



Networking as driver of cooperation and internationalisation

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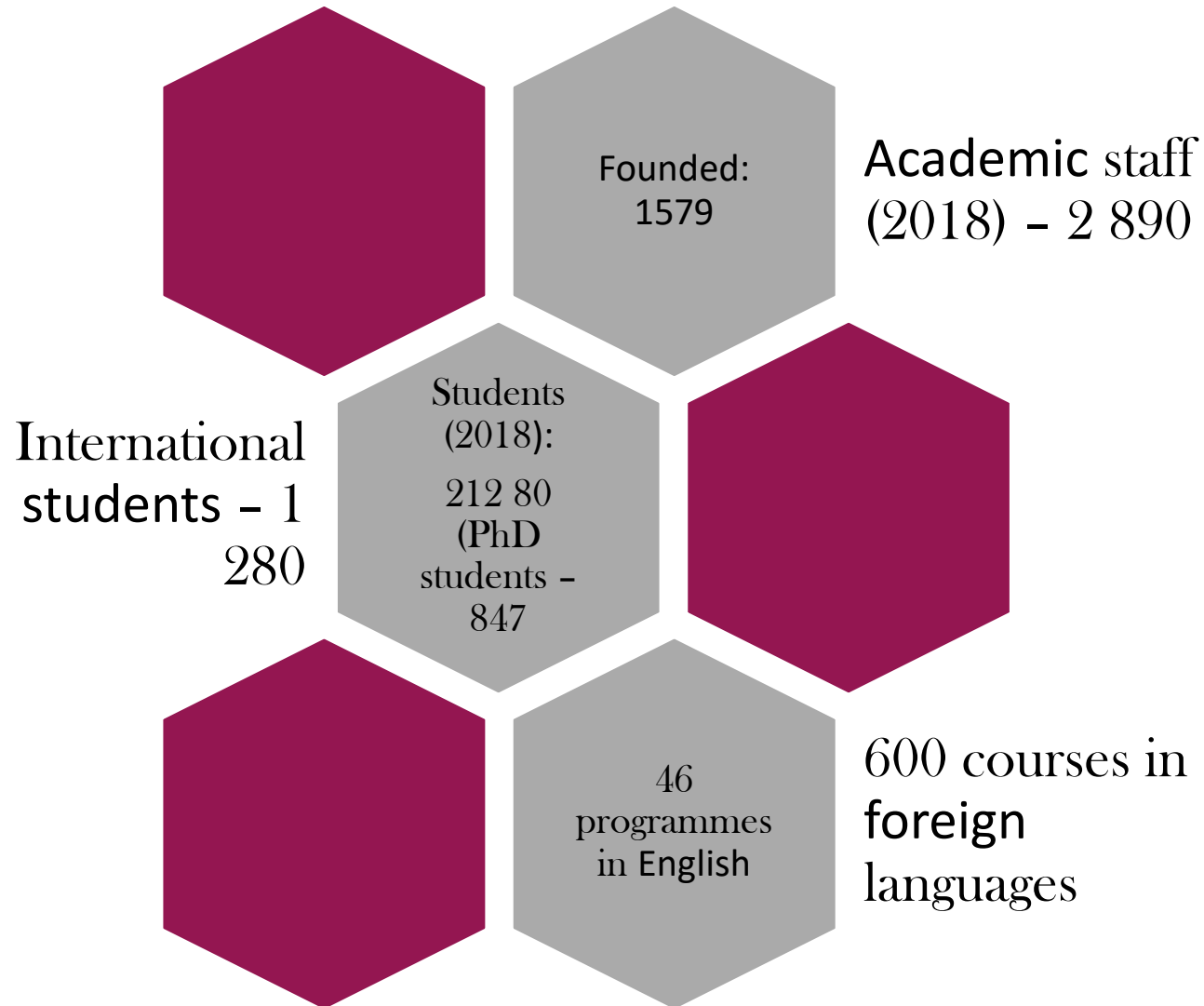
Cape Town

November 9, 2018



- Population (Eurostat): 2.848 million (2017); Area: 65,300 km² / water 1,35%
- Capital: Vilnius
- **93%** of Lithuanians have **secondary or higher** education (EU average 70%).
- **65%** of all school graduates continue their education in **universities and colleges.**

Vilnius university: key facts

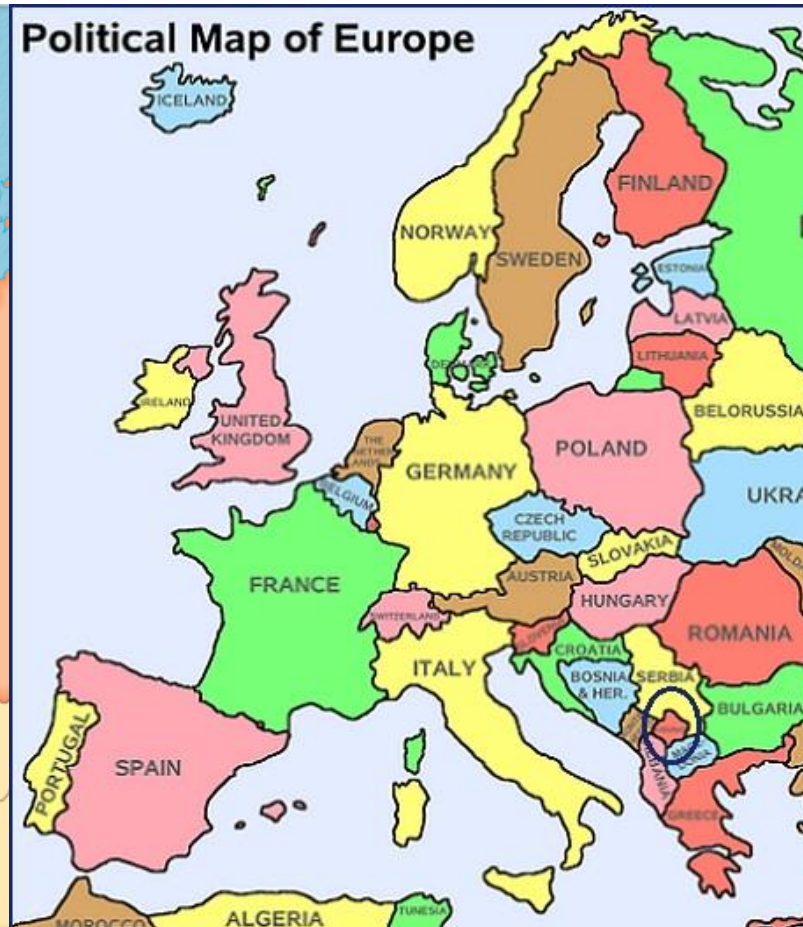


Historical note

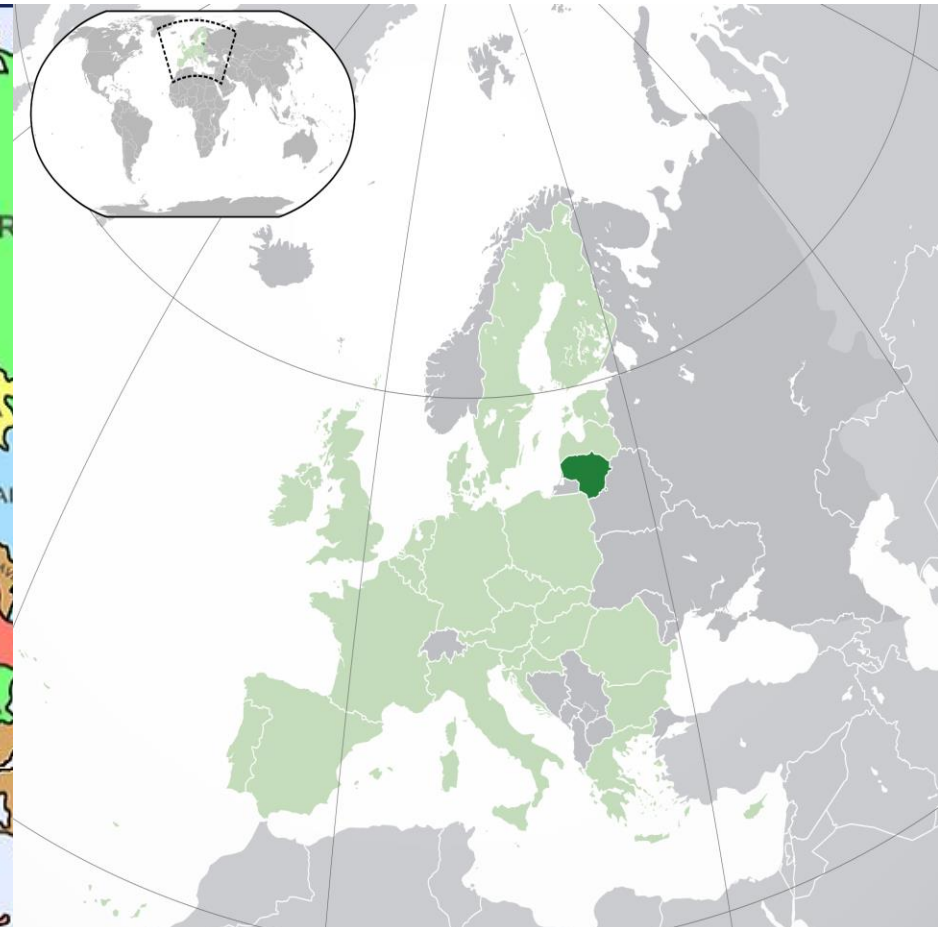
Before 1990



Between 1990-2004

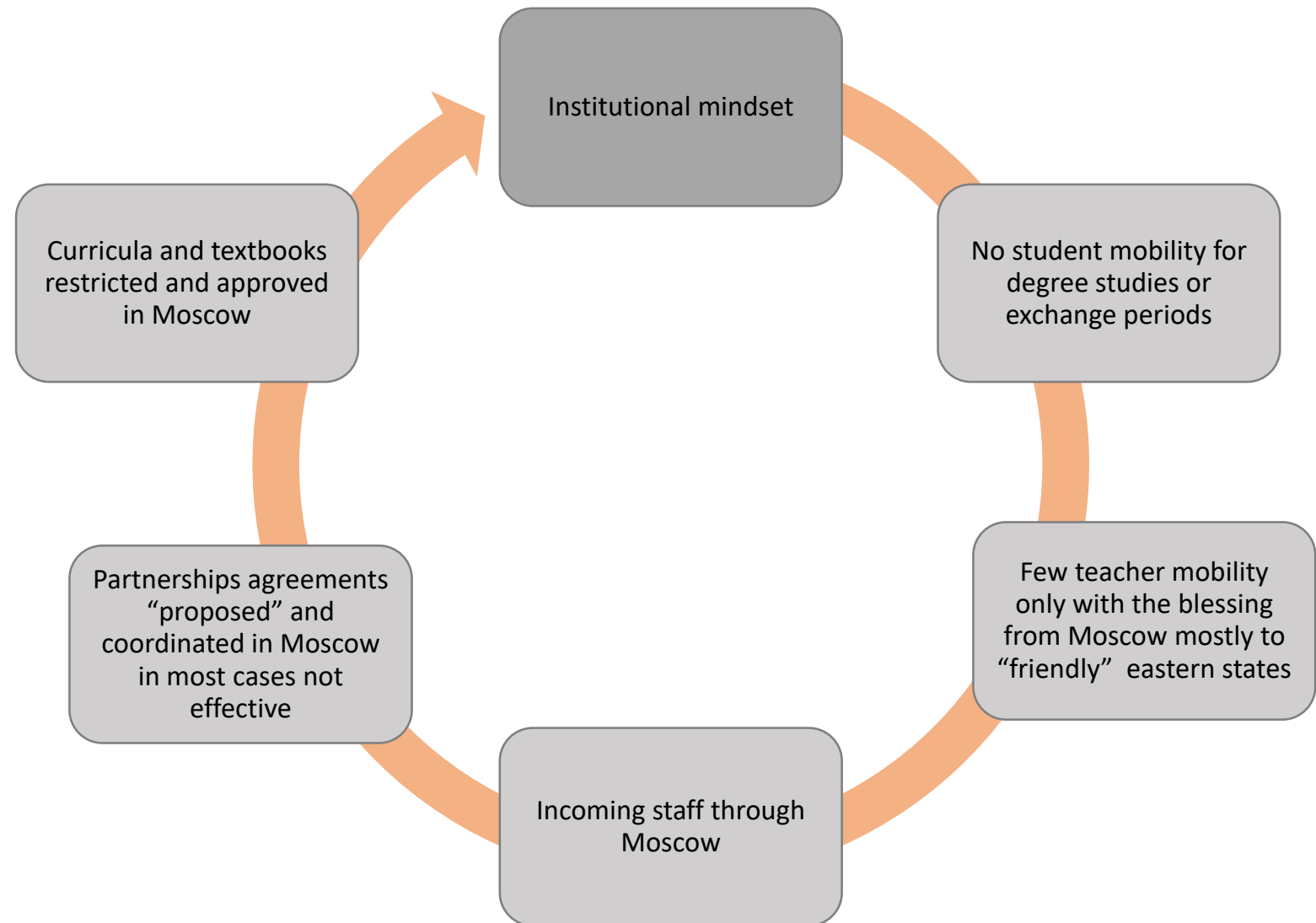


After 2004



The time before... Internationalisation efforts

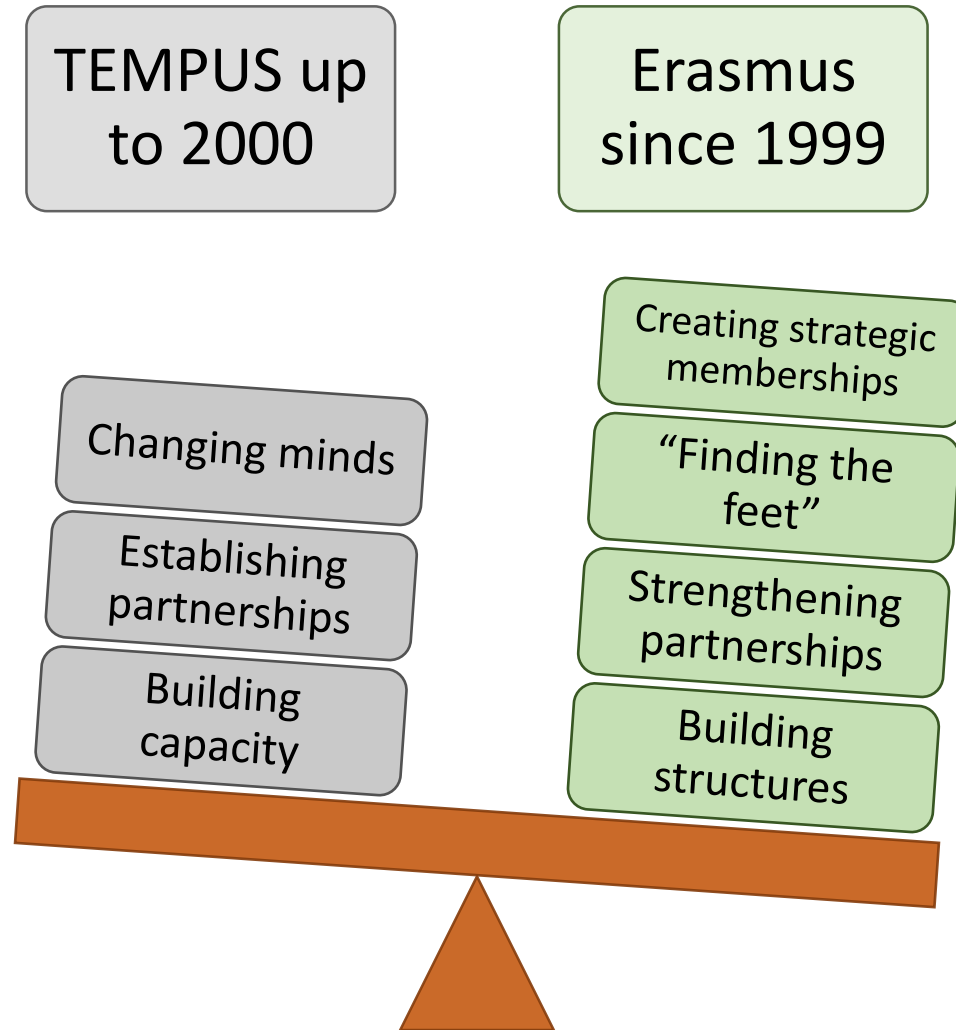
Internationalization? What is this? No concept of it! What's wrong with this?



Role of international community: shift of institutional mindset(S)

Defrosting stage:

- Beneficiaries
- Money the driver
- Dependent on national priorities
- Compartmentalised impact but deep in separate subject areas
- Low student and staff mobility numbers – limited impact on institution as a whole

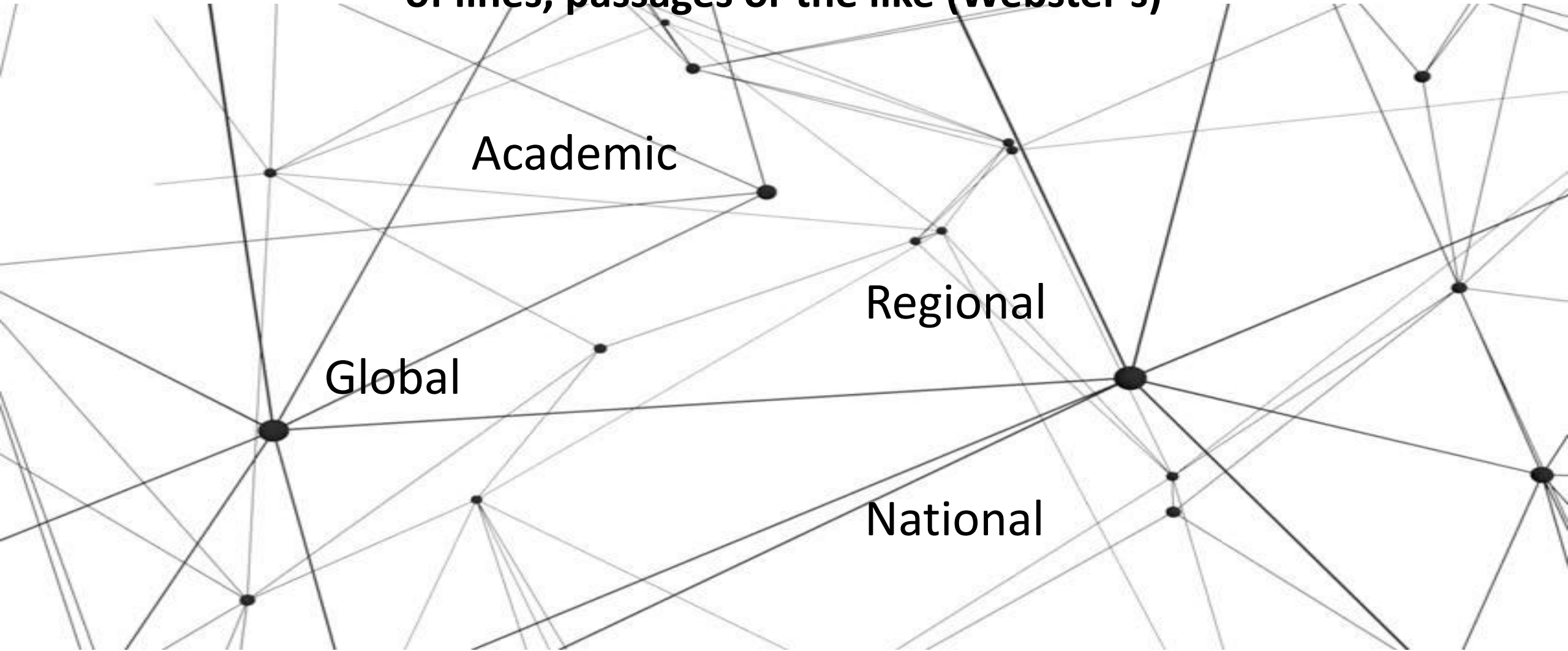


Joining stage:

- Equal partners (though poor)
- Possibility to set and follow institutional priorities
- Need for the faculties to form their own approaches in international activities
- Huge impact on institutional structures and services because of the growth of student and staff mobility
- Interest of partners in who we are and what we can do (sharing)

Just higher education network!

Network – and interlacement of threads, a complicated intermingling of lines, passages or the like (Webster's)

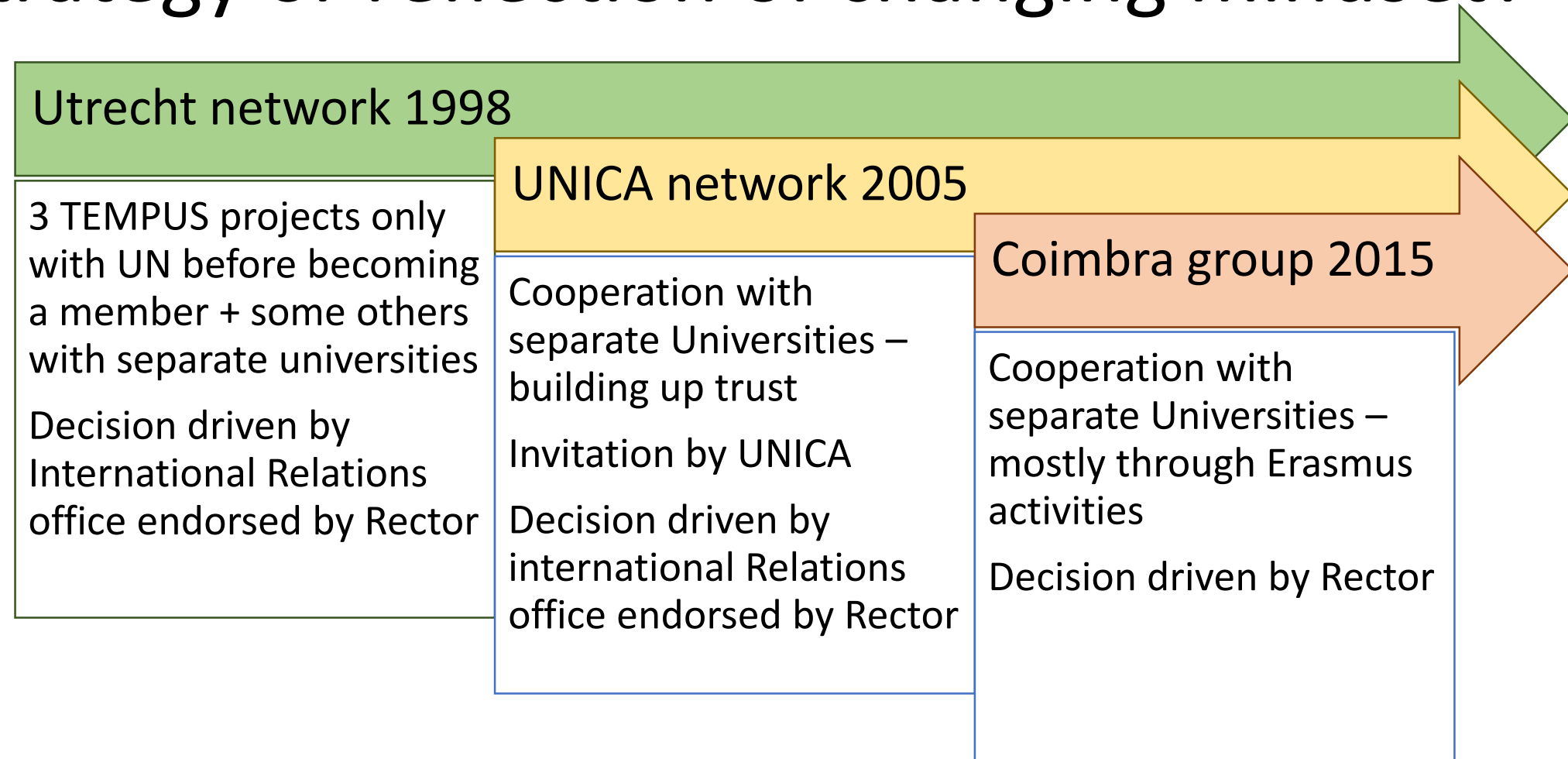


Networks



Academic networks

Timeline of joining European networks: strategy or reflection of changing mindset?

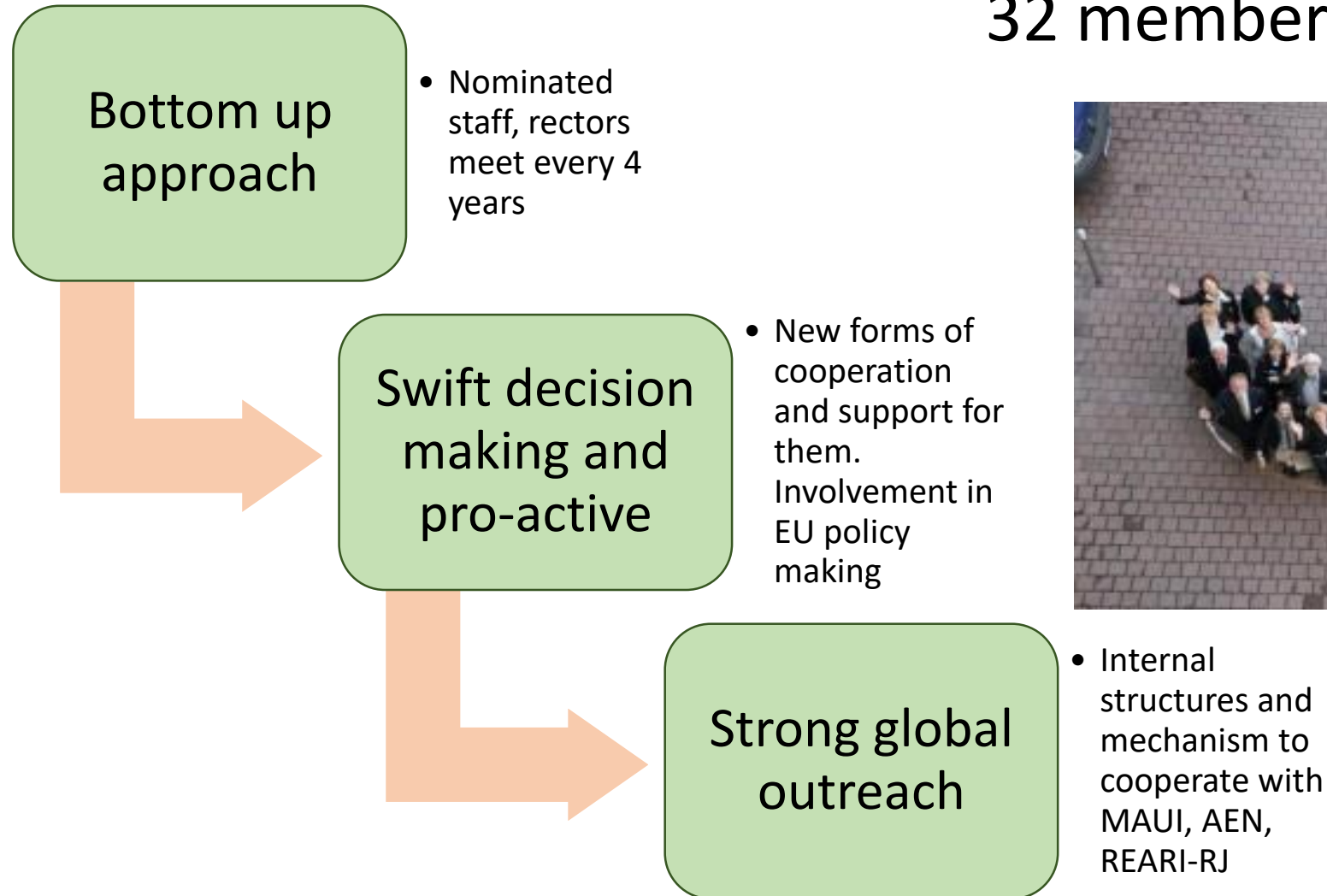


Challenges to estimate and evaluate: costs and return in terms of financial investment, staff development, prestige of belonging to exclusive group, impact and visibility

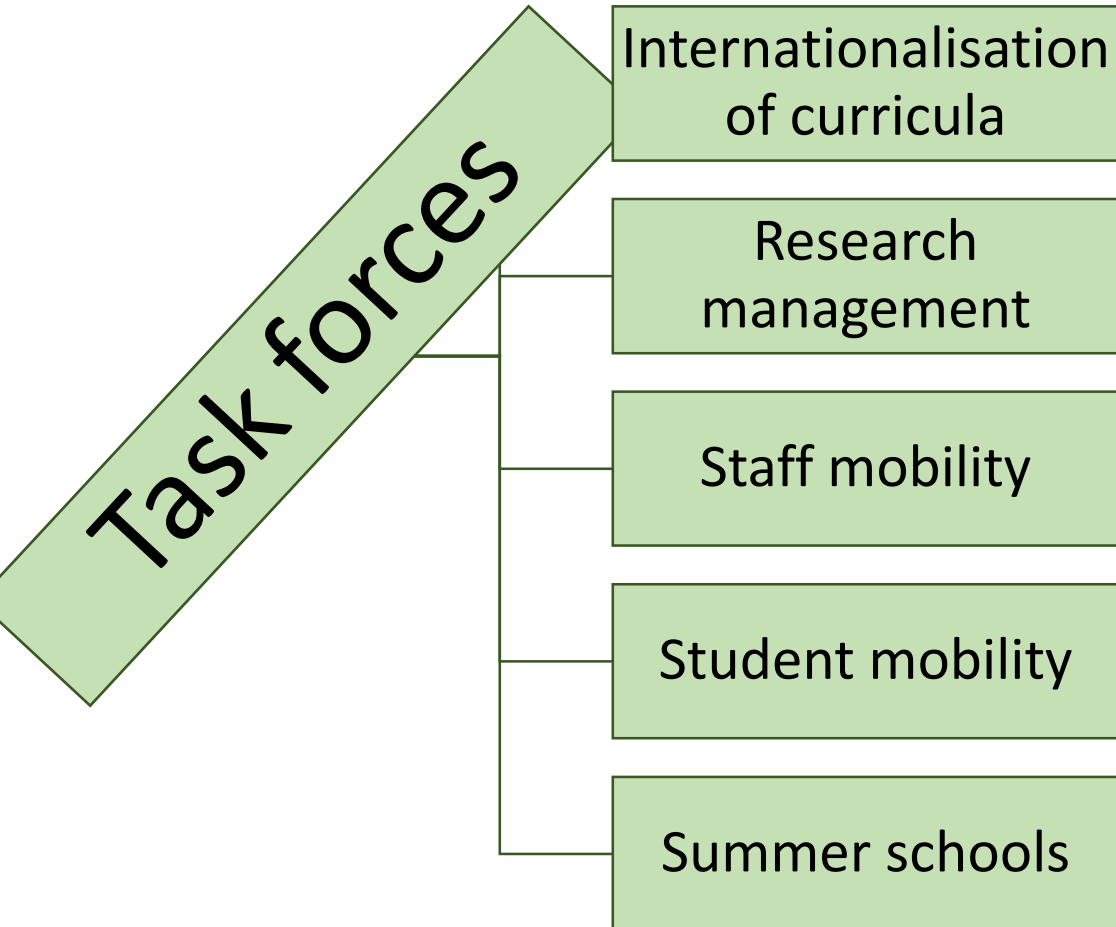


Why Utrecht network is unique?

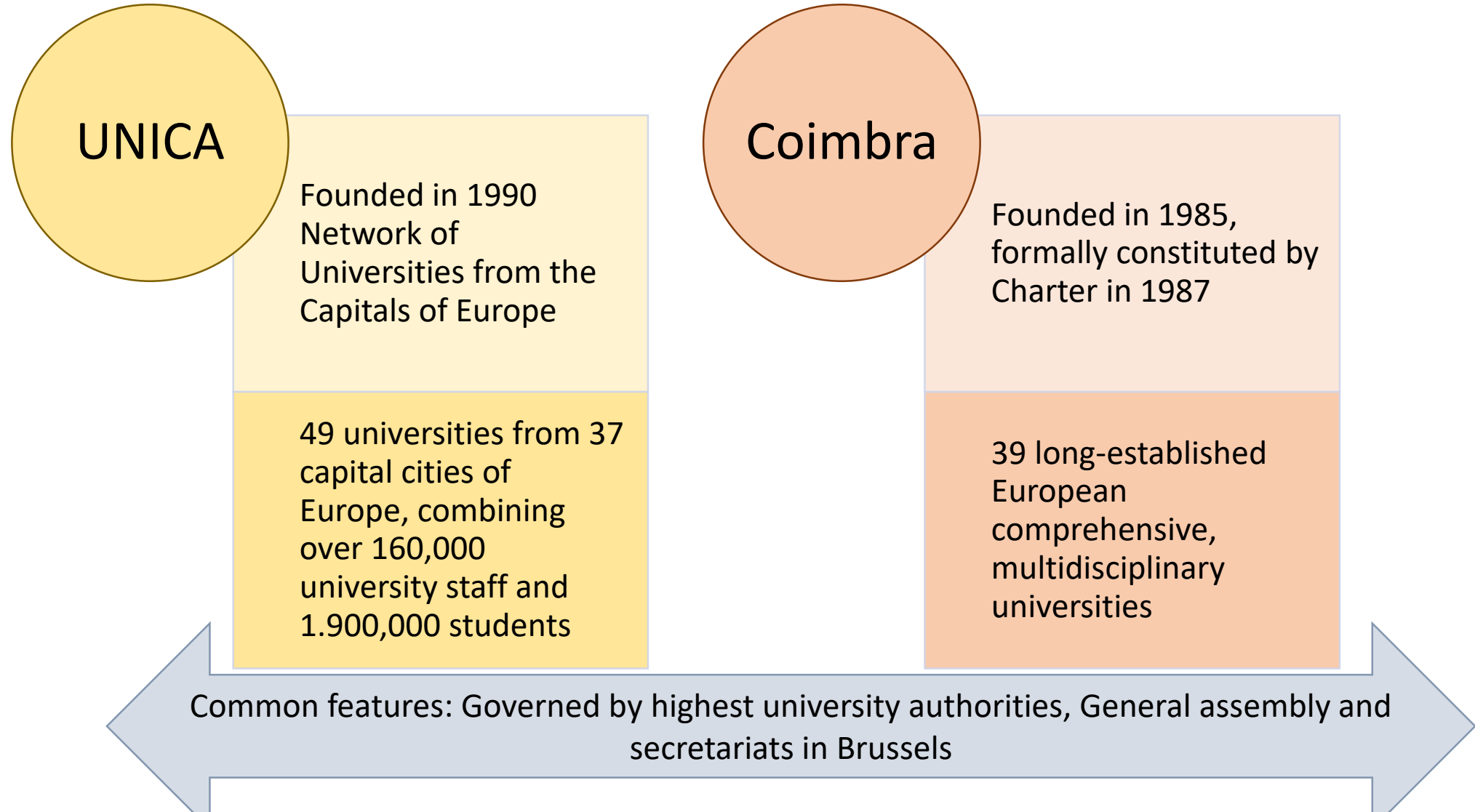
32 members in 27 countries



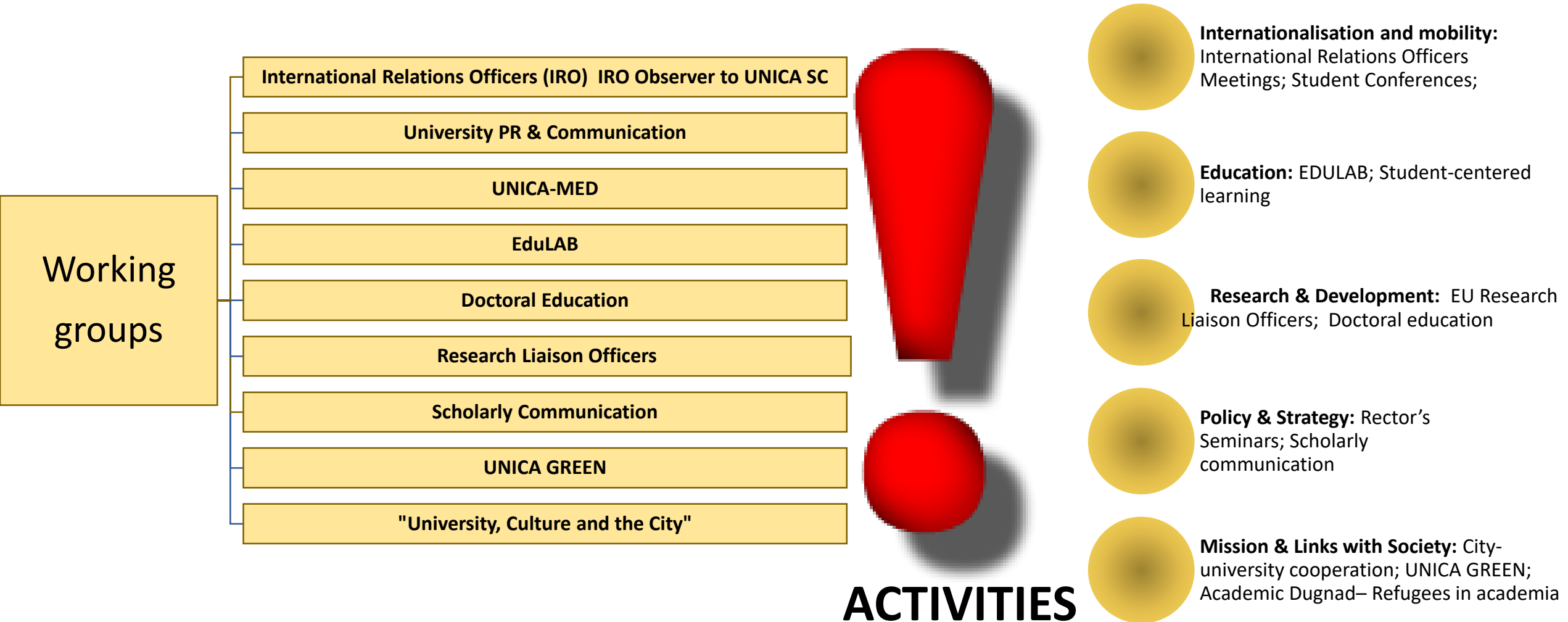
Utrecht: working groups and activities



Profiles of UNICA and Coimbra group universities



UNICA: working groups and activities



Coimbra group: working groups and activities

Research

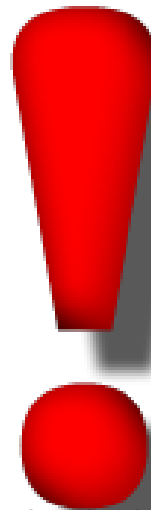
- Life Sciences
- Research Support Officers
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Social Sciences & Humanities

Education

- Academic Exchange and Mobility
- Doctoral Studies
- Education Innovation
- Employability

Outreach

- Development Cooperation
- Heritage
- Latin America



Activities

Scholarships

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America (LA)
- European Neighbourhood Projects; winter & summer schools

Coimbra Group-UNICA PhD training workshop; Seminars, Workshops & Staff training

Policy Seminars; CG 3-Minute-Thesis competition; Arenberg CG Prize; Poitiers Declaration

Common values & aims

different paths

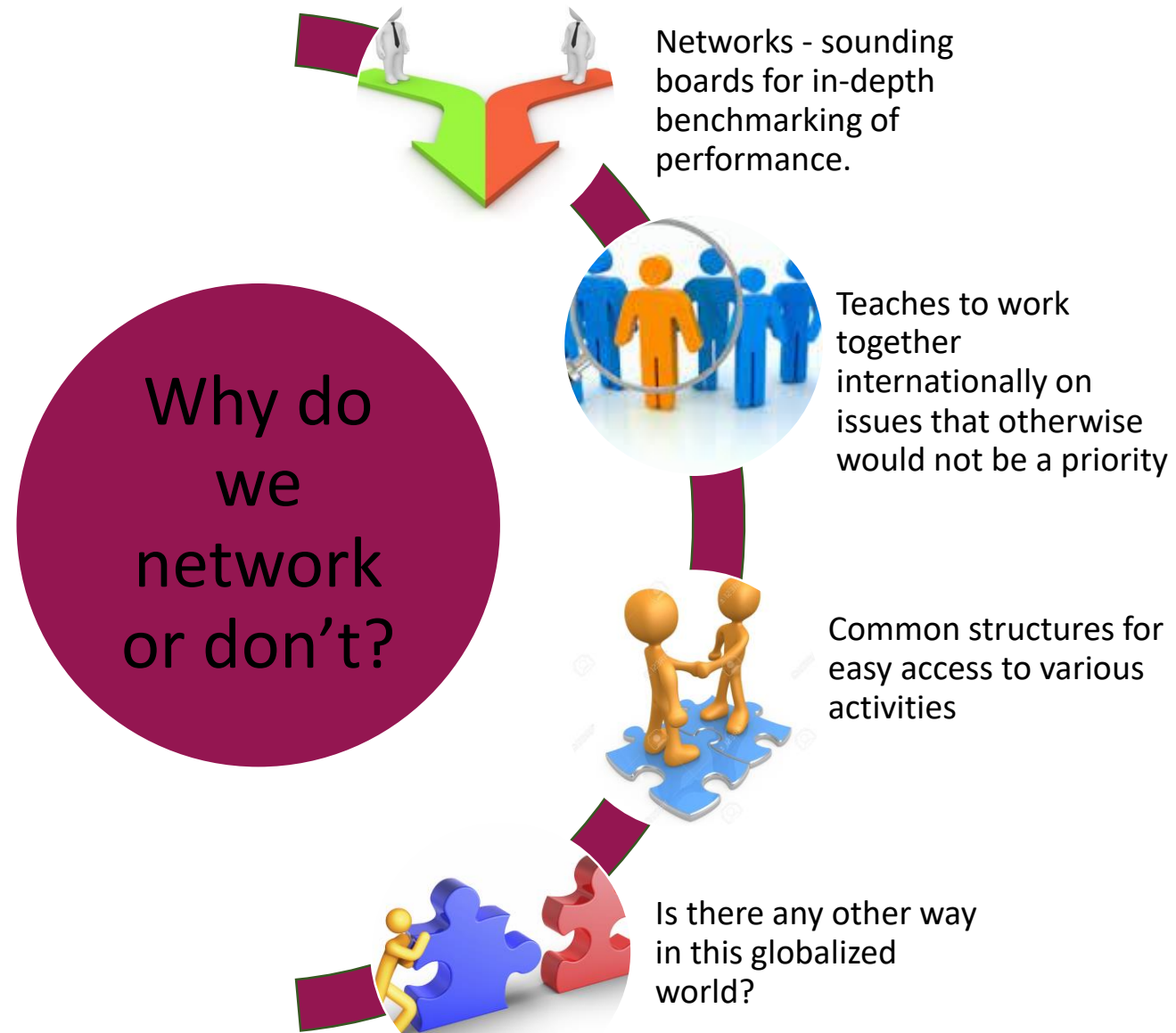
UNICA

Utrecht

Coimbra

Through exchange of experience:
Internationalisation, academic cooperation,
excellence in learning and research, service to
society, expert body, promote equality and
the role of comprehensive, multidisciplinary
university, global outreach, new forms and
themes of cooperation

Issues for reflection....



Networking: what is it in them for students?



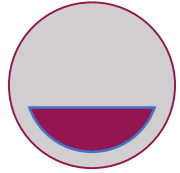
New and different activities and funding schemes

Increased global mobility opportunities with trusted universities and set structured help to realize them

Benefits from the changes at the home institution

Involvement in consultation and policy making

Networking as means to change institutional mindset – added value to staff

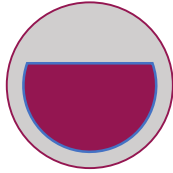


Academic staff

Direct exchange of information, experience and knowledge in innovative approaches

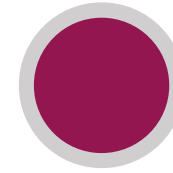
Opportunity to fund small initiatives or get network support for them in terms of know-how and expertise

Quick access to trusted partners



Administrative

Building individual professional networks (research managers, personnel, finances, public relations and marketing) exchange of management practice and problem solutions



Change of mindset

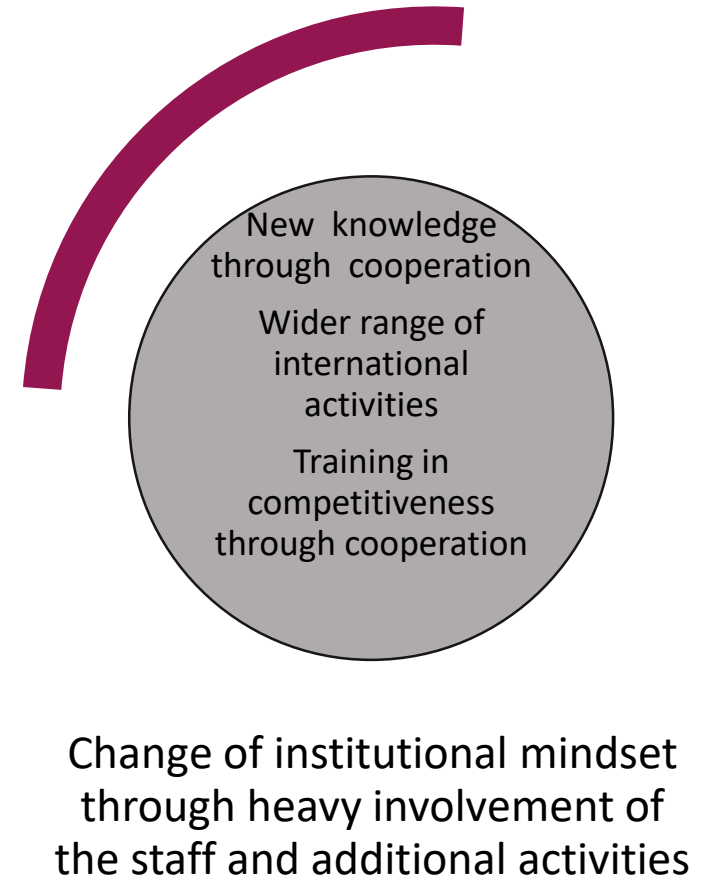
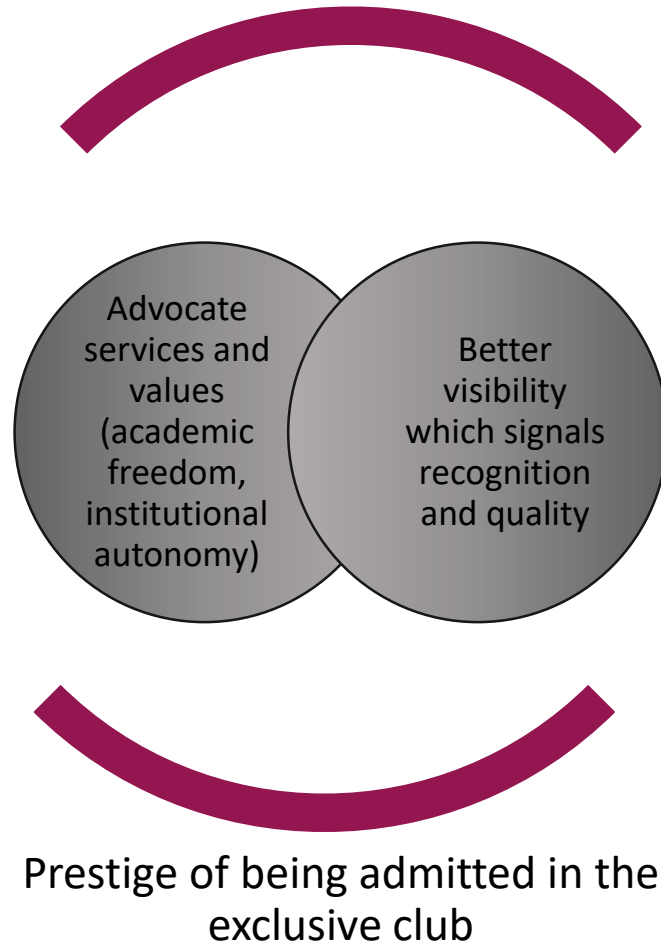
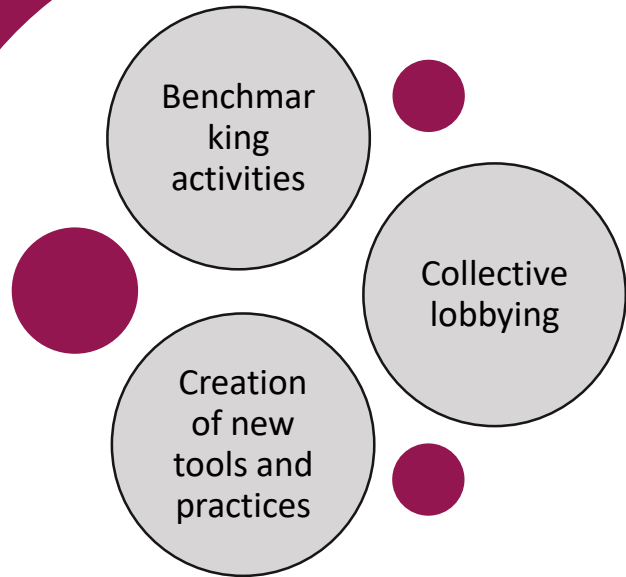
Being in line with the latest developments in higher education in Europe and the world

Provision of peer groups for advice support and if needed – mentorship

Expanded mobility opportunities

Special activities and topics: University and the city, Botanical gardens; story telling

Networking: shortcut to internationalization through different paths - added value to the university



“All the huge achievements of humankind throughout the history, whether building of the pyramids or flying to the moon, were based not on the individual ability but on the ability to cooperate flexibly in large numbers.”

Yuval Noah Harari “ What explains the rise of humans”



Thank you!