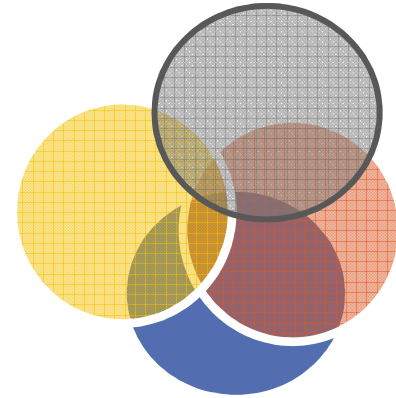# YOUTH RESEARCH CHALLENGING CROSS-SECTORAL POLICY

MOSTAR 29.10.2015

BEHROOZ MOTAMED-AFSHARI

CROSS-SECTORIAL

- Cross points between different policy areas
- Joint target group (specified)
- Youth as a <u>resource</u> not "only" a problem (involvement)
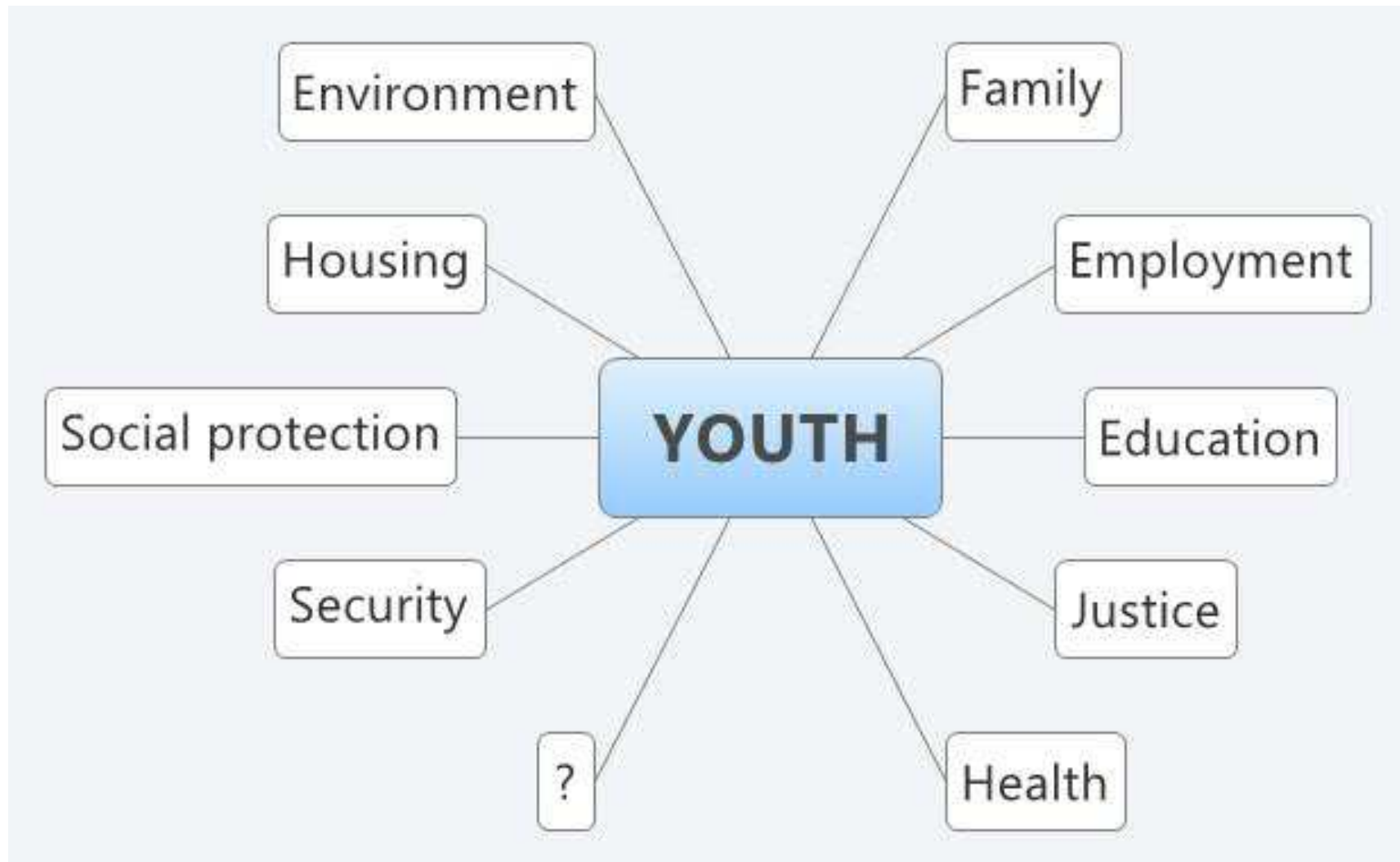- Common action area, common region

COOPERATION

- Sharing information and competences
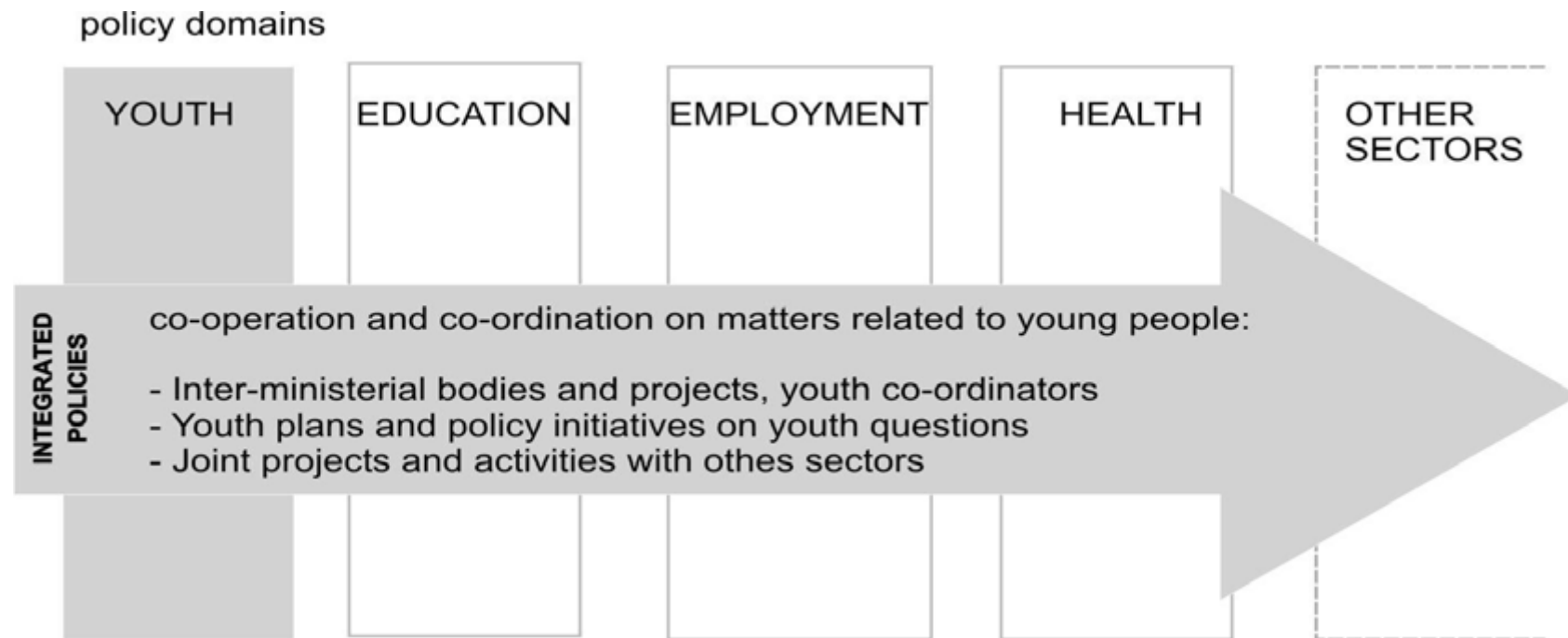- Sharing objectives and goals
- Sharing results
- Sharing tasks

"Mainstreaming of youth policy into other policies"

POLICY SECTORS

INTEGRATED YOUTH POLICY

policy domains

| YOUTH | EDUCATION | EMPLOYMENT | HEALTH | OTHER SECTORS |

INTEGRATED POLICIES

co-operation and co-ordination on matters related to young people:

- Inter-ministerial bodies and projects, youth co-ordinators
- Youth plans and policy initiatives on youth questions
- Joint projects and activities with othes sectors

Siurala 2006

CROSS-SECTORIAL COLLABORATION

Embedding

short-term responses to long term efforts

to empower young people and to support them to participate fully in society.

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR CROSS-SECTORIAL COOPERATION?

1. Finding common/complementary goals

2. Right mix of players

3. Tools for cross-sectorial cooperation

4. Coordination

1. FINDING COMMON/ COMPLEMENTARY GOALS

- Setting common goals "together"

- Setting a relevant agenda "together"

- Ensure YOUTH participation

- Ensure measurement

Mono-Sectoral versus Cross-sectoral policies

2. RIGHT MIX OF PLAYERS

- **Prioritising the partners = key policy domains**
- **Ensuring equal participation and ownership**
- **Identifying stakeholder groups**
- **Checking Intention, motivation, shared views**

- **Do we speak same language? (terms)**
- **Do we need leadership?**

3. TOOLS FOR CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

- Youth strategy/plan
- Inter-sectorial Commissions/WGs
- Common projects/Activities
- Youth Councils/NGOs
- Youth Evaluation Board
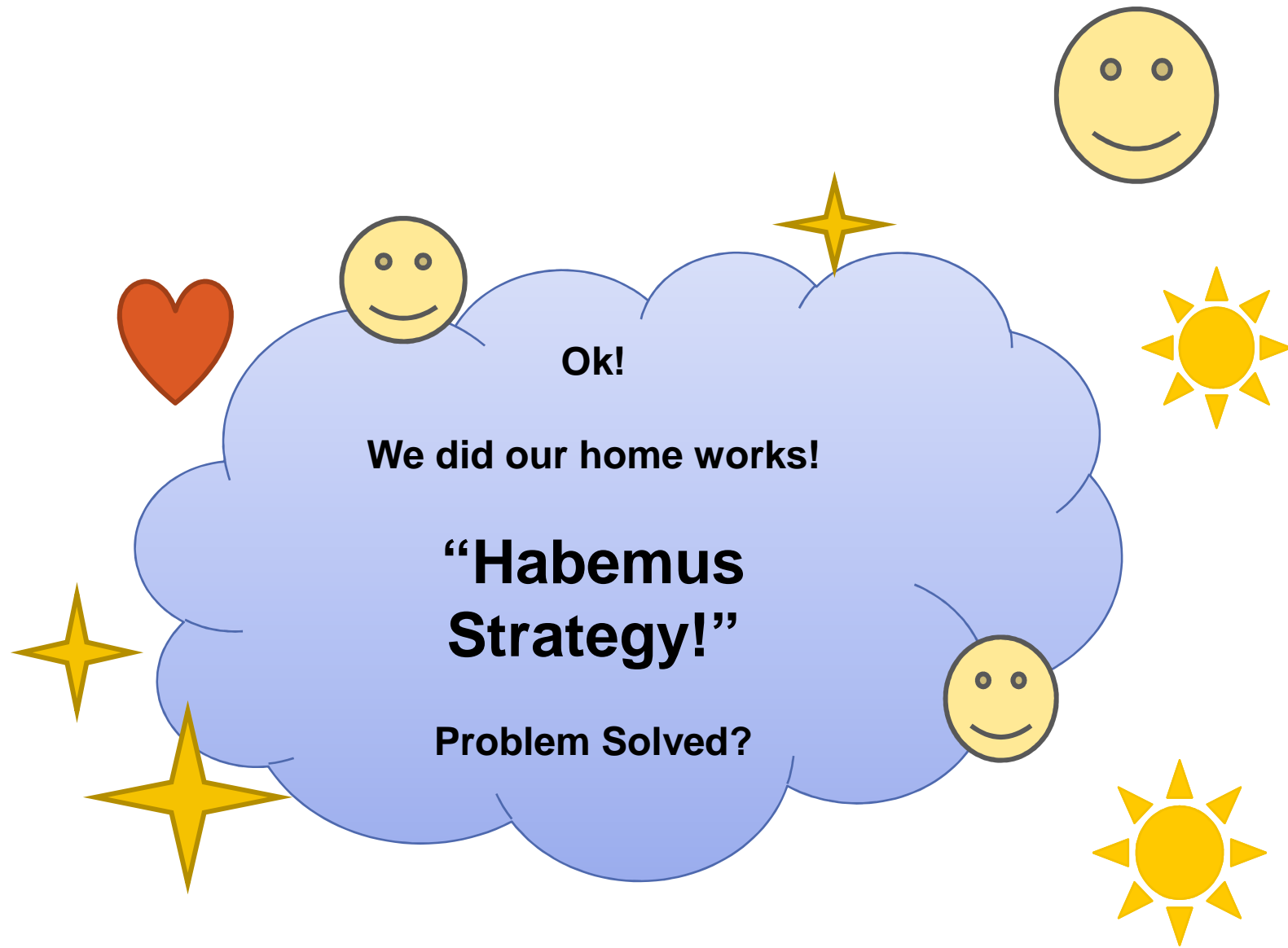
- Is that all? Arsenal of old ideas?

TOOLS (EXAMPLES)

YOUTH STRATEGY/PLAN	**+** Raising profile of youth - Political tool with "no" large impact - lack of monitoring tools - Little transfer to the local level
INTERSECTORAL COMMISION/WG	- members with little power at ministries + Possibility to include 'outside' partners
COMMON PROJECTS/ACTIVITES	+ (-) Accidental + Good starting point – easier to see common goals in targeted projects
YOUTH COUNCILS/NGOs	+ Holistic view, lobbying across sectors - No real position in decision-making (Consultative up to Tokenism) - Missing structures to include them in the decision-making

4. COORDINATION

- **Coordination vs leading Tendency to establish a responsible body / council**
- **Youth ministry = little power and budget**
- **Leadership problems – who takes a decision? Fear of loosing authority?**

Risk

- **All youth issues are pushed to the youth service/ministry (…*we don't do "youth"*…)**

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The process of INDIVIDUAL'S SELF-REALISATION within a society,

ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF ONE'S

POTENTIAL by social institutions, integration (through study, employment,

volunteer work or other forms of participation) IN THE WEB OF SOCIAL

RELATIONS IN A COMMUNITY.

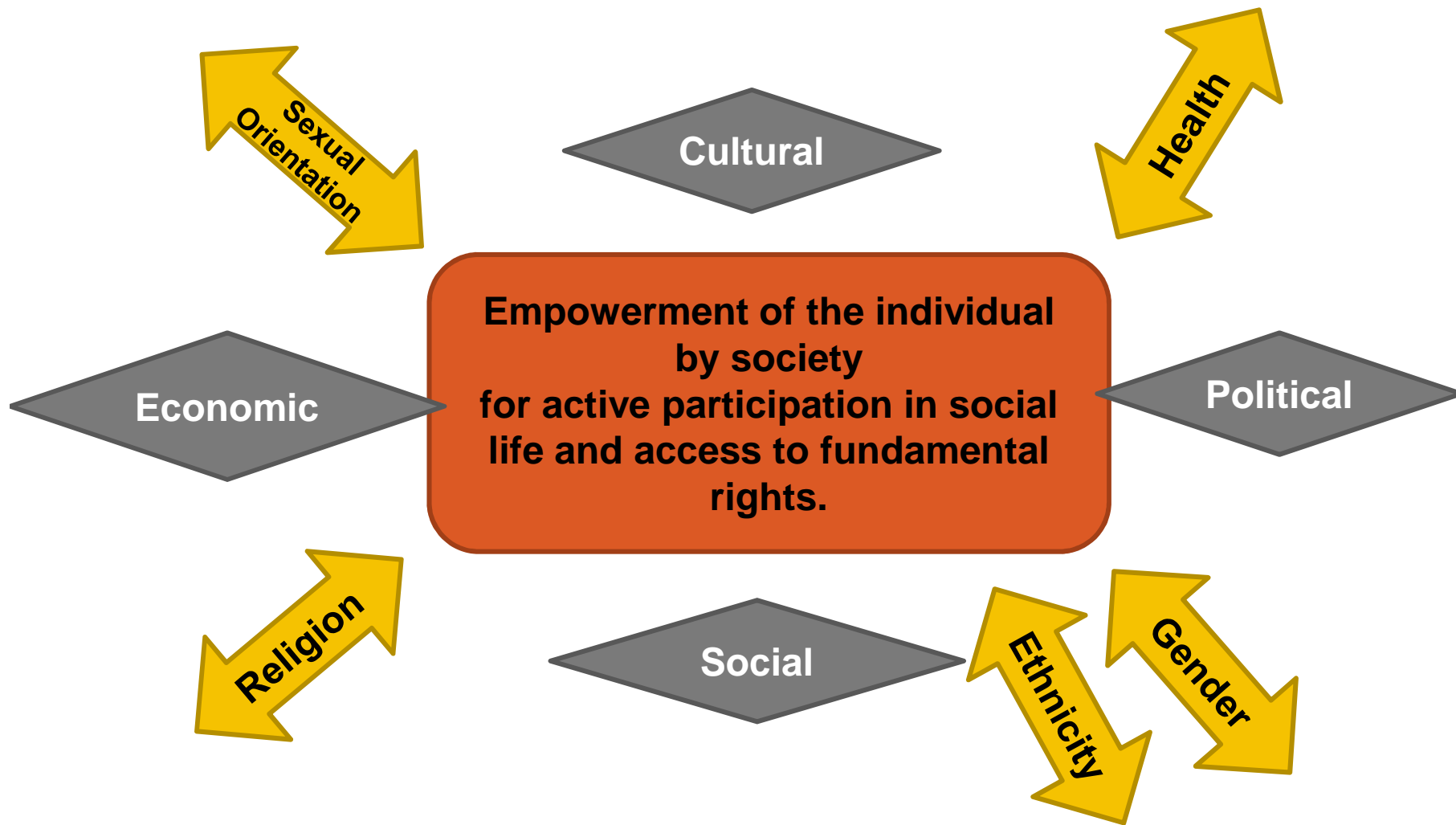*EU-CoE youth partnership policy sheet - Social Inclusion*

SOCIAL INCLUSION

"A process which ensures that THOSE AT RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL

EXCLUSION gain the opportunities and resources necessary to PARTICIPATE

FULLY IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE and to ENJOY A

STANDARD OF LIVING AND WELL-BEING that is CONSIDERED NORMAL IN THE
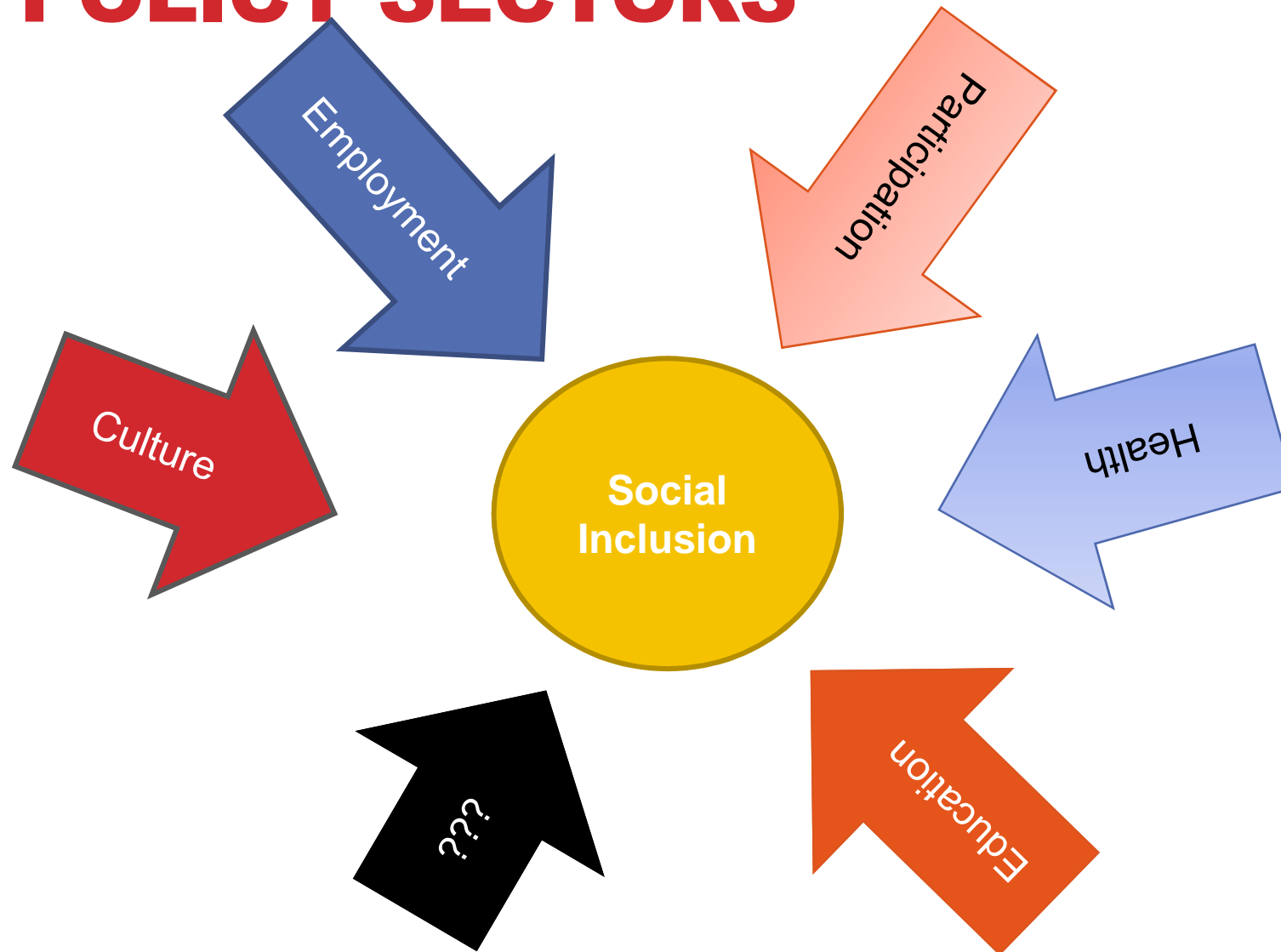
SOCIETY in which they live.

It ensures that they have greater participation in decision making
which affects their lives and access to their fundamental rights."

Joint Report on Social Inclusion

(Council of the European Union, 2004)

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Sexual Orientation

Cultural

Health

Economic

Empowerment of the individual by society for active participation in social life and access to fundamental rights.

Political

Religion

Social

Ethnicity

Gender

POLICY SECTORS

Employment

Participation

Culture

Social Inclusion

Health

???

Education

TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS/ CHALLENGE OR DILEMMA?

1. Who are "THOSE AT RISK OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION"?

2. What is "CONSIDERED NORMAL IN THE SOCIETY"?

MEASURING EXCLUSION/INCLUSION

- EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 (youth work, youth centres, intercultural competence, poverty, access to services, young families) - Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators

- Europe 2020 - AROPE rate (monetary poverty, material deprivation and exclusion from labour)

Particular focus on Unemployment

- Academically robust and practice oriented investigations

- National indicators, targets, goals

Unemployment = main cause of social exclusion in the Balkans?

Conclusions considering available statistical data

in different policy sectors

[16.10.2015 19:29:49] xyz: general demographics, maybe!

[16.10.2015 19:29:49] xyz: employment, so-so!

[16.10.2015 19:29:52] xyz: education, BAD!

[16.10.2015 19:29:57] xyz: social inclusion, TRAGIC!

(Skype protocol)

BUT, HEY,
WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
IDENTIFYING THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

The ugliest?

The poorest?

The least educated?

The least empowered?

The weakest?

The Excluded…

People no one want to have! ?

COMMON "PC" PHRASES

… "The overall process _did not manage_ to capture _all the challenges_ faced by young people at risk of poverty and social exclusion" …

… "The programme _could not reach_ young people at risk of poverty and social exclusion to _its full extent_" …

WHY IS IT SO?

Lack of …

- **Lobby / Voice**

- **Research / No use of research**

- **Involvement / Outreach mechanisms**

- **Capacities/indicators in measuring exclusion**

- **Resources/Capacities/(Tradition) in providing evidence**
    (We know, we do it right…)

Lack of knowledge about the "Excluded"