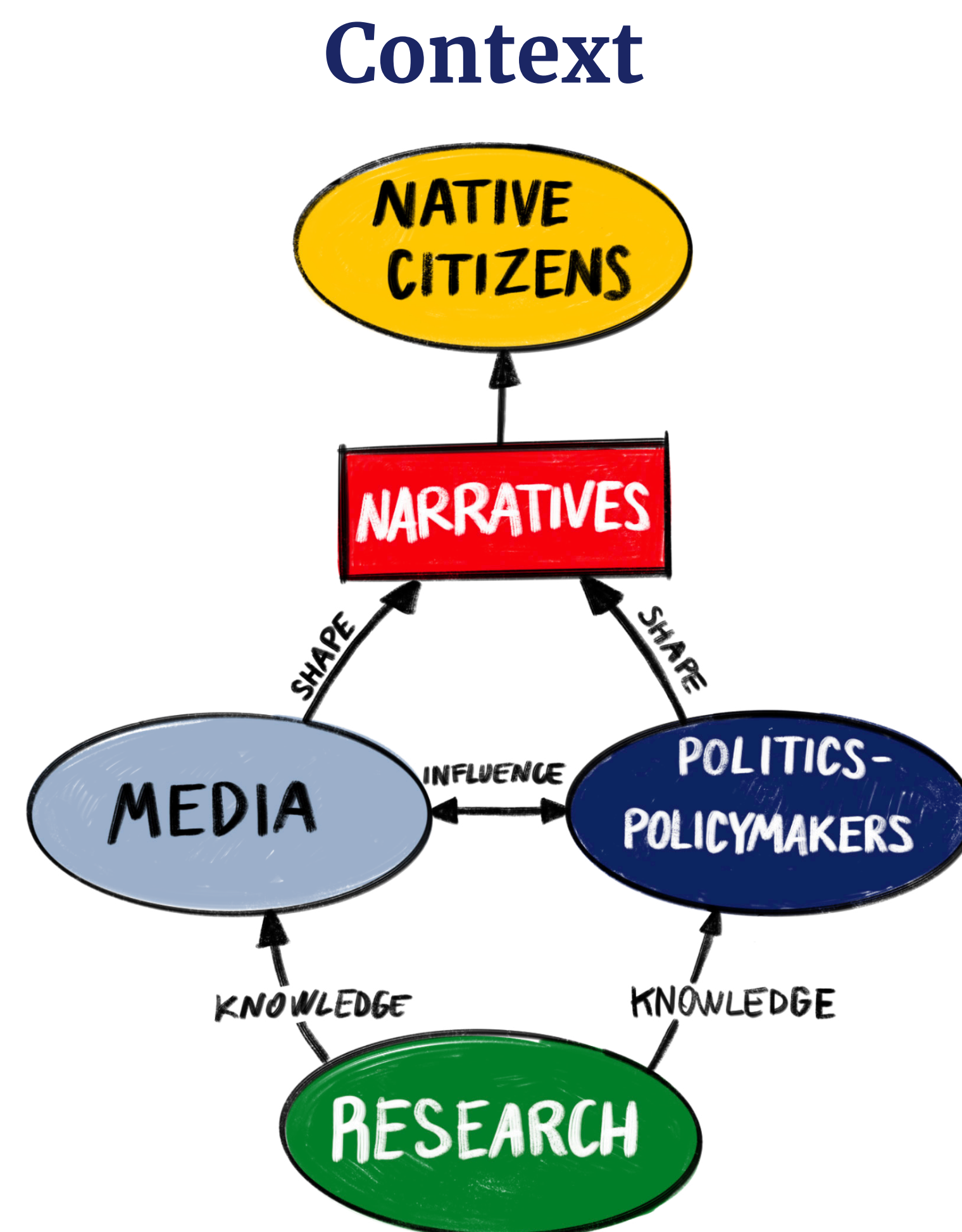


Co-creating narratives about migration

A strategy to connect migration research and native citizens in the context of the PACES project



In recent years, the EU and its member states have perceived migration as a significant challenge, leading policymakers to adopt prediction and control strategies that fail to consider the nature of migratory patterns (PACES Consortium, 2022). Research on migratory patterns in social science is extensive but not widely used in policy development, highlighting a significant gap between scholarly discussions and their impact on policymaking. PACES is a research project aiming to bridge the gap between social science research on migration patterns and policy development in the migration sector. In doing so, PACES aims to involve multiple participants in discussions about migration policies, as it appears that the lack of citizen involvement is a factor contributing to the inefficiency of migration policy.




This project's goal is to help PACES empower citizens and promote dialogues to create more informed opinions. The objective of this thesis is to facilitate a two-way information exchange between PACES and native citizens. PACES provides scientific knowledge on migration and policies, while citizens contribute their perspectives. The aim is to foster evidence-based opinions among citizens to achieve greater engagement and participation in the public debate.

To approach this objective, an analysis of the context of the public debate on migration was initiated, and system mapping was used to better define the stakeholders and dynamics between them. This analysis highlighted the lack of a direct connection between the world of research and citizens, who struggle to form opinions based on evidence, as the knowledge they receive is often shaped by political and media narratives. To better understand this distance, a smaller group of citizens was selected, specifically Italian emerging adults, to explore their perception of the public debate and their experiences in staying informed. Subsequently, a group of experts in the field of migration was consulted to understand their perception of the role of research and expert knowledge in the debate. The empirical exploration revealed that both experts and Italian emerging adults agree on the need to shift the way migration is portrayed in the debate, but they also agreed on the presence of a gap between research and citizens.



2. “Building the narrative” activity

Narrative Canvas			
Audience	Topic	Narrative Goal	Channel of communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Italian emerging adultsAge 20-29To mature and conscious to be considered adolescents but still in an uncertain stage of life to be called young adults (Jewett, 2016). This period is characterized by the "feeling in between" and having to take major life decisions that play a role in the process of forging their personal identities.	<p>Relevant key points: to touch upon in the scenes</p>	<p>What function should the narrative have?</p>	<p>What channel of communication?</p> <p>E.g. Instagram post, blogpost, video...</p>
Before	Set the scene	Make your point	After
<p>What does your audience think, feel, know before they experience your narrative?</p>	<p>What do you think could be a good a title for the narrative?</p> <p>What elements and information you should introduce to set the scene?</p>	<p>What message do think is important to convey?</p> <p>What would be the audience's aha moment?</p> <p>What do you think it is important to explain to reach the narrative goal?</p>	<p>What is the message that you want to leave?</p> <p>What does your audience think, feel, know after they experience your narrative?</p>
<p>Sketch</p> <p>Sketch here your idea! E.g. storyboard, flow chart...</p>			



Preparation

The preparation phase is needed to define the direction they want to give to the workshop and to prepare the content and the materials necessary to run the workshop smoothly. This phase is necessary for a good performance of the workshop. Facilitator and PACES researchers should be aligned on the goal of the workshop and how to manage the different activities. The workshop manual provide a detailed and step-by-step guide on how to carry out every step of the preparation.

The manual is an essential tool for this phase, since it guides the facilitator and the PACES researchers through every step needed to have the workshop ready. Therefore, to guarantee that PACES researchers will be able to replicate the workshop in autonomy, and to support the preparation and the execution of the workshop, the manual was developed with the following sections:

1. Workshop goal, 2. Workshop roles, 3. Preparation phase, 4. Execution phase, (which includes the three main activities), 5. After workshop, 6. To keep in mind (final tips)

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