

PIAP CONTINUUM CONCEPT FOR CHANGE-MAKERS

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PIAP CONTINUUM CONCEPT FOR CHANGE-MAKERS

A transitioning framework and continuum concept of policy recommendations for decision and project makers aiming to strive change for the brighter future.

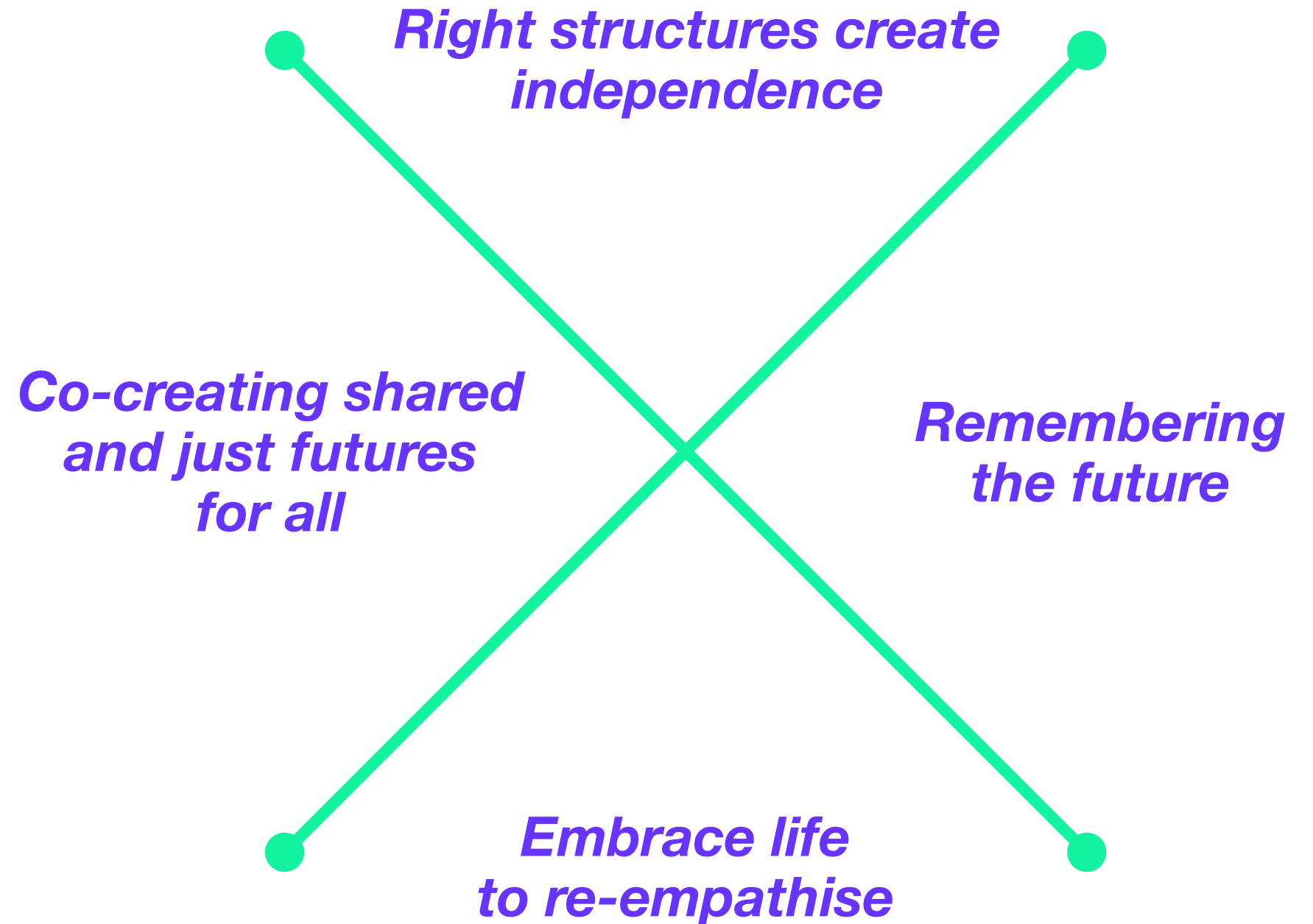
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1 About

PIAP Continuum Concept for Change-Makers is a forward-looking framework of policy recommendations designed to inspire decision-makers and project developers towards a holistically sustainable future. It invites us to think systemically—recognising the interconnected dimensions of change.

At its core, PIAP refers to a prospective impact assessment process developed within the Future DiverCities project (2023–2026). The policy recommendations presented in this manual are grounded in that process: they emerge from practice-based experimentation across FDC’s city pilots, as well as from the impact statements collaboratively generated along the way.

Future DiverCities brought together organisations with a shared ambition to reimagine culture-led regeneration of urban empty space. Across cities including Berlin, Zagreb, Liepāja, Kuopio, Marseille, Florence, Timișoara, and Athens, each pilot implemented context-specific participatory art interventions aligned with FDC’s Theory of Change—fostering inclusion and just transformation.

PIAP Continuum Concept for Change-Makers responds to the need to strengthen the systemic capacity of change-makers in urban cultural regeneration, while embedding eco-social considerations at the heart of development strategies.



2 PIAP Continuum Concept for Change-Makers

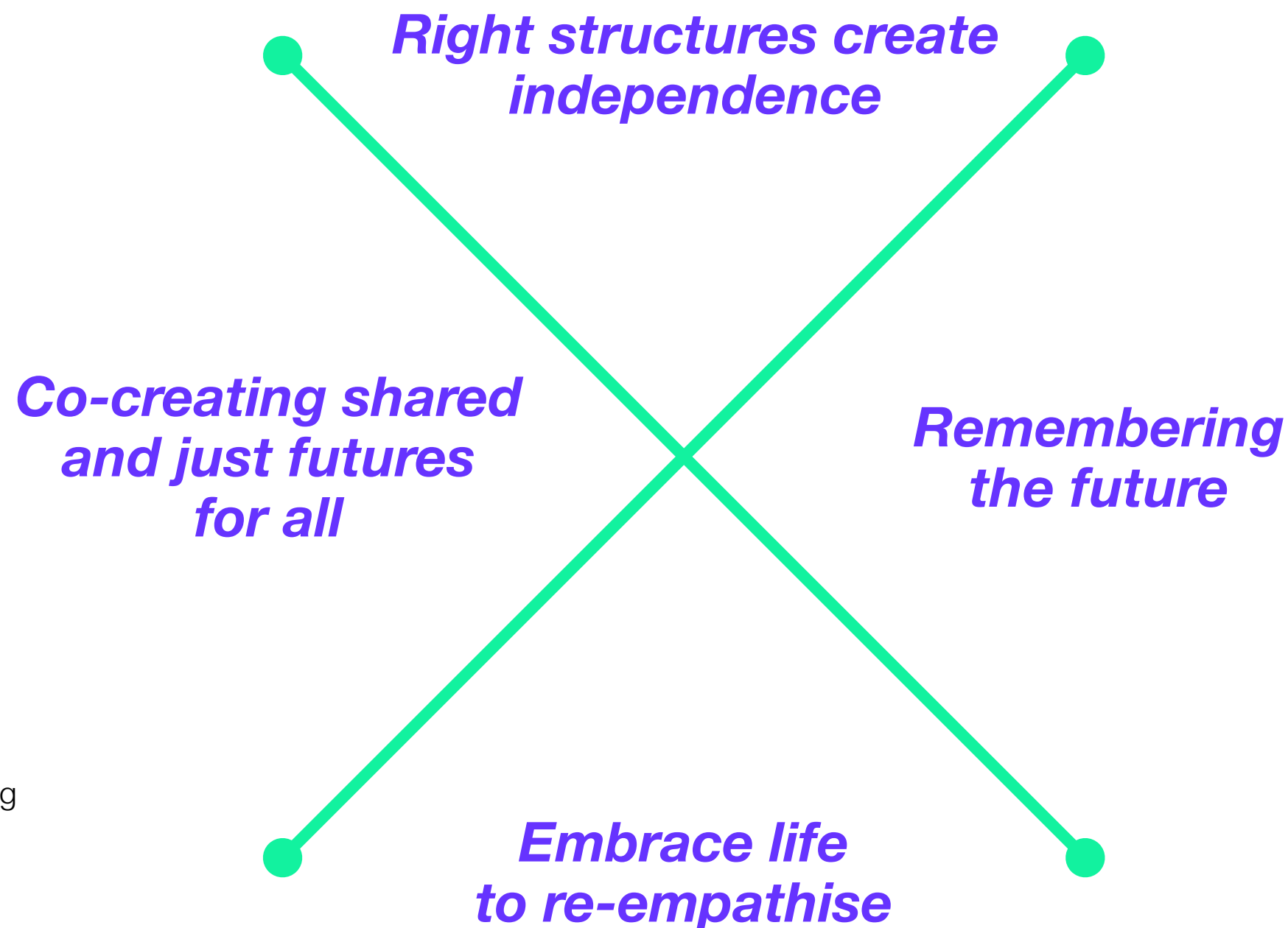
The four PIAP Continuum themes for change-making as policy recommendations are:

- Right structure create independence*
- Remembering the future*
- Embrace life to re-empathise*
- Co-creating shared and just futures for all*

On the following pages (6–9), a summary of the key ideas for each concept is presented. The descriptions outline the intended values each concept seeks to deliver. The key features identify factors that should be considered when designing policies and guiding actions for common good.

Guiding questions are provided to support development and decision-making processes by encouraging reflection and steering actions towards eco-social and holistic sustainability.

In an ideal situation, all four themes occur simultaneously and influence one another.



PIAP Continuum

Right structures create independence

Concept Description

This concept engages with the idea of independent agency, in which autonomy is framed as the capacity to act meaningfully, responsibly, and creatively within cultural relationships at both individual and community levels. It recognises artists and the wider creative sector as empowered actors in testing new ideas and generating meaning.

Supporting one's own agency, strengthening socially resilient decision-making, and enabling participatory engagement are central to this approach. It also encourages systemic value creation beyond financial or reputational considerations. Together, these elements help build the conditions in which independent, confident, and sustainable action can emerge for the common good.

How might we

— support traditional organisations in adopting activism for hope and pursuing ambitious impacts for a brighter future?

— enable different actors to effectively support intra-community organisation and development?

— use community and art pedagogy to facilitate sustainable activity?

The key features

Create and facilitate structures that enable independent action and a supportive working environment, fostering proactive engagement for both individuals and communities.

Ensure that actions deliver meaningful benefits to all stakeholders—communities, local authorities, and society at large—contributing to the common good.

Support the continuity and sustainability of autonomous activity, both socially and financially.

Internalise responsibility and the capacity to influence in contributing to eco-social change contributing to eco-societal change.

PIAP Continuum

Remembering the future

Concept Description

This concept emphasises envisioning and collectively shaping a hopeful future for both communities and society.

It encourages care, inclusion, and the principle of leaving no one behind—making the future tangible in the present and bringing future-oriented belief and hope into current action.

It also highlights the importance of seeing and feeling the future in the present, for example through local heritage.

The key features

Explore authenticity in producing transformative future scenarios to guide decisions.

Create a shared narrative that ensures continuity in collaboration with communities, art, and education.

Foster future-oriented agency by overcoming constraints and internalising a proactive, forward-looking mindset.

How might we

—foster a sense of belonging to the community and ownership of a collective bright future for all?

—enhance the capacity and opportunities of young generations to shape their futures?

—support resilience and future-making capacity by strengthening traditions and local heritage?

PIAP Continuum

Embrace life to re-empathise

Concept Description

This concept fosters shared, embodied experiences and experiential learning, strengthening holistic community empathy, making abstract phenomena tangible, and generating new perspectives to guide reflective action for the planet.

It highlights three key dimensions:

- sharing experientiality as a driver for change, “re-scripting” perceptions of the world,
- embracing holistic communal empathy toward one’s own sphere of life and
- making abstract phenomena tangible through embodied, co-located experience.

How might we

—cultivate a holistic, situational, and empathetic way of relating to the world?

—ensure the legal rights of nature, both living and non-living?

—use the capacity of art and the creative sectors as a key driving force for change through experiential practices?

Together, these elements encourage individuals and communities to engage deeply with their environment, broaden understanding, and translate empathy into meaningful, reflective action.

The key features

Internalise the systemics of life-sustaining factors.

Foster nature empathy and sociality through experiential engagement and care practices between humans and other living beings.

Embrace interdisciplinarity and the productive disruption introduced by external actors.

PIAP Continuum

Co-creating shared and just futures for all

Concept Description

This concept advances participatory practices as an essential collective process for creating shared meanings. It positions art and the creative industry as a social business grounded in inclusive, multi-perspective, and interdependent models of action that foster new connections and shared, just outcomes for all.

Participatory art and creative practices are shared processes, where empathy for all living and non-living beings emerges as a bodily experience.

Key dimensions include:

- Positioning participatory art and creative practices as

essential collective processes

- Emphasising interdependent models of action that promote responsibility and shared value creation
- Framing art and the creative industry as a social business opportunity

The key features

Internalise an understanding of what is needed more—and less—for the common good.

Foster dialogue and multi-perspective collaboration, integrating responsible communication and storytelling, while also strengthening social and emotional skills.

Develop and experiment with new concepts and models through creative methods.

How might we

—ensure moderate and eco-socially sustainable consumption across all activities?

—strengthen social business models as drivers for resilience and prosperity?

—develop the capacity to integrate emotions and shared experiences into sustainable decision-making?

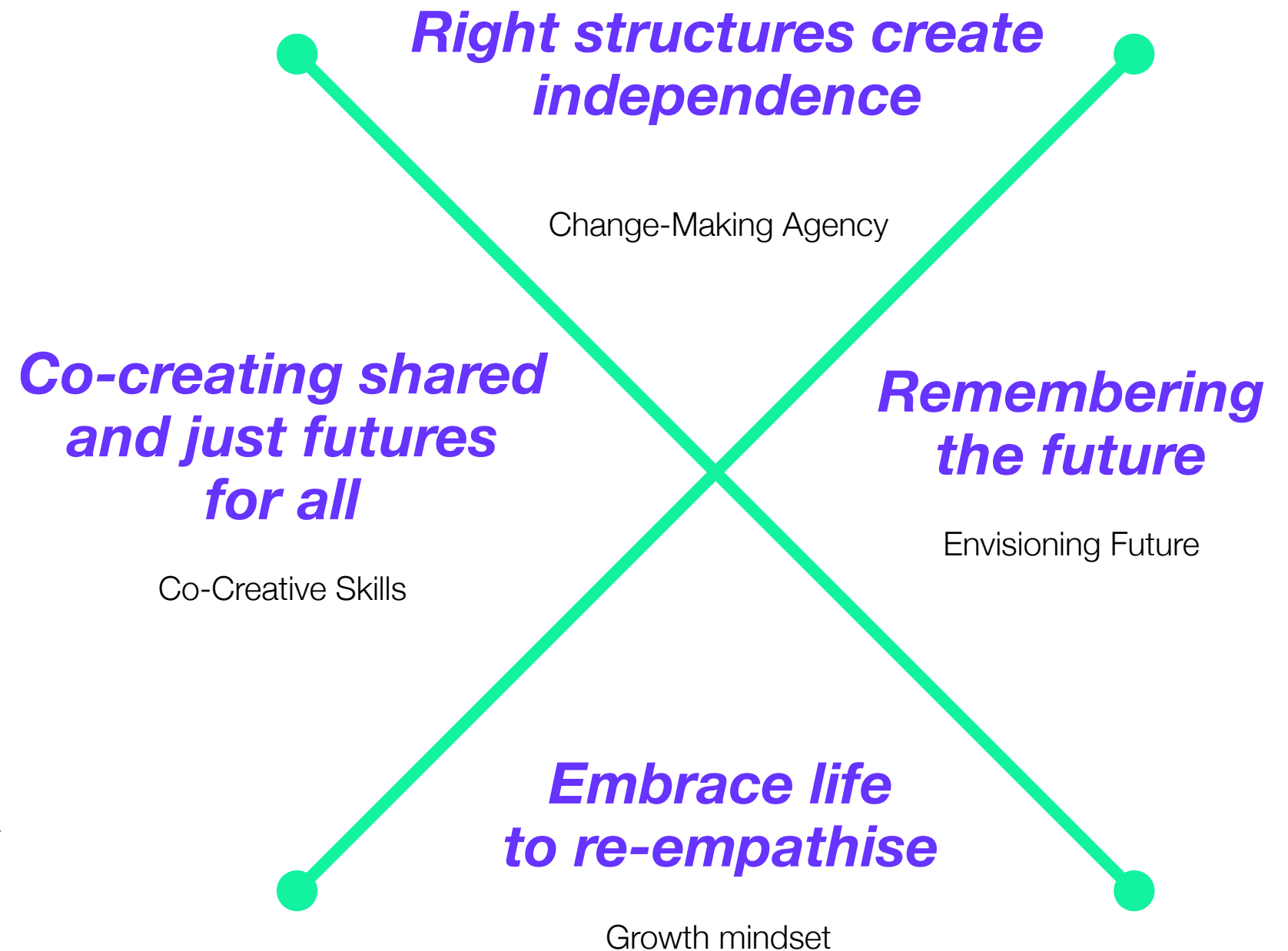
4 Background

The *PIAP Continuum Concept* is a transitioning framework and continuum of policy recommendations designed to support decision-makers and project leaders in striving for change towards a brighter, more sustainable world. At its core, it advances **change-making agency**—the capacity to act, reflect, and transform within complex and interconnected systems.

Rooted in a transformative learning framework, the concept recognises that shaping shared and just futures requires for new ways of seeing, feeling, and relating to the world. It invites change-makers to expand their perspectives, embrace complexity, and engage with change as an ongoing, reflective process.

In line with the New European Bauhaus, the PIAP Continuum Concept adopts a transdisciplinary approach, integrating eco-social education and transition design. It emphasises that sustainable development depends on a deep, holistic, and systemic understanding, alongside a fundamental shift in human thinking.

Transformation begins when we learn to *see and feel differently*—through experiential and embodied knowledge. The concept places culture, creativity, and shared knowledge at the heart of meaningful change—enabling pathways towards more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable futures.



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