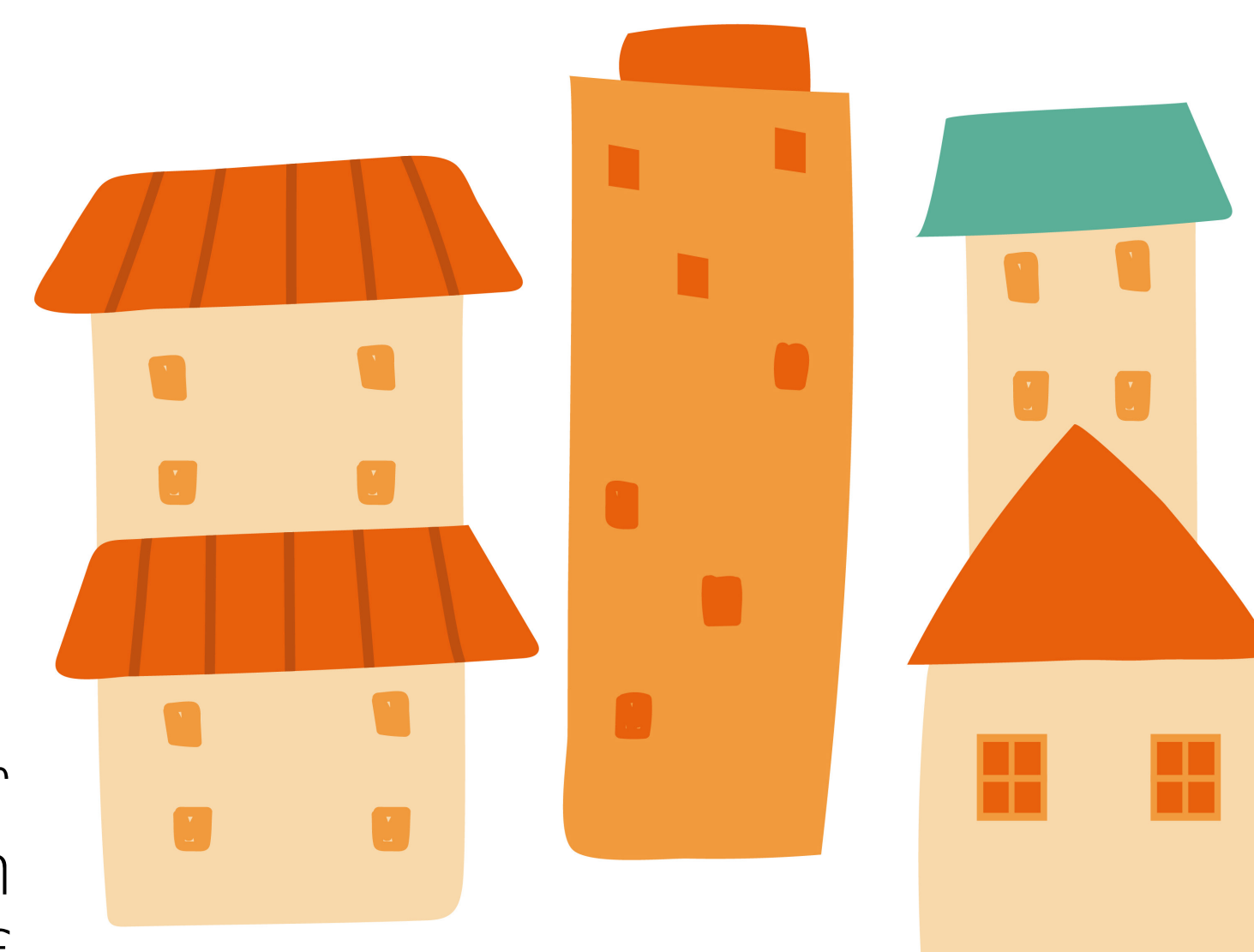


## Young regional stayers maintaining belonging and community attachment through mobilities

### Background:



Young people often move to bigger cities to do their education which results in depopulation and lack of cohesion in rural areas and peripheral villages



### Theory:

In a European context where being mobile is the norm, choosing to stay immobile can be a challenge.

In the public debate and in the migration research, 'staying' are often viewed as 'staying behind' or 'failure to leave'.

Meanwhile, young people who do choose to stay in the home region are viewed as valued inhabitants in the perspective of community building, innovation and regional development.

### Research focus:

Exploring how young regional stayers negotiate between place attachment, belonging to communities and their professional and personal development.

### Method:

Mixed methods and mental maps  
Comparative case studies

### Relevance:

- ✓ New insights into the social context of young regional stayers as well as their societal impact
- ✓ Stimulating cohesion and regional development in communities in villages, small cities and peripheral regions

### References:

- Farrugia, D. (2016). The mobility imperative for rural youth: the structural, symbolic and non-representational dimensions rural youth mobilities. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 19(6).
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### Results:

- ✓ Young regional stayers maintain place attachment to their home through community engagement, digital media and transport.
- ✓ Staying in the home region needs high amounts of justification because this choice is surrounded by prejudism and stigma.
- ✓ When young people make a residential move to a nearby city this does not necessarily imply that they "have left" their community.
- ♥ Communities can benefit from strategic use of digital possibilities to maintain young peoples place attachment, by stimulating belonging and connection through communicating the possibilities in the region.

