



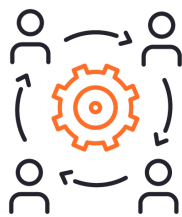
# Introducing the Reos Institute

A non-profit association established in 2021, the Reos Institute works globally to leverage innovation, promote collaborative approaches and initiatives, and enhance cross system learning. Our mission is to enable radical co-creation among diverse stakeholders to achieve our vision of equitable, just, and thriving societies and planet.

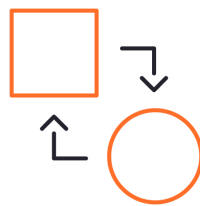
Three "guard-rails" guide all of our work:

1. We work towards equalizing power.
2. We work towards decolonization.
3. We don't do north to south development in which northern expertise is used to solve southern problems.

Our unique and inclusive approach enables us to:



**ACCELERATE**  
progress  
on complex  
socio-ecological  
challenges



**ADVANCE**  
systems  
transformation and build  
community resilience



**SCALE**  
and strengthen the work  
of other systems change  
actors

## How we work

We scan systems and listen to local actors to identify strategic opportunities where innovative multi stakeholder action initiated at the right moment can transcend intractability and drive shifts in thinking and action.

We leverage our location in Geneva and connect with key international institutions and powerful players, working at the source of problems, while engaging in multiple locations to amplify local voices and ensure understanding of contextual implications.



We harness and exchange expertise and good practice from across geographies and contexts to promote learning and synergies at a meta level and enhance capacity of local change actors and proximate leaders.

We make the invisible visible, and share learnings and experience with diverse systems change actors to drive synergies and enhance collaboration.

## Why does the Reos Institute exist?

### Context and challenge

Urgent and interconnected challenges such as climate change, social polarization, and inequality are deepening their impact on humanity with potentially devastating consequences. There is acute awareness that addressing and transforming such complex societal issues requires collaborative action using a system-wide lens. Yet, while multiple actors are investing effort and resources, the reality is that collaboration is complex and time-consuming, and well-intended collaborative initiatives often fail before delivering lasting change. Because of a lack of widely held understanding of what is required, financial, time and resource investments are often ineffectively and inefficiently leveraged. Systems are changing but not fast enough.

### What is needed?

Real systems transformation requires ground-breaking, risk tolerant, off the beaten track work:

- Surfacing taboos, addressing the unanswered questions, engaging in difficult conversations and building alliances with those who hold diverging views;
- Innovating at the edge of the system and creating space to pilot and test radical ideas for change;
- Investing time, energy, and resources for the long haul.

Reos Partners has been a pathfinder in this domain, and with 15 years of experience has paved the way and developed innovative processes and brave spaces to facilitate and promote systemic change in multiple contexts across the globe.

Yet its experience has also revealed a need for an additional vehicle to further enhance and intensify systems change collaboration.



- A vehicle that is positioned to activate and sustain multi stakeholder collaborations and processes at the strategic window of opportunity and for the duration they require to deliver lasting transformative change.
- A vehicle that has the agency and independence to connect the dots across different systems and spaces; bridge issue areas, populations and geographies that are “in between” or “left behind”; and promote more cohesive and holistic processes for transformation.
- A vehicle that fosters radical innovation, generates insight and builds capabilities for the benefit of diverse systems change actors.

## Our priorities

In this decisive decade, the ability to enable peace, prosperity and dignity within the planet’s natural boundaries is being hampered by persistent and evolving dynamics of fragmentation, polarization and conflict. We focus on three central and intersecting crises and their associated transitions with the objective of advancing:

COHESIVE SOCIETIES	COHESIVE ECONOMIES	COHESIVE ECOSYSTEMS
<p>We live in a context where information is spreading further, faster and can be segmented so effectively that people essentially live in different realities.</p> <p>Concerted action is required to uphold social cohesion: the relationships of trust and connectedness that enable a sense of common good, underpin the social contract between citizens and governments, and allow societies to deal with difference and conflict in inclusive, non-violent and non-coercive ways.</p>	<p>Fundamental transformations are underway towards aligning the economy with environmental and social wellbeing, reflecting a paradigm shift from extractive to regenerative and cohesive economies.</p> <p>This entails building economies that work for planet and people, including those that have been historically disadvantaged or marginalized, and prioritizing long-term value over short-term extraction.</p>	<p>The health and resilience of our natural ecosystems depend on the actions and responsibilities of diverse and interdependent stakeholders often across sectors, perspectives, traditions, and boundaries.</p> <p>We support new approaches to stewarding scarce natural resources and to collaborating across divergent interests to address socio-ecological challenges</p>



## Current and emerging programmes

As a newly established institution, we have already initiated two bodies of work in the area of Cohesive Societies. In the areas of Regenerative Economies and Healthy Ecosystems, we are building on existing experience and expertise from within and beyond the Reos ecosystem – and we are looking for strategic partners to further develop these areas.

### Cohesive societies

#### The Shared Realities Project

A global and multilocal initiative for strengthening social cohesion and resilience in an age of information disorder. The project addresses the pervasive feedback loop between mis- and disinformation on the one hand and erosion of social cohesion on the other, which is exacerbating vulnerabilities to key challenges of our time including climate change, inequality, discrimination, human rights violations, conflict, and threats to democracy.

#### Futures work in conflict affected contexts

In partnership with local convenors, we support local actors to envision alternative futures and to collaborate across opposing and polarized views. Drawing on insight and experience from three decades of work by team members with the Transformative Scenarios approach and recent research linking this approach specifically to the current needs of the peacebuilding field, this programme creates enabling conditions for dialogue, negotiation, and conscious decision-making. Critical enablers for this work include:

- Local ownership, agency and homegrown peacebuilding solutions;
- Inclusion of diverse societal actors in peacebuilding processes;
- Imagination, creativity, and innovation in peacebuilding approaches; and
- Cross-context learning and sharing of insights.

### Cohesive economies

#### Sustainable Fashion Collaboration

Since 2016, The Reos Institute in Brazil has supported the Sustainable Fashion Collaboration, bringing together diverse leaders in Brazil, including garment workers, retail giants, the public sector, academia, associations and unions, institutes and foundations, international organisations, civil society organisations, media and others. The collaboration has been prototyping initiatives with systemic-level impact focused on challenges related to labour issues, social



inequalities, consumption patterns, the product life cycle, quality of education and training, use of technology and the predominant business model.

The results include:

- New and strengthened relationships and partnerships between the different stakeholders in the garment and clothing supply chains
- Shared commitment to addressing common concerns such as sustainability, fair working conditions, and reduction of gender, ethnicity and class inequalities in the sector
- Tested solutions for the core challenges and a resilient platform for collaboration
- Financial support mechanisms, notably creation of a fund to support SMEs in the fashion industry to survive and thrive

## Cohesive ecosystems

The Reos Institute currently hosts the Sustainable Oceans Lab. It is a social lab built on the idea that just as we have scientific and technical labs to address our scientific and technical challenges, we need social labs to address our socio-economic and political challenges. Over the last 8 years, the Sustainable Oceans Lab brought diverse stakeholders to explore how we collectively can manage the ocean ecosystems more sustainably.

See more info at: (<https://sustainableoceanslab.org/>)

## How to support and engage?

Systems transformation does not happen overnight. To facilitate the Institute's agency and ability to foster lasting systems level change across our three priority areas we are aiming for an overall budget of approximately 3M € per year.

We welcome contributions towards specific priority areas or programmes, and ideally seek multi-year funding. We are also eager to co-create programmes in response to local and global needs together with partners. Funding partners will join an Advisory Board for learning and sharing which will contribute insight and direction towards the Institute's strategy and programmes.

If you find our approach interesting, please get in touch to explore how we can co-create meaningful responses to today's challenges.

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