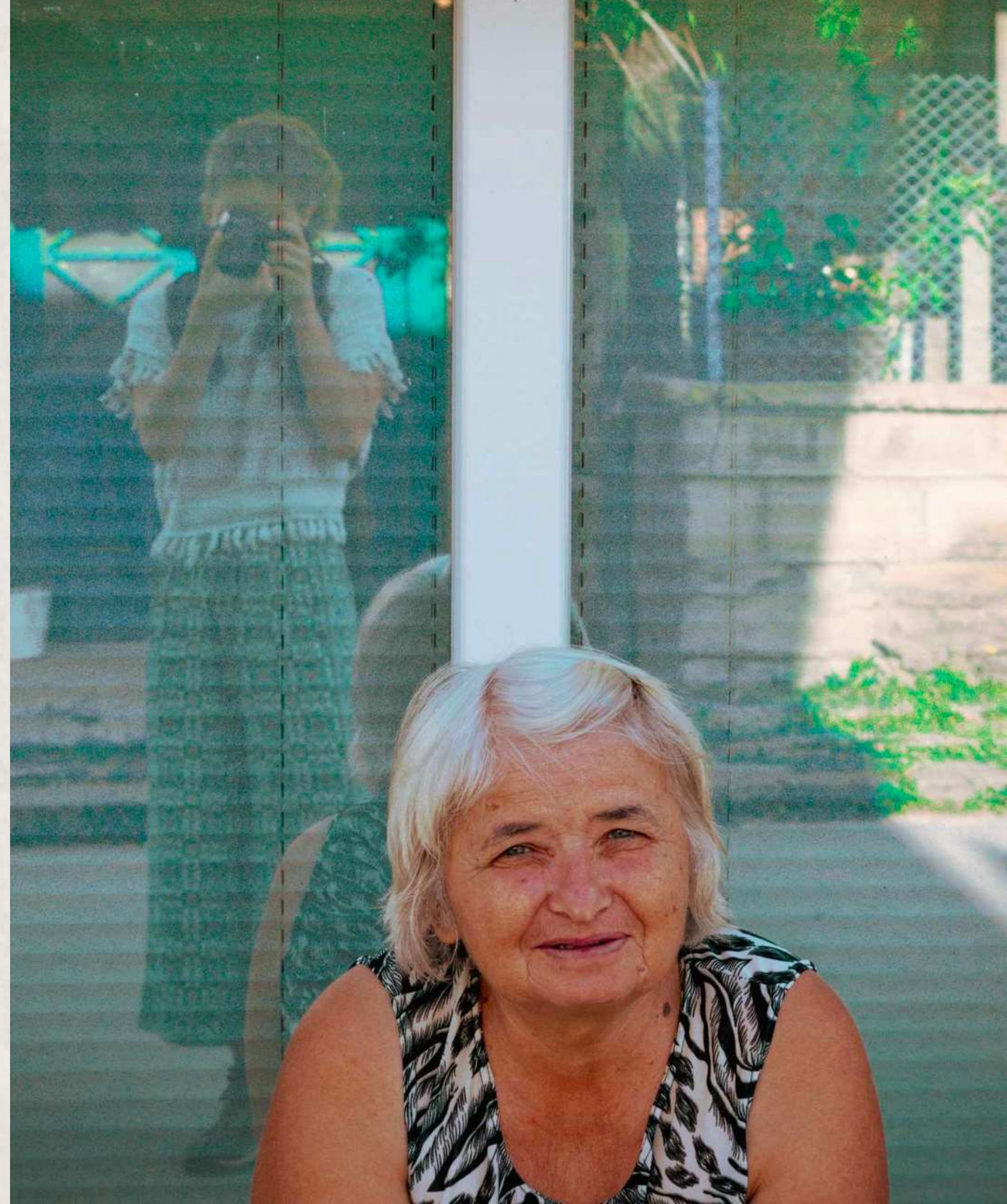
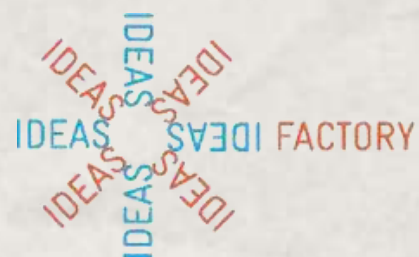


# CULT(R)URAL MEDIATION AS A LEVERAGE POINT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT





# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT BULGARIA?



LOSTBULGARIA.COM

## CHITALIShte

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRES

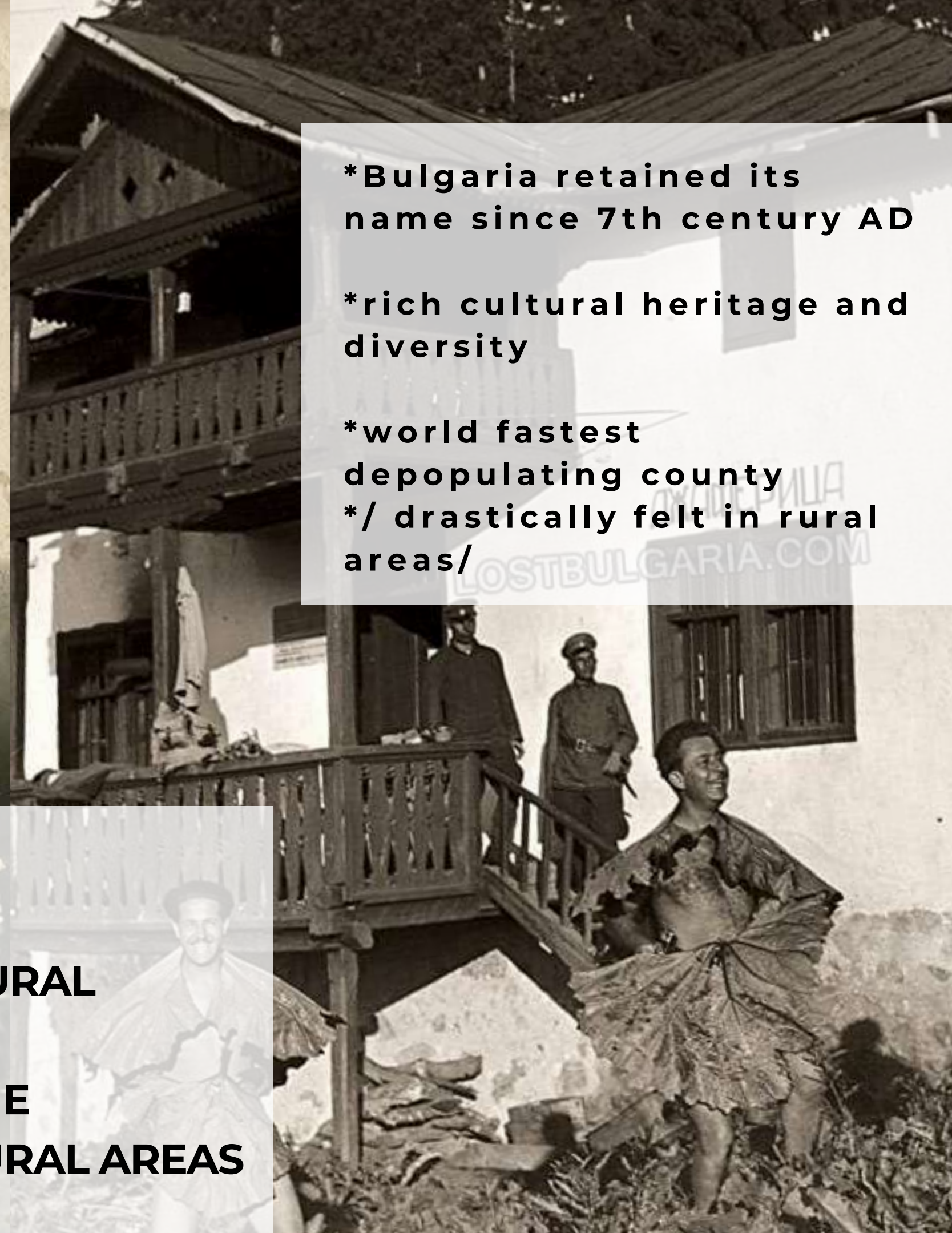
- OVER 3500 ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MAINLY IN RURAL AREAS

\*Bulgaria retained its name since 7th century AD

\*rich cultural heritage and diversity

\*world fastest depopulating country  
\*/ drastically felt in rural areas/

LOSTBULGARIA.COM







As of 2024 there are 1800 schools vs.4800 in 1989,  
CHITALISHTE buildings and infrastructure are in decay: 3500 vs 1600 active as many of those villages now have less than 10 inhabitants.  
No adequate access to services  
high economic concentration in cities amid lack of policies addressing the territorial disparities.

“Living in a village is an adventure on your own risk. “







# OBJECTIVES



**making villages livable places**



**democratization of resources**



**democratization of finances**



**supporting systems lab approach**



**complex view on territorial disparities**



**creating “human infrastructure”**



**research/develop/redesign**



# WHAT WE DO

## BABA RESIDENCY MODEL



video





**RESILIENCE IS MADE BY:  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
CROSSECTORAL  
SYSTEMS APPROACH.  
VILLAGES ARE IN A POSITION  
TO TEACH RESILIENCE TO  
URBAN YOUTH**





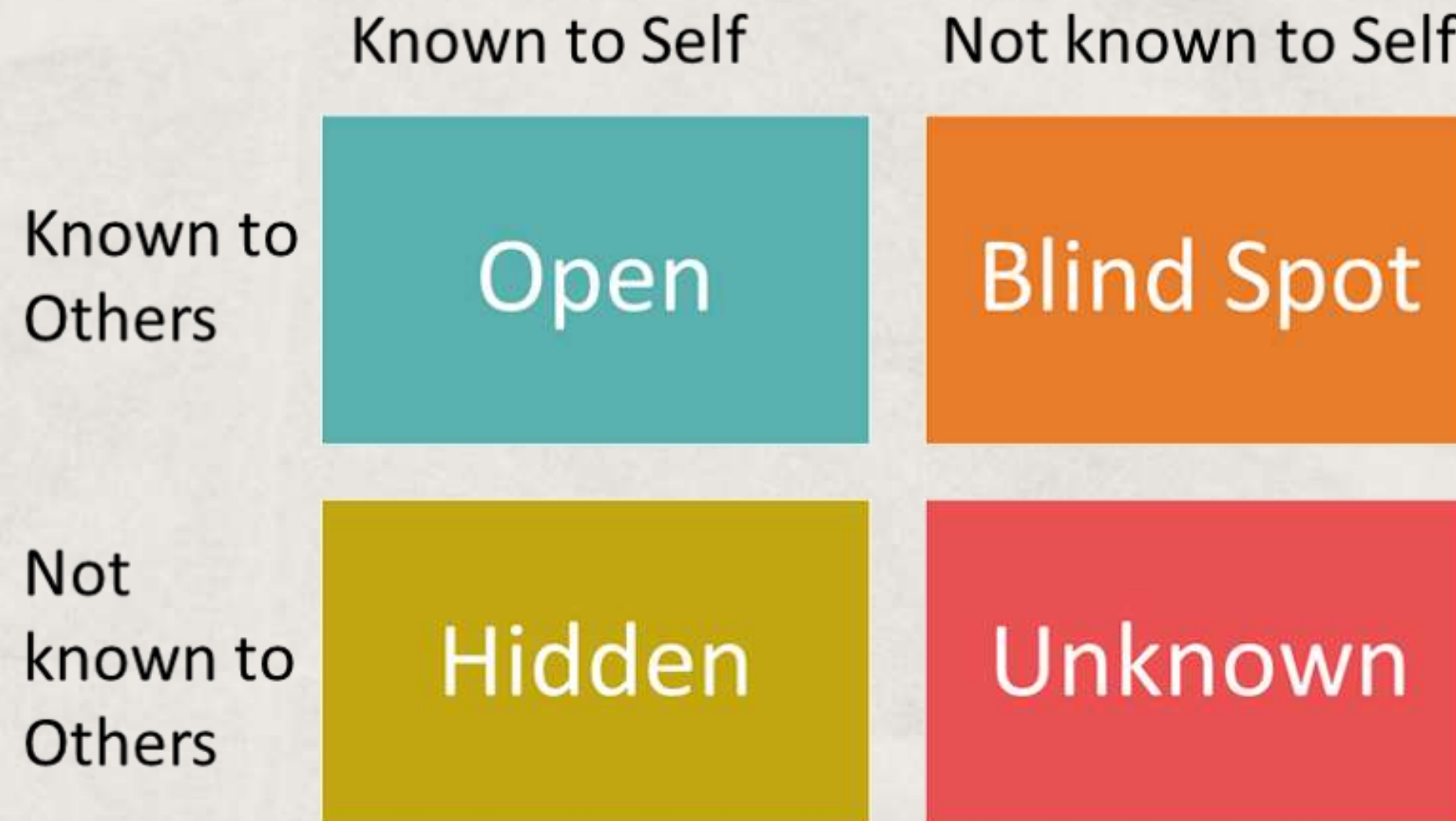
# CREATING INTERGENERATIONAL BRIDGES





# STRATEGY

## WIDENING UP THE OPEN FIELD WHILE SHRINKING THE UNKNOWN: RADICAL IMAGINATION SPACES





- **HUMAN CENTRED DESIGNED APPROACH**
- **LAB APPROACH NEEDS TIME**
- **NEVER ASSUME**
- **DON'T DO ACTIONS FROM DISTANCE FOR A COMMUNITY**
- **LACK OF COLLABORATION WITH LOCALS LEADS DO LACK OF OWNERSHIP**

# LESSONS







**CULTURE**

**LEVERAGE POINT FOR ADAPTING RURALITY**



# EXAMPLE OF 1 VILLAGE

OSLEN KRIVODOL

- BABA RESIDENCE
- REVIVAL OF A SCHOOL
- ATTRACTED NEW PERMANENT RESIDENTS







**CULTURE**

**ACUPUNCTURE POINT – CONNECTING THREAD ACROSS ALL DOMAINS**



# FUNDING AND PARTNERS

Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants

European  
Cultural  
Foundation

 **DEAR**  
DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION  
AND AWARENESS RAISING



**PRIVATE  
DONATIONS**

**CIRCE** Creative Impact  
Research Centre  
Europe



ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ  
ՔՎԱԿՄՊԱ

**TANDEM**  
**EUROPE**



Fondazione  
**CARIPLO**



NGOs, authorities , research centres,  
craftman, locals, “CHITALISHTA” ,corporations





# POLICY RECOMMENDATION

**CULTURAL  
RURAL  
MEDIATION**





**THANK YOU**