The role of policy – constraining or enabling resilience?

3 key findings from WP 4

SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
EU FARMING
SYSTEMS

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1. Public policies affect FS resilience in two ways

1. Public policies can **moderate or reinforce pressure to change**, e.g.

- lax or tight regulations,

- closing down or opening up policy networks,

- influencing public and professional debates,

- Providing unconditional or conditioned resources.

2. Public policies can **enhance or constrain the capability** of farming

systems to deal with challenges

- Robustness

- Adaptability

- Transformability

2. The CAP 2014-2022 is too focussed on robustness, with uneven success, and constrains transformability

- Most financial resources go into payments with weak conditions that compensate the lack of buffer resources rather than enhancing resilience
  - little access for small-scale farms and less land-intensive systems
- Government-supported risk management schemes struggle with effectiveness and acceptance by the target groups.
- Undesirable effects of robustness-enabling policies:
  - disincentives to adapt or transform,
  - in the long run, even the unlearning of adaptability or transformability,
  - wrong illusion of stability.
- Much fewer resources are devoted to programs that enhance adaptability.
- Transformability goals are mostly vague and rarely translated into strategies or instruments.

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3. The CAP post-2022 could enable resilience better

- General: More **tailored policy mixes** that address the specific resilience needs of Europe's farming systems; develop a **long-term vision** for the CAP

- For robustness: **foresight** exercises – linked into strategy development and outreach and engagement schemes to improve anticipation and future literacy

- For adaptability: Coherent and sufficient **remuneration of public goods**; **less red tape**; **close the gap between reflection/innovation and practice** (project-type funding; integrated advice for production and provision of public goods; collaborative approaches for opening up and reconnecting agriculture with society)

- For transformability: Support **deep learning** and **niche innovations**; address lock-in mechanisms; adopt **reflexive modes of governing**; develop EIP-Agri and LEADER into **cross-sectoral support** for rural cooperation; funding for the creation, facilitation and integration of **cross-sectoral networks**

- Beyond CAP: internalization of externalities, sustainable finance mechanisms

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List of case studies

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GOALS

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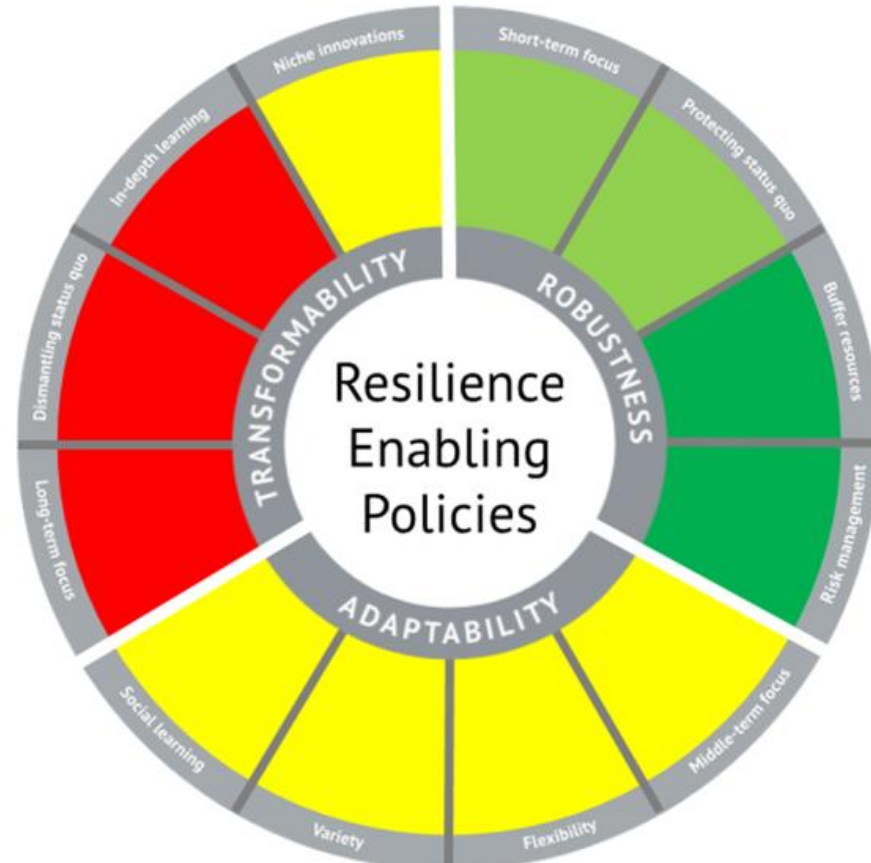
Example of robustness-oriented policy:
Arable crop system in the Netherlands (Vëenkolonie)

Source:
Buitenhuis (2019),
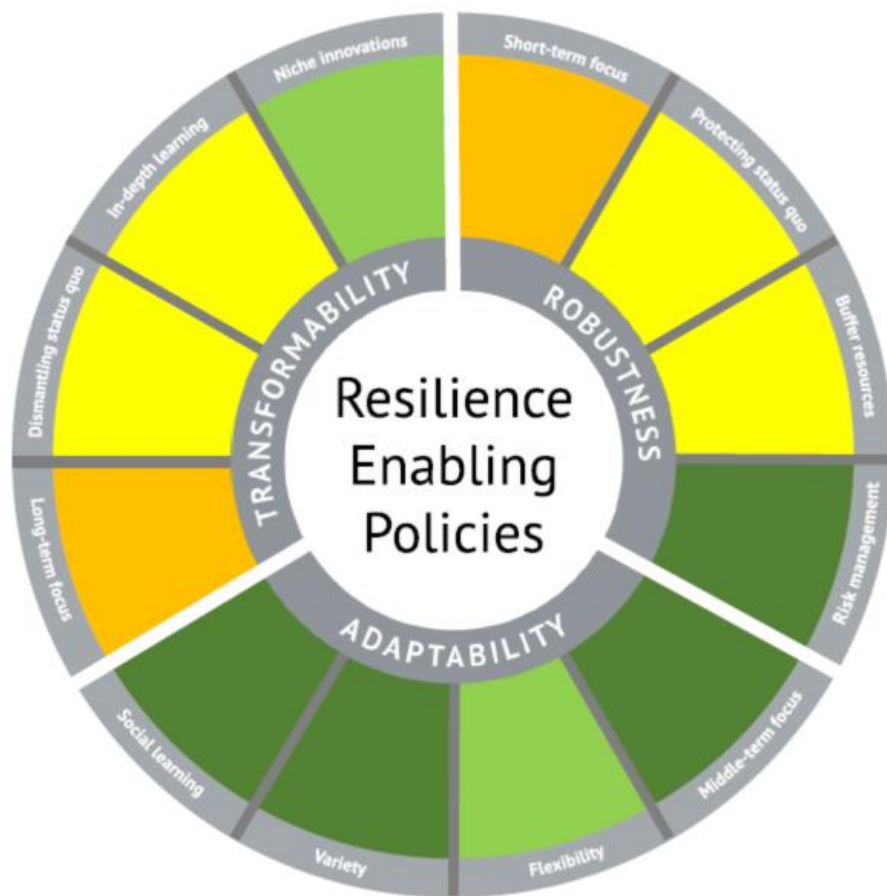Dutch case study;
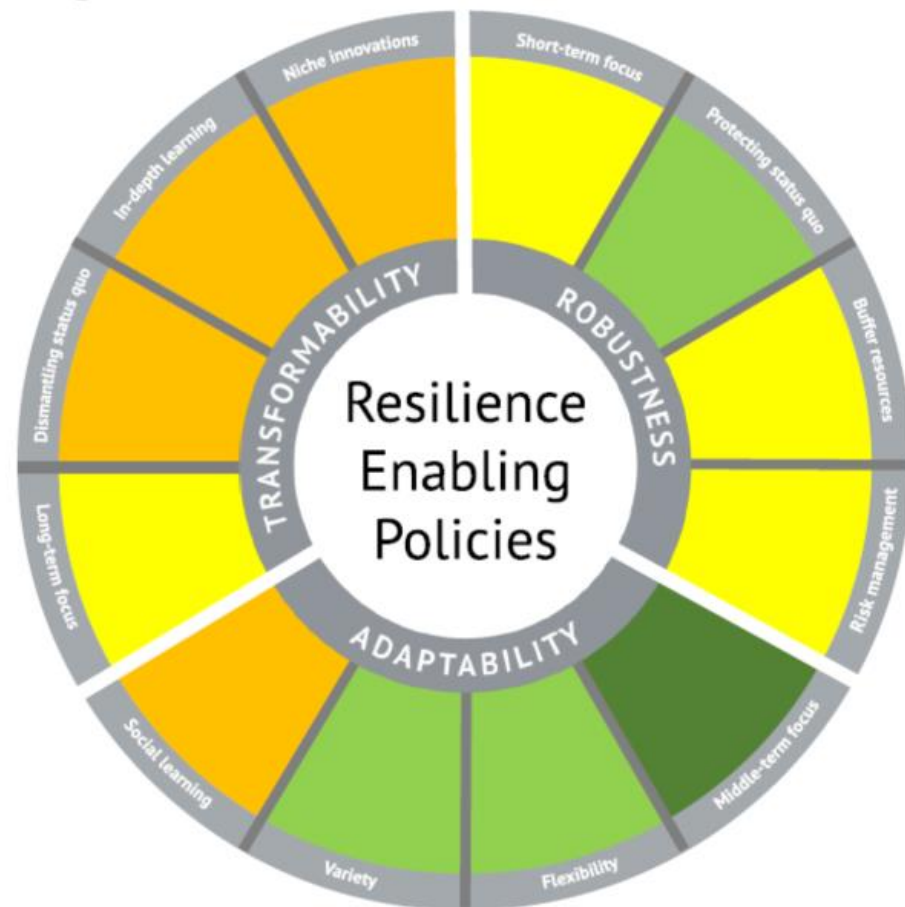Buitenhuis et al. (2020)

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Example of adaptability-oriented policy: Hazelnut production in Lazio, Italy

Source: Sorrentino, Severini & Sidorini, Italian case study
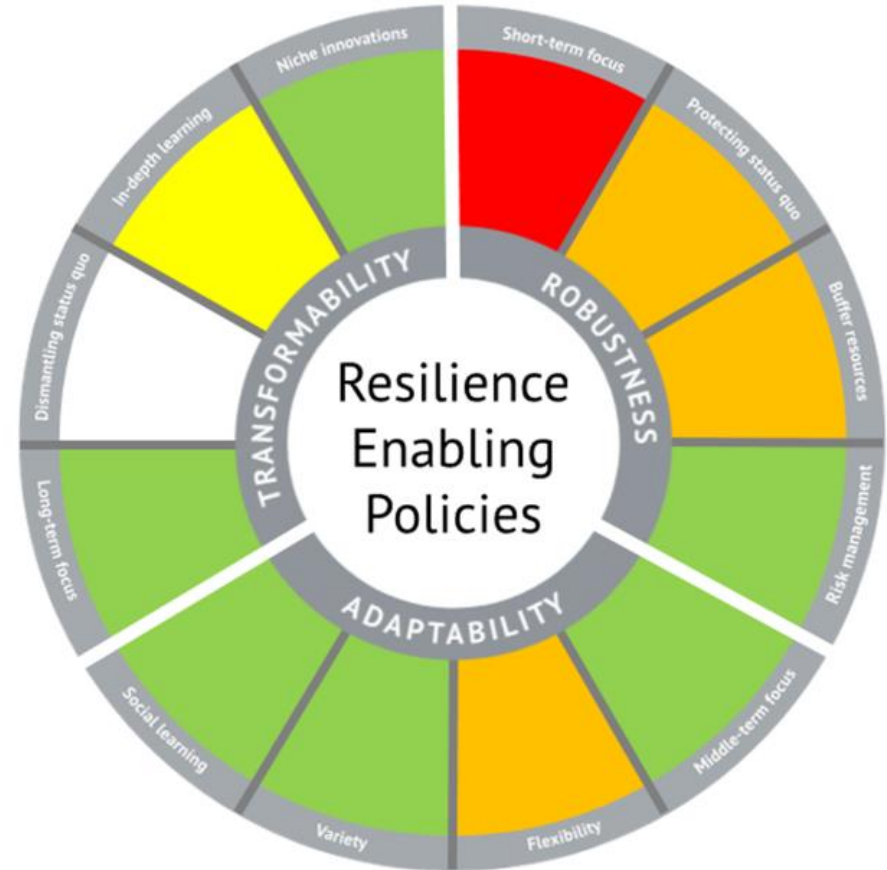
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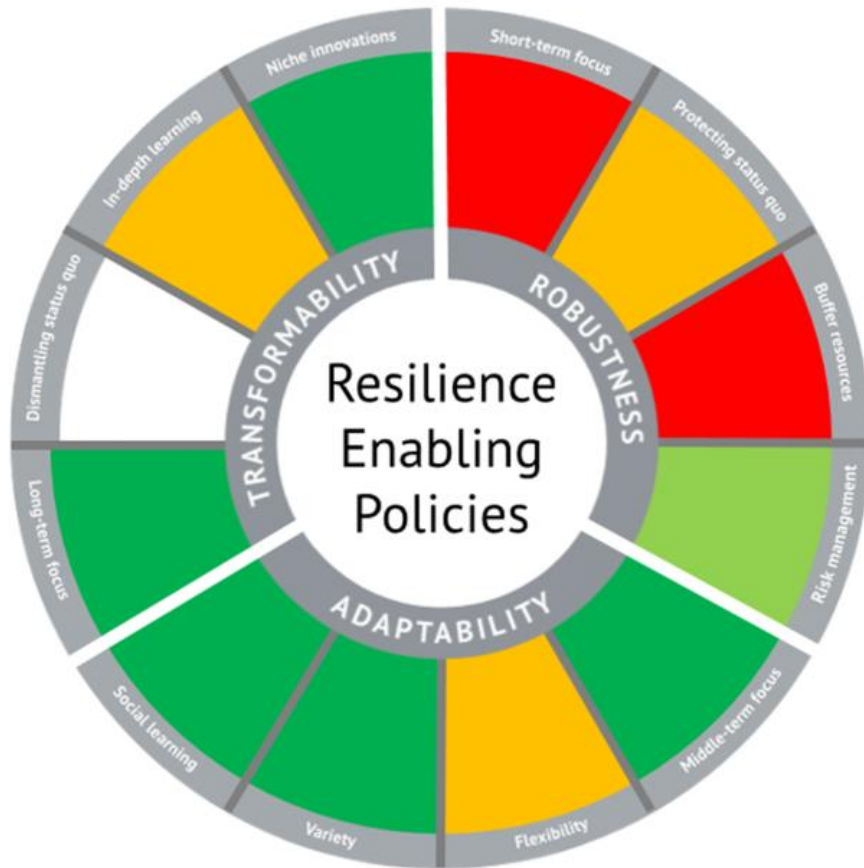
INSTRUMENTS

Example of strongly adaptability-oriented policy:
Egg and broiler production in Sweden

Source:
Manevska-Tasevska,
Swedish case study