

LINKING RESIDENTS, SCHOOL CHILDREN AND LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS IN A STREET SPACE REDESIGN PROCESS IN BERLIN, GERMANY: CONTRADICTING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL GAINS

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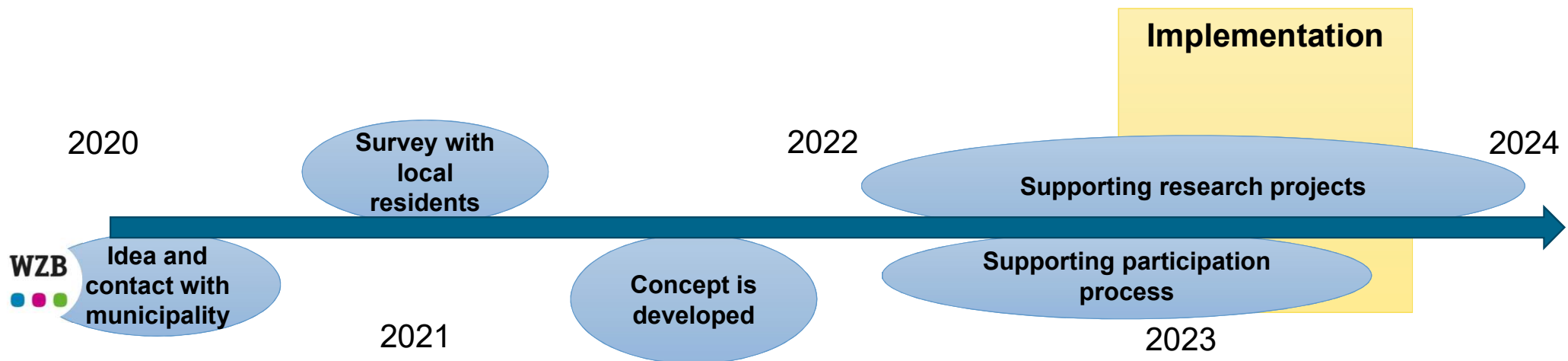
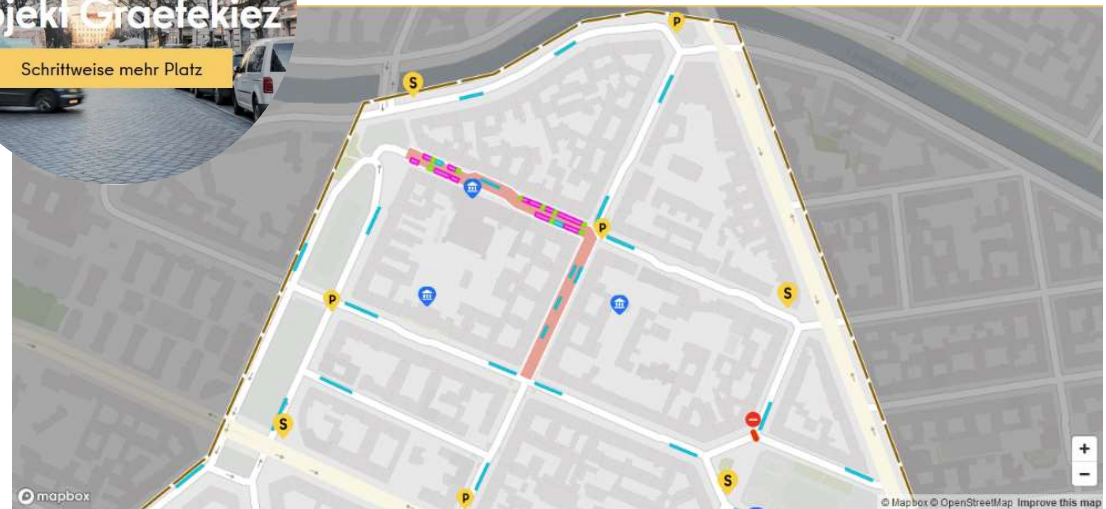


Project Background



Street space redesign project: Graefekiez, Berlin

- Inner-city district of Berlin
- Redesign of 400 parking spaces
- Measure implementation: June 2023 – July 2024



Project Background: Street after the redesign of parking spaces



Green spaces and flower beds



Project Background: Street after the redesign of parking spaces



Green classroom & kindergarden terraces



Project Background: Street after the redesign of parking spaces



Mobility sharing and cycling racks



Project Background: Street after the redesign of parking spaces



Places to stay



Project Background: Consortium



Public initiatives for participation



Residents



Business owners



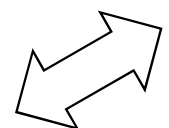
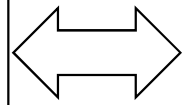
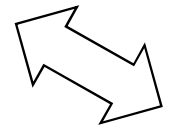
Mobility impaired and structurally disadvantaged group



School children



Residents



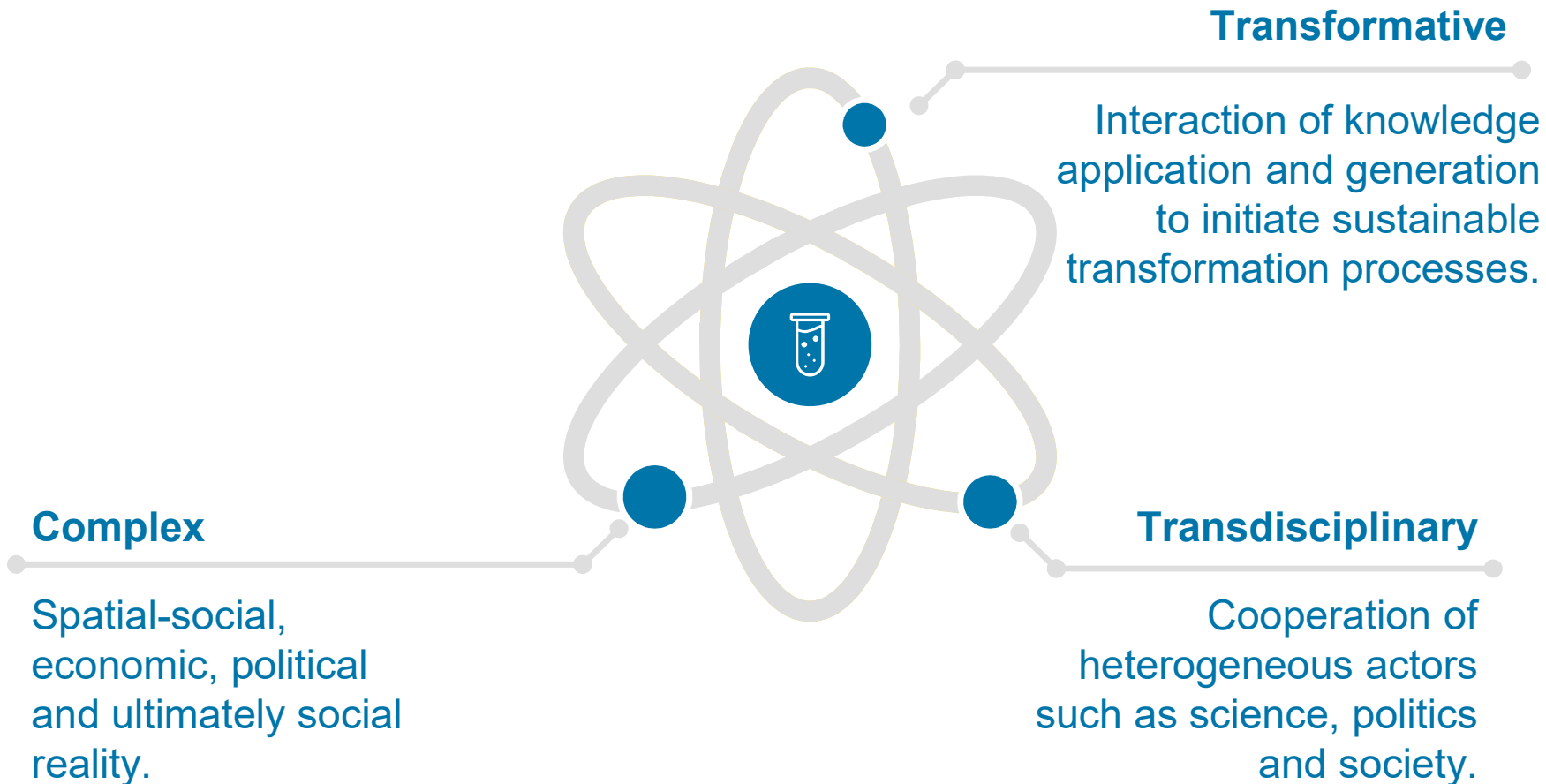
Municipality



Berlin 21



Background: (Temporary) street space redesign = experimentation process



Source: Räuchle (2020)

Research aim



**Exploring potential gains and contradicting needs of people
affected by a street space redesign project**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a city street lined with mature green trees and multi-story buildings. On the left, a building has a sign that says 'Datscha'. A street sign for 'Graalzerstraße' is visible. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text in white.

DIFFERENT RESEARCH APPROACHES IN A TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROJECT - ONE CASE STUDY

Different research topics and research subjects



A. Representative survey with **residents**



B. Interviews and workshops with **business owners**



C. Interviews and workshops with people with **mobility impairment** and from an **adjacent low economic neighbourhood**



D. Co-researching with **school children**



E. CitizenScience **air quality measurements** with residents

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Results

WZB



A. Representative survey with **residents**

- **Cycling and walking** dominant modes → less than 10% with car

After implementation:



- Perceived lower traffic noise and pollution
- Safety and quality of stay increased



- Perceived community noise increased
- Sense of place: People from outside the neighbourhood visiting

Results



B. Interviews and workshops with **business owners**

- **Parking spaces** crucial (esp. craft enterprises)
“For us, it's about being or not being.” (FG2)
- **Access shops and gastronomy**
- Place for **tables and chairs** (esp. gastronomy)



© WZB



- Gastronomy: Quality of life improved → more customers



- Employees and customers cannot access
- Craft enterprises:
 - Change in social structure
“The brave new world as one imagines it à la Land-Lust magazine, we don't have a place in it”
 - No consideration in transformation process

Results



C. Interviews and workshops with people with **mobility impairment** and from an **adjacent low economic neighbourhood**

- **Car as most important means of transport; fear to be left out**

"The (project) makes the neighbourhood uninhabitable for me " (Mobility impaired)

- **Sense of place: Safety and places to stay for whom?**

"[I] am glad that I wasn't nearly knocked down by 3 bicycles but only by 2." (Mobility impaired); "...nice for tourists." (women from WDS)

- **"Us" against the "others"**

"the rich residents of Bergmannkiez" (women from WDS)

- **Fairness and communication of process**

"I have been working politically for years [...], I've been talking to and against walls for years. [...] in the meantime, I no longer speak." (Mobility impaired)



Results



D. Co-researching with school children

- **Independent, active mobility**
“bicycle racks should under no circumstances be removed!” (child)
- **Play, shop, eat (shops, cafés)**
- **Greenery, water, animals, aesthetic**
“[...] we don't like the cars - they're ugly!” (child)
- **Healthy places:** noise and air pollution
- **Places dedicated to children**
“you cannot do anything there” (child)
- **Cleanliness, maintenance and lightning**
“the construction site looks ugly!” (child)



Results

inter3

E. CitizenScience air quality measurements with residents

Measurement results

- Number of vehicles reduced
- Relatively low particulate matter exposure



Measuring devices

Residents' involvement highly effective

- Awareness and understanding of effects of traffic calming measures → health and environment

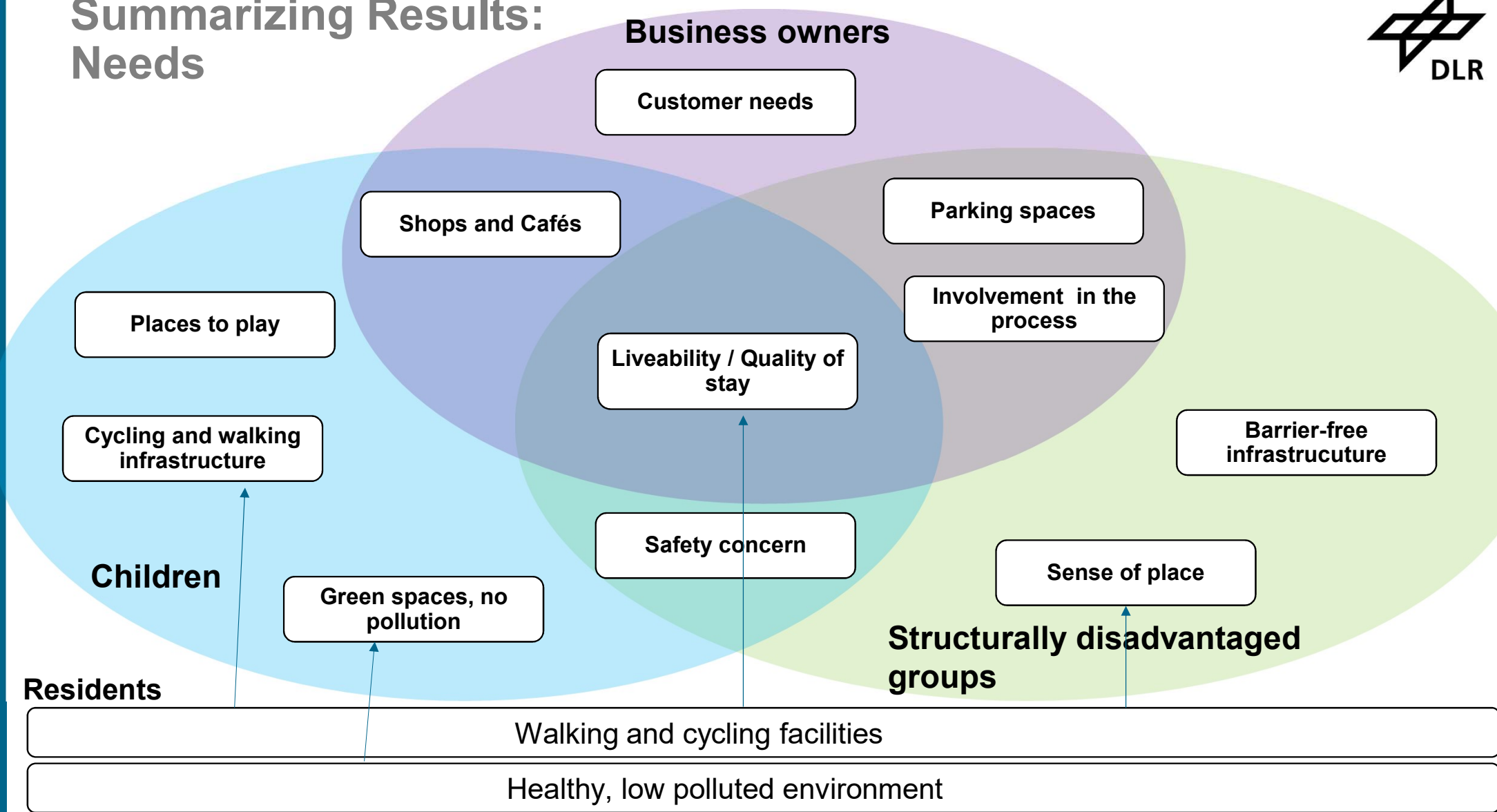


Raising awareness

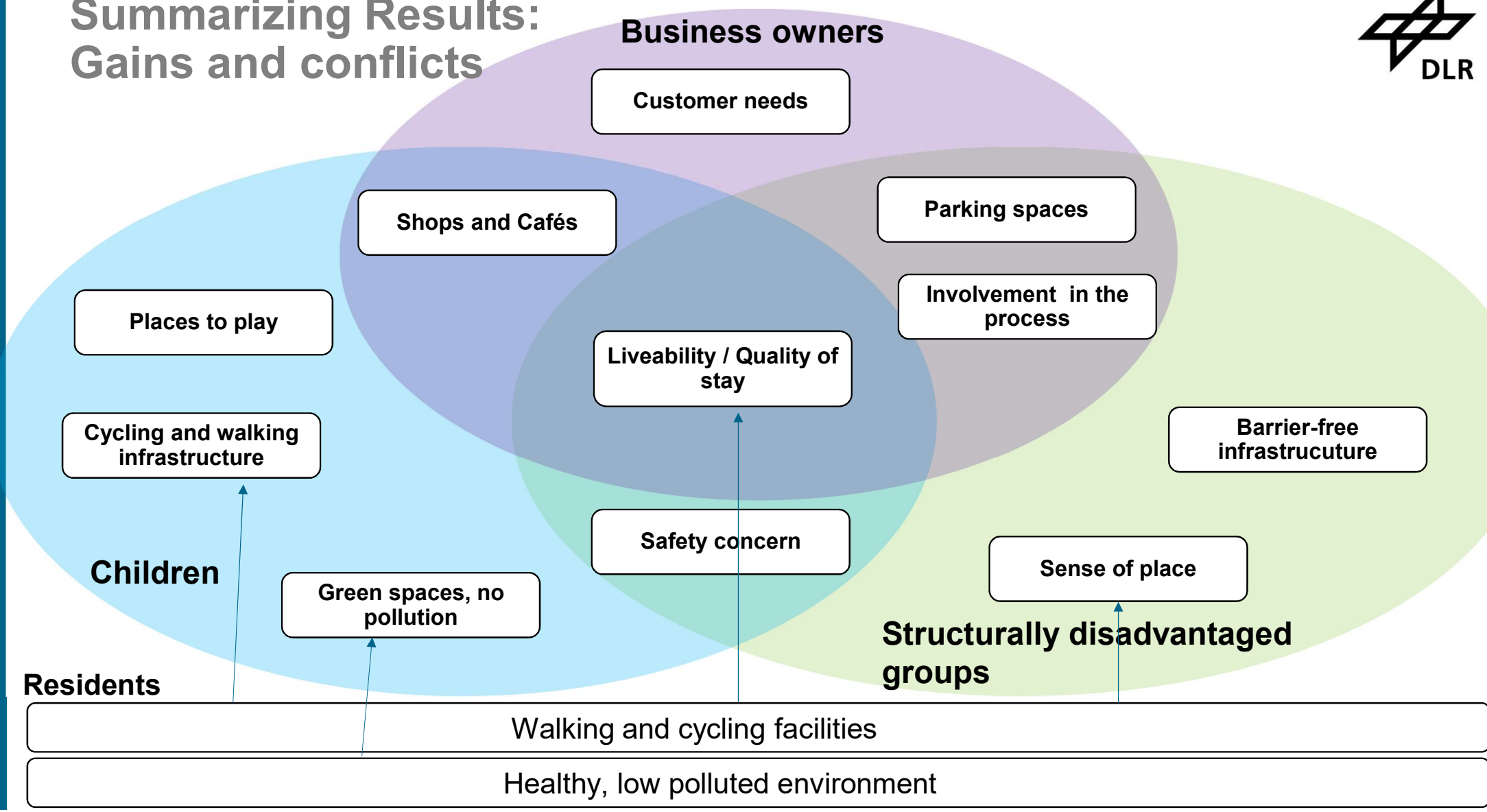
The background of the slide is a photograph of a city street. The street is paved with cobblestones and lined with mature, leafy green trees. On the left, a white building with a balcony is visible, with the word 'Datscha' written in orange above a doorway. A street sign for 'Grazerstraße' is also visible. On the right, a light-colored building with a red door is partially visible. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast by the trees on the pavement.

SYNTHESIS: CONTRADICTING NEEDS AND POTENTIAL GAINS – WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THAT?

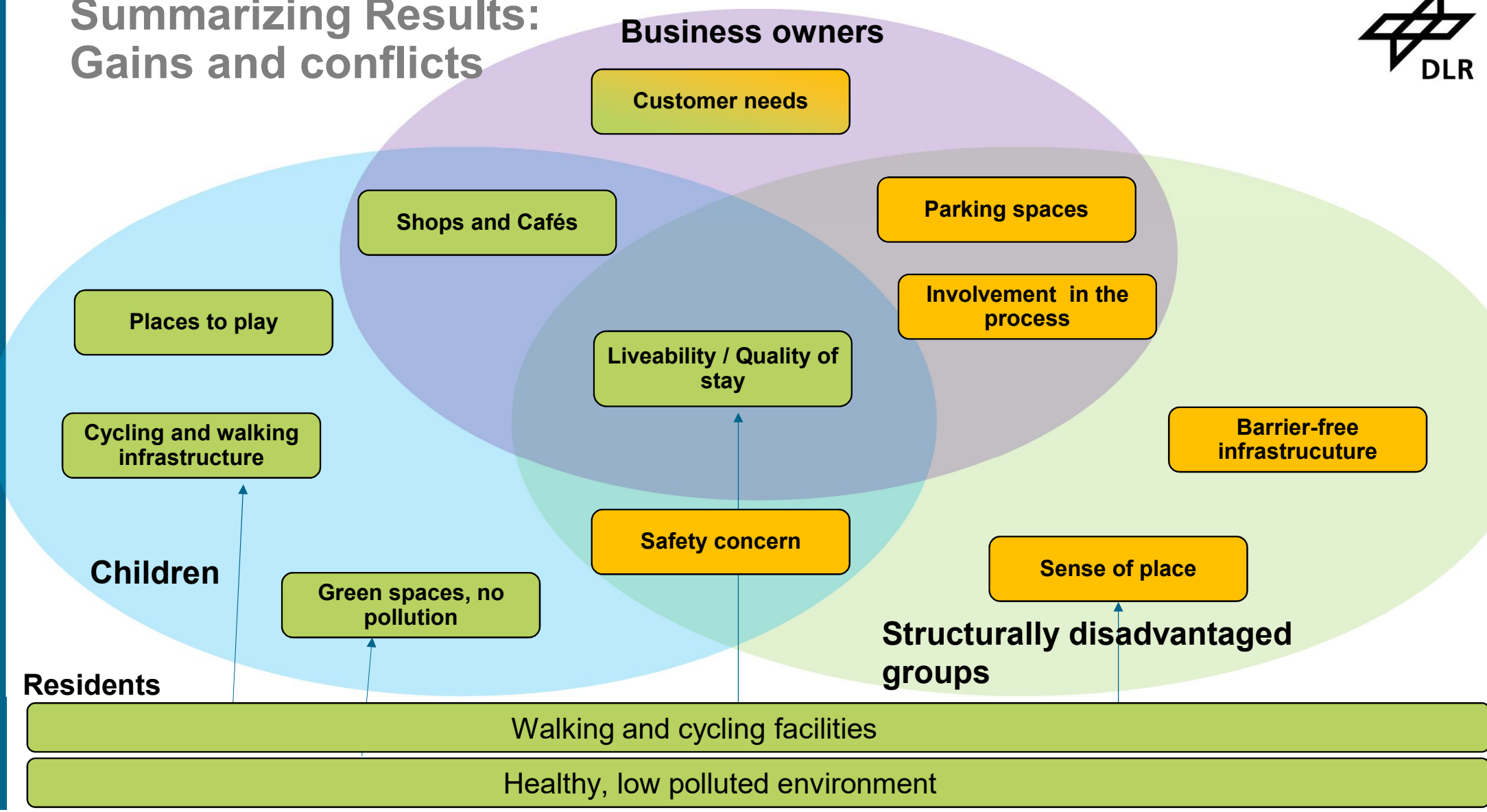
Summarizing Results: Needs



Summarizing Results: Gains and conflicts



Summarizing Results: Gains and conflicts



Discussion: Complex points of view



- Only **quality of stay** and **livability of area** only common need and gain
 - Many **conflicting needs** and lack of common gains
- What does 'quality of stay' mean for different people?

Summarizing results: Transdisciplinary process



Involving people in transdisciplinary processes

- Municipal administration in need of quantitative data
→ representative survey
- **But:** not all needs, gains and concerns become visible
→ Criticism of the measures not because of the measures, but because of lack of participation
→ Process conflicts instead of distribution conflicts?

Outlook

What can we learn from integrating different points of views and multiple research projects?

▪ Transformative

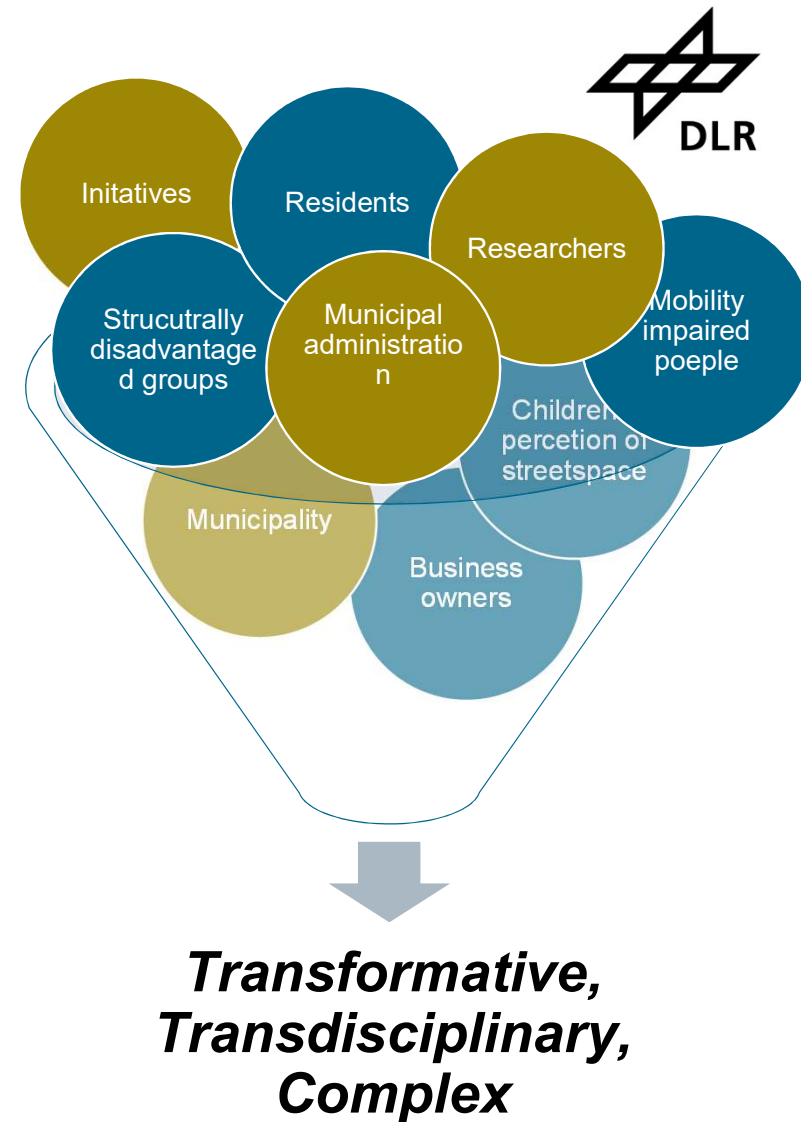
- A coordination is important and should go hand in hand with decision-making

▪ Transdisciplinary

- Involving a transdisciplinary range of stakeholders in real (and open) participatory processes from the beginning

▪ Complex

- Involving different target groups is a gain for perspectives and can serve as a gate opener
- Avoid 'patchwork carpet' of projects: Consider adjacent neighbourhood and people working in neighborhood





Thank you.

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Graefekiez Project Cooperation

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Funded by:



Deutsche
Bundesstiftung Umwelt

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