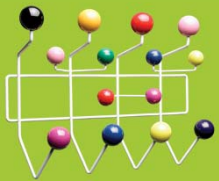
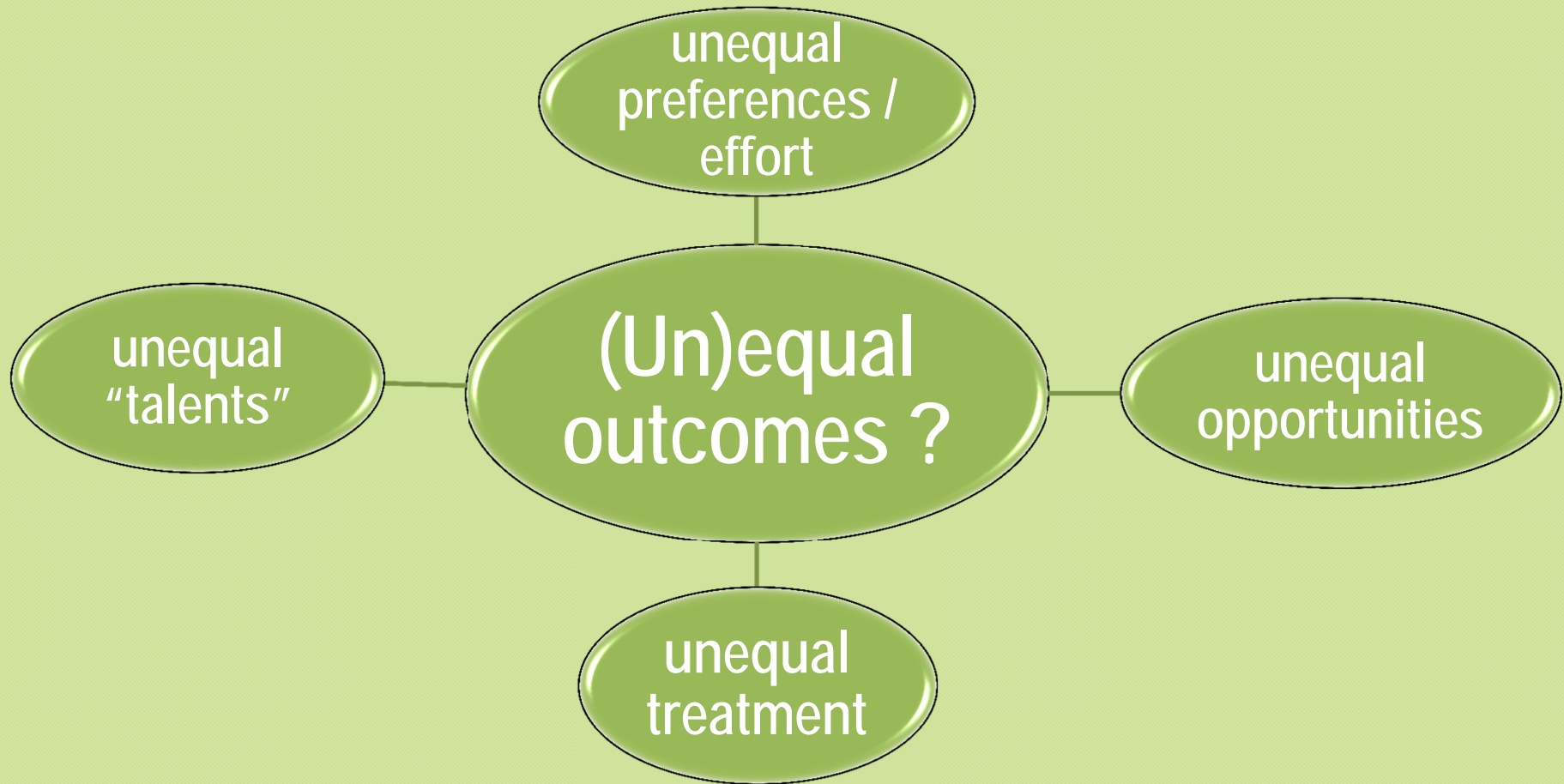
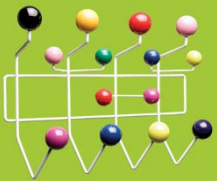


# How far do we want to go ?

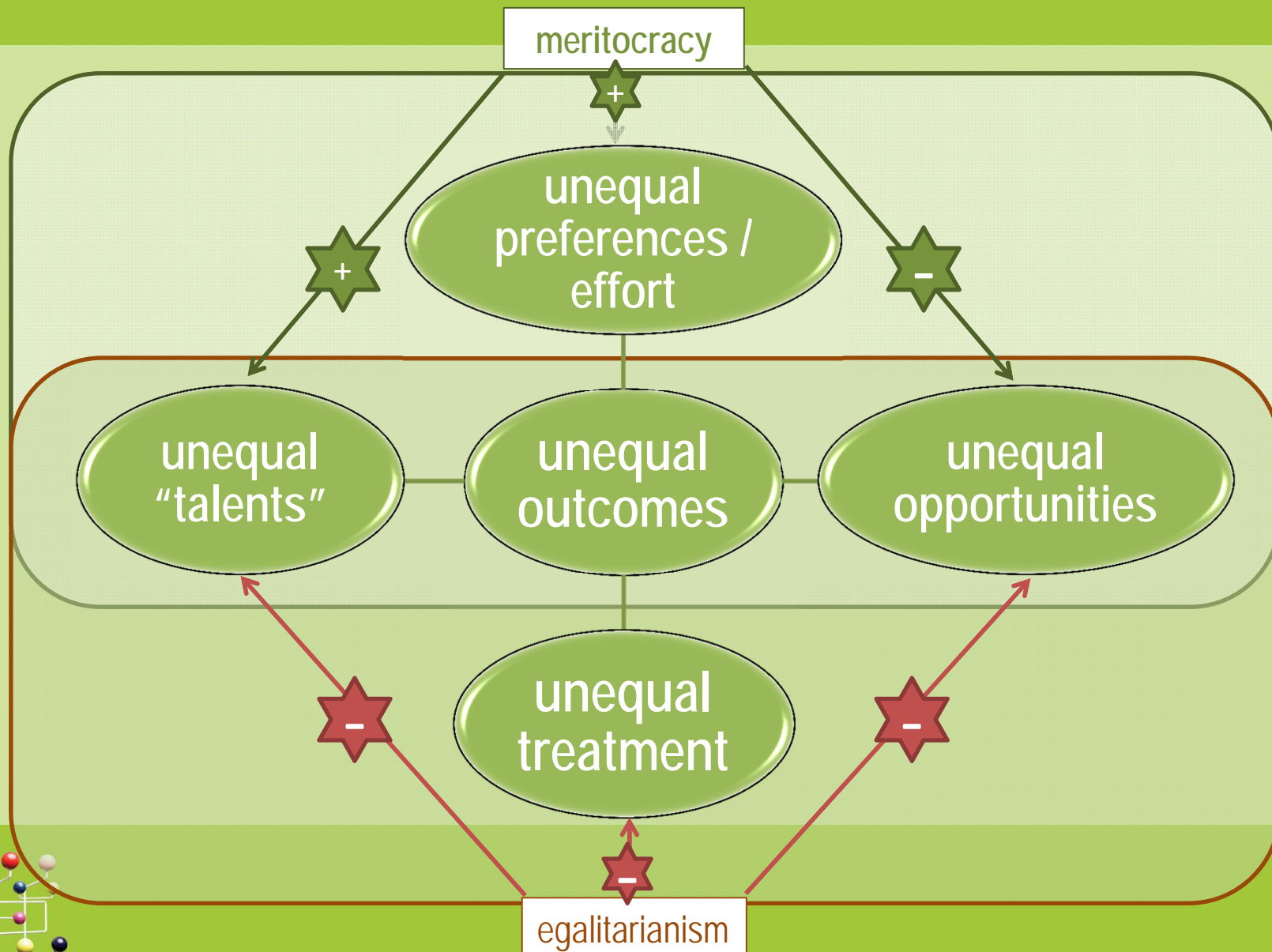


# Two views on equality

- **Meritocracy** (P. Saunders): rejects unequal opportunities, but accepts unequal treatment on the basis of 'merit' (= 'talent' + 'effort')
- **Egalitarianism** (J. Dewey): rejects any form of unequal opportunities or unequal treatment on the basis of human dignity. Egalitarianism indeed promotes 'positive discrimination' to achieve equal outcomes, to compensate for unequal opportunities

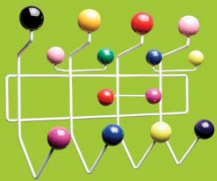


# Views on (in)equality



# Problems with meritocracy

- Confusion between talent and merit: talents are not 'deserved'
- Underestimation of unequal opportunities: financial thresholds are tackled, but other social and cultural barriers are often ignored
- Naive notion of talent: observed talents are seen as reflecting genetic differences (= unalterable)  
↔ perceived talents result from interaction between genetic endowments and environmental influences  
=> unequal treatment based on talent criterion reinforces social inequalities



# Conclusion

- The knowledge-based society can be reconciled with social inclusion / cohesion if more is invested in (basic) education and training
- Lisbon 2010 has failed to achieve more inclusion / cohesion because this dimension was neglected.
- There is room for stronger coordination between social inclusion and education policies at EU level

