Promoters.
DESIS Lab at COPPE – Federal University of Rio de Janeiro is partner in the project, coordinated by the Erasmus University of Rotterdam.

Other participants are:
University of East Anglia .
University of Maastricht .
Erasmus University of Rotterdam .
Université Libre de Bruxelles .
Aalborg University . University of Sussex . Universidad Nacional de Quilimes . Universidade da Coruna . University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna . ESSRG – research and development SME

Funders.
EC-funded (FP7) research initiative
Context.
TRANSIT (TRANsformative Social Innovation Theory) is a research project that will develop a theory of transformative social innovation, by studying how networks of social entrepreneurs and families of social innovation projects contribute to systemic societal change. TRANSIT is a EC-funded (FP7) research initiative. The project will commence on the 1st of January 2014 and run for 4 years until the end of 2017.
The project.
The aim of TRANSIT is to build a theory of transformative social innovation that is useful not only to academics, but also to policy makers, social entrepreneurs, and other practitioners. It aspires to create an iterative interplay between interdisciplinary theory formation (using insights from e.g. transition theory, social movement theory and institutional theory), empirical research through in-depth fieldwork and a transdisciplinary translation to practical insights and capacity building tools.
The design process.
Within this context, DESIS Lab at COPPE – Federal University of Rio de Janeiro is in charge in the selection and in-depth analysis of social innovation cases. It includes also social innovation networks. TRANSIT project is considering SI networks, like Fablabs, Hackerspaces, Impact Hub, etc. In this list DESIS Network is included, and DESIS Lab at UFRJ/Coppe is in charge of analyzing the DESIS Network under the TRANSIT theoretical framework.

The participation of the DESIS Lab at UFRJ/Coppe includes also the consideration of the Latin American perspective in the theoretical discussion, in the case collection and in-depth analysis process, and in the capacity building tools.
Some of the outcomes of this project will be related to unravel forms of empowerment that social innovation cases and networks promote, which can highlight new ways of governance and policy making.
Moreover, it will be possible to understand social innovation (and its networks) contributions to planning processes and to foster new social interactions and relations among actors in the view of systemic societal changes.
www.transitsocialinnovation.eu/