



**REVALORISE**  
enhancing research impact



## How to build SSH valorisation community?

Mikko Korpela & Toni Pienonen, Crazy Town Oy ©



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Contents

1. **What** are communities?
2. **Why** communities matter for SSH valorisation?
3. **How** to implement community-approach in practice?
  - A) Why does the community exist and who are the members
  - B) Community Manager
  - C) Member engagement and knowledge creation
  - D) Rules and rituals
  - E) Location

# Crazy Town

- Community for work and learning with **400+ member organizations** around Finland
- **20+ year** experience of building and operating community-driven hubs
- **Hundreds** of trained community managers across Finland and Europe
- **15+ years** of experience of helping researchers and universities to valorize their knowledge with the help of peers and community-based approach





## Merriam Webster describes "community is a unified body of individuals, such as

- a) people with common interests living in a particular area or domain
- b) a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living / working together within a larger society
- c) a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society (ie. the academic community)
- d) a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests
- e) a group linked by a common policy
- f) an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (such as species) in a common location"



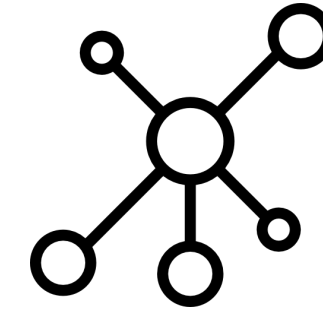
# Difference between community and network

Enhancing research impact 

**Communities**



**Networks**



# Difference between community and network

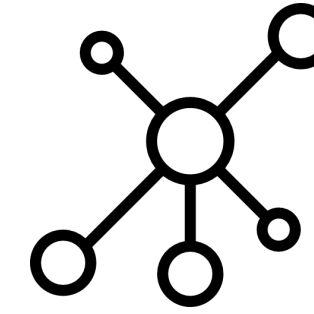
Enhancing research impact 

## Communities



- Close and intimate

## Networks



- Large and anonymous

# Difference between community and network

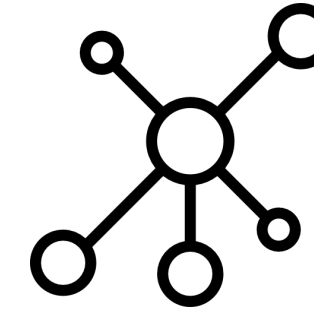
Enhancing research impact 

## Communities



- Close and intimate
- The more committed the members are, the better the community

## Networks



- Large and anonymous
- The bigger, the better



# Difference between community and network

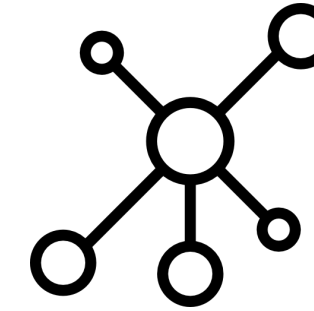
Enhancing research impact 

## Communities



- Close and intimate
- The more committed the members are, the better the community
- Tied to a place (digital, physical) and / or theme

## Networks



- Large and anonymous
- The bigger, the better
- Not tied to a specific place, nor even a theme

# Difference between community and network

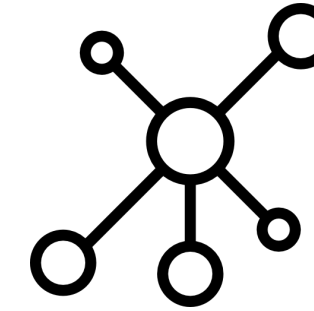
Enhancing research impact +

## Communities



- Close and intimate
- The more committed the members are, the better the community
- Tied to a place (digital, physical) and / or theme
- Reciprocity

## Networks



- Large and anonymous
- The bigger, the better
- Not tied to a specific place, nor even a theme
- Do not require reciprocity

# Difference between community and network

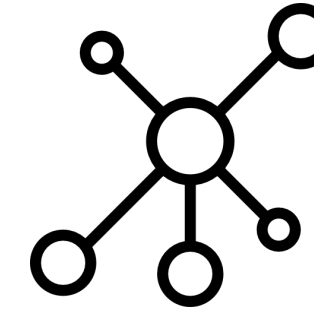
Enhancing research impact +

## Communities



- Close and intimate
- The more committed the members are, the better the community
- Tied to a place (digital, physical) and / or theme
- Reciprocity
- Shared interest, mission or domain

## Networks



- Large and anonymous
- The bigger, the better
- Not tied to a specific place, nor even a theme
- Do not require reciprocity
- Utility and benefit -driven

# Difference between community and network

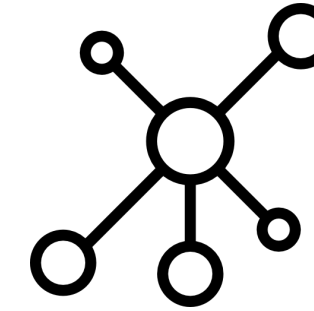
Enhancing research impact +

## Communities



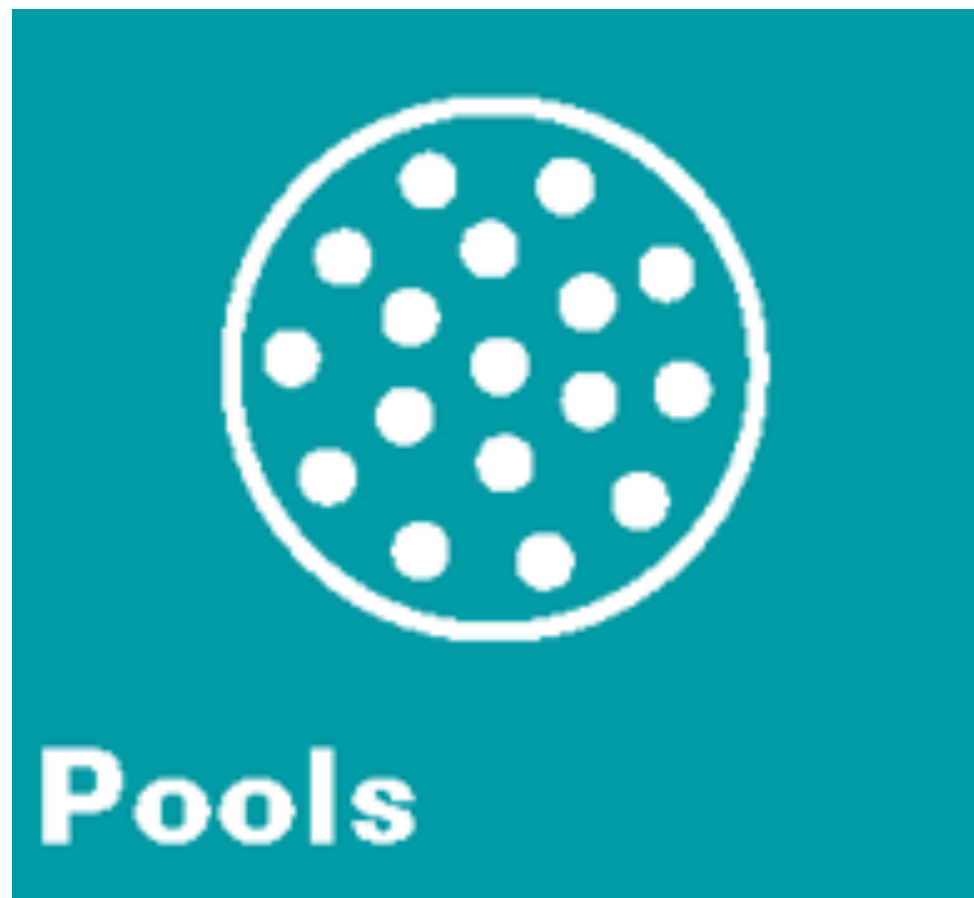
- Close and intimate
- The more committed the members are, the better the community
- Tied to a place (digital, physical) and / or theme
- Reciprocity
- Shared interest, mission or domain
- Individual and personal

## Networks



- Large and anonymous
- The bigger, the better
- Not tied to a specific place, nor even a theme
- Do not require reciprocity
- Utility and benefit -driven
- "Does anybody notice, if I leave the network?"

# Three Forms of Community Affiliation



Examples

- Apple enthusiasts
- Republicans or Democrats
- Ironman triathletes



Examples

- Facebook
- Cancer Survivors Network
- Hash House Harriers



Examples

- Deepak Chopra
- Hannah Montana
- Oprah


## Examples of academic communities that may exist

- Topic or domain-specific researcher groups
- Active alumni communities
- Student communities
- Communities of practice that bring professionals together
- University-based startup communities

etc.



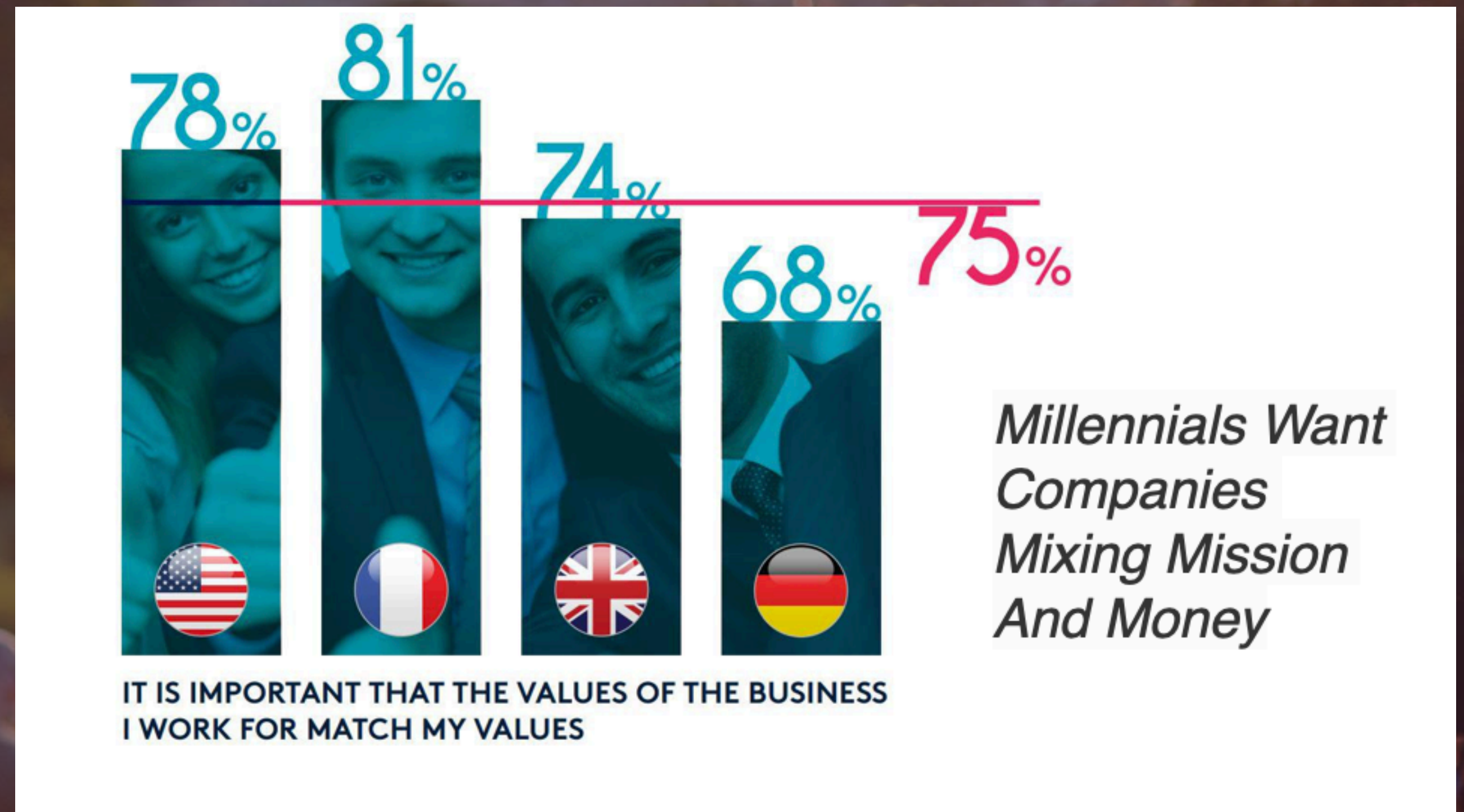
## 2. Why communities matter for SSH valorisation?

A large group of people is sitting on a grassy hill at sunset. They are looking towards a city skyline in the distance. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The people are mostly seen from behind, creating a sense of a shared experience. The city skyline is visible through the trees in the background, with some lights beginning to glow.

**People crave for  
belonging, sense of  
identity and  
meaningful  
opportunities**



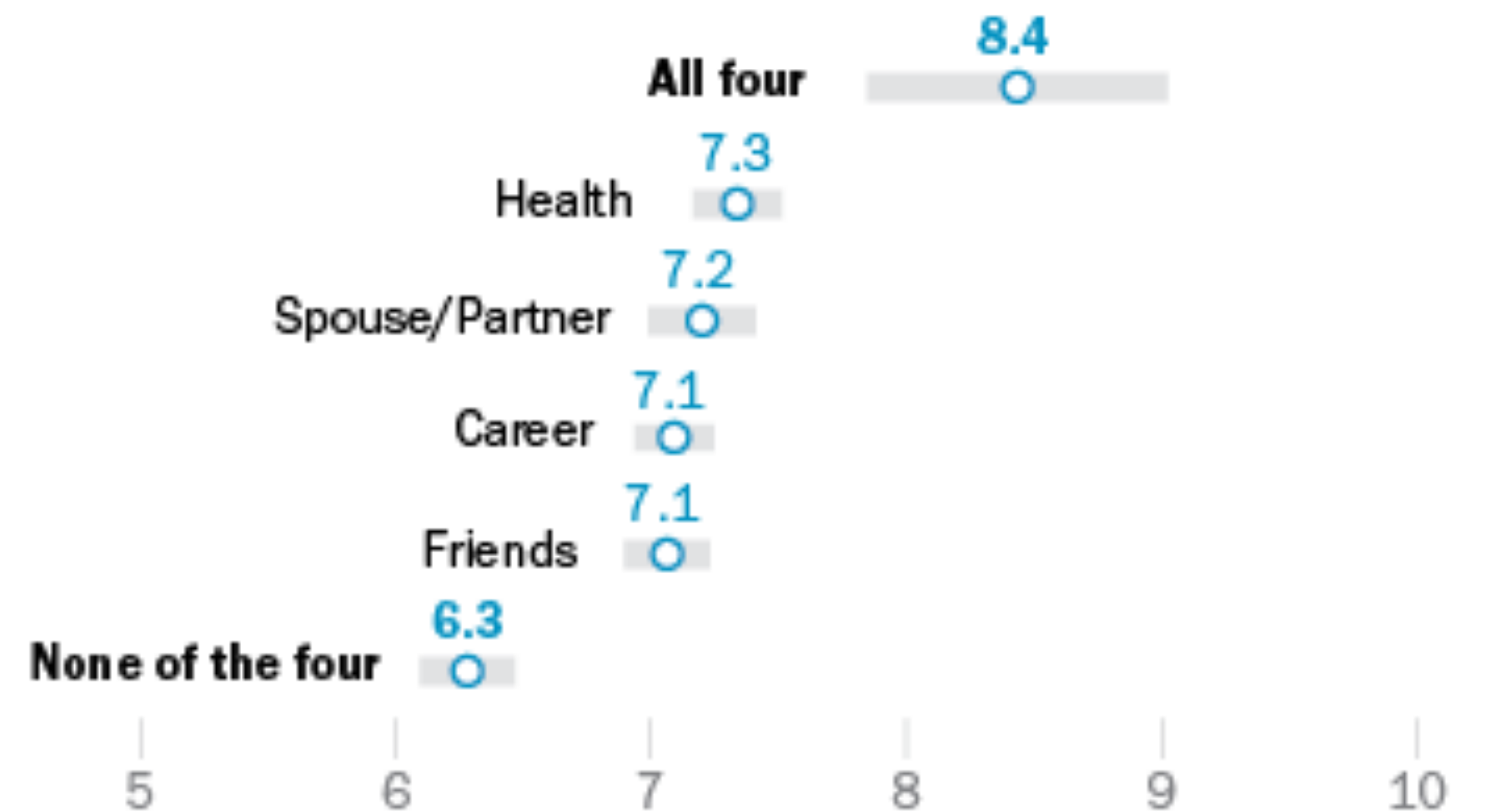
People crave for belonging, sense of identity and meaningful opportunities



People crave for belonging, sense of identity and meaningful opportunities

## Four areas of life universally associated with higher life satisfaction

Average life satisfaction rating among those who mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ when describing what gives them meaning in life



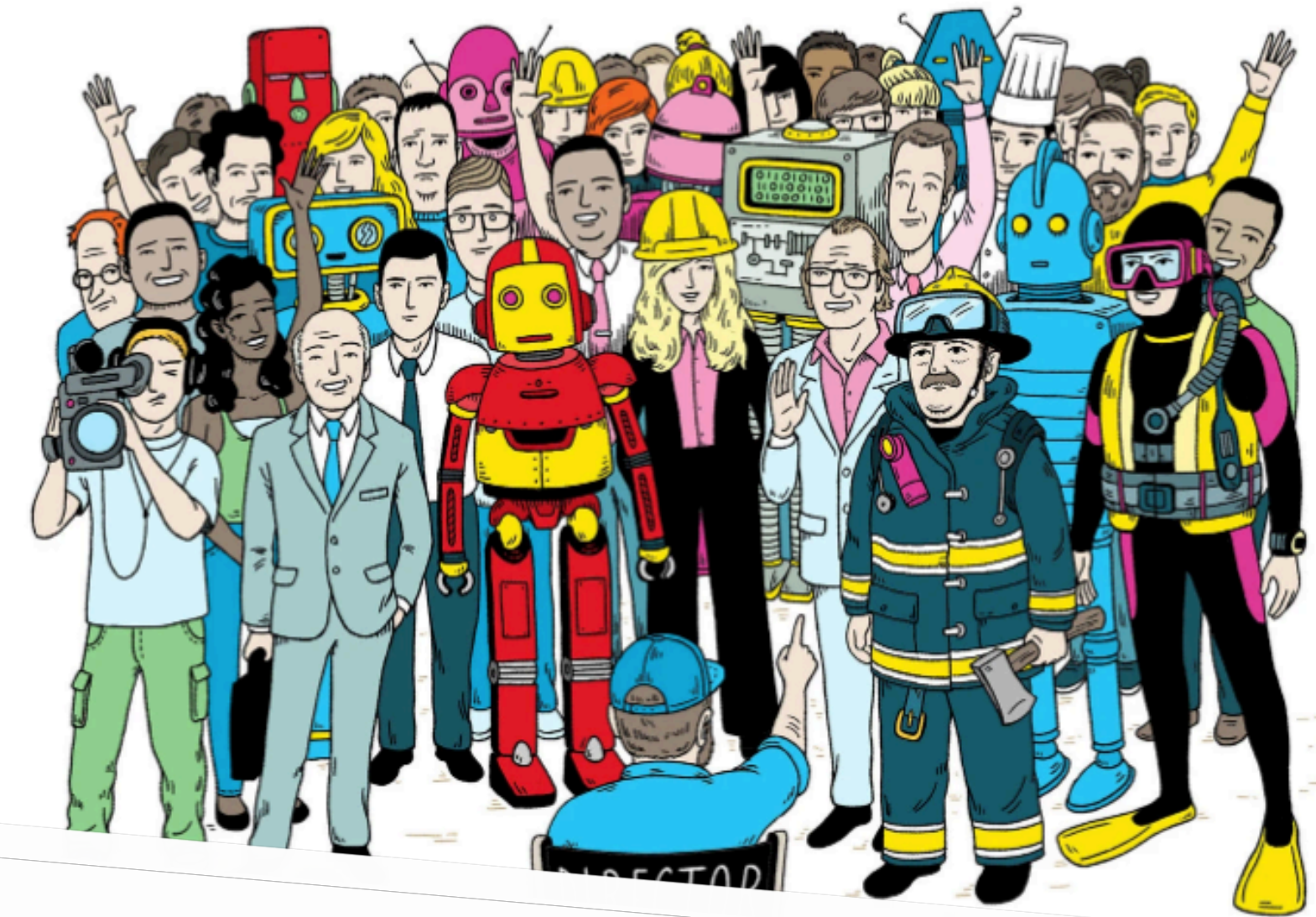
Note: These differences persist in a statistical model that controls for demographic factors and response length and tests the associations between mentioning one of 30 topics in an open-ended response and respondents' life satisfaction ratings on a 0-10 scale. The shaded region represents the standard error of each estimate, a measure of uncertainty.

Source: Survey conducted Sept. 14-28, 2017, among U.S. adults.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

After all, work is changing - professional communities help to share resources, upskill and find partners

## What Hollywood Can Teach Us About the Future of Work



With the Hollywood model, ad hoc teams carry out projects that are large and complex, requiring many different people with complementary skills.

A large crowd of people, likely students, is gathered in a multi-level indoor space, possibly a university event or conference. Many individuals in the foreground have their hands raised in the air, suggesting an enthusiastic atmosphere. The scene is lit with a mix of warm red and cool white lights. In the background, several levels of balconies or walkways are visible, with more people standing on them. The overall mood is one of active participation and community engagement.

**Communities within universities anchor talent and provide platform for peer-support and cocreation**

Are you committed to improving  
University-Business Cooperation  
in your university, business or  
region?

**Join the State of UBC  
conversation at:**

**[www.ub-cooperation.eu](http://www.ub-cooperation.eu)**



THE STATE OF  
**UNIVERSITY  
BUSINESS**  
COOPERATION  
IN EUROPE





**“We need activity that inspires, enables and empowers researchers as well as students.**

**Communities and community-driven platforms are a focal point for all things entrepreneurial. They need to be bottom-up to make grassroots change happen.”**

**– Innovation officer at a Finnish university**

# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

*Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)*

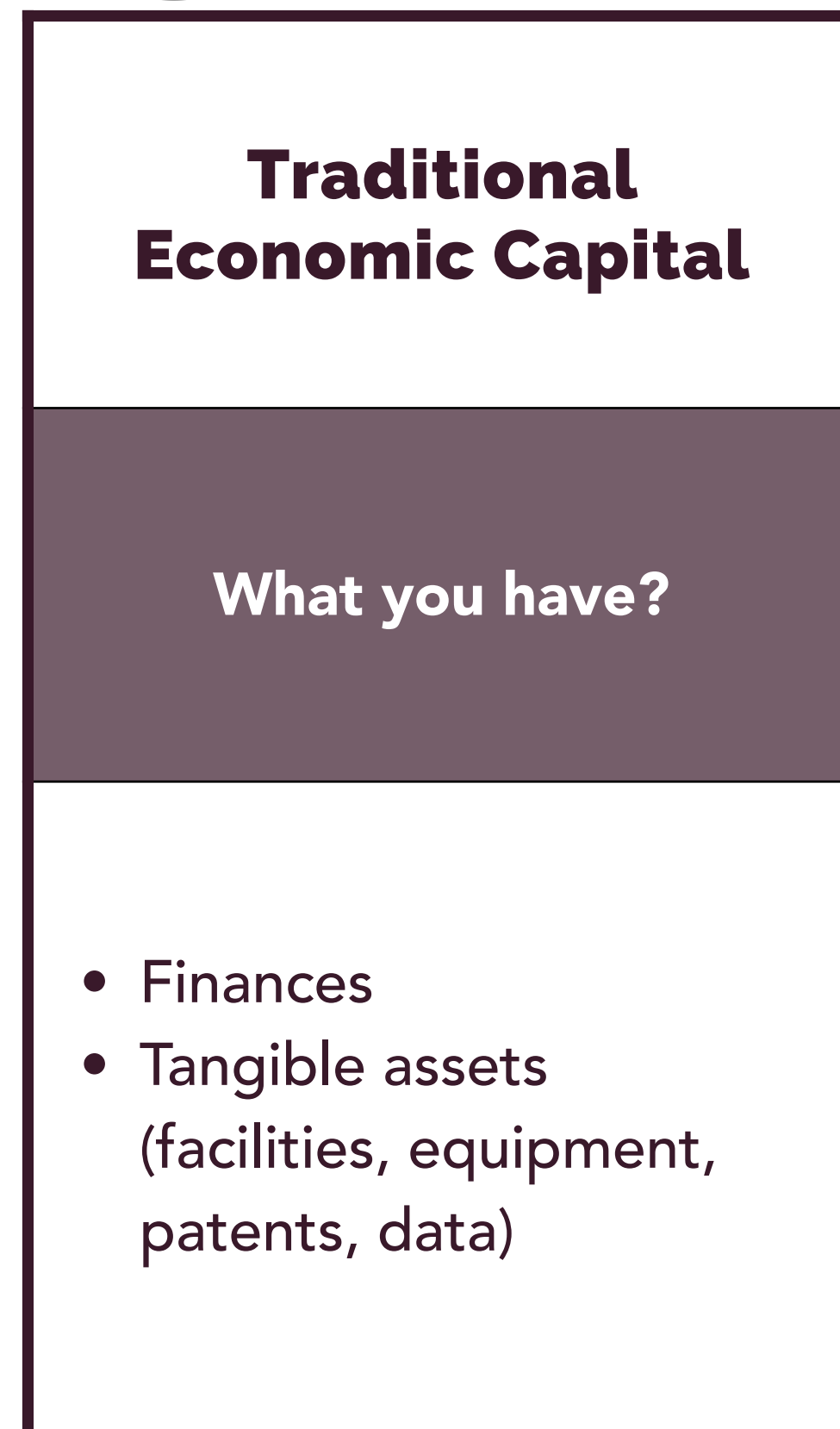
← *More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer*

*More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer* →

# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)



← More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer

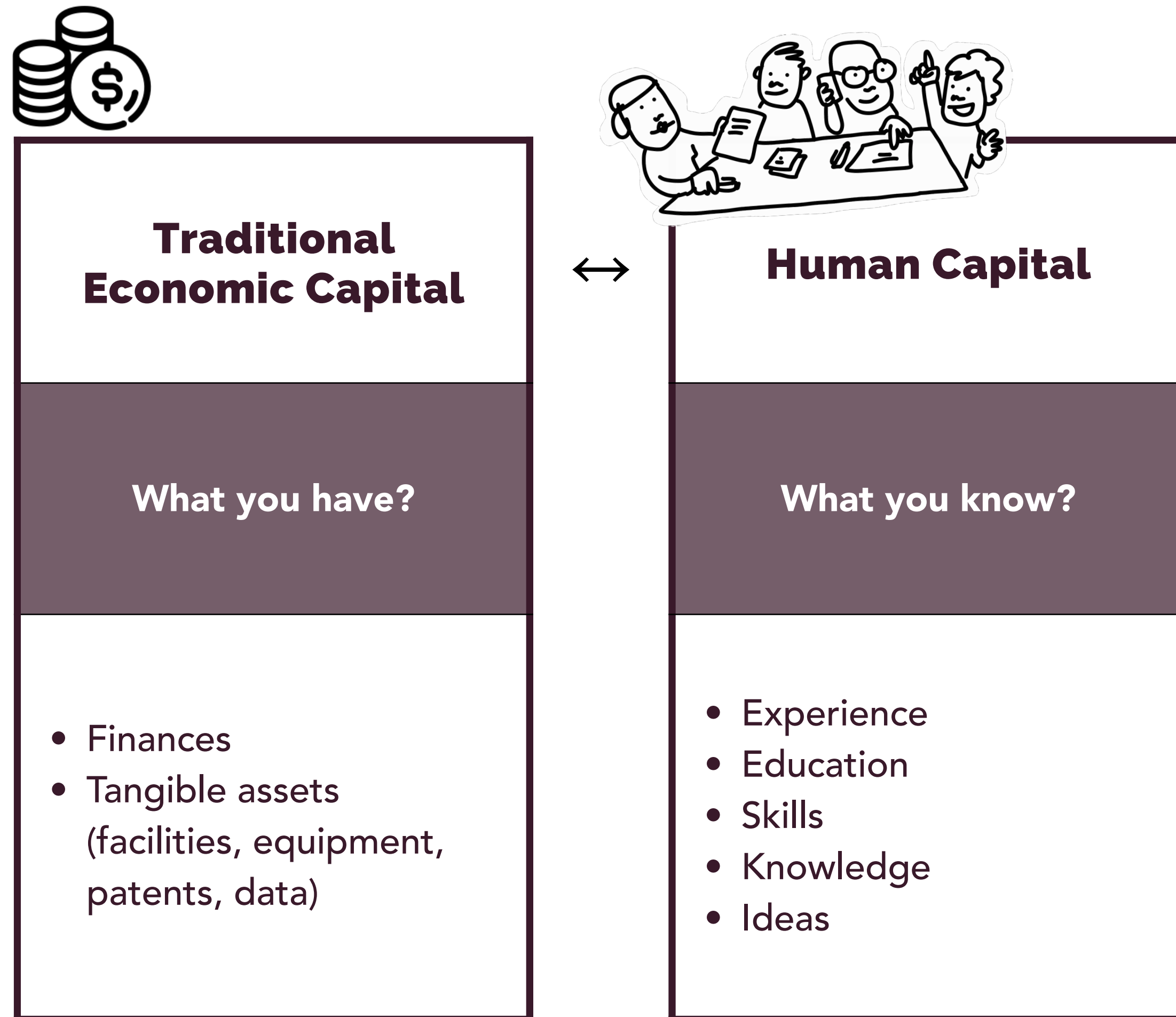
More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer →



# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)



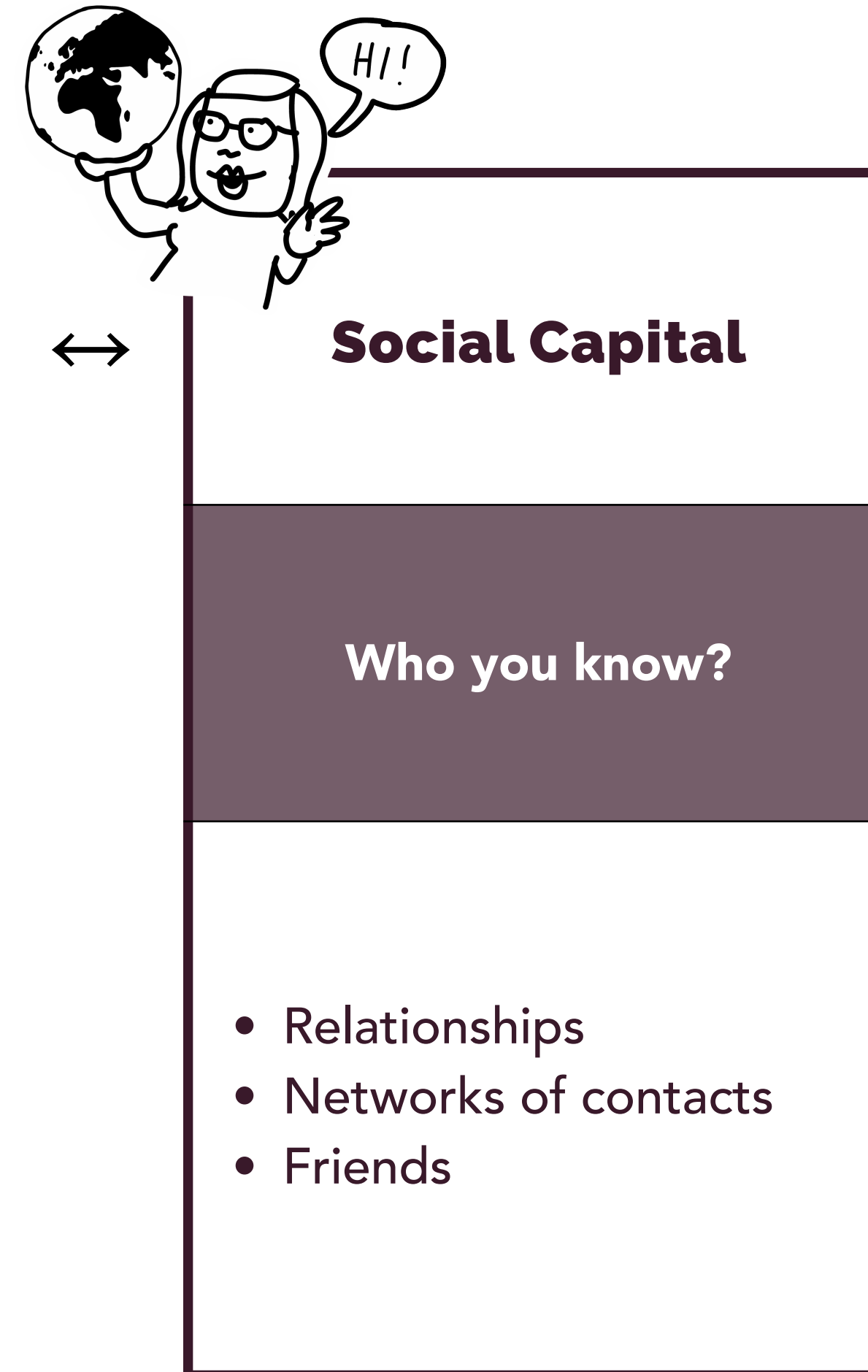
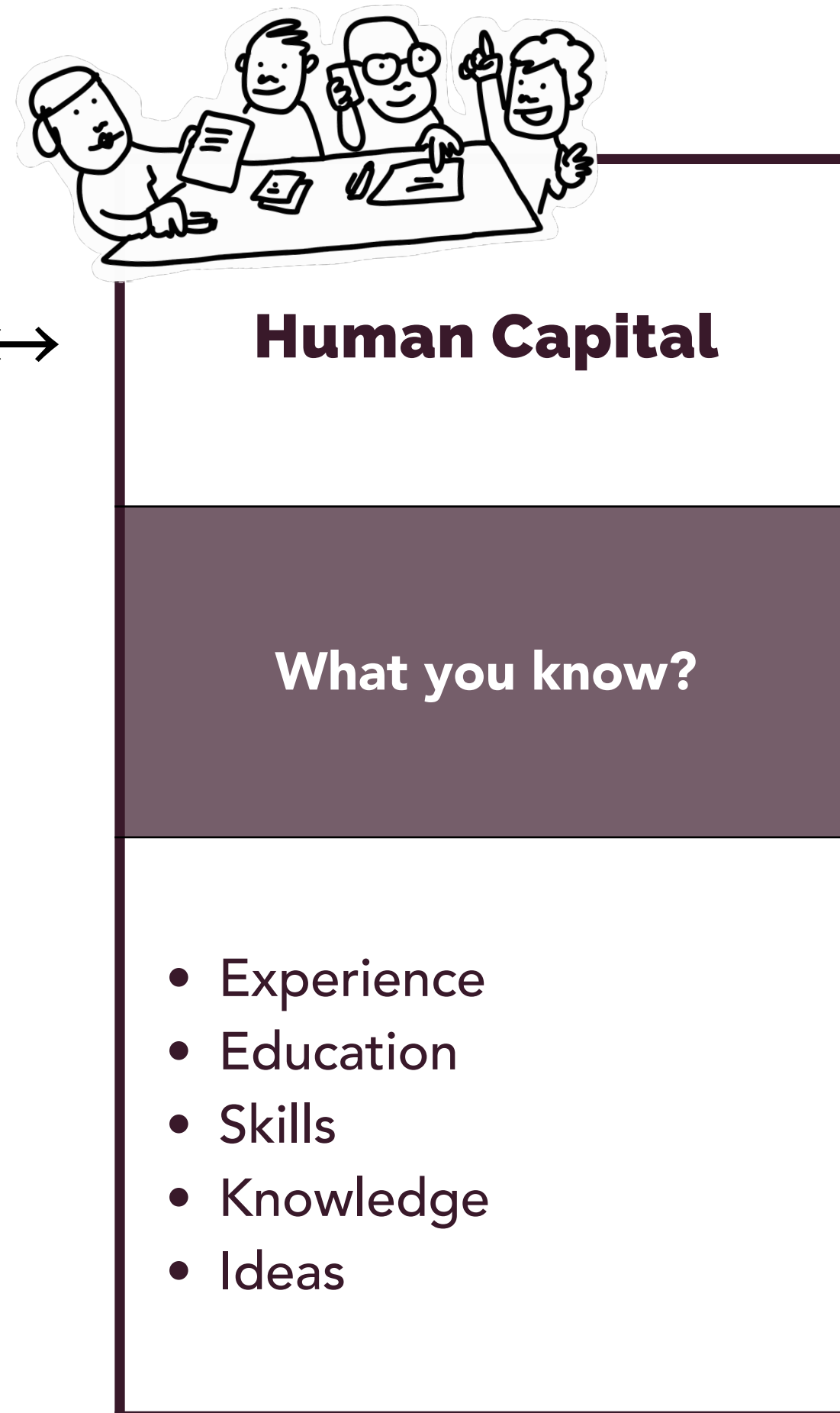
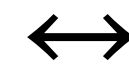
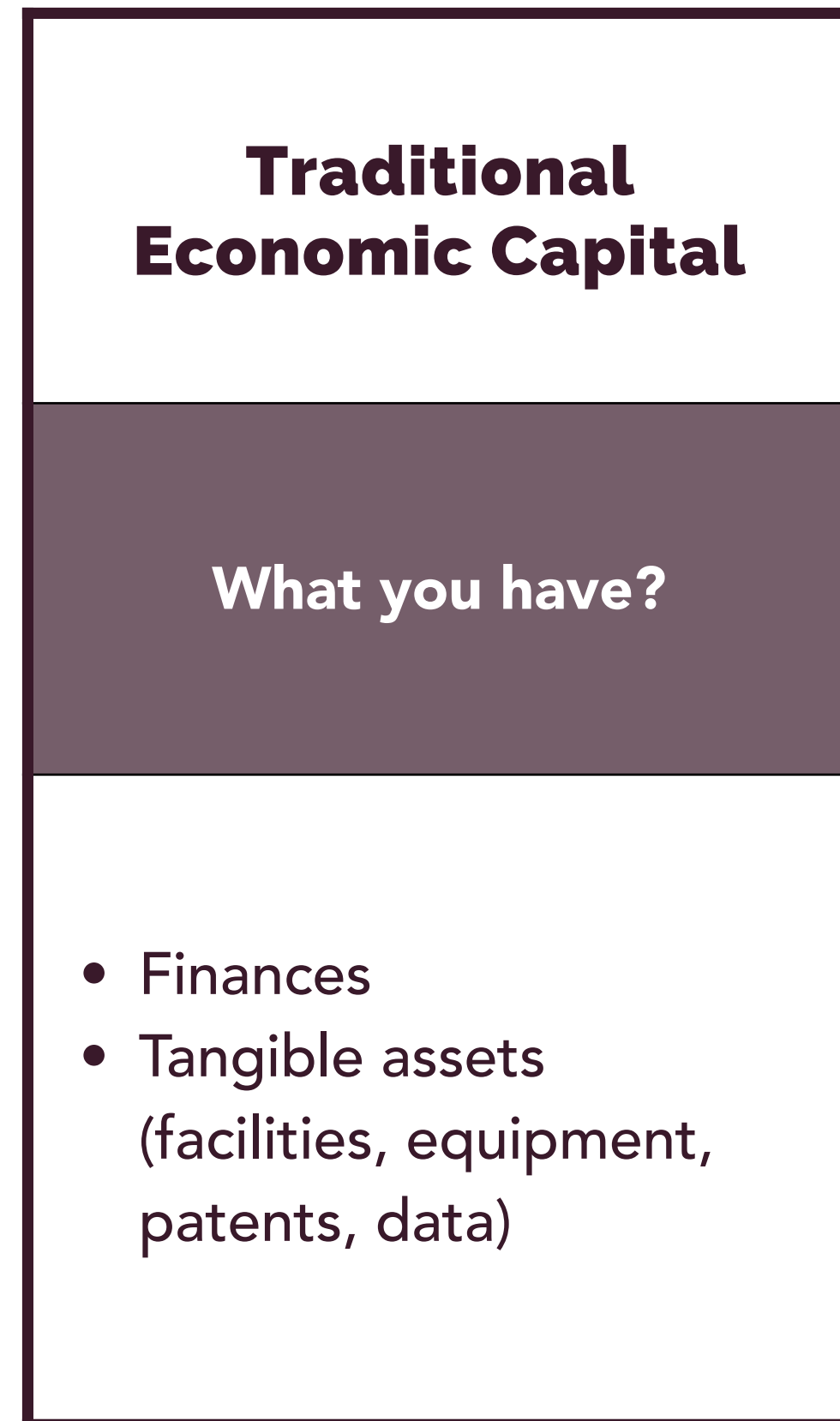
← More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer

More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer →

# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)



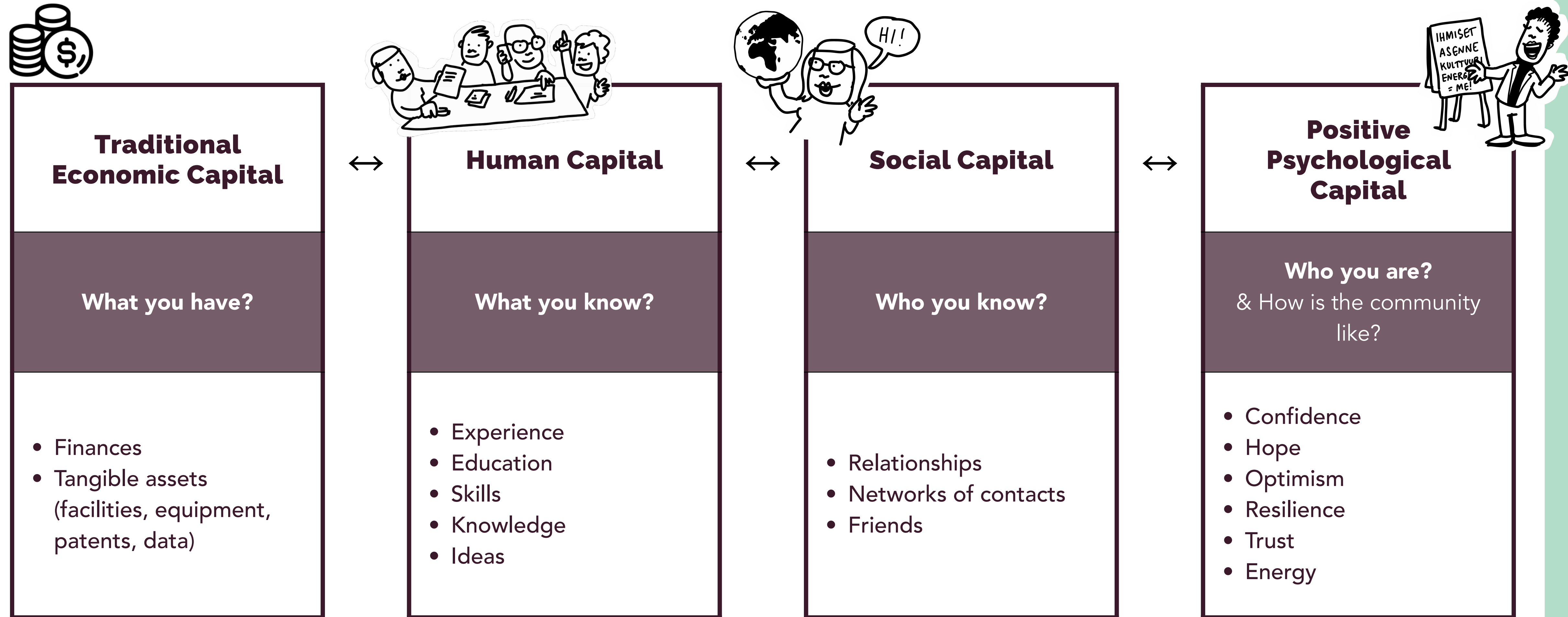
← More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer

More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer →

# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)



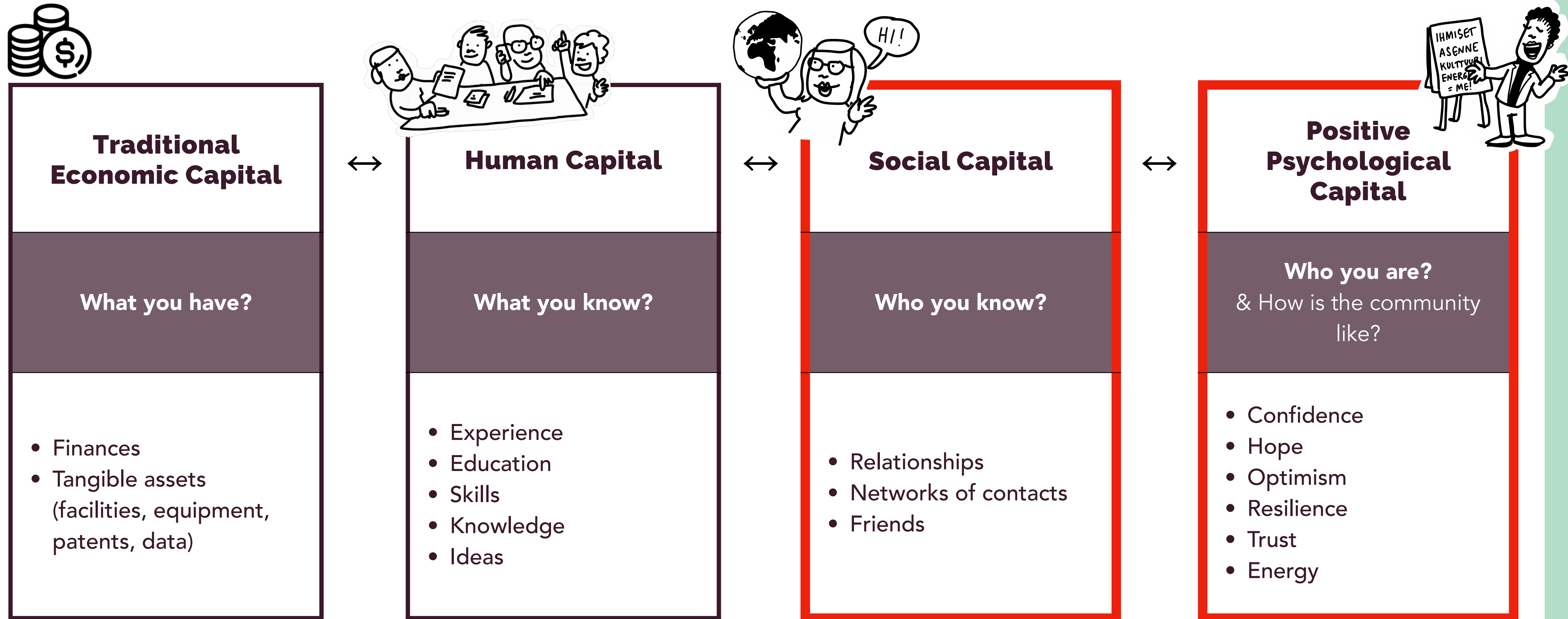
← More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer

More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer →

# Communities build social capital - currency of the future

Enhancing research impact +

Source (modified): Luthans, Luthans & Luthans (2004)



← More explicit, tangible and easier to transfer

More tacit, intangible and difficult to transfer →

# Why community-driven approach can be important for SSH valorisation?

- Communities build positive culture and role models towards valorisation
- Communities offer access for talent, services and know how (especially important for "lone nuts")
- Communities can work as a magnet for resources
- Communities can be platforms for building things together



### 3. How to implement community-approach in practice?

- A) Why does the community exist and who are the members
- B) Community Manager
- C) Member engagement and knowledge creation
- D) Rules and rituals
- E) Locations

**A) Think first why does the community exist and who are the members?**





**All you need is Love, Design, Business, and Engineering**

Aalto Design Factory (ADF) is an interdisciplinary product design and learning hub uniting students, teachers, researchers, and industry. We build a new kind of passion-based learning culture for Aalto University.

**Follow us on Instagram**  
1945

**Follow us on Facebook**  
6927

**Timeline:**  
 1985: IDBM International Design Business Management  
 1997: IDP Product Development Project  
 2005: ME310  
 2006: FLPD Future Lab of Product Design  
 2009: Aalto Design Factory  
 2010: AALTO UNIVERSITY Established  
 2011: DFGN  
 2015: AALTOHAUT  
 2019: AALTO UNIVERSITY OTAHEMI CAMPUS

**RESEARCH**  
 Research-based insights on the practices, processes and pedagogy of innovation

**DFGN**  
 Creating change and development in the world of education and learning through experimentation

**Statistics:**  
 16 Courses organized at ADF  
 7200+ Students visited ADF  
 10200 Coffee cups consumed  
 100+ DF Based Student teams  
 2000+ Team meetings organized in ADF  
 16 Partner Plaza companies  
 16 TET trainees 12 weeks of training


**Research Areas:**  
 DESIGN BITES, DESIGN+, DESIGN+ SUSTAINABILITY, EMPATHIC ENGINEERS, TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, NORDIC STEM INITIATIVE, CATALY(C)ST, OECD, INNOVATION CAPABILITIES

**Global Network:**  
 Aalto Design Factory - Finland, Cali Design Factory - Colombia, Design Factory @ BIT - Singapore, Design Factory Aestro - Portugal, Design Factory Javeriana Bogota - Colombia, Hannam Design Factory - South Korea, Design Factory London - United Kingdom, Design Factory Melbourne - Australia, Design Factory Heli-Zestoid - New Zealand, Design Factory Pforzheim - Germany, Design Factory Sao Paulo - Brazil, Design Factory Shenkar - Israel, Dusec Design Factory - Chile, UPV Design Factory - Spain, Future Design Factory - The Netherlands, HAMM Design Factory - Finland, Hannam Design Factory - South Korea, IdeaSquareCERN - Switzerland, InnoSpace - Germany, Kyoto Design Lab - Japan, Linköping Fabrikas - Lithuania, METU Design Factory - Turkey, nandix - Australia, Hasso Design Factory - USA, NYC Design Factory - USA, OperiSpace - Italy, Porto Design Factory - Portugal, RTU Design Factory - Latvia, Sandline - Estonia, Sino-Finnish Centre - China, St. John's University Design Factory - USA, Technovation Hub - Belgium, Pucron Poland - Spain, Vilho Food Design Factory - Finland, Warsaw Design Factory - Poland

**Global Reach:**  
 10900 DF students, 223 Staff Members, 439 External partners, 856 Student projects, 35 Design Factories around the world, 540 Industry Projects, 78 Applied research projects

**Other items:** A book titled 'THE CRISIS OF CREATIVITY', a pair of headphones, and several small photos of students and staff.



A woman with blonde hair in a bun, wearing a light-colored top, is smiling and looking at a laptop. She is sitting at a table with a glass of water and a bowl. In the background, there is a large graphic of a hand pointing to the right. The image has a dark overlay.

**B) Learning and collaboration rarely happen by accident - communities need community managers**

# Roles and skills of a community manager

Facilitator

Producer

Bridger

Enabler

Broker

Curator

Influencer

Vision and mission -builder

Trust-builder

Interpreter

Intermediary

Culture-builder

Generalist

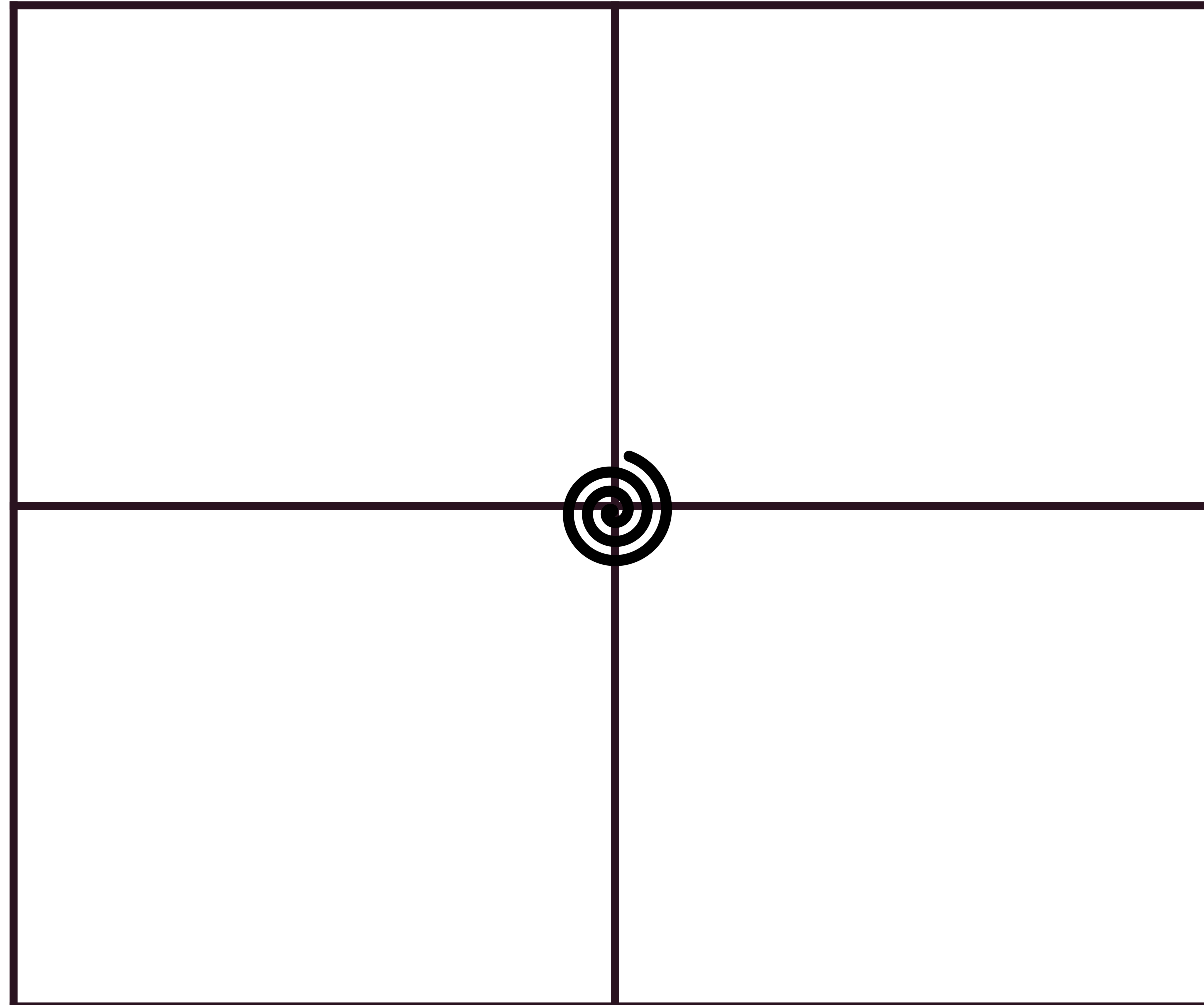


# Offer different activities for member engagement and knowledge creation

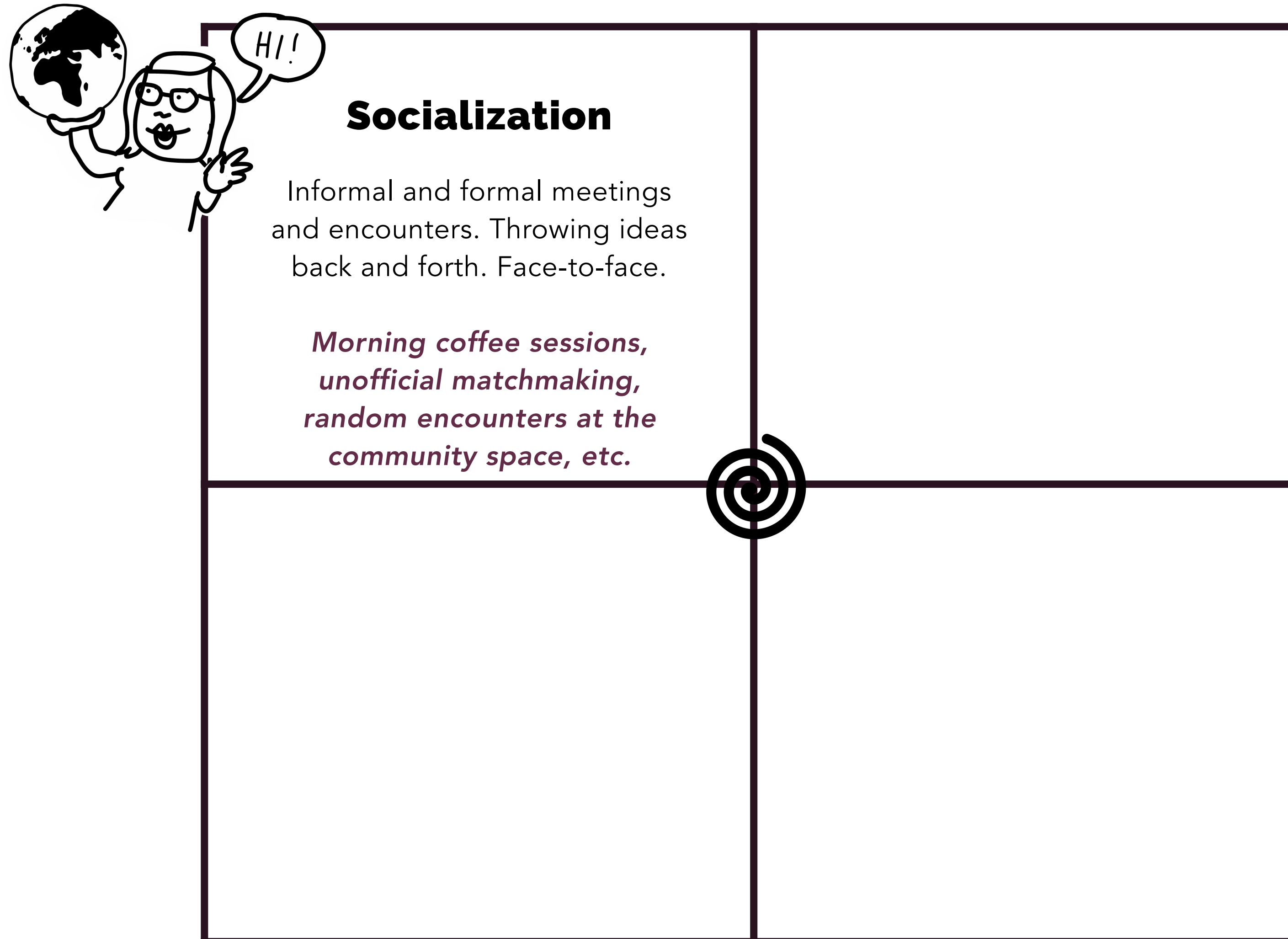


# C) Engagement and knowledge creation

Enhancing research impact +



# C) Engagement and knowledge creation



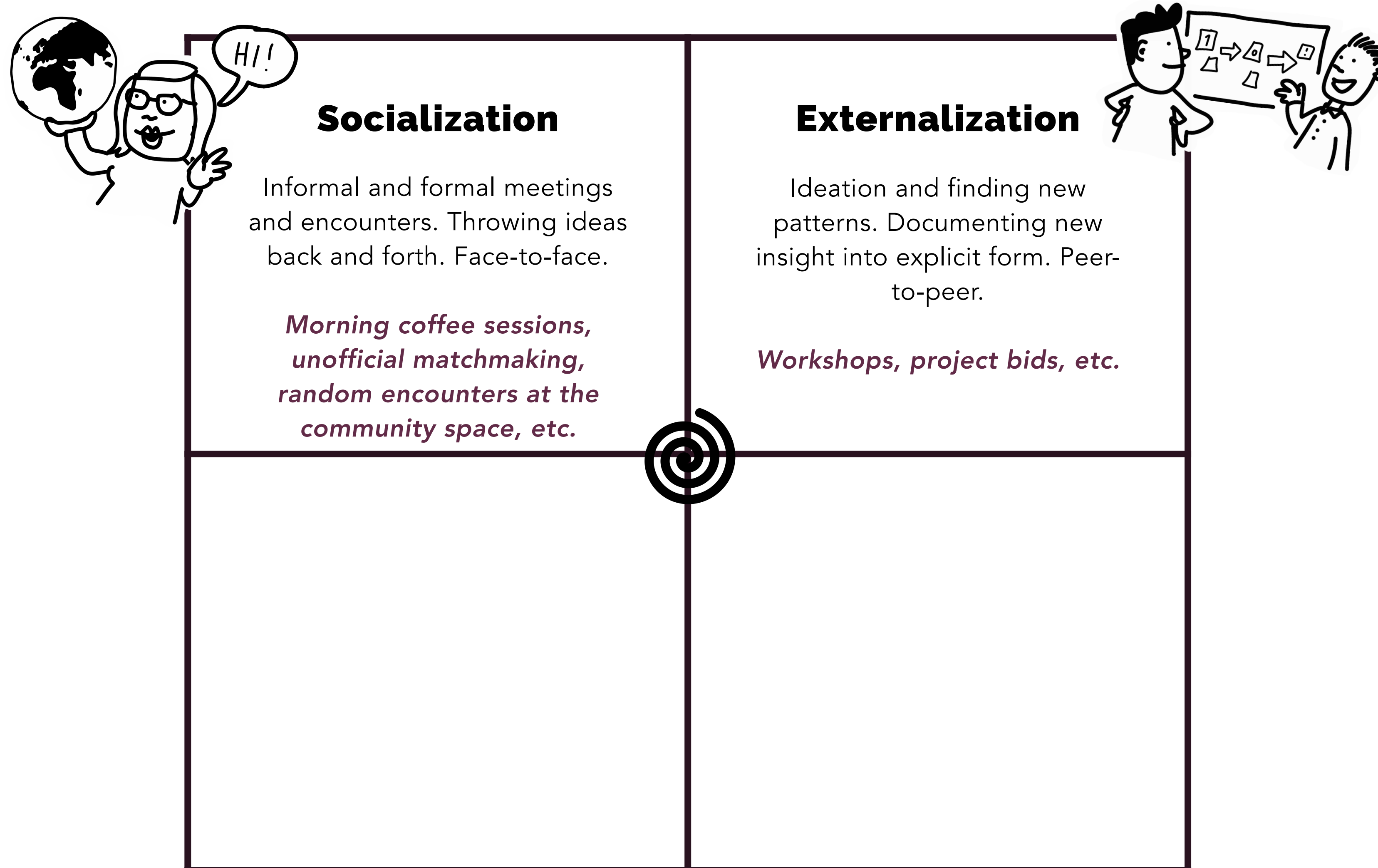
# Academic Business Club

Enhancing research impact 



# C) Engagement and knowledge creation

Enhancing research impact +





# Idea Cafes

Enhancing research impact +



# C) Engagement and knowledge creation

Enhancing research impact +

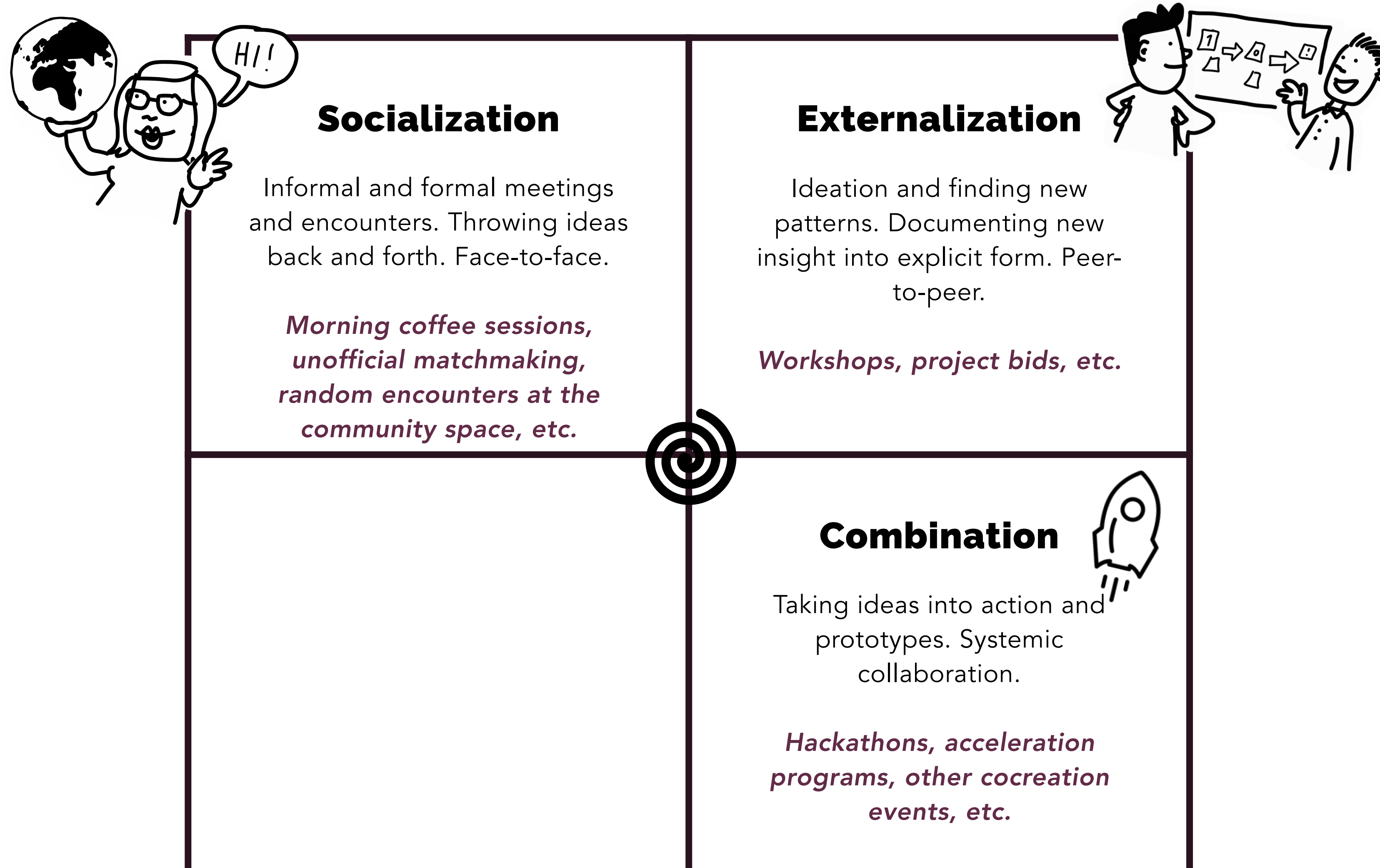




PHOTO: EU for Innovation project



PHOTO: EU for Innovation project



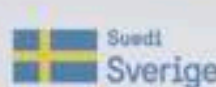
EU for Innovation



Financed by the  
European Union



Leitministerium  
german  
DEUTSCHE REGIERUNG



Sveed  
Sverige

PHOTO: EU for Innovation project



EU FOR INNOVATION  
LIVES IN THE POWER

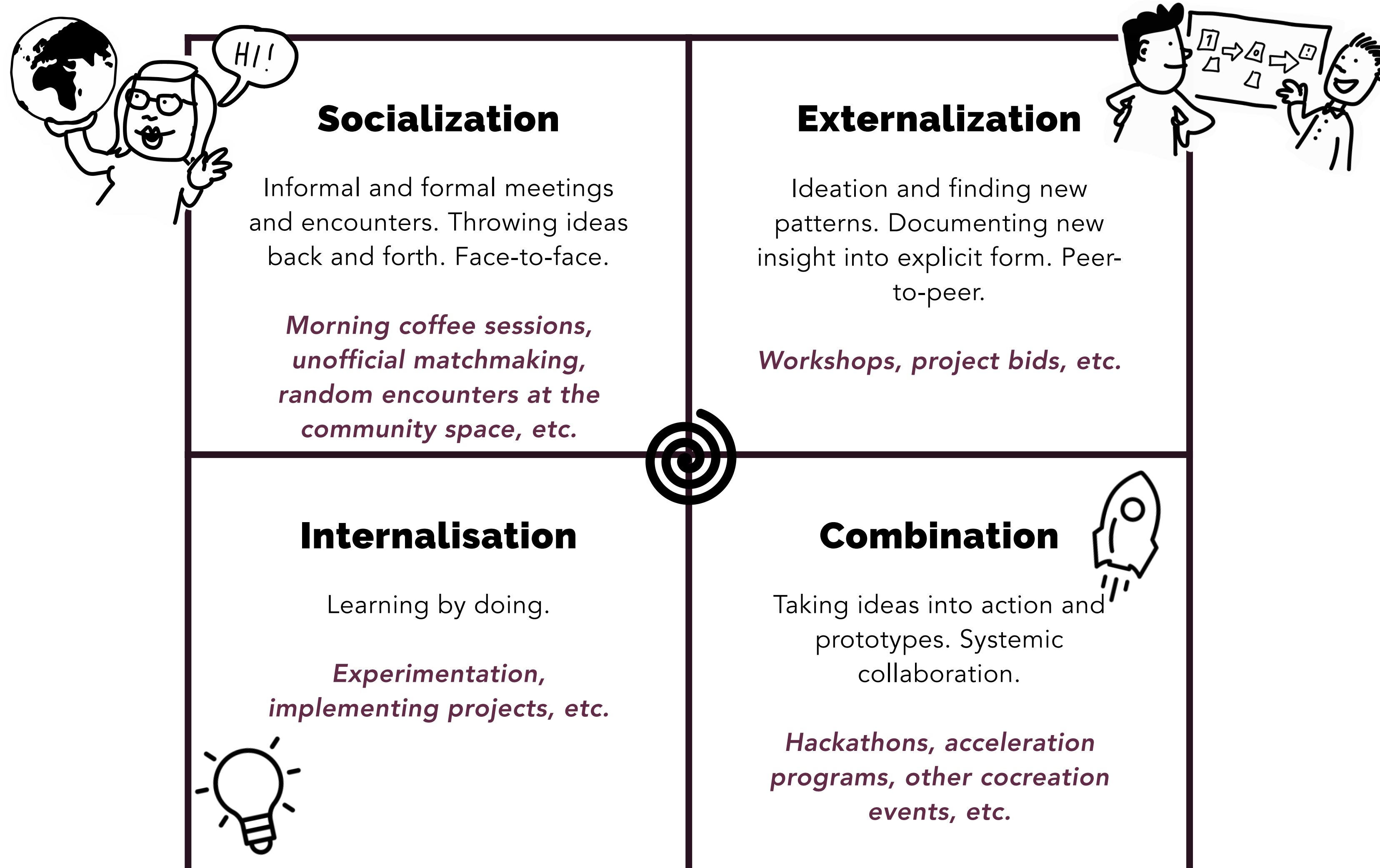
**EU for Innovation**

EUROPEAN UNION  
Bund  
Sveki Sverige

PHOTO: EU for Innovation project

# Engagement and knowledge creation

Enhancing research impact +



**Innovation programs,  
hackathons, university-  
business-cooperation,,  
talent attraction,  
coaching ...**

**= CO-CREATION**



## **D) Rules & rituals**

# THIS IS HOW WE ROLL



1



Allow freedom in work

6



Keep things informal, avoid hierarchies and bureaucracy

2



Favor showcases, avoid showrooms

7



Keep the community tight, but ensure open knowledge sharing

3



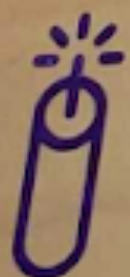
Be proactive, take initiative

8



Attract people with helpful and proactive attitudes

4



Translate ideas into action fast

9



Inspire by example

5



Provide encouragement and practical support for development

10



Provide a physical home base

Like our ways of doing? Want to contribute? Please leave us a comment



Handwritten note on a yellow sticky note.

Handwritten note on a green sticky note.

ME LIKE!

Greetings from Vienna

Handwritten note on a pink sticky note.

LEAVE A NOTE FOR

"The best way to ensure a future of our liking is to do something about it."

ADF Book 2017





**85%**

**of our members  
collaborate and do  
business together**

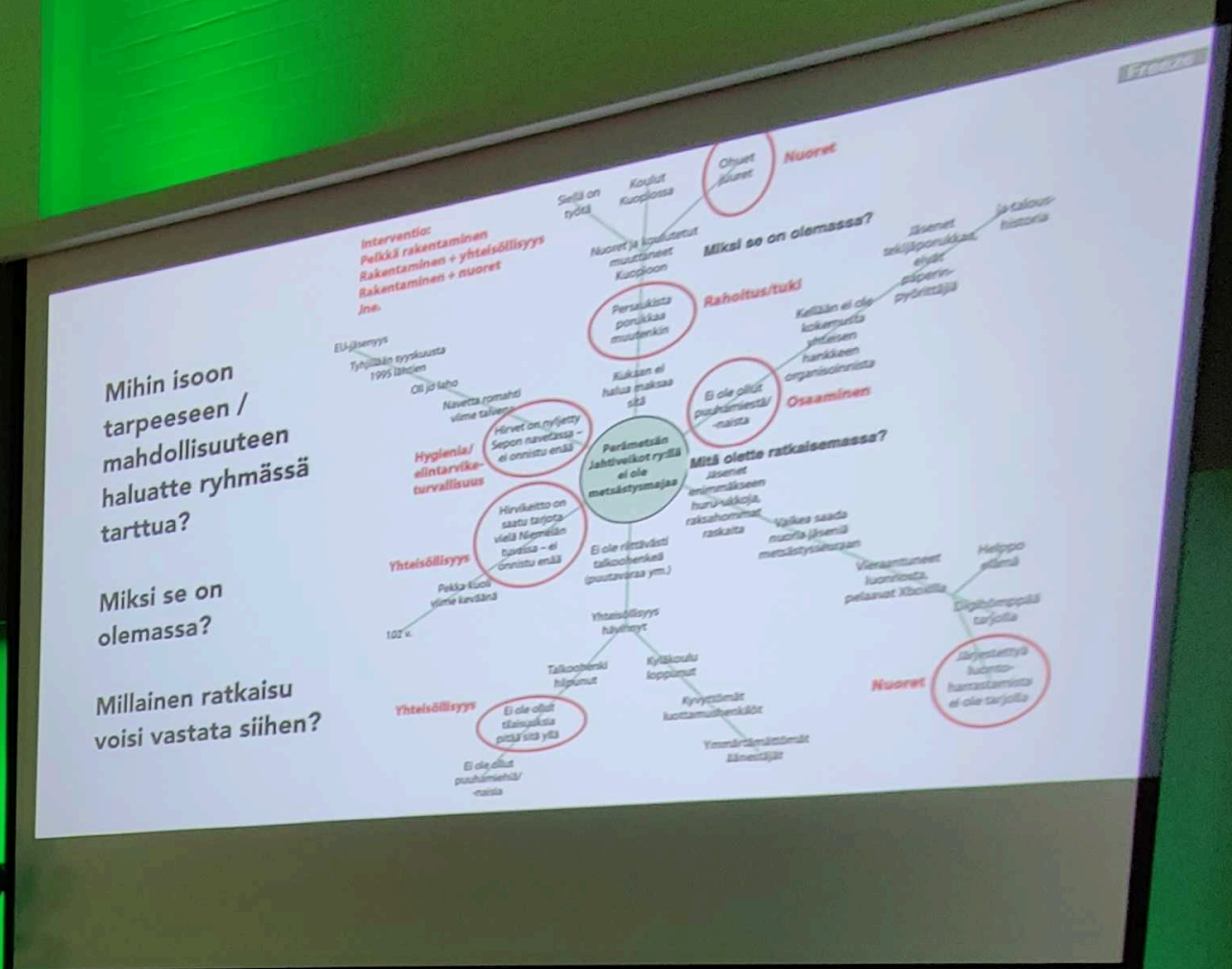
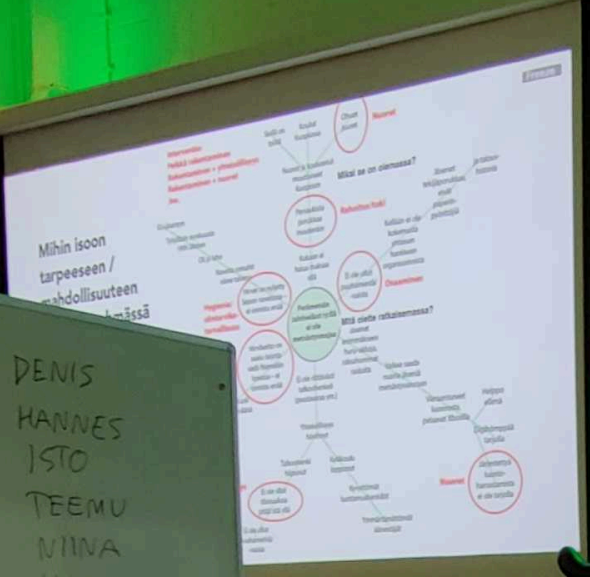
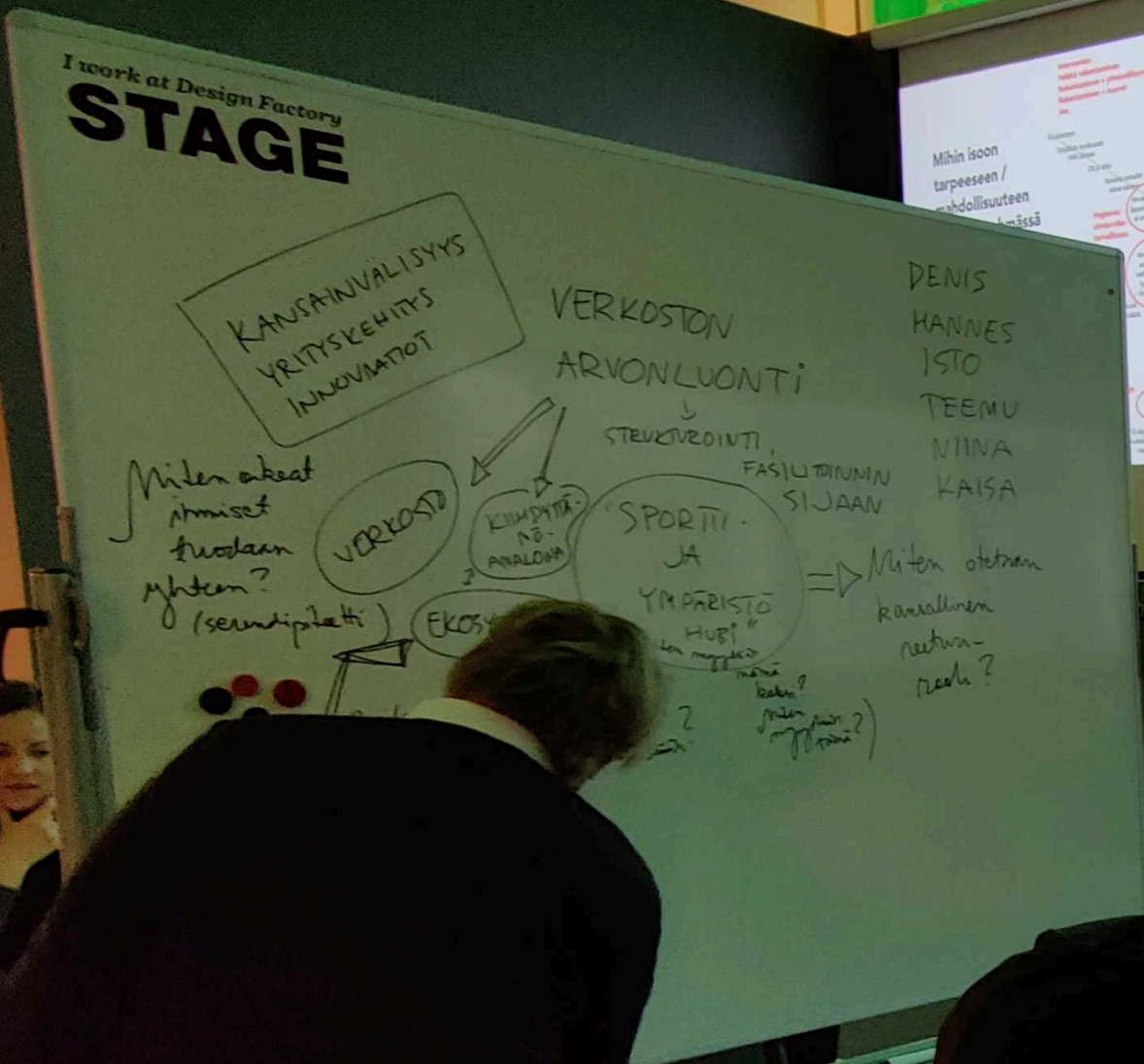


**E) Locations - All communities need some kind of home base**









# How to get started?

- Think what is the purpose of your community? Who could / should be the members?
- Who could be "community managers" in your organization?
- Find "first followers", who want to get things started and share interest for what you are doing - support them!
- Start small and keep doing things - consistency matters
- Have a home base - physical and/or virtual
- Engage members in building things together
- Facilitate interaction and learning between people
- Help members of the community to collaborate and share resources
- Connect the dots and help others to see new opportunities
- As the community grows and you keep doing good things, it becomes a virtetous cycle and you'll attract more and more resources



Mikko Korpela | [mikko.korpela@crazytown.fi](mailto:mikko.korpela@crazytown.fi)

Toni Pienonen | [toni.pienonen@crazytown.fi](mailto:toni.pienonen@crazytown.fi)

Crazy Town Oy | [www.crazytown.fi](http://www.crazytown.fi)