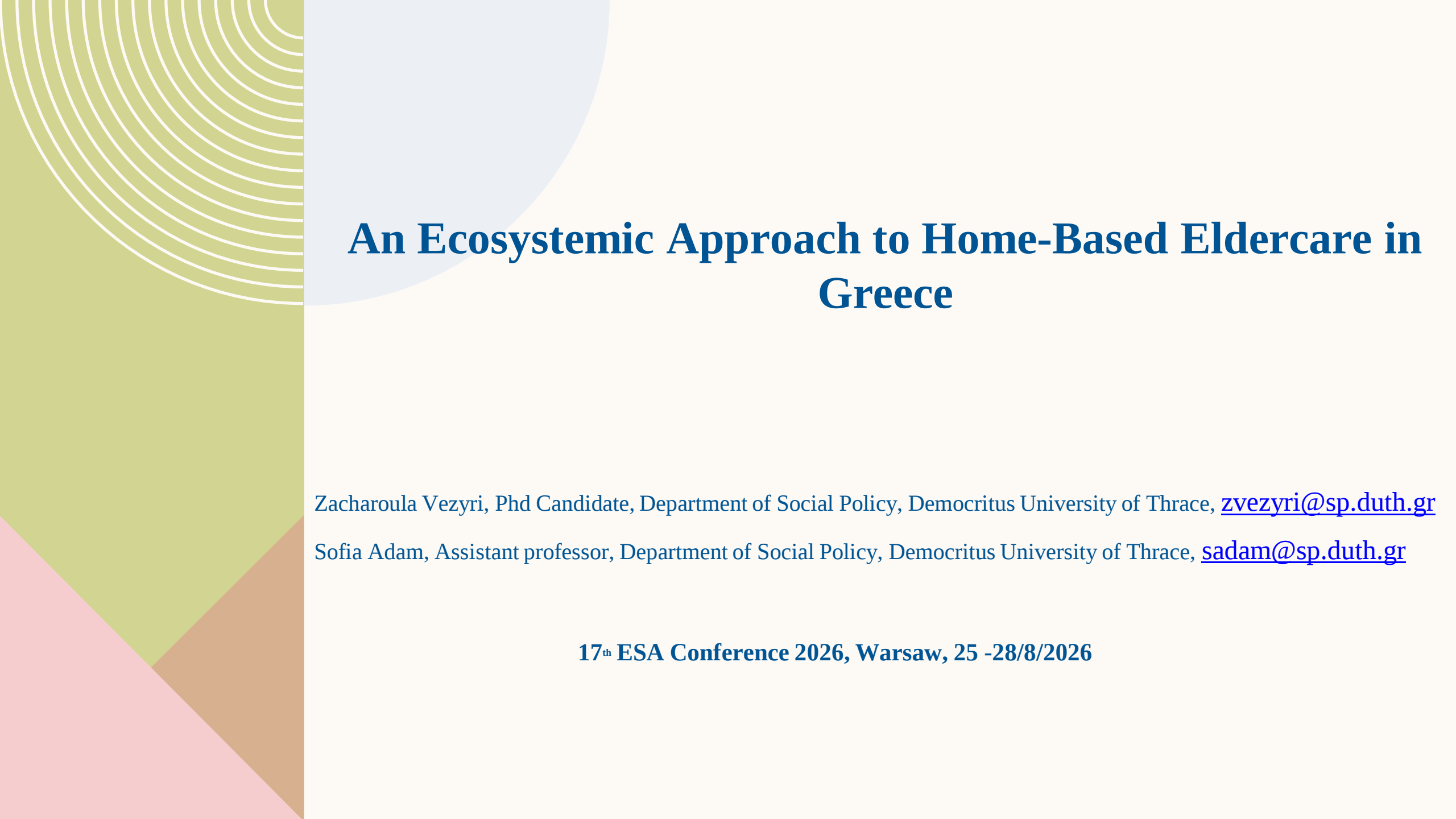




An Ecosystemic Approach to Home-Based Eldercare in Greece

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17th ESA Conference 2026, Warsaw, 25 -28/8/2026

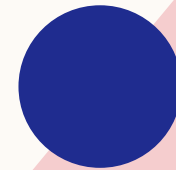


The Potential of Social and Solidarity Economy in Eldercare in Greece.

The research project is implemented in the framework of H.F.R.I call “3rd Call for H.F.R.I.’s Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers” (H.F.R.I. Project Number:25144).

Outline of the Presentation

- Research Goal
- Research Context
- Epistemological orientation
- Analytical framework
- Methodology
- The strengths of the ecosystemic approach
- The ecosystemic approach in practice
- Challenges and limitations
- Concluding remarks





Research goal

- The 'crisis of care' connected with the crisis of social reproduction in late capitalism
- Care is undervalued and delegated to marginalized groups, shaped by power, yet essential for life's reproduction
- Eldercare is a policy field where the social reproduction crisis is even more prevalent
- Social Solidarity Economy as prefigurative politics

Can Social and Solidarity Economy restructure eldercare in a transformative way?

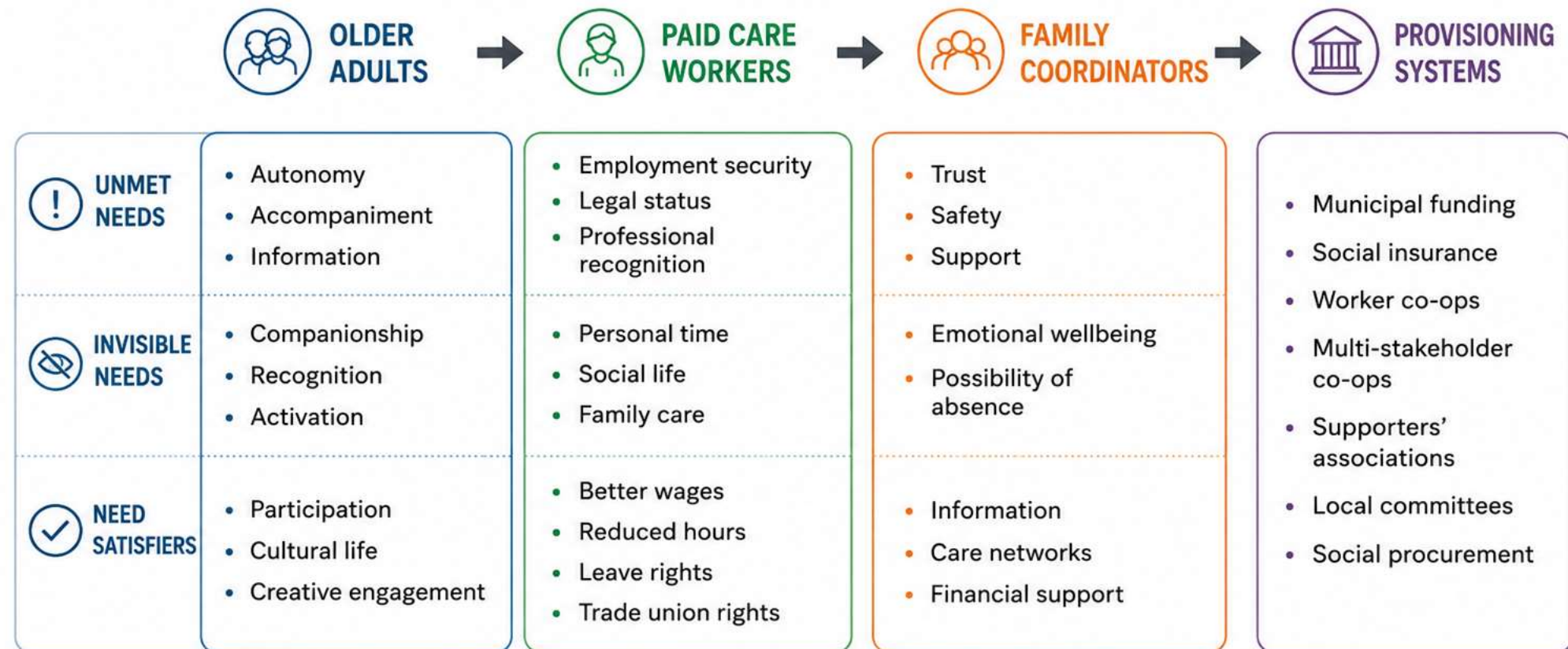
The crisis of Eldercare in Greece

- **Older Adults:** almost 1 in 4 people are aged 65+ (WHO/Europe, 2024)
7% of population is aged 80+ (Eurostat, 2026)
1.85:1 deaths per live birth (ELSTAT, 2025)
- **Paid Care Workers:** >70% of daily informal carers are women (OECD, 2025).
0.2 Paid LTC workers per 100 people aged 65 (OECD, 2025)
- **Family Member/Coordinators:** the backbone of long-term care in Greece
14–30% of adults provide informal care (WHO/Europe, 2024)
- **Prolonged austerity (2008 and ongoing):**
 - 20.9% of people aged 65+ were at risk of poverty (Eurostat, 2026)
 - 742 Day Care Centers (74 are KIFIs & 668 are KAPIs) (WHO/Europe, 2024)
 - Dismantling of public welfare institutions
 - Significance of home-based elder care

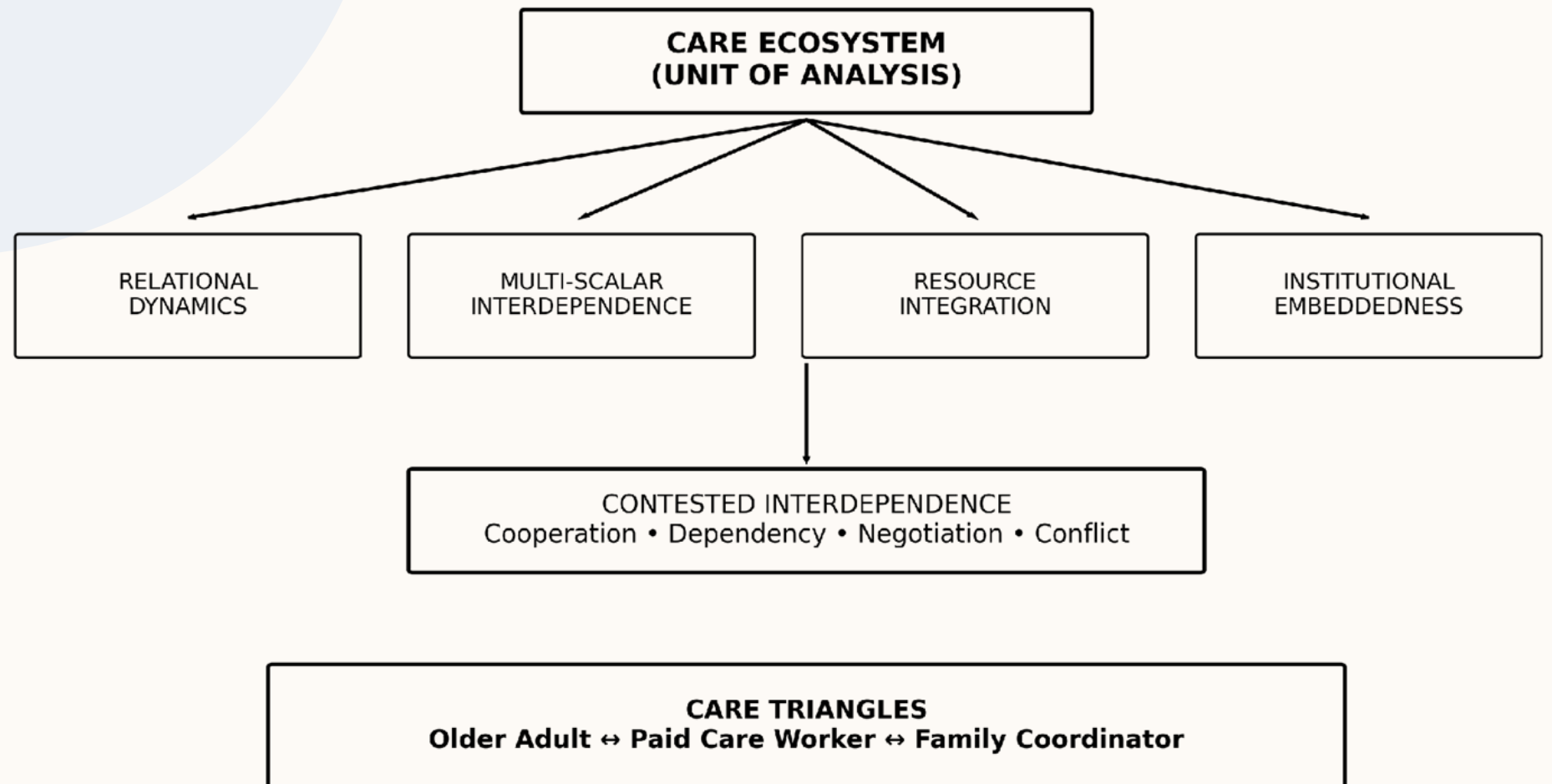
The epistemological orientation of the research project

Why Action Research?	Why Not Participatory Action Research?
Knowledge & social transformation are interconnected.	Participants did not co-design the research questions.
Situated and reflexive knowledge.	Care ecosystems are dispersed and private.
Emerges from lived caregiving experience.	Power asymmetries exist among actors.
Researchers embedded in the field.	Participants are not included as co-researchers.
Iterative inquiry, reflection and action.	Full collective governance not feasible.

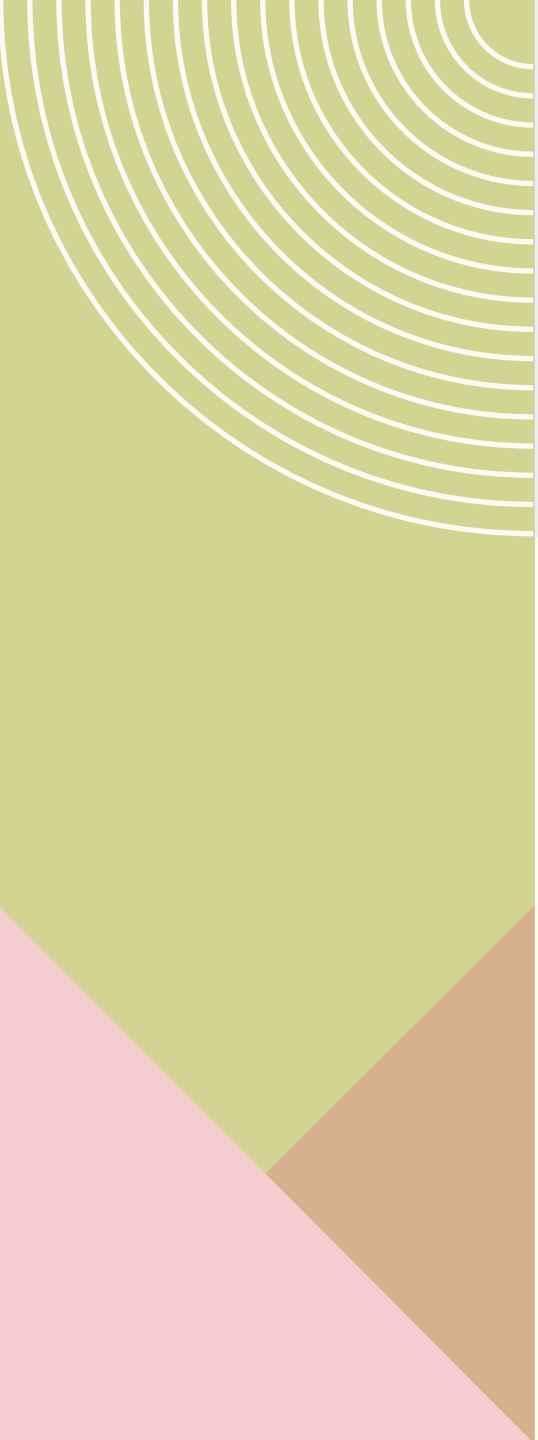
The meaning of transformation in eldercare reorganization: needs, social relations and provisioning systems



From Needs Recognition to Institutional Transformation



Eldercare ecosystem as a methodological choice



The strengths of the ecosystemic approach

- Interacting care actors
- Understanding care through relationships: everyday reactions, communication and roles
- Exploring care beyond daily tasks: everyday care experience, support networks, use of social services, perceptions of ageing and care, and the emotional dimension of care.
- Exploring from different perspectives

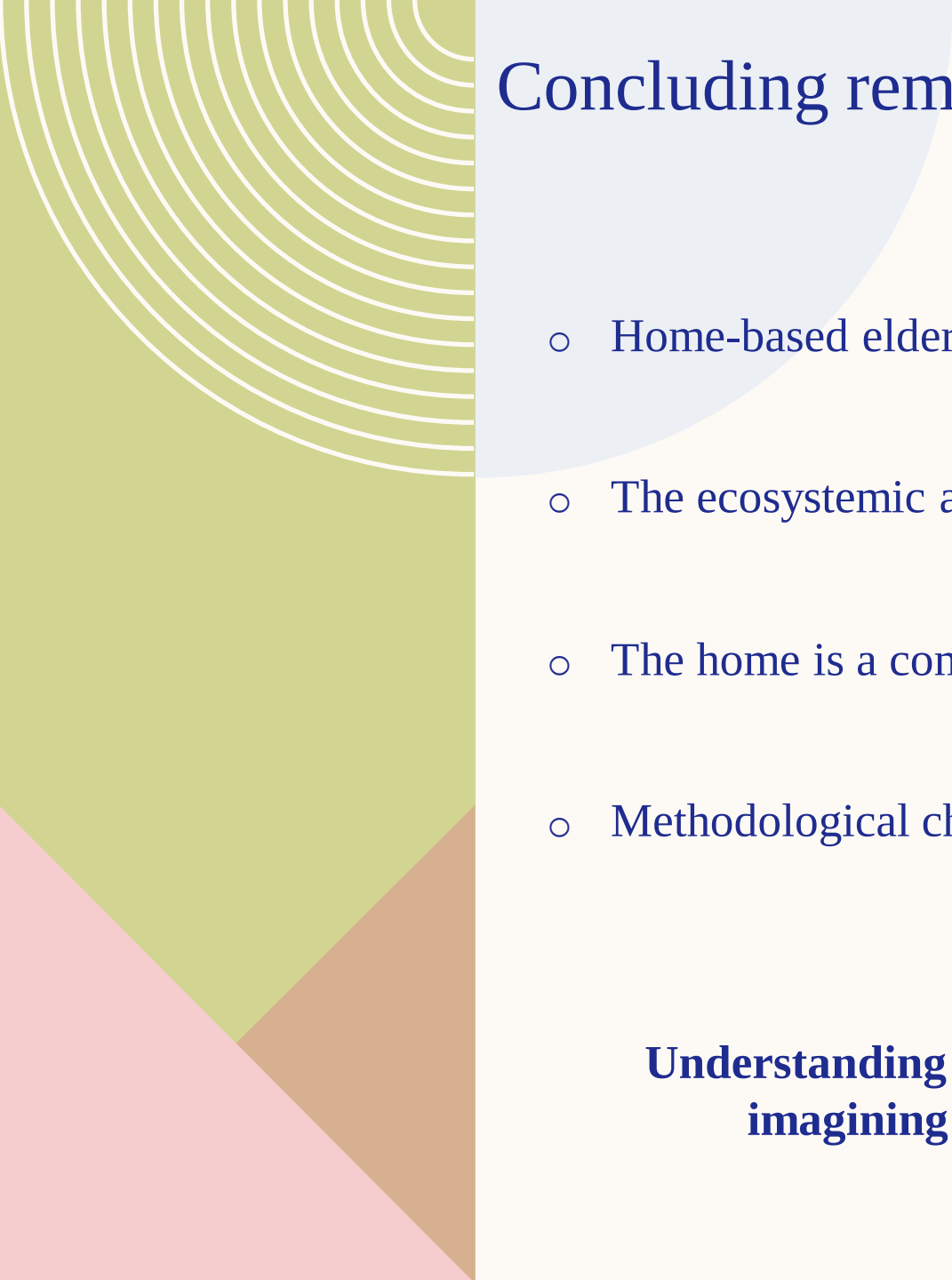
The ecosystemic approach shifts the focus from individual care experiences to the relationships and interactions that shape home-based care

The ecosystemic approach in practice

- Why home-based elder care
- 10 ecosystem in two urban cities (Athens & Thessaloniki)
- 30 participants (10 Older Adults, 10 Paid Care Workers, 10 Family Coordinators)
- Sex: Female: 28 , Male: 2 Nationality: Greek: 26 , Other: 4
- Semi-structured interview guide
- Thematic areas: everyday care experience, daily routines, challenges, relationships & roles, interactions, communication and responsibilities among older adults, family members and paid care workers, support networks, family, social networks and other sources of support, social services, use, accessibility and experiences of formal care and social services, perceptions of ageing & care, meanings, expectations and understandings of ageing and care

Challenges and limitations

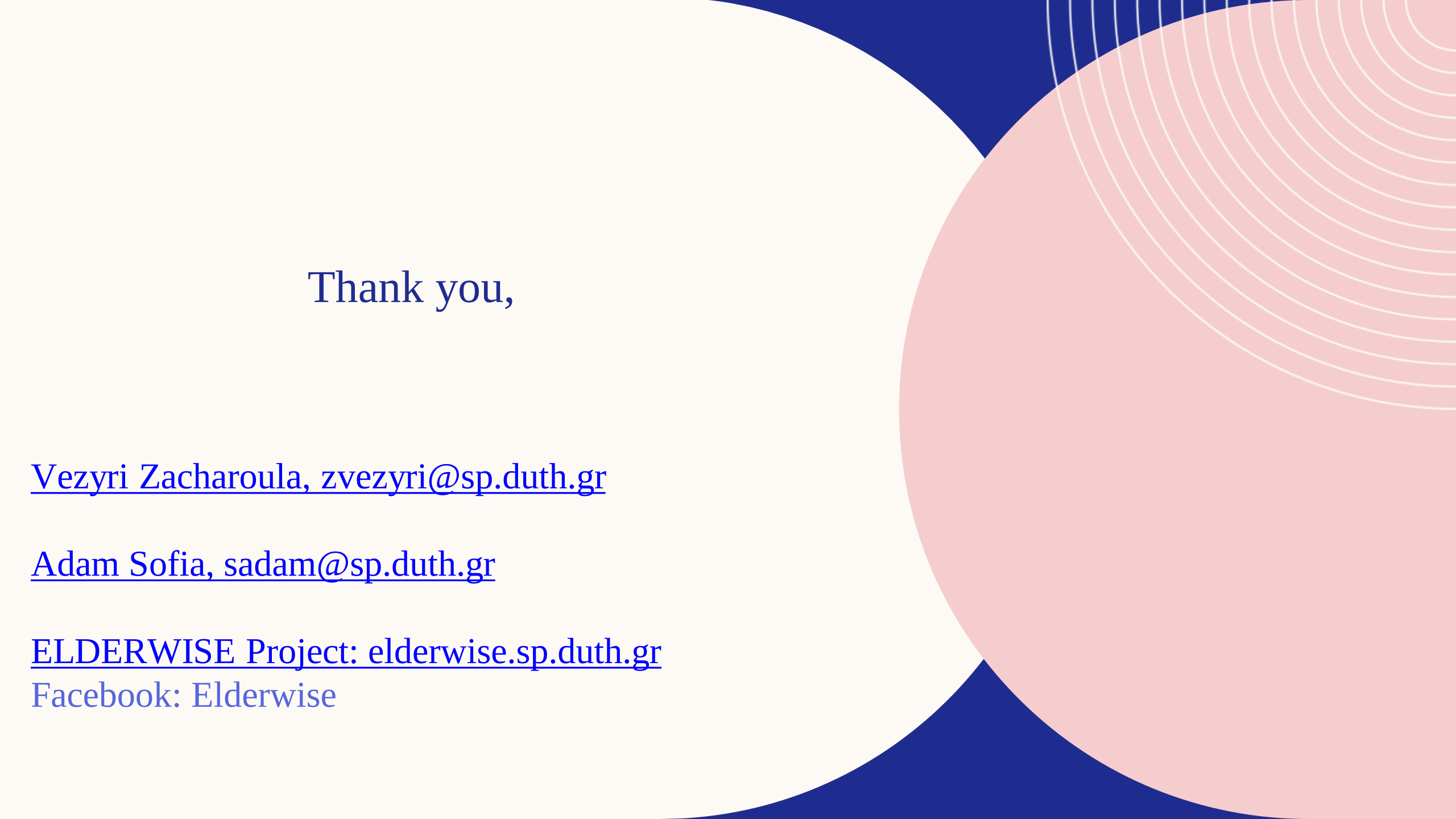
- Detection of potential participants : active home-based care ecosystems
- Selection of participants : three stakeholders within each care ecosystem
- Implementation of interviews: time constraints
- Language barriers
- Undocumented workers & protection of participants' privacy and personal data
- Medical conditions
- Home as workplace/private space
- Power asymmetries, conflicting interests and structural inequalities



Concluding remarks

- Home-based eldercare is relational, not individual.
- The ecosystemic approach makes these interdependencies visible.
- The home is a complex care environment.
- Methodological challenges are also analytical insights.

Understanding these relationships and structural conditions is essential for imagining more inclusive and transformative forms of eldercare.



Thank you,

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