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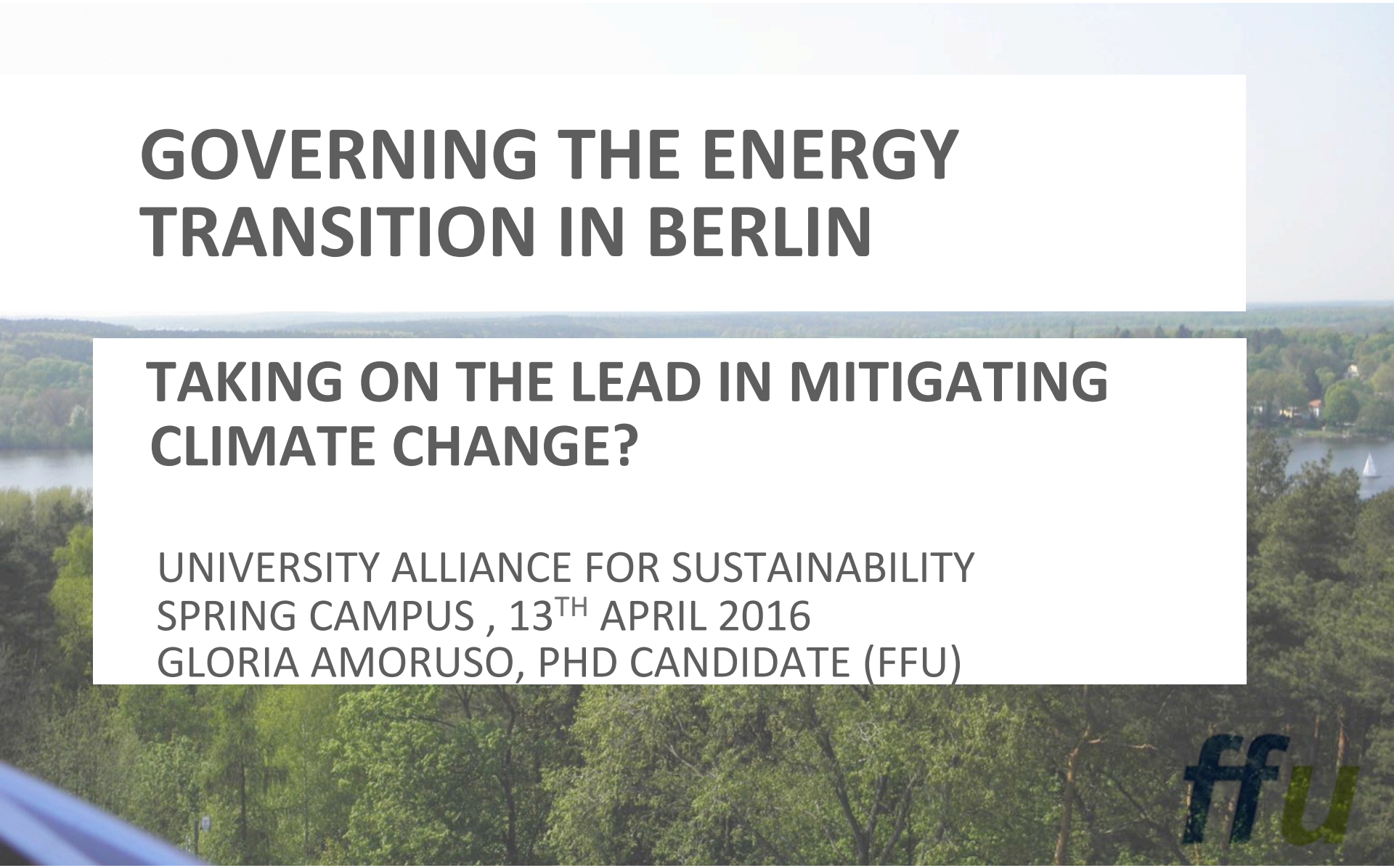
GOVERNING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN BERLIN

TAKING ON THE LEAD IN MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE?

UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY
SPRING CAMPUS , 13TH APRIL 2016
GLORIA AMORUSO, PHD CANDIDATE (FFU)



My research Project

Urban climate change governance

in the building sector

with a focus on social justice & participation

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Outline of today's presentation

1. Framing the problem
2. Why Berlin?
3. Berlin's climate change policies in a multi-level system
4. Reality check – comparative achievements
5. Conclusion: to lead or not to lead?

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FRAMING THE PROBLEM

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CITIES & CLIMATE CHANGE

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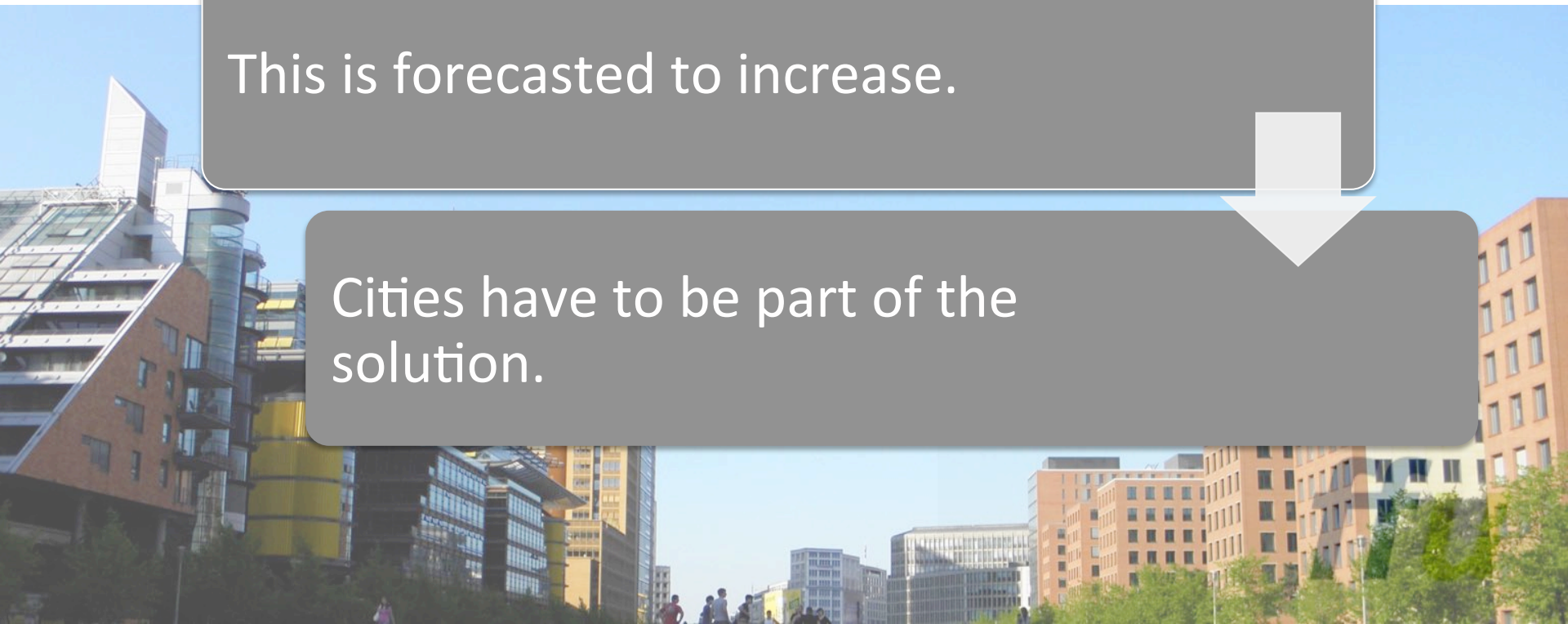
70% of GHG emissions caused by cities. (UN Habitat 2011, UN-DESA 2001)

This is forecasted to increase.

Cities have to be part of the solution.



LEADING ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS IN TRANSITION PROCESSES

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So government can and should assume a leading role in transition management. *Not by acting as the great commander, enforcing change, but* ***by inspiring a collective learning process and encouraging other actors to think along and participate****.*

(Rotmans/Kemp/Van Asselt/Marjolein 2001: 25)

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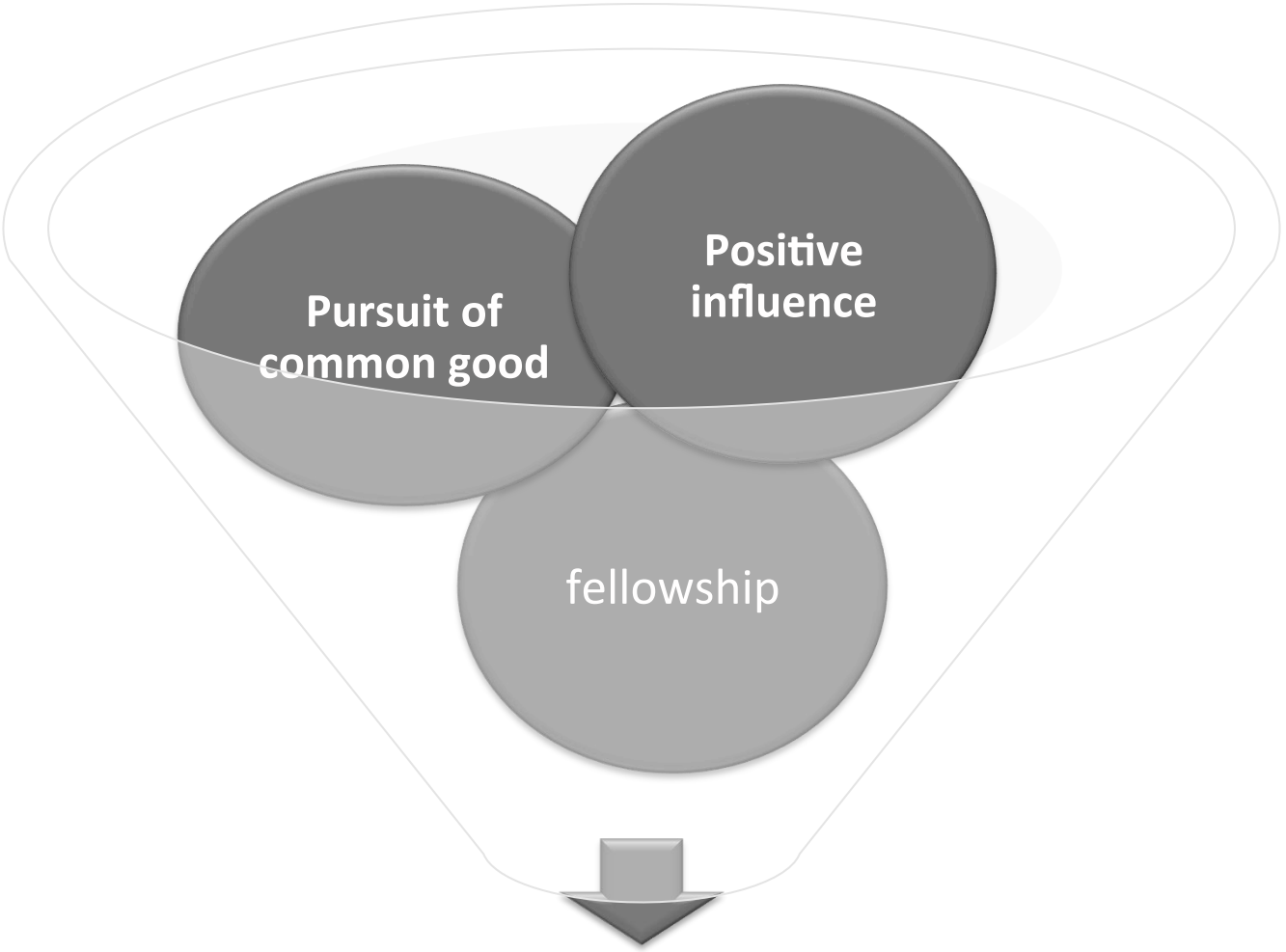
LEADERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE



Three qualifying actions for leadership
(Underdal 1994)

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WHY BERLIN? WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THE CASE?

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GERMANY IN THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION

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Berlin – A diverse & Contradictory City

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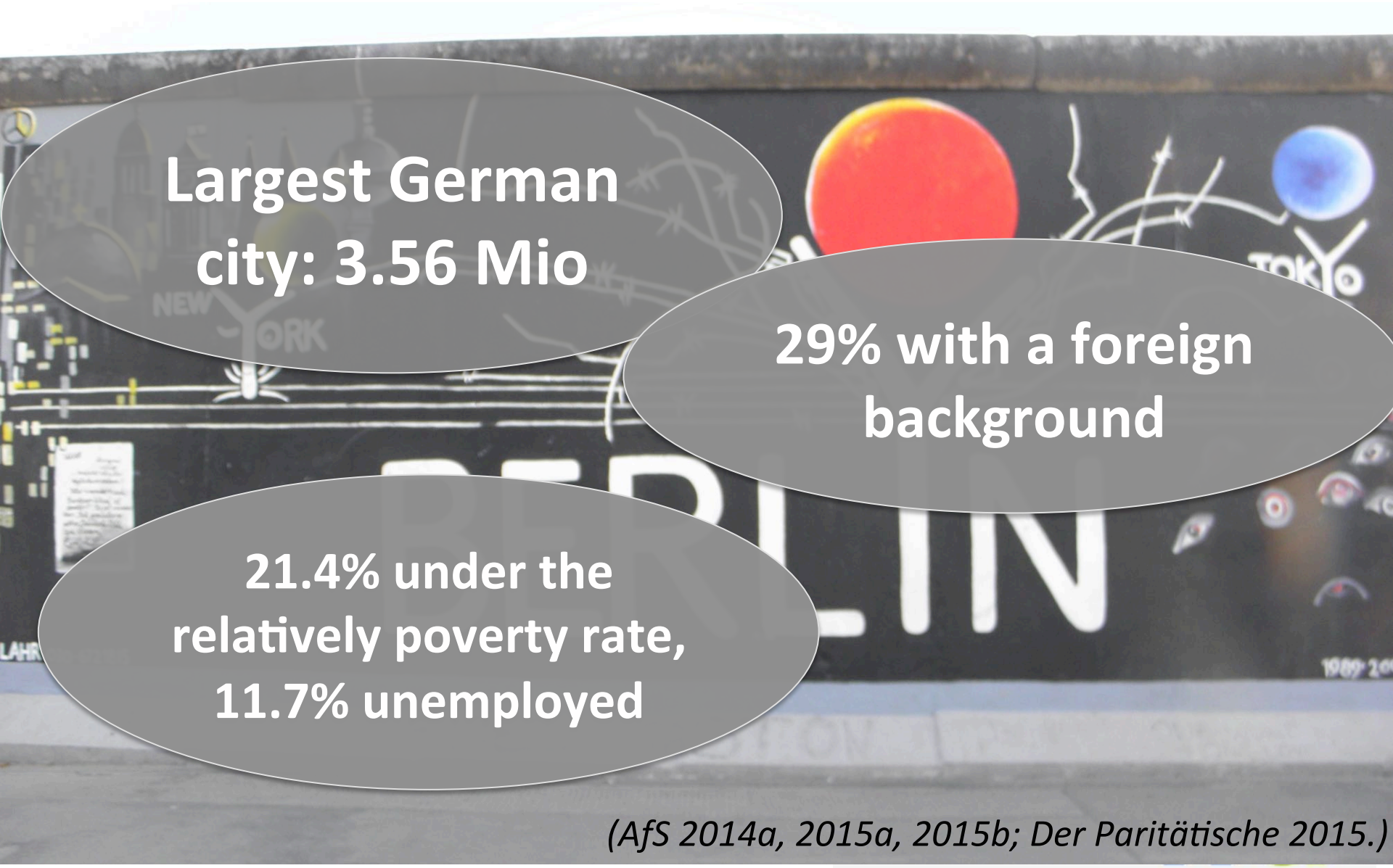

(AfS 2014a, 2015a, 2015b; Der Paritätische 2015.)

Berlin – A diverse & Contradictory City

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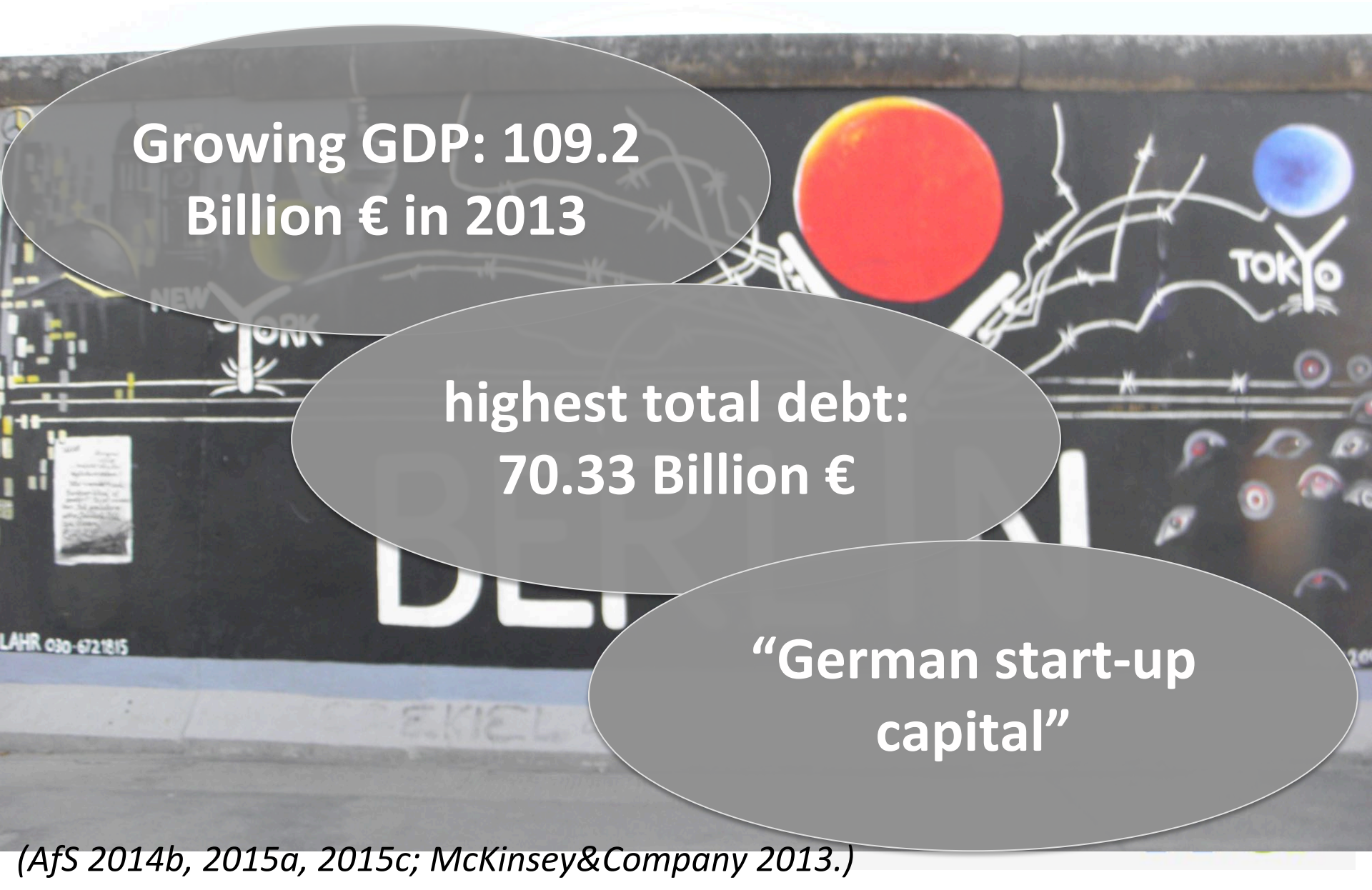

Growing GDP: 109.2 Billion € in 2013

highest total debt: 70.33 Billion €

“German start-up capital”

(AfS 2014b, 2015a, 2015c; McKinsey&Company 2013.)

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BERLIN'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES IN A MULTI-LEVEL SYSTEM

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BERLIN – A ROLE MODEL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE POLITICS AND THE URBAN ENERGY TRANSITION?

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Mayor Michael Müller:

„... more and more cities are searching for ways to provide a local contribution against climate change.
Berlin is one of them and wants to be a role model for other cities.“

(SenStadtUm 2014)

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BERLIN – A ROLE MODEL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE POLITICS AND THE URBAN ENERGY TRANSITION?

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Mayor Michael

„... more and m
contribution a
Berlin is on
cities."

"Climate-neutral by 2050"
→ 85% of CO_2 emissions reduction

(Berliner Energieagentur/IÖW 2011)

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BERLIN'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES IN A MULTI-LEVEL SYSTEM

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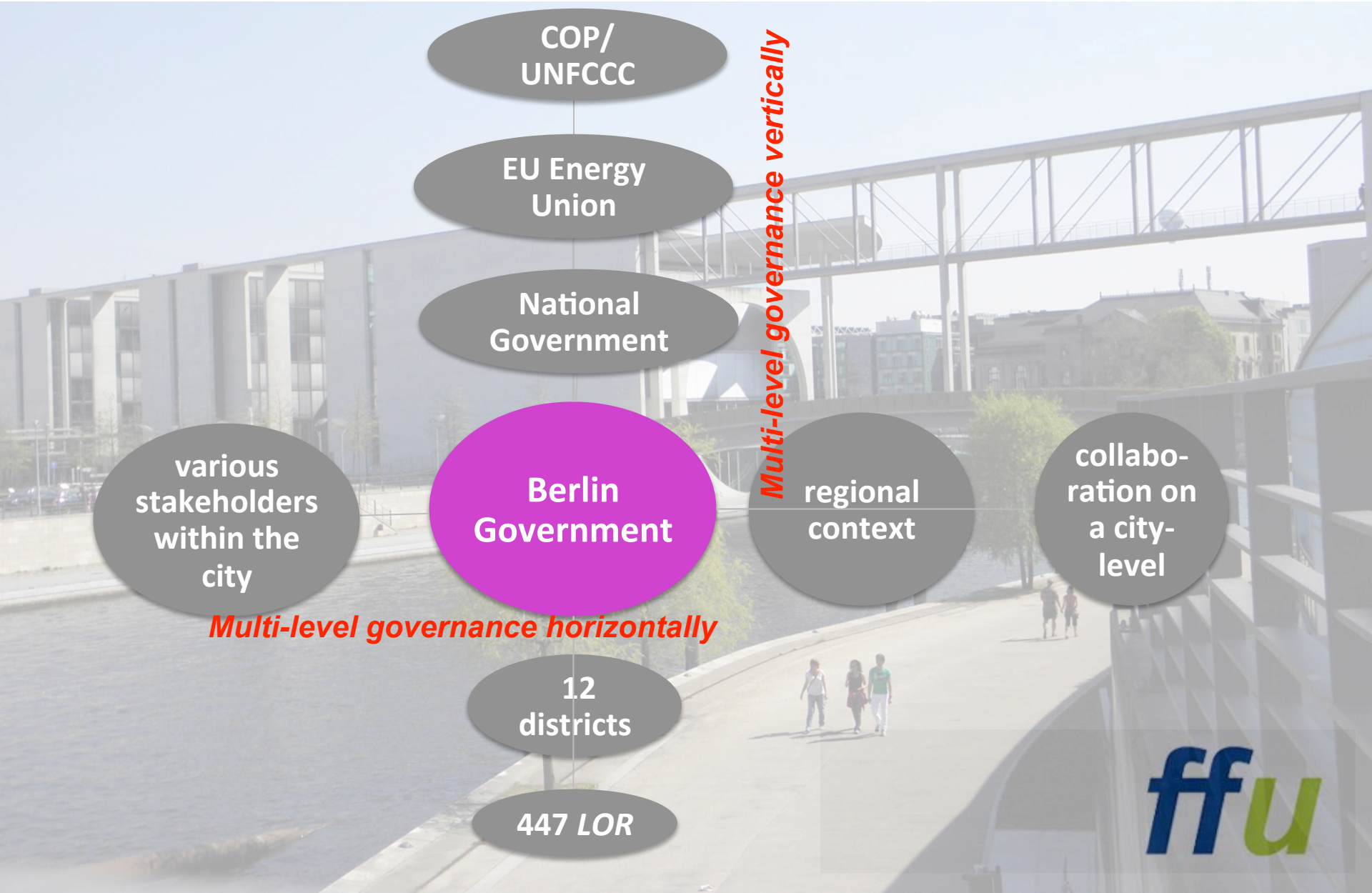

Institutionalisation of the policies?

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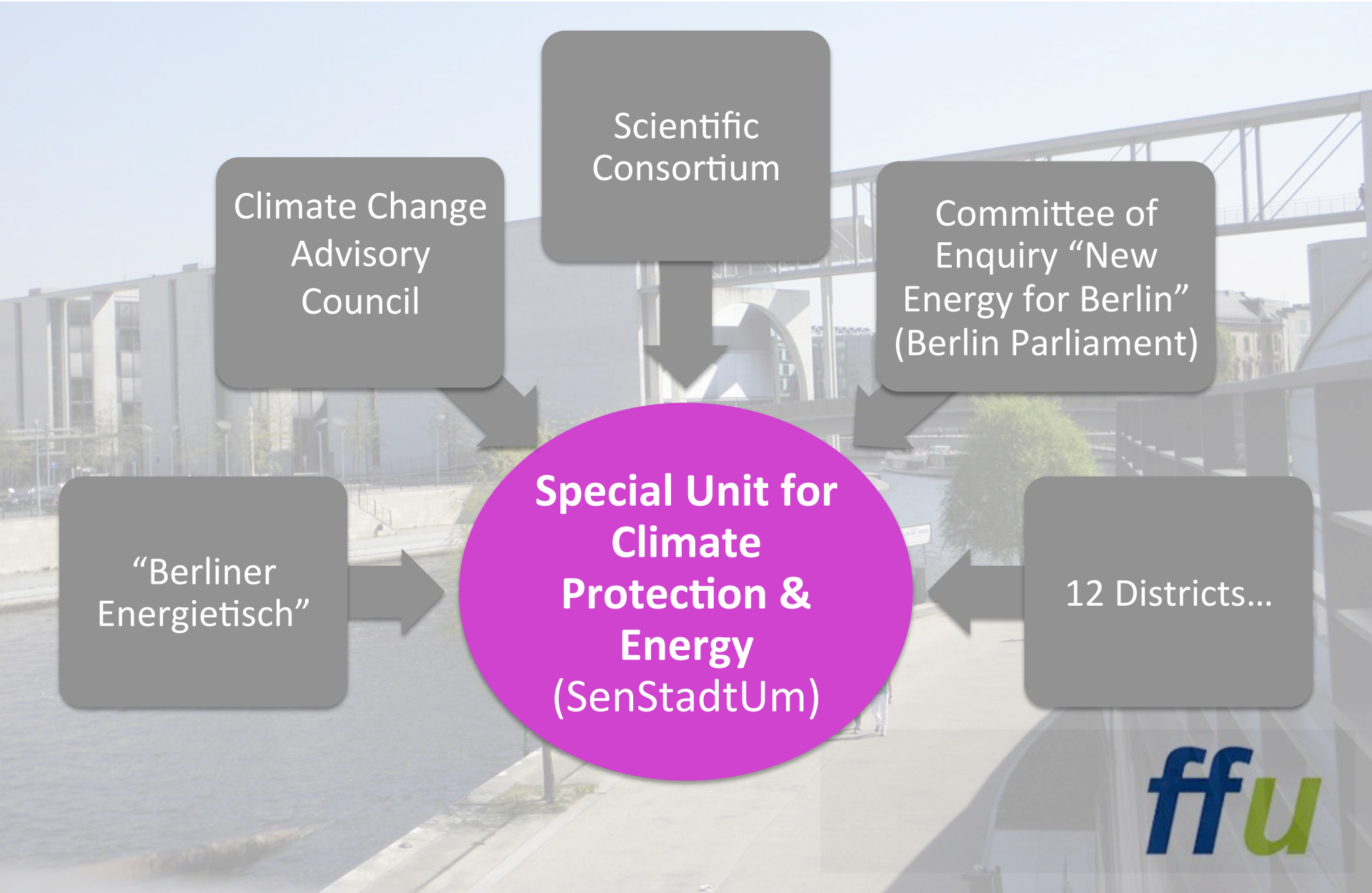

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Selected Policy Instruments

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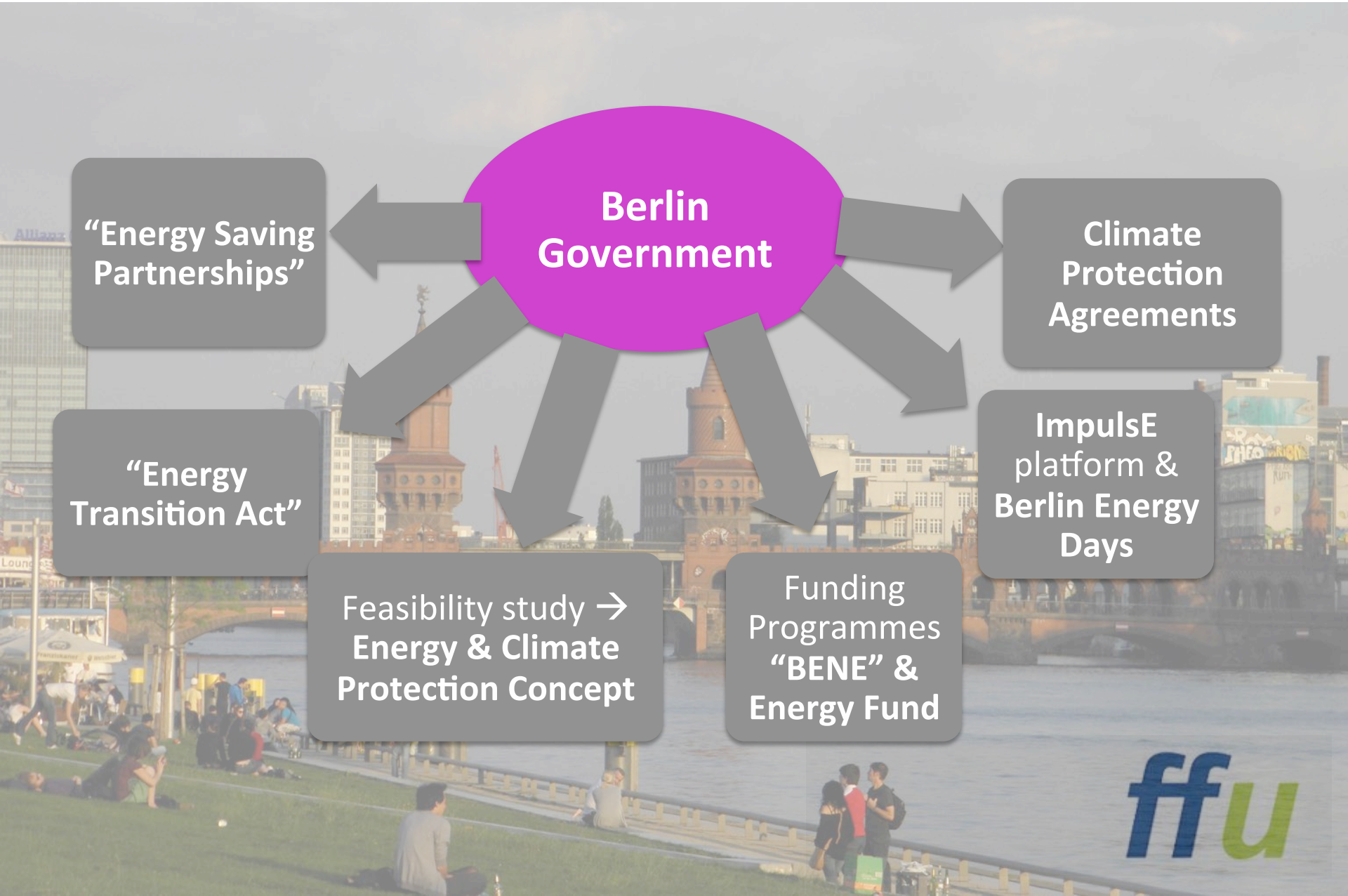

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REALITY CHECK – WHAT HAS BERLIN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

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Reality Check – What Has Berlin Achieved?

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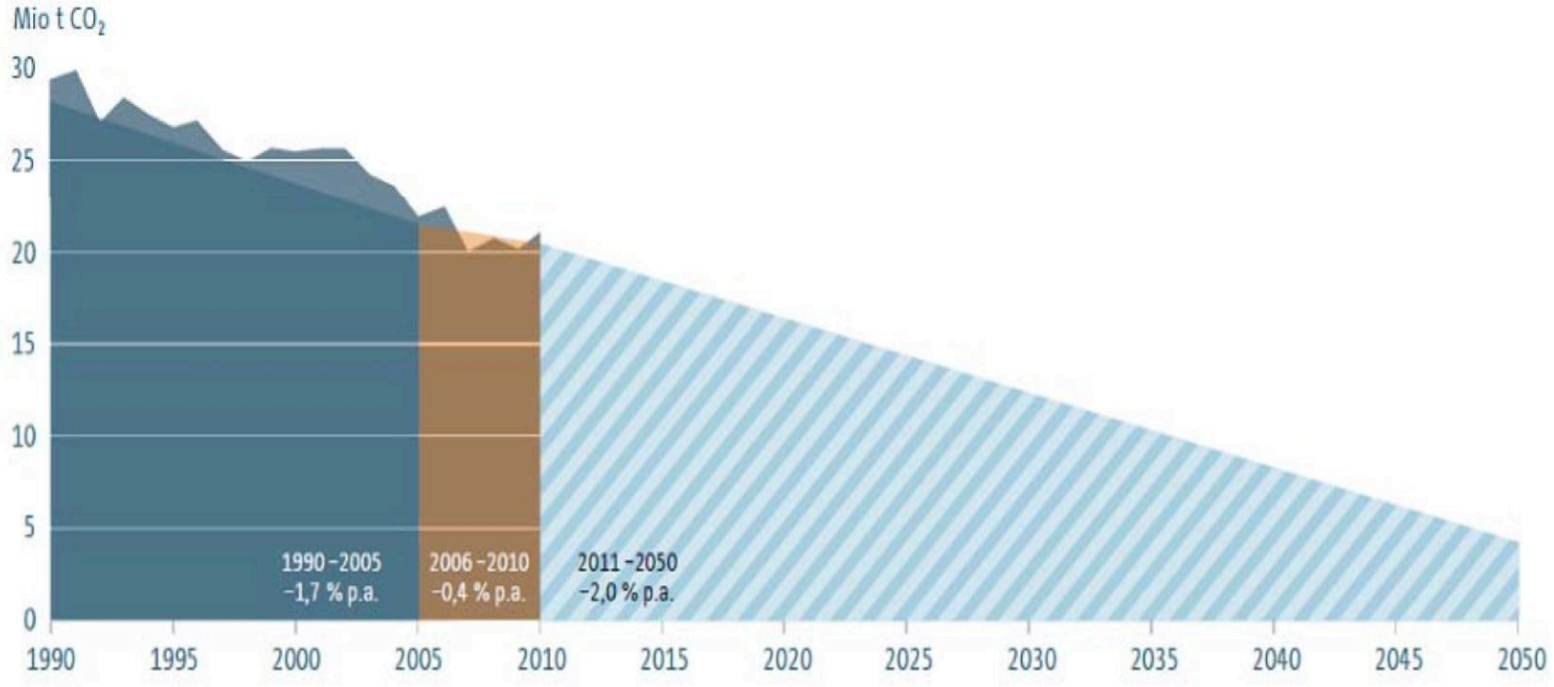
Reduction of CO_2 emissions in Berlin, from 1990 until 2010 (included scenarios until 2050)



(PIK et al. 2014)

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Reality Check – What Has Berlin Achieved?

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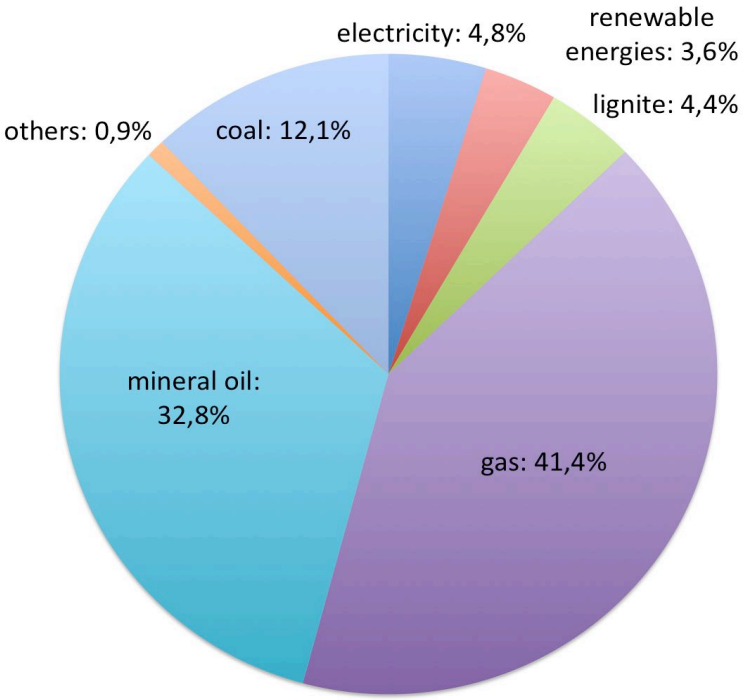
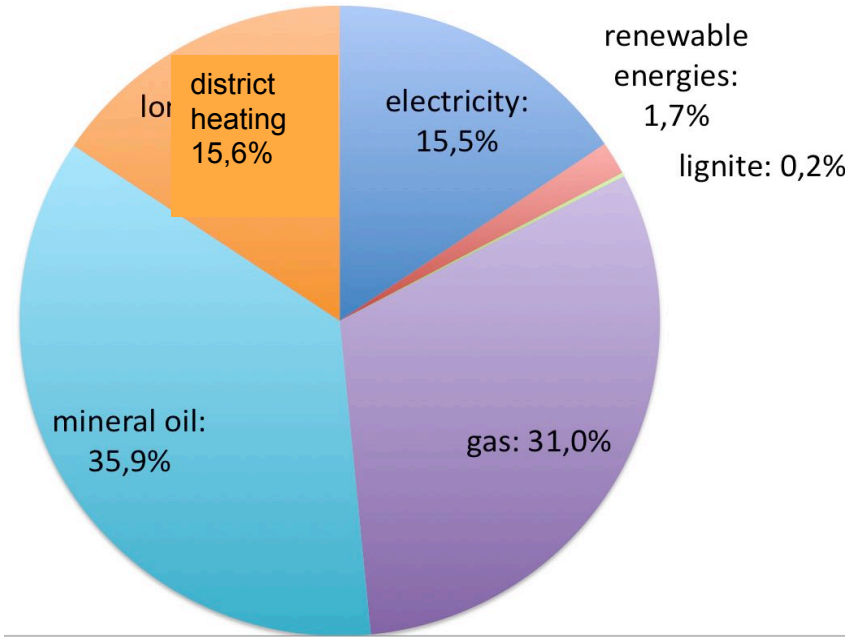
Energy consumption by energy source in Berlin, 2012

Primary energy consumption



Final energy consumption



Author's figures based on AfS 2015c: 12, 13.

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Reality Check – What Has Berlin Achieved?

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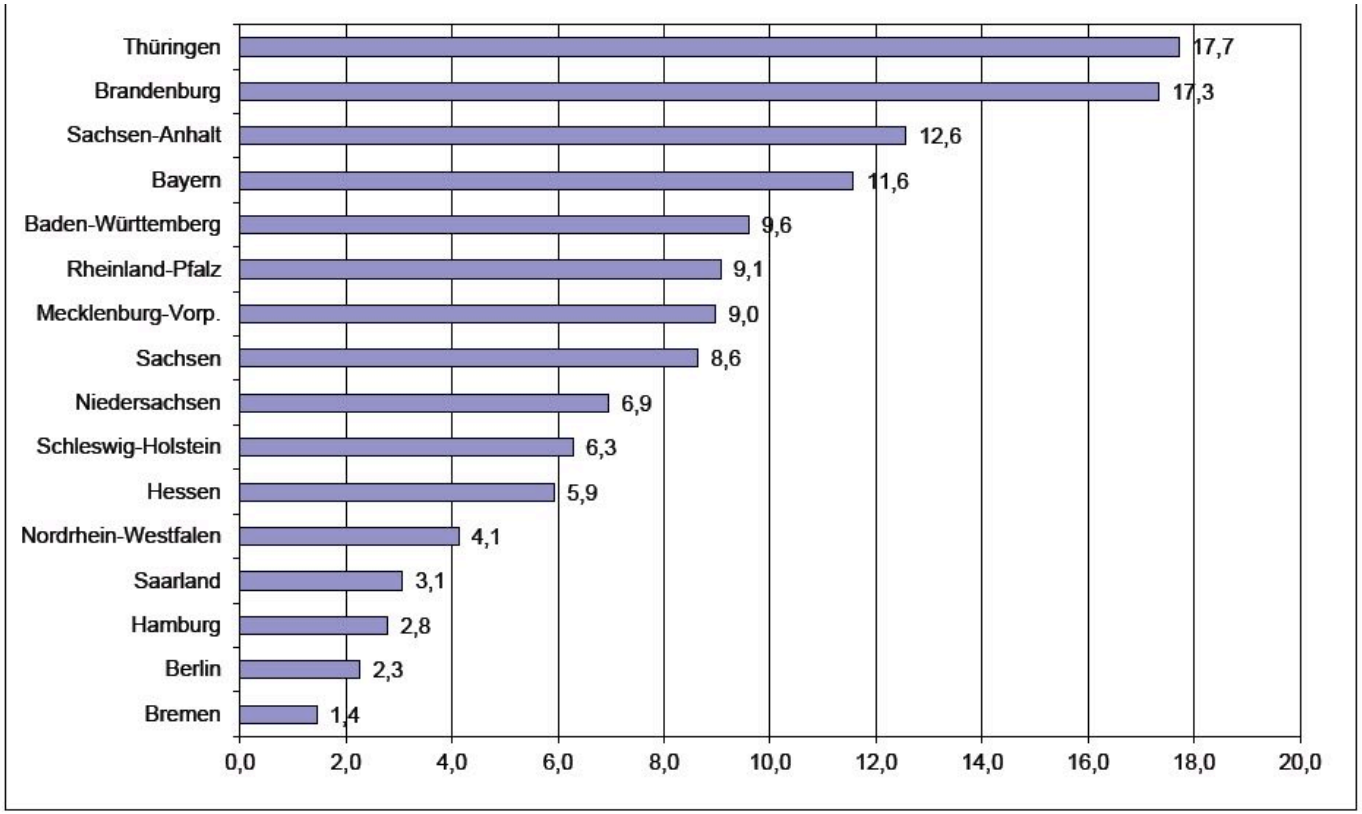
Percentage of renewable energy in the final energy use – a comparison of the German *Länder* (without electricity and district heating)



(DIW/ZSW/AEE 2014)

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CONCLUSION – TO LEAD OR NOT TO LEAD?

To lead or not to lead?

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CONS: SELF-PERCEPTION VS. REALITY
No convincing outcomes
Energy supply based on fossil fuels
Lagging behind
Institutional & societal challenges

To lead or not to lead?

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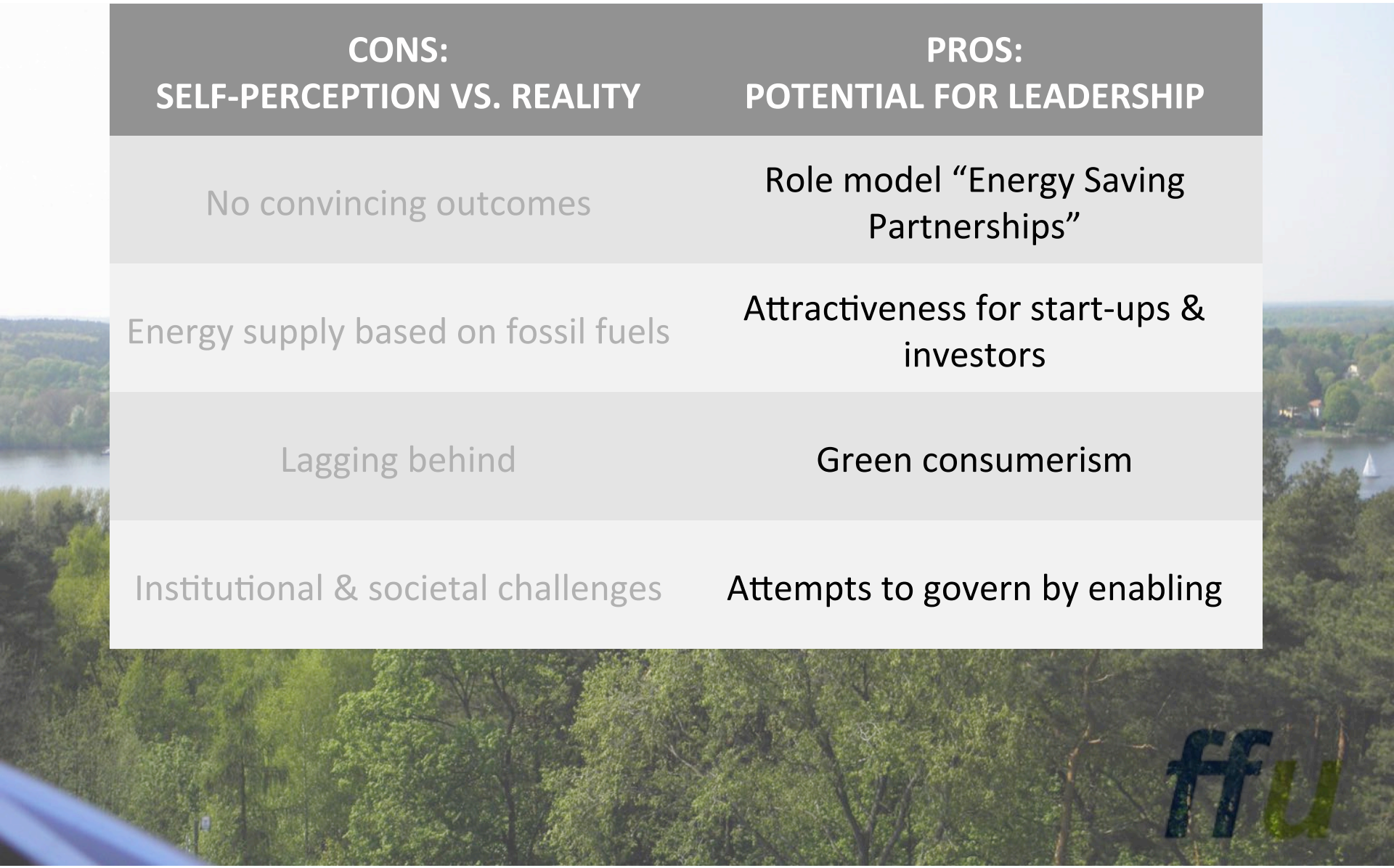
CONS: SELF-PERCEPTION VS. REALITY	PROS: POTENTIAL FOR LEADERSHIP
No convincing outcomes	Role model “Energy Saving Partnerships”
Energy supply based on fossil fuels	Attractiveness for start-ups & investors
Lagging behind	Green consumerism
Institutional & societal challenges	Attempts to govern by enabling



Assessing Berlin's performance in leadership in urban climate change policies

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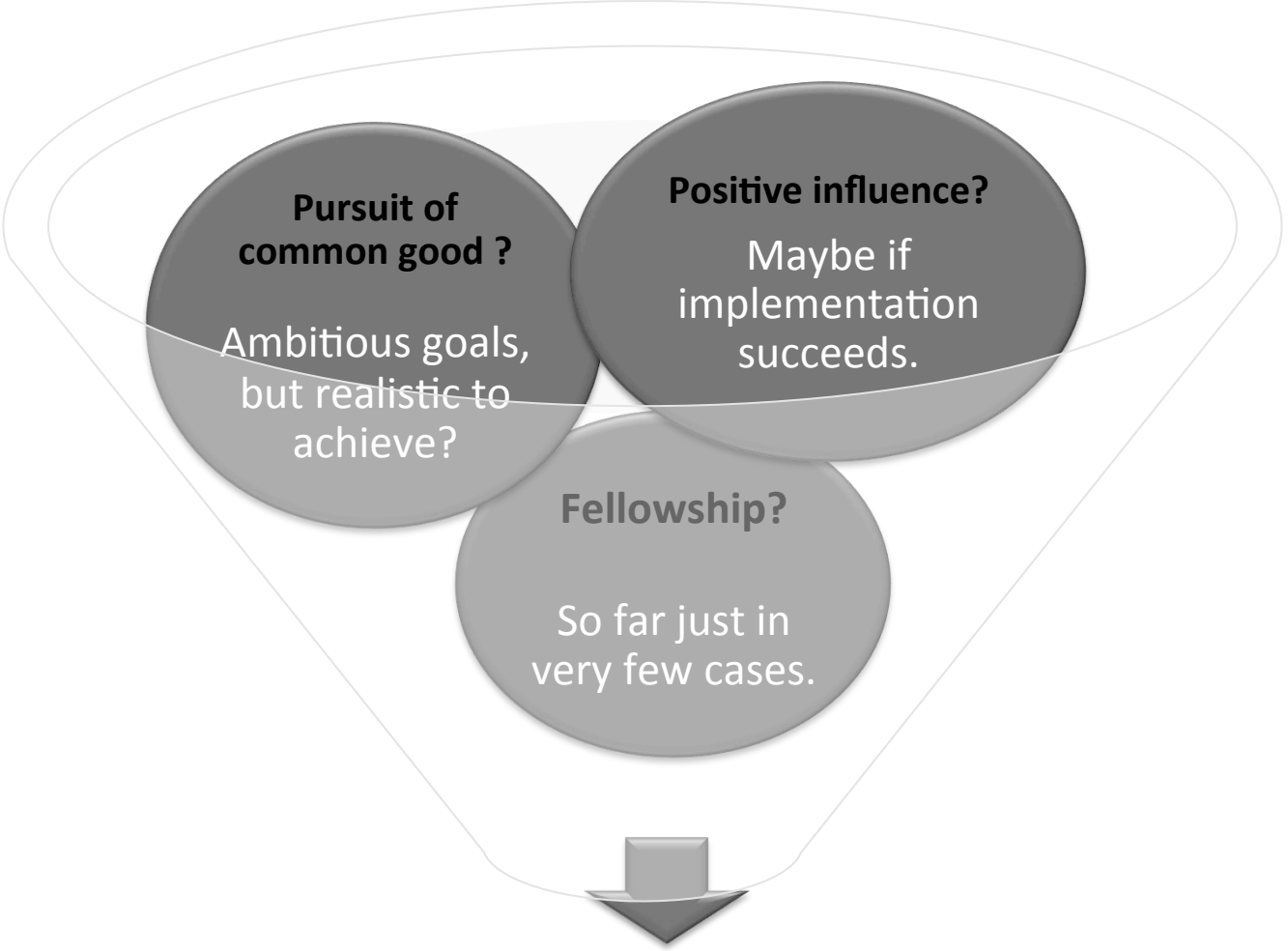

Berlin is not yet a leader, but has potential for leadership.

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WHAT TYPE OF LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED?

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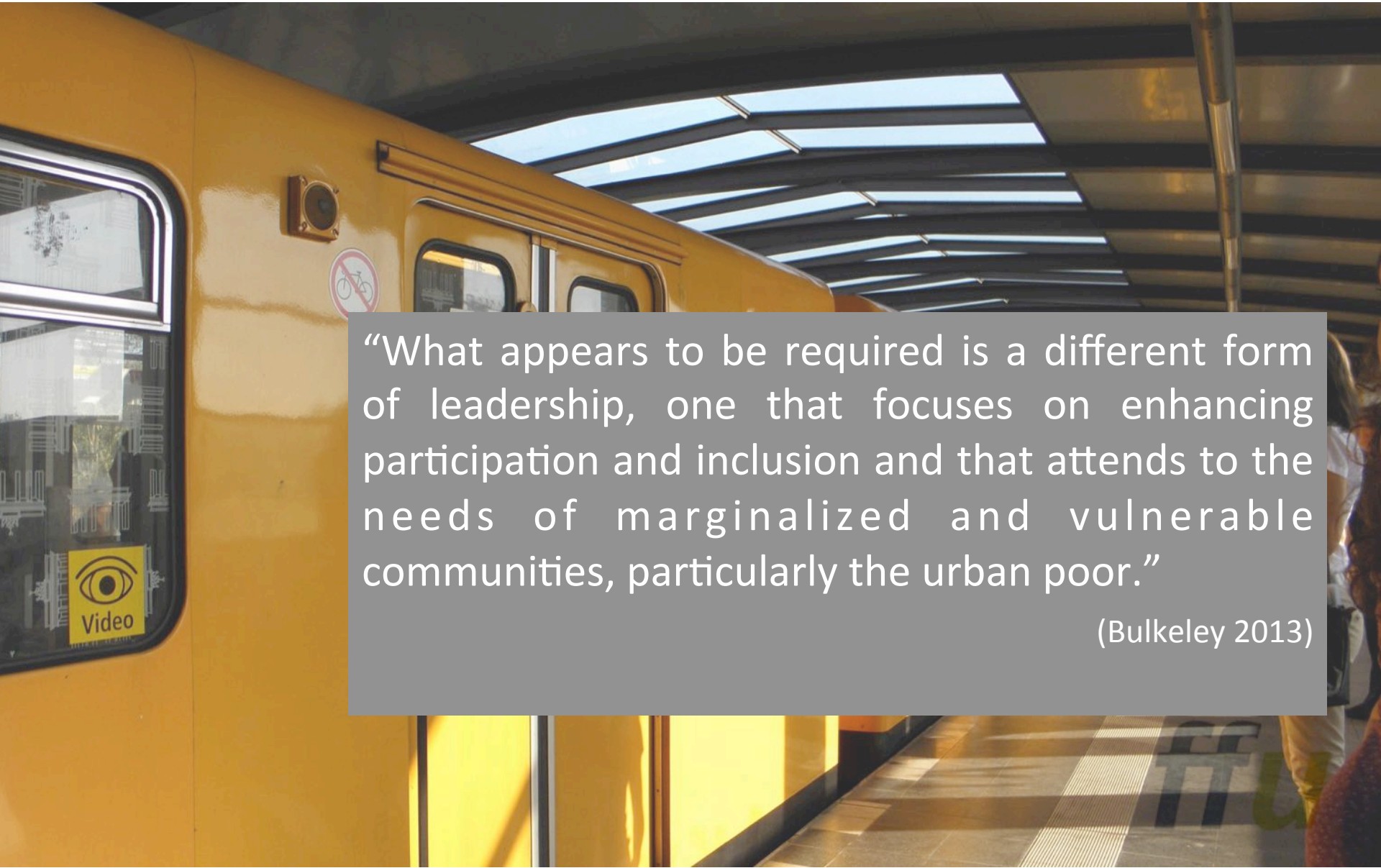

"What appears to be required is a different form of leadership, one that focuses on enhancing participation and inclusion and that attends to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities, particularly the urban poor."

(Bulkeley 2013)

WHAT COMES NEXT?

WHAT COMES NEXT?

In-depth analysis of the processes

Observation of the impacts of the recent development

Stakeholder-centred assessment of the governance

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