

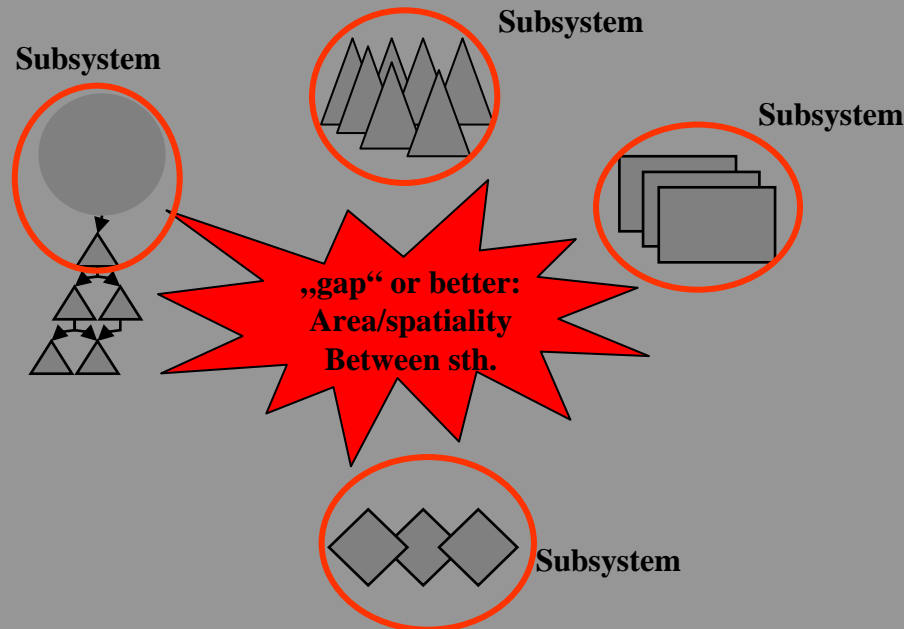
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## „Cooperation in the Political Environment“ A Spatial Perspective

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- The vital element in my paper can be characterized as 'gap'.
- More accurately: „the area/spatiality between something”.



- The duality of the meaning is intentional. It involves both:
  - concrete space of formal administrative and legislative structures
  - intellectual and theoretical space

- Starting point is the basic hypothesis that cooperation between governmental, politically dominated organisations and organisations of civil society will gain importance.
- The triggers:
  - Increasing globalisation
  - Soaring growth of technology
  - Changes of the general economic conditions
  - Necessity of organisations to specialize more and more
- This trend requires an increasing cooperation between organizations.

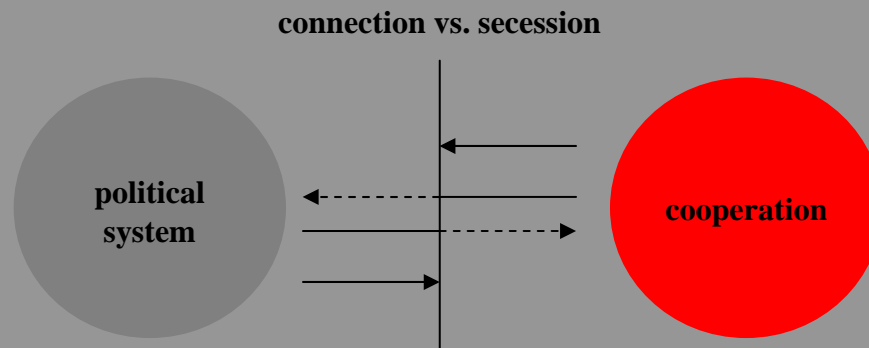
# The Case Study

- Since 2008 the iff department of OD and group dynamics carries out a cooperation project in health care in Upper Austria (“NSM – Optimierung des Nahtstellenmanagements in OÖ”).
- The main goal is the construction and development of a cooperation between the governmental as well as non-profit organisations in the area of health care and social services.
  - Improvement of quality of services for the patients
  - Solutions of problems with resources

# Role of Space

- Space takes two different roles:
  1. actual territories where cooperation takes place
  2. an area of action that allows to separate them from cooperative relationships to anyone outside.
  
- Territorial structures have an influence on cooperation.
- Legal administrative systems generate a status of interdependence.

- There is a need to create a space which allows the cooperation some means of exchange with the political system and at the same time set up borders to that political subsystem.
  - The connection is necessary to ensure the required legitimation.
  - The secession ensures the limitation of influence of the political system to a productive amount.



- Too much control by politics would endanger the equilibrium of a cooperation.
- Cooperation lives on the basis that all involved organizations give up a part of their sovereignty.

# The Problem of Sovereignty and of Lacking Trust

The problem of sovereignty

- Cooperation opposes accumulation of power.
- It demands to partly surrendering sovereignty and the constant advancement and a partial opening up of internal structures.
- This contradicts with traditional ideas of politics.
- Additional there is no 'primus inter pares' who keeps the actors in line.

## The problem of lacking trust

- Missing trust is the main obstacle for cooperation and the construction of a so-called area in between.
- Not the trust of the individual partners but of the set up of a model of control that said partners can confide in is the issue.
- There is no faith in cooperation as an effective and sustainable approach of countering social problems.
- The creation of a basis of trust is a process of learning-by-doing as a result of individual successes.

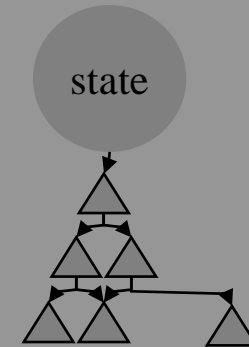
## 'independent third party'

- An actor in the role of an 'independent third party' is needed to be spokesman and representative of the cooperation.
- Self-interests of individual partners have to be limited.
- The rotation system is a way to ensure this.
- The challenge for the consultant is to stimulate the implementation of such a structure during the process of consulting in a way that it is viewed as the participating organization's own innovation.

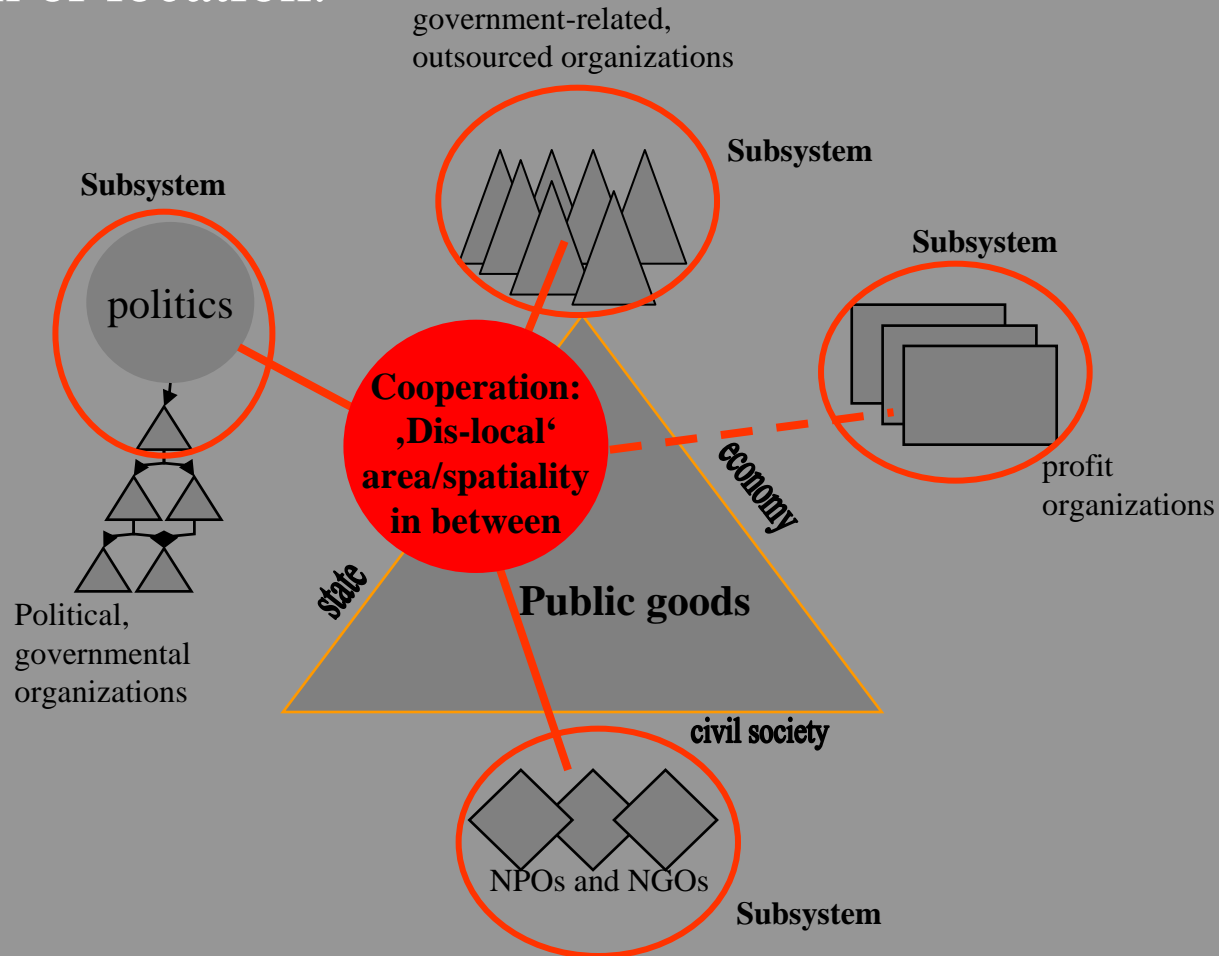
# Summary

1. There exists a traditional idea of an area of action between sub-systems in our society. Cooperation operate outside of such interaction and open up new possibilities.
2. Cooperation can be implemented as new ways of controlling relationships between systems. The intervention from an 'independent third party' consultant offers potentials for new ideas.
3. As soon as confidence in cooperation exist, actual change and improvement of this area of action can be achieved.

picture of institutional interacting with fixed locations; e.g. state structure:



- Cooperation is nothing else but 'dis-local' areas in between that evolve or can evolve without having taken a fixed spatial position or location.



Thank you for your attention and your patience!

