



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Rise and Demise of Industrial Modernity

Fact Sheet

Project Information

RiDe

Grant agreement ID: 101170823

DOI

[10.3030/101170823](https://doi.org/10.3030/101170823)

EC signature date

20 February 2025

Start date

1 May 2025

End date

30 April 2030

Funded under

European Research Council (ERC)

Total cost

€ 1 990 195,00

EU contribution

€ 1 990 195,00

Investment in EU policy priorities

Digital agenda



Clean air



Artificial
Intelligence



Climate action



Biodiversity



Coordinated by

TARTU ULIKOOL

 Estonia

Objective

Contemporary societies are underpinned by industrial modernity: a set of commonly shared ideas, institutions and practices related to the natural environment and technoscience. Having historically unleashed massive leaps in productivity, economic growth and societal welfare, many traits of industrial modernity have now become maladapted to the current socio-ecological polycrisis. As a result science

and technology promise to solve the grand challenges of climate change, resource depletion and loss of biodiversity with one hand, only to keep intensifying them with another. There is thus a fundamental need to rethink industrial modernity.

Attempts to detect signs of this fundamental shift currently remain fragmented within and between disciplines like sustainability science, innovation studies, or history of technology. RiDe will use a new Deep Transitions framework from the sustainability transitions field to provide an overarching synthesis on the acceleration, crisis and transformative prospects of industrial societies from 1900 to the present. It focuses on 3 questions: 1) what are the major historical continuities and emerging ruptures in industrial modernity? 2) what are the mechanisms through which technoscience keeps blocking transformative environmental practices? 3) in which countries is major transformative change most likely to occur?

RiDe will 1) use a mixed method research design, combining text mining, databases, stylized narrative explanation, and process-tracing, which; 2) enables it to discover new empirical patterns in the evolution of industrial modernity, and; 3) develop a composite index for identifying countries currently least hindered by the historical legacy of industrial modernity. The results will be synthesized into the first macro-level middle-range process theory in transitions studies, offering a new comprehensive, historically-informed and empirically-backed interpretation of industrial modernization for sustainability science.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc)

[natural sciences](#) > [computer and information sciences](#) > [databases](#)

[humanities](#) > [history and archaeology](#) > [history](#)

[natural sciences](#) > [biological sciences](#) > [ecology](#) > [ecosystems](#)



Keywords

[Sustainability transitions](#)

[Sustainability science](#)

[Deep Transitions](#)

[industrial modernity](#)

[mixed methods](#)

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

[ERC-2024-COG - ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS](#)

Call for proposal

[ERC-2024-COG](#)

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[HORIZON-ERC - HORIZON ERC Grants](#)

Host institution



TARTU ULIKOOL

Net EU contribution

€ 1 990 195,00

Total cost

€ 1 990 195,00

Address

ULIKOOLI 18

51005 Tartu

 **Estonia** 

Region

Eesti > Eesti > Lõuna-Eesti

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Beneficiaries (1)



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European Union, 2025