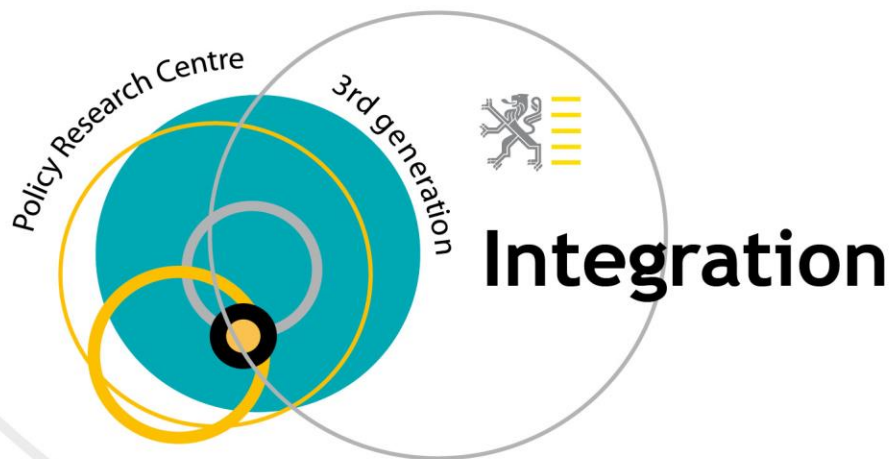


The role of Roma selforganizations in societal integration processes

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*3rd Ruppin International Conference on
Immigration and Social Integration*

*Ruppin Academic Center, Israel
May 19 - May 20, 2014*

Hypothesis

- RSOs provide the context (networks) wherein the development and exchange of social capital can take place
- RSOs can play a role as a partner for local governments working on Roma integration

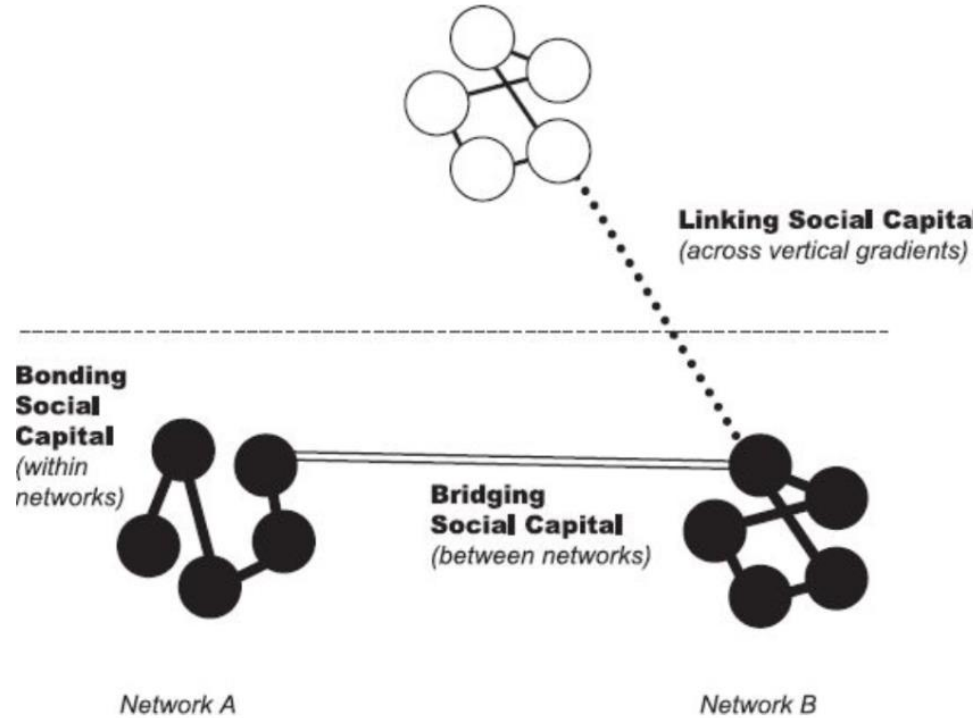
Objectives, design & methodology

- Objectives
 - Analyse the network structure of RSOs
 - Analyse if/how these networks facilitate the development and exchange of social capital
 - Analyse how partnerships with local governments could be developed or identified.
- Research design
 - Networks, activities and political aspirations
- Methodology

THEORETICAL CONCEPTS - LITERATURE



Government representative,
nongovernmental organization (NGO),
or authority figure



Social Capital (bonding, bridging, linking)

Coleman (1990), Lin (2001), Narayan (1999), Putnam (1993, 1995),
Woolcock (1998)

Migrant selforganizations

➔ Complementary to society

- Closer to target groups and alternative for regular social services [see Odmalm (2004)]
- Mediator: *shield vs adaptation support system* [see Albuquerque et. al. (2001), Marquez (2001), Sardinha (2009)]
- Political representative
- Indicator of identity [see Schrover & Vermeulen (2005)]

➔ BB&L SOCIAL CAPITAL



The importance of the Political Opportunity Structure (POS)

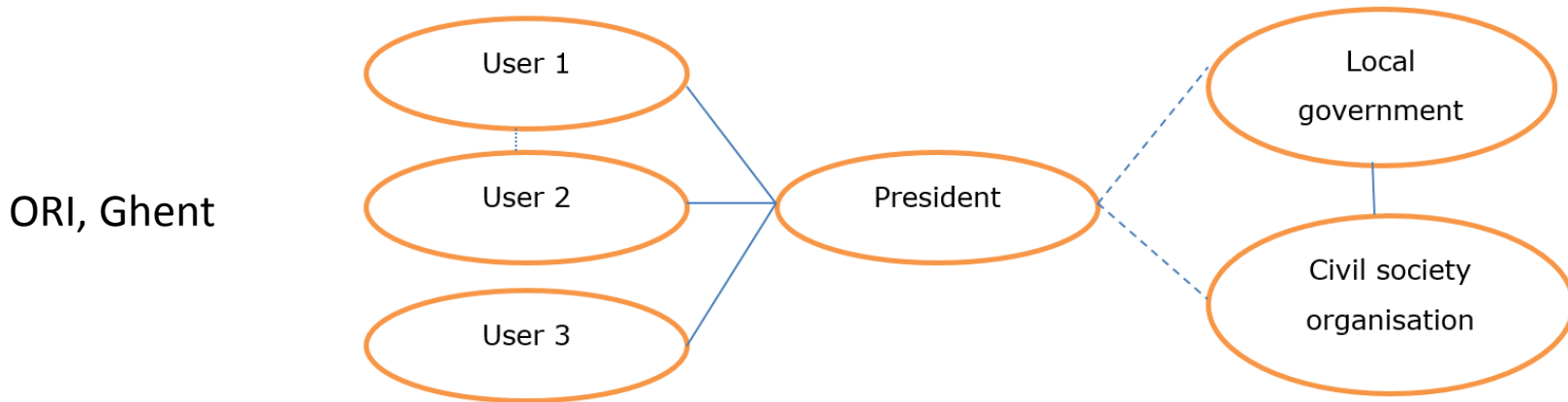
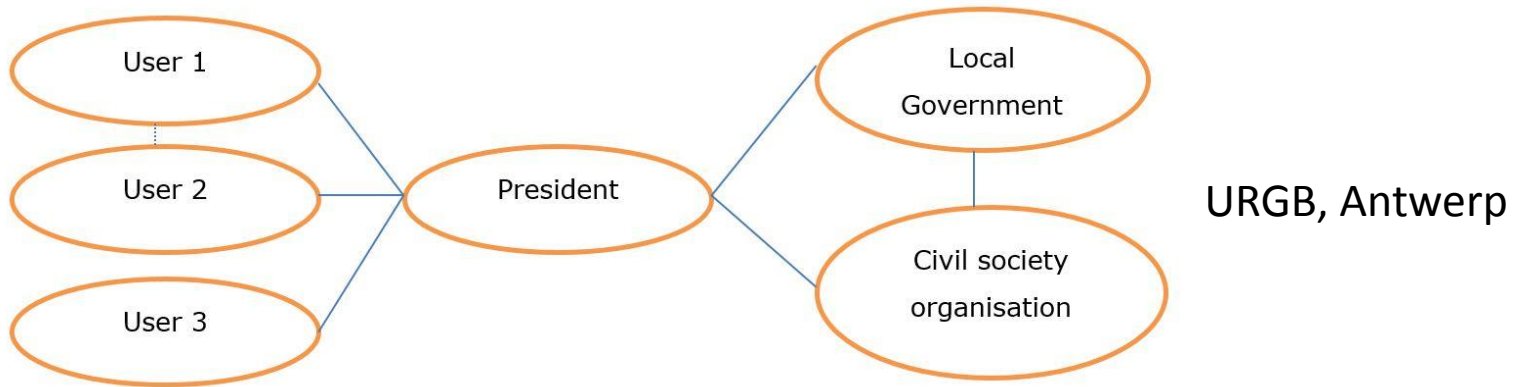
- Activity of MSOs is context dependent:
 - Social, political, cultural religious needs of target groups in diaspora
 - Opportunities and thresholds created by governments
 - Impact of subsidies
 - Access of MSOs to political arena



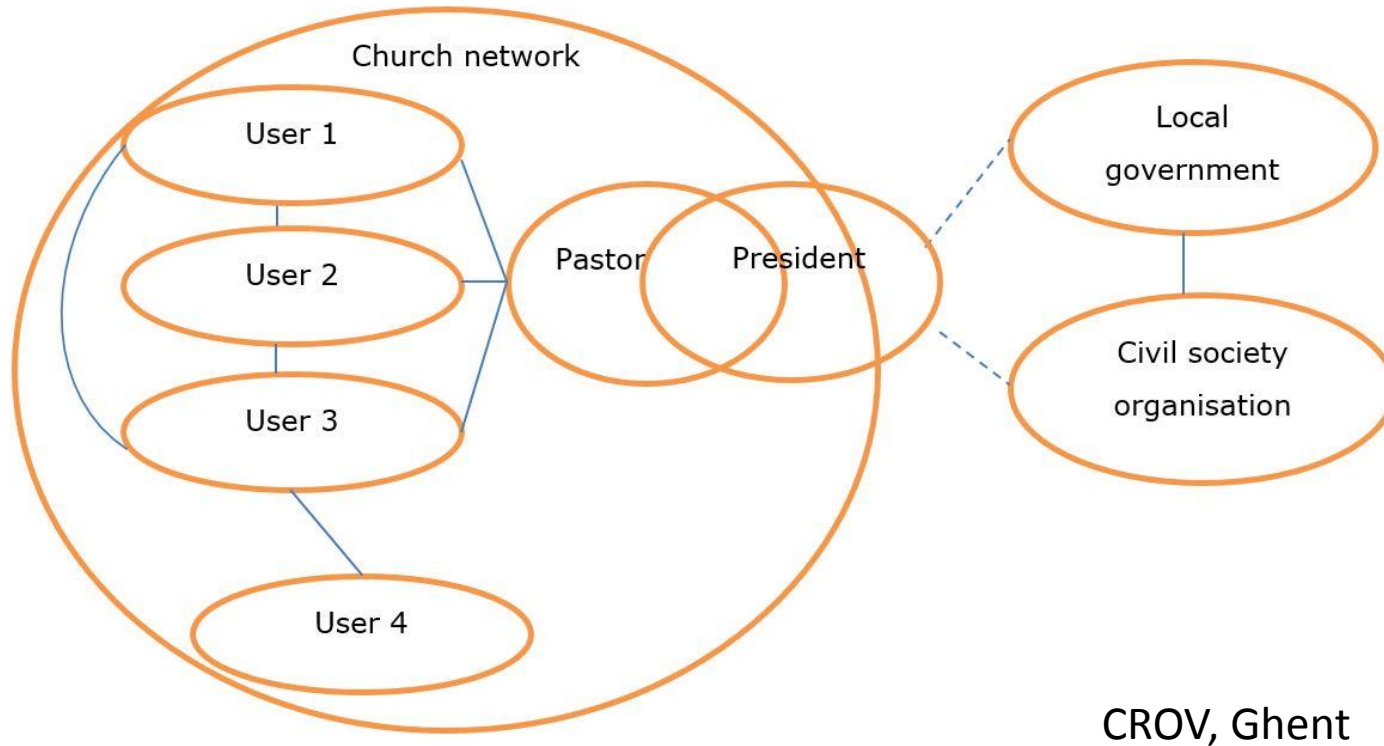
RESULTS



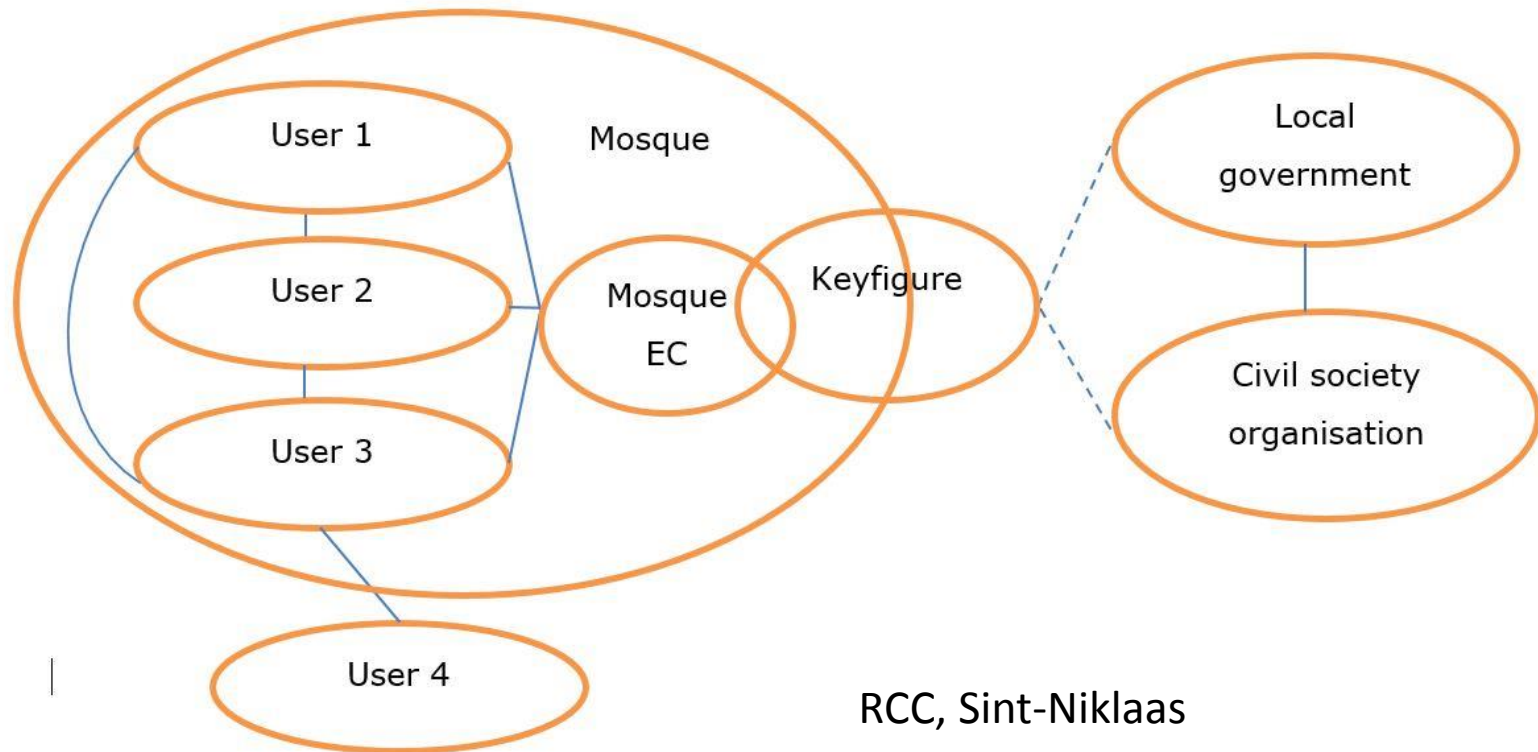
'one-man'-organisations (1/2)



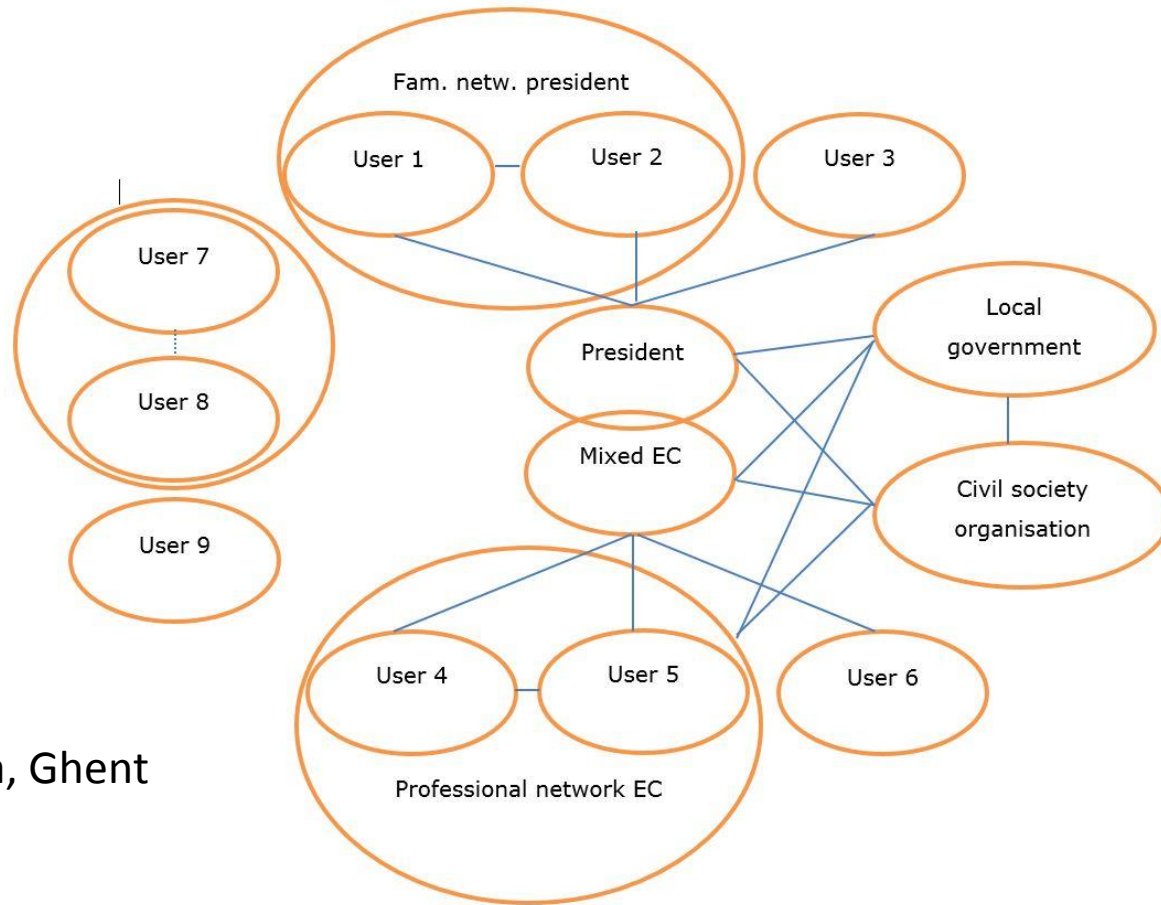
'one-man'-organisations (2/2)



'one-clan'-organisation

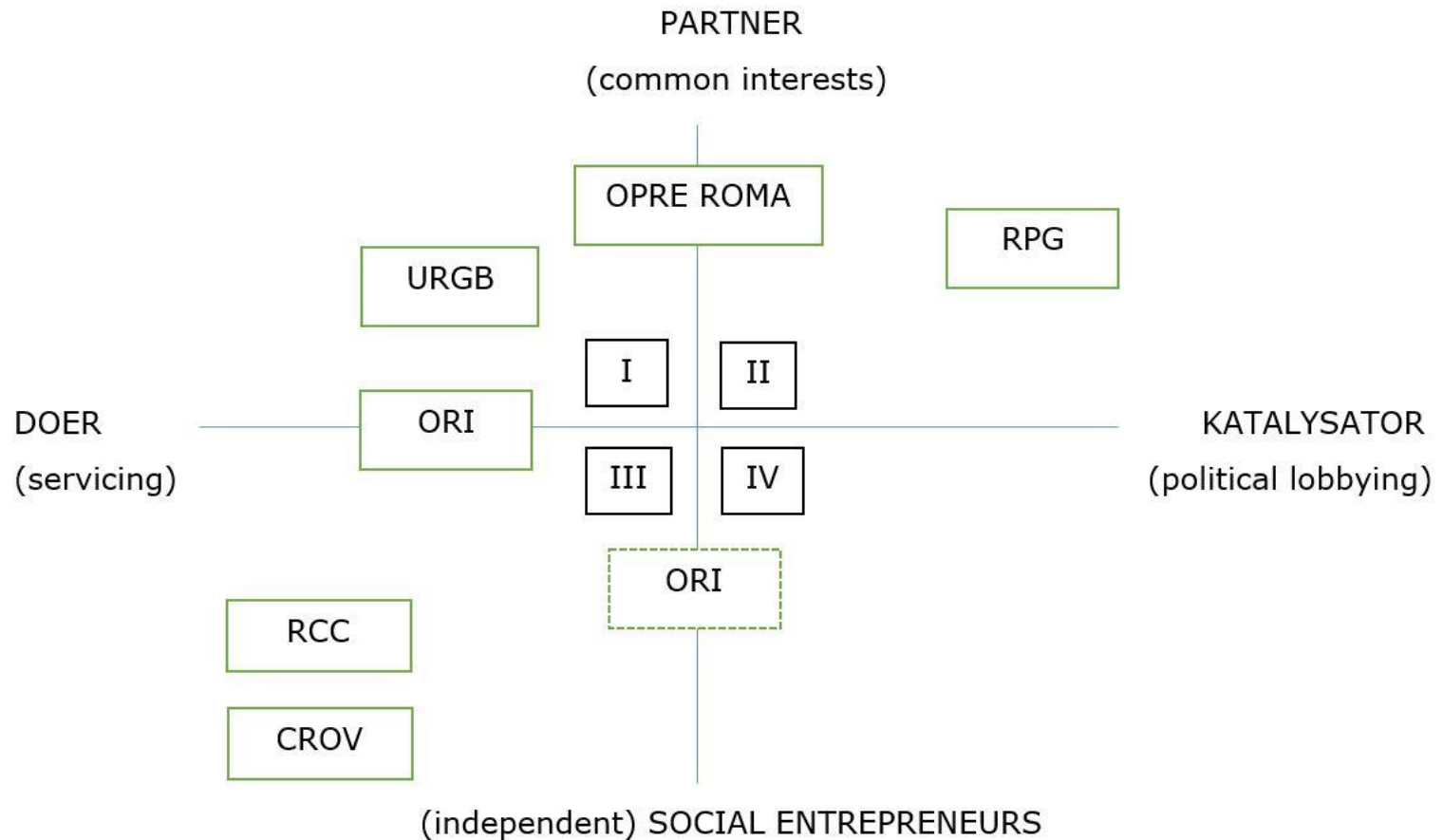


ethnically mixed organisation



Opre Roma, Ghent

A theoretical classification of RSOs



Based on Korten (1990), Lewis & Kanji (2009), Michielsen (2012)

CONCLUSIONS



Conclusions (1/2)

- RSOs have distinct profiles, but in general:
 - importance of the president
 - impact of an ethnically mixed EC (!! capabilities!)
 - influence of network hubs (brokers & (!) gatekeepers)
 - importance of POS
 - mostly service providers: indicates a societal need
 - not all RSOs look for partnerships
- For local policy makers: be aware of this diversity and potential pitfalls!

Conclusions (2/2)

- RSOs provide the context wherein the development and exchange of social capital can take place.
- Depending on the role RSOs take on in relation to their member communities (DOERS-KATALYSATORS) and to other societal actors (PARTNERS-INDEP. ENTREPRENEURS), they generate B,B and/or L social capital.

THANK YOU!

