Internship report - Rethinking Community Hubs: Towards betterment of Businesses/ Society/Students?

Host company: HoloHouse

Student: Mojdeh Sabeti

Throughout this internship in the SIRR project, we investigated three distinct organizations regarding rethinking community Hubs towards betterment of involving Multi Helix actors. Each of these organizations assigned an unique tasks that were specifically tailored to their respective focus areas, allowing to contribute meaningfully to different aspects of the SIRR project. In the following sections, a brief explanation is provided of the tasks and responsibilities for each organization.

ORGANIZATION 1: SOTENÄS MUNICIPALITY AND THE CENTRE OF SYMBIOSIS HUB

Task: Optimal sustainable solutions to design an innovation center

For this task, we conducted a comprehensive exploration of various examples to gain a deeper understanding of how an innovation center can be designed to create an optimal, comfortable, and welcoming environment for businesses and networks. This included an in-person visit to an existing innovation center, where we engaged in discussions with the architect and administrative staff to understand the practical aspects of such a project. Drawing from these insights, I developed a series of concepts and ideas specifically tailored to the design of the innovation Hub in Sotenäs.

Additionally, we researched the integration of digital tools and technologies to enhance the operational efficiency of businesses within the center, proposing solutions that not only meet sustainability standards but also foster a productive and innovative work atmosphere, supported by modern digital infrastructure.

ORGANIZATION 2: LYSEKIL MUNICIPALITY

Task: Comparing single and multiple community hubs, and developing effective solutions for green transition goals

In this task, we focused on comparing the benefits and drawbacks of single versus multiple community Hubs, while proposing solutions to support Lysekil Municipality's green transition objectives. To deepen my understanding of community hubs, we reviewed an interesting article that rethinks the role of these Hubs, particularly how they can be considered as critical infrastructure during times of crisis. This provided valuable insights into the versatility and resilience of community spaces.

We then researched Sweden's policies regarding green transition and climate strategies, ensuring that the solutions we proposed were aligned with the national and regional contexts, particularly in Lysekil. To anchor the research in practical applications, we examined real-world examples of community spaces, as well as my prior studio project, which involved designing a community hub for another Swedish municipality.

By synthesizing this research and analysis, we were able to propose effective solutions for community Hubs in Lysekil. The contributions included both the design of the urban setting for these hubs and a comprehensive management plan to ensure these spaces are welcoming, sustainable, and attractive to the community as their primary users.

ORGANIZATION 3: TRENDI HUB AT UNIVERSITY OF VECHTA

Task: Effective solutions for the organizational design of a campus-based hub to enhance visibility and student engagement

In this task, we focused on developing solutions for the organizational design of a campus-based Hub at the University of Vechta, with the aim of increasing its visibility across the entire university and promoting student engagement in its activities. We began by thoroughly analyzing the context of the university to better understand the hub's potential user base, mainly students, and identifying the types of activities that would effectively encourage their participation.

To gain further insights, we explored various journal articles on student engagement in campus Hubs and examined successful examples of similar hubs at other universities. This research allowed us to analyze how such hubs should be designed and structured to maximize student involvement. We then conducted a comparative analysis of different activity themes, assessing which formats would work best for the hub in this specific context. Based on this analysis, we compiled a list of recommended activities tailored to student interests and needs.

Additionally, we proposed practical and architectural design solutions aimed at improving the hub's visibility within the university campus. These solutions were intended to ensure that the TrENDi Hub not only stood out as a physical space but also became a central part of campus life.

Contribution SIRR project

We delivered a comprehensive body of work in a short time, demonstrating thorough research and analysis.

The presentation of solutions and key insights from the research has provided the Hubs with a deeper understanding of the task at hand. The results effectively highlighted both strategic and social behavioral aspects, while also offering practical suggestions for enhancing the Hub's features to improve its practical usage and objectives. The results can significantly contribute to the ongoing efforts and are presented in a way that can be applied to all hubs. Additionally, the insights can be utilized for future presentations within each organization and for others interested in engaging with the Hub once it is fully developed.

Rethinking Community hubs: Towards betterment of Businesses, Society, students

Mojdeh Sabeti

SOTENÄS

LYSEKIL

TRENDI HUB

SOTENÄS

LYSEKIL

TRENDI HUB

MAIN NEEDS:

- Meeting place for networks and businesses

- Welcoming and comfortable for all kinds of network

- Inclusion of people

LIKE AN INNOVATION CENTER

Examples:
Useful architecture and spatial contributions

- **American International School of Guangzhou Science Park Campus**

- **Architect:** Perkins&Will
- **Location:** Guangzhou, China
- **Year:** 2023

Examples
Useful architecture and spatial contributions

- **LIT OPEN INNOVATION CENTER**

- **Architect:** Riepl Riepl Architekten
- **Location:** Linz, Austria
- **Year:** 2019

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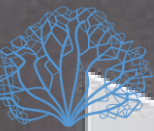
SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

SIDE KITCHEN

FOYER
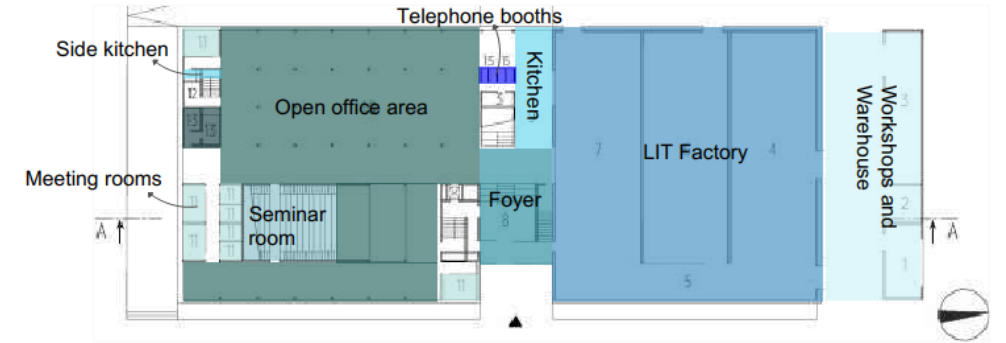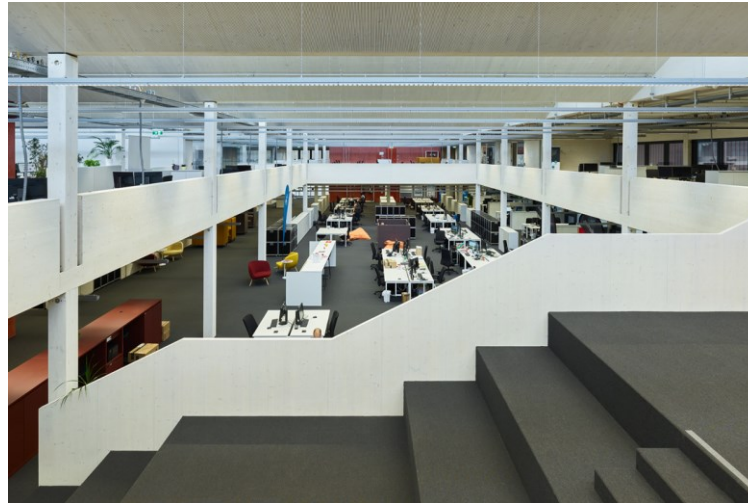
LIT FACTORY

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

Individual workspace

Telephone booths

Open office area

INTERESTING DETAILS

SIGNANGE

THE MAIL CHUTE
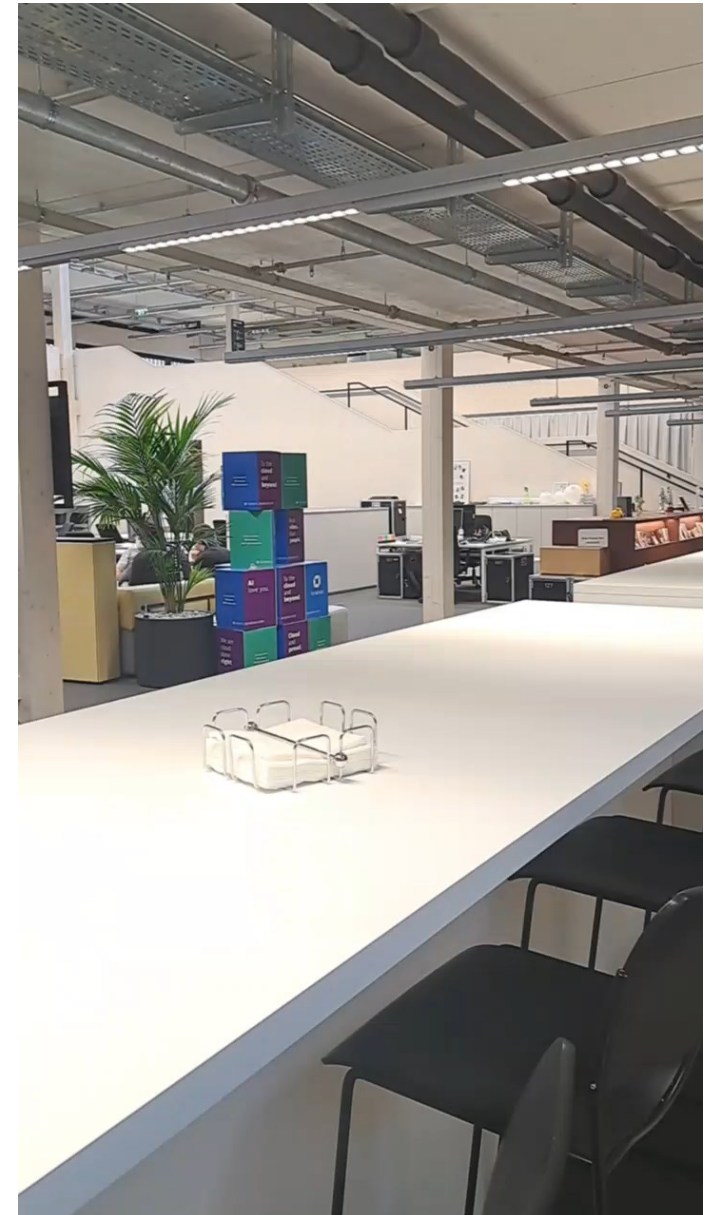
WHAT ABOUT IN SOTENAS?
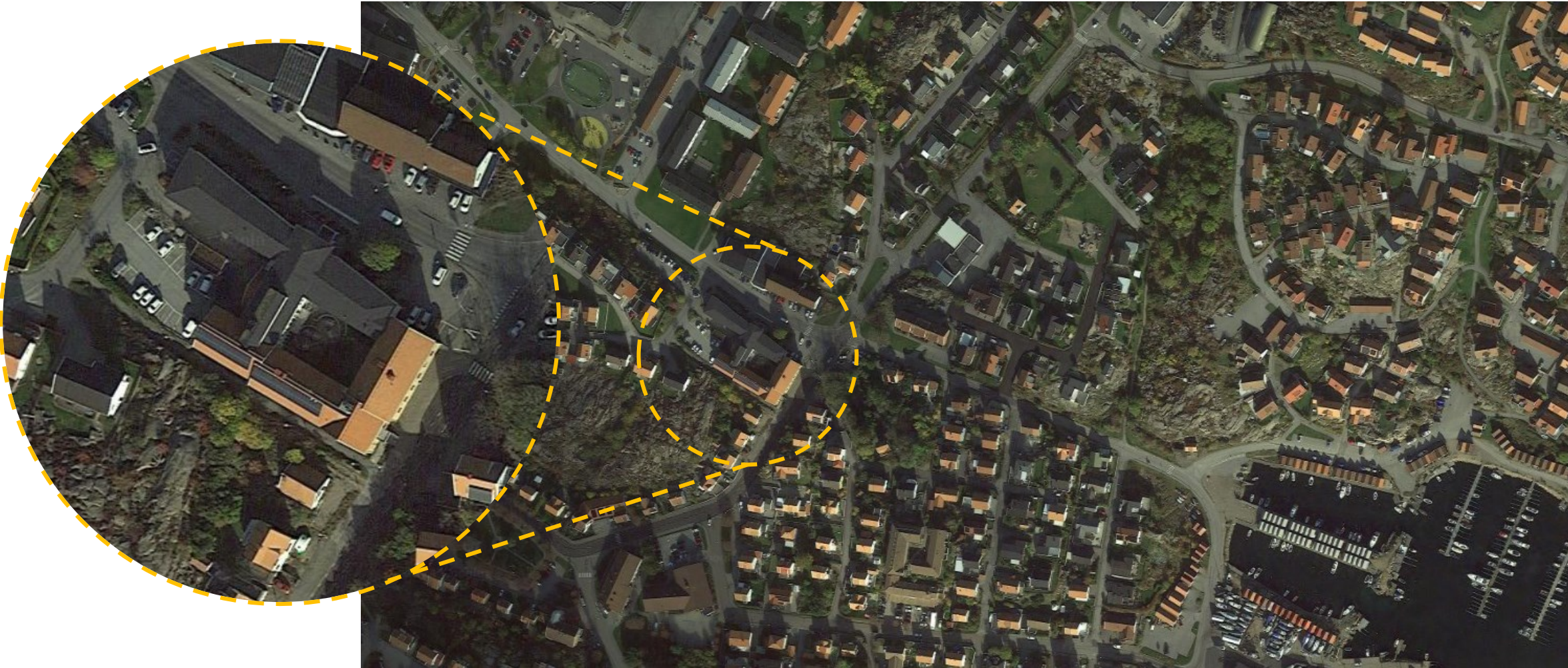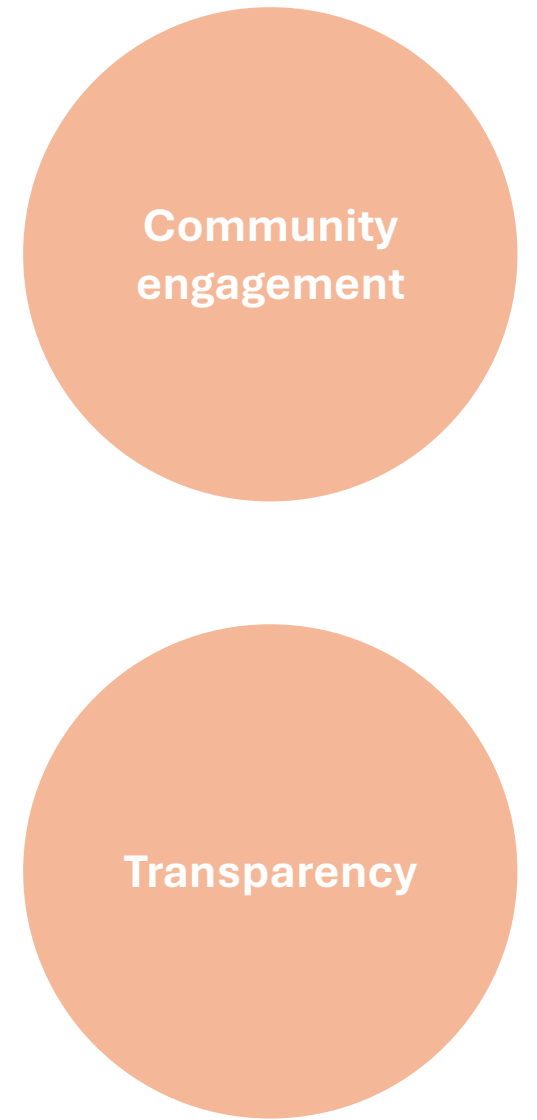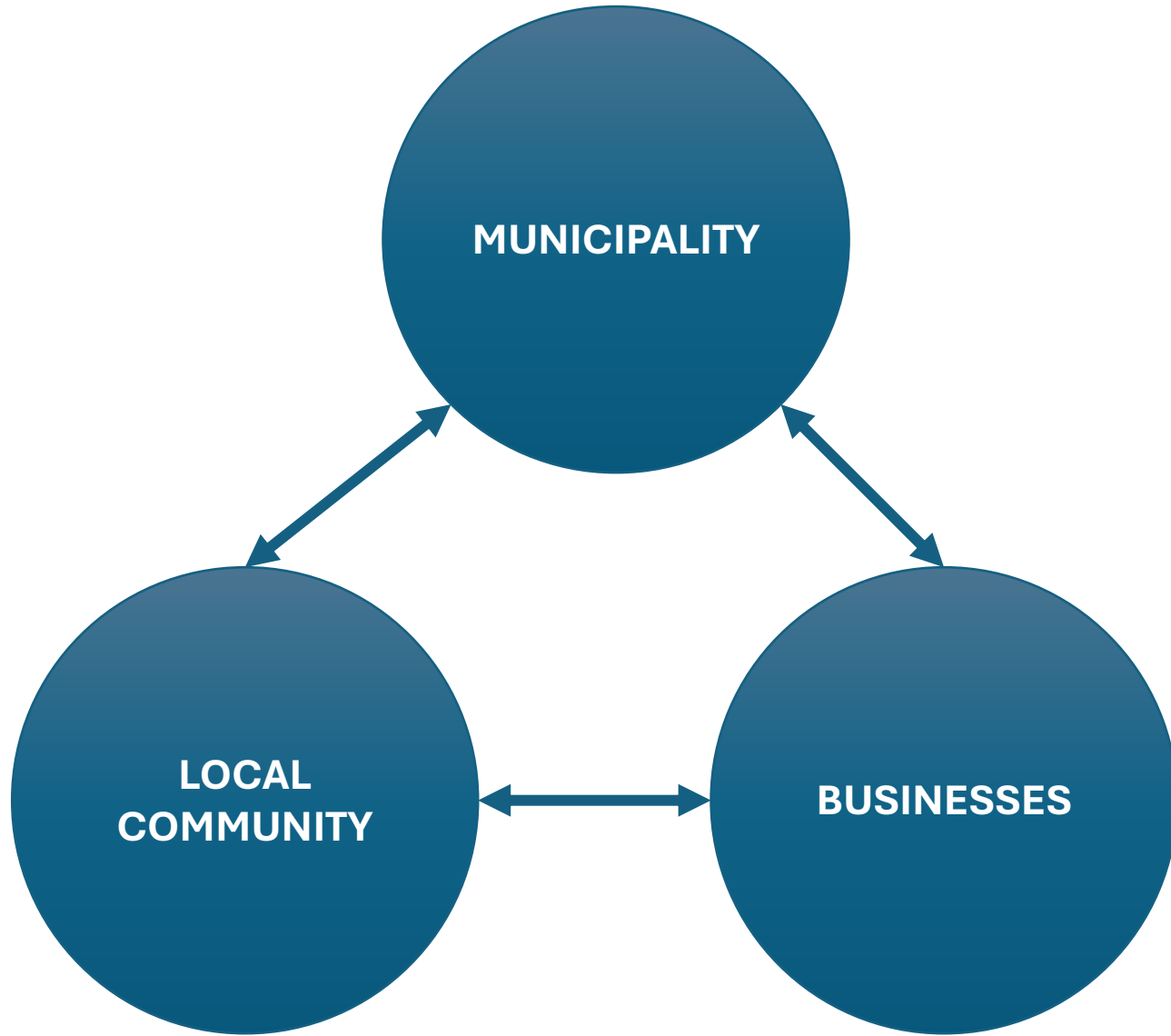
Authenticity

Sustainability

Originality

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Openness

Interaction

DIGITALITY

Virtual collaboration platforms

Digital twins of physical spaces

Virtual prototyping and testing

Digital mentorship and networking

Smart booking and resource management

SOTENÄS

LYSEKIL

TRENDI HUB

MAIN NEEDS:

- Pros and cons of one hub or multiple hubs?

- Preparing the society towards Lysekil+ goals

- Working with different actors in the society

SOCIETY INTEGRATION IN GREEN TRANSITION

RETHINKING COMMUNITY HUBS:
community facilities as critical infrastructure

Insufficient social value and adaptability for community hubs.

Local projects overlooked; social value ignored.
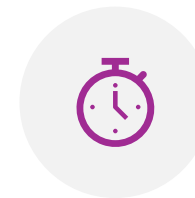
The importance of community facilities during crisis times.

RETHINKING COMMUNITY HUBS:
community facilities as critical infrastructure

Four main perspectives

Partnerships rather than transactions

Place-based rather than place-focused:

Social-ecological as well as socio-technical

Transformational as well as transitional

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SWEDEN
Pioneer in environemtal protection

Sweden was the first country to launch a national Environment Protection Agency in 1967 (Lidskog & Elander, 2000)

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) views the **municipalities as crucial actors in climate policy** because of their responsibility for creating good living conditions ecologically as well as socially and economically (SEPA, 2003a; 2003b)

Although a carbon dioxide tax had been introduced as early as 1991 it was not until late 2001 that an explicit **Swedish Climate Strategy** was presented stating that **the reduction of CO2 emissions should be the responsibility of all actors in society—public and private, organizations and individuals**. (MoE, 2003)

What municipalities can do, however, is to **inform and educate their citizens to behave and act in an eco-friendly way.** Thus, strong efforts are made by some municipalities to increase school children's and other groups' knowledge of global warming, its causes, effects and possible remedies. (Granberg & Elander, 2007)

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Examples
Community hubs towards green transition

- **Transition Town Totnes**
- Volunteer-operated and community-led hub
- **Location:** Totnes, England
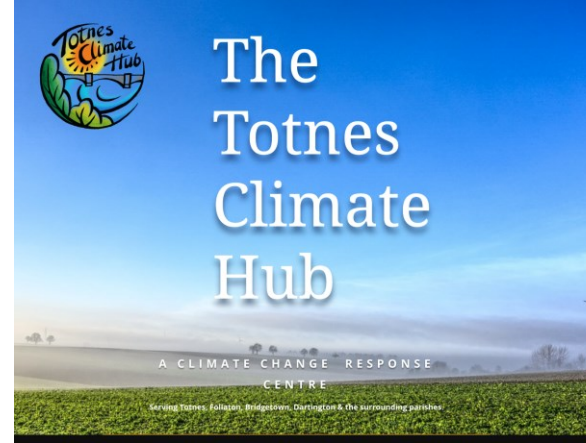- **Year:** 2006

ACTIVITIES

Incredible Edible

Reading group

Climate Hub

Transition Street

REconomy center

Mentoring and Wellbeing Support
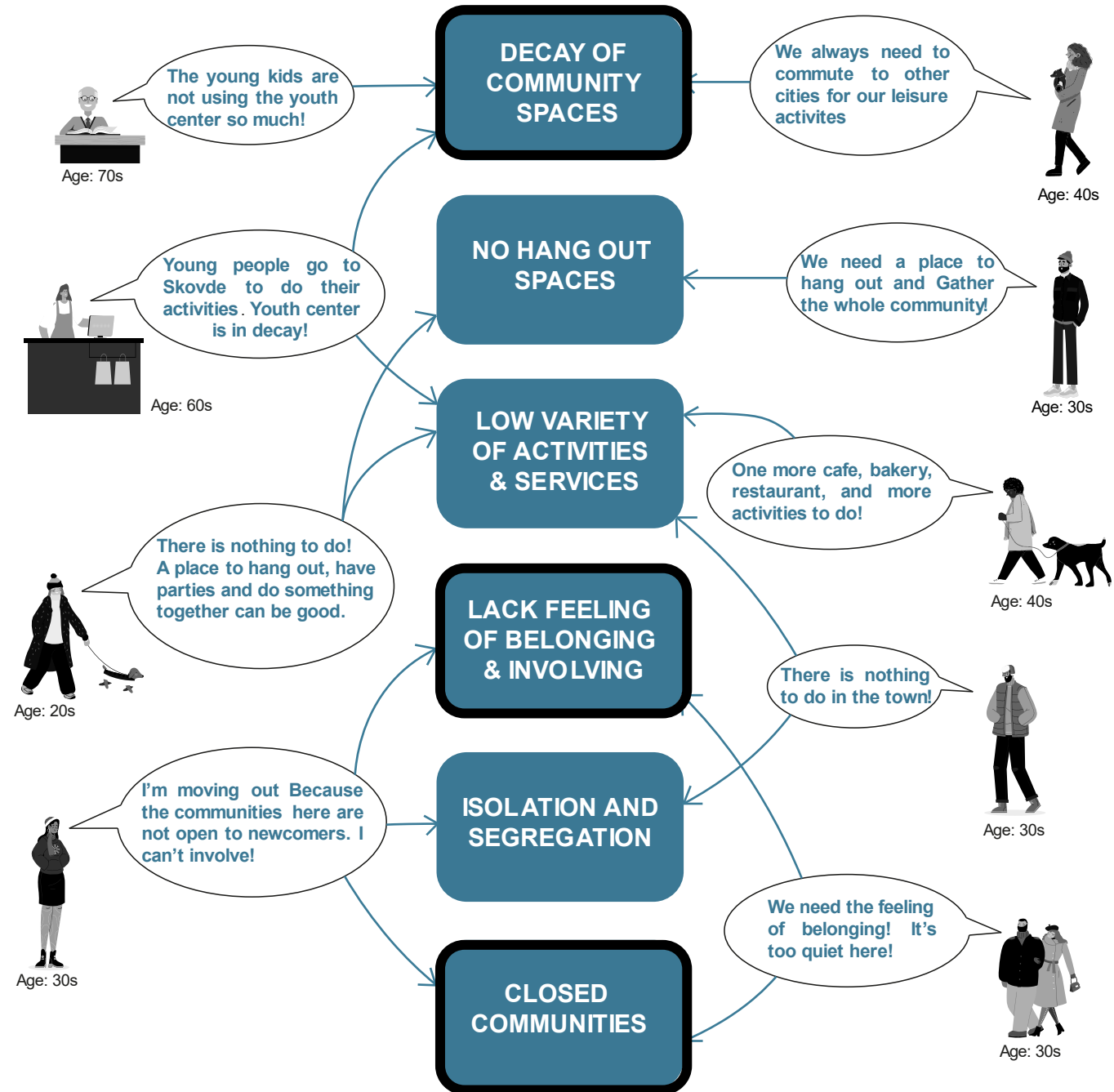

Transition tours

Time to Breathe
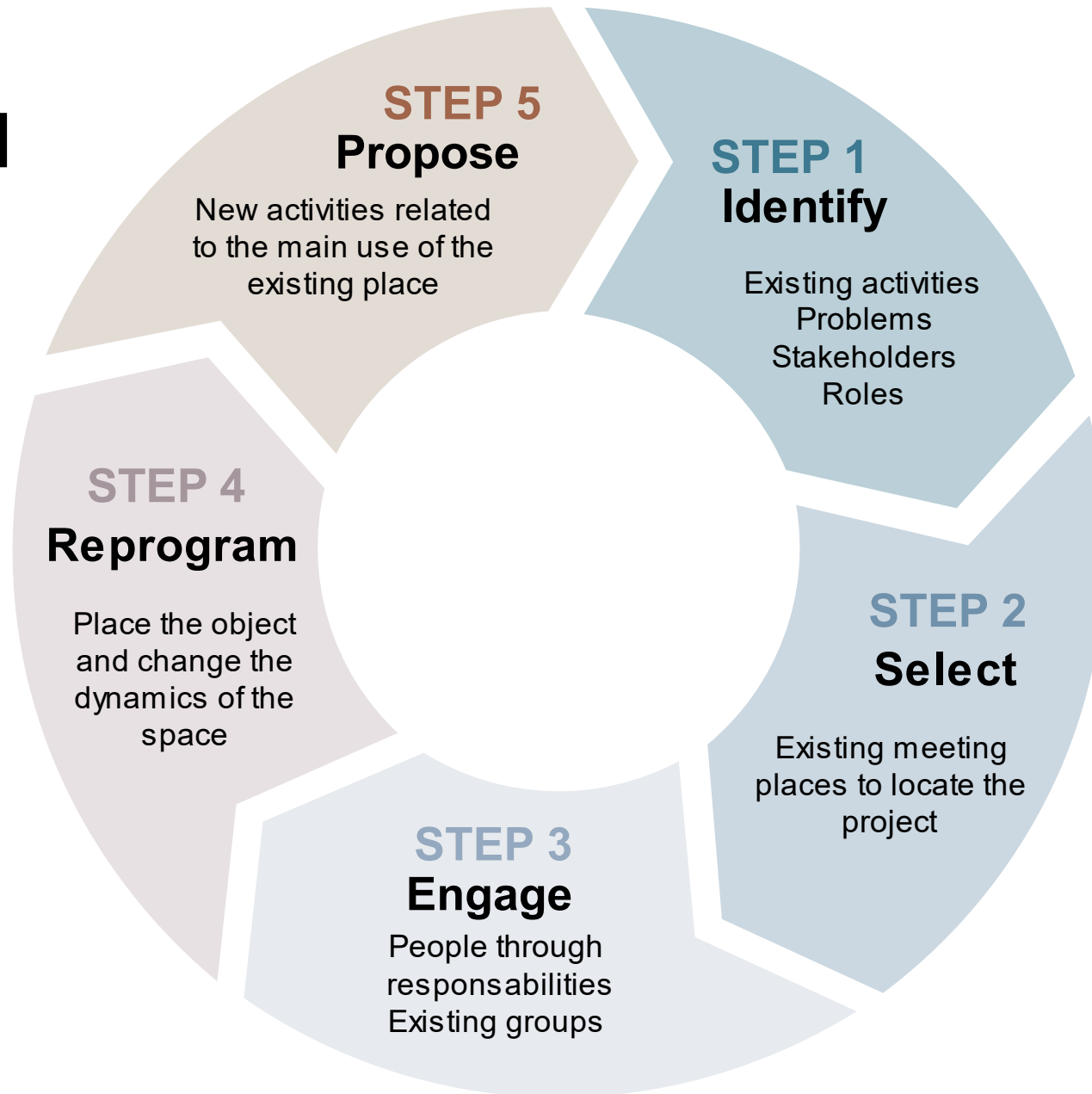
Examples Community hub

- **Engagemang för Tidan**
- Volunteer-operated and community-led hub
- **Location:** Tidan, Sweden
- **Year:** 2024

MOVABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY

Reuse an existing structure:
Mobile, insulated and cheap
Manskapsbod
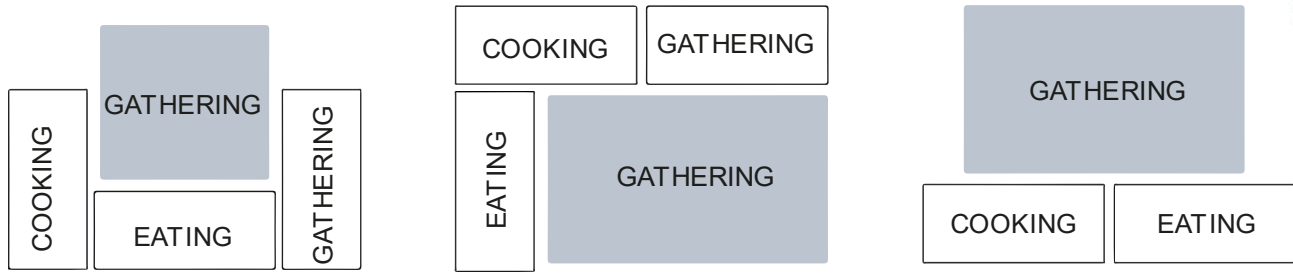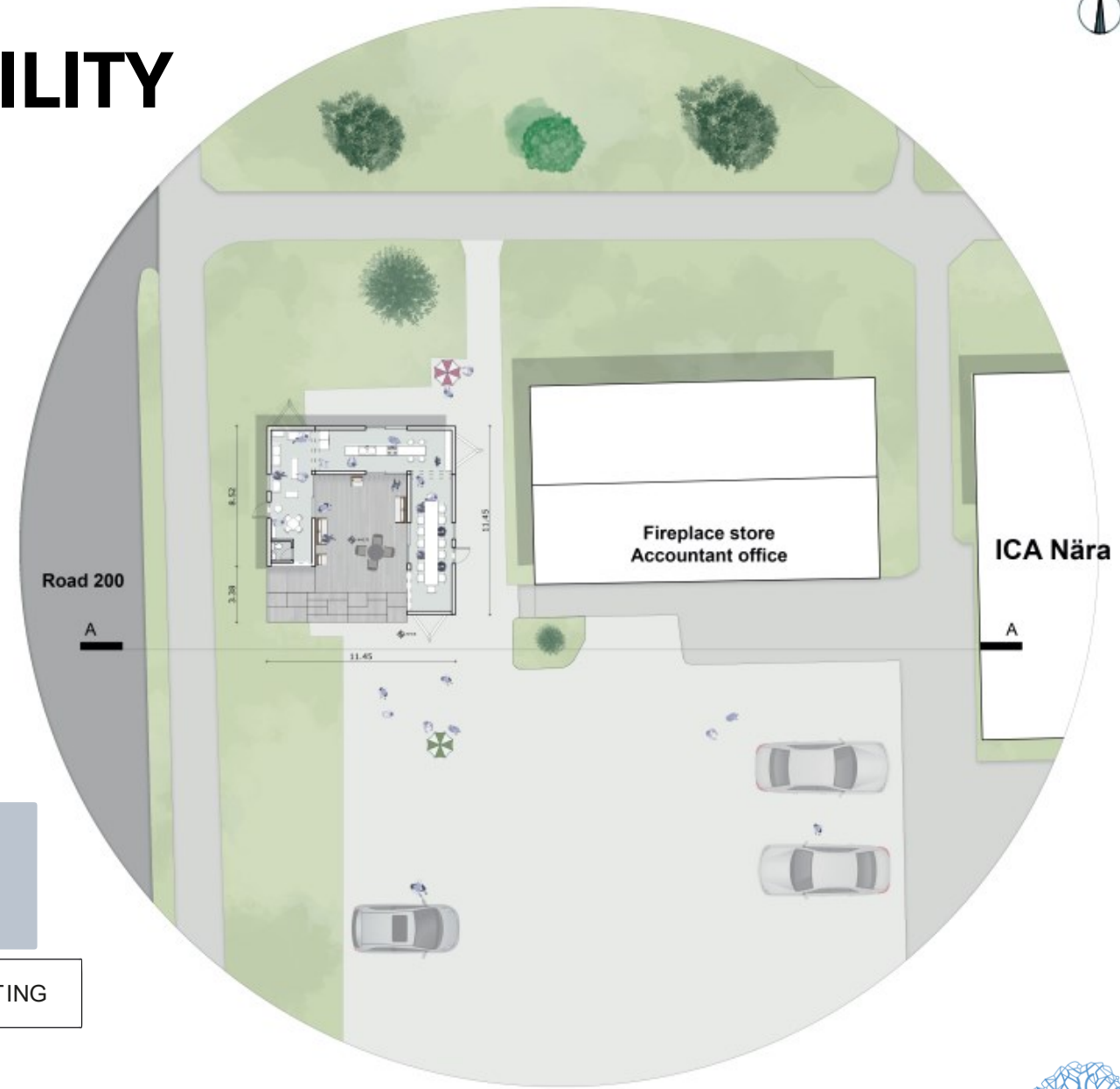
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Fika
- Educational food workshop
- Cocktail Night
- Movies and dinner
- International dinner
- Baking workshop
- Funny food art

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning						Funny food art	Funny food art
Afternoon	Fika	Fika	Fika	Baking workshop, Fika	Fika	Fika	Fika, Funny food art
Evening		Educational food workshop	International dinner	Funny food art	Cocktail Night	Movies and dinner	

- **Vad and Filadelfia Church** — Theme of activities: Religion and education
- **ICA Nära Tidan** — Theme of activities: Food and drink
- **Tidan Motesplats** — Theme of activities: Leisure and fun
- **Bockernas Hus i Tidan** — Theme of activities: Book and culture
- **Osterbergs Konditori** — Theme of activities: Bake and drink
- **Tidanbygden** — Theme of activities: Culture and Art

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TIDAN IS ALIVE AGAIN!
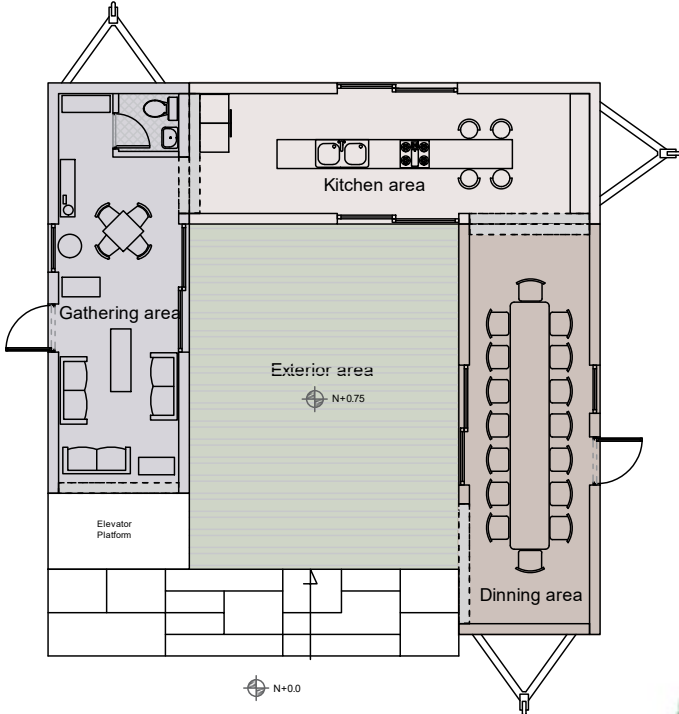
Ground floor plan
Scale: 1:75

Removable walls
Fixed walls

Kitchen area

Gathering area

Exterior area
N+0.75

Elevator
Platform

Dinning area

N+0.0

Multiple hubs OR/AND single hub?
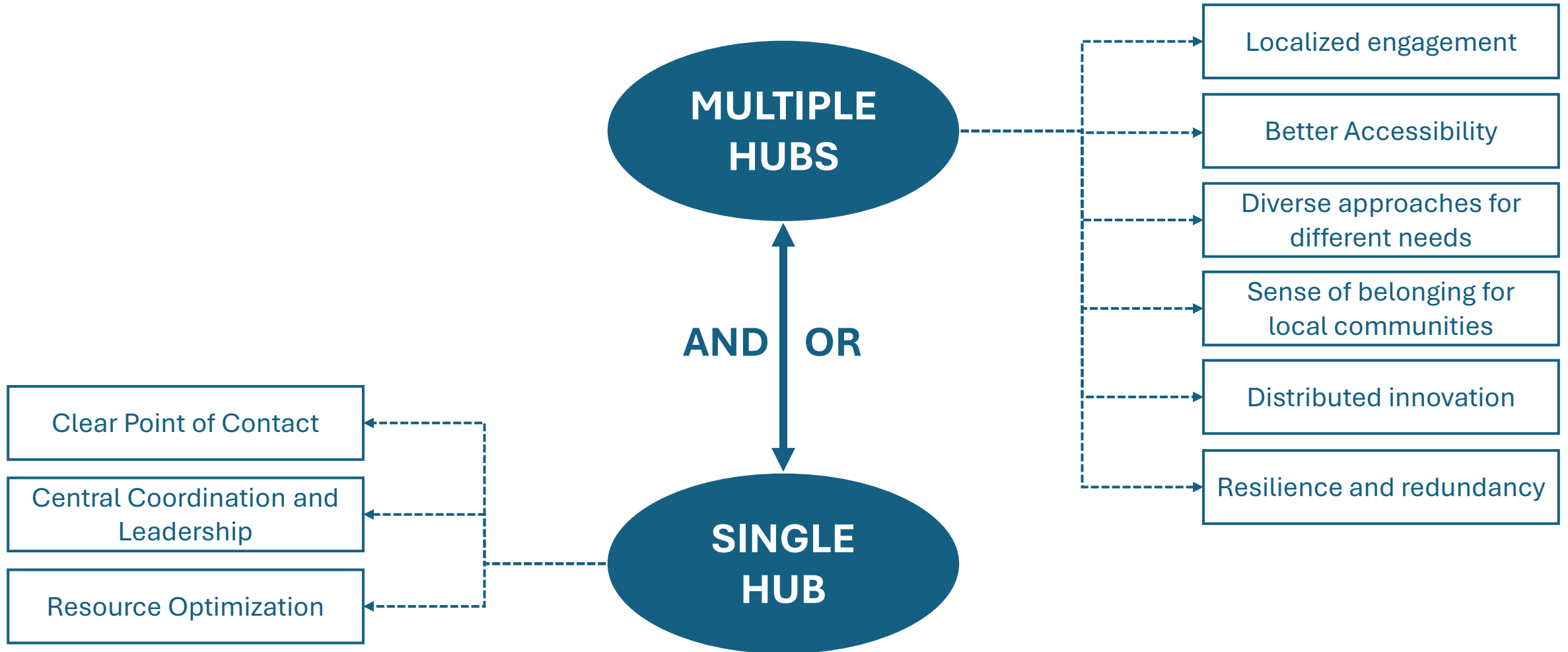
MULTIPLE HUBS

- Localized engagement
- Better Accessibility
- Diverse approaches for different needs
- Sense of belonging for local communities
- Distributed innovation
- Resilience and redundancy

AND | OR

SINGLE HUB

- Clear Point of Contact
- Central Coordination and Leadership
- Resource Optimization

Multiple hubs AND single hub

Multiple hubs AND single hub

Multiple hubs AND single hub

Kristineberg center

Bro Co-working arena

Skafto Folketshus
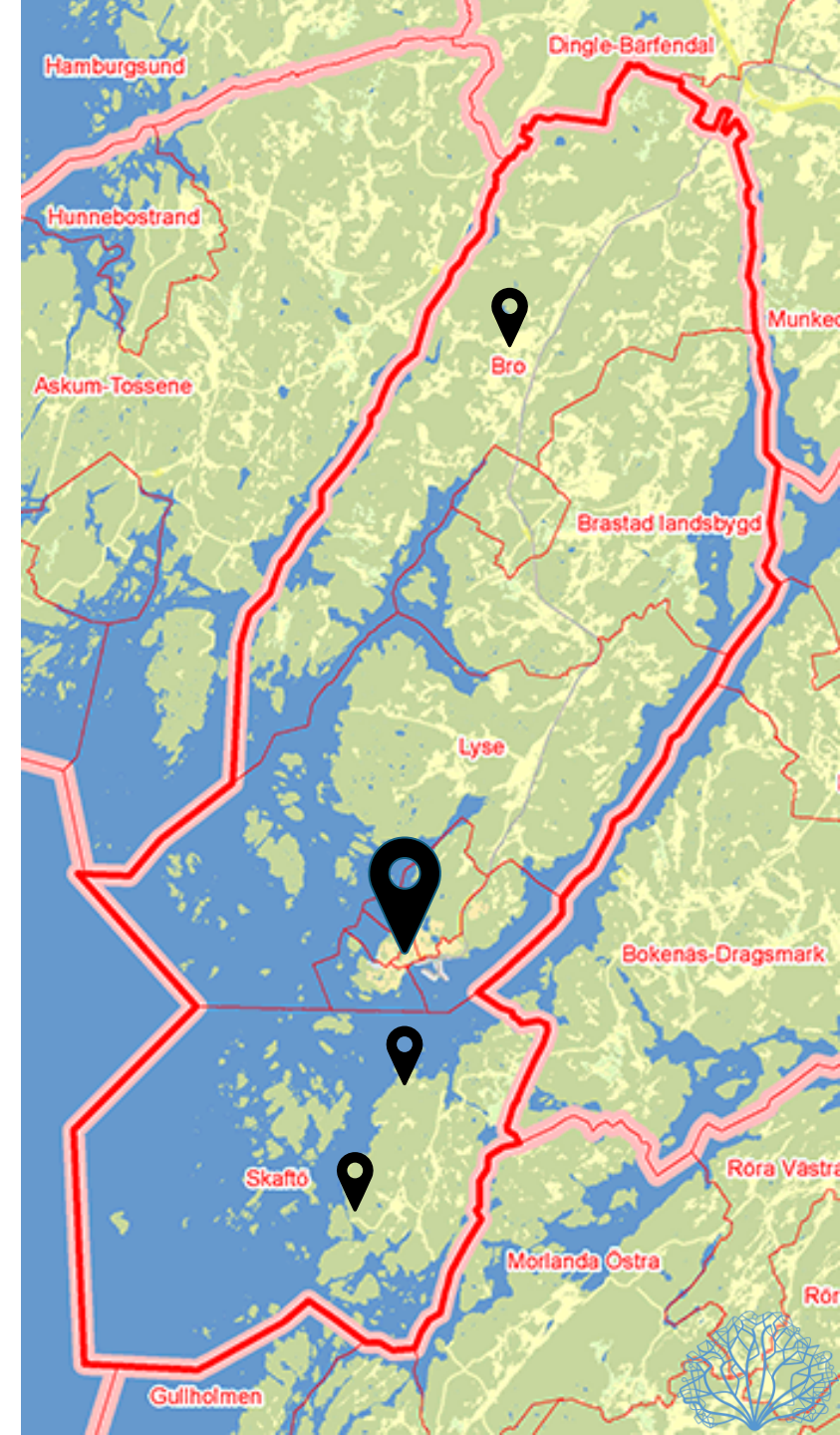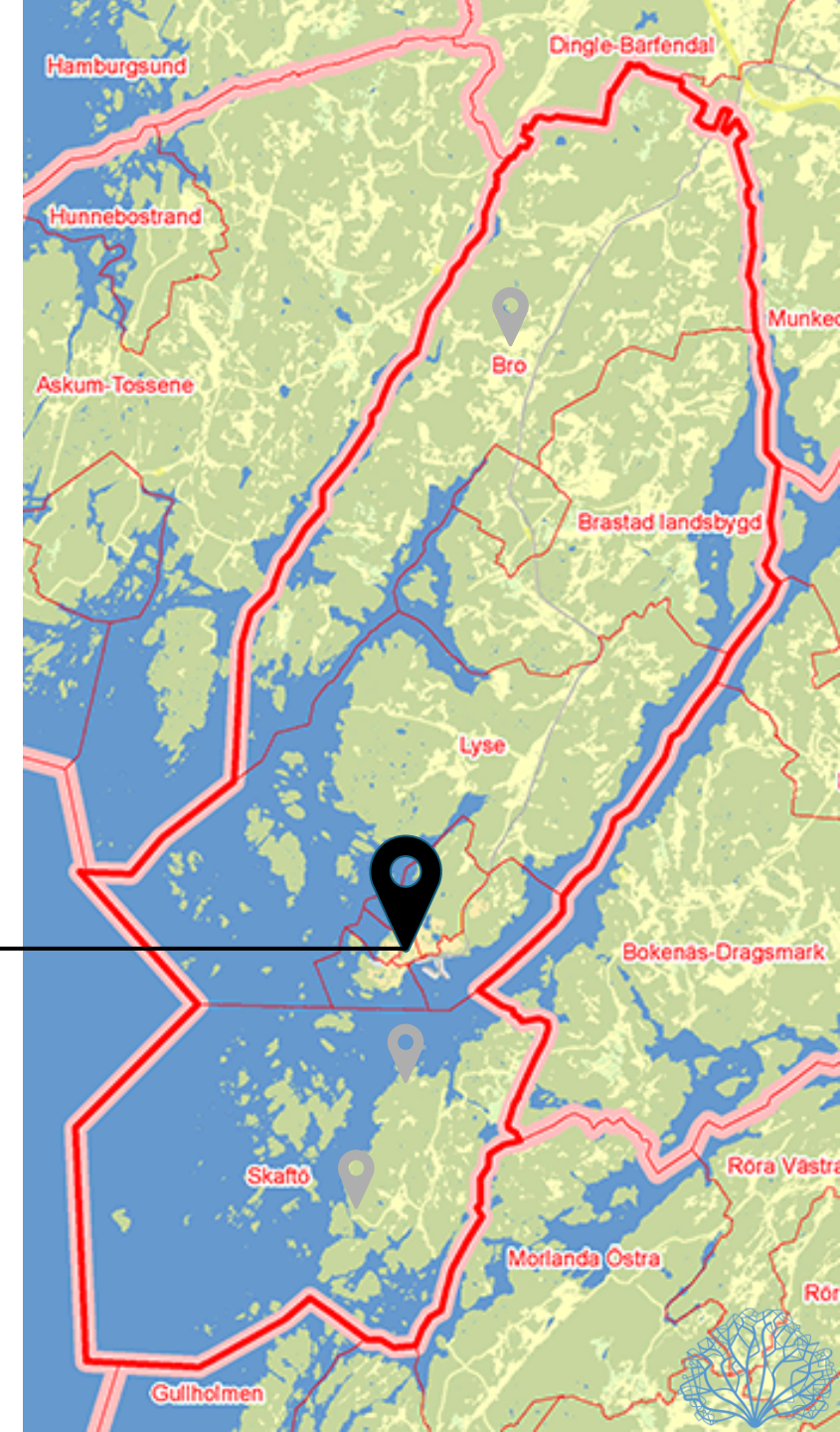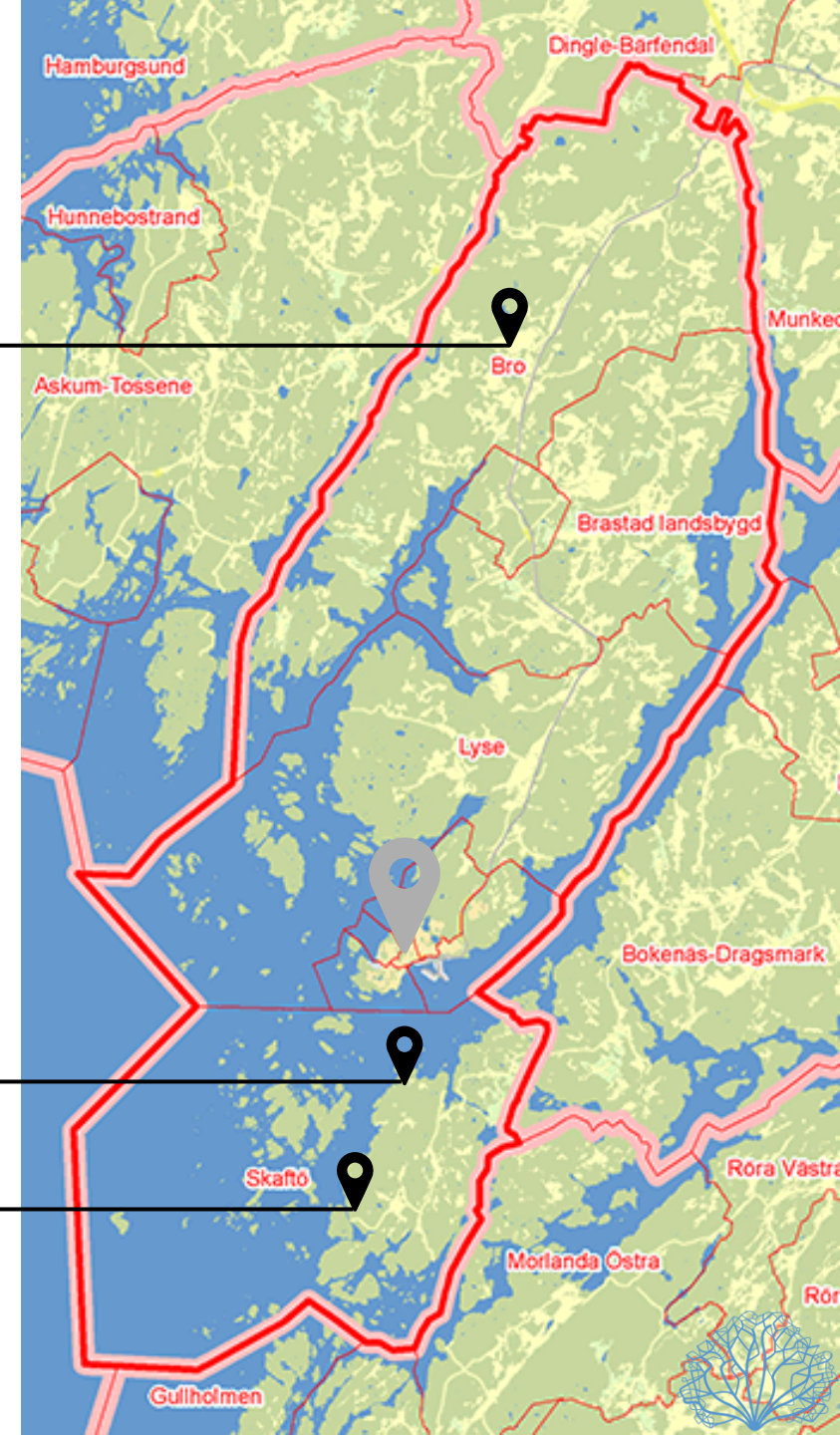
Multiple hubs AND single hub

Making a schedule of activities and events

Giving responsibility to people

Training the community for crisis time
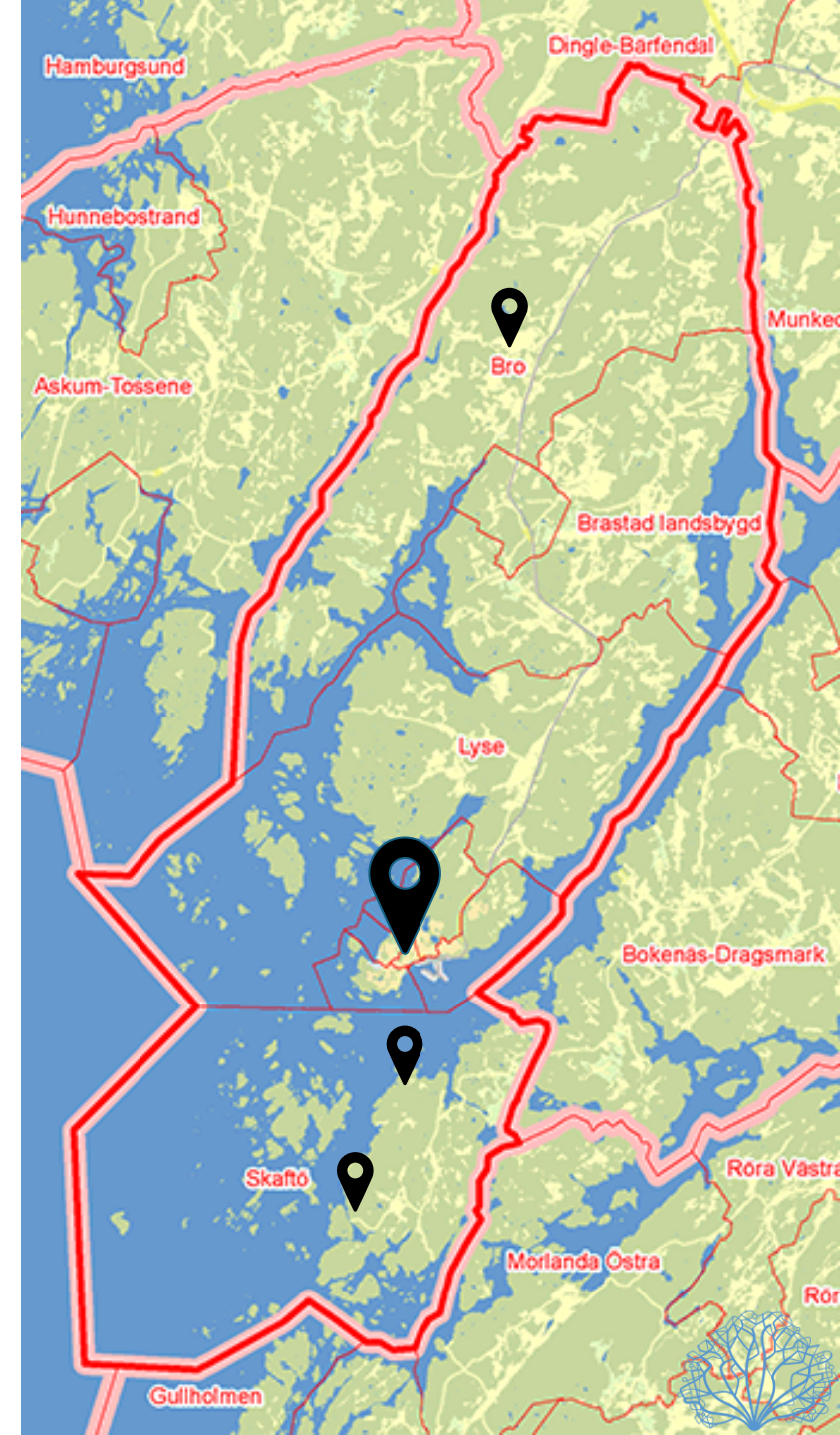
TRENDI HUB

MAIN NEEDS:

- Visibility of the hub for everyone specially students

- Engaging students in the activities of the hub

- Aiming social innovation

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

UNIVERSITY OF VECHTA: FACT AND FIGURES

Number of students:
around 4000

Four key profiles:
- Teacher training (half studying for this)
- Social and human services
- Transformation processes in rural areas
- cultural studies

UNIVERSITY OF VECHTA: IDENTITY

Teacher training

For 200 years

Oldenburg

a rural region with a very dynamic economic, demographic, and social development

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EXPLORING ARTICLES ABOUT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Motivating factors for students participating in voluntary community-engaged learning included personal **interest in the topic**, **convenient location and time of activity**, **opportunity for career development**, and the chance to advocate for the pharmacy profession. (Fang et al. 2022)

But students further vary in how much or how little they purposively work **to have a say in their learning opportunities**, as by offering suggestions as to **how they might be enriched, personalized, or generally improved upon.** (Reeve et al. 2011)

Expanding resume and having the experience and having to talk about the experience when you're being interviewed for residency/jobs (Fang et al. 2022)

We must be able to **balance our academic and our extracurricular time** very well. If I feel like I don't have enough time to attend an event because I have a test the next day, then I would not commit myself to the event. (Fang et al. 2022)

Examples:
Campus-based hub

MIT INNOVATION INITIATIVE

PHYSICAL ENGAGEMENTS

Educating students to serve as leaders in innovation
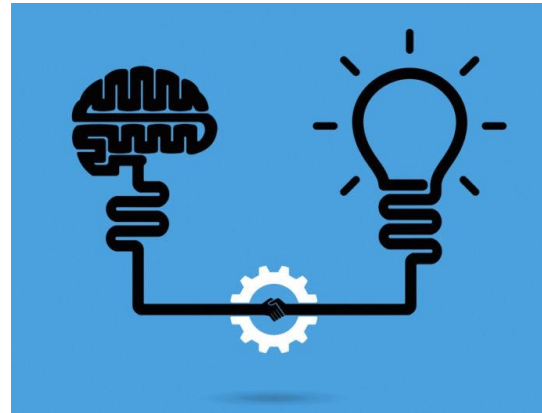
Connection with entrepreneurs and innovation organizations

A place for student-driven projects that innovate the MIT community.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENTS

Recruitment of mentors

Learn about student pathway
in their start-ups

Students: find an opportunity
Alumni: list an opportunity

Examples:
Campus-based hub

AALTO DF
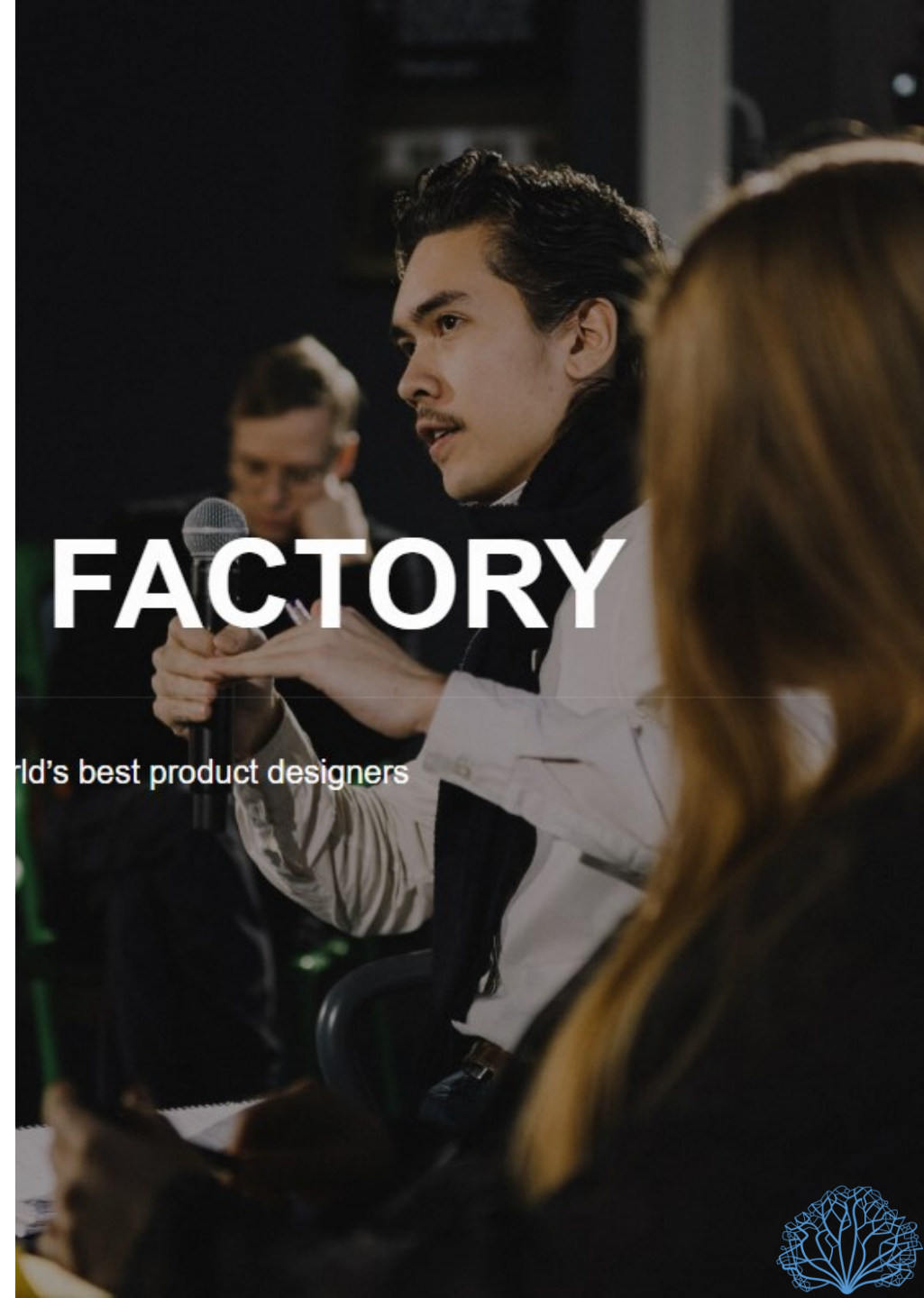
PHYSICAL ENGAGEMENTS

Different courses for different levels of student

Providing different facilities for students and their start-ups

Design+Sustainability card decks both in classroom and in project work

**Examples:
Campus-based hub**

HARVARD INNOVATION LAB
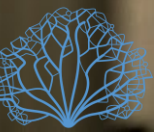
PHYSICAL ENGAGEMENTS

01
Explorers

- Explore Workshops
- Founder + Joiner Mixers
- Industry Networking Events
- Slack Job Board

02
Test Ventures

- Test Workshops
- Subcommunities
- Spark Grants

03
Propel Ventures

- Mentorship
- Pitch practice
- 1:1 Advisor Support
- Funding Opportunities

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Innovation for university [Sense of belonging]	Finding relevant resources	Finding future opportunities	Educational opportunities	Educational competitions	Sharing their experience/ interests	Consultation opportunities	Supporting facilities/ fund
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		✓	✓				✓
		✓	✓				✓
			✓				
			✓				
			✓				

BEST FORMAT?!

VISIBILITY

Enhanced Online Presence

Collaborations with Student Groups

Campus Signage

Interactive Pop-Up Booths

Incentivized participation

Student representatives

SUGGESTIONS!

Workshops and Mentoring:

Creative Teaching Tools Workshop

Alumni Mentorship Programs

Competitions and challenges:

Social Service Hackathon

Rural Transformation Ideas Competition

Cultural Studies Film and Music Festival

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SUGGESTIONS!

Experiential learning activities:

Cultural Exchange Days

Classroom Simulation Lab

Incubation and Small Grants:

Micro-Grant Competitions for Educational and Service Tools

Social Impact Incubation Hub

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