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Nordic Centre
for Internet and Society

Sharing Cities Summit

Smart Urbanity and the Life lived Well

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‘You’re not a real artist unless you’ve made it in New York.’

creative careers are largely independent from organizational determinations of success and progression (Tams and Arthur, 2010; Svejenova, 2005)

but intimately bound with the symbolic status of cities (Hracs et al., 2011).

Urban Downshifting: less glamorous creative careers in crafts, folk art and home-based creativity in places considered second-tier, marginal and remote both in a symbolic and geographical sense .

Reconceptualising careers mid-stage

the meaning of a successful career is not determined solely by organisationally confined upward job successions, nor even by job satisfaction, but rather by ‘what one is realizing in comparison with one’s internal career anchors’

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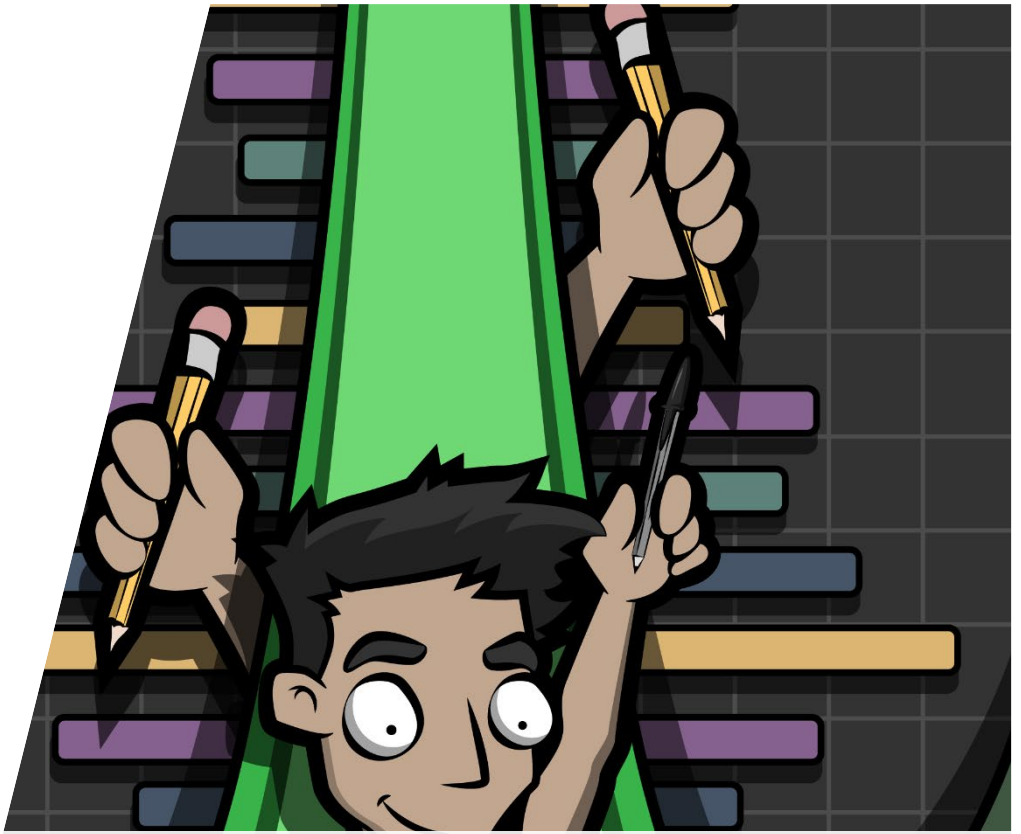


tentative results

Labouring in the Metropolis as a Source of Validation

«Rewind ten years ago. I am 27 and on a bus on my two-hour commute downtown. Every day – even weekends – for three years. I was doing an internship at a fashion house of my dreams – in New York of all places! It was too good to be true. I had to pinch myself in the morning to believe this was happening to me. Going out, meeting wonderful people, having fun. The hustle and bustle of the city, the nightlife! Wow!.»

tentative results

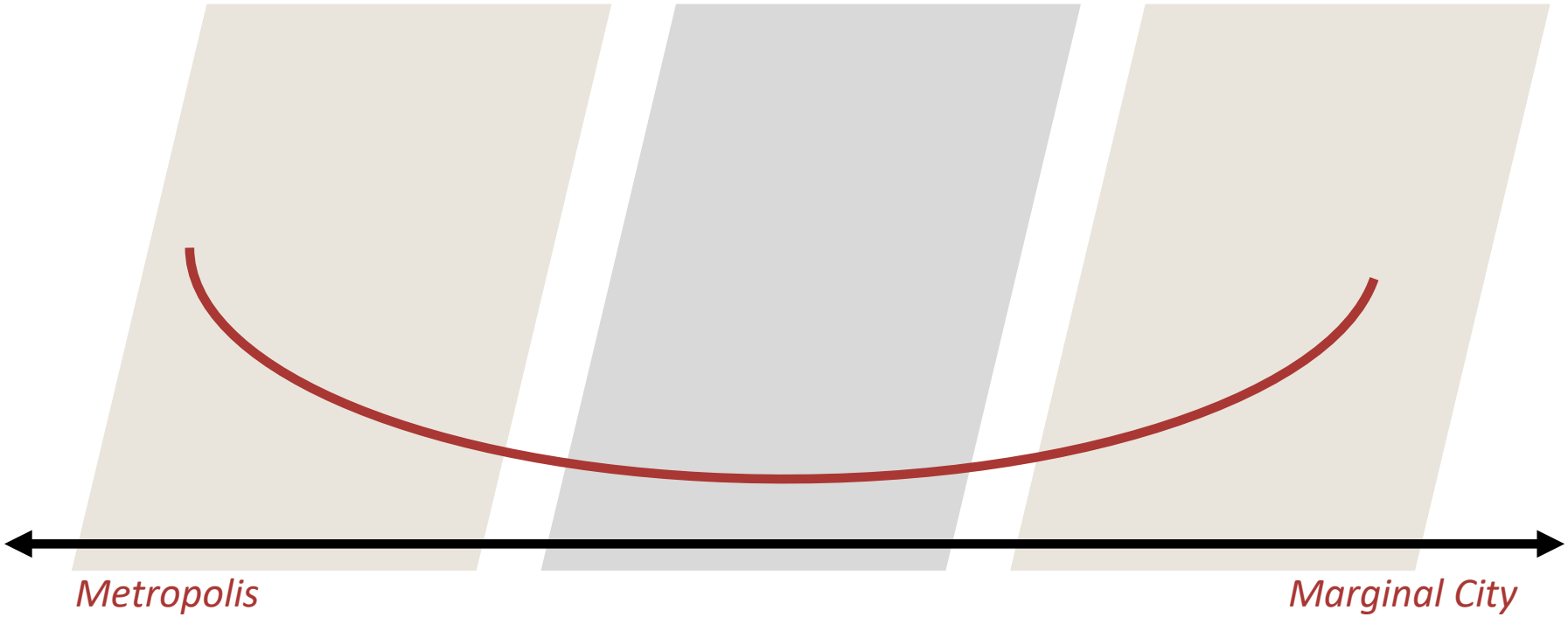
The Metropolis as a Threat to Living Life Well at Mid-Career Stage

«My life in London had one common theme: squeezing. We were squeezing ourselves in a one-bedroom apartment at the edge of the city, squeezing more mileage out of our meagre pay, squeezing more work in an already elongated week to squeeze ourselves in that apartment, squeezing ourselves in overcrowded public transport – squeezing, squeezing, squeezing. And, then it was too much to take. An alternative had to be found.»

tentative results

Reconceptualising Success and a Life Lived Well

«Working as a visual effects designer in Berlin for a famous game developer earned me a solid deposit. Now in Berlin that would have not gotten me far enough to be honest. But in Macedonia this was more than enough for a small house with a garden overlooking the lake! I work when I feel like it. Now I've a great reputation on online freelance websites and only accept jobs that are interesting. (…). … My mental health improved vastly almost overnight! I chose thriving instead of surviving!.»


Metropolis
Marginal City

'Good life' consists of **being able to live and work in supportive, sustaining and meaningful environments**, including urban environments that offer **minimum conditions of 'liveability'** and, by extension offer the minimum conditions to nurture and expand citizens' individual capacities to achieve 'good life', i.e. to achieve their fullest social, economic and psychological potential (Nussbaum, 2011).

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Life	Bodily health	Bodily integrity	Senses, imagination and thought
Emotions	Practical reason	Affiliation	Other species
		Play	Control over one's environment

Digital platforms connect requesters and providers of digital work on a global scale

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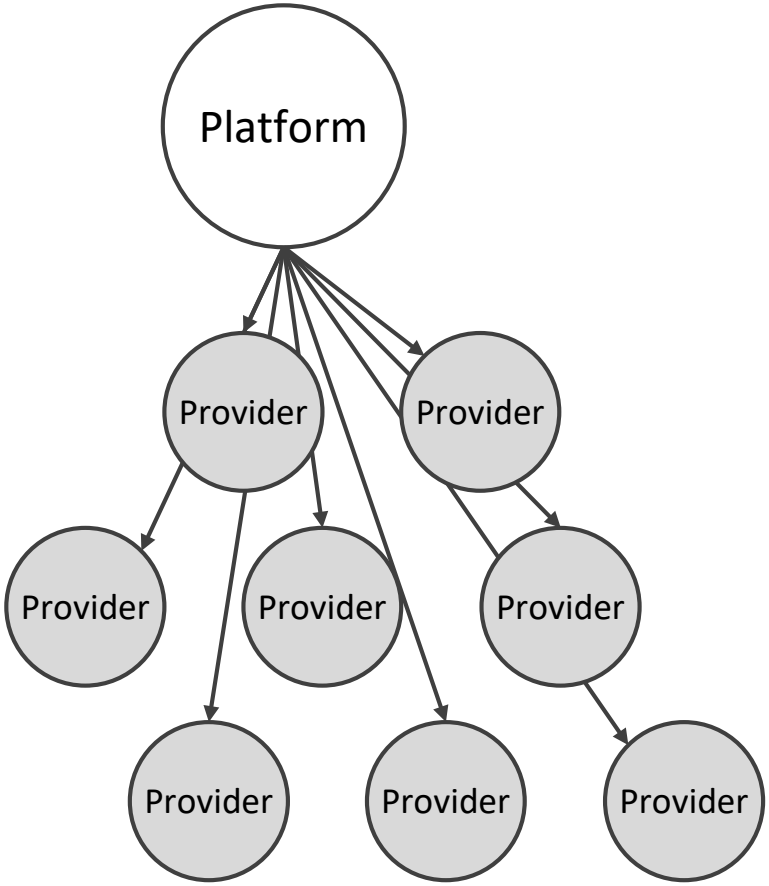
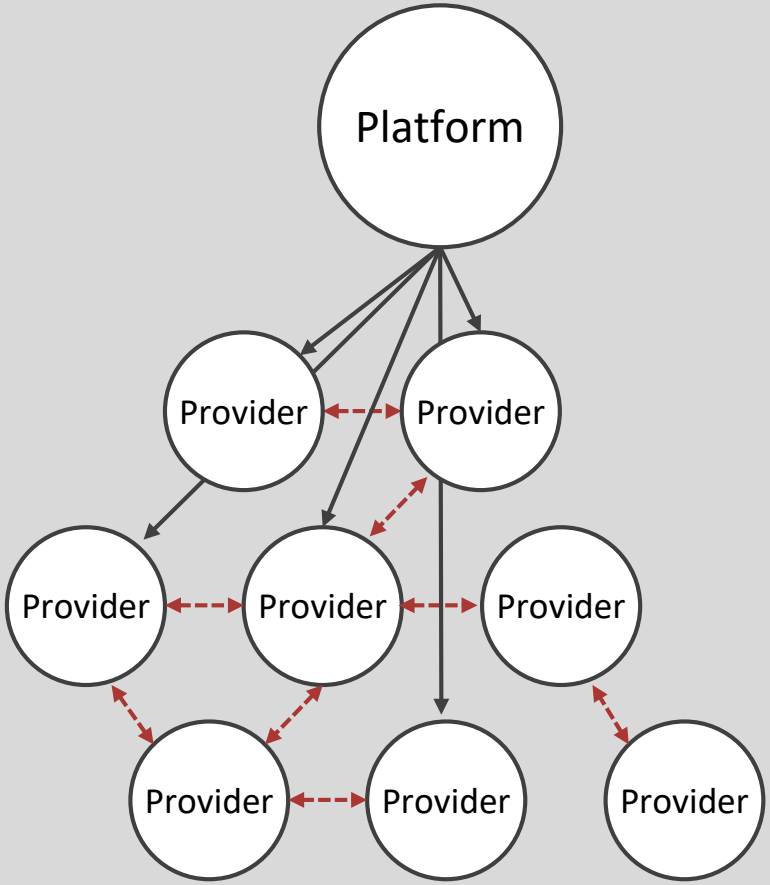
Platforms may, by design, consist of crowds, or of communities – depending on facilitation of interaction





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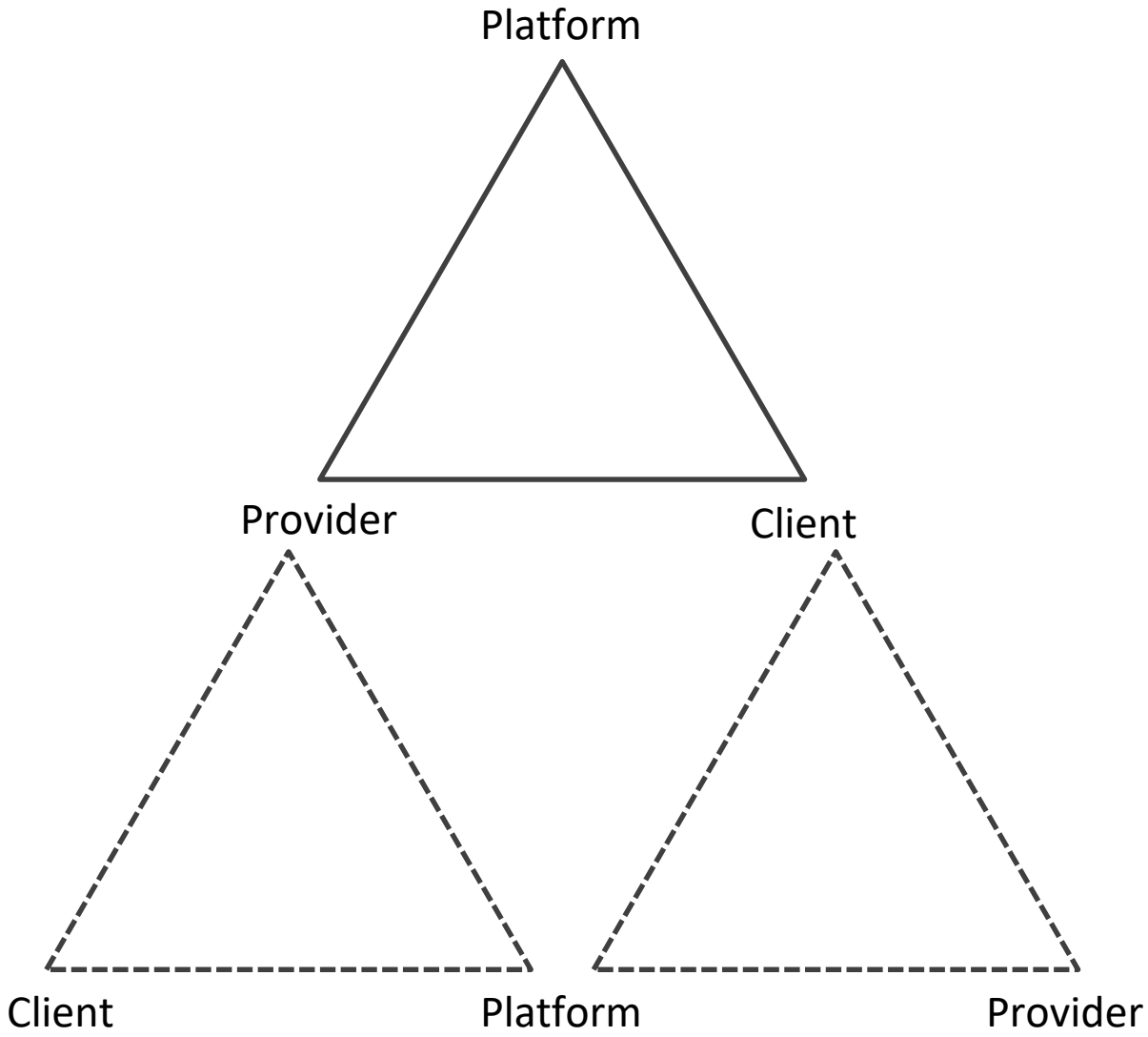
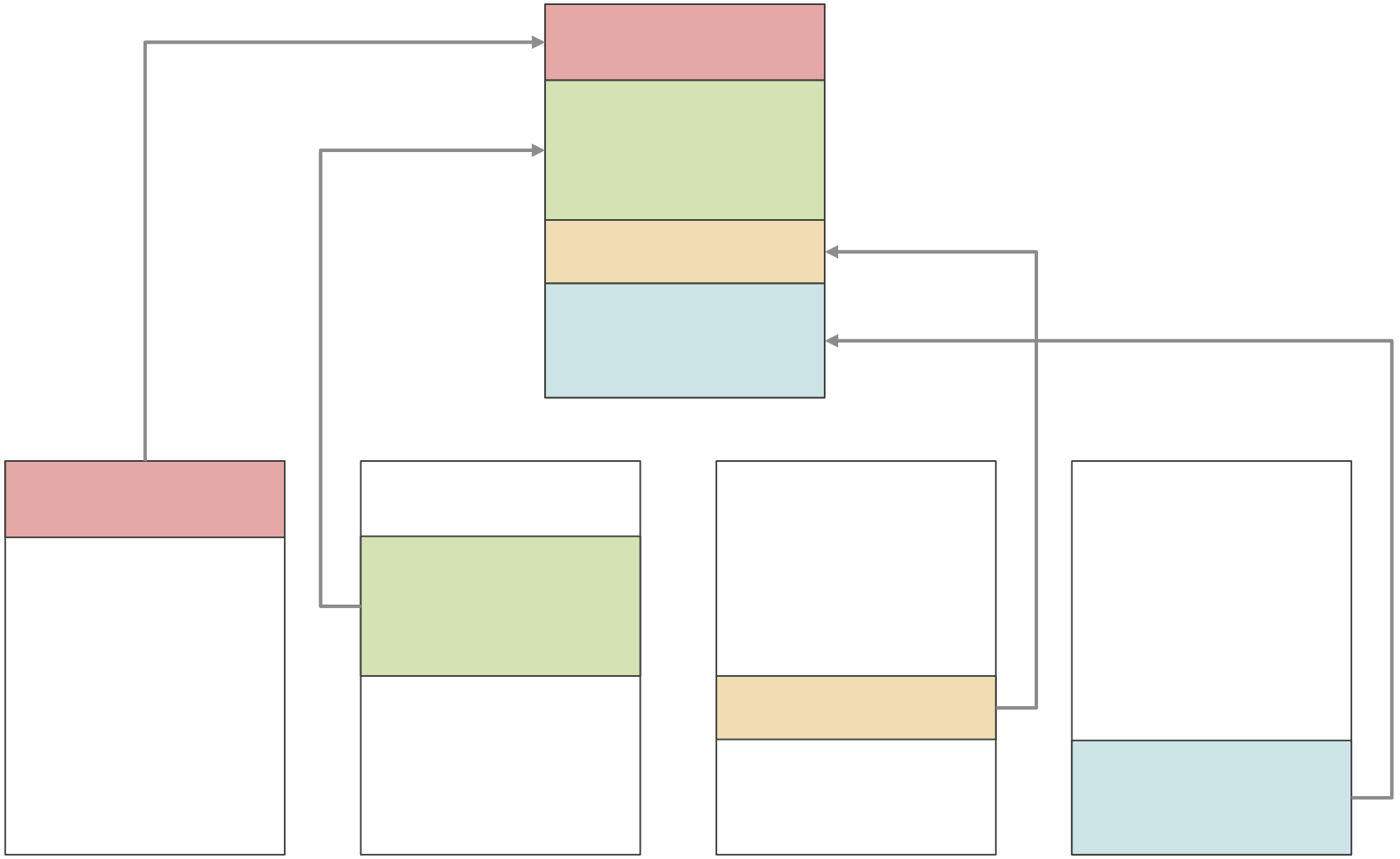
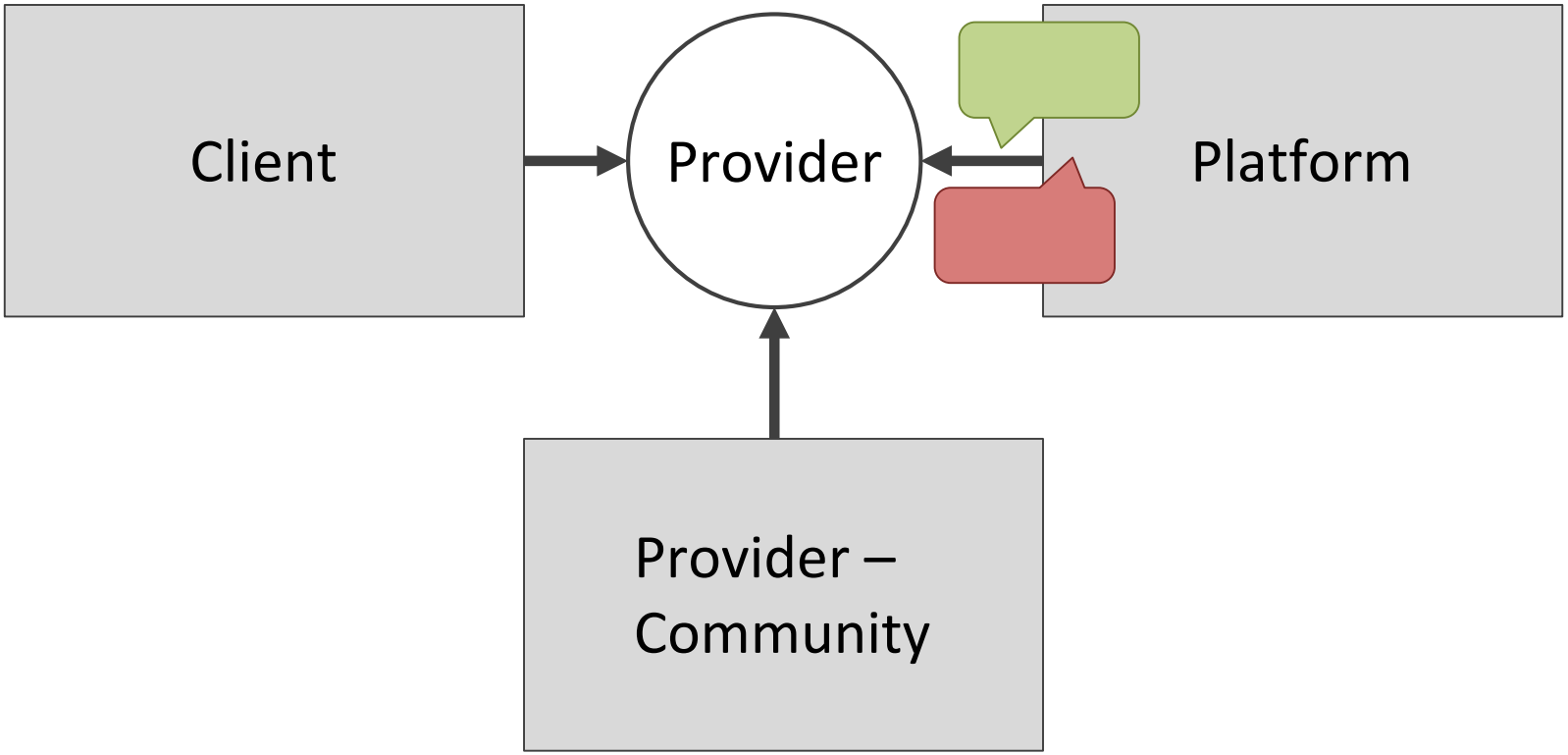
Which Implications has Multi-Platforming for e.g. Organizational Identification, Support, Learning?



Currently the Services produced are not collaborative in a true sense – how could this be organized?



How is Feedback, from which Sources, best organized to enable Learning and Meaningfulness?



a good life calculus, which includes a reflexive reassessment of the capabilities to live life well while pursuing a creative career, underlies creative workers' shifting interpretations of career success and geographical career transition.

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