# Planning of societal re/production in a commonist society

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**Make Capitalism History**

A Practical Framework for Utopia and the Transformation of Society

Simon Sutterlütti · Stefan Meretz

palgrave macmillan

1. Introduction
2. Reform and Revolution
3. Transvolution
4. Categorial Utopia Theory
5. The Individual and Society
6. Commonism
7. Seed Form Theory
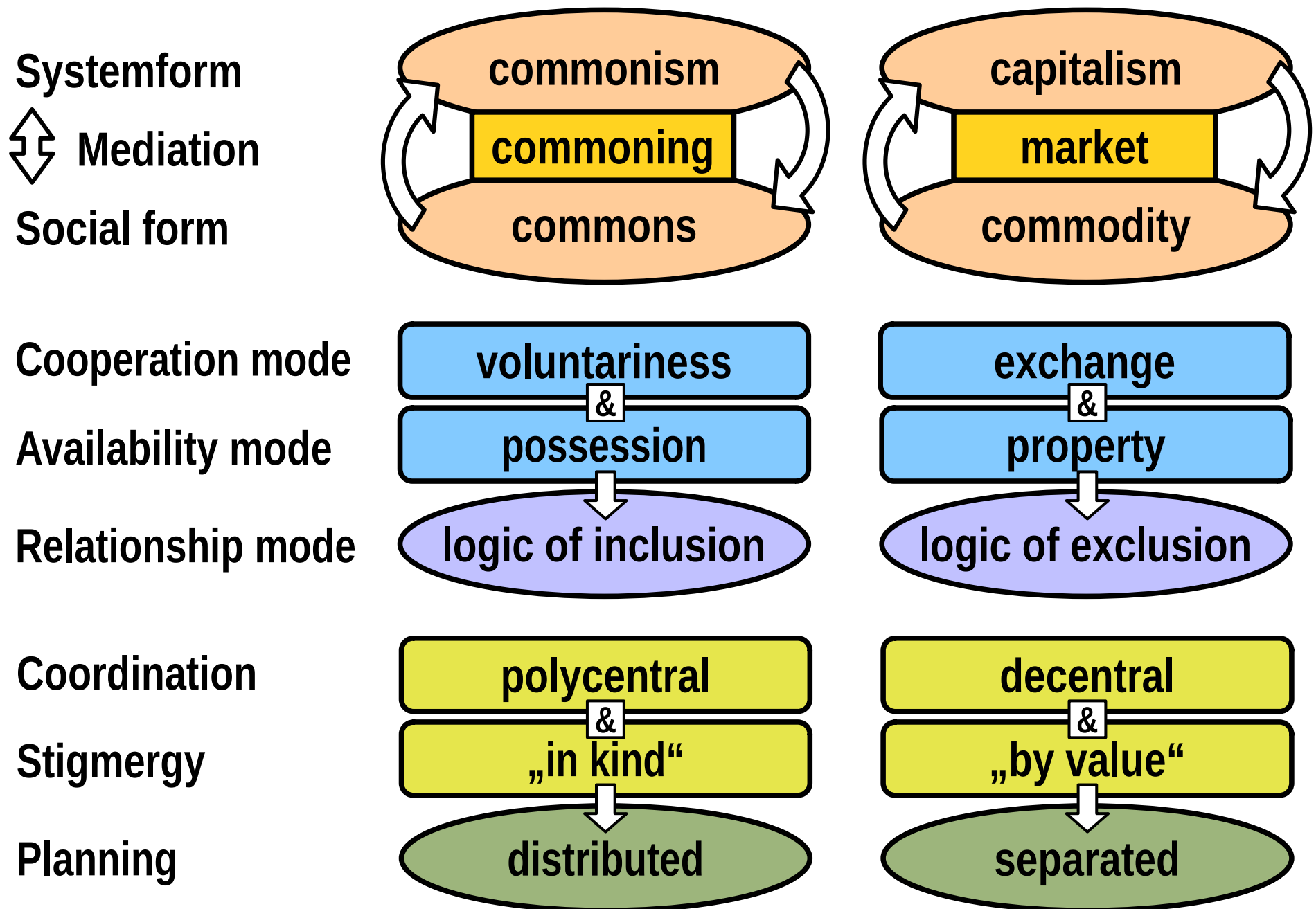
► The presentation extends the contents of the book

PDF: https://commonism.org/

# Preliminaries: re/production in capitalism

1) **Products produced as commodities have a dual nature**
   - ⇒ **Local mediation of needs in production & consumption**
   - ⇒ **Societal mediation of values through money & markets**

2) **Separate production based on private property & wage labor**

3) **Unpaid reproduction based mostly on female work**

► **Contradiction need ↔ value appears in different ways:**
   - – **Sensual-vital needs** ↔ **commodity consumption**
   - – **Productive needs** ↔ **wage labor**
   - – **Societal production** ↔ **private appropriation of profit**
   - – **Private reproduction** ↔ **societal use of labor force**
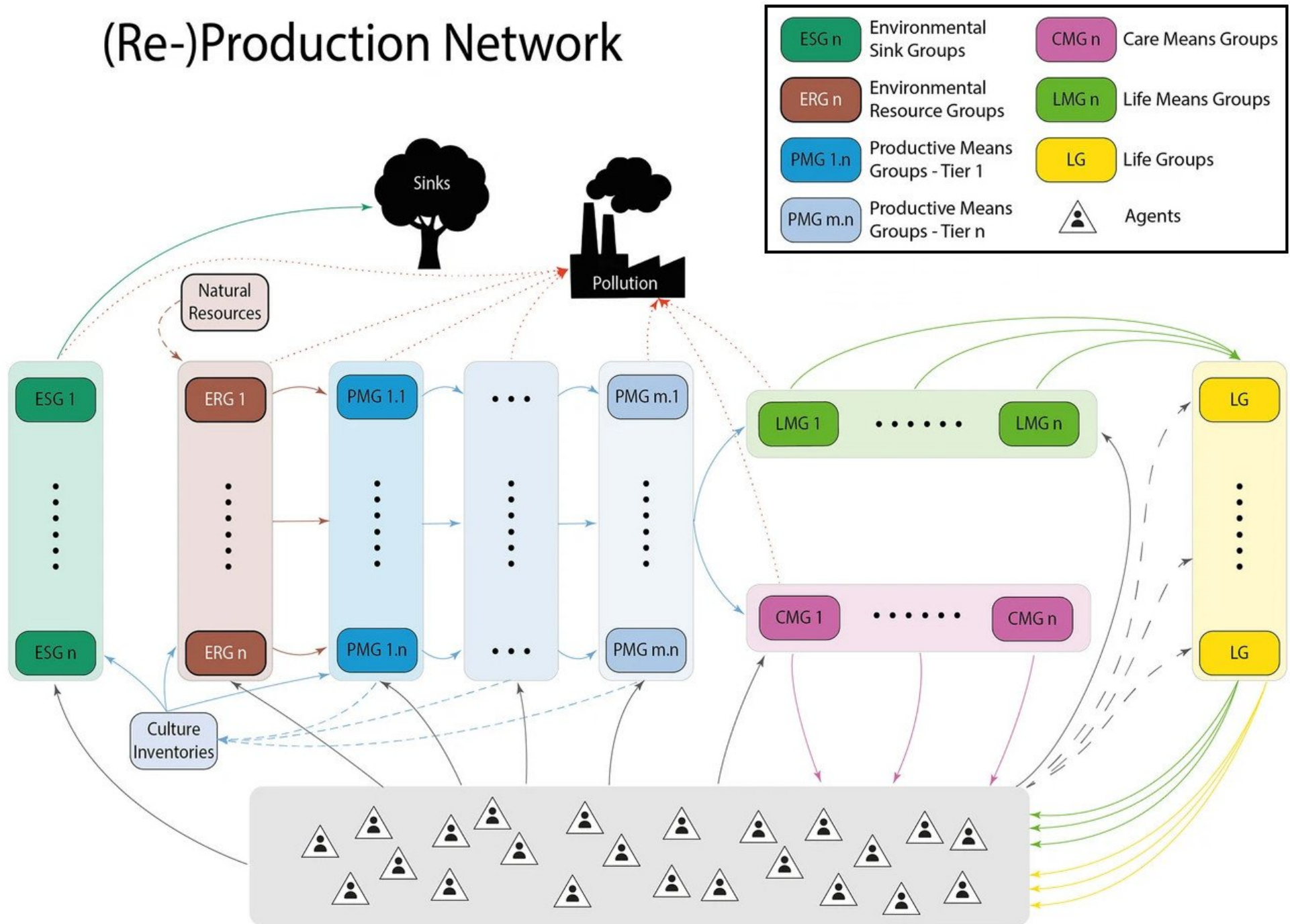
# Capitalism – exclusion and externalization

- **Logic of exclusion**: satisfaction of my needs is always at the expense of other needs – other people's or my own
  - Classism, sexism, racism, ableism, ageism, … and self-hostility

- **Logic of externalization**: production costs must be minimized in order to remain competitive – at the expense of the environment
  - Destruction of nature, loss of biodiversity, carbon pollution, etc.

# Commonism and capitalism in one picture

| | commonism | capitalism |
|---|---|---|
| Systemform | commonism | capitalism |
| ⇕ Mediation | commoning | market |
| Social form | commons | commodity |
| | | |
| Cooperation mode | voluntariness | exchange |
| | & | & |
| Availability mode | possession | property |
| Relationship mode | logic of inclusion | logic of exclusion |
| | | |
| Coordination | polycentral | decentral |
| | & | & |
| Stigmergy | „in kind" | „by value" |
| Planning | distributed | separated |

# Project „Society After Money"

# In depth: mediation in kind
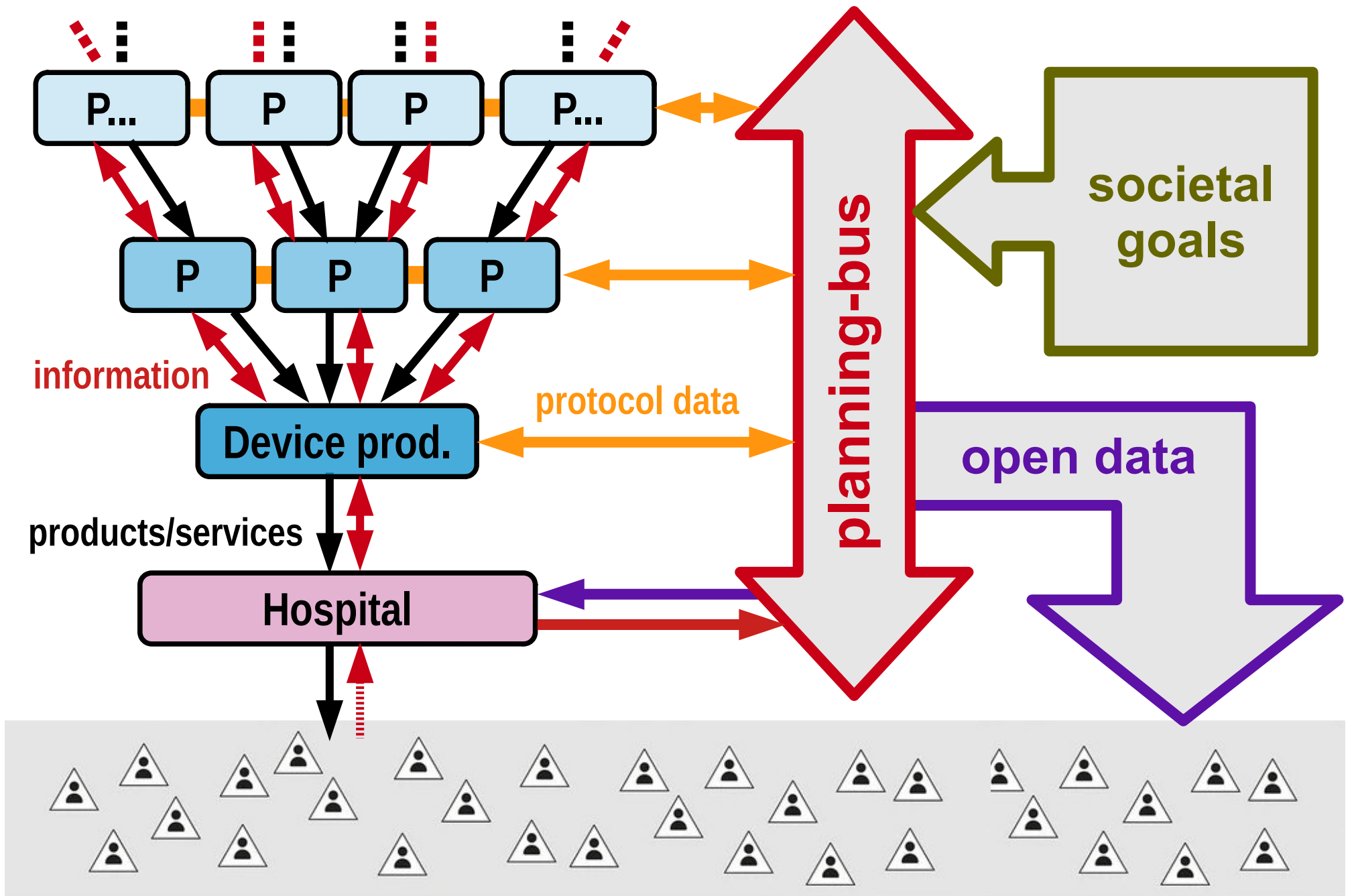
- Goods embody both: production (process) and use (purpose)
  ⇒ Goods themselves are carriers of information (aka stigmergy)
- Quantities are always related to qualities (no unified UOA):
  ⇒ certain amount of steel, electricity, qualification of workers etc.
- Mediation – in planning and distribution – takes place
  ⇒ *in situ*: in the same information space
  ⇒ *ex ante*: before production
- Challenge: transport and use the multidimensionality of the information as automatically processable data
- Precondition: information transparency and access to automatically condensed information
- Mediation in kind can be used for central, decentral, and polycentral planning (e.g. Neurath's central model 1919)

# Target planning and operational planning

- **Five dimensions of target planning:**
  - ⇒ Definition of **products** that meet needs
  - ⇒ Availability of **inputs** (materials, energy, intermediates, machinery, knowledge, activities, etc.)
  - ⇒ Treatment of **by-products and waste** (filtration, processing, recycling, etc.)
  - ⇒ Fulfilment of **societal goals** (emission limitation, sink recovery, working conditions, etc.)
  - ⇒ Compliance with local and global goals by **partner groups** providing materials, energy, intermediates, etc.
- **Operational planning:**
  - ⇒ Design and construction of the specific re/production process
  - ⇒ Can only start after target planning has been completed

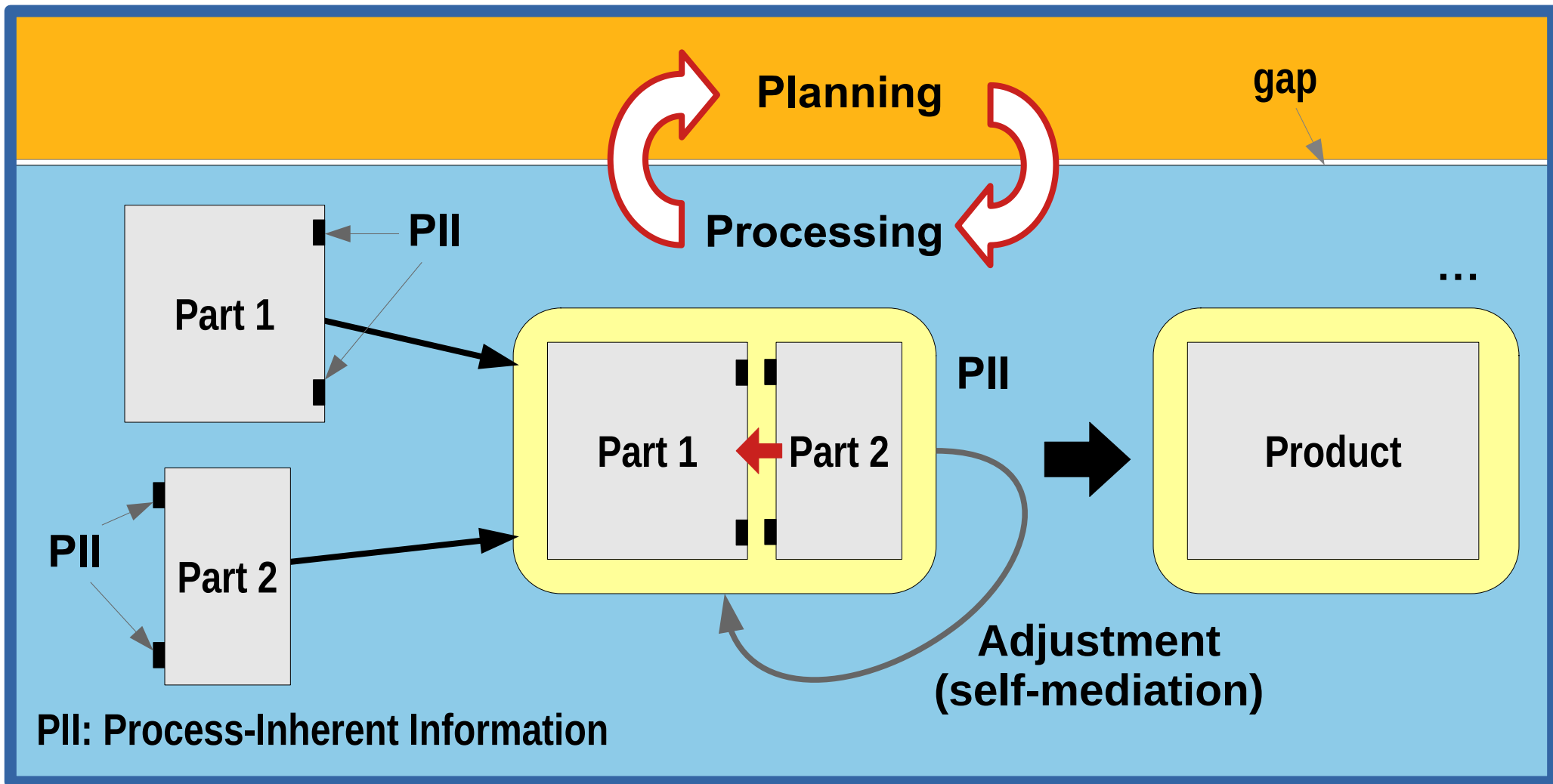# Protocol-guided planning

# The role of protocols

- **Rules** about what needs to be communicated and how: syntax, semantics, and synchronisation
- **Mandatory data** embedded in the protocol becomes part of the planning process: material, energy, ecology, activity, etc.
- **Agreements** are part of the protocol: when all participants in a production chain sign an agreement, production starts
- Protocol-guided communication creates a **planning bus**
- Protocols organise **semi-autonomy**, the dependency of autonomous units
- Protocols allow transparent access to **information for all**
- Multidimensional protocols are an **indispensable part** of commonist re/production
- Commonist protocols **replace** the stupid „price protocol"

# Planning and information traps

- Target planning anticipates an ideal process;
  Operational planning deals with the real process
  - ⇒ Always a deviation between the real and the ideal process
- Two planning traps:
  - ⇒ Localist approach: Planning is identical with processing
    – problems can be dealt with at the operational level
  - ⇒ Centralist approach: Planning is too far away from processing
    – target plans move away from the operational level
- Two information traps:
  - ⇒ Localist approach is blind to societal needs
  - ⇒ Centralist approach is blind to local conditions (cf. Hayek)
- Polycentric planning as close to operations as possible
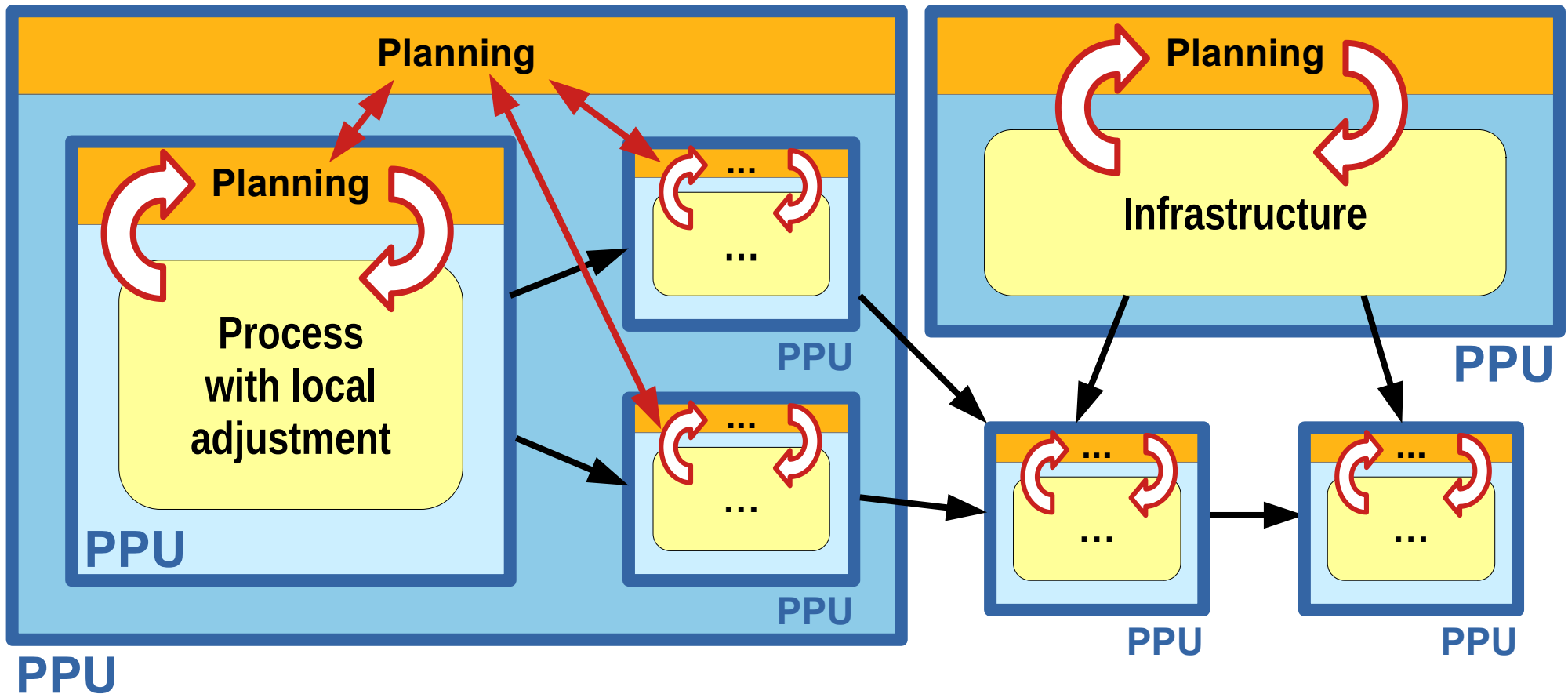  allows flexible adjustment of the ideal-reality gap

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# Polycentric planning for local goals

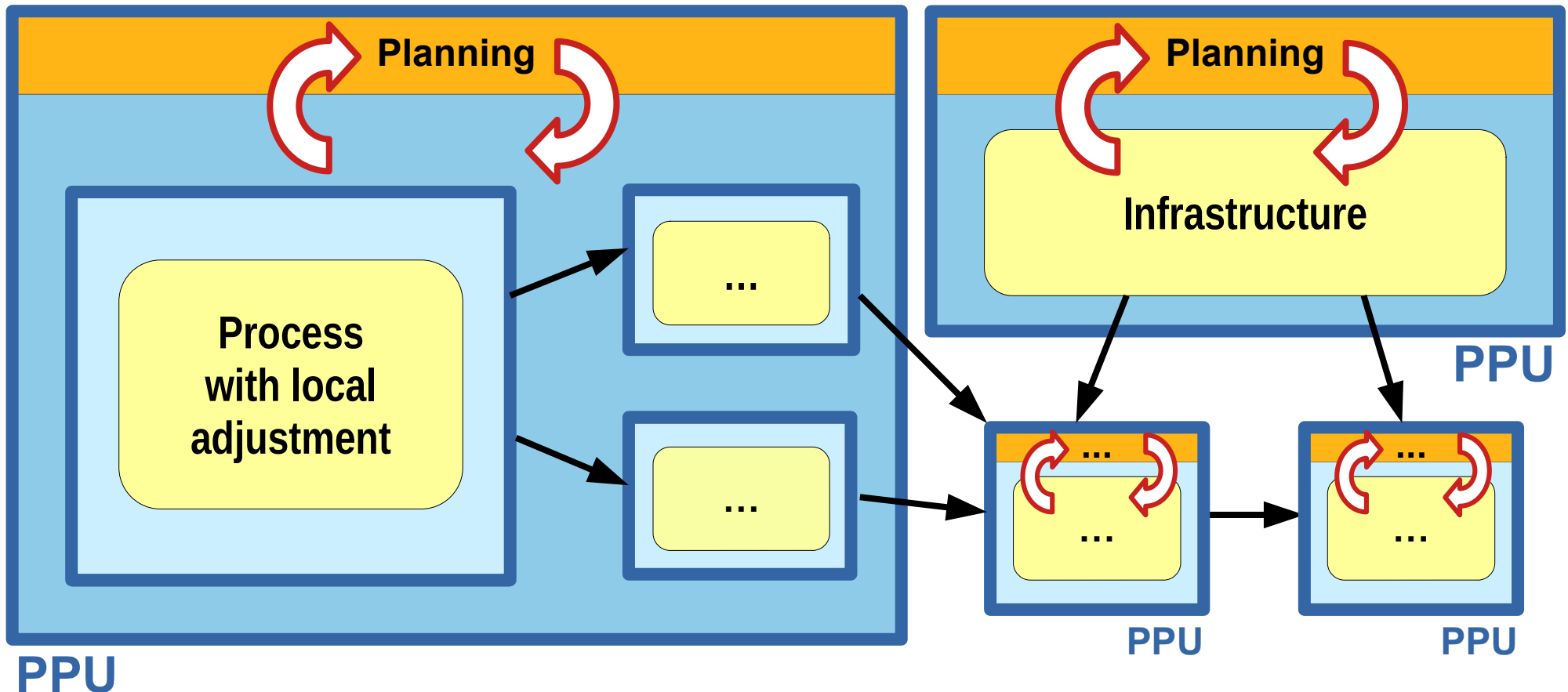- **Planning-processing units (PPU)**

# Polycentric planning for local goals

- **Nested planning-processing units**

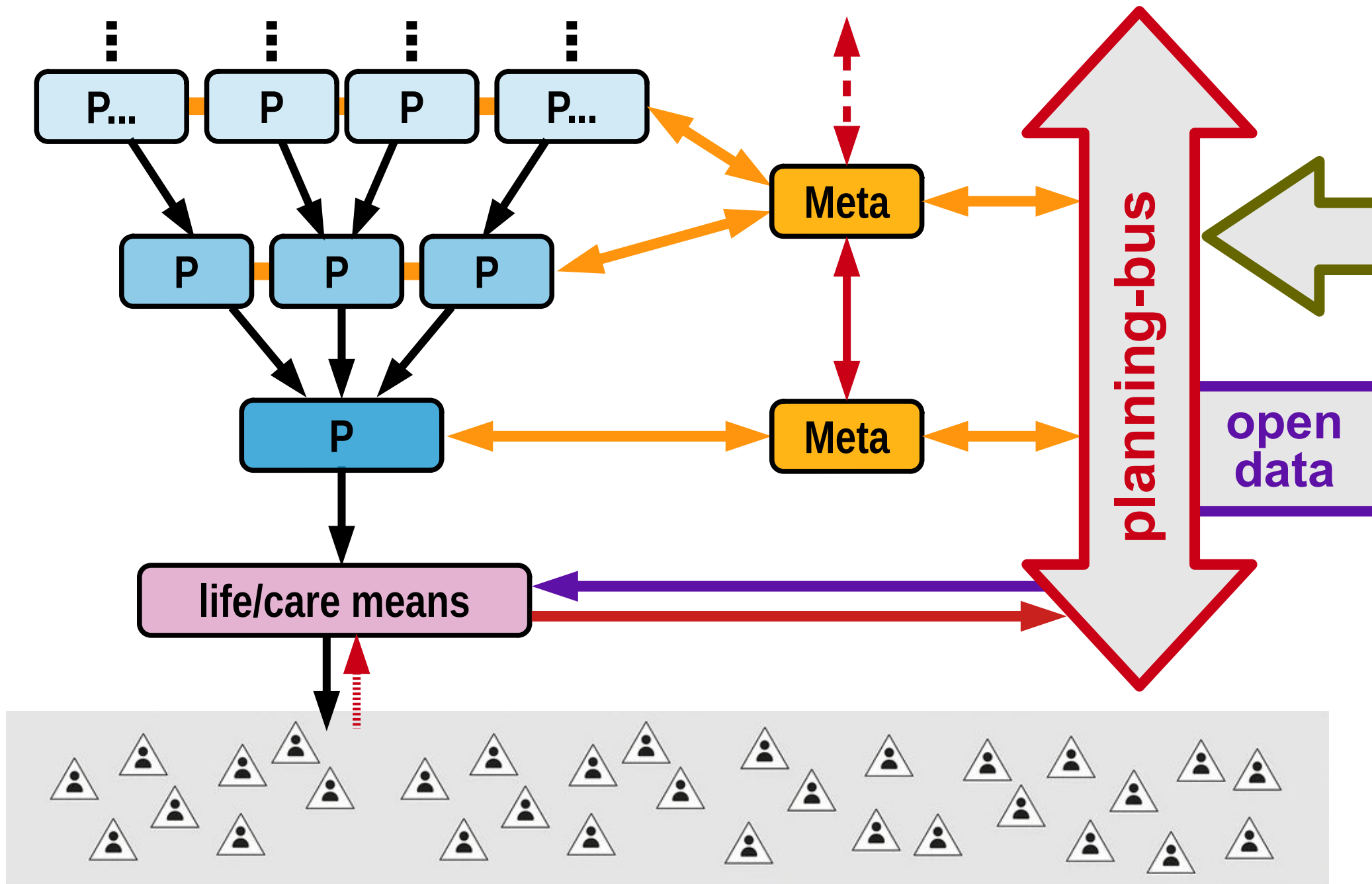# Polycentric planning for local goals

- Nested planning-processing units
- Embedded processing units
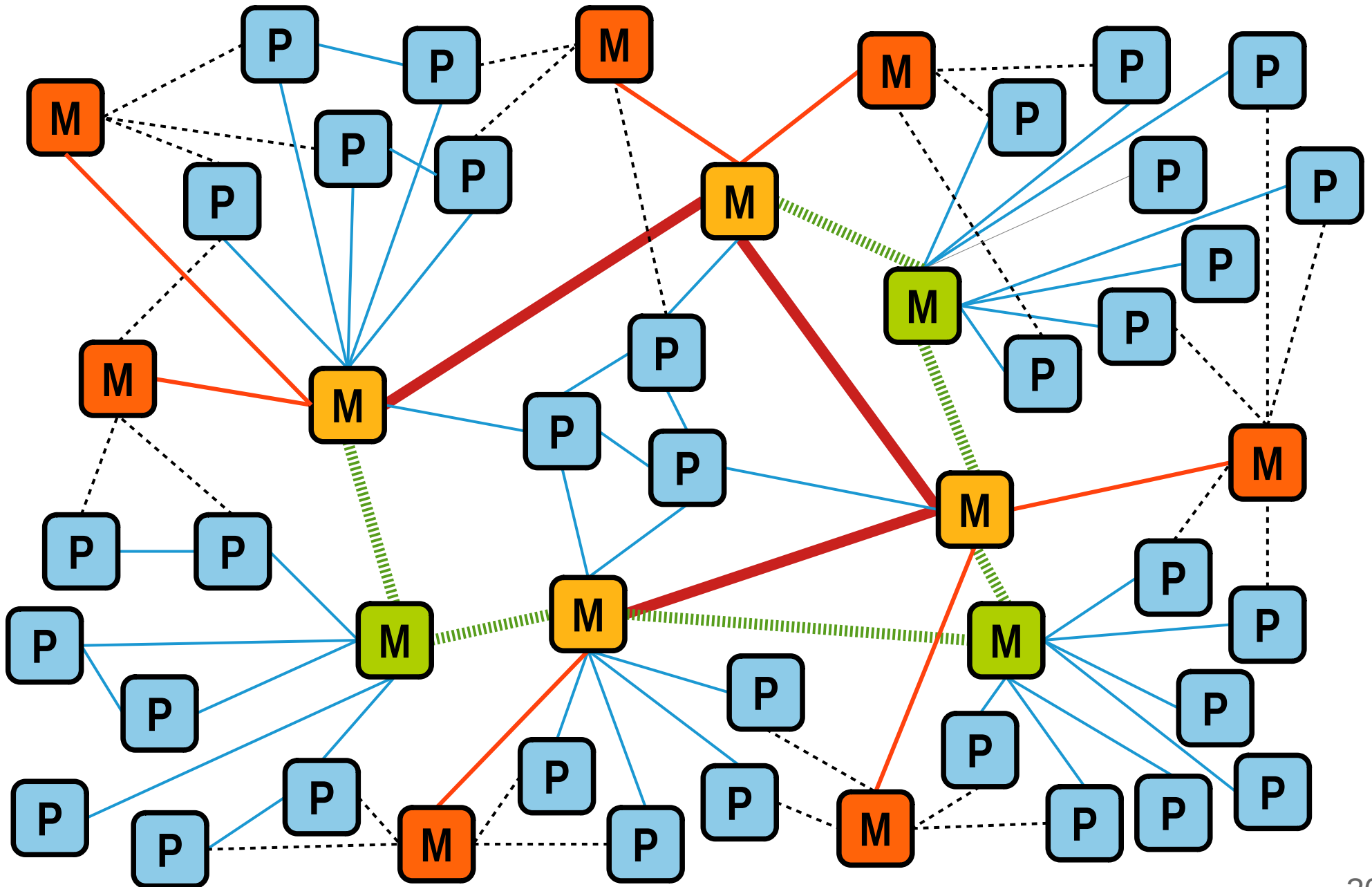
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# Polycentric planning for translocal goals

- **Meta-units** don't plan the process, but the **goals** that are proposed for integration into local planning
- **Global** issues (e.g. climate change) can be integrated into production chains through guidelines of **small** meta-units
- **Local** issues (e.g. building a new factory) may require **large** planning units due to concrete complex tasks on site
- **Conflicts** can be diverse – mostly based on conflicting needs
- Transpersonal conflicts need to be **interpersonalised** and transformed into a „conflict loop" which is a „learning loop"

# Polycentric planning for translocal goals

# Network of nested re-/production and planning

# Concluding remarks

- **Largely absent power leads to <span style="color:red">inclusion</span> and cooperation**
- **Re/productive commons/units are <span style="color:red">semi-autonomous</span>**
- **Interpersonal <span style="color:red">care</span> is part of transpersonal provisioning**
- **The more than human world is <span style="color:red">embedded</span> in human activity**
- **Sensual-vital and productive aspects of <span style="color:red">needs</span> are integrated**
- **<span style="color:red">Voluntariness</span> is responsibility and not opposed to necessity**
- **Politics and economics are reconciled: planning & coordination of social affairs can take place <span style="color:red">in the same structures</span>**
- **Polycentralised structures are much more stable than central or decentral ones, because there are <span style="color:red">self-similar</span>**

# Discussion

Thank you! ☺

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