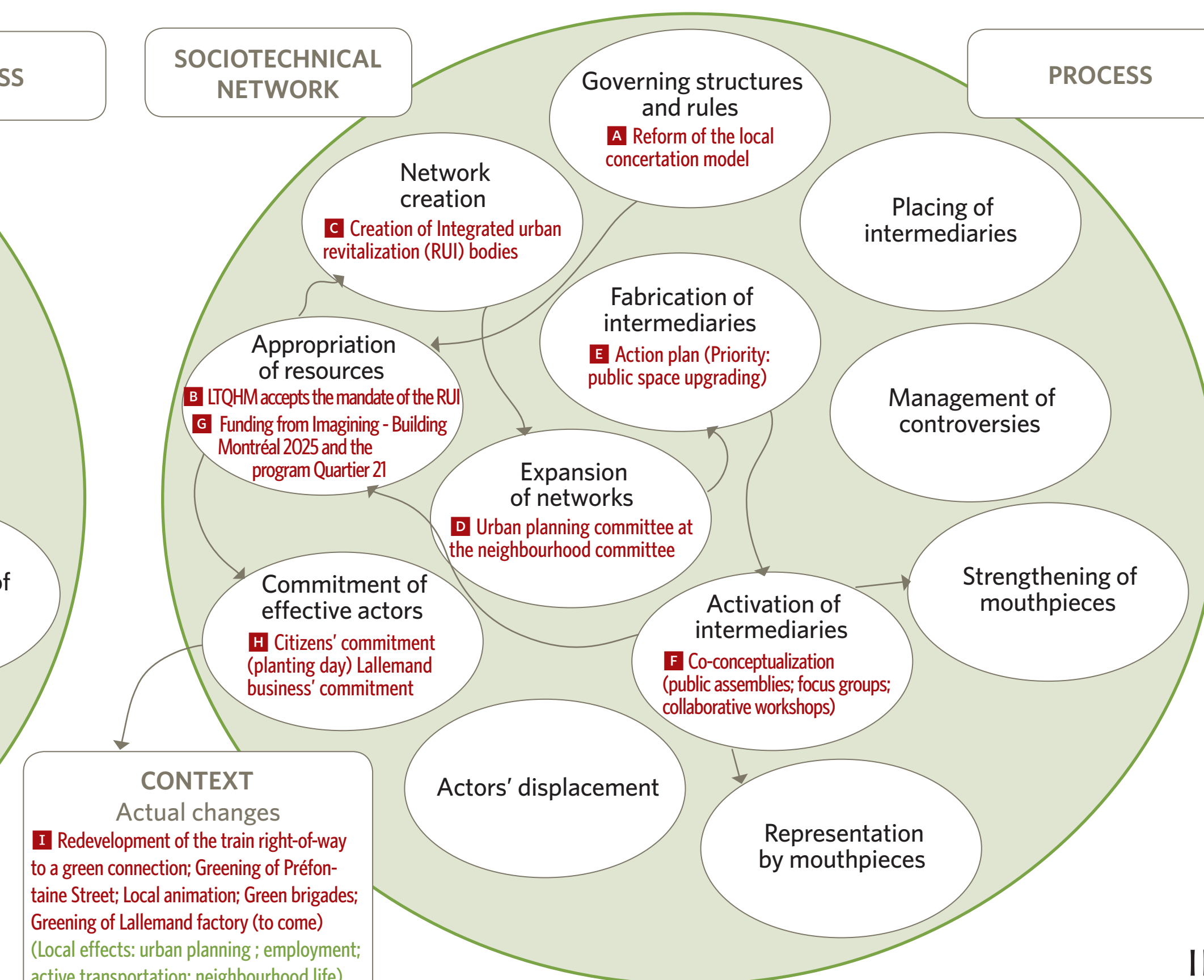
PRODUCTION OF EFFECTS: EXAMPLE 1

Table de développement social Centre-Sud
Committee for social development in Centre-Sud neighbourhood



PRODUCTION OF EFFECTS: EXAMPLE 2

La Table de quartier Hochelaga-Maisonnette (LTQHM)
Committee in Hochelaga-Maisonnette neighbourhood



CONCLUSION

- Used proactively by neighbourhood committees supported by the *Initiative montréalaise de soutien au développement social local*, AIT contributes to producing actual changes that tend to make local resources more accessible to residents (Bernard et al., 2007).
- A large part of the work carried out by neighbourhood committees can be qualified as proactive since they influence actors' operations so that those actions can reflect a local community's concerns.

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Lefebvre, C., Galarneau, M., Bilodeau, A. et Potvin, L. (sous presse). Au carrefour de la recherche et de la concertation de quartier : un dispositif de recherche adaptatif pour étudier les effets de l'*Initiative montréalaise de soutien au développement social local*. Dans G. Sénécal (dir.), *Revitalisation urbaine et concertation de quartier*. Québec, Canada : Les Presses de l'Université Laval.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was made possible through the collaboration of:

- Coalition montréalaise des Tables de quartier (CMTQ)
- La Table de quartier Hochelaga-Maisonnette (LTQHM)
- Table de développement social Centre-Sud
- Table de développement social Pointe-aux-Trembles
- Comité des organismes sociaux de Saint-Laurent (COSSL)
- Direction de santé publique de Montréal
- Centraide of Greater Montreal
- Ville de Montréal

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