

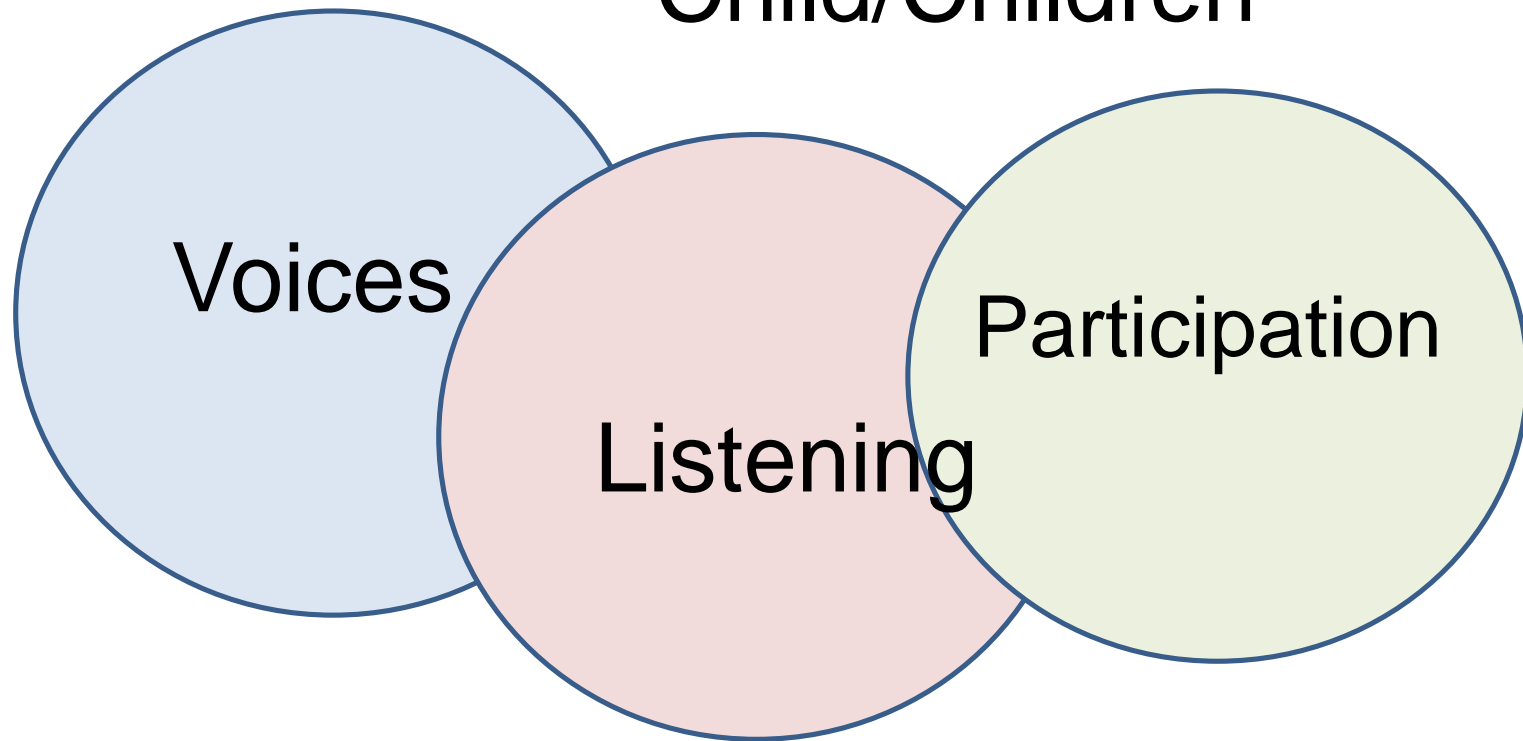
Three keys:

a) voices, listening to, participation

b) distribution on power in the care

c) individual AND collective participation

Child/Children



Controversial concepts

Participation in care:

a) space of relations, space of increase trust

b) involving children in decisions:

- *Inform*
- *Discuss (and taken seriously the child point of view)*
- *Listen*
- *Consider*
- *Feedback*

The (in)complete “field” of child protection/participation



How is the voice of the children collected?

Mainly in individual ways:

- with the judge
- with the social worker or in therapeutic session
- with the advocate

... others elements of the field of children protection/participation



Is there another way to collect the voice of the children?

Importance of peer relationships among children and young people in care *(Stokholm 2009; Emond 2003, 2004; Törrönen 2006; Mason 2008; Munro 2011)*

For social workers it is difficult to recognize something different from the individual relation of care *(Murray 2005; Berridge 1997)*

Meetings with the social workers and the adults



The energy produced by a «collective listening»

The displacement of the social workers:

- *«I never thought of them collectively (in a group, as a collective subject...)»*
- *«Really the girl that is now talking on the microphone is Martina!?! She never said a word during the conversations with her psychologist!»*

Project: aims and objectives

- **Creating opportunities for children and young people in social care to share experiences and thoughts**
- **Creating collective occasions for children and adults (social workers, practitioners, etc) to exchange opinions about these experiences and thoughts (children's advices for adults)**
- **Promoting the creation of a stable consultative group of children and young people**

Sequencies of steps of the project

- a) Preliminary meetings with all the actors involved
- b) Workshops with groups of young people in foster care and/or residential care
- c) Collective meeting and workshops with all the young people involved
- d) Elaboration on the workshop material carried on by an elected representation of the young people
- e) Restitution meetings between the young participants
- f) Restitution seminars organised by the young participants and addressed to their parents, the social workers and the representatives of the institutions
- g) Meetings between the young participants' representation and social workers in order to carry on the activities on a permanent basis

PATIENCE!
AT FIRST THIS IS A
PLACE WHERE YOU
HAVE TO DEAL WITH
DIFFICULTIES..
AFTER A WHILE YOU
REALIZE THEY ARE
HELPING YOU TO
TAKE THE "RIGHT
PATH"

The travels
with the
volunteers
and the
educators

ANGRY!!!

With (name)
on my first
day!

Good Experience

A pizza with the educators and the other girls that live with me

P
R
I
V
A
C
Y

Learning
and
Arguing

An ordinary
place where
educators help
children and
young people in
dufficulty

When I first
arrived I thought
"How
disgusting!"..
But, in the end,
you need it for
your life

They take us to
Gardaland!
They do their
work and help
you!
They are too
strict and they
always claim to
be right!

I WAS HAPPY WHEN THEY FOUND ME A JOB



Friendship

Growth

Fun

Meetings with the social workers and the adults



CHILDREN AND YOUTH: ADVICE FOR ADULTS

«ALLOW CHILDREN, FOSTER FAMILIES
AND EDUCATORS OF THE COMMUNITY,
TO MEET MORE THAN ONCE BEFORE
THE FINAL TRANSFER»

«THIS IS TO KNOW EACH OTHER
BETTER AND TO GIVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO US, FOSTER
CHILDREN, TO BECOME FAMILIAR
WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE
NEW FAMILY/COMMUNITY»

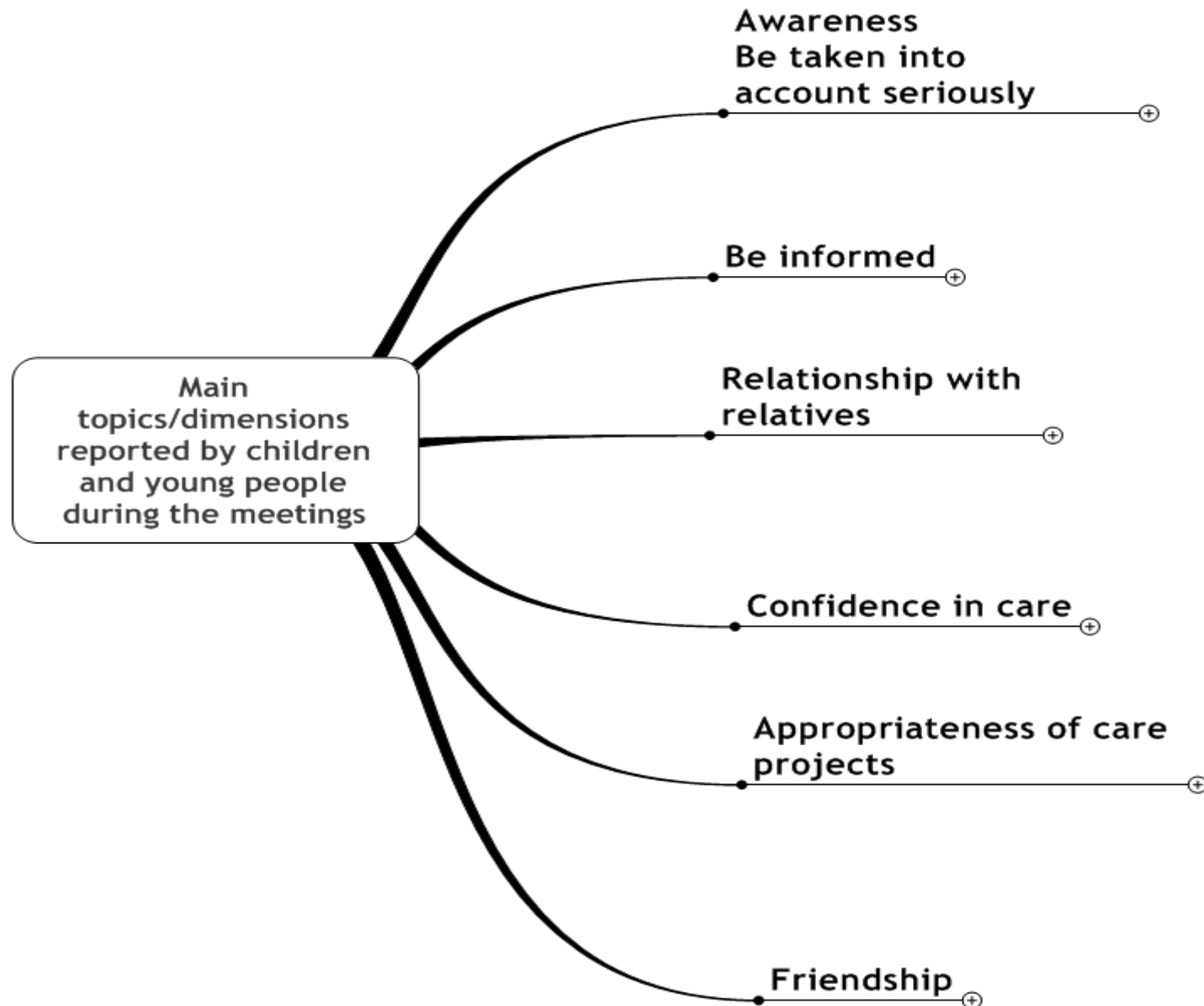
«THE PSYCHOLOGIST SHOULD
COMMENT WITH US THE PROBLEMS
THAT WE FACE INSTEAD OF WRITING»

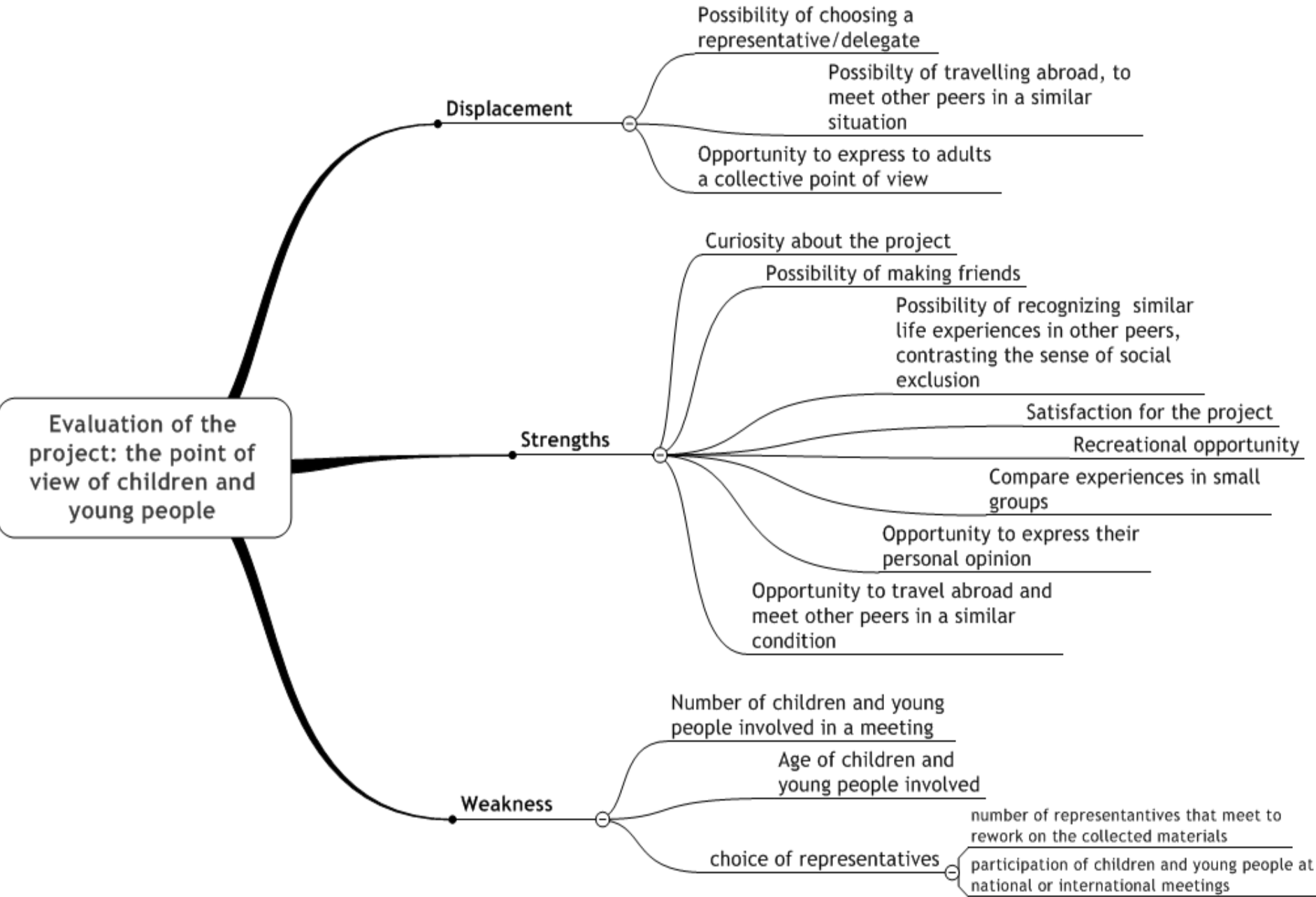
«THEY SHOULD PUT HEART IN THEIR
WORK, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HELP
CHILDREN»

«THEY SHOULD DEDICATE TIME TO A
CHILD ASKING ADVICE, HELP HIM/HER
THINKING ON HIS/HER MISTAKES AND
DO NOT PUT PRESSURE ON HIM/HER»



The main topics reported by children during the meetings





Lessons learned about «collective listening»

- a) A specific way to listen to children/young people
- b) Empowers children/young people
- c) Helps the care processes
- d) Improves the participation of children and young people in care and protection processes
- e) Helps social workers in the implementation of better care and protection processes

**Thank you
for your attention**

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