

Transformation Pathways

March 2025 Webinar

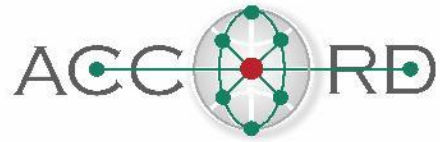
Tarja Mäkeläinen
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland



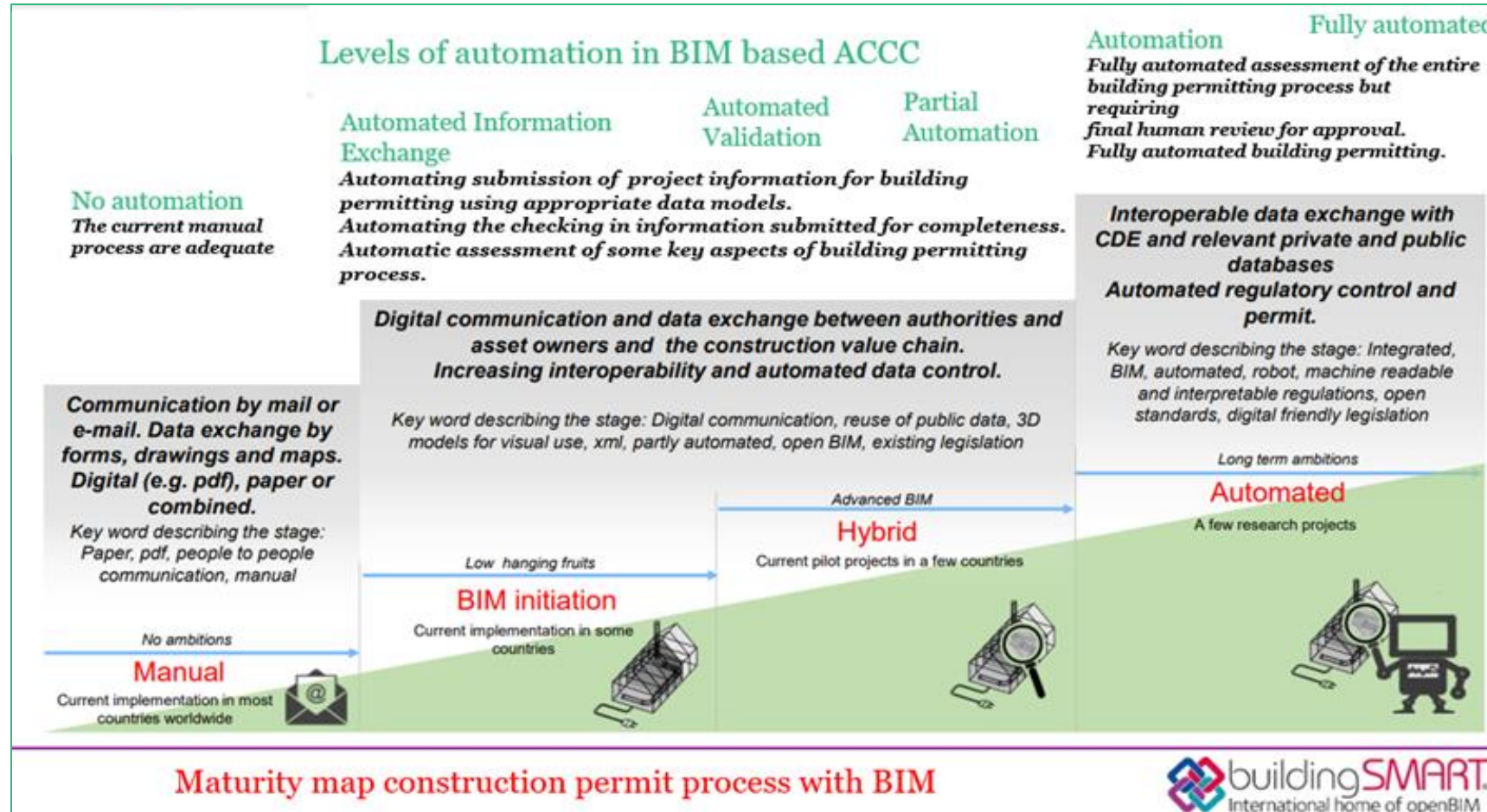
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 101056973

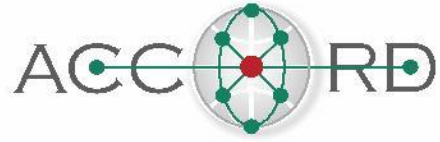


UK Participants in Horizon Europe Project ACCORD are supported by UKRI grant numbers 10040207 (Cardiff University), 10038999 (Birmingham City University and 10049977 (Building Smart International)



Pathways towards automated permitting... and beyond





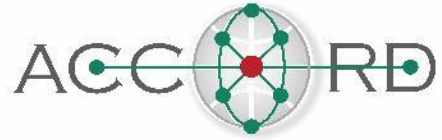
Goals to formulate the transformation pathways

Understanding
what will
change?

To support regional /
national transition
from the perspectives
of main actor groups

Change is inevitable - Transition is a strategic choice

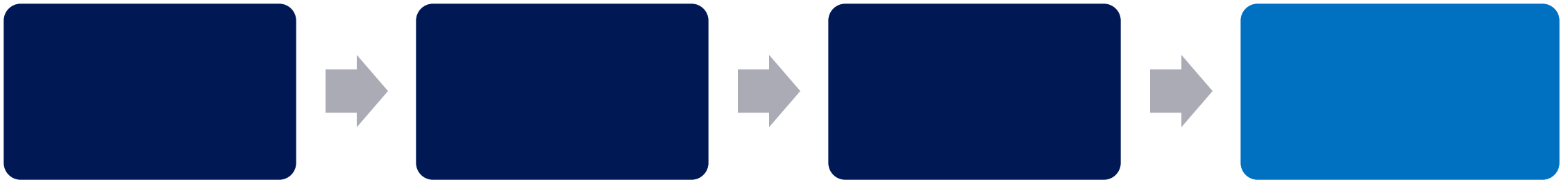




Goals and the way forward...

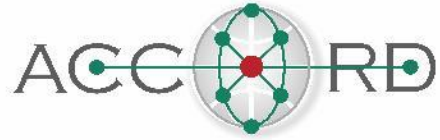
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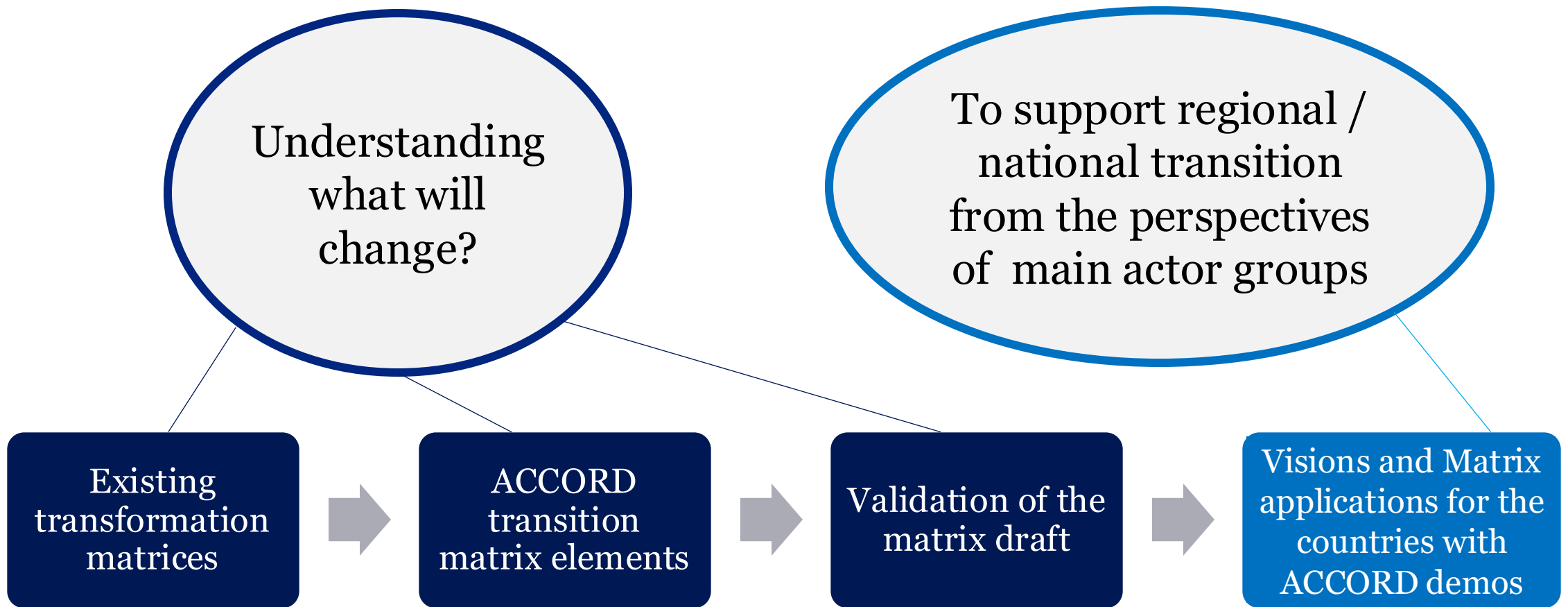


14 February 2025

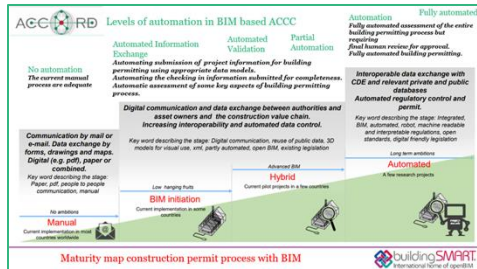
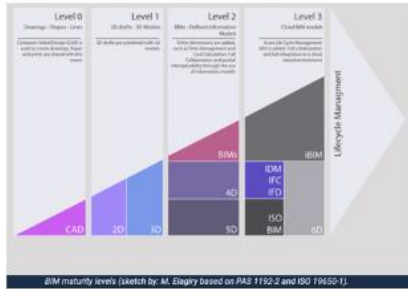
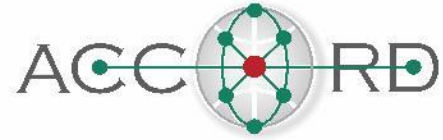




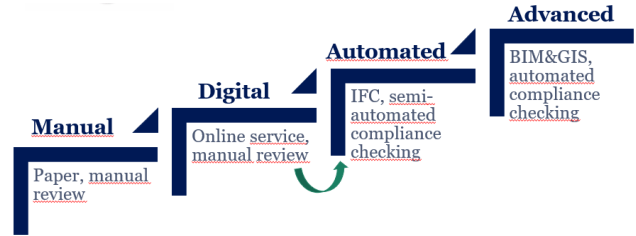
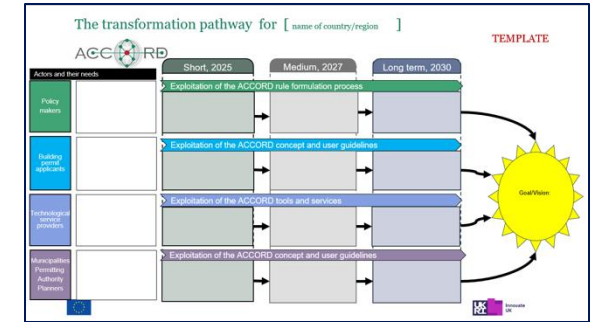
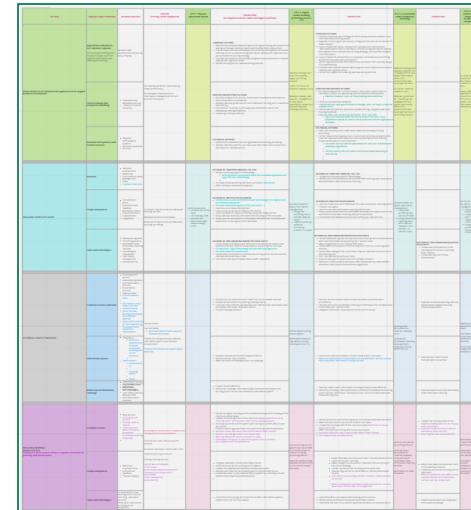
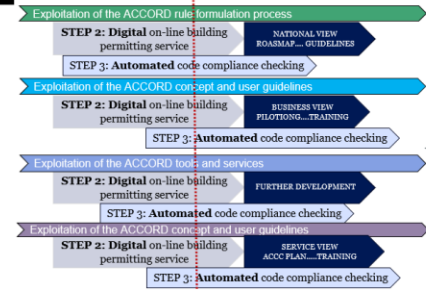
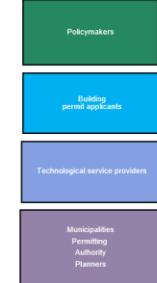
Goals to formulate the transformation pathways



Approach to formulate the Transformation pathway maps/ Roadmaps



Actors and their needs

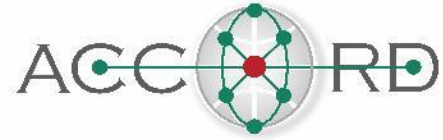


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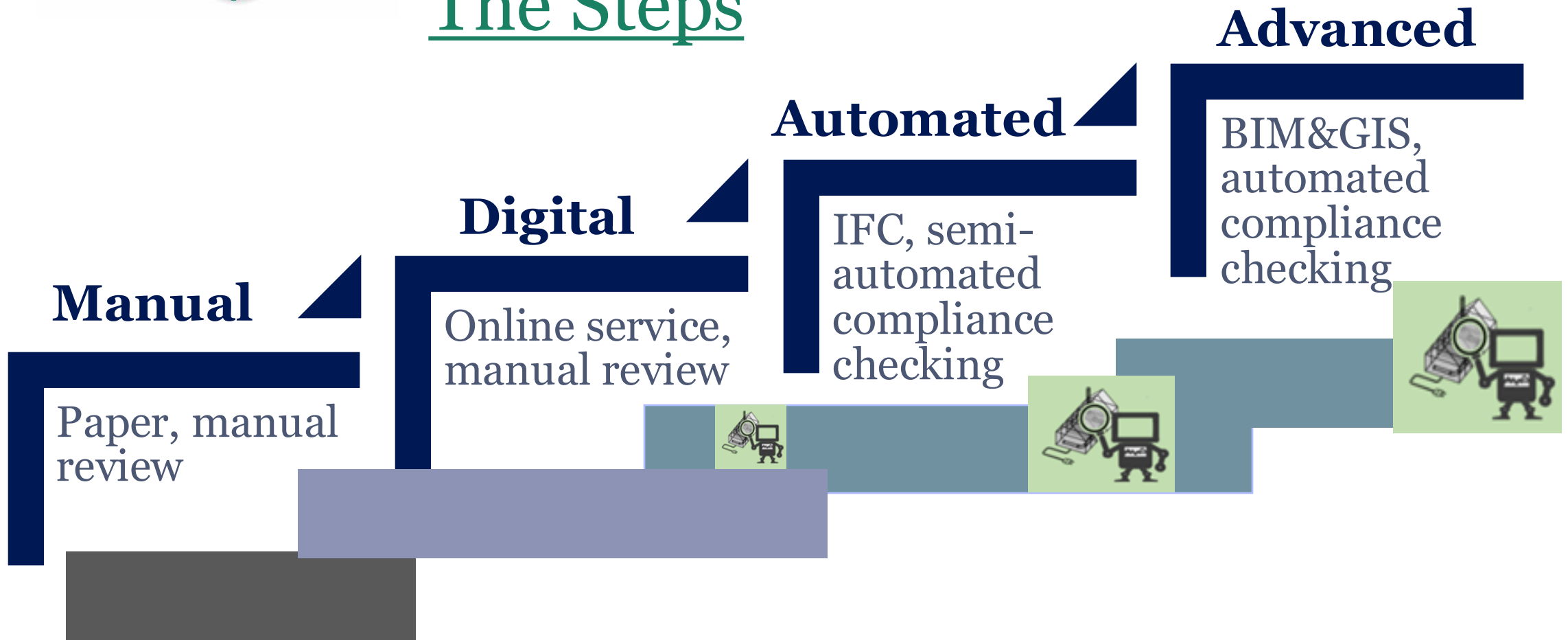
Event name and speaker

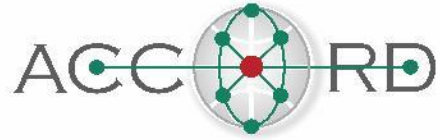


Innovate UK



Transition environment: Digitalisation levels of building permit processes – The Steps





Transition environment: Digitalisation levels of building permit processes – The Steps

Manual

Paper, manual review

Digital

Online service, manual review

Automated

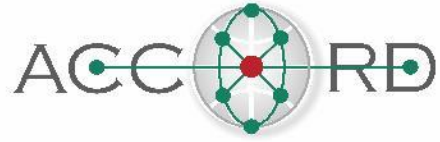
IFC, semi-automated compliance checking

Advanced

BIM&GIS, automated compliance checking

Competence building





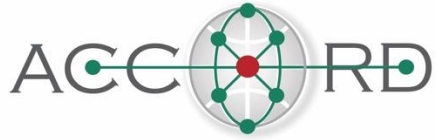
What we want to do? What the Transformation pathway is for?

ACCORD transformation pathway is a commonly agreed strategy for actors involved in the transition towards the chosen vision.

- It specifies, prioritizes and set the identified actions in a roadmap with actors specific recommendations.

Example

Finland



State of Practise: Digitalisation level of the Finnish building permit processes

FIN-Example

Advanced

BIM&GIS,
automated
compliance
checking

Automated

IFC, semi-
automated
compliance
checking

Digital

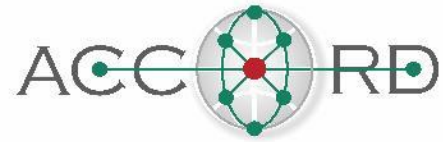
Online service,
manual review

Manual

Paper, manual
review

- 83% of 309 municipalities use an online building permit service
 - 2 services allow IFC submission & neighbour hearing
- Some municipalities' authorities use BIM software to review IFC manually
- Building project specific data can be automatically read from IFC to the permit service and added to the application





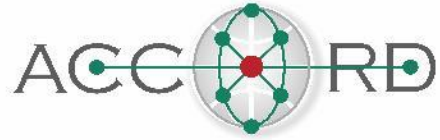
VISION 2030

FIN-Example

- Transition Matrix developed in ACCORD projects was used to understand the steps and
- Based on workshops, interviews with the stakeholders the vision for 2030 was selected as **advanced-level** of building permitting



The ACCORD Transition Matrix



Vision stages 2030

FIN-Example

Vision towards informed decision making, which is utilizing feedback loops & situational picture - during digital and partial automated permitting process.

The process is enabled by digital platform services, modeling (permitBIM) for compliance checking and other ACCC-services.

Policymakers' VISION

Building regulation/ codes updated into form that enables machine readable rule sets.

Policy makers have clear national level situational picture on the status of built environment and assets via key information, throughout national systems.

Applicants' VISION

Service business based on digital information management

- using BIM authoring tool and permitBIM
- using checking tools with machine-readable rules from rules archive
- using building permit service to visualise code compliance

Tech service providers' VISION:

Machine-readable rules defined for several use cases.

From tech. permitting platform to service platform
Interfaces between municipality information systems to national systems.
Permit decision suggestions based on AI, feedback loops

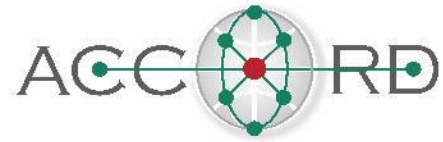
Municipalities' VISION

Automated checking implemented in all permit authority units.

Data handover from the municipality service to the national services.

Feedback loops (AI-driven) between projects to support learning and quality of permit decisions.





VISION

FIN-Example

The transformation map towards **the vision** is drafted for each actor. Actions (in short, medium and long term) are supported by the exploitation of ACCORD project outcomes.

Vision towards informed decision making, which is utilizing feedback loops & situation picture- during digital and partial automated permitting process.

This process is enabled technically by (1) digital platform services, (2) modeling (permitBIM) for assessment and for code compliance checking and (3) running ACCC- service.

Policy makers

Exploitation of the ACCORD rule formulation process

Building permit applicants

Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines

Technological service providers

Exploitation of the ACCORD tools and services

Municipalities
Permitting Authority
Planners

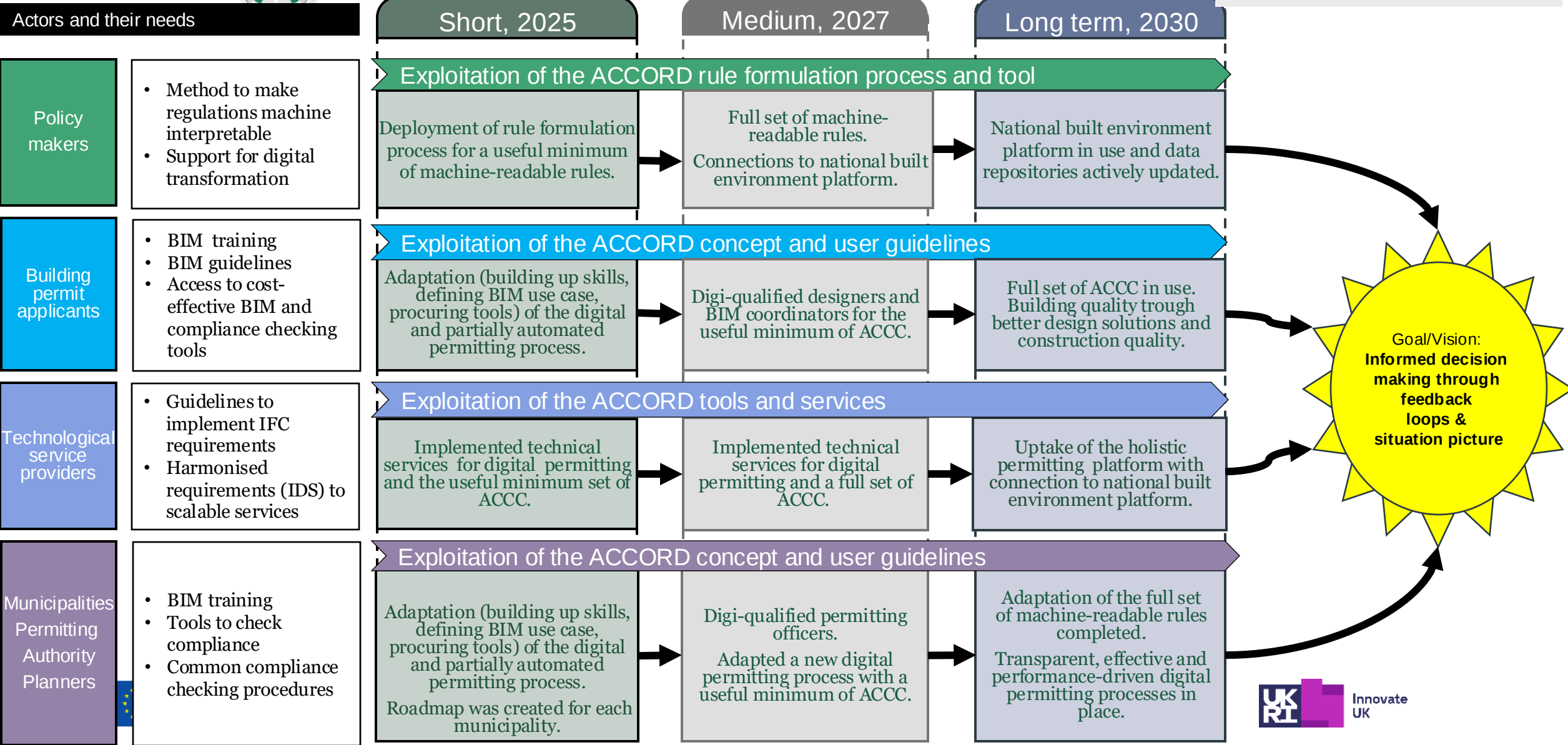
Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines

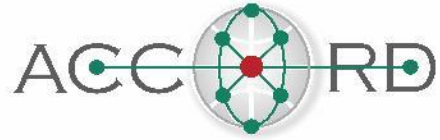


The transformation map (for reaching the common vision) for Finnish digi-permitting with ACCC



FIN-Example



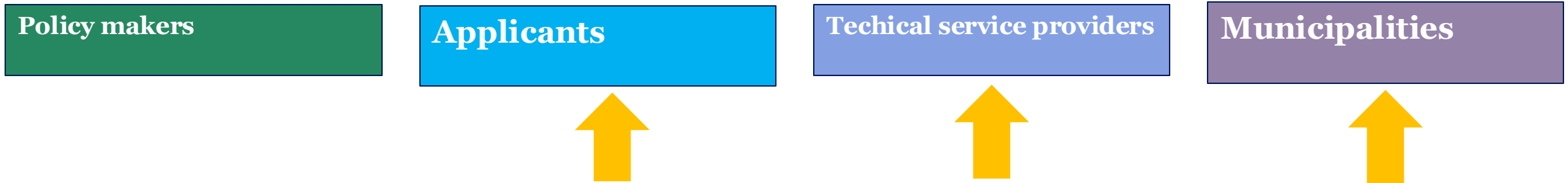


VISION

FIN-Example

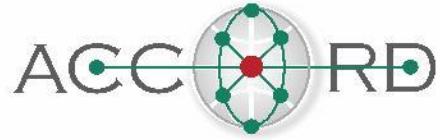
Vision towards informed decision making, which is utilizing feedback loops & situation picture- during digital and partial automated permitting process.

The process is enabled by digital platform services, modeling (permitBIM) for compliance checking and ACCC-service.



For this common vision (and actor specific visions) **development actions (transition) for each of the actors are identified**

- The ACCORD Transition Matrix has been used for defining the actions

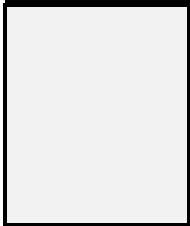


Finnish transformation pathway

Actors: Building permit applicants, building owners and chief architects

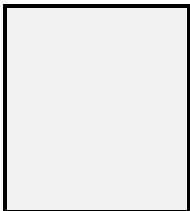
Example

Actors and their needs



Building permit applicants

- BIM training
- BIM guidelines
- Access to cost-effective BIM and compliance checking tools



Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines

Digital on-line building permitting service

Business based on digital information management

- using BIM authoring tool in defined BIM use cases
- Digital supporting systems/permitting platforms in place

Automated code compliance checking

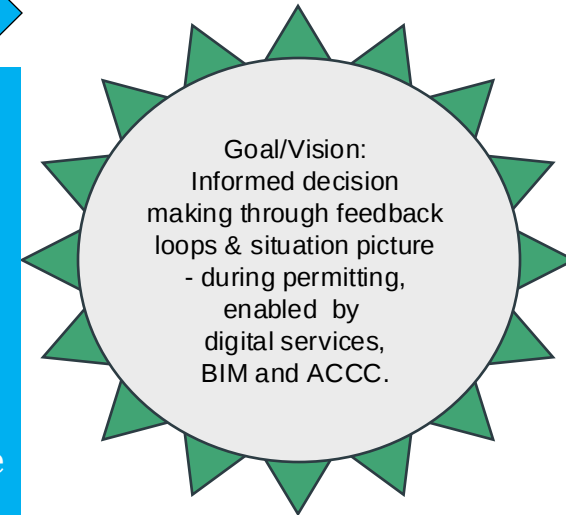
Business based on digital information management

- using BIM authoring tool and permitBIM
- using compliance checking tools with machine readable rules defined for checker tools.

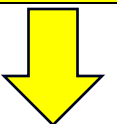
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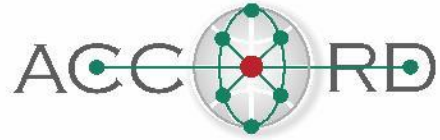
Service business based on digital information management

- using BIM authoring tool and permitBIM
- using checking tools with machine-readable rules from rules archive
- using building permit service to visualise code compliance



See narrative in notes





Recommendations for Building permit applicants, Building owners and Chief architects

Example

Actors and their needs

Building permit applicants

- BIM training
- BIM guidelines
- Access to cost-effective BIM and compliance checking tools

Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines

Digital on-line building permitting service

Automated code compliance checking

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Service business based on digital information management

- using BIM authoring tool and permitBIM
- using checking tools with machine-readable rules from rules archive
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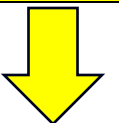
For vision **2b: Service business based on promises: Building permitting process goals (transparent and lean) reached and supporting final project goals (performances/ quality/ sustainability)**

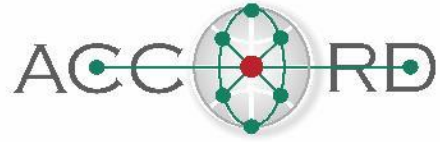
Key development actions:

- be aware about the BIM related laws/regulations and align it to your BIM strategy
- develop architectural offices' internal processes in-line with the best permitting process
- develop promise based offerings for buildings with higher **performances/ qualities/ sustainability**.
- if enabled by the regulators and policy makers, develop services and references for "concept permitting".

Goal/Vision:
Informed decision making through feedback loops & situation picture
- during permitting, enabled by digital services, BIM and ACCC.

See narrative in notes





General mindset and recommendations for Applicants, for building owners and for chief architects:

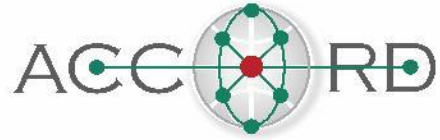
Building owners:

- Shared Vision picture and transition roadmap
- Participate in defining guidelines
- Offer piloting projects for process development
- Offer piloting for development of checkers to achieve targeted performance/ sustainability/ quality of the project

Architects (and other disciplines)

- Shared Vision picture and transition roadmap
- Participate in defining guidelines
- Participate the development actions on technical permitting platforms and tools
- Build up the needed skills set for BIM use case for digital permitting and use-cases for ACCC.



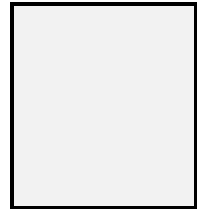
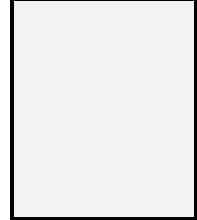


Finnish transformation pathway

Actors: Technological service providers

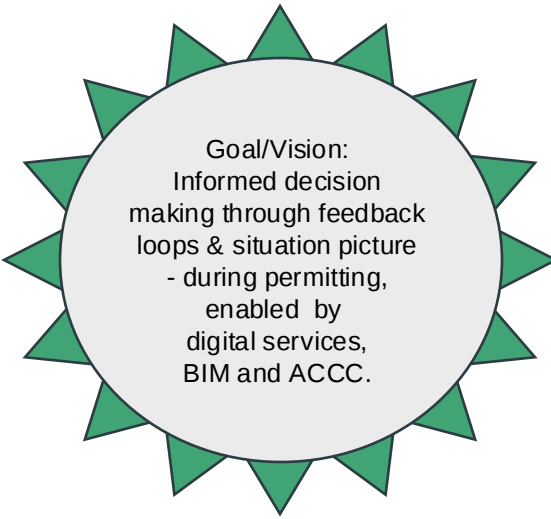
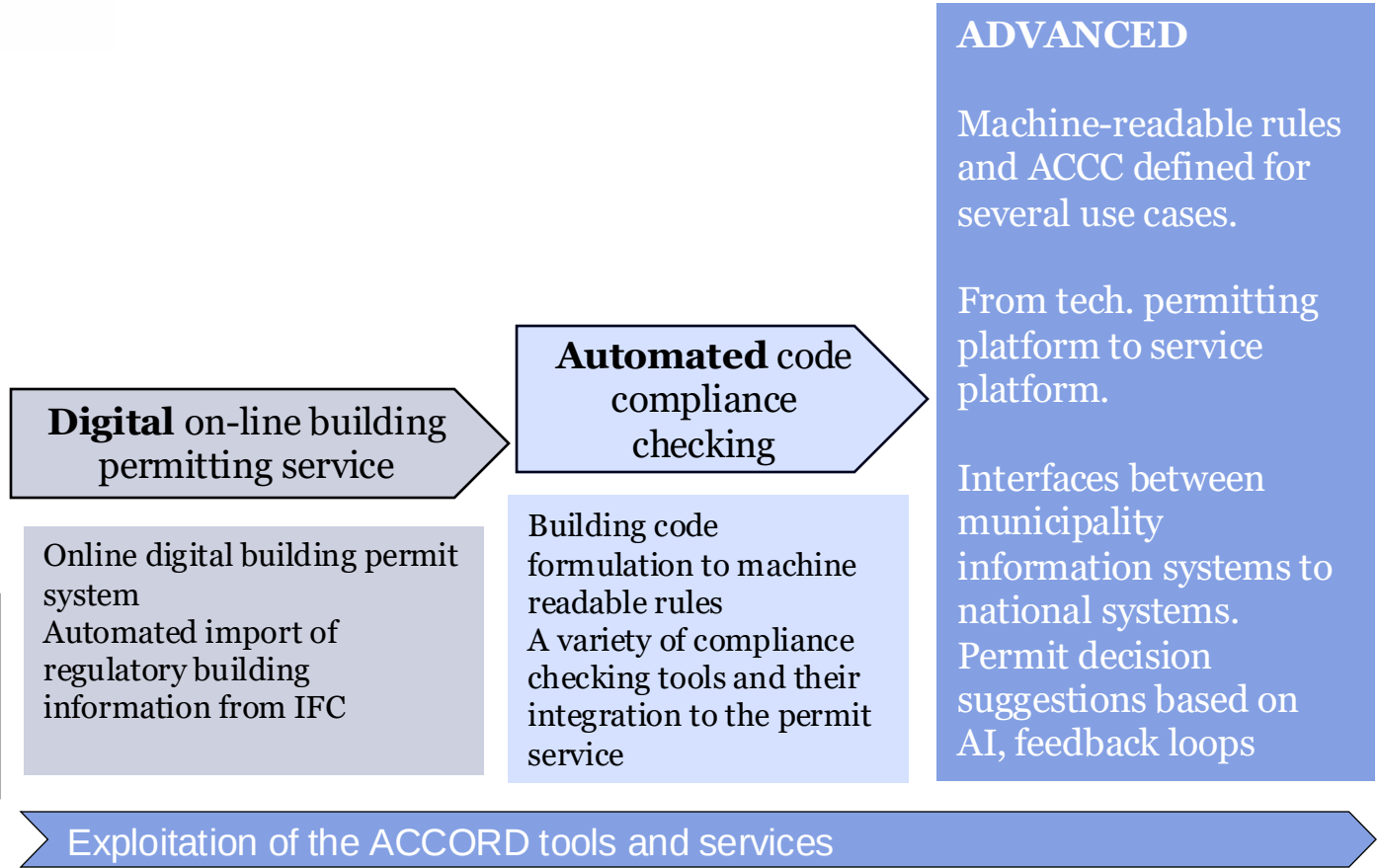
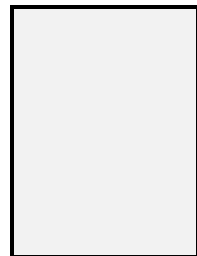
Example

Actors and their needs

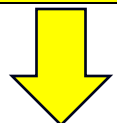


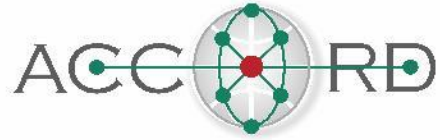
Technological service providers

- Guidelines to implement IFC requirements
- Harmonised requirements (IDS) to scalable services



See narrative in notes





Recommendations for Technological service providers

Example

Actors and their needs

Technological service providers

- Guidelines to implement IFC requirements
- Harmonised requirements (IDS) to scalable services

Exploitation of the ACCORD tools and services

Digital on-line building permitting service

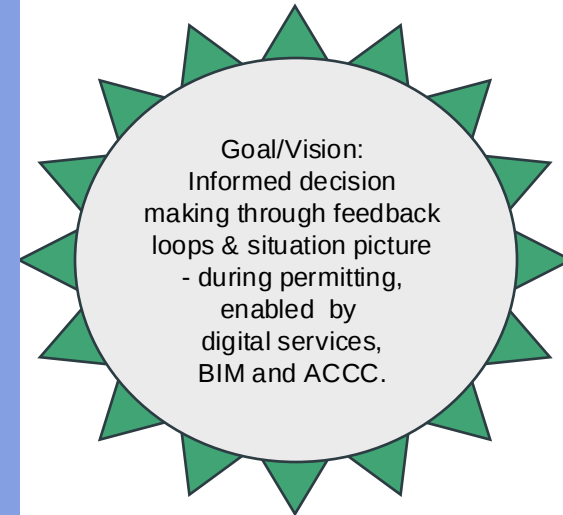
Automated code compliance checking

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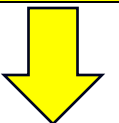
Machine-readable rules and ACCC defined for several use cases.

From tech. permitting platform to service platform.

Interfaces between municipality information systems to national systems. Permit decision suggestions based on AI, feedback loops



See narrative in notes



For vision 3a: Machine-readable rules and ACCC defined for several use cases
Key development actions:

- Shared Vision picture and transition roadmap
- Year 2024: Building project specific data can be automatically read from IFC to the permit service and added to the application
- useful minimum of ACCC specified to support permitting
- Create IDS and MVD/IDS
- develop a roadmap for permitting platform services

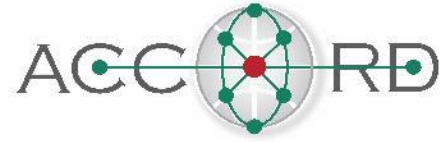
kers, develop services and references for “concept permitting”.



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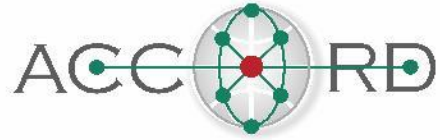
Event name and speaker





General mindset and recommendations for Technical service providers:

- Shared Vision picture and transition roadmap with all actors
- Be active in national level ACCC strategies, deployment and rule formulation processes
- Develop service ideas/business models for wider use of the open architecture
- Implement digital permitting platform to all municipalities

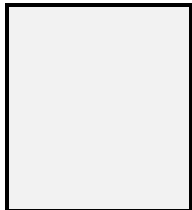
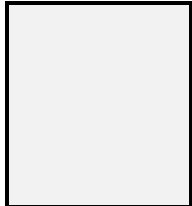
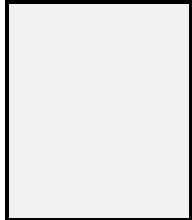


Finnish transformation pathway

Actors: Municipalities, Permitting authorities, City planners

Example

Actors and their needs



Municipalities
Permitting
Authority
Planners

- BIM for permitting training
- Tools to check compliance
- Common compliance checking procedures

Digital on-line building permitting service

Online building permit system and use of BIM (IFC) implemented in most of building permitting offices

Machine-readable data available from IFC for some permit-related decisions.

Automated code compliance checking

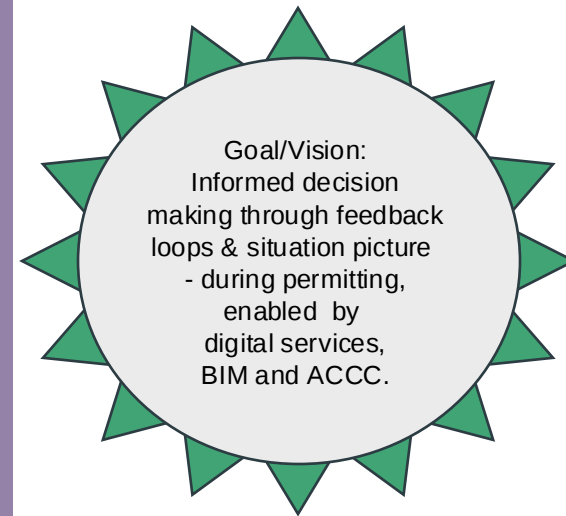
Build up skill-set for permitting officers. Building codes formulated to machine-readable rules and use of automated code-compliance checking services

oo Automated IFC data validation

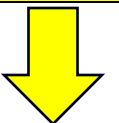
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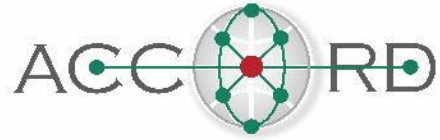
Automated checking adapted and implemented in all permit authority units. Data handover from the municipality service to the national services. Feedback loops (AI-driven) between projects to support learning and quality of permit decisions.

Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines



See narrative in notes





Finnish transformation pathway

Actors: Municipalities, Permitting authorities, City planners

Example

Actors and their needs

Municipalities
Permitting
Authority
Planners

- BIM for permitting training
- Tools to check compliance
- Common compliance checking procedures

Exploitation of the ACCORD concept and user guidelines

Digital on-line
building permitting
service

Automated code
compliance checking

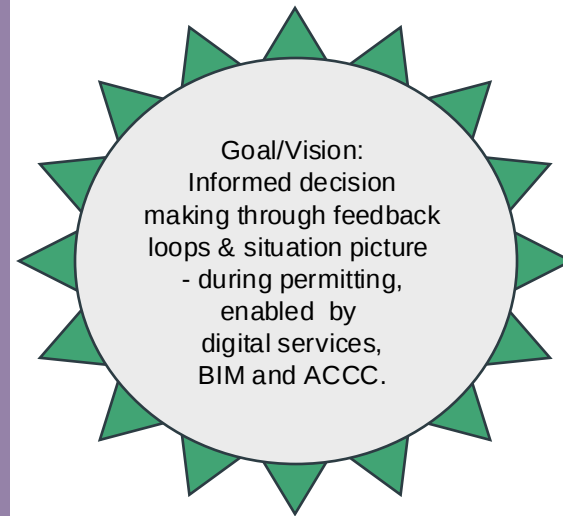
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Automated checking adapted and implemented in all permit authority units. Data handover from the municipality service to the national services. Feedback loops (AI-driven) between projects to support learning and quality of permit decisions.

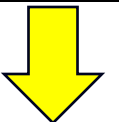
For vision **4a: Automated checking adapted and implemented in all permit authority units.**

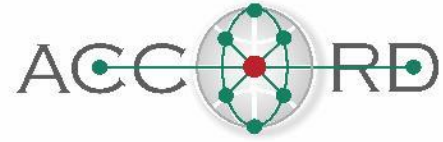
Key development actions:

- focus on building up needed skill-set for permitting office
- Define partial automated checks and automated checks.
- Implement the set of rules according to the decisions on required ACCC.



See narrative in notes





General mindset and recommendations for municipalities, permitting authority and the city planners:

- Focus on Human Factor and User demands, the applicants want to have easy, intuitive tools and transparent process.
- Participate in development of procurement processes and guidelines to support digital data flow.
- Implement digital permitting platform to all municipalities or collaborate between cities/ municipalities in digital permitting and ACCC

Transformation map

The transformation map (for reaching the common vision) for Finnish digi-permitting with ACCC



Example

Actors and their needs

Policy makers

- Method to make regulations machine interpretable
- Support for digital transformation

Building permit applicants

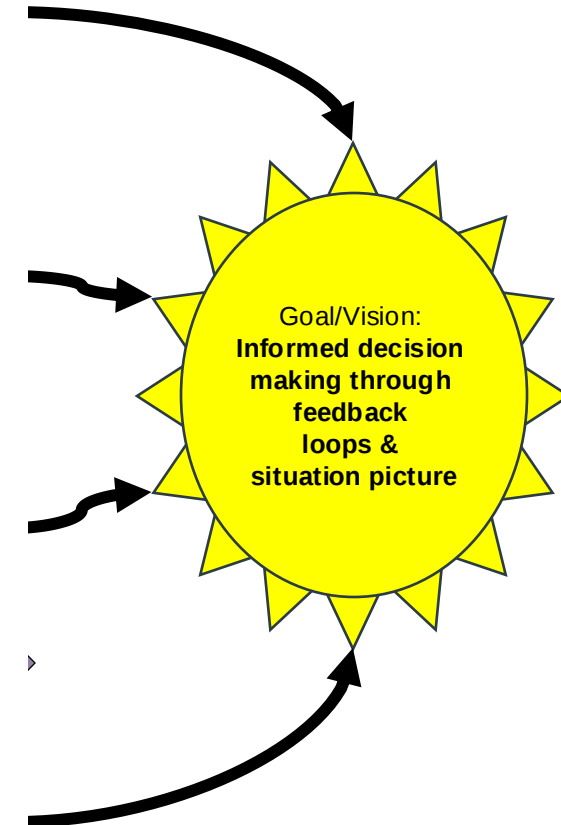
- BIM training
- BIM guidelines
- Access to cost-effective BIM and compliance checking tools

Technological service providers

- Guidelines to implement IFC requirements
- Harmonised requirements (IDS) to scalable services

Municipalities Permitting Authority Planners

- BIM training
- Tools to check compliance
- Common compliance checking procedures



The transformation map (for reaching the common vision) for Finnish digi-permitting with ACCC



Example

Actors and their needs

Short, 2025

Exploitation of the ACCO

Deployment of **rule formulation process for a useful minimum of machine-readable rules.**

Exploitation of the ACCO

Adaptation (building up skills, defining BIM use case, procuring tools) of the digital and partially automated permitting process.

Exploitation of the ACCO

Implemented technical services for digital permitting and **the useful minimum set of ACCC.**

Exploitation of the ACCO

Adaptation (building up skills, defining BIM use case, procuring tools) of the digital and partially automated permitting process.
Roadmap was created for each municipality.

Policy makers

- Method to make regulations machine interpretable
- Support for digital transformation

Building permit applicants

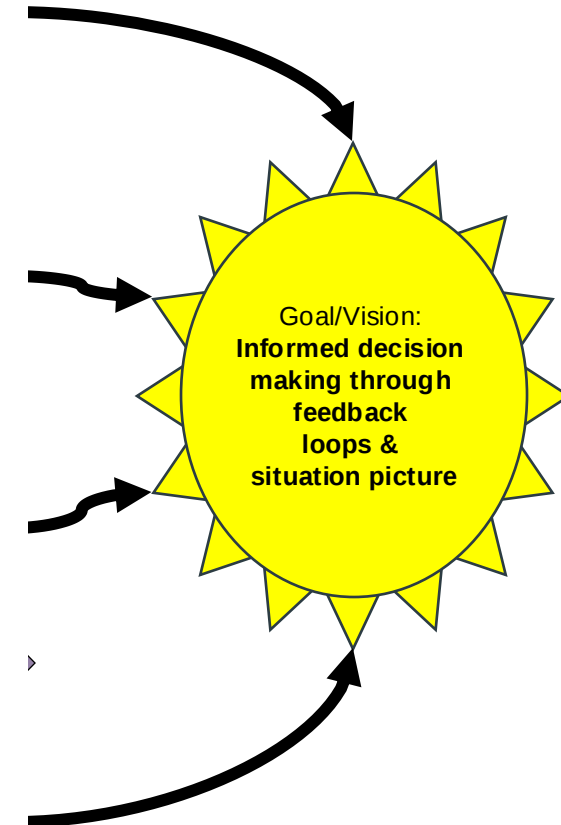
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- Harmonised requirements (IDS) to scalable services

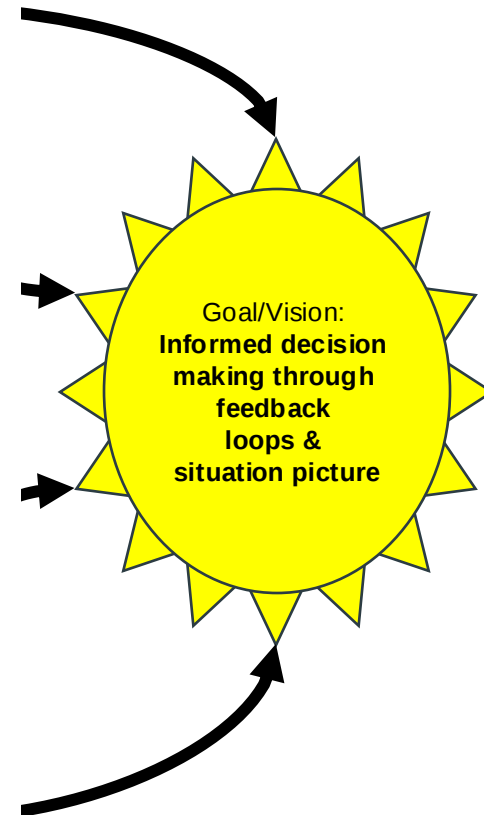
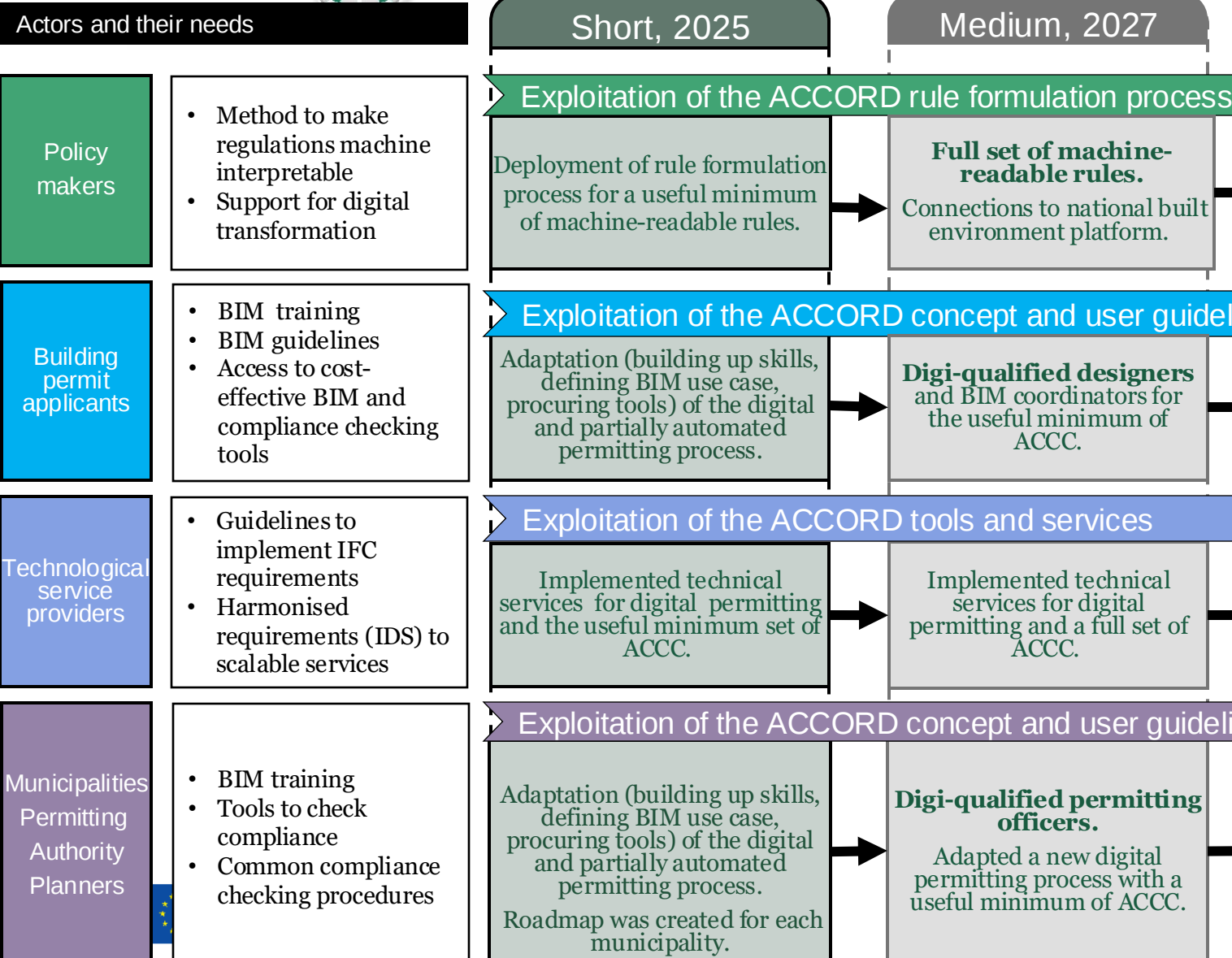
Municipalities
Permitting Authority
Planners

- BIM training
- Tools to check compliance
- Common compliance checking procedures



The transformation map (for reaching the common vision) for Finnish digi-permitting with ACCC

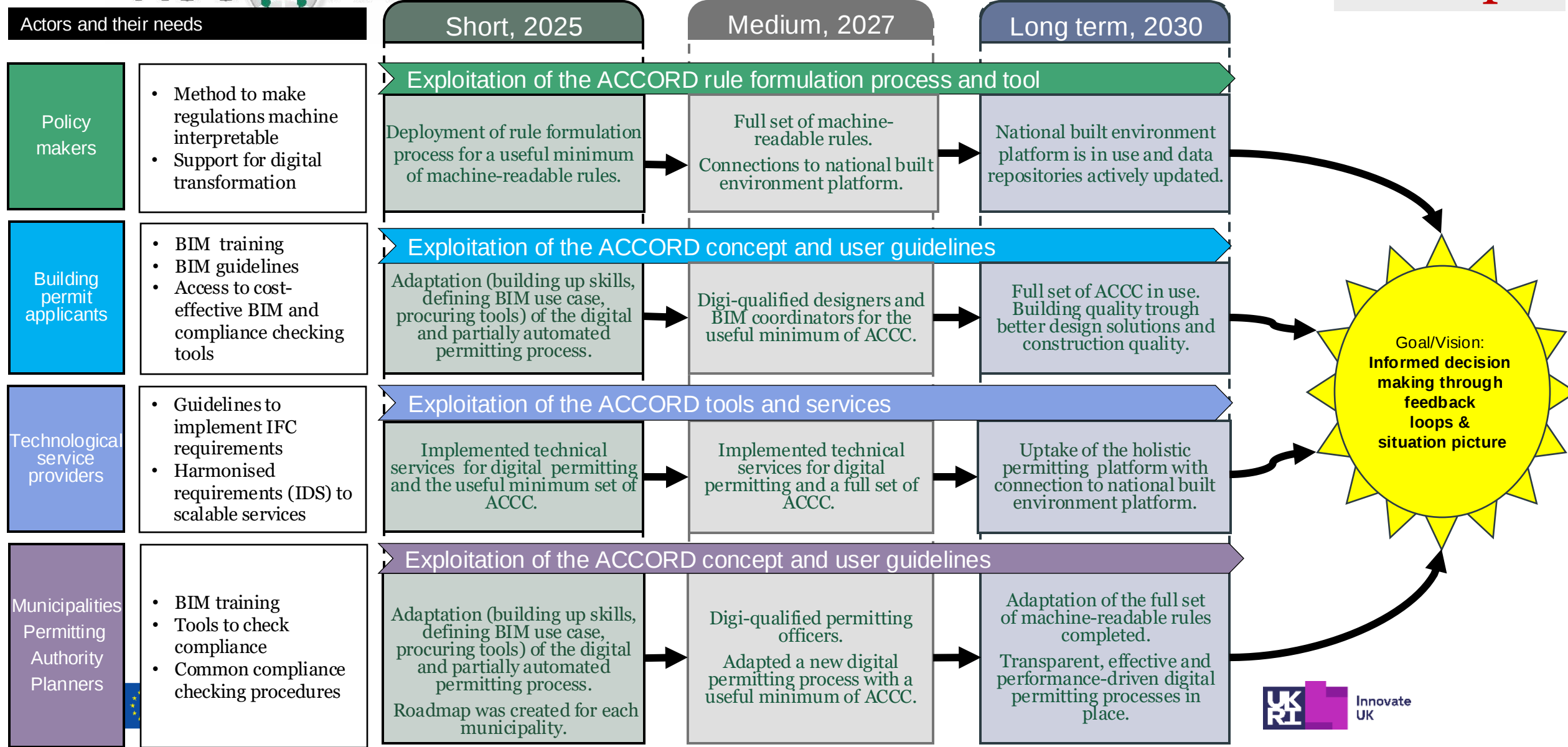
Example



The transformation map (for reaching the common vision) for Finnish digi-permitting with ACCC

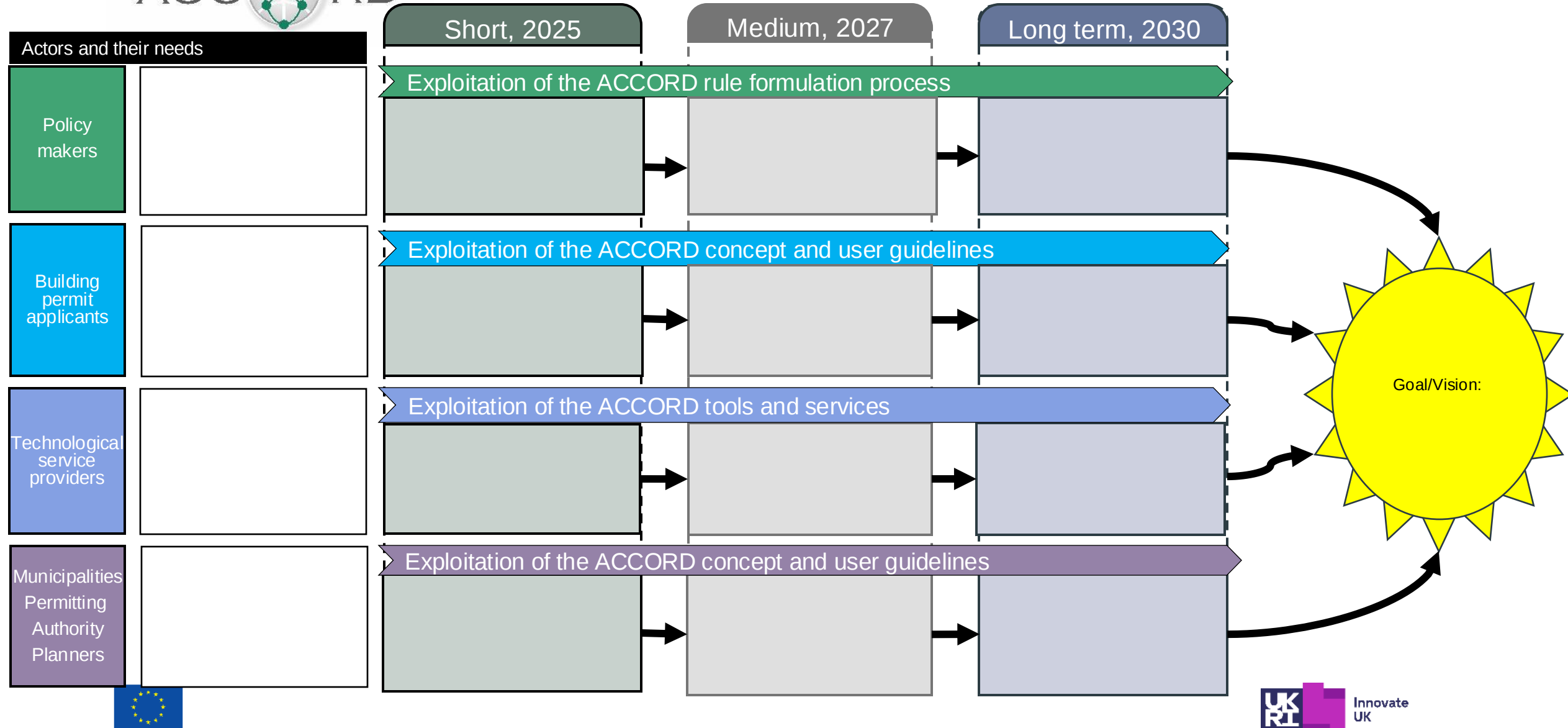
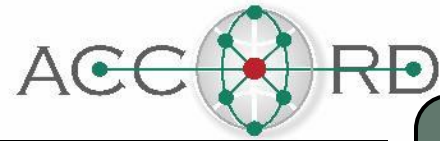


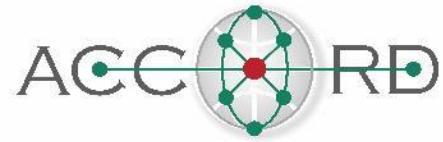
Example



The transformation map for [name of country/region]

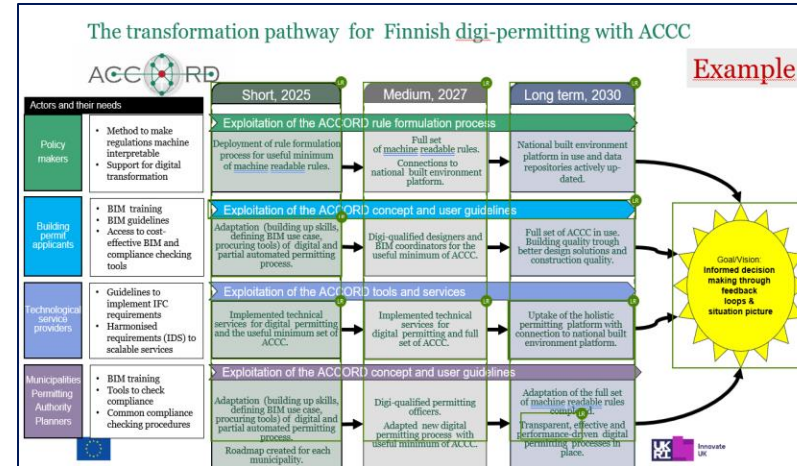
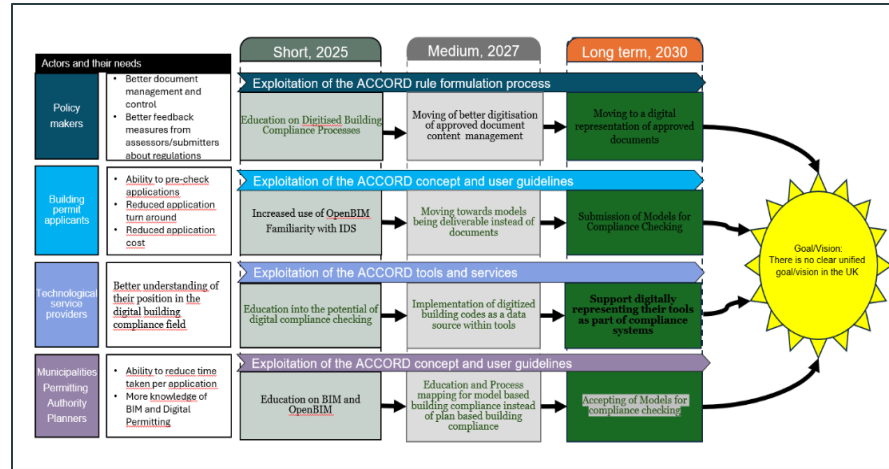
TEMPLATE





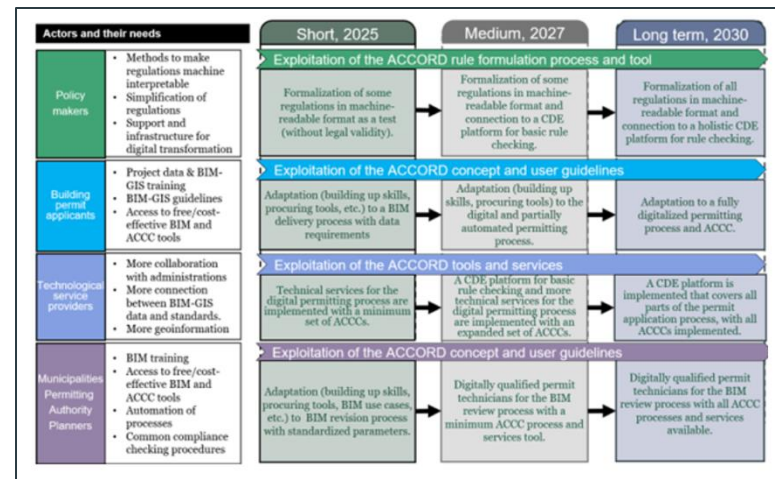
Summary in form of a national or regional roadmap

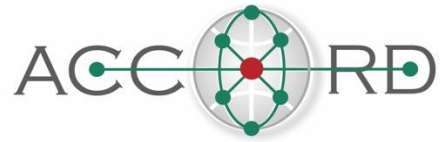
UK



FINLAND

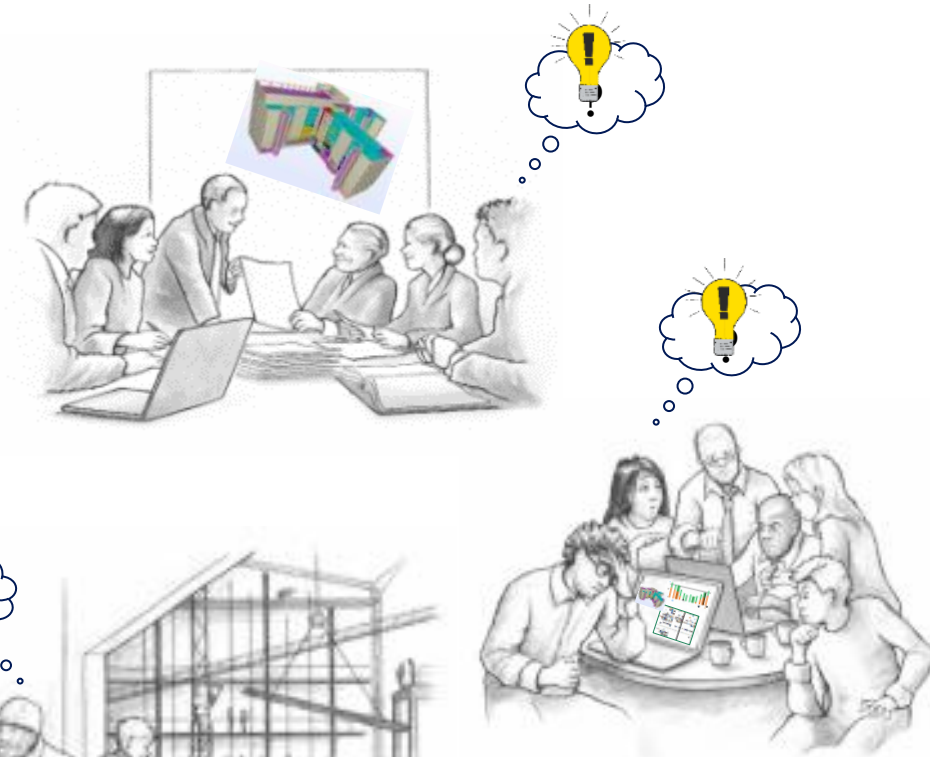
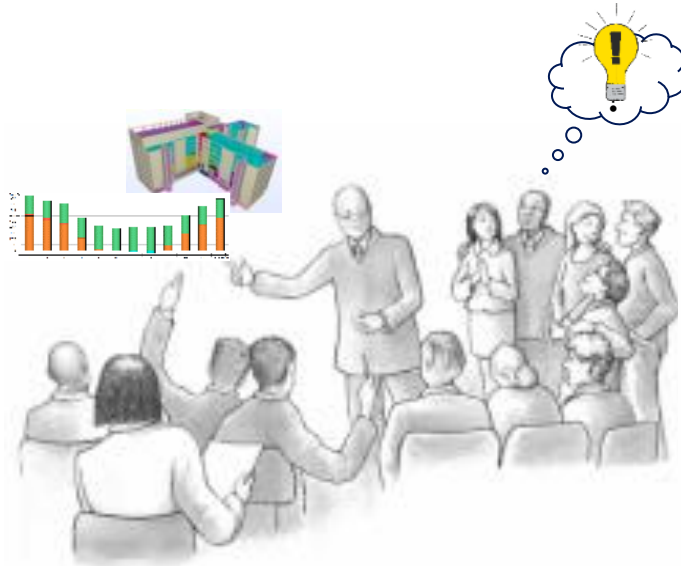
SPAIN





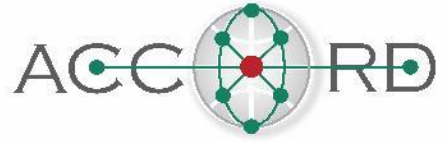
BIM and ACCC

Collaborative and integrated BIM based workflow is the foundation also for automated code compliance checking



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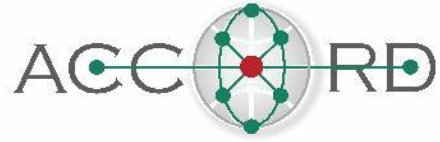




Conlusions... untill now

- The transformation pathways in European countries and regions are not similar.
 - The state of digital construction digital permitting practises and the starting step varies.
 - The local culture of design and construction and steering of the developments in the build environment varies.
 - ⇒ **There are diverse starting points for the transition activities.**
 - ⇒ **There are different dynamics for the transition process.**



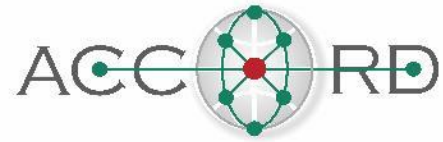


More Resources

<https://accordproject.eu>

- D1.2 ACCORD Landscape Review report
- D1.3 ACCORD Framework and User Requirements Specification
- **D3.1: Transformation Pathways Report**
 - T3.1: TO-BE Digital Permitting and Compliance Processes
 - T3.3: Transformation Pathways towards Digital Permitting Processes in Demo Countries





Thank you!

The deliverable (D3.1) will be released later this year.

For further questions, please mail us:

tarja.makelainen@vtt.fi

rita.lavikka@vtt.fi

Follow us



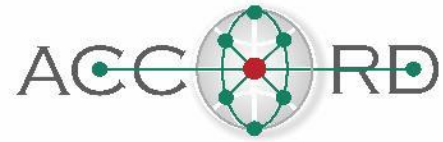
Access our website



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Partners



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