

# Youth, agency and social change: objectives and results of the UP2YOUTH project

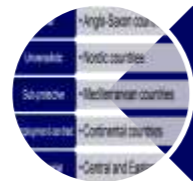
Barbara Stauber and Axel Pohl

UP2YOUTH Policy seminar,  
Brussels, 5 March 2009

# Outline



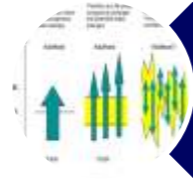
The research project UP2YOUTH



Transition regimes as heuristic tool



Youth and social change



Youth and changes in the life course



Agency in comparative perspective



Conclusions

### Coordinated Action - FP 6

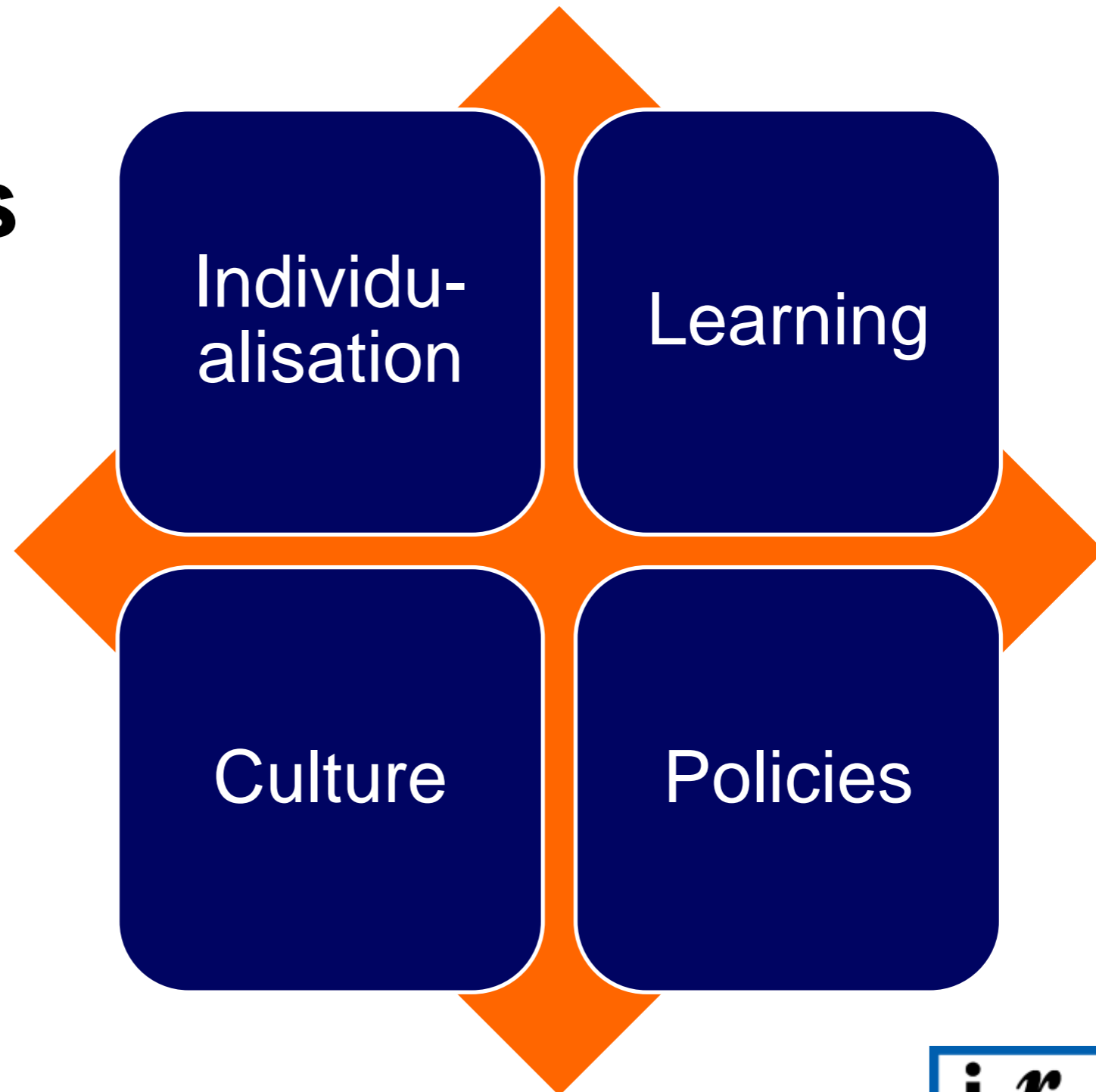
18 teams - 15 countries

### 3 strands:

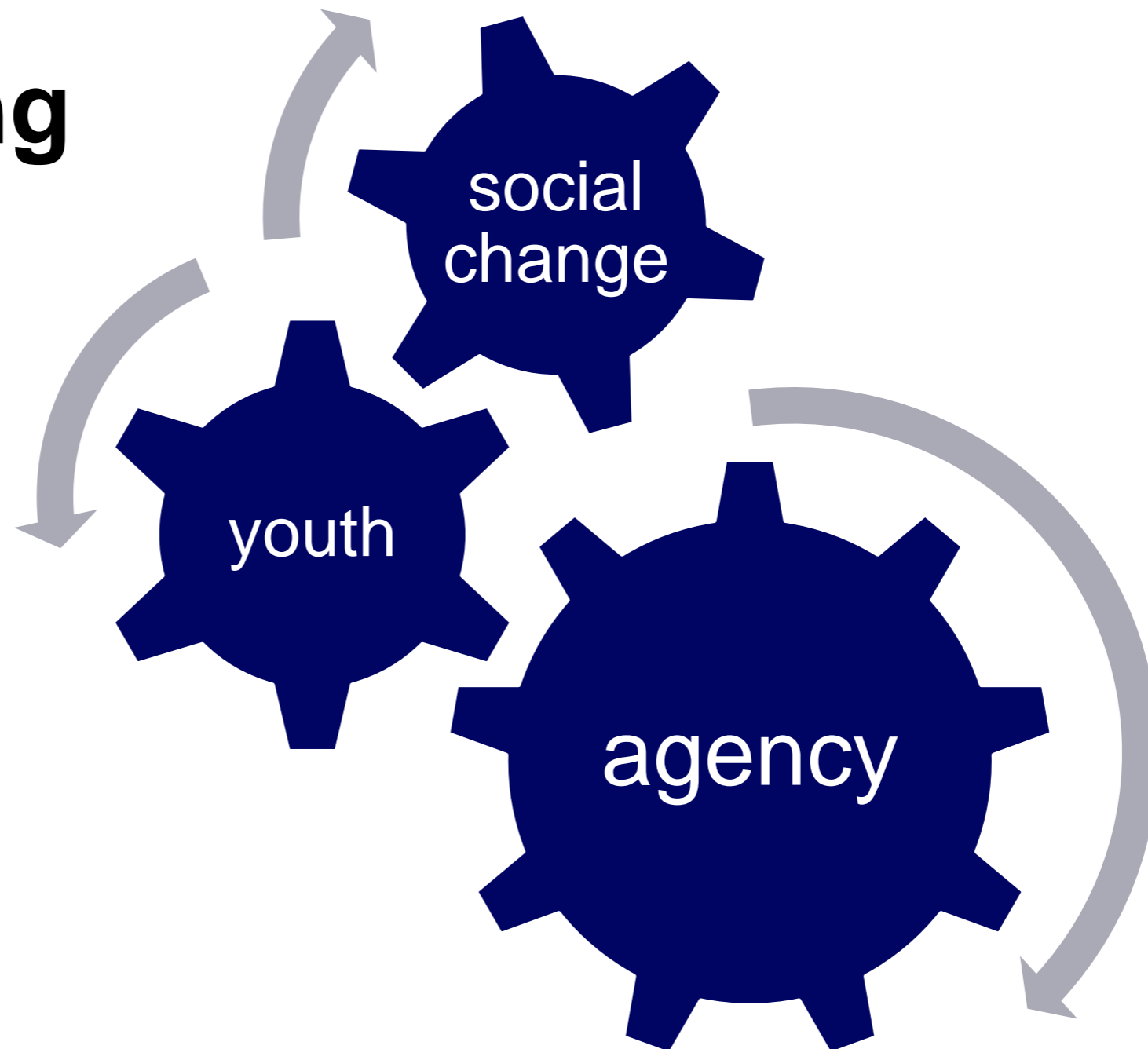
- Young parenthood
- Civic participation
- Transitions of young people from an ethnic minority or migration background



# Core dimensions



# Sensitizing Concepts



# Transition Regimes

Derived from  
“welfare  
regimes”  
typologies

Heuristic  
rather than  
descriptive  
tool

‘Gestalt’  
approach:  
socio-  
economic  
foundations,  
institutional  
rationales,  
cultural  
patterns

De-  
constructing  
‘normalities’

## Dimensions of Transition Regimes

Structures of welfare policies

Education and training systems

Labour markets

Policies against youth unemployment

Mechanisms of doing gender

Representations of 'youth'

Liberal

- Anglo-Saxon countries

Universalistic

- Nordic countries

Sub-protective

- Mediterranean countries

Employment-centred

- Continental countries

Post-socialist

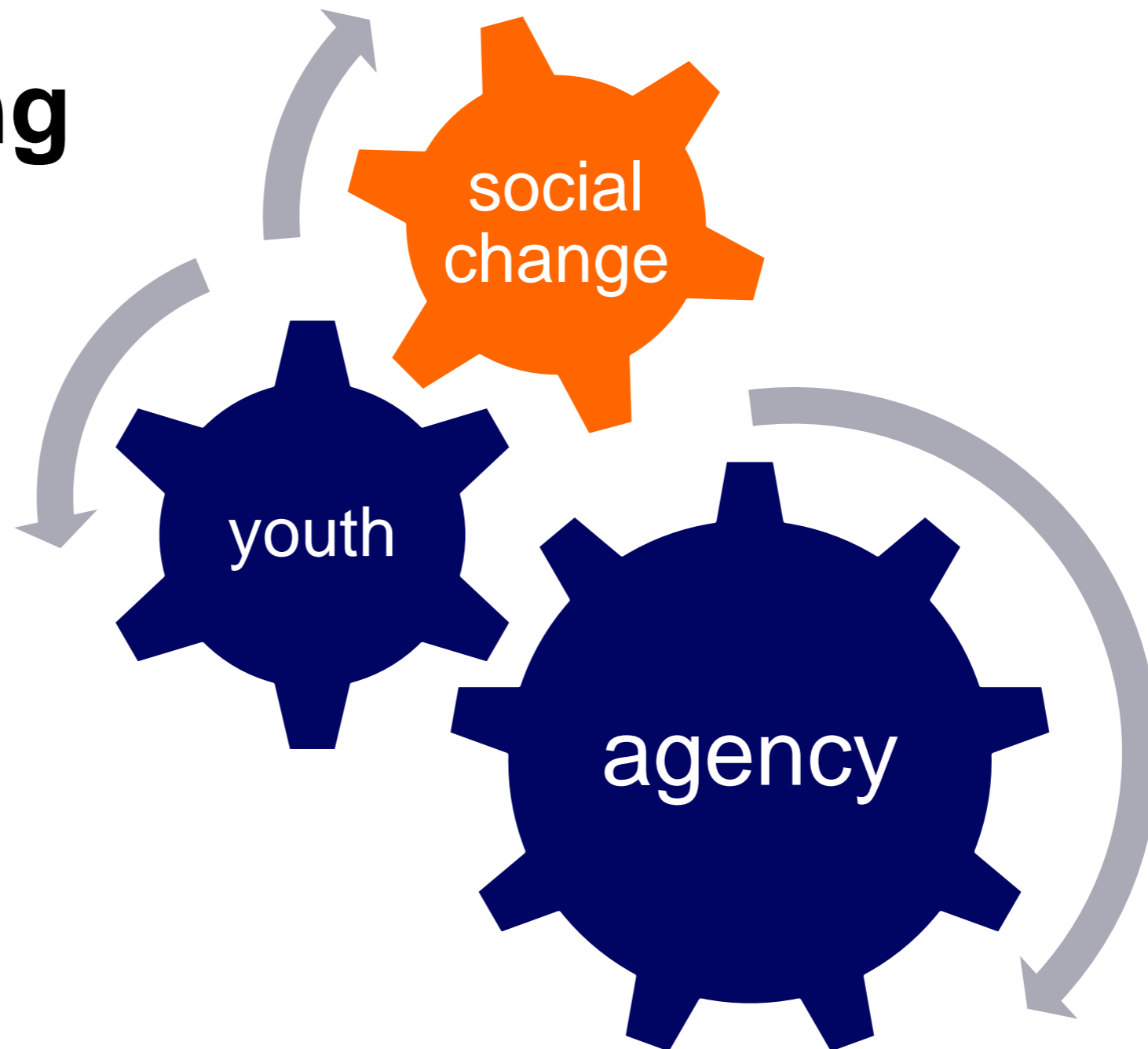
- Central and Eastern Europe



### IRIS Tübingen (DE)

Young parenthood	Civic participation	Transitions of ethnic minority youth
University of Leiden (NL)	National School of Public Health (FR)	University of Copenhagen (DK)
University of Milano-Bicocca (IT) NEC, Plovdiv (BG) University of Dresden (DE) University of Ljubljana (SI) University of Belfast (UK)	University College Cork (IRL) Austrian Youth Research Institute (AT) University of Trnava (SK) University of Bologna (IT)	German Youth Institute (DE) AREA Valencia (ES) ANSIT, Bucharest (RO) University of Helsinki (FI) Institute for Social Sciences, Lisbon (PT)

# Sensitizing Concepts



# Youth and social change

Multi-faceted  
societal changes



Changing modes of  
social integration

# Youth and changes in the life course

De-  
standardi-  
sation

Frag-  
mentation

Diversificati  
on of life  
course  
transitions

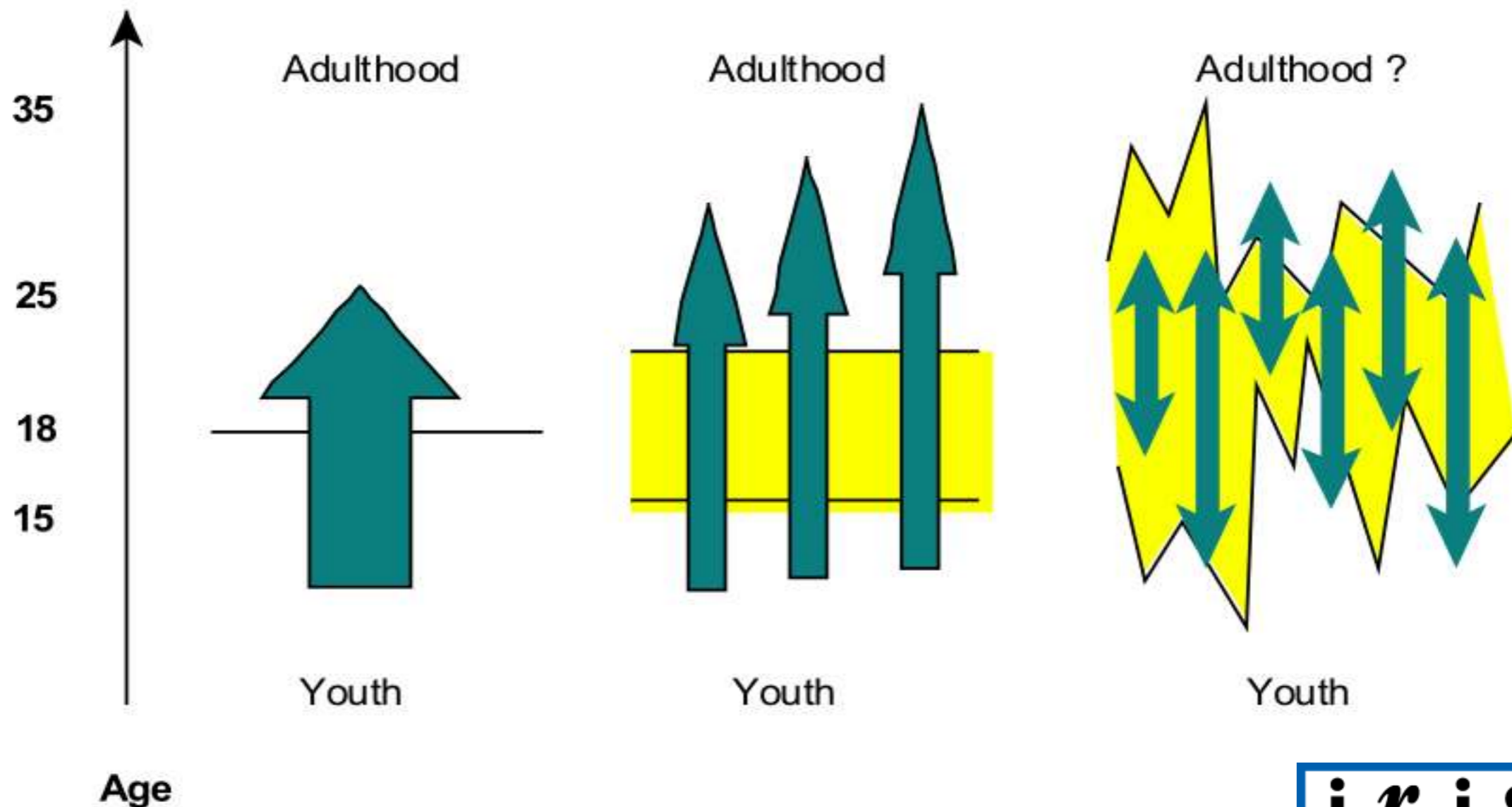
Dis-  
appearance  
of  
adulthood?

# YOYO transitions

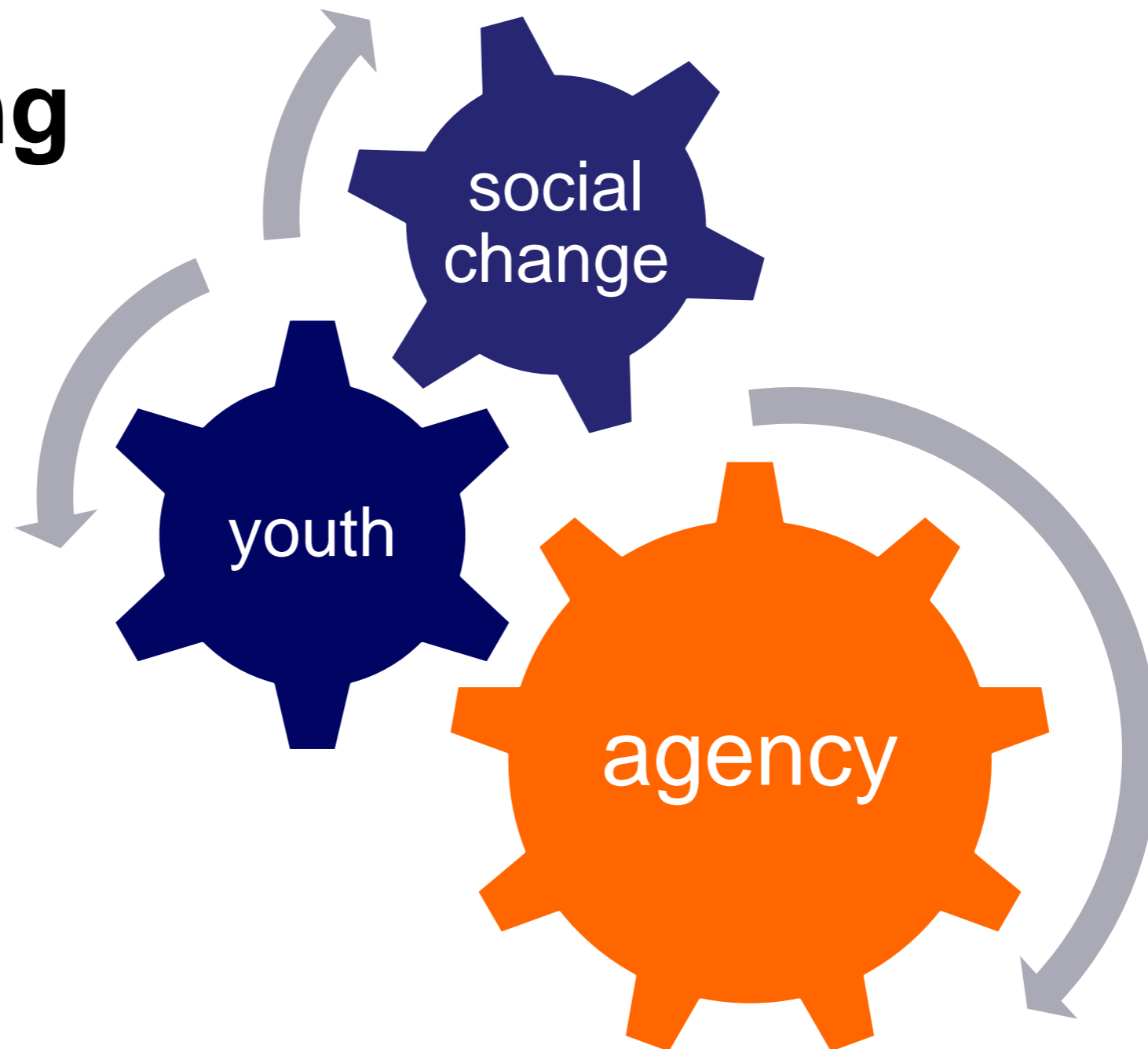
Transition as a linear and homogeneous status passage

Transition as a life phase composed of prolonged and diversified status passages

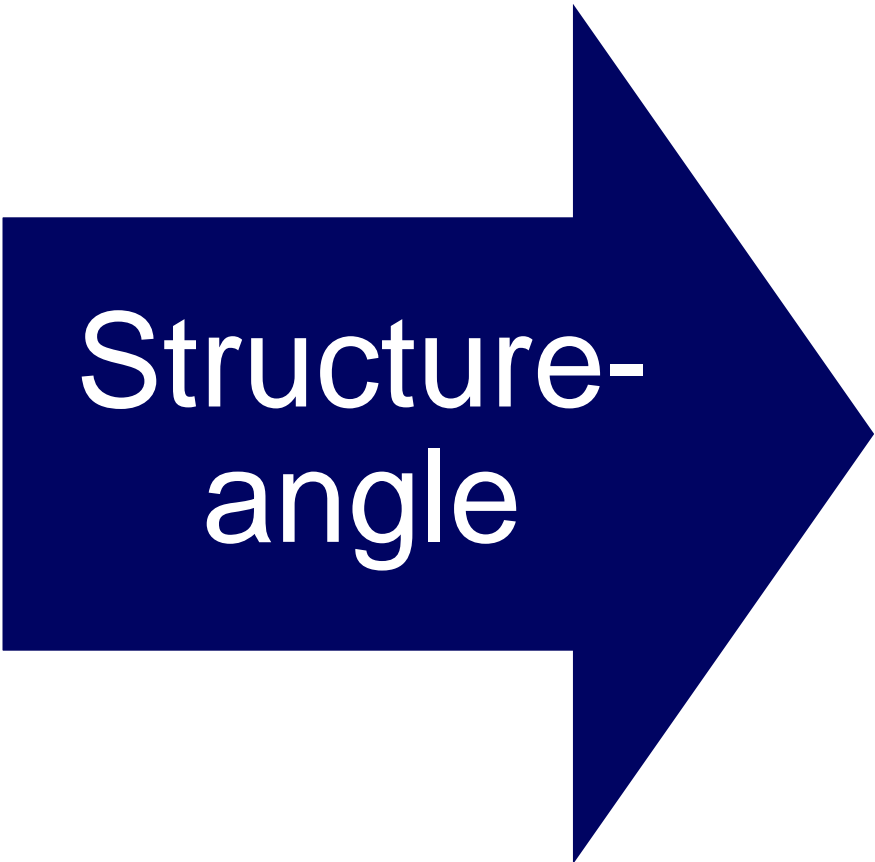
Reversible and fragmented Yo-yo-transitions with uncertain perspectives



# Sensitizing Concepts



# Agency in youth research and – policy:

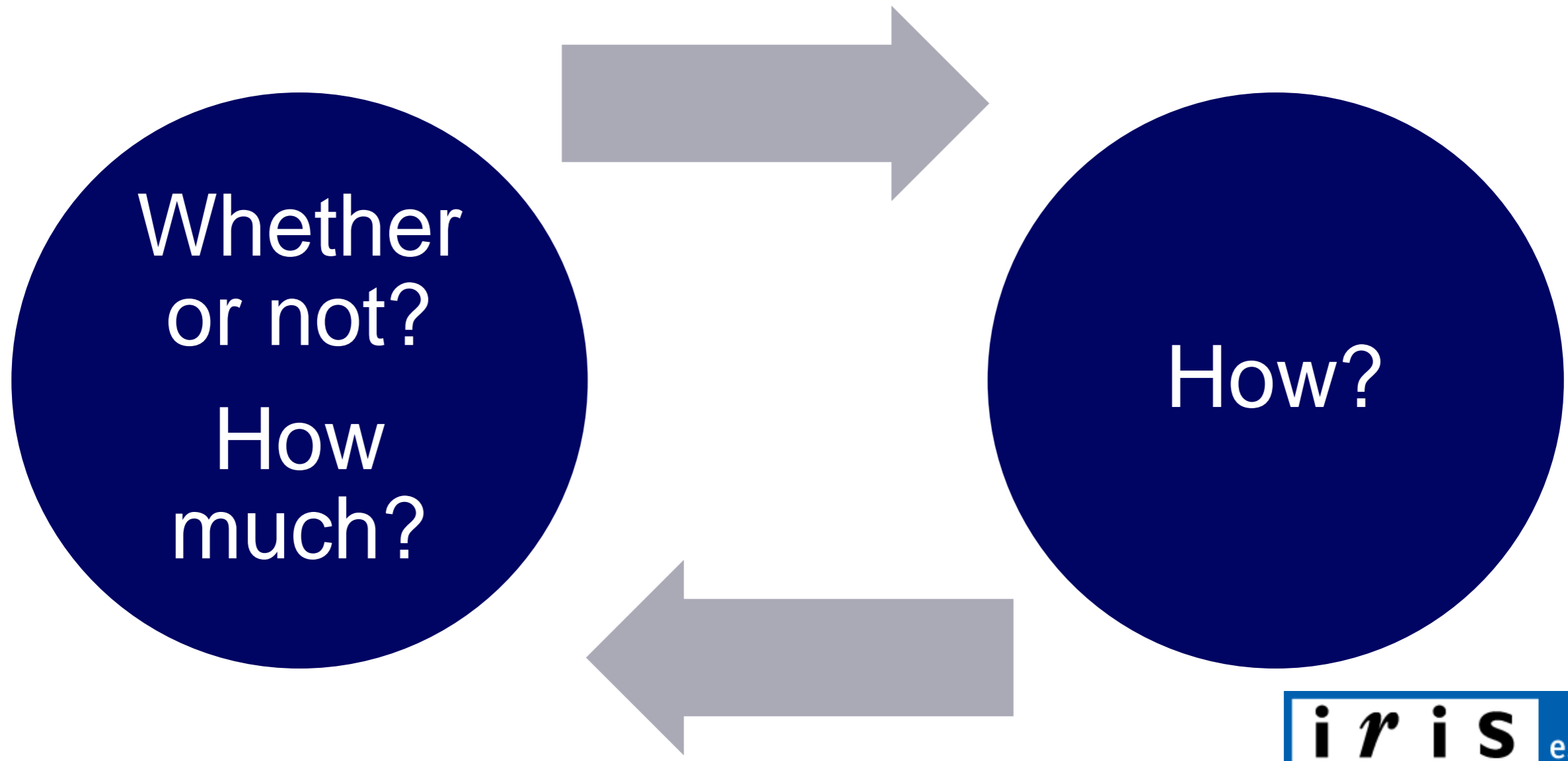


Structure-  
angle



Choice-  
angle

# Agency as an integrative concept





## Culture and learning as keys to agency

### Culture

- partly shaping, partly resulting from young people's agency

### Learning

- situated, inventive, often related to risk-management

## Conclusions 1: Benefits for research

- Subjectivity has gained so much importance for social integration processes that it cannot be separated from the more structure related strands of youth research

## Conclusions 2: Integrated Transition Policies

- Youth as a life phase on its own
- Securing experimenting
- No target group containers
- Reflexivity and participation

The screenshot shows the UP2YOUTH website with a blue header containing the logo and tagline. A main menu on the left lists categories like HOME, NEWS, and YOUNG PARENTS. The central content area features a 'Welcome to the UP2YOUTH Internet Portal' section with a paragraph about the project's focus on young people's agency and social change. Below this is a 'Thematic Workshop, 1-4 November, Lisbon' announcement. A newsletter sign-up form is on the right, and a footer at the bottom mentions funding from the European Union and coordination by iris e.v.

**UP2YOUTH**  
Youth - actor of social change

Site map | Contact Us | Imprint

**Main Menu**

- HOME
- NEWS
- YOUNG PARENTS
- MINORITY YOUTH
- YOUTH PARTICIPATION
- LINKS
- DOWNLOADS
- ABOUT UP2YOUTH

**Members' area**

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**Search**

Search  
Go!

**Young Parenthood** | **Minority Youth** | **Youth Participation**

**Welcome to the UP2YOUTH Internet Portal**

UP2YOUTH is an EU-funded research project concerned with the agency of young people in the context of social change. While their transitions to adulthood are structured by risk and uncertainty young men and women develop coping strategies which in turn affect social structures. This regards especially work, family and citizenship which are the key topics of UP2YOUTH. However, it depends on the scope of action that state policies provide them whether these strategies contribute both to social integration and for subjectively meaningful biographical perspectives.

The UP2YOUTH Internet Portal not only serves to document the structure, progress and results of the project, but also to provide the European youth research community a platform for information and networking.

[Read more ...](#)

LAST UPDATED ( WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2006 )

**Thematic Workshop, 1-4 November, Lisbon**

From 1 to 4 November 2007 the second UP2YOUTH thematic workshop will take place in Lisbon (Portugal). Researchers from all over Europe are invited to present their findings and to discuss them with regard to the reserach questions of UP2YOUTH and the draft thematic reports. A keynote speech will be given by Ann Phoenix (Open University, UK).

LAST UPDATED ( FRIDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2007 )

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More info on  
up2youth.org