

IMPROVING FOSTER CARE PRACTICE FROM RESEARCH: CONSIDERING ALL POINTS OF VIEW THROUGH COOPERATIVE ACTION RESEARCH

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GRISIJ

Grup de Recerca en Intervencions Socioeducatives
en la Infància i la Joventut



UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



Universitat de Lleida

AXES of GRISIJ research



Cooperative Action Research



**Ecological approach: considering different systems
(points of view and levels)**



**Complementary methods: qualitative and
quantitative**

COOPERATIVE ACTION RESEARCH



- Study of the situation changes the situation itself
- Research process is a powerful tool for change
- Care workers actively involved in the research

PRINCIPLES of GRISIJ research

CONTEXT

ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

AWARENESS AND PRACTICE



**DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF
FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
FOR FAMILIES AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

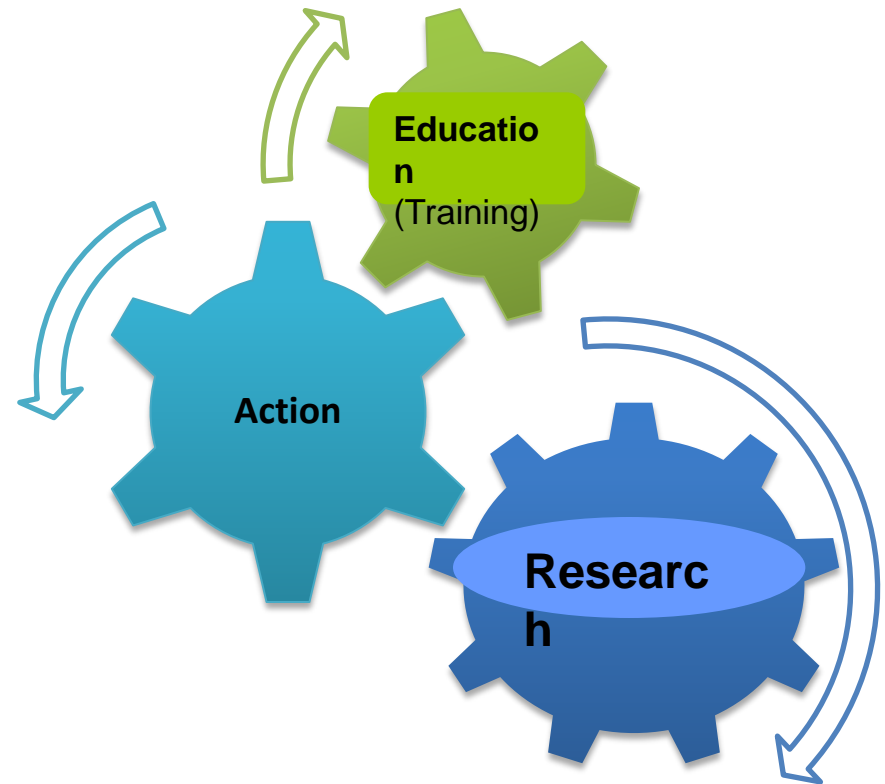
AIMS of GRISIJ research

A) Contribute to the generation of knowledge

B) Improve the professional development of the research participants

- Social partners
- Professionals
- Families
- Adolescents

C) Build family education proposals with stakeholders



METHODOLOGY: 4 phases



PHASE A- Background research for overview of the problem

PHASE B-On the scene

Bibliographic compilation

Selection and evaluation of collected information

Involvement of politicians and professionals

Establishing agreements

Generate Family Education Programme adapted to the target population.

Development of activities, dynamics and materials

Transformation of training needs into objectives and content

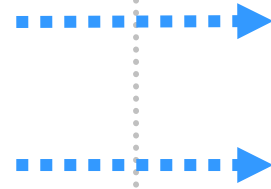
Development of focus groups: professionals, families and children and adolescents

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Content analysis: codes and categories

PHASE D-Interpretation of data and dissemination

PHASE C- Analysis of training needs



POINTS of VIEW and DIMENSIONS



Foster care
families

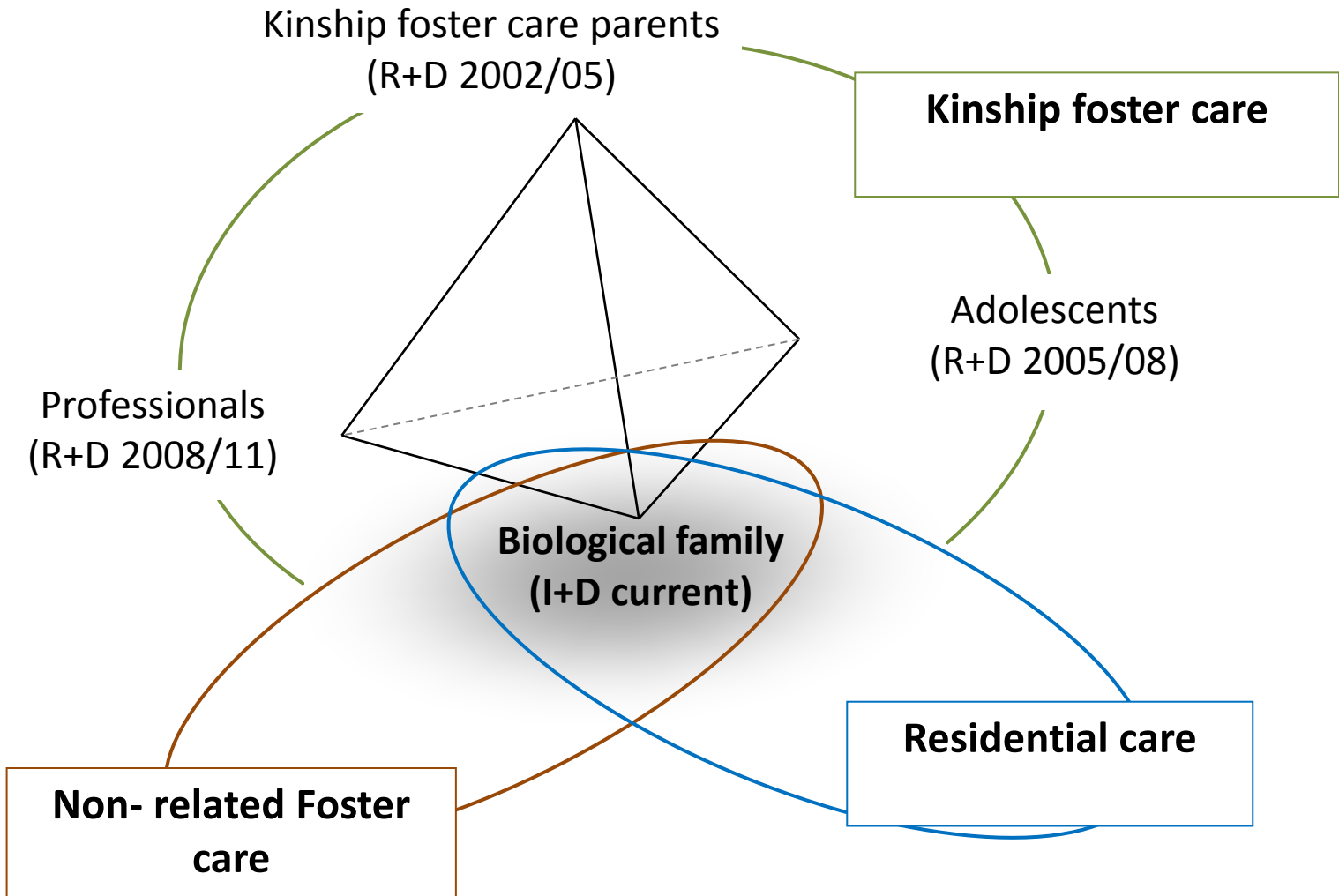
Multidimensional
cognitive, emotional and
behavioral

Youth in
foster care

Distinct sources

Biological
family

PREVIOUS and CURRENT research



AIMS of PREVIOUS research

Project R+D 2002-05: *Kinship foster care: a social challenge*

- Recognize the specific training needs of the kinship foster families.
- Develop a training program to address kinship foster families and meet their needs.

Project R+D 2005-08: *From the perspective of adolescents*

- Recognize the socio educational needs of these adolescents.
- Contribute to the implementation of group intervention methodologies as a way to improve the quality of foster care.

Project R+D 2009-11: *Factors of resilience in foster families*

- Identify the factors of resilience of kinship foster families.
- Contribute to the consolidation of a new professional model which includes the support group program to kinship foster care families.

AIMS of CURRENT research

1. **Identify the specific needs of families and children** when the children are separated from their parents as a measure of CHILD PROTECTION from the **point of view of families, children and professionals**.
2. **Analyze the personal, family and social** situation of families where children are under child protection and have been temporarily separated from their parents and placed in foster care or residential care.
3. **Develop a support program** for the **biological families and their children** under temporary child protection measure (foster care or residential) to promote the **development of parental skills** and **encourage resilience** of all family members.

PARTICIPANTS of CURRENT research

Professionals: 63

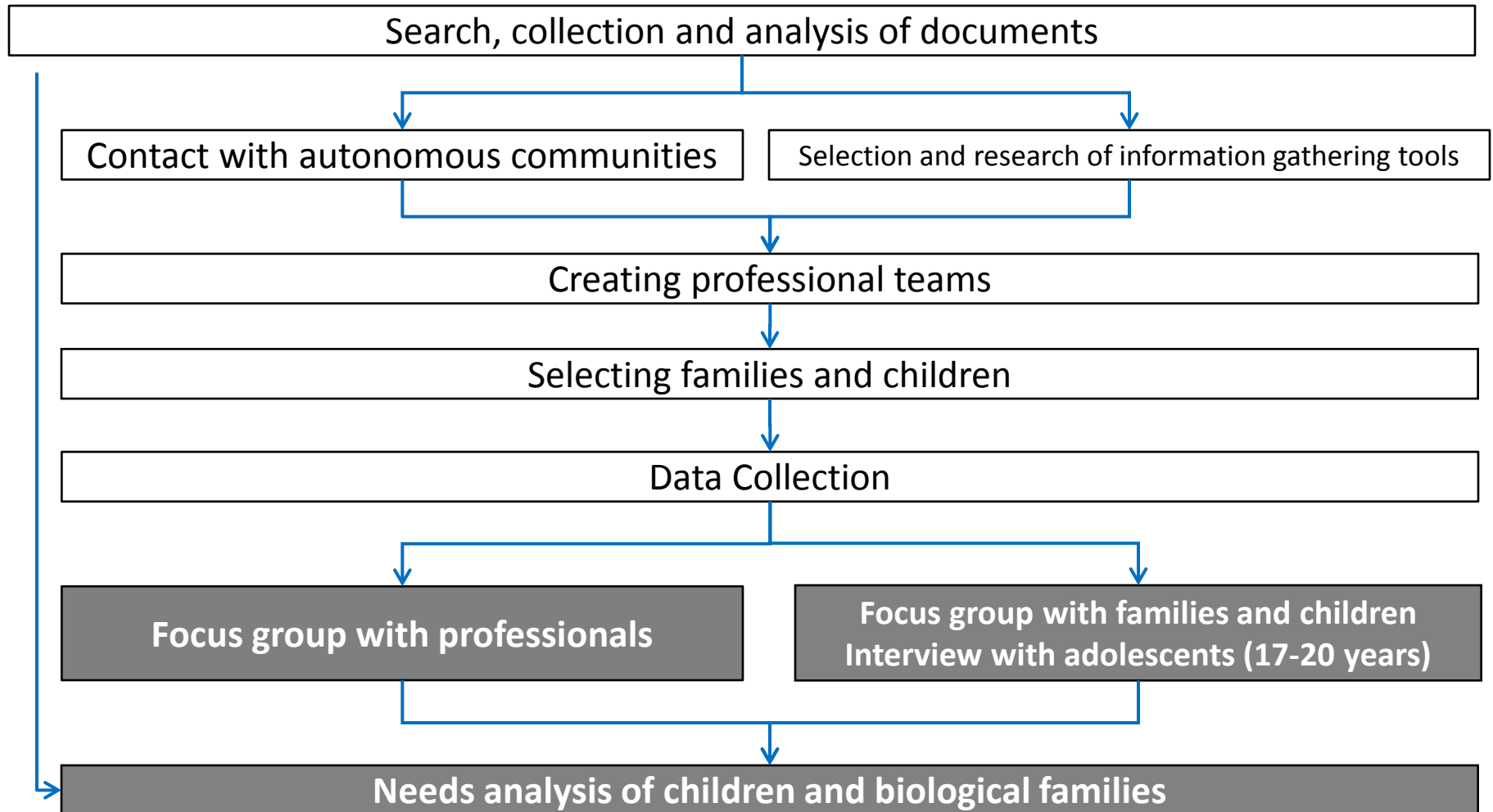
Families: 39

Children: 28



METHODOLOGY of CURRENT research

INITIAL PHASE – Identification and Understanding the needs



METHODOLOGY of CURRENT research

DEVELOPMENT PHASE – Designing the program

Search, collection and analysis of documents

Needs transformation in aims and contents

Definition of themes and theoretical justification of contents

Professionals reflect and propose activities
Agreement on changes of activities

Consider the proposed activities of GRISIJ team
Suggesting activities by GRISIJ team

Proposal of Program

General development of the program

Creation of materials and resources

METHODOLOGY of CURRENT research

FINAL PHASE – Producing the program

Search, collection and analysis of documents

Establishing guidelines for data collection

Agreement about the trial phase of the program

Trial phase program

Adapting the program after the trial phase

Definitive version of the program



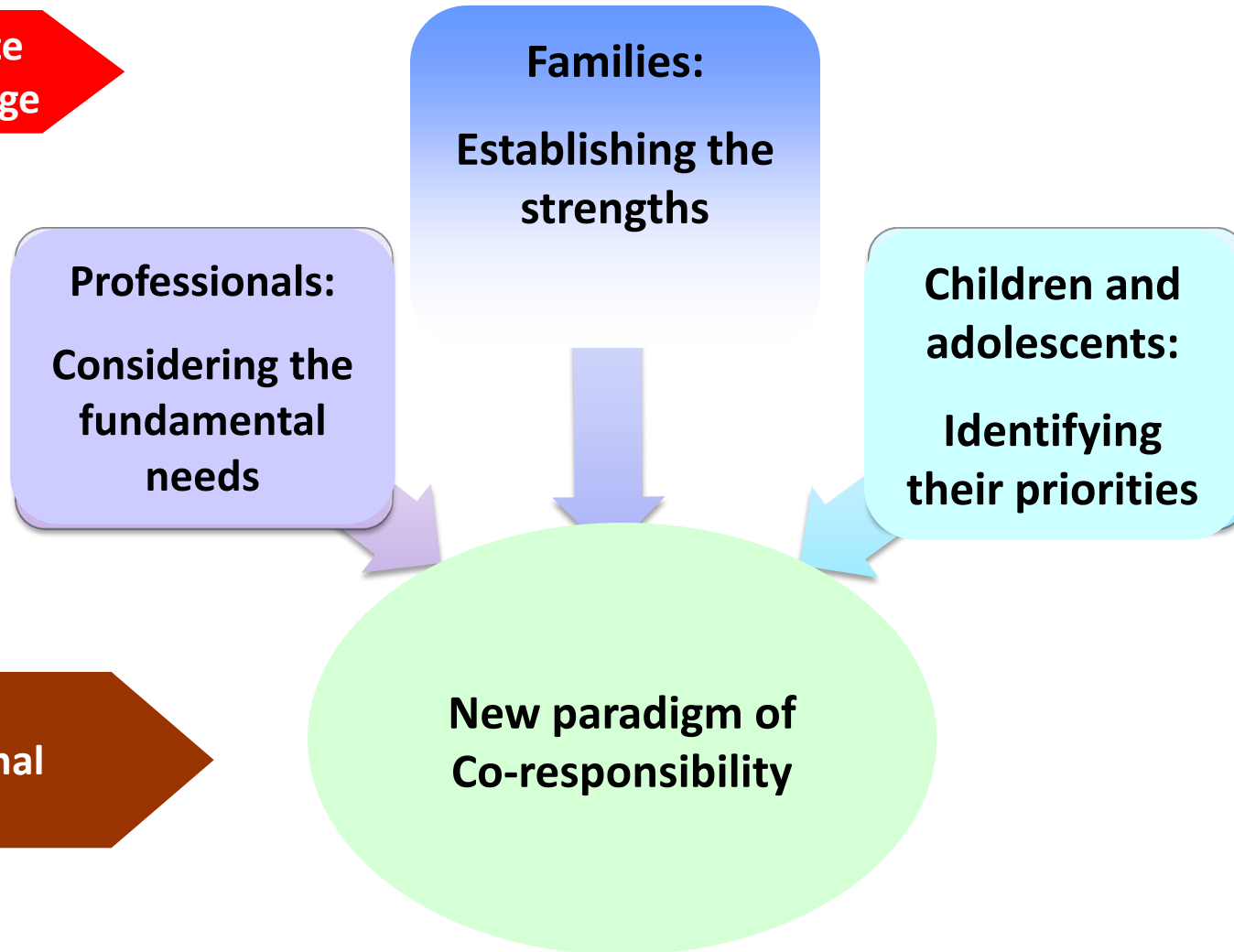
BENEFITS of GRISIJ research



BENEFITS of GRISIJ research



**Generate
Knowledge**



**Improve
professional
practice**

BENEFITS of complementary methods

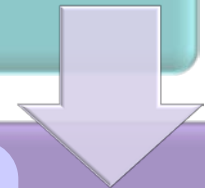


The quantitative methods

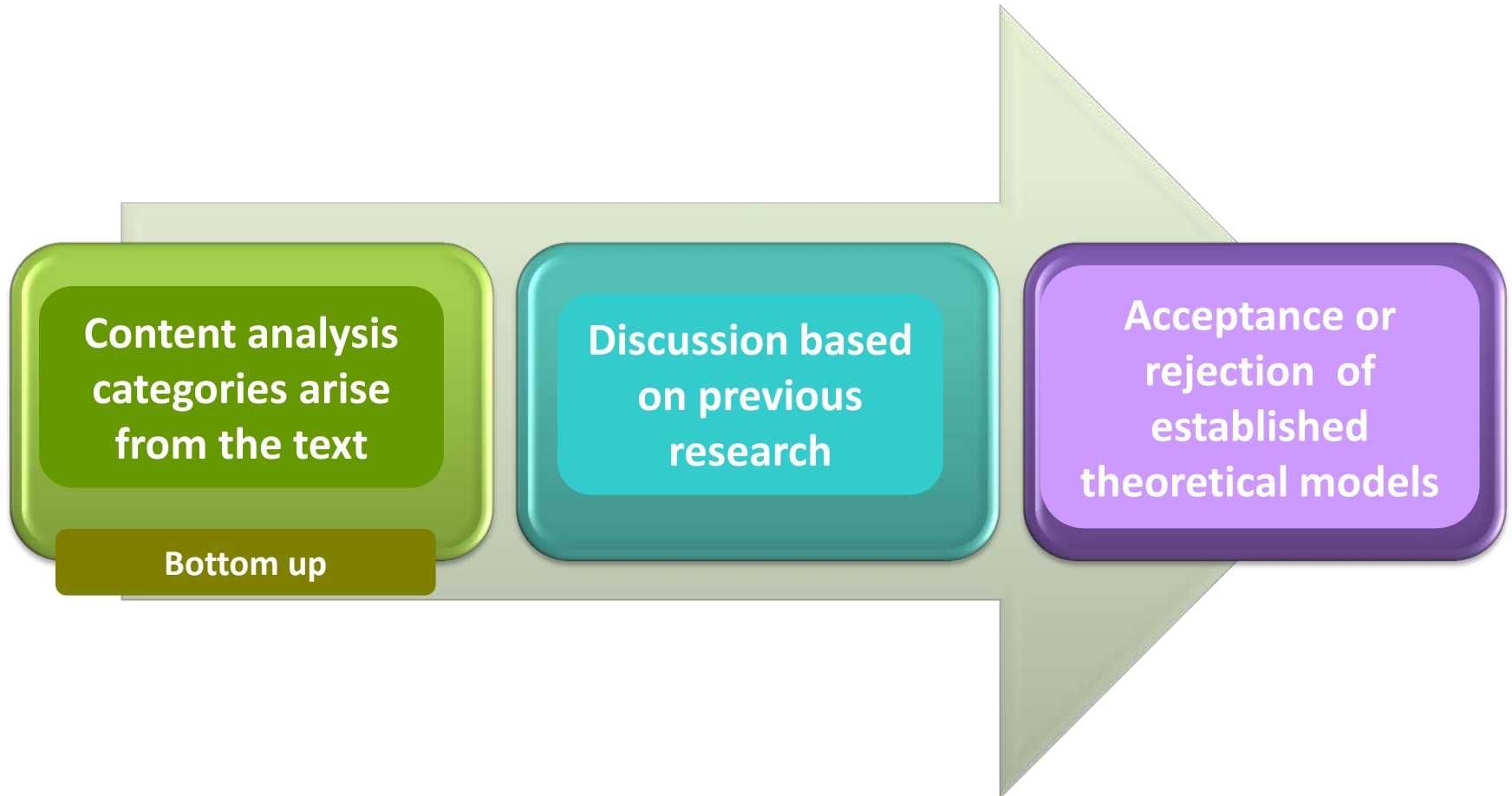
The qualitative methods

Gathering individuals subjective points of view

Encouraging reflection and awareness



BENEFITS of Content Analysis



LIMITATIONS of GRISIJ research



Thank you very much
Hvala

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