

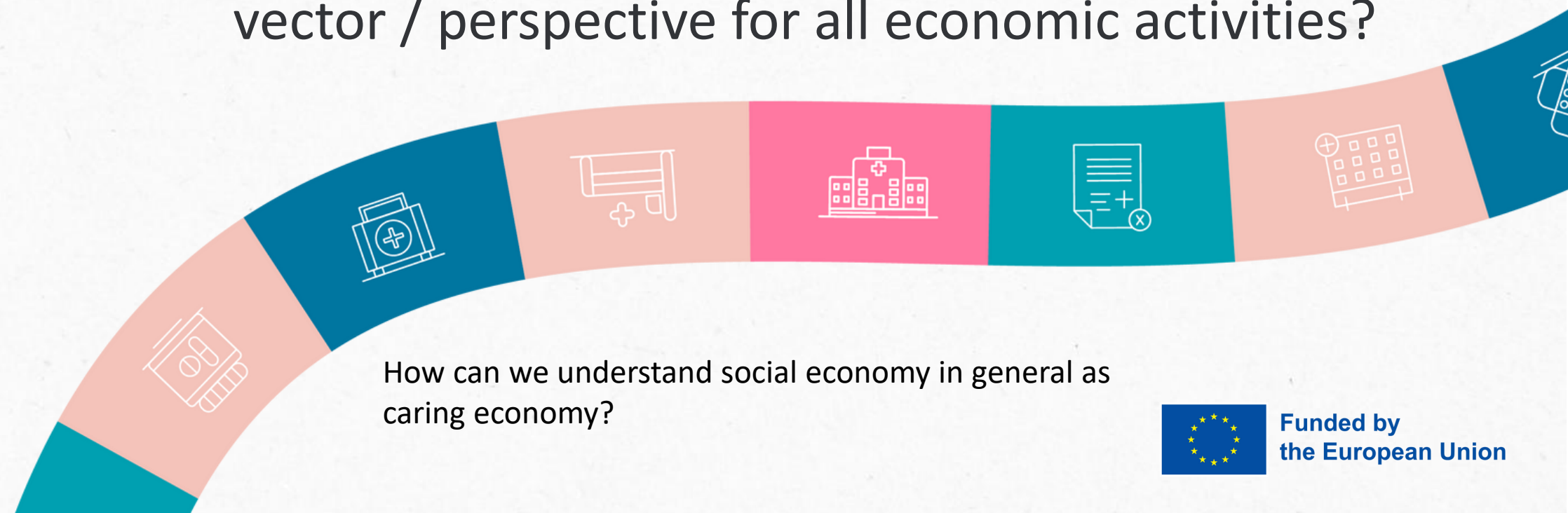
Agenda

1. Social economy: what and why?
 - Definition and potentials
 - Problems and questions
2. Democracy as way of life
 - Re-embedding economies
 - Organizational democracy
3. Care and inclusion
 - Economic democracy
 - Examples

Social economy: what and why?

- DICES: social economy potentials for care in two senses
 - narrow: **care sector**
 - broad: **caring economy**
- **EU, substantive definition**
 - social / eco goals,
 - collective / general interest
 - participation / democracy
- **Operationalized** by EU as ‘**families**’
 - coops
 - associations (including charities)
 - foundations
 - mutual benefit societies
 - social enterprises

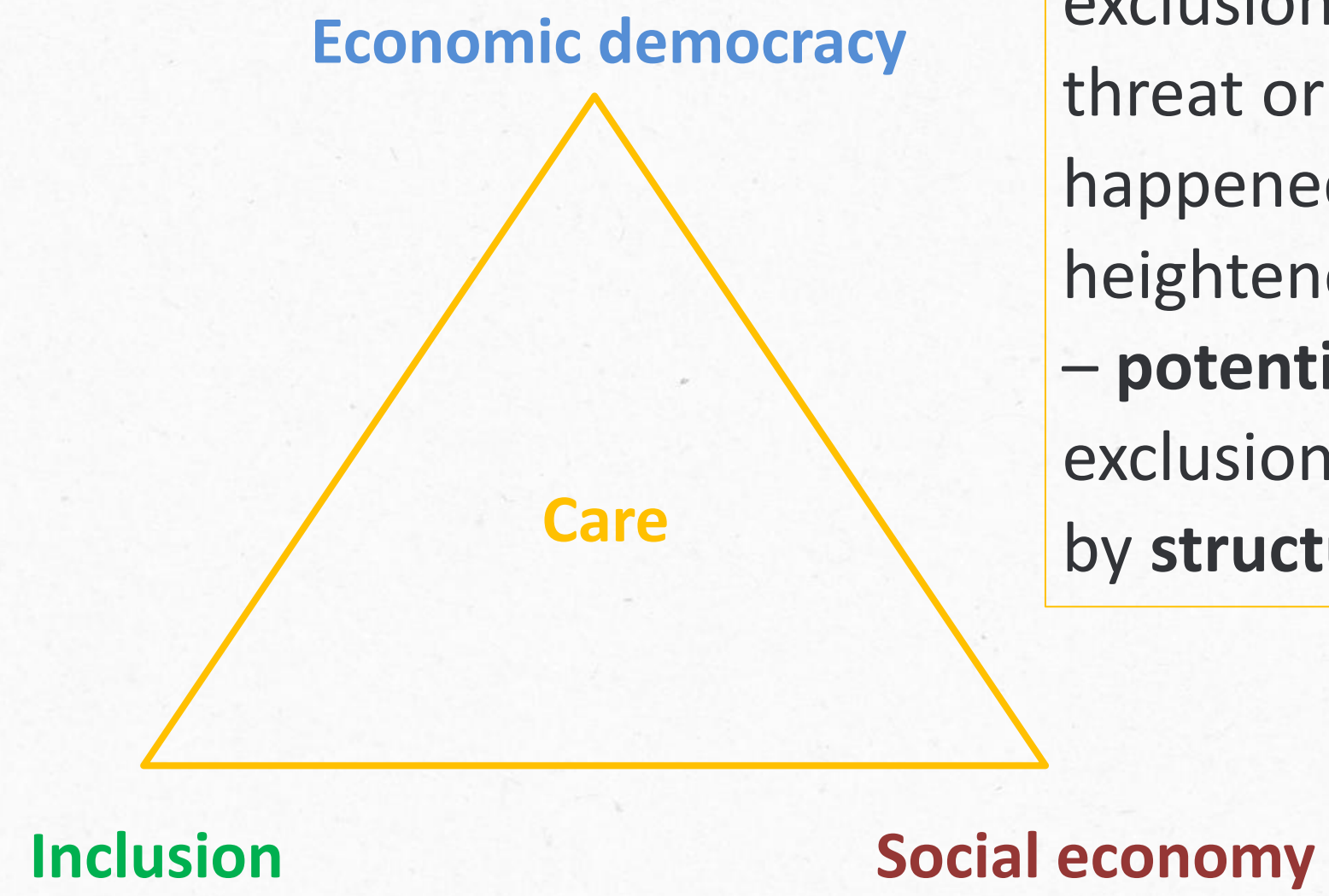
- **Potentials:** improve labor conditions and service quality in care **sector + vector** for social ecological transformation fostering structural **inclusion** leading to a caring economy in general
- **Problems:** substantive def. \neq operationalization; concept of participation / democracy unclear
- **Open questions:** How does social economy perform in care sector? Which features and mechanisms of social economy as societal vector / perspective for all economic activities?



How can we understand social economy in general as caring economy?

Social economy: what and why?

- **Core propositions: democracy**
 - **key** for social economy (potentials), because of articulating / negotiating **needs** and **collective** governance
 - **opposite of market** transactions and chains of **command**
 - expresses and requires collectively **caring relationships** that
 - **structurally anchor inclusion** (social, cultural, political, economic) and
 - put **social economy principles** in practice, through
 - activities that **produce goods / services + social relationships** and that are **democratically organized**



Social economy prominent when social exclusion immediate threat or already happened, and care has heightened importance
 – **potential** is to reduce exclusionary dynamics by **structural care**



Care in feminist terms: focus on social relationships in democratic, inclusive perspective

Disembedding and re-embedding economies

- Market economy disembedded from social relationships (Polanyi)
- **Disembedding » exclusion** as ontological baseline condition
- **Inclusion limited and precarious** (depends on money and success in market competition) » no ‘seat at the table’ *qua* being
- **Re-embedding** requires partial replacement of market transactions by **social relationships** within and beyond economic organizations
- Necessary but not sufficient for structural inclusion (new baseline) » **democracy required, too**

*“[A]s an idea, **democracy** is not an alternative to other principles of associated life. It is the idea of community life itself” (Dewey)*

*“Wherever there is **conjoint activity** whose consequences are **appreciated as good by all** singular persons who take part in it, and where the realization of the good is such as to effect an energetic desire and **effort to sustain** it in being just because it is a good shared by all, there is in so far a **community**” (Dewey)*

*“[F]or democracy is a name for a life of free and enriching **communion**” (Dewey)*

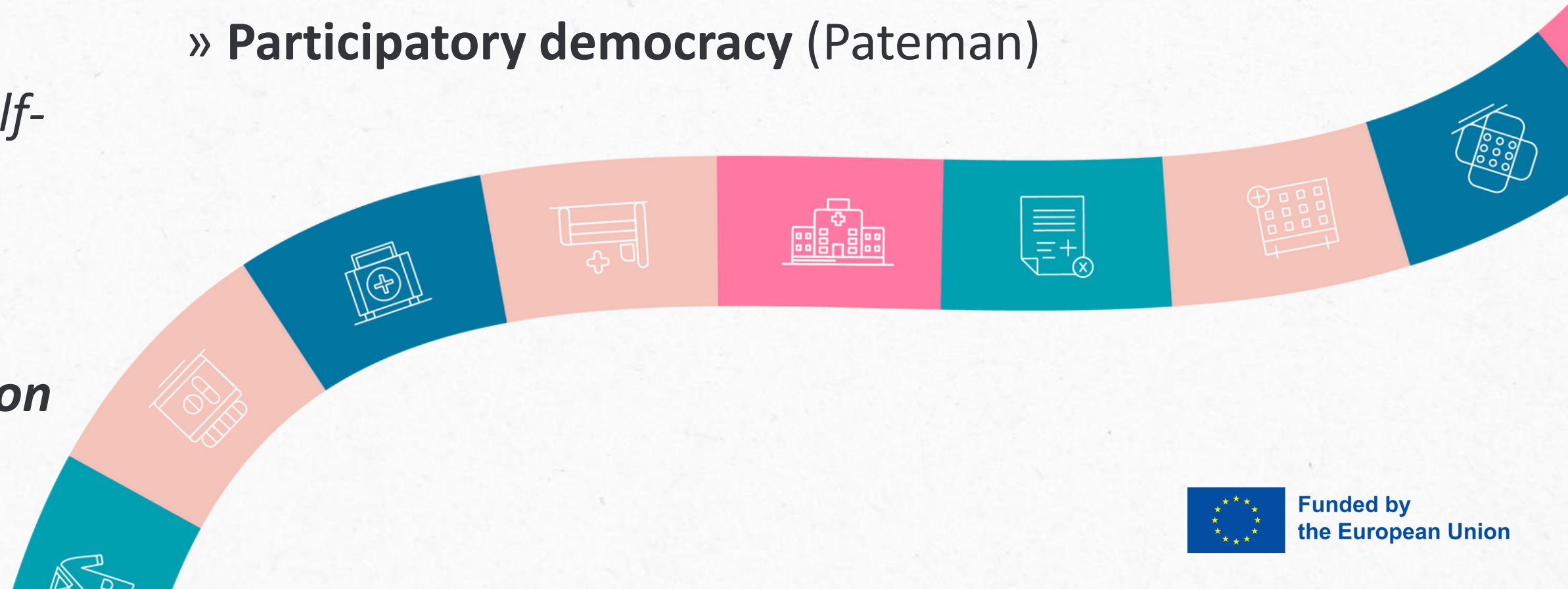
Organizational democracy (I): formal aspect

- **Political inclusion** (collective decision-making) beyond tokenism (Arnstein)
 - partnership
 - delegated power
 - citizen control

“[S]tructurally supported workers’ substantive participation, including direct or representative joint consultation, co-determination, and self-determination” (Weber et al.)

“[O]n-going, broad-based, and institutionalized employee participation that is not ad hoc or occasional in nature.” (Weber et al.)

- **Strategic, tactical and operational levels**
 - long-term, structural decisions (large scale)
 - short-term, processual decisions (large scale)
 - daily activities (small scale)
- » Not only **workers**, also applicable to **consumers, clients, patients, stakeholders**; not only for political, also **social, cultural, economic inclusion**
- » **Participatory democracy** (Pateman)



Organizational democracy (II): informal aspect

- Informal: **Cooperative spirit** (Flieger)
- **Practically decisive** for
 - Goal: priority of people’s needs
 - Mechanism: democracy
 - Implementation: partially replacing market

» by merging roles that market separates; e.g., housing coop: owner/tenant; worker coop: capital/labor; bank coop: lender/borrower
- **Mutually supporting practices**
 - Political inclusion (formal)
 - Socio-cultural inclusion (informal)
 - Economic inclusion (effect)

- Coop spirit, ethos = **socio-moral atmosphere**

*“[O]rganisational structure and organisational practices, in particular communication, teamwork, collective problem-solving, decision-making as well as leadership, which form **a field of socialisation** for prosocial, democratic, and moral orientations.” (Weber et al.)*

- » Operationalizing socio-cultural inclusion



Going into detail: socio-moral atmosphere

- **Socio-moral atmosphere, qualities:**
 - **Open confrontation** with problems, contradictions, conflicts
 - **Reliable/constant appreciation**, care, support
 - **Open/free communication**, particularly on the legitimacy of organizational practices
 - **Participative cooperation** to find legitimate solutions (attitude)
 - **Trust-based assignment/allocation** of responsibility for well-being of others within/outside organization
 - **Organizational respect for individual**
- Also circumscribes **strategic and communicative qualities of care**
 - transparency (open vs hidden)
 - appreciation (reliable vs unreliable)
 - reflexivity (free vs constrained)
 - problem solving (participation vs command)
 - responsibility (surveillance vs trust)
 - respect (high vs low)
- » **Analytical** qualities of relationships = of care;
normative qualities (left in brackets)

Conceptual integration: Phases of care and inclusion

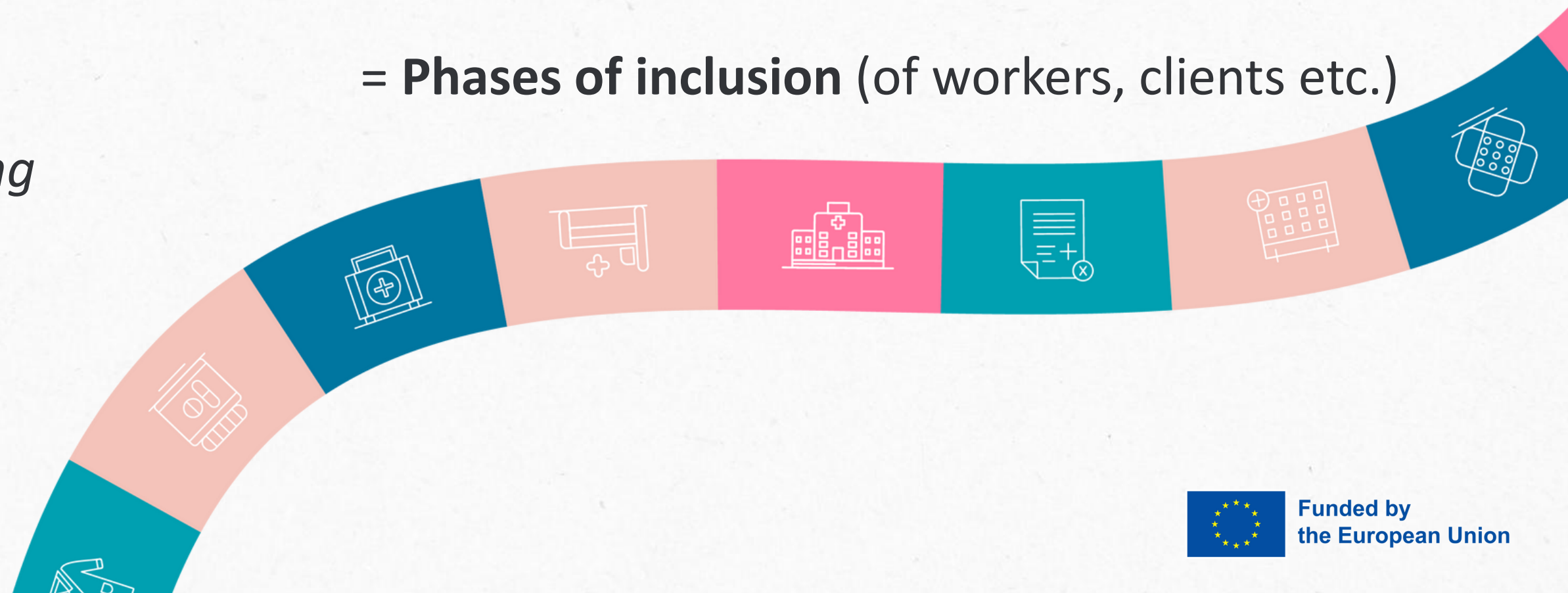
- Care: **praxis, affect, ethics/politics**

*“[A] species activity that includes everything that we do to **maintain, continue, and repair** our ‘world’ so that we can live in it as well as **possible**. That world includes our bodies, our selves, and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex, life-sustaining web” (Fisher/Tronto)*

» Care as mechanism (or meta-praxis) of **creating social relationships** in general (not necessarily equal)

- **Phases of care** (individual or group) (for colleague workers, clients etc.)
 - Caring about (need identification)
 - Caring for (taking responsibility)
 - Care-giving (work done)
 - Care-receiving (response, interpretation)
 - **Caring with** (democratic organization)

= **Phases of inclusion** (of workers, clients etc.)



Economic democracy perspective: Caring with

- **Levels** of economic democracy
 - Organizational democracy
 - Inter-organizational democracy
 - Stakeholder democracy
 - Macroeconomic democracy
 - Inter/transnational democracy

» **Spirit, structure, praxis** of negotiation of **different/antagonistic interests** on multiple levels

» **Caring with** as generic principle

» Requires/fosters **structural inclusion**

- **Examples** from care sector s.l.
 - “Organizing” strategies by trade unions
 - Care councils
 - Co-determination in (medical) universities
 - Hospital, pharmaceutical etc. coops
 - Community health organizations
 - Home care coops
 - Intergenerational housing coops

» Democratizing the economy through care?

