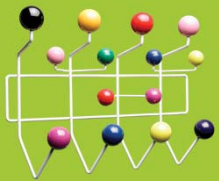
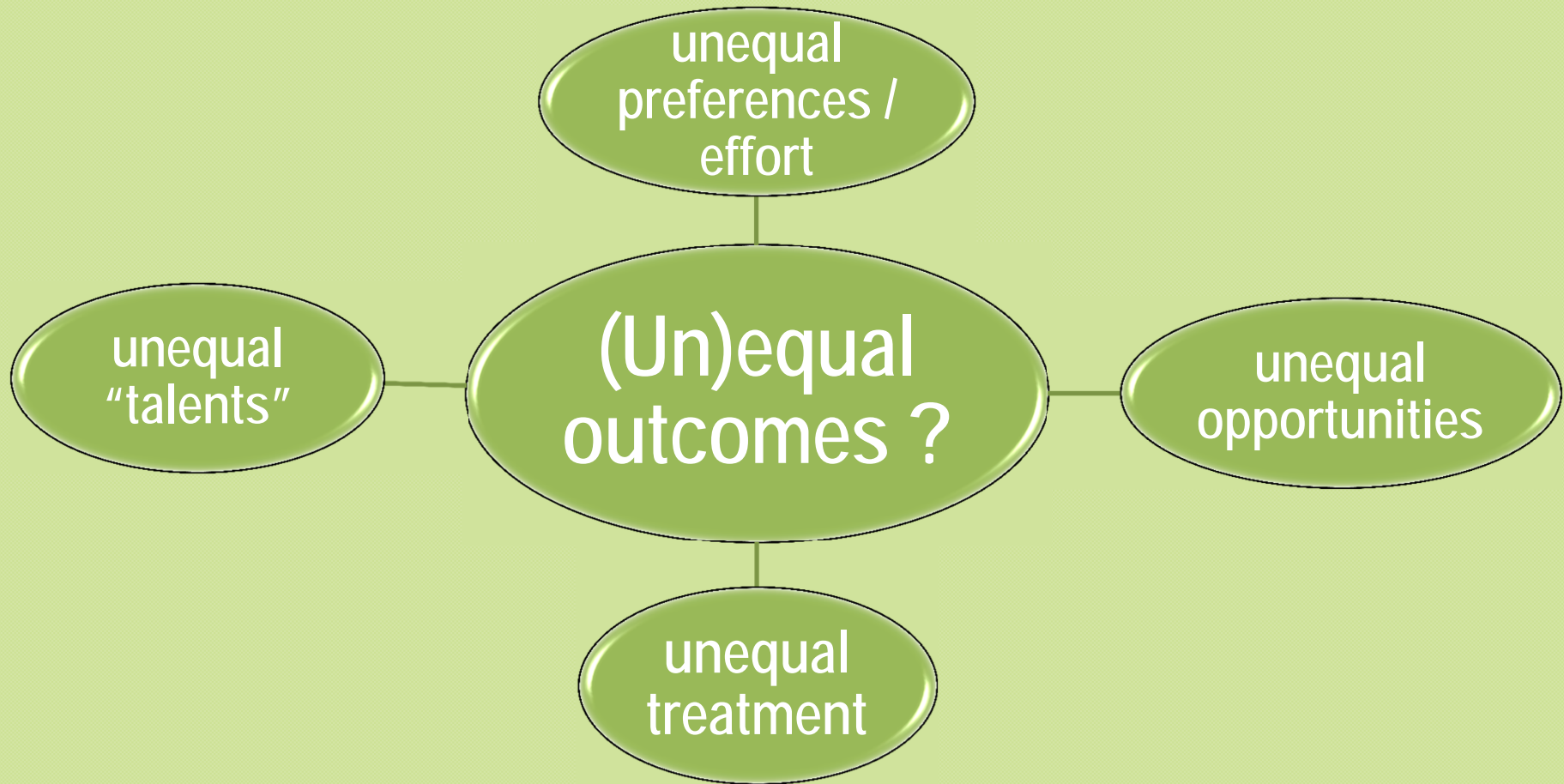
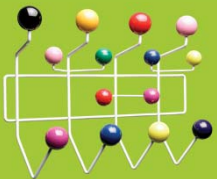


How far do we want to go ?

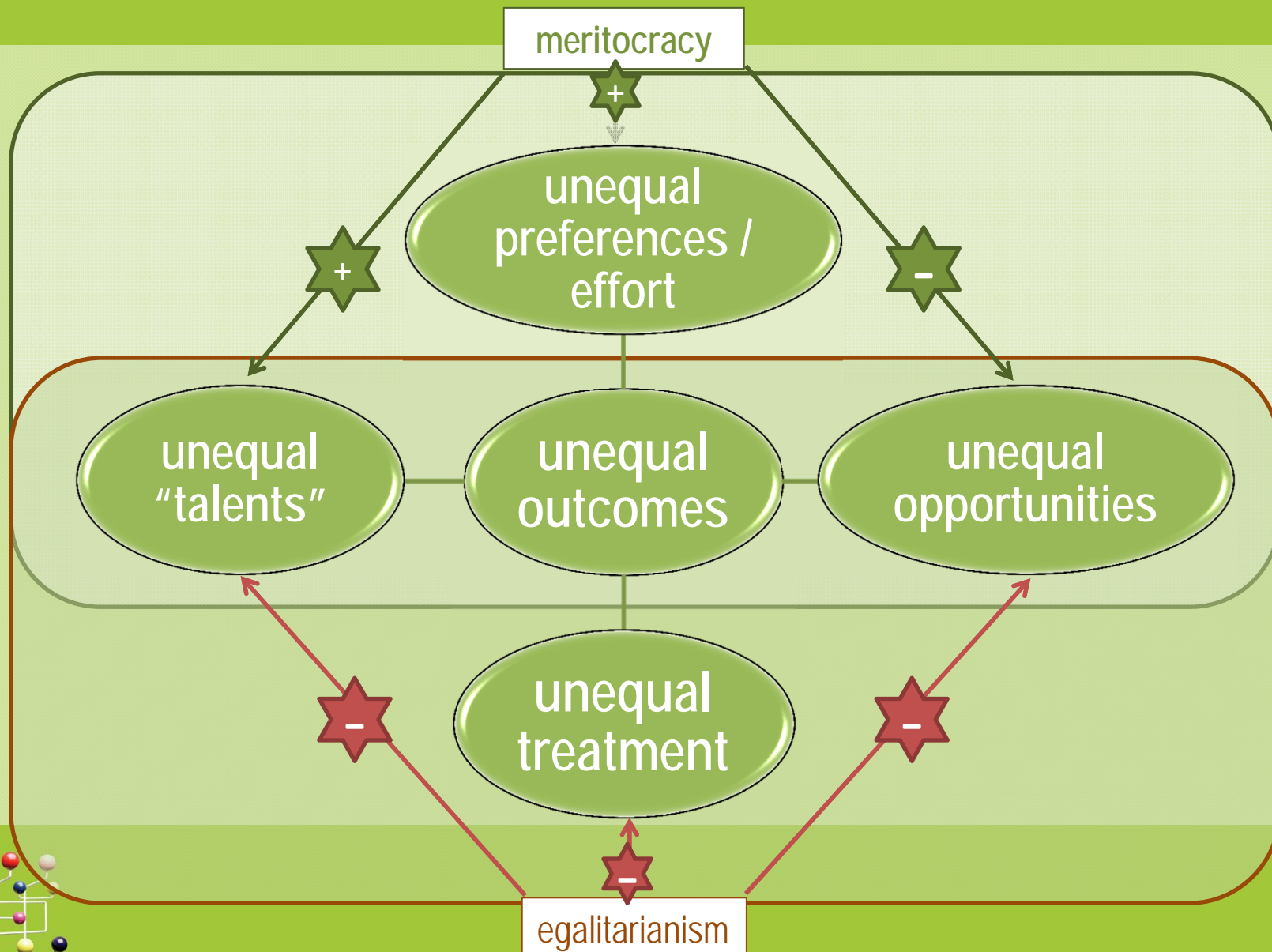


Two views on equality

- **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

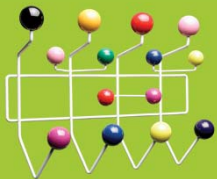


Views on (in)equality



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

