
Universities in crisis: the quest for resilience and its connection to bottom-up social participation

— Katerina Zourou, Ph.D., Web2Learn —

27 October 2022, Resilience Day



Researcher in **digital education**, Head of Web2Learn (R&D), Greece

Passionate about open and social learning

Advocate of open access, open and citizen science

Interested in forms of participatory, grassroots learning

Where are you located?

Go to the chat, click on the link and pin your location:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1LubnAgikcvx0SxnJPVfjHS5RizOzY8M&usp=sharing>



Outline



Setting the scene: higher ed resilience in the broader social context - action taking for a social purpose



Topic #1: How can higher education institutions contribute to make people resilient?



Topic #2: How do higher education systems become more resilient in tackling crises?



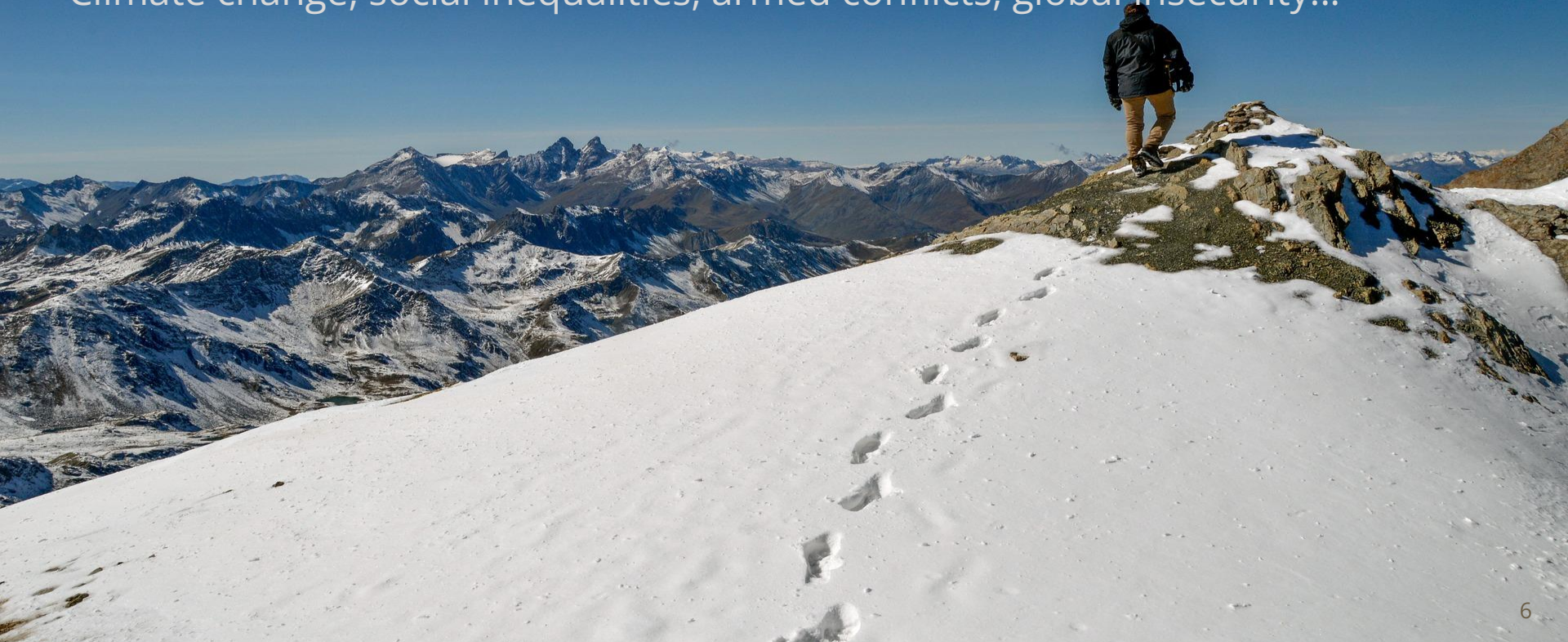
Some take away messages

Setting the scene: higher ed resilience in the broader social context - action taking for a social purpose



Several global challenges affecting higher education

Climate change, social inequalities, armed conflicts, global insecurity...





[Home](#) > [Schedule](#) > Reflections on global challenges and solutions



World Higher Education Conference
WHEC2022

Reinventing Higher Education for a Sustainable Future

Barcelona 18-20 May 2022

Reflections on global challenges and solutions

Over time, priorities for science have successively expanded to the emphasis on global challenges and social, economic, and planetary sustainability. The international scientific community is increasingly making its collective voice heard in confronting the challenges and using the opportunities in ways that serve the sustainability imperative, human welfare, and the global public good. According to Prof. Boulton, it must continue to promote broader public understanding of the issues at stake, work to improve the interface between scientists and policymakers at all levels of governance, adapt and improve the utility of science systems in supporting beneficial change. Global solutions however require global involvement. It is crucial that the scientific response is inclusive of diverse values, priorities, and approaches.

European Higher Education Area

Challenges for a New Decade

POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Facing Global Challenges:
A European University
Perspective

Resilience: a definition

“The process and outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences, especially through mental, emotional, and behavioral flexibility and adjustment to external and internal demands.”

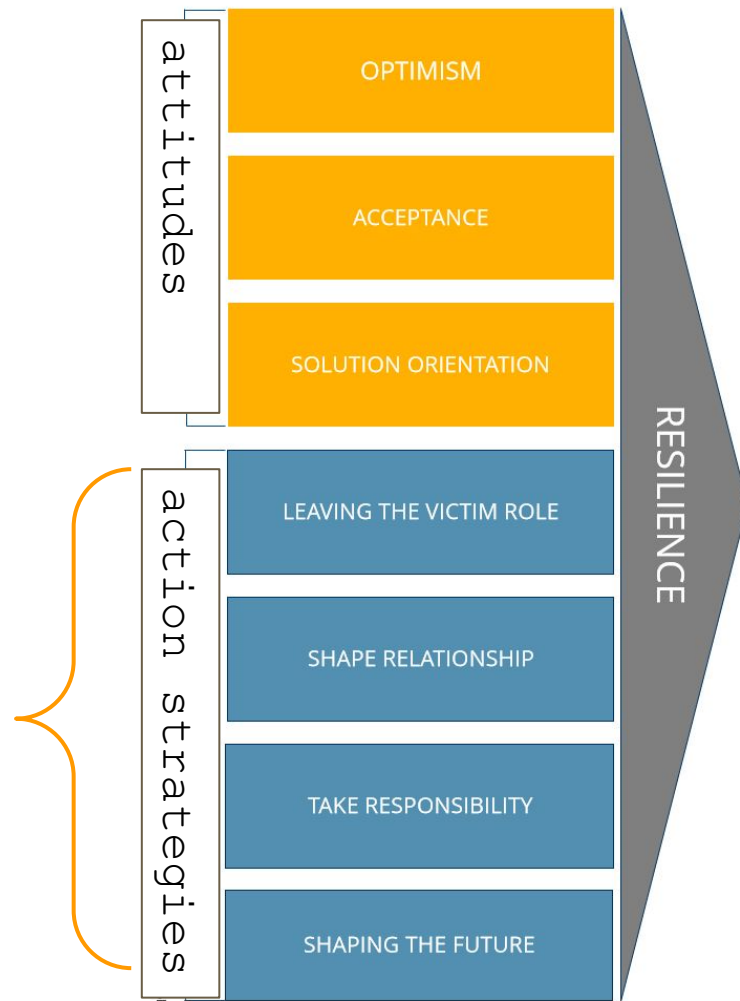
American Psychological Association (APA). Resilience. *Dictionary of Psychology* <https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>

Framing today's talk

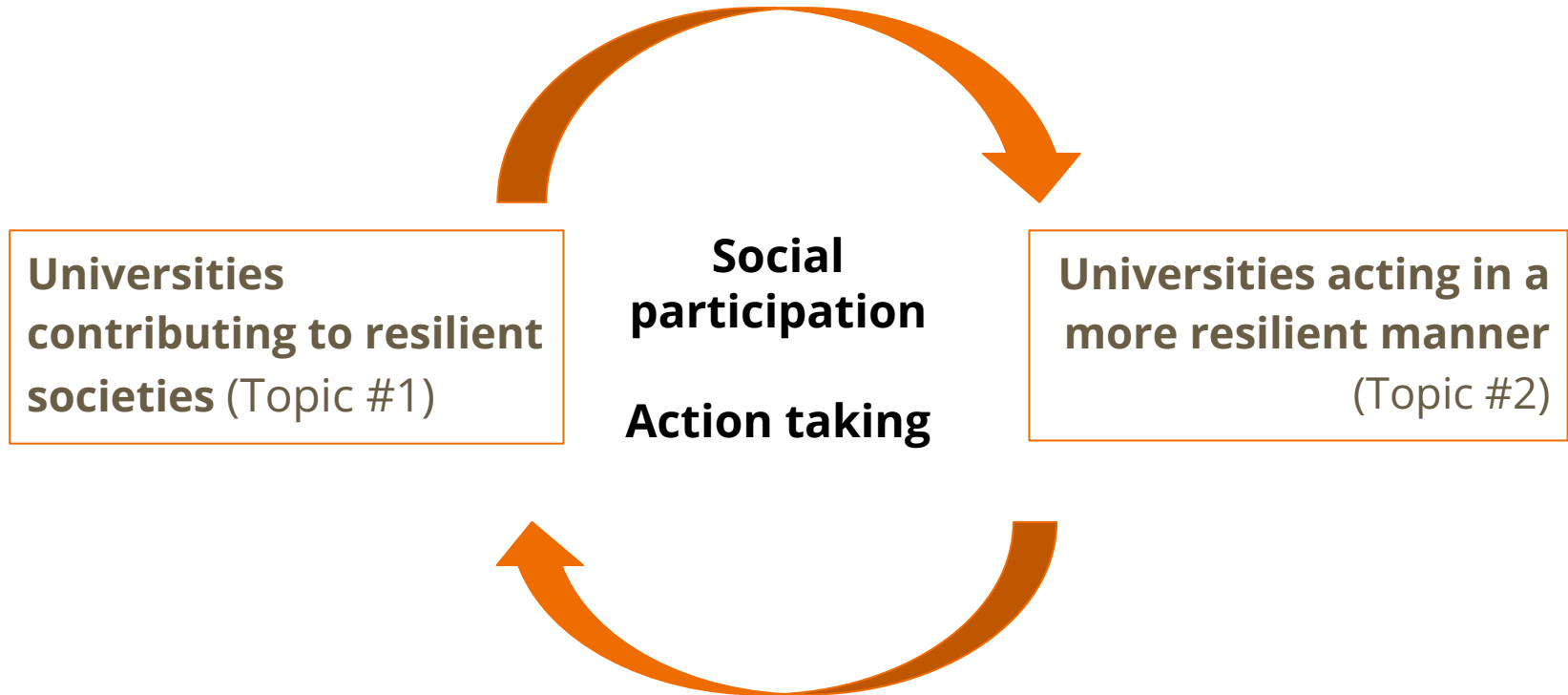
Approaching resilience from a learning perspective:

How can resilience be built into interactions between the university ecosystem and the world surrounding it?

examples of actions



Today's focal point



Topic #1: How can higher education institutions contribute to make people more resilient?

Quiz #1

Name one action, project or initiative that a university carried out with the aim to make citizens (more) resilient in a crisis context (from the Ukrainian experience)



Examples: University staff and students collaborating with citizens and social actors



Encouraging student communities to take action with citizens



Urging staff to participate to actions for a social purpose



Joining grassroots actions for crisis response (cross-institutional level)

Encouraging student communities to take action with citizens



Students With Ukraine

Δημόσια - 555 ακολουθεί

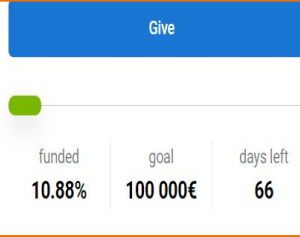
Ακολουθήστε την κοινότητα

Tallinn University students set up FB page to fundraise for Ukrainian refugees.



Tallinn University students invite local companies to donate food products and essentials for Ukrainians.

University of Tartu Scholarship Fund for Ukrainian Students



University of Tartu calling its community to support its Scholarship Fund for Ukrainian students through crowdfunding.

Researchers of University of Tartu produced a list of information channels that provide reliable and up-to-date information about the crisis.



Urging HE staff to participate to actions for a social purpose

The EUSpace4Ukraine hackathon

Using earth observation data for humanitarian aid.

Organised by the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA).

Participants: university staff, students (as individuals or groups), experts.



A grassroots initiative by universities

scienceforukraine.eu



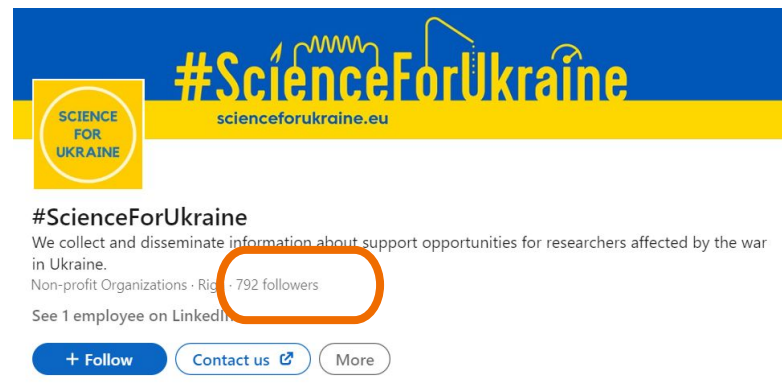
Science For Ukraine

963 likes 1.2K followers

Facebook page



Science For Ukraine



LinkedIn group

Take-away message: various forms of social participation in academia-society resilience



Encouraging student communities to take action with citizens

=> **local (institutional) level: face-to-face and online**



Urging staff to participate to actions for a social purpose

=> **cross-institutional level (and online)**



Joining grassroots actions for crisis response

=> **cross-institutional level (and online)**

Topic #2: How do higher education systems become more resilient in tackling crises ?

Quiz #2

Name one action, project or initiative that adopts resilience on university level



Examples: universities acting in a more resilient manner



Allocating time to staff in actions for crisis responsiveness/being agile in adjusting priorities in cross-country collaborations

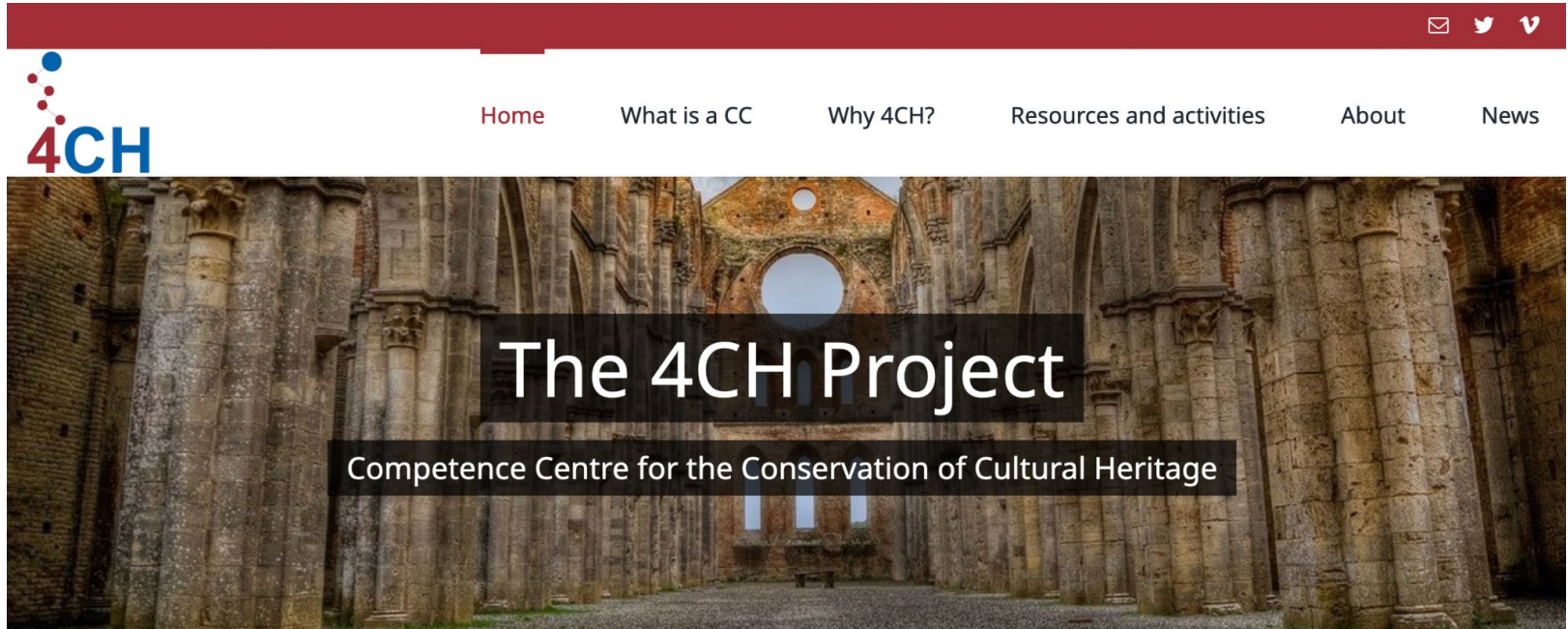


Adopting grassroots innovation



Joining grassroots actions for crisis response (cross-institutional level)

Example of crisis responsiveness and priorities shift



<https://www.4ch-project.eu/>



and with them cancel the history and identity of the Ukrainians. Out of solidarity with Ukraine, immediately after the invasion 4CH launched an initiative titled **SUM – Save the Ukraine Monuments** to save the digital documentation of Ukrainian cultural heritage, to preserve its memory and support the future restoration of assets from the damages caused by the war. The initiative has been approved by the EU Commission and is carried out with the collaboration, the endorsement and the support of other EU cultural institutions and organizations. SUM consists in duplicating the

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мистецтва, пережитки минулого, а разом з ними зруйнувати історію та самобутність українців. На знак солідарності з Україною одразу після вторгнення 4CH розпочав ініціативу **ЗПУ – Збережемо пам'ятники України**, щоб зберегти цифрову документацію про українську культурну спадщину, зберегти її пам'ять та підтримати майбутнє відновлення майна від пошкоджень, завданих війною. Ініціатива була схвалена Комісією ЄС і здійснюється за колаборації, схвалення та підтримки інших культурних установ та організацій ЄС. ЗПУ полягає у тиражуван

Example #2: HEIs allocating staff time in crisis response projects

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SUCHO is grateful to the Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH), the European Association for Digital Humanities and the Europeana Foundation for emergency project grants.

We are also very grateful to Amazon Web Services, Digital Ocean and Wasabi, who are hosting our server infrastructure pro bono.

Coordinators

- Quinn Dombrowski, Stanford University
- Anna Kijas, Tufts University
- Sebastian Majstorovic, Austrian Center for Digital Humanities & Cultural Heritage

<https://www.sucho.org/>

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Adopting grassroots innovation: example: hackathons

FINTECH CHALLENGE FOR UKRAINE

Deploying digital and financial technologies to help Ukrainians withstand Russian aggression and rebuild the country

16 May 2022

#DigitalFinanceEU | #FinTechEU | #StandWithUkraine



Mairead McGuinness
European Commissioner for Financial Stability,
Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union



Eva Kaili
Vice President of the European Parliament



Maryna Lazebna
Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine



Kyrylo Shevchenko
Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine



Rostyslav Dyuk
Chairman of the Board, Ukrainian Association of FinTech and
Innovation Companies



Maria Staszkiwicz
President of the European Digital Finance Association (EDFA)



European
Commission



#EUSpace4Ukraine
HACKATHON



Your ideas have the power to support people fleeing the devastating war. The hackathon takes place from:

29.06. - 01.07.2022

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Cross-institutional cooperation as resilience mechanism

EU launches Ukrainian research aid scheme as it boosts Horizon Europe budget

10 May 2022 | News

Funding for researchers from Ukraine to study abroad is part of a €562M increase for Horizon Europe this year

By Florin Zubaşcu



ERA4Ukraine

The European Union, its Member States and Europeans across the continent are mobilised in support of people fleeing the war in Ukraine. We are working on all fronts to support Ukraine with assistance, humanitarian aid and civil

Key-take away messages

- open innovation facilitates wide and diverse citizen engagement
- digital technologies enable quick solutions,
- resilience is built over time→ need for training of staff, development of capacity building.

Idea: incentives and rewards to leverage resilience at HEIs

Set up incentives and Rewards to encourage academic staff and researchers to actively engage in resilience, social participation,

Valorize actions on institutional level

=> the **equivalent of the merit system for Open Science**,
already in place in The Netherlands, Finland and Norway

?

Stefania Oikonomou

Colleagues in
EU-funded projects,
sources of
inspiration for
this talk:
**eCHOIng, INOS,
LibOCS**

Acknowledgements



Coming next: Erasmus+ KA2 **AGILE** project

Higher education resilience in refugee crises: forging social inclusion through capacity building, civic engagement and skills recognition.

(December 2022-May 2025)

Aim: enhance higher education institutions' inclusivity and resilience in the face of ongoing refugee crises.

More info: <https://web2learn.eu/project/agile-higher-education-resilience-in-refugee-crises/>

Thank you!
Questions?



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<https://web2learn.eu/>

[@web2learn_eu](#)

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Setting the scene: higher ed resilience in the broader social context : action taking for a social purpose



Topic #1: How can higher education institutions contribute to making people resilient?



Topic #2: How do higher education systems become more resilient in tackling crisis?



Take away messages

Framing today's talk

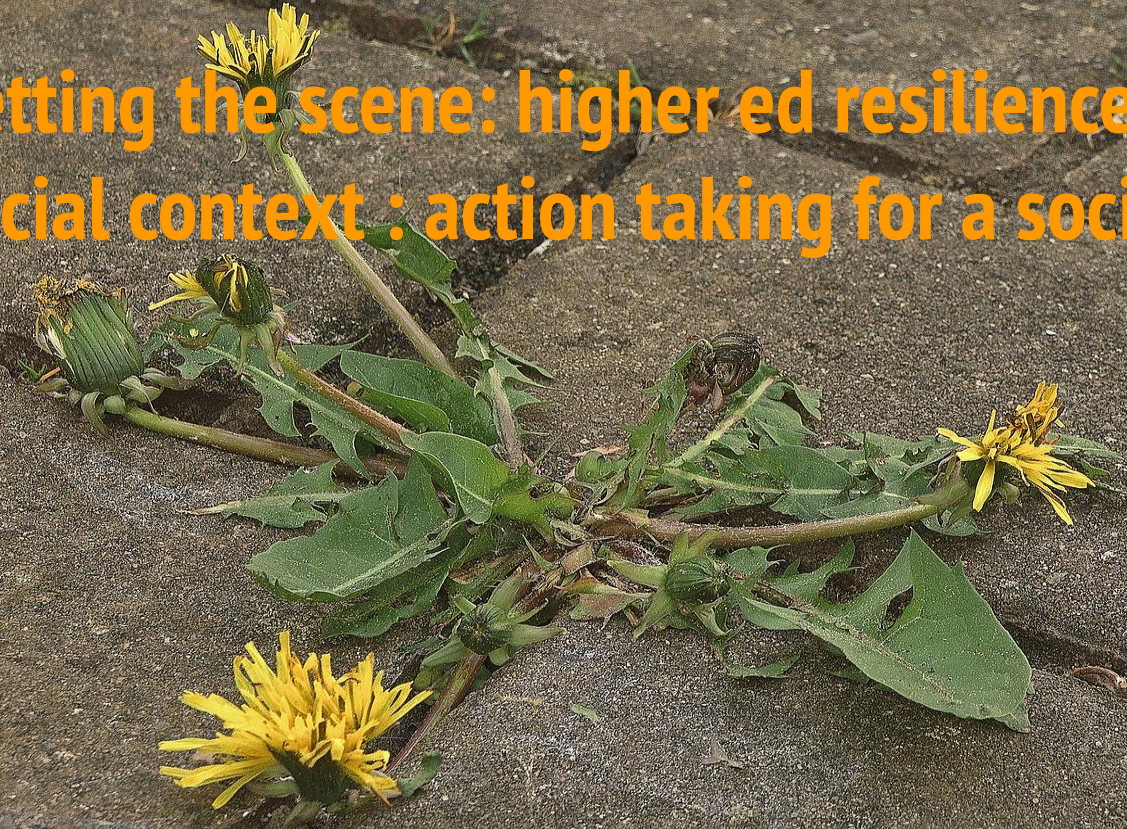
2) Eventually, how could resilience affect attitudes?

Approaching resilience from a learning perspective:

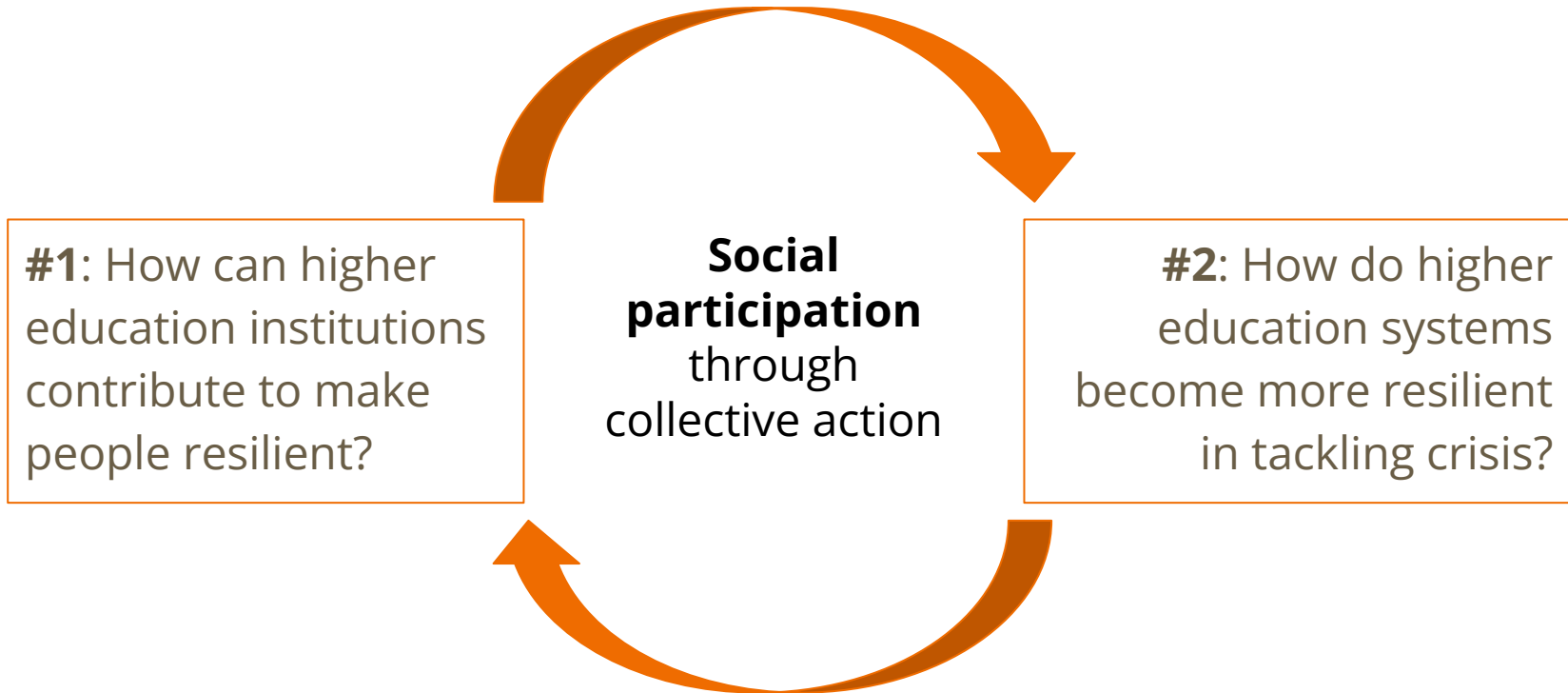
- 1) How can resilience be built in interaction between the HE ecosystem and the world surrounding it? **examples of actions**



Setting the scene: higher ed resilience in the broader social context : action taking for a social purpose



Social participation to the fore



*Universities contributing
to resilient societies*



Social participation
Action taking



*Universities acting in a
more resilient manner*

social participation

action taking

Universities contributing to resilient societies

Universities acting in a more resilient manner