

**WHAT IF COMMUNITY
PSYCHOLOGY MATTERED IN
THE WORLD?
CHALLENGES AND
POTENTIALS FOR EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY**

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Community Psychology in Europe



- **Growing number of Community Psychologists**
- **Networks and Associations in more than 10 European countries**
- **CP-Issues and concepts are eminent for the future of Europe**
- **Common critical values**

But

- **Weak common goals and concepts, few schools**
- **Mainly Academic or Social Work oriented**

Challenges in the New World of Community Psychology



- **Migration and the quest for Social Justice meets a fragmented world**
- **Need to link Macro Level and Community Level**
- **Multi-perspective and transdisciplinary work is needed to meet the challenges**
- **Transformational Leadership must link different actors in society**
- **Social Innovations:
from incremental to radical innovations**

30 years ago...



„...the real key to social change is in the attitudes, values, goals and political-economic ideology and social policy of which institutions themselves are composed and on which organisations are based.“

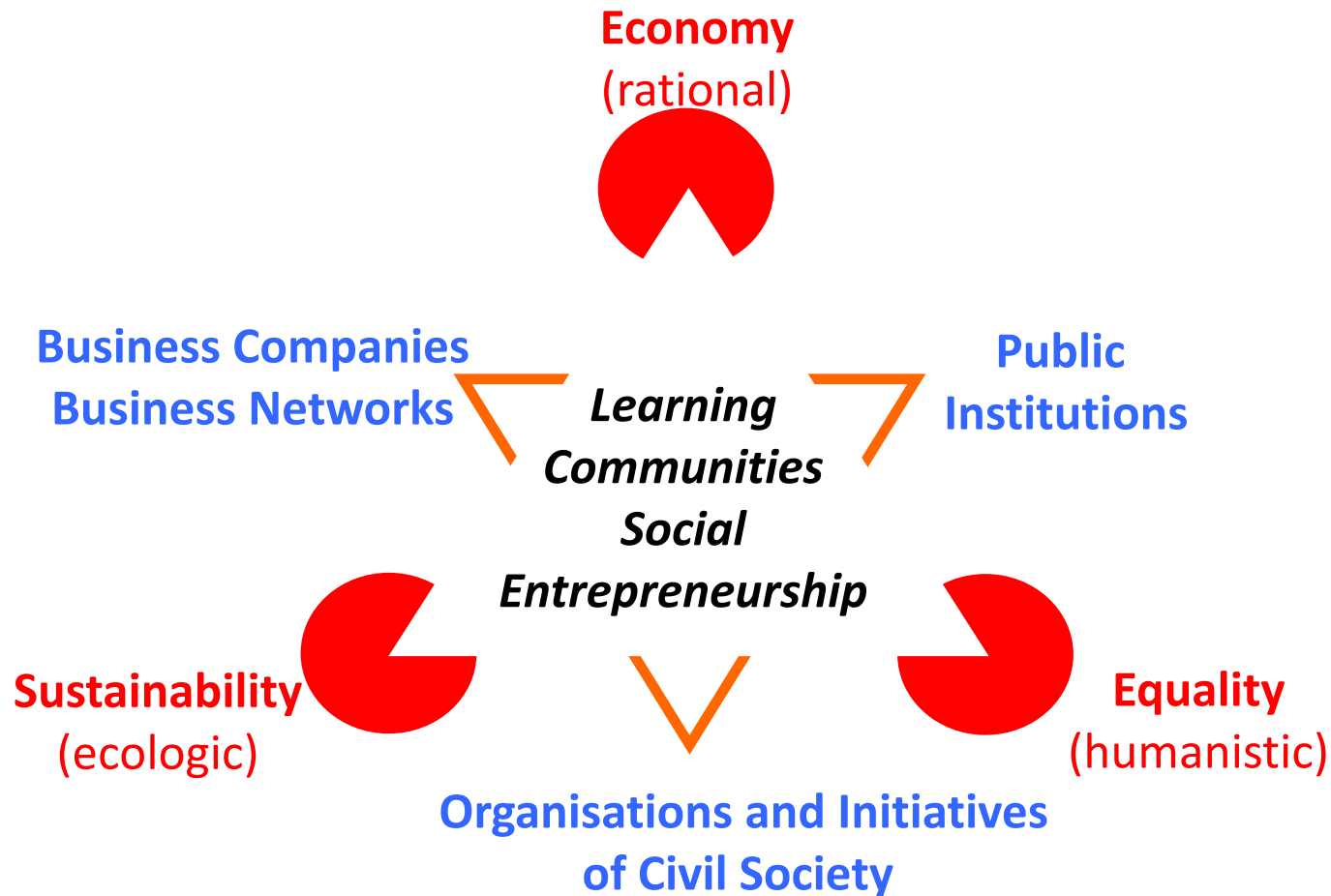
(Julian Rappaport 1977)

Societal and Social Innovations

Dialogue and Intersectoral Collaboration

- Global, economic and demographic change in society requires a new perception of the world
- Dialogue and Mutual Support is needed
- Start linking...
 - ▣ Establish new intersectoral alliances – **test new forms of collaboration**
 - ▣ Individuals – Groups – Structures – **Discover Empowerment Patterns**
 - ▣ Old and young – **Learn across generations**
 - ▣ past – present – future – **sense emerging futures**
 - ▣ Evaluated programs and experimental settings – **enable mutual risk taking**

Actors for Social Innovation in Civil Society



W. Stark 2007

The DSA of Community Psychology

Skills for Empowerment



Design Skills (strategic-innovative and creative)

mutual knowing, awareness, open minded, playful

Social Skills (cooperative, self-organizing)

community building, responsiveness, inclusion

Action Skills (efficient, transforming and implementing)

co-creation, participative decisions, mutual responsibility

Develop Social Innovations

□ Find Tensions in Society

- ▣ Identify discrepancies between reality and desire

look at emerging futures (what wants to emerge?) instead of

How can we improve a situation?

□ Develop Shared Goals

- ▣ Look at common future – why do we collaborate?

Find the most powerful common commitment - shared goals and shared risk instead of

Who is right, who is wrong?

□ Rapid Prototyping

- ▣ Try to experiment with new ideas

Experiment and test social innovations and ideas as soon as possible together with users instead of

Academic Rituals

Rediscover Entrepreneurship



- Find entrepreneurial solutions for regional social challenges
- Analyze viable and attractive new approaches to old and future problems
- Test new social and intersectoral alliances
- Develop a regional culture for social entrepreneurship

Unternehmung

Learning Journey

Trends and Visions



- **“Glocalisation” of Community Psychology**
- **Community Psychology as a “Linking” Science and Practice**
- **The Macrosystem and Community Psychology**
- **Community Psychology needs to become politically active (again)**

What if...



... **Community Psychology mattered to the World?**

- What is the Currency of Community Psychology?
- Is there a European Currency for Community Psychology?