

A stronger sense of European belonging  
among young people  
through culture and education



Young Creatives Conference  
Romanian Presidency of the EU  
Brussels 26 March 2019

Domien Helly

# Thinking out loud

The EU Youth Coordinator should be a creative...

# Structure of the presentation

## About culture Solutions

1. Why are we all here
2. Current trends for young creatives in Europe
3. Our policy agenda & toolbox
4. Focusing on the HOW
5. Conclusion and 6 key messages

# About culture Solutions

Non-for-profit

Social innovation group

Mission: Contribute to the excellence of EU international cultural relations

5 themes – including European cultural policies and legitimacy

Non-partisan knowledge broker, production of commons

Launched in October 2018



# 1. Why we are all here



## 1. Why we are here

The EU is in crisis: **yes**  
European integration will continue: **yes**



We are all reacting to BREXIT (Bratislava 2016)

CULTURE WARS – WARS ON VALUES in Europe (Olivier Roy)

COHESION between Member States is decreasing (ECFR Cohesion Monitor)

LEGITIMACY / TRUST – What European political project is on offer to the youth by politicians?

SOVEREIGNTY and COMPETENCES conflicts between EU and other (national) governance levels

# An moment of ambitious belonging: EU and European

The European myth vs the EU tool – R. Schock

Our multiple & multi-layered identities = the intercultural agenda

Ambiguity « feeling of European identity » / EU citizenship

European world ? (American World – Robert Cooper)

(Kundera vs Havel – Jacques Rupnik)



# Uncertainty requires creativity and critical thinking =give space to young creatives

INTERMESTIC - Border between internal and external = less and less clear

SUSTAINABILITY challenges (climate change + within Europe, and between Europeans and global trends. / global powers)

INNOVATION – role of technology and scientists – adaptation to technological changes.

EDUCATION – Life long learning education and non formal education / mix of memory, history / Values and skills



# Strategies in uncertainty = reducing uncertainties yes, but ... through flexible experimentation

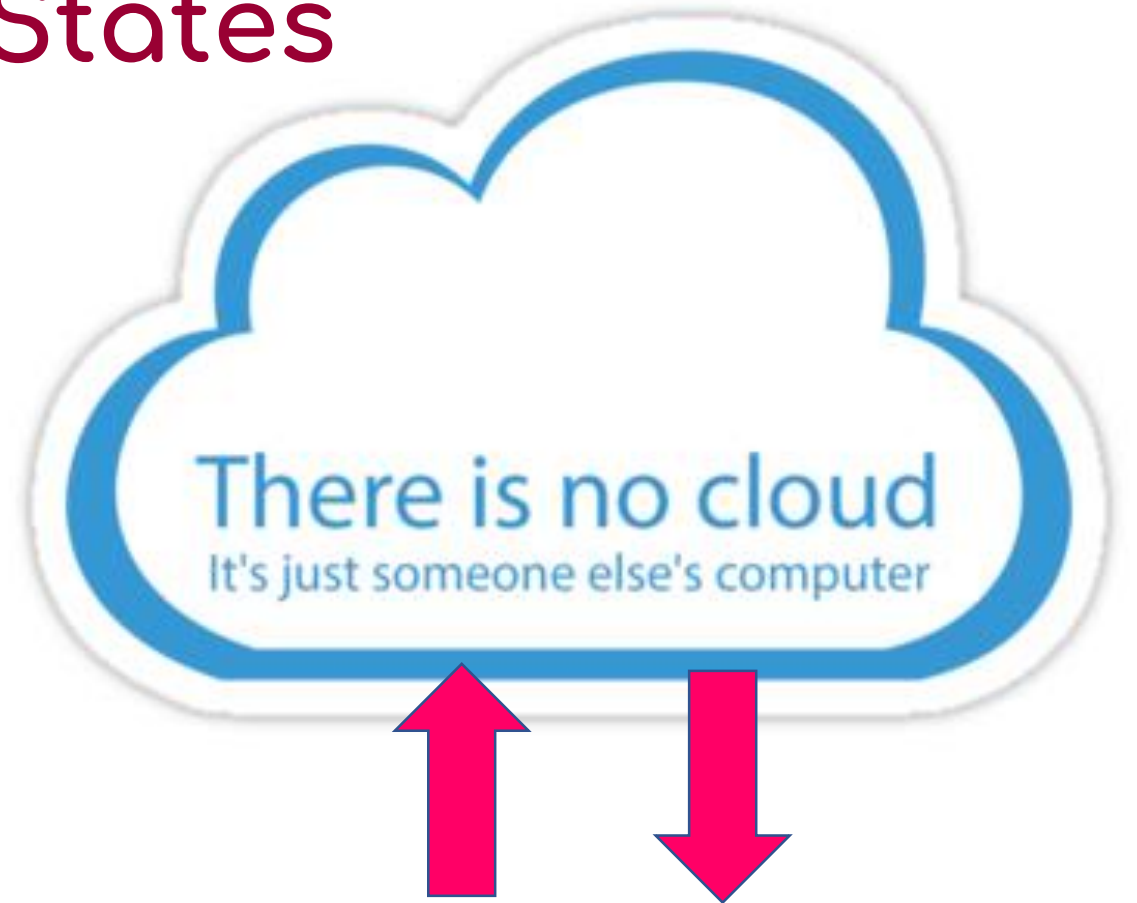
« Old Way » Strategies :

- 1) Values, principles, priorities
- 2) Assessment of opportunities and threats
- 3) Responsibilities & rules
- 4) Level of ambition / Time horizon (5, 10, 20 years ?) depending on the political context... and margin of manoeuvre...

# We are beyond mere upload and download of policies by Member States

Europe more than an EU Cloud or the « EU Drive » ?

Are there other ways to make our experiences « European » ?



## 2. Current trends for young creatives



# The SOCIAL FABRIC matters



Mix of words from:

11 EU Youth Goals  
(youth consultations)

+  
8 quality standards of  
youth policies

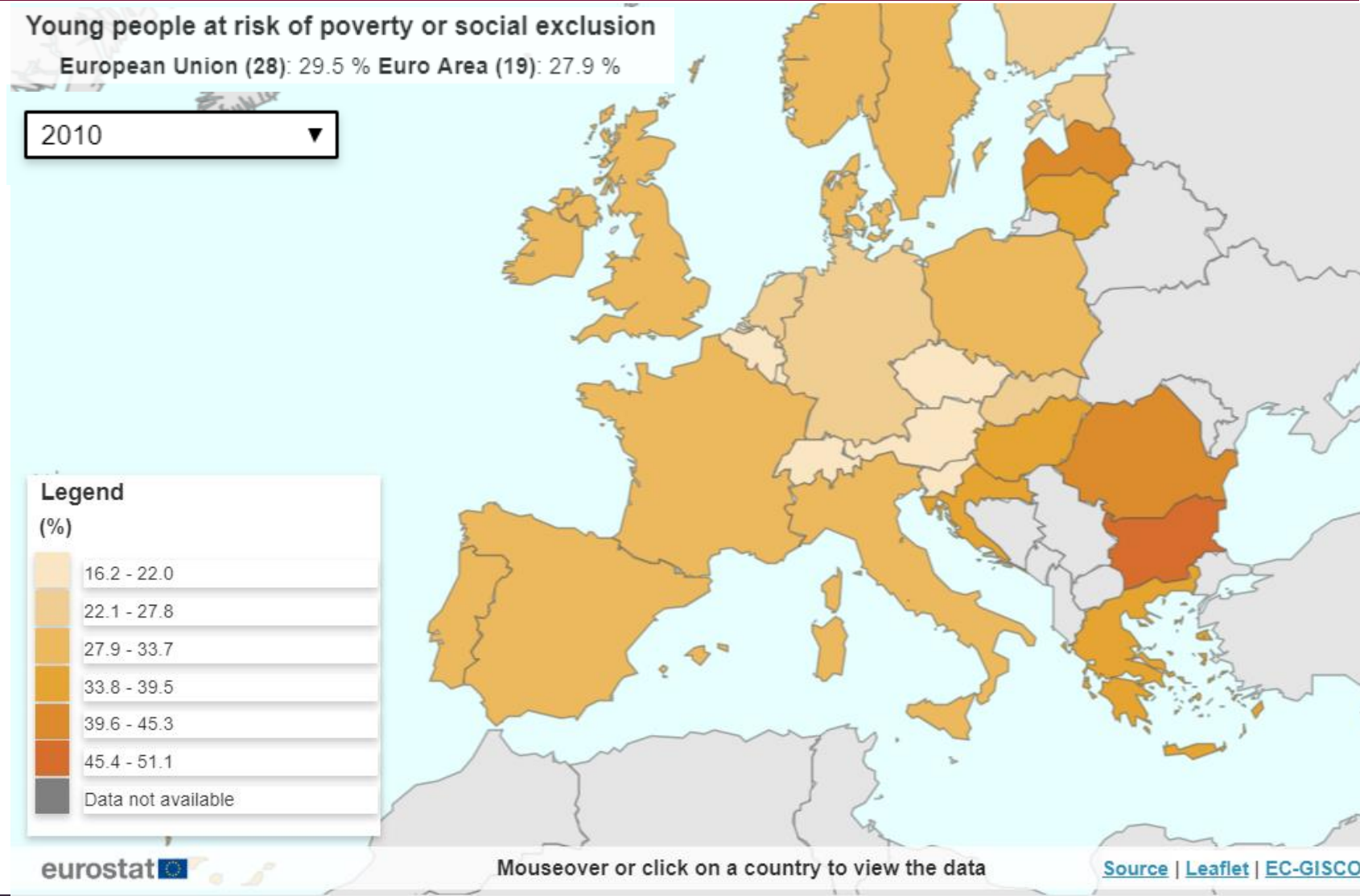
(Youth Forum)

## 2. Current trends for young creatives

The  
SOCIAL FABRIC

is

under  
threat

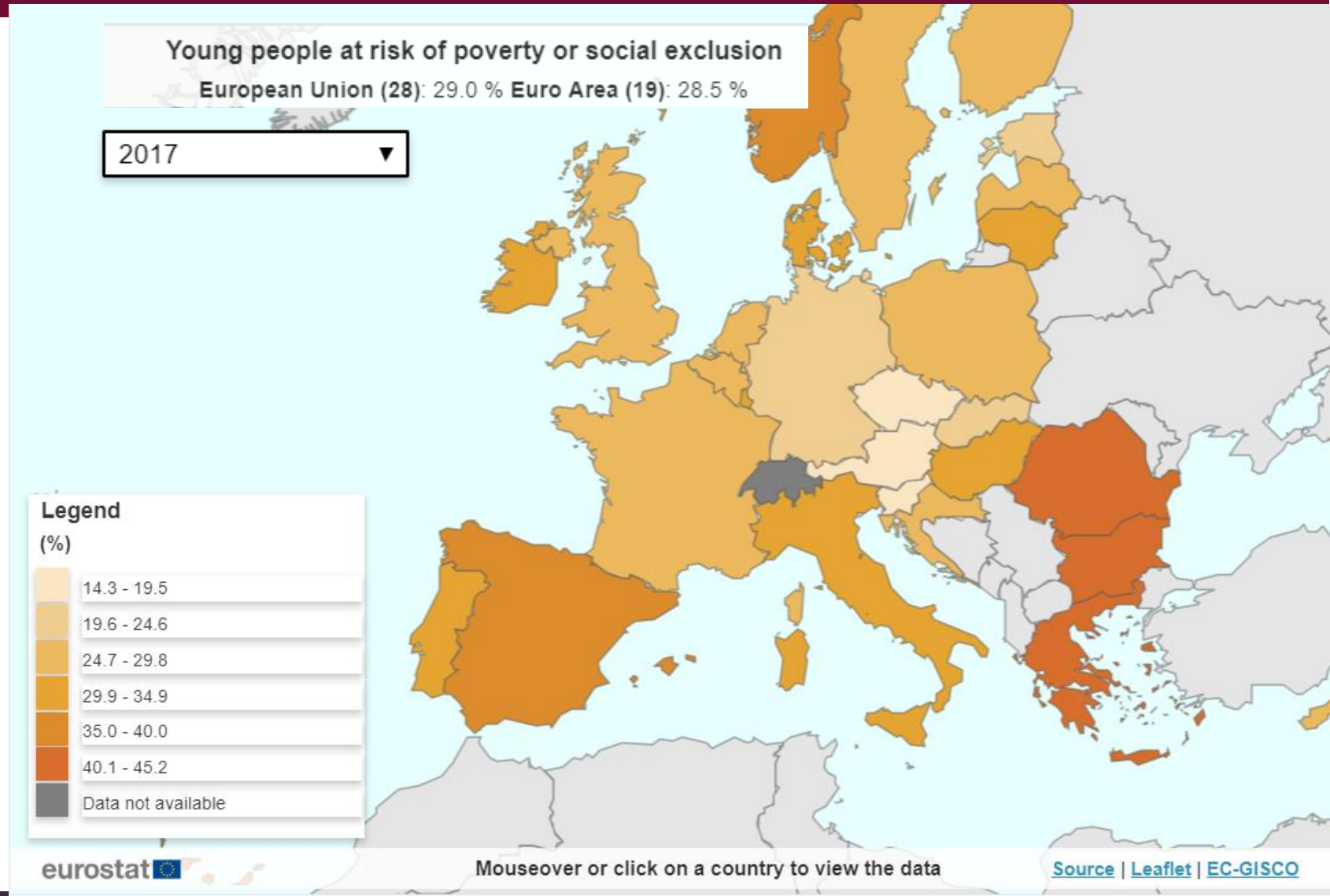


## 2. Current trends for young creatives

The  
SOCIAL FABRIC

is

under  
threat



# The question of WORK

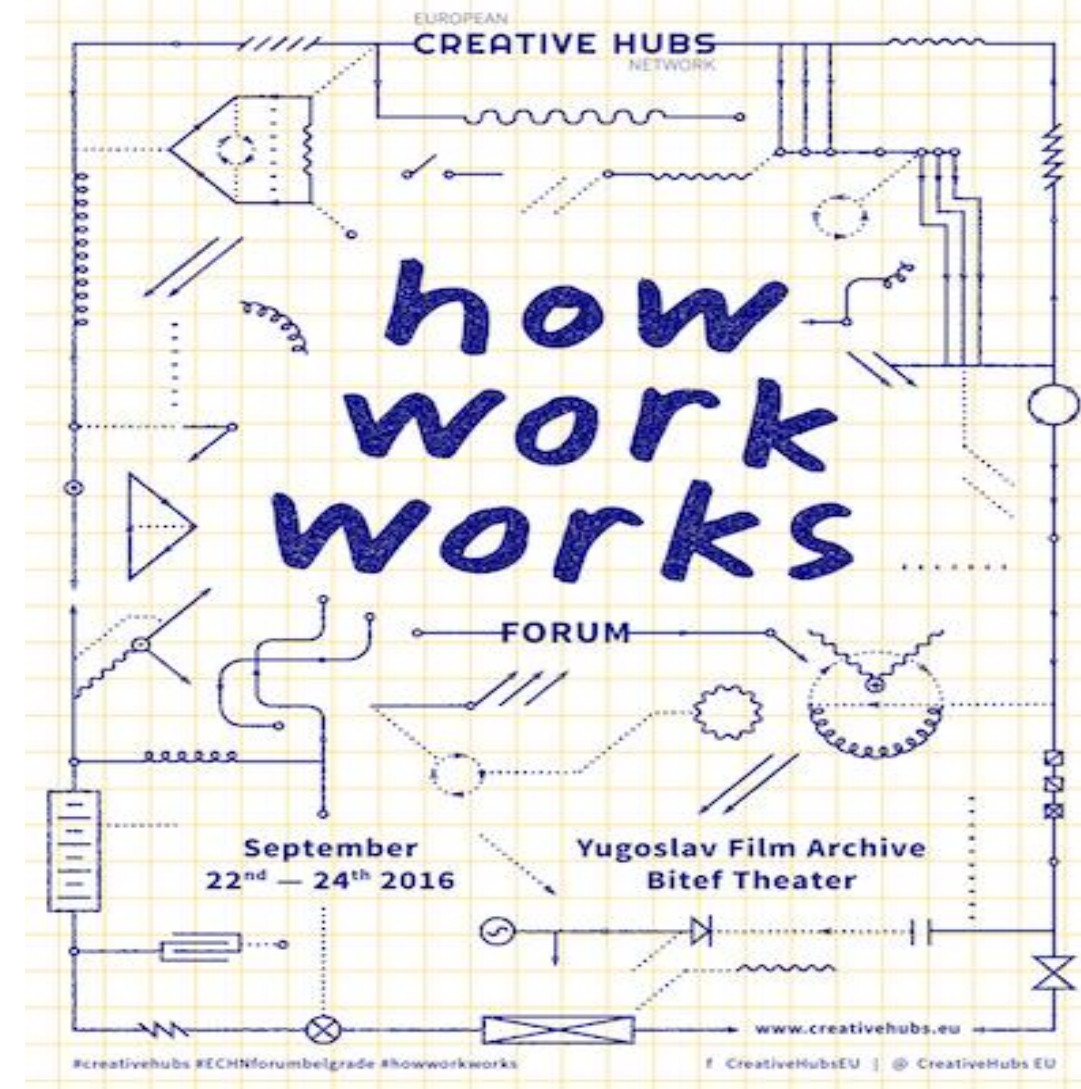
Employment and its meaning

Work conditions - Role of employers & loyalties

Skills match

Ageing population & need for more labour force

Towards creative migration strategies  
(EU Youth work plan 2016 – 2018)



# A resilient debate: the limits of creativity, the arts & markets





# 3. Our policy agenda & tool box



# We are quite well equipped and have enough strategies (multi-level)

EU and national policy frameworks

Youth Wiki

+ eurobarometers

+ eurostats

+ experts group

+ Youth organisations

= Engage, Connect, Empower

# 4. Focus on the HOW

Creative strategies to make it  
(still ) European



Let's do European integration,  
but differently

New concepts / new  
paradigms

*Act Local, think European*

Glocal AND “Yeurcal”

Develop cross-overs between national/local debates & European issues

(beyond upload / download)

## Youth for/and Adults

Reversed transgenerational transfers of (digital) skills

Help us ~~to help you~~!

= YOUTH for/and ADULTS programmes

Putting the adults at the receiving end

Young Creative as social DJs (Creative Hubs) – mediation (social, political and aesthetic)



## 4. Focus on the HOW

P2P – Peer to Peer sharing

Enhance cohesion

Tailored-made approaches

Subsidiarity

The answer is P2P



### P2P Story: BASE meets Mouraria

16th February 2018 11:07 am



## Qualibility (quality mobility)

Reasoned international mobility including:

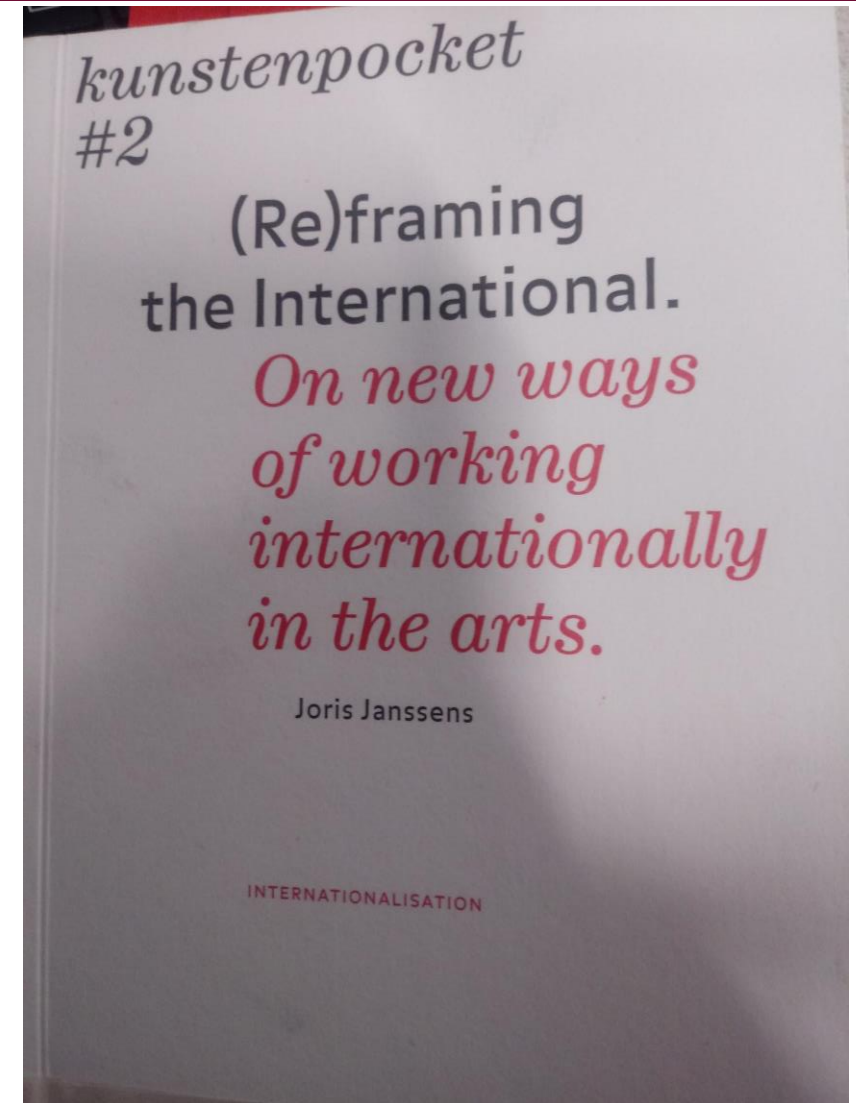
Reduced carbon footprint

Meaning of staying longer

Optimise the human and social meaning of the stay

*Joris Janssen & Arts Flanders Institute / Remembrance,  
creativity & youth –*

*ENRS in Poland – Sound in the Silence*



# Murmuration mode

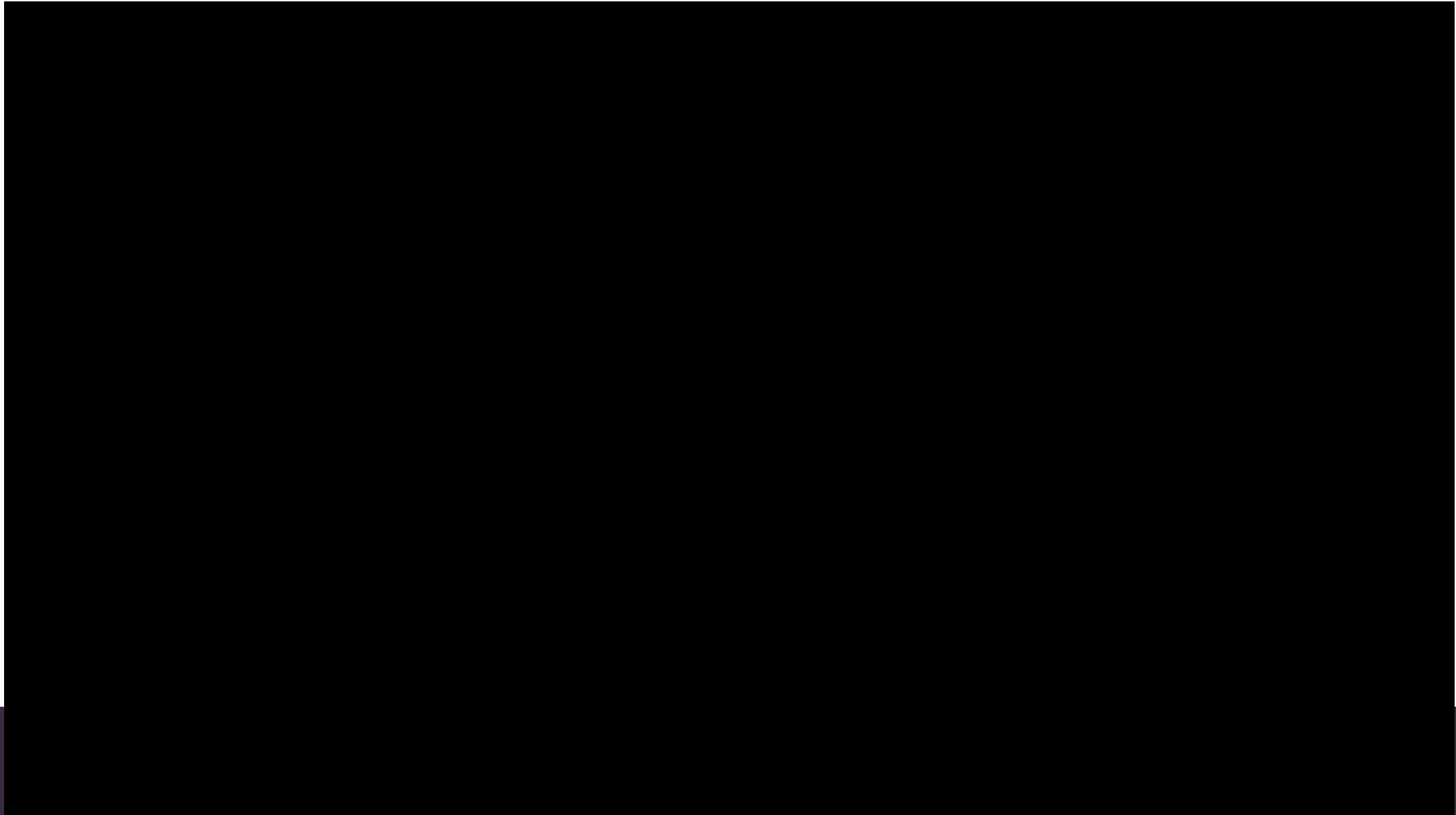
Young creatives are in a murmuration mode

= flexibility as important as fixed strategies

Challenges lie in the implementation and M&E /  
capitalisation on experience

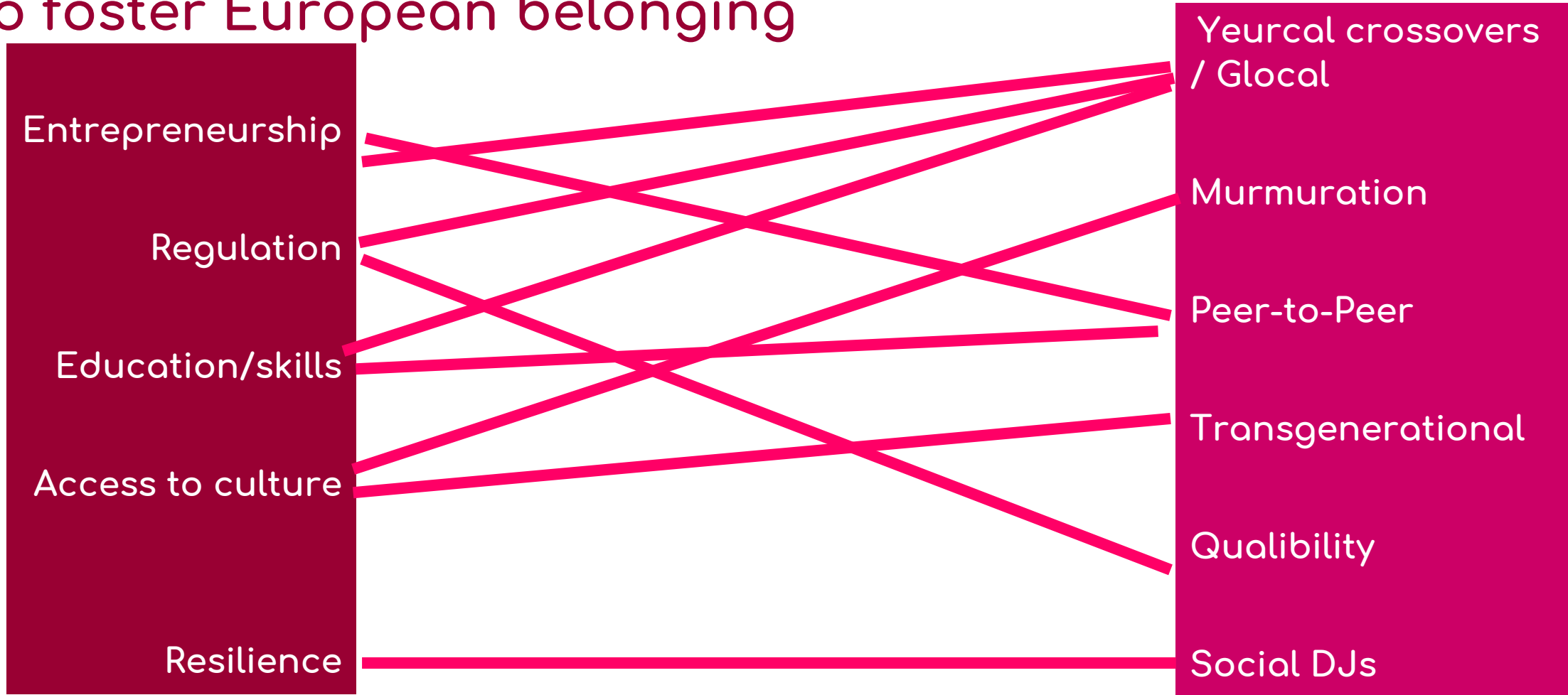
## 4. Focus on the HOW

### The murmuration approach



## 4. Focus on the HOW

# Examples of connections between policies & creative practices to foster European belonging



# Conclusions & 6 key messages

Keep feeding European integration & belonging through creative methods with and for young creatives

1. Develop cross-overs between national/local debates & European issues  
= Enhance Yeurcal (Act local, think European)
2. Invest in the resilience of social fabric and the production of commons
3. Empower murmuration: balance regulation with flexibility

# Conclusions & 6 key messages

4. Support Qualibility – meaningful and interculturally-aware mobility
5. Continue to support Peer-to-Peer sharing and networks
6. Encourage Youth for Adults programmes for transgenerational solidarity



Thanks for your  
attention