The top-left portion of the page features a series of thin, light-brown lines that intersect to form various irregular polygons and shapes, creating a complex, abstract geometric pattern.

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF MEETING IN THE COORDINATION OF MENTAL HEALTH NETWORKS

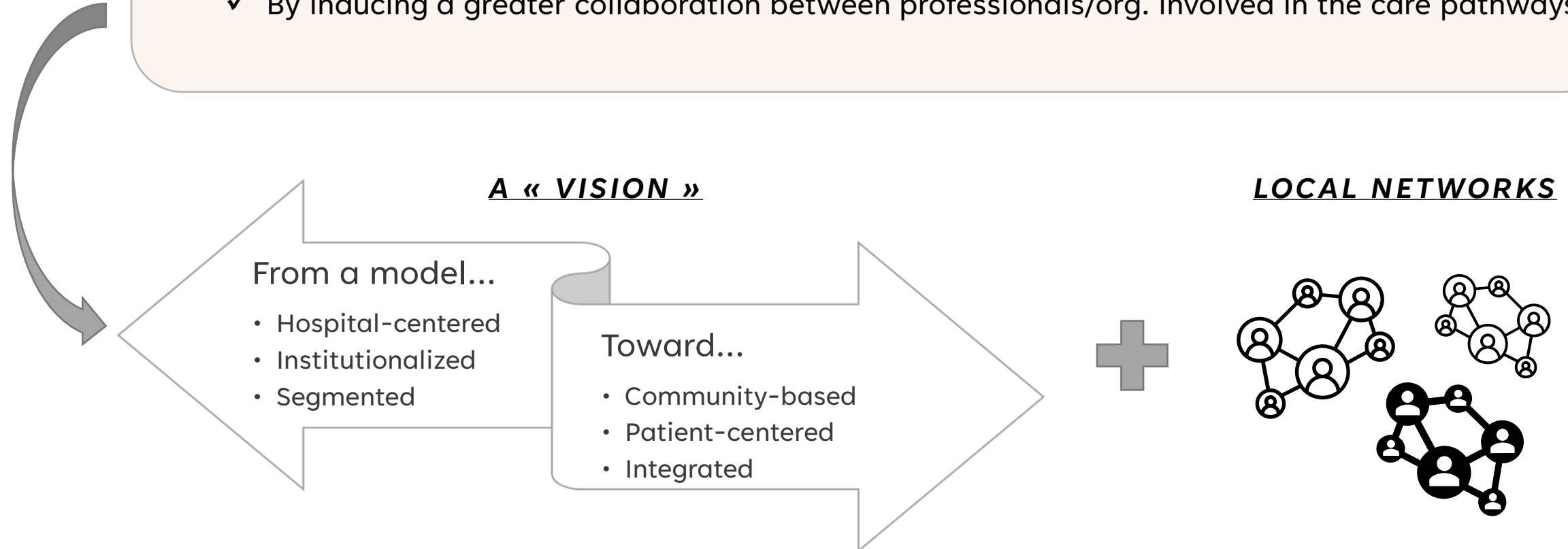
Meeting Science Symposium

Brussels 2022

ELEMENTS OF CONTEXT

- **2010's mental health policies :**

- ✓ Bring an answer to the sector fragmentation
- ✓ By inducing a greater collaboration between professionals/org. involved in the care pathways



WHY LOOKING AT NETWORK COORDINATORS?

- ✓ **New** workers in the mental health landscape
- ✓ « **Nobody knows** » → Difficulty to verbalize what the coordinators do
- ✓ **Strong** mandate but **weak** actors (no authority, no power,...)
- ✓ « Coordinators are **everywhere** »

➔ *Who are coordinators? What do they do? How is this new function taking place in the field?*

What challenges? What does it bring? ... ?

METHODS



NETWORK COORDINATORS AND MEETINGS

- Organizing and participating to meetings = one central activity of coordinators
- Many meetings:
 - Network 'strategic committee' meetings
 - Meetings with federal authorities
 - Network working group meetings
 - Meetings between coordinators
 - Meetings with a network member
 - ...



➔ *What do they do in those meetings? What is going on?*

NETWORK COORDINATORS AND MEETINGS

= WHERE THEY WORK AT THE TRANSLATION OF THE POLICY VISION

- “Making links”
 - Connecting different meetings, different ideas or ongoing discussion to discussions or events separated in time and space, or even to documents
 - Helps them to redefine the situation, recall the political vision, give direction to the interpretation of a document or of a discussion,...

= AS THEIR MAIN SOURCE OF POWER

- Create networks of events and documents = driving policy implementation

“ [...] you do have power over the ‘hows’: you manage meetings and how they turn out; you take the lead.” (one coordinator)

= AS A PLACE FOR CREATION/IMPROVISATION

- *AND they make links by improvising, selecting what pops up → Creative side of coordination*

NETWORK COORDINATORS AND MEETINGS

= WHERE THEY SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge creation is essential to networks...
 - *Policies = valorization of local and cross-sectoral knowledge as a response to the problem*
- ... but is also an issue
 - *Variety of knowledge holders, variety of knowledge types and forms*
- Coordinators are key actors in supporting this creative process
 - *Helping overcoming language ambiguity, finding complementarity, ensure collectiveness, ensure consistency, finding the right level of abstraction, ensuring its practical application*

= WHERE THEY ACCUMULATE A META-KNOWLEDGE

- Who knows what, when it can be used, everyone's perspectives, how it can be articulated, how to translate, ... → Acquired through (meeting) experience

NETWORK COORDINATORS AND MEETINGS

WHAT DOES IT TELL US?

- That coordination is way more than organizing tasks
 - It's about making links, and relations, building sense, creating, reflection, learning...
- That meeting is key for coordinators, however...
 - Mainly not conscious, at least at first (ex. Coordinators delegating meeting organization)
 - Coordinators are not trained in that direction
 - Increasing number of those meetings but those are more and more seen negatively by network members (unproductive, not practical enough...)
- ...



THANK YOU :-)