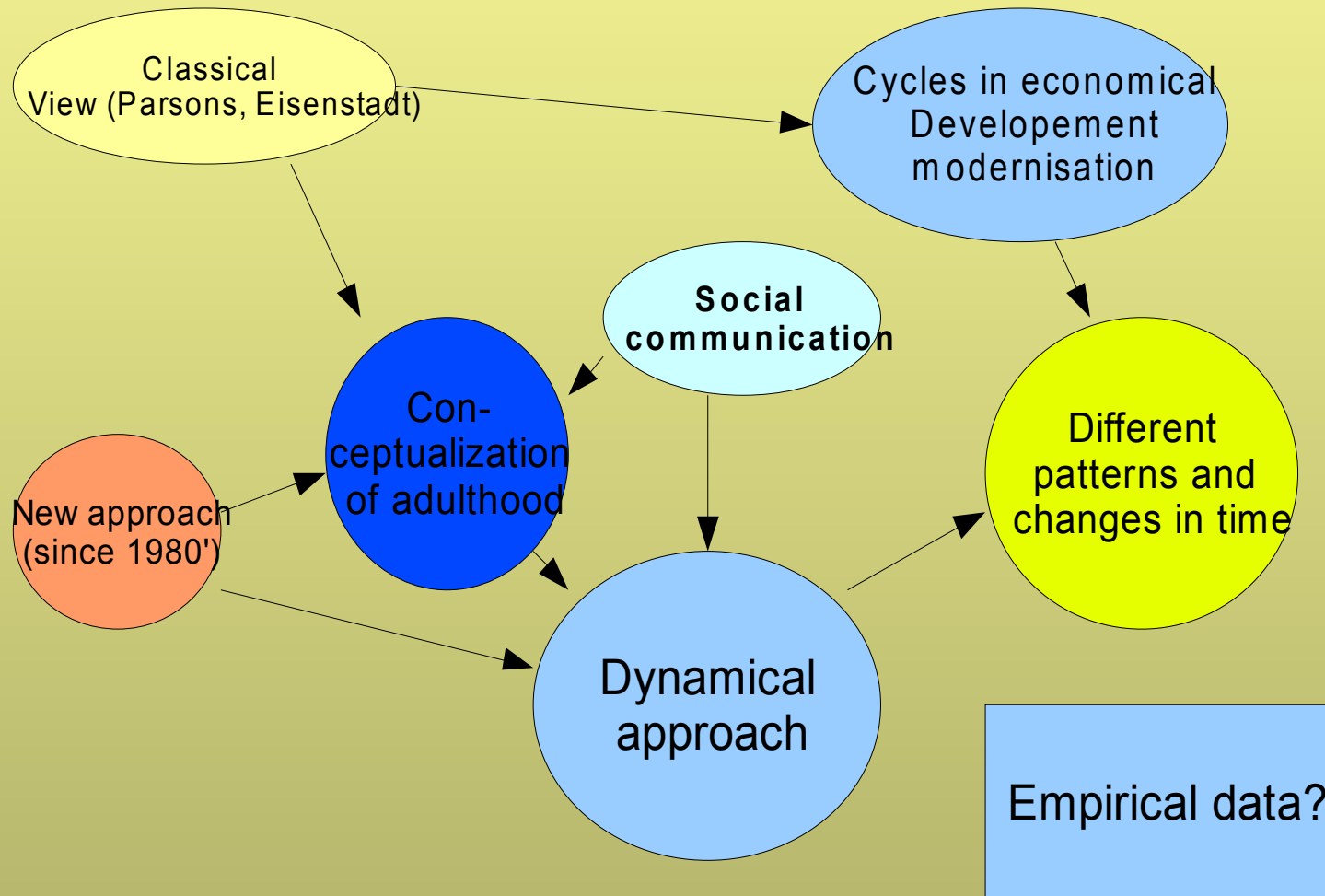


Youth in communication networks

Patterns of entering adulthood in Poland
1990 – 2008

Conceptualization of adulthood in the context of rapid social change



Adulthood... ?=+

- Family
- Peer-Group
- School to work transition
- Universal social process
- Family building
- Predictable challenges
- Lack of knowledge
- Society's supervision (formal and informal)
- Youth in social networks
- Bureaucratic institutions in the new context (replacement of informal social impact & control)
- Ongoing communication
- Negotiated identities, meanings and trajectories
- Information overload

Phases of transformation after 1990 in Poland

- **Phase of rapid change and restructulization (1990-1997)**
 - **Phase of exhaustion of resources (1998-2003)**
 - **Phase of integration (2003-2008)**
-
- Marody, 2007;

Phase of change and revision (1990-1997)

- **Rapid changes: deregulation of economy, market**
- **reorganisation of practices of life world (eg.: role of family)**
- **Chaos, uncertainty accompanied with great opportunities of status improvement**
- **Two phases – rapid change (90-93) and phase of growth and stabilisation (94-97)**

Pattern I: excluded adults

- Deconstruction of certainty in totally uncertain environment
- Rapid improvement of material status
- Combination of work and education
- Low (not crucial) role of family
- Lack of specialized, youth oriented institutions and services
- Adults and youth form two separated worlds (eg. public sector vs new technologies)
- Three subpatterns: elite, uncompromistic, chaotic

Phenomenons of social communication I

- „Symbolic garbage”
- Source: research on construction of ideological declaration and discourse by subcultural leaders of early 90 (Fatyga 1999).
- Unlimited use of symbolic recourses
- Joining symbols and ideas coming from different, often contradict traditions and orders
- Argumentation, hierarchies even ideologies constructed ad hoc – according to the actual context of discourse
- Lack of recognizable structures of knowledge

Phase of exhaustion of resources (1998-2003)

- **First slowing down in the economy and its consequences: unemployment, uncertainty, fear of the future**
- **Delegitimisation of main political powers (post-socialist and post-solidarity) – decreasing interest and engagement in public sphere**
- **Emerging of new structures, progressing institutionalization and control – restoration of institutions**
- **Return of „stabilisation dream” and need of welfare – tendencies to positive evaluation of old regime**

Pattern II: adulthood of excluded (locked out generation)

- Verification of social recourses (efficiency of different forms of capital – eg. education)
- End of „rapid career” model and lowering chances for improvement of material status
- Fear of future, feelings of inadequate competencies and recourses
- Family turn x2 (origin and orientation)
- Increased role of adults/parents
- Need of safe, predictable world
- Delayed adulthood defined as state of mind – escape from unreachable markers

Phenomenons of social communication II

- „Return of family”
- Source: research on entering adulthood (Sinczuch 2002).
- Parents and people from the older age groups are only who can really give a support in entering adulthood process (eg.: in finding stable and profitable job).
- The tendency is stronger among young people with lower education and living in peripheral locations.
- The group of peers is perceived as a source of role models, information, but not of real help. Partially due to intergenerational competition, partially because of lack of social resources.

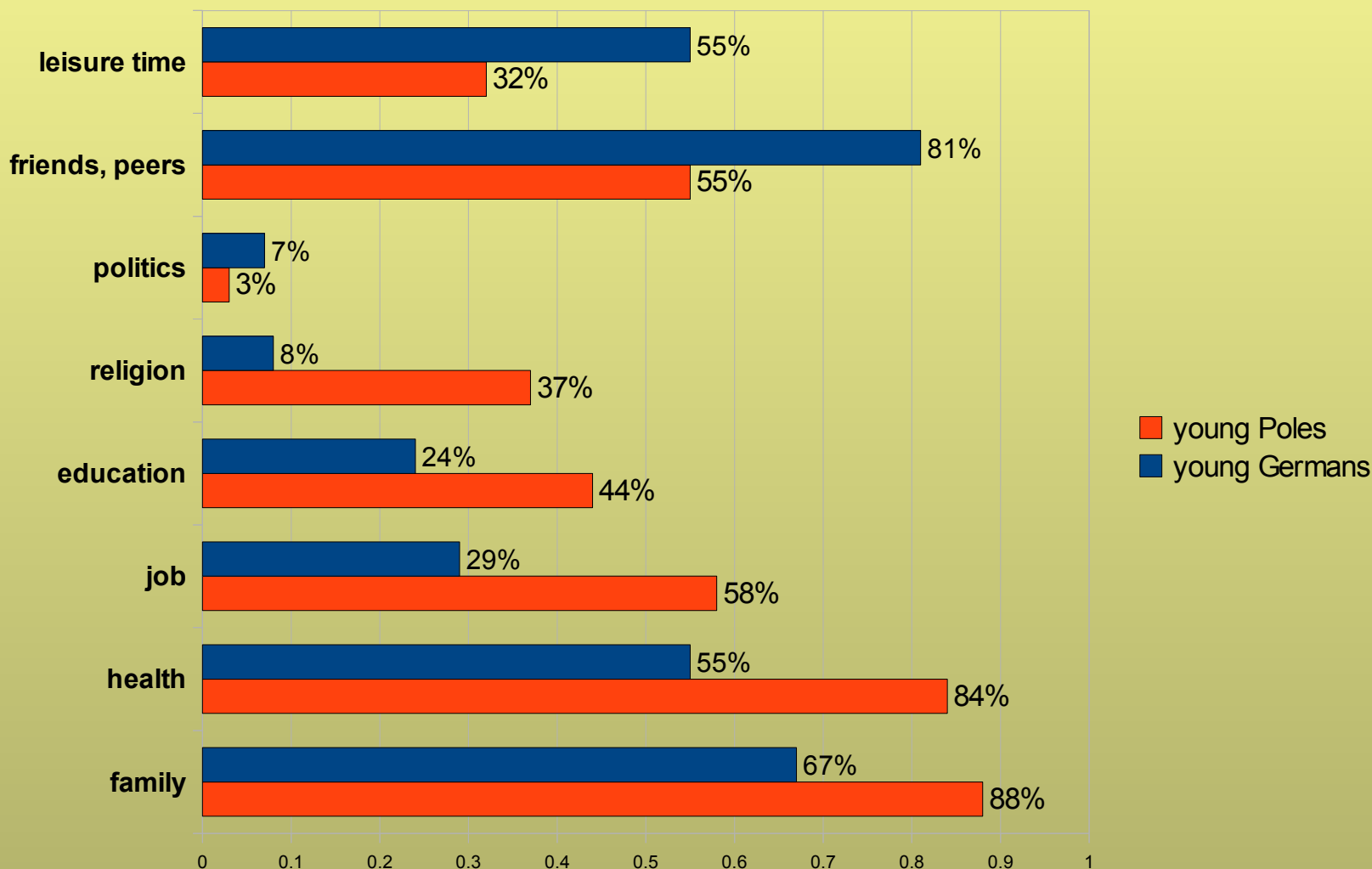
Young Germans and Young Poles' 01

Source: Young Germans and Young Poles in Europe, 2001/2002, representative sample, youth 15-24 (Koseła ed. 2005)

It is important for me that I am:	Poland	Germany
Person with the future	59 (9)	62 (2)
Men/Women	83 (3)	60 (1)
Member of the family	84 (1)	48 (4)
Young person (youth)	61 (8)	46 (3)
Member of the nation	90 (2)	42 (6)
European citizen	63 (11)	36 (13)
Adult person	49 (12)	32 (10)
Person with strong acceptance of Christian values	44 (15)	10 (27)
Employee (job identification)	21 (21)	30 (11)
Member of organisations, associations	7 (39)	20 (19)
Person with commitment of democratic values	26 (24)	25 (14)

Młodzi Polacy i Młodzi Niemcy' 01

Source: Young Germans and Young Poles in Europe, 2001/2002, rperesetative sample, youth 15-24 lata (Kosela ed. 2005)



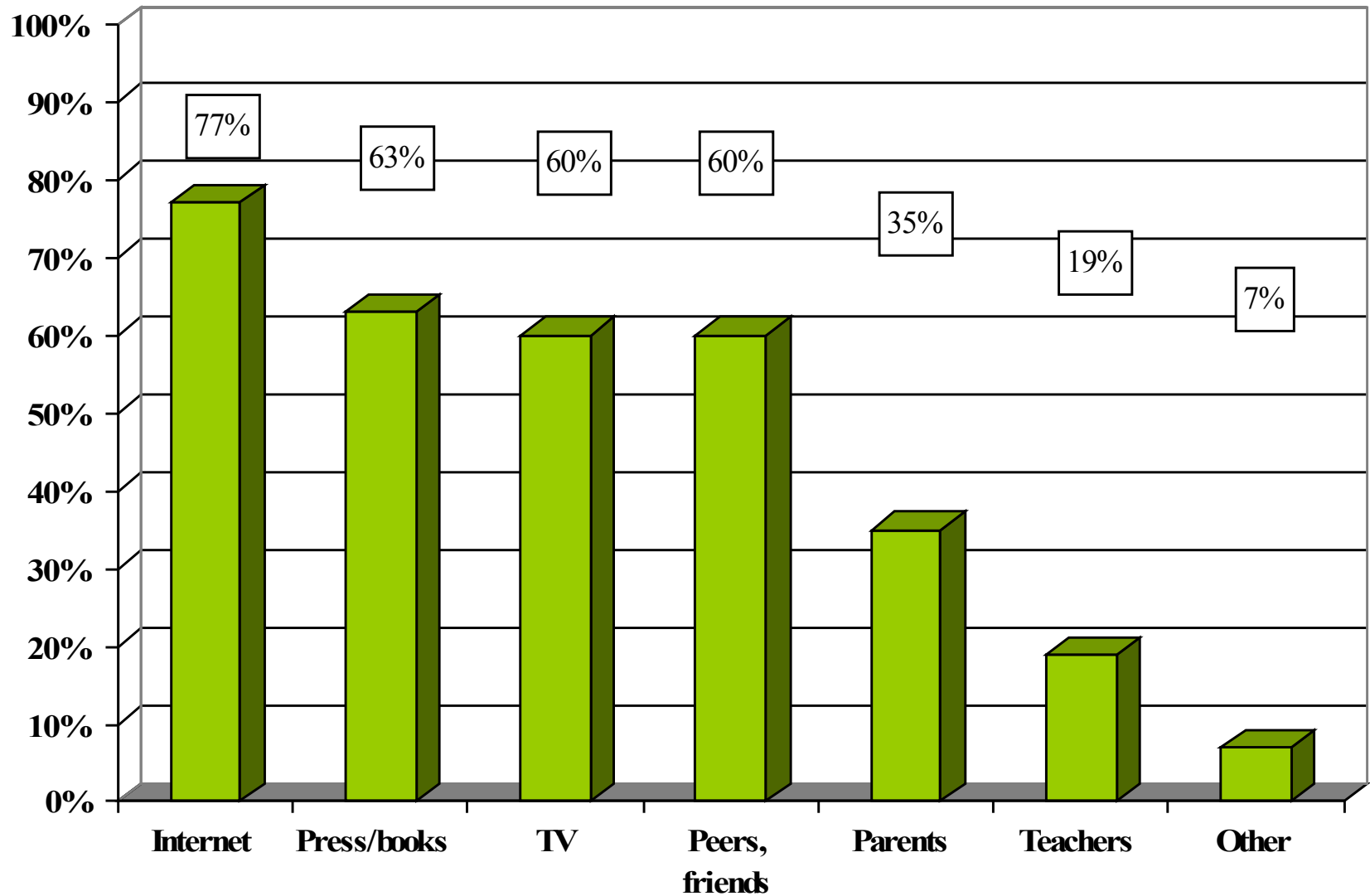
Phase of integration (2004-2008)

- **Participation in European structures**
- **Social learning of structures and rooting of new models of behavior**
- **Disapperance of „post-socialist”
(culture, view of the world, point of comparatisation)**

Pattern III: exclusion of adulthood (generation of self)

- Self-consciousness (goals, recourses, strategies) and stronger self commitment
- Well organized peer group (virtual) – rather friends than peers, colleagues
- Acting towards collecting recourses (different forms of capital)
- Family as the conscious project and choice
- Intergenerational cooperation within family – exclusion of intergenerational conflicts
- Institutionalisation of support for entering adulthood process (experts and professionals)

Sources of information: Where do you go when looking for information of your interests?



(Source: Sińczuch in: Fatyga et.al. 2005)

Patterns of collecting information

- **„Media-oriented” model** - information collected from Internet, books and newspapers, TV and – a bit less intense – from friends/peers.
- **Personal sources of information:** parents and teachers – accompanied with limited use of media (mainly printed – books and newspapers); more conformist and conservative; slightly connected with gender dimension - more popular among girls.
- **Peer group and Internet.** The information exchange may took place in reality or in virtual world and the main sources of information is same age population. It is more frequent boys.

The first and third models of communication environment shows the tendency of exclusion of older generations from the exchange network and relay on use of media.

Social environment

- Less conflicts and contradictions:
- Parents
- Siblings
- Teachers
- Friends
- Less presence of parents and adults in activities of everyday life:
- Values
- Way of living
- Leisure time

Conclusions

Changes in the process of entering/socialization for adulthood could be recognized and analyzed with respect of issue of social communication

Recognition of adulthood as a process of using and building communication brings a new broader perspective (c. patterns, c. c. networks, c. environment, c. relations)

Cultural determinants of social communication must be included into the process of description of meaning of adulthood

Patterns and ideologies of entering adulthood in Poland are shaped by global tendencies in more indirect than direct way.

From imposed values towards autonomous decisions. From uncertainty towards self-confidence. From family orientation towards... family orientation.

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