Our overall aim is to generate novel understandings of the diversity, processes and contributions of social innovation in the energy sector, and critically evaluate and assess their success and future potential towards supporting sustainable transitions of energy systems.

SONNET team consists of:

- Representatives of local governments from the cities of Mannheim (DE), Antwerp (BE), Bristol (UK), Grenoble (FR), Warsaw (PL) and Basel (CH)
- Researchers from partner research organizations (Fraunhofer ISI, DRIFT, University of Sussex, Grenoble Ecole de Management, Kozminski University and ZHAW)
- Network representatives from the ICLEI - Local governments for sustainability with its European Secretariat

What is our link to transformative innovation policy?
SONNET and its City Labs adopt a transformative innovation policy lens by enacting a set of diverse experiments aimed at accelerating sustainable energy transitions. These co-created City Labs are enacted by a variety of local government departments and units which often bridge various governmental players.

The transdisciplinary research protocol co-created by the SONNET team enables our researchers to compare the processes and results of all six City Labs across different contexts and identify important enabling and impeding conditions.

In our research, we assume the perspective of transformative policy mixes for sustainability transitions. That is, while we focus on our local experiments, we explicitly acknowledge that these are embedded in and interact with regional, national and European policy mixes for the low-carbon transformation of the energy sector. This implies that we will jointly derive lessons learned for transformative innovation policy mixes and their multi-level interplay – both horizontally between different departments (such as climate protection or economic development) and vertically (such as local and European level).