

# The Culture of Silence vs. Restorative Dialogues

How to Break the Silence in the Diverse Mindsets of a Central European Society?

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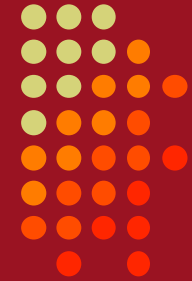
[www.iirp.org](http://www.iirp.org)

[www.foresee.hu](http://www.foresee.hu)



21<sup>st</sup> IIRP World Conference, Betlehem

TO SEE THE PATHS FOR RP  
WE NEED TO SEE THE EXISTING  
**WALLS** AND THE POSSIBLE **BRIDGES**  
IN A CERTAIN CONTEXT



**'MENTAL WALLS':**  
**BRAIN WASHING**  
**BY THE**  
**'GRAND NARRATIVES'**  
**AND**  
**NEGLECTING**  
**THE 'SMALL STORIES'**





THE  
“BILLBOARD BATTLE”  
IN  
HUNGARY

# GRAND NARRATIVES VS. SMALL STORIES



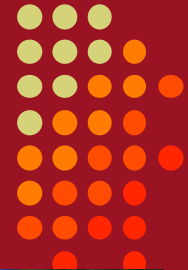
**TUDTA?**

A párizsi merényletet  
**bevándorlók** követték el.

**NÉPSZAVAZÁS**  
**2016. OKTÓBER 2.**

DID YOU KNOW?  
THE ATTACKS IN PARIS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY  
**IMMIGRANTS.**

# WHEN ONE PERSPECTIVE DOMINATES....



Since the migration crises, the number of assaults against women have significantly risen.

Only from Lybia almost 1 million migrants want to come to Europe.



...

**AND THEN THE ANTI-  
GOVERNMENT  
BILLBOARDS....**

TUDTA?

Hogy az olimpián a magyar sportolókra leginkább a **külföldi sportolók** jelentik a legnagyobb veszélyt?

NÉPSZAVAZÁS  
2016. OKTÓBER 2.

Did you know? At the Olympic games the biggest risk threatening the Hungarian players is the **foreigner players**?



**TUDTA?**

**EGY ÁTLAGOS MAGYAR TÖBB **UFÓT** LÁT  
ÉLETE SORÁN, MINT MENEKÜLTET.**

**NÉPSZAVAZÁS  
2016. OKTÓBER 2.**

Did you know? An average Hungarian sees more **UFO** during his life than refugees.



**FROM MACRO TO THE MEZO  
LEVEL**

—

**LET'S GO TO A VILLAGE  
COMMUNITY IN HUNGARY**

# CONFLICTS IN INTERCULTURAL CONTEXTS and RJ (NOT necessarily intercultural conflicts!)



2012-2016



international research project funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the EU

## Action research sites:

**Serbia** – macro (multi-ethnic society)

**Northern Ireland** – macro (divided communities)

**Austria** – micro (social housing and immigrants)

**Hungary** – meso (Roma and non-Roma in a village) – by Foresee

**Theoretical work:** **Belgium** (University of Leuven), Norway (NOVA)

[www.alternativeproject.eu](http://www.alternativeproject.eu)

# THEMES/CONFLICT CASES IN THE VILLAGE



## 1. RED CROSS CHARITY DONATION DISTRIBUTION

‘Why not those people get donation primarily who need it the most?’

## 2. LOCAL PIG-KILLING FESTIVAL

‘Why is the entrance fee so high that poor people cannot enter?’

## 3. CIVIL GUARD ORGANISATION

‘Why cannot Roma people join the local civil guard organisation?’

## 4. SOCCER TEAM

‘Why were Roma players asked to create a separate team and quit the old team?’

## 5. LOCAL ELECTIONS

‘How did the local campaign become so personal and painful for the local actors?’

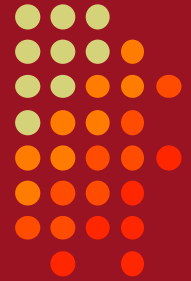
## 6. THEFT IN THE SCHOOL

‘Why weren’t we informed as parents if our kids were charged for the theft?’



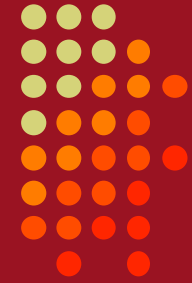
ABOUT THE  
EXISTING CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION  
TECHNIQUES....

## What burning leaves might cause..



“I [the neighbor] was so angry, I thought I would explode. I went there and shouted at him. “Your motherfucker, I have to wake up at six to find my flat full of smoke!” I came back and, logged in to Facebook and wrote a post “Smelly peasant, he is burning again”.

# What soccer team can turn into..



“He called me outside and told me that ‘I would like to tell you something that is quite unpleasant. Some of us decided not to play with you. I told him that ‘What does it mean “you”?’ He told me that ‘you’ meant Roma. I asked him, ‘what is wrong, why?’ I was shocked. I asked him what about our overall purposes, community building...that we integrate the village and do not let the extremism. ‘Are you excluding us?’ We have been playing soccer for months! What is wrong? Somebody was clobbered or kicked?’ ‘No, nothing happened, but this is the decision of the guys.’”

# THE GENERAL APPROACH: SILENCE





“I do not think you should deal with this conflict.  
If we focus on it, it will be worse.”



“They [the Roma] have a different culture and we have to accept it. We shouldn’t argue with them.”

“Officially, there is no communication. They are venting silently within their circles and everybody feels their own justice. However, it never comes up to the surface.”

“All the time, native villagers also talked about these oppositions. However, they were not loud as they were sisters-in-law, sons-in-law...They knew it, but they did not talk about it...”

We also know that if we are constantly sweeping our frustrations under the rug without talking it through, sooner or later we will fall over that pile.



Or...





NEW LOCAL  
GOVERNANCE IN THE  
VILLAGE –  
WE BECAME **THE**  
‘ENEMY’....



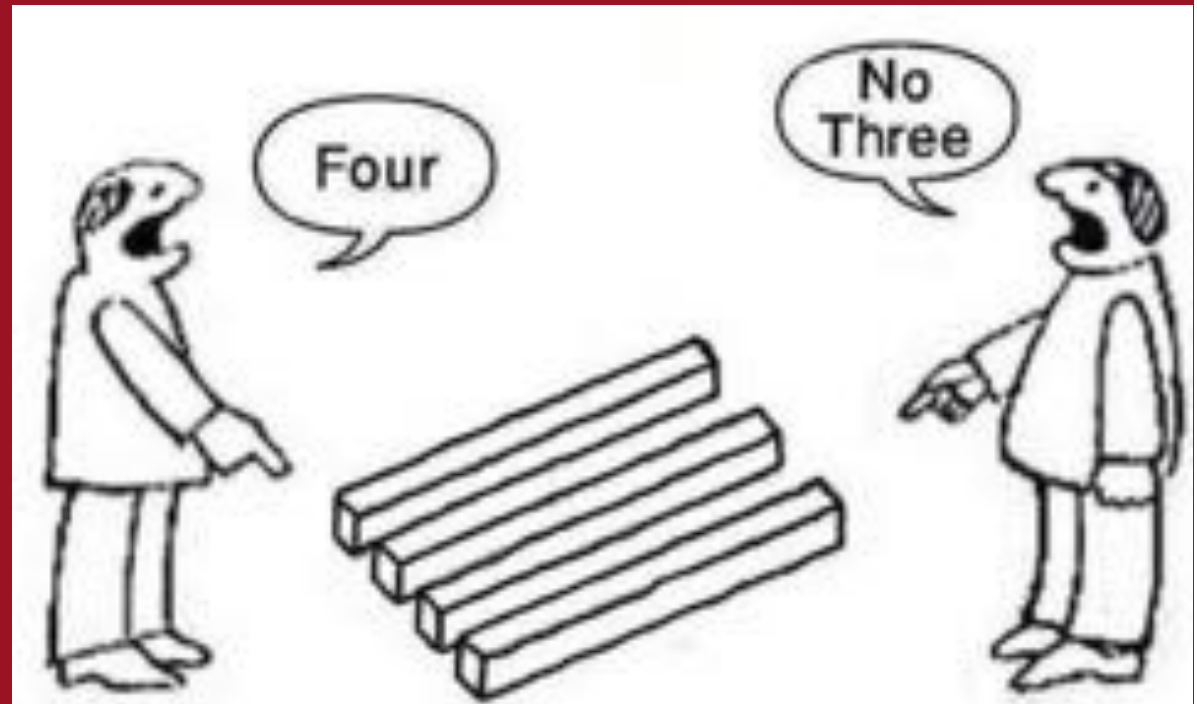
**20 MIN VIDEO**



Well now I know



**EACH ISSUE/  
STORY CAN BE  
SEEN  
FROM  
DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVES**





## NÉZŐPONT

Mindenkinek megvan a sajátja.

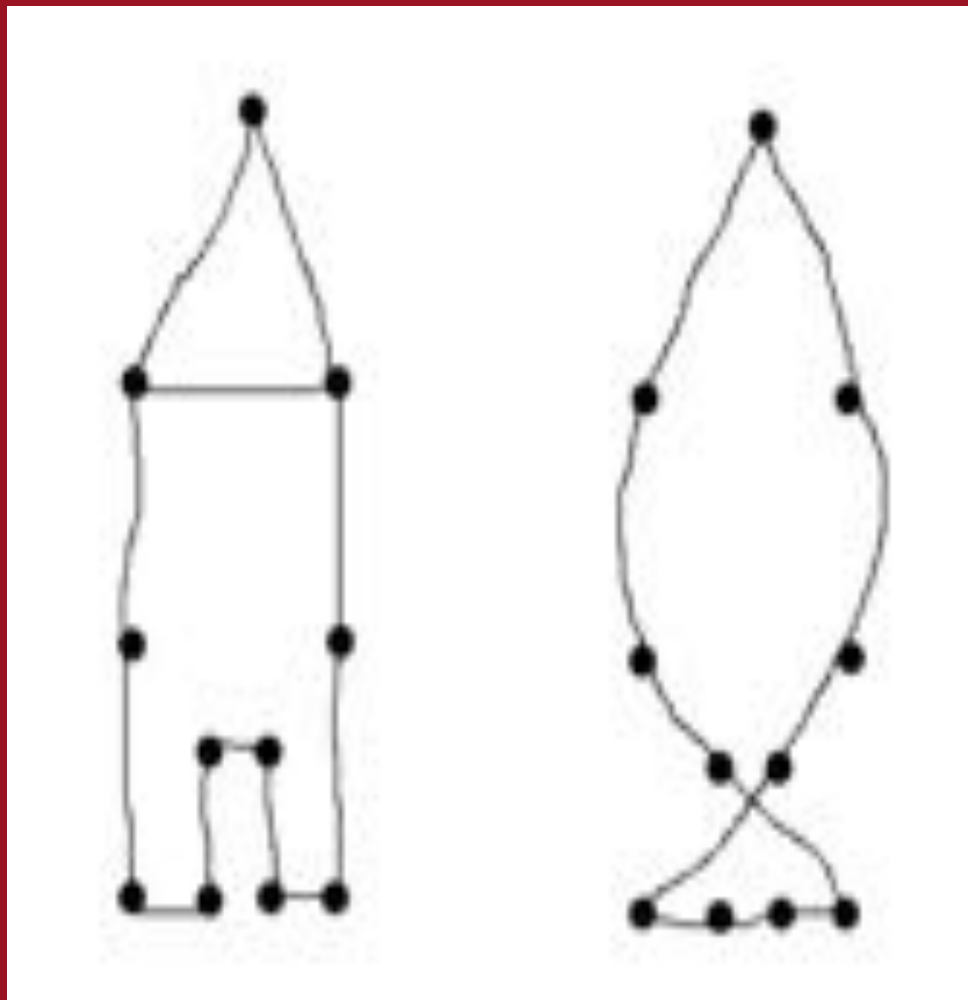
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AND OUR  
DIFFERENT  
MINDSETS/  
BELIEFS/  
EXPERIENCES  
/TOLD AND  
UNTOLD  
STORIES

SHAPE

OUR PICTURE



IF YOU  
DON'T  
TELL YOUR  
**WHOLE  
STORY**, YOU  
CAN  
CONNECT  
THE VERY  
**SAME DOTS**  
AND COME  
UP WITH A  
**DIFFERENT  
PICTURE**

Everyone has its own truth!  
But one perspective will  
never show the whole (cheese)



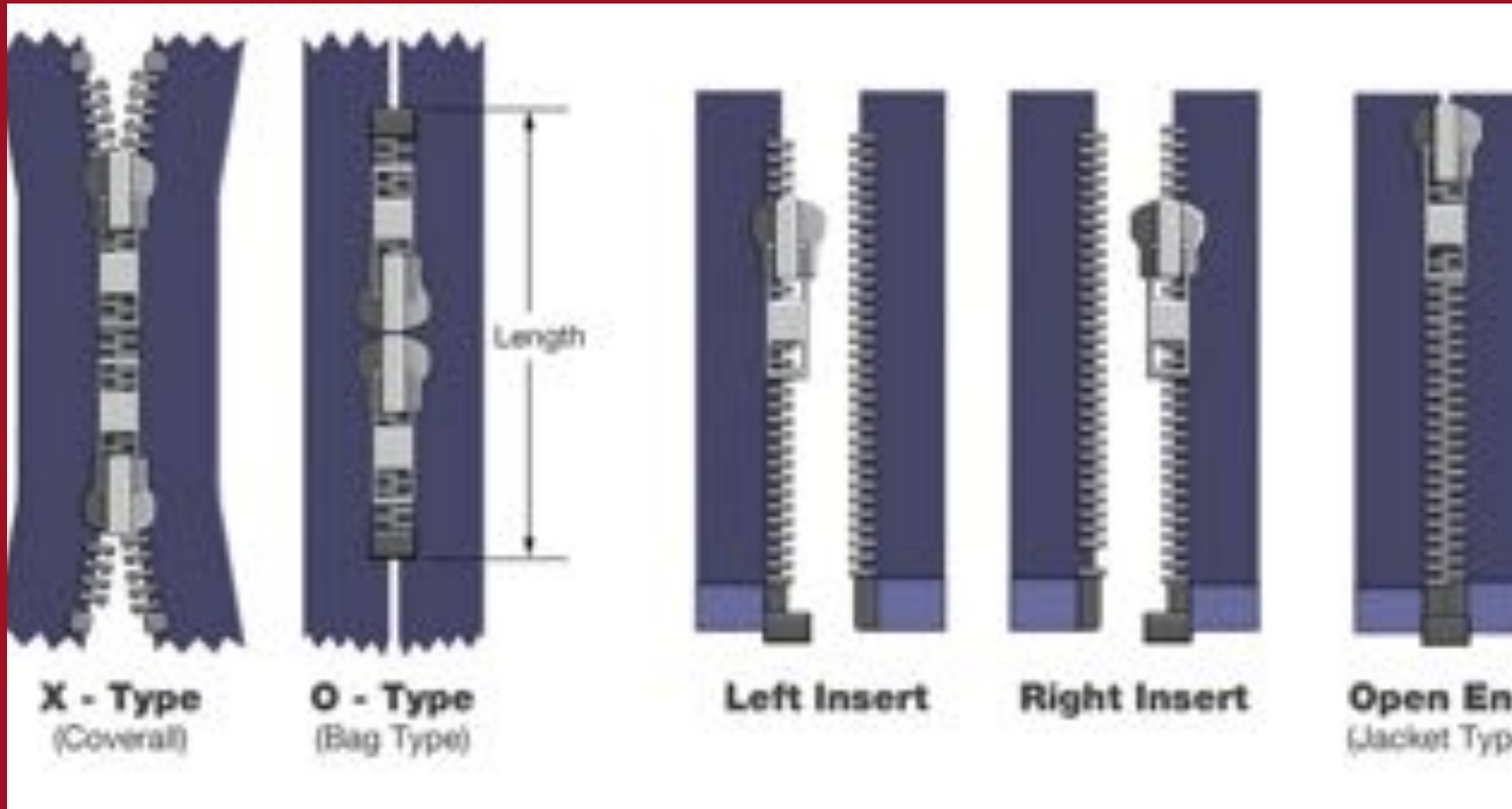
“Square!” “Triangle!” “Rectangle!” .....



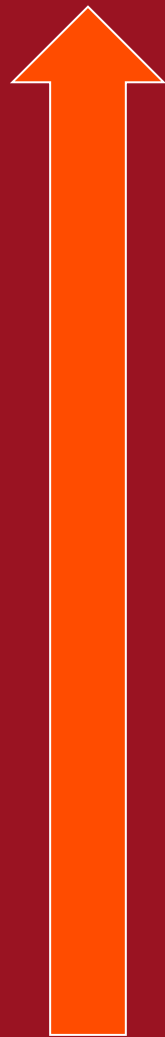
# THE GENERAL APPROACH: SILENCE



**TOWARDS HEALING,  
TALKING IS THE ONLY WAY.  
SO OPEN THOSE ZIPS!  
BUT HOW?**



# THE 'DIALOGUE-PYRAMID'



**LEVEL  
OF  
COMMITMENT**

**RECON-  
CILIATION**

**DIALOGUE**

**LISTENING THE OTHER**

**SELF-REFLECTIVE**

**STORY-TELLING**

**AVOIDANCE / SILENCE**

**LISTENING!**

**ACKNOWLEDGING**

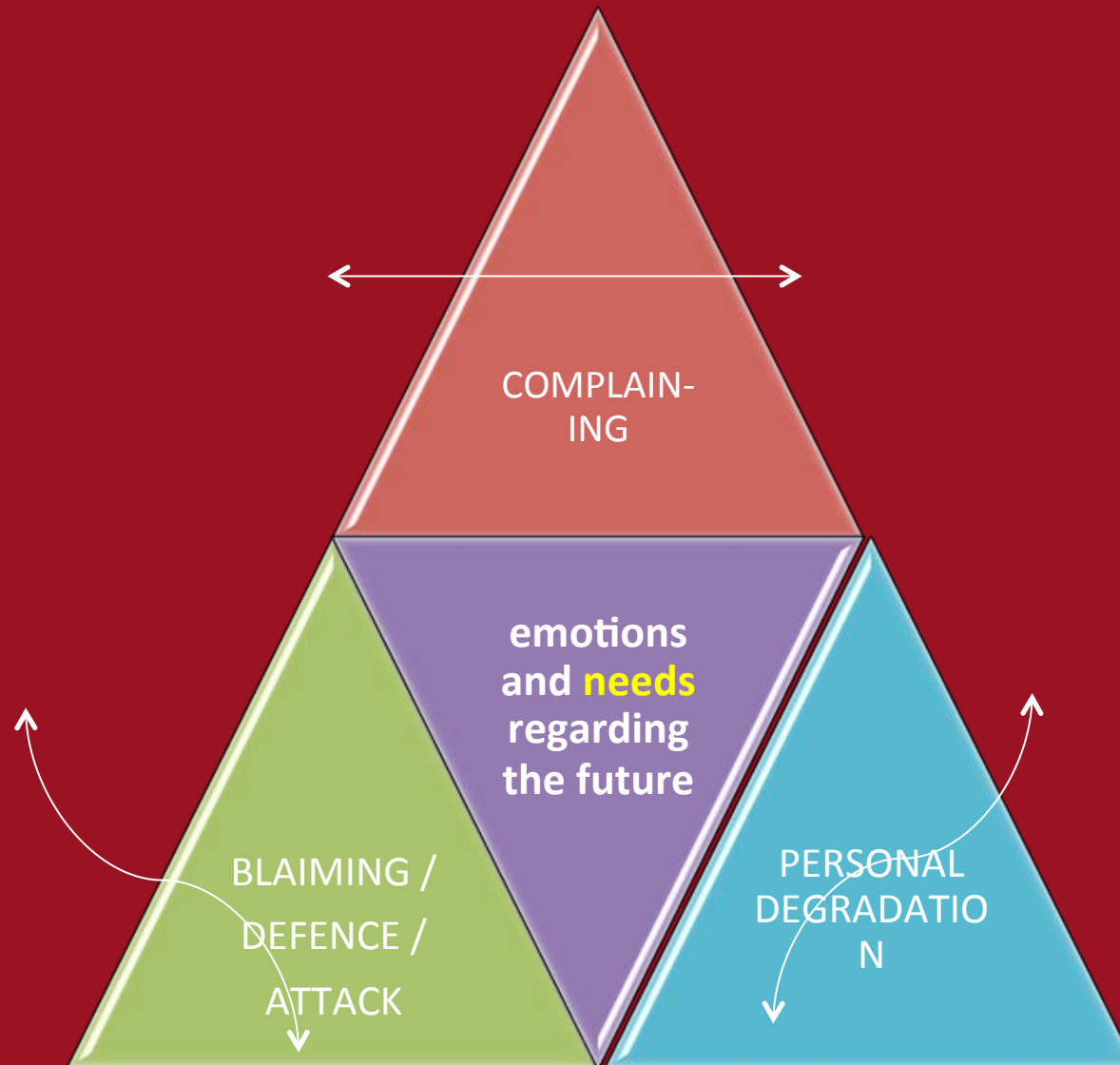
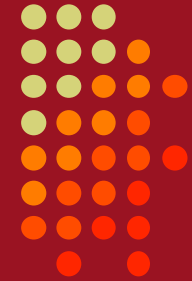
**NON-  
JUDGEMENTALLY**

**NON-INTERRUPTING**

**FINDING THE BEUTY  
WITHIIN HIS STORY!**



# THE 'GROSS' VS 'NETT' COMMUNICATION



“UBI PUS, IBI EVACUA...”

“If there is pus, let it out!”

If there is sorrow, there is no other way but  
**providing space for open and honest dialogue!**



Otherwise some ‘strategic’  
politicians can  
let people’s hatred out of the  
bottle  
and further enlarge it for  
political purposes...  
(e.g. Brexit in the UK, anti-  
refugee hate campaign in  
Hungary, ... do you know any  
other example?)

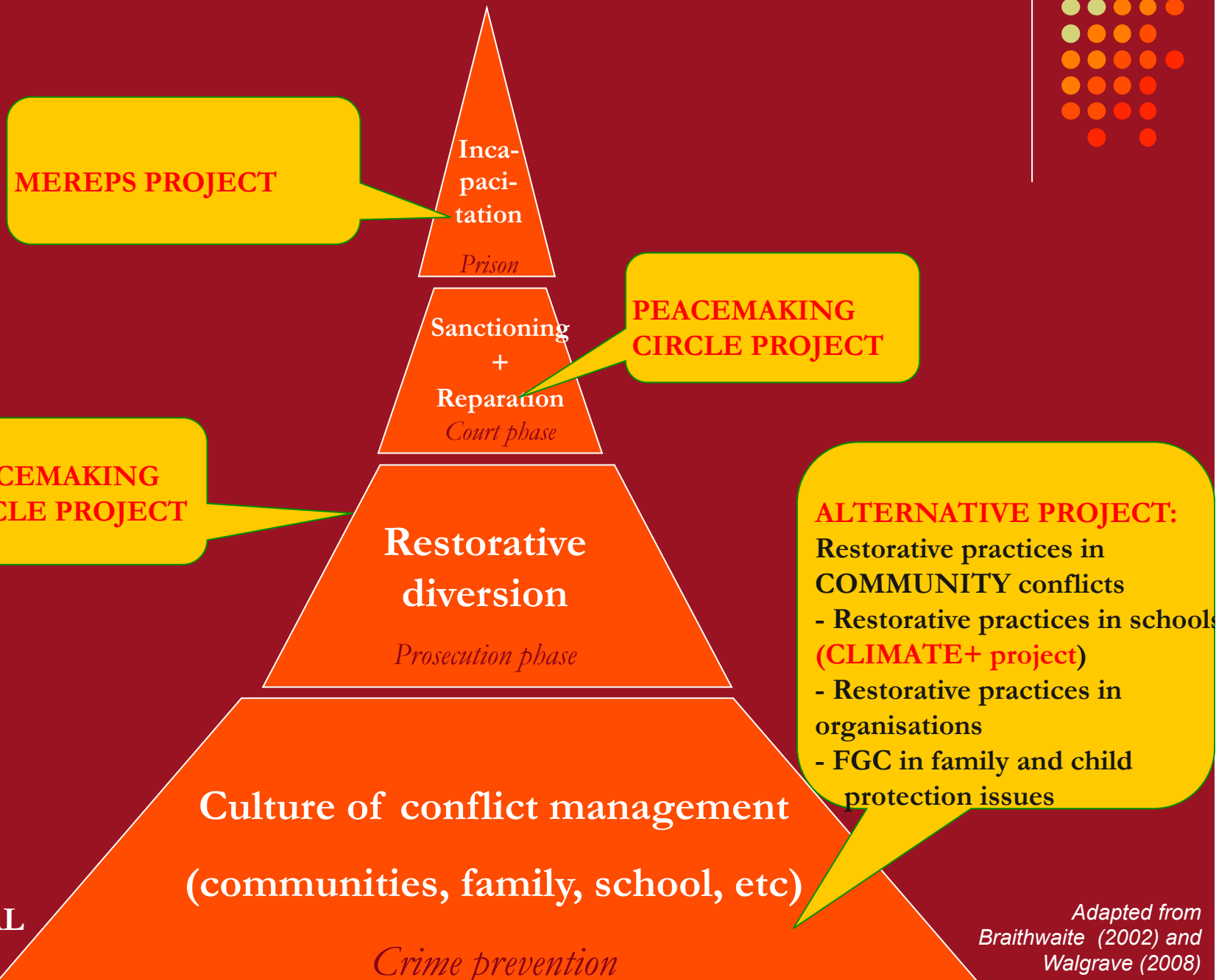
# FORESEE PROJECTS: Applying restorative practices in Hungary



FORMAL



INFORMAL



Adapted from  
Braithwaite (2002) and  
Walgrave (2008)

# COMMON POINTS OF OUR CASES SHOW THAT EVEN IN A CHALLENGING CONTEXT...



- behind any harm there is an unmet **NEED**.
- behind any need there is a **HUMAN** being.
- **STORYTELLING** and **LISTENING** are the keys to the 'human'.
- there is no other way towards healing, reconciling, working and living together than through talking and **DIALOGUE**.

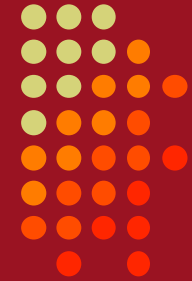






...PLUS ONE CONCLUSION:  
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**LIFE IS BEUTIFUL!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**



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Restorative Practices**

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