

## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth




# Symposium on youth participation in a digitalised world

14-16 September 2015  
European Youth Centre Budapest



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# youth participation in a digital world

 there is no such thing as (one) youth  
(common flaw of academic studies & policy interventions)

youth

generalisations (“digital natives”)  
v.

the diversity of real youth  
communities *across Europe*

trying to be/look “cool”

key challenge = reaching/engaging marginalised demographics

**engagement infrastructure** → grounded in real communities

**\*cultural pluralism**

# youth participation in a digital world

participation in what?

what for (why)?

ends and/or means?

decline of traditional processes of participation  
(voting, political parties, civil society)

**participation**

product > process

issue-driven / self-interest v. duty / public / collective

participation at the cost of representation?

how do we communicate the value of participation?

**most effective and civilised way of getting things done**

# youth participation in a digital world

what does that even mean?!

~~'online v. offline'~~

'tethered self' / embodied technology

(excuse for by-passing  
physical/material aspects?)



**digital world**

public space / geography / urban landscape

new forms of inequality

re-establishing **agency**  
(v. technological structure / determinism)

youth participation in a digital world



# communication

personalisation algorithms and the “filter bubble”

encountering things/ideas/people/activities that  
challenge us and our beliefs

our relationship with “the Other”

stepping out of our comfort zone

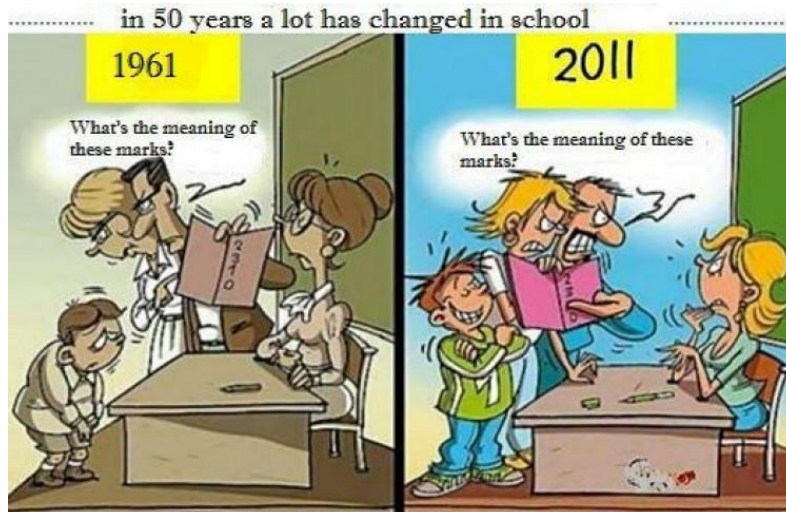


# education

cognitive frameworks and literacy

reflective process and content

decline of authority / perceived hierarchies  
 = metaphor for the slow but steady transformation  
 (breakdown? Evolution?) of social organisation in liberal  
 democracies



(re-empowering teachers?  
 going liberal all the way?)

outcome?

# economy

me.com = individualisation  
self = brand

flexible, creative, holistic (PR, marketing, SEO, HR, finance)

scale implications?

fragmentation (craft v. narcissism)

no safety net: representation? benefits? welfare?

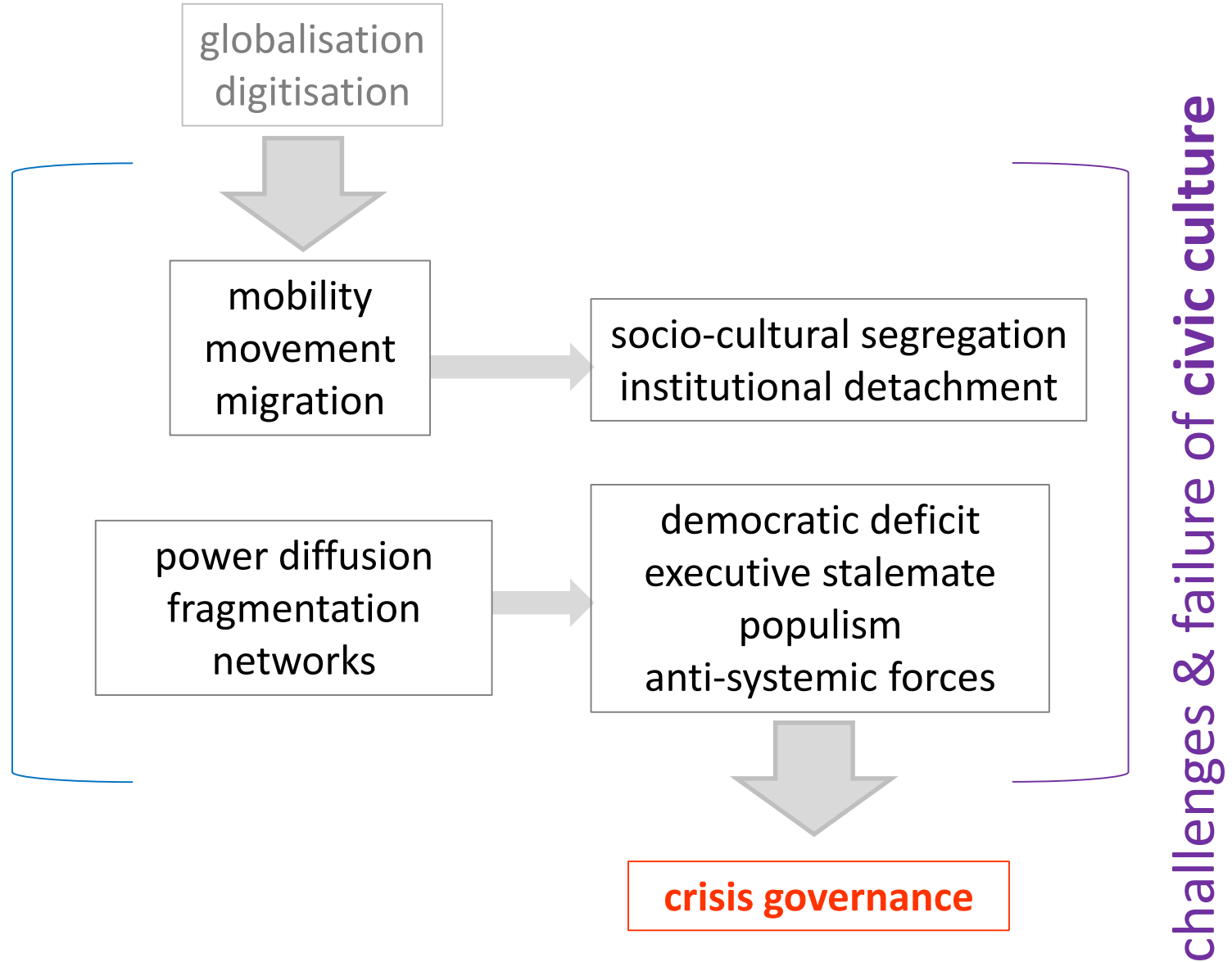
anti-socialisation (teamwork / collaboration /  
compromise / hierarchy)?

privacy?

skillsets?

support mechanisms for digital workers





## drivers of online youth civic engagement

**relevant** to lifeworld (me, my family, my community)

**efficacy** and hope (tangible outcome, empowerment)

**emotionally** engaging (affective/symbolic aspects)

**visually** elegant, beautiful or gripping

Specific features (on a civic website) that would motivate you to take action

“By showing visitors the difference they could make by taking action. By showing the consumer the little effort it would cost them to change their behaviour and the huge impact it would have on the issue if they did” [#4.39]

“Clear good background information = giving me examples on how I can easily / non-time-consuming make an impact already, without spending too much money”.  
[#4.45]

**global engagement** = awareness, responsibility, citizenship

opportunities for **intercultural dialogue**

situated in **physical space**

addressing specific and material **inequalities**

**digital literacy** incorporating daily routines and play

nurturing the

**civic culture**

belonging/identity  
collective memory  
responsibility/duty  
empathy  
compromise  
urban coexistence

using the **digital, visual, emotional** and **symbolic**  
vocabulary/tools that (younger) people can relate to

Abstract orange geometric shapes, including long diagonal bars and small squares, arranged in a pattern that suggests a stylized sun or architectural elements.

A SHORT FILM ON URBAN COEXISTENCE  
BY ROMAN GERODIMOS

# AT THE EDGE OF THE PRESENT

Three orange squares arranged horizontally.

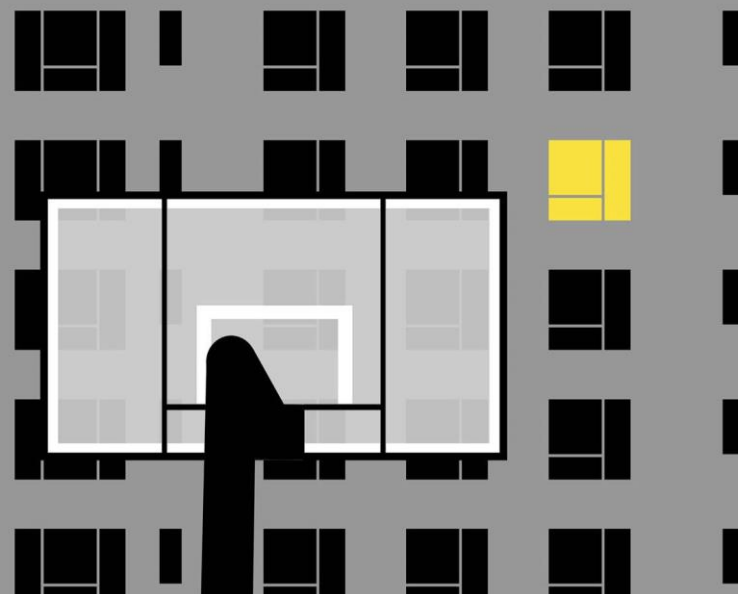
NARRATED BY SAM BOOTH



A SHORT FILM ON YOUTH AND THE CITY  
BY ROMAN GERODIMOS

# A CERTAIN TYPE OF FREEDOM

NARRATED BY SAM BOOTH



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## Q&A



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