European Students in a Brave New World

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Structure of the presentation

- Global and European challenges

- What do European youth think of Europe?

- How are Europe's universities responding?

- What can students and universities do together?

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A season of discontent in the world…

- Growing economic wealth but growing inequalities

- Growing knowledge base and access to knowledge but growing inability to evaluate information and to trust experts

- Growing proportion of educated people but doubts about the democratic process

- Growing ease of travel but rise of populism, a threat to open exchange and mobility

… and in Europe

- Demographic issues

- Youth unemployment, underemployment and job insecurity

- East/West, North/South disparities

- EU governance model

- But a growing realisation that Europe should be more than an economic area

European higher education: paradoxical trends

Globalisation and greater competition are resulting in a balancing act between:

- democratic and managed institutions

- excellence and access

- research and teaching

$\Rightarrow$ Need for autonomy to face such complexity

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"Exit, Voice or Loyalty"
Institute of Public Affairs and Bertelsmann Stiftung

- Survey of youth in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia (nearly 17 000; 15-24 years old)

- 77% view their country's EU membership positively (87% in Germany)

- 67% want to remain in the EU but reform it

- Major benefits of the EU:
  - ✓ Peaceful coexistence of nations (78%)
  - ✓ Opportunities to study abroad (62%)
  - ✓ Opportunities to live and work abroad (66%)

Views about immigration

- 59% think that immigrants are a burden for the social welfare system

- 53% consider them a threat to public safety and security

- 24% agree that immigrants contribute to economic growth

- 23% that they improve demographic prospects and balance pension system

- 40% believe that their country should take in refugees from areas of military conflicts or victims to political persecution

- **"German youth, who have the most experience with immigrants, were the most likely to see the positive effects of immigration" (p. 20)**

On Europe and democracy

- Views on democracy:
  - ✓ 58% think that it is the best possible political system
  - ✓ 67% agrees that it matters whether the government is democratic or not

- Views on Europe by the Eurosceptic youth:
  - ✓ Immigration is bad (including refugees)
  - ✓ EU membership is bad and their country should withdraw
  - ✓ Globalisation is viewed negatively
  - ✓ Support far-right politics and authoritarianism
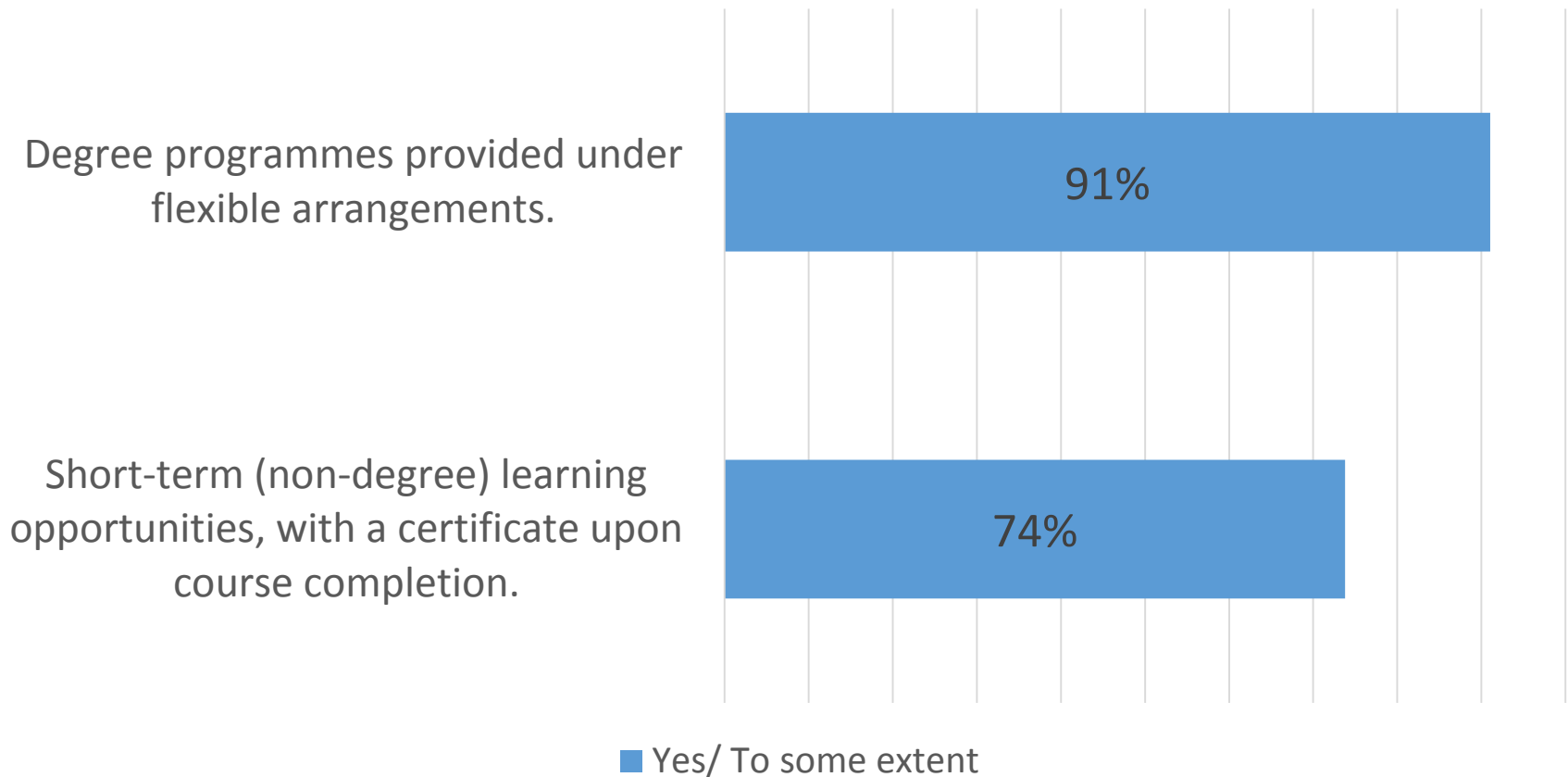
Structure of the presentation

- Global and European context

- What do European youth think of Europe?

- How are Europe's universities responding?

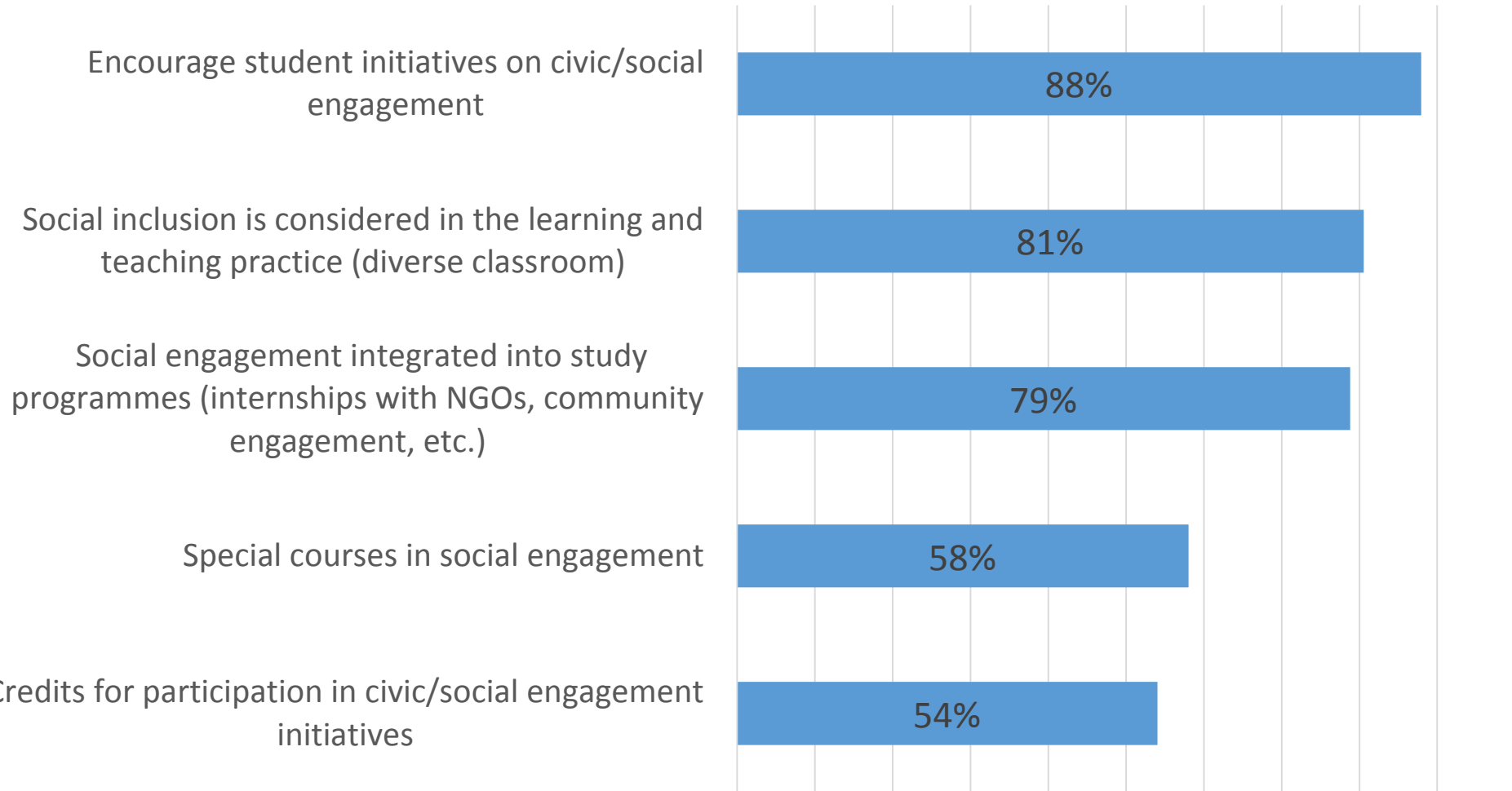- What can students and universities do together?

Trends 2018: Key results

- Increased attention to learning and teaching (L&T) throughout the institution (92%)
    - ✓ L&T strategy (86%)
    - ✓ Central unit for L&T (65%)

- Pressures:
    - ✓ increased students' expectations towards teachers (91%)
    - ✓ rising acceptance of digital learning (90%)
    - ✓ increased diversity of the study body (85%)
    - ✓ increased expectations from employers/professional sector (83%)

Growing offer of a flexible provision

Degree programmes provided under flexible arrangements. **91%**

Short-term (non-degree) learning opportunities, with a certificate upon course completion. **74%**

■ Yes/ To some extent

Trends 2018. Q29

Growing emphasis on social inclusion and student engagement

Encourage student initiatives on civic/social engagement — 88%

Social inclusion is considered in the learning and teaching practice (diverse classroom) — 81%

Social engagement integrated into study programmes (internships with NGOs, community engagement, etc.) — 79%

Special courses in social engagement — 58%

Credits for participation in civic/social engagement initiatives — 54%

■ Yes / To some extent, or in parts of the institution
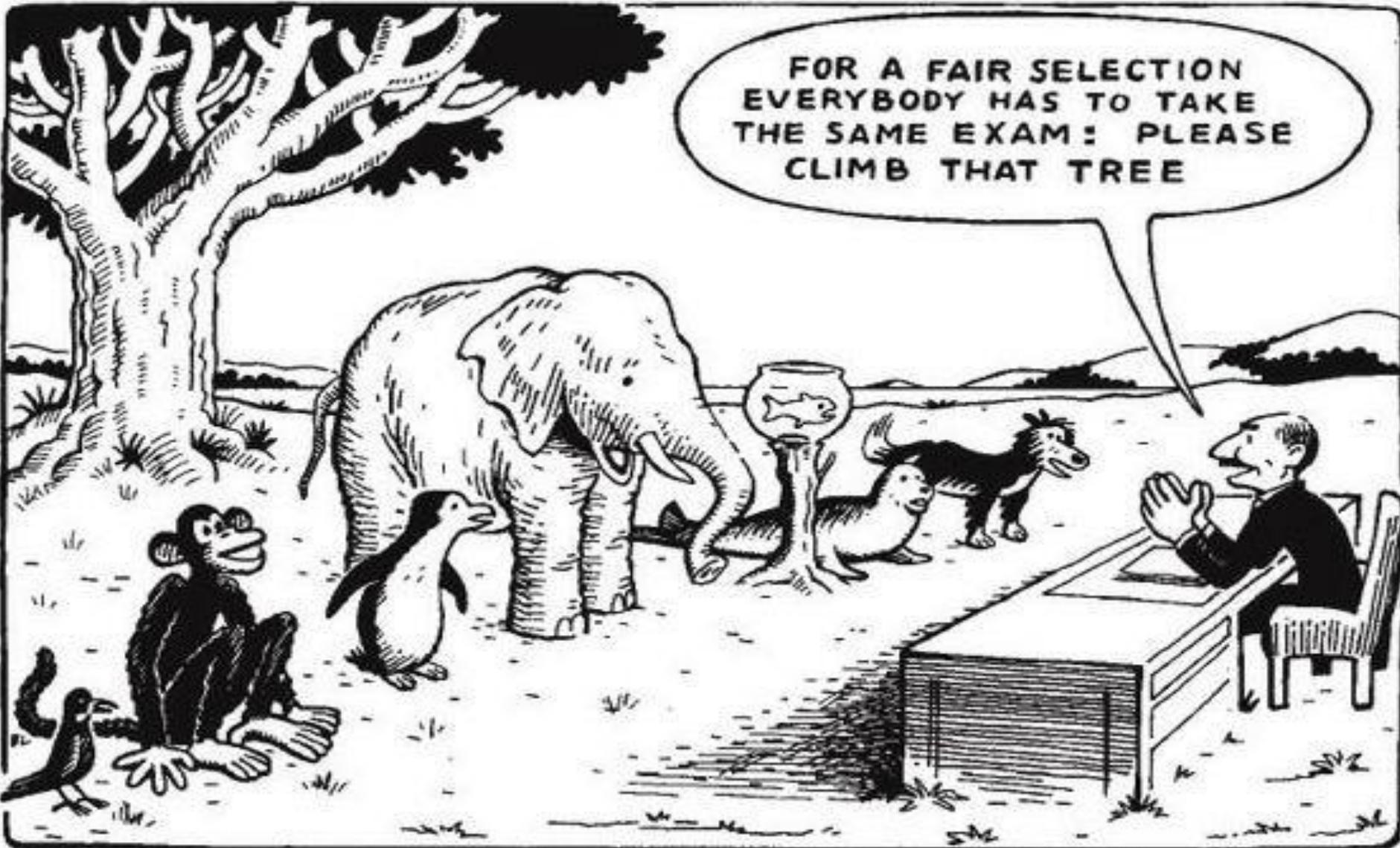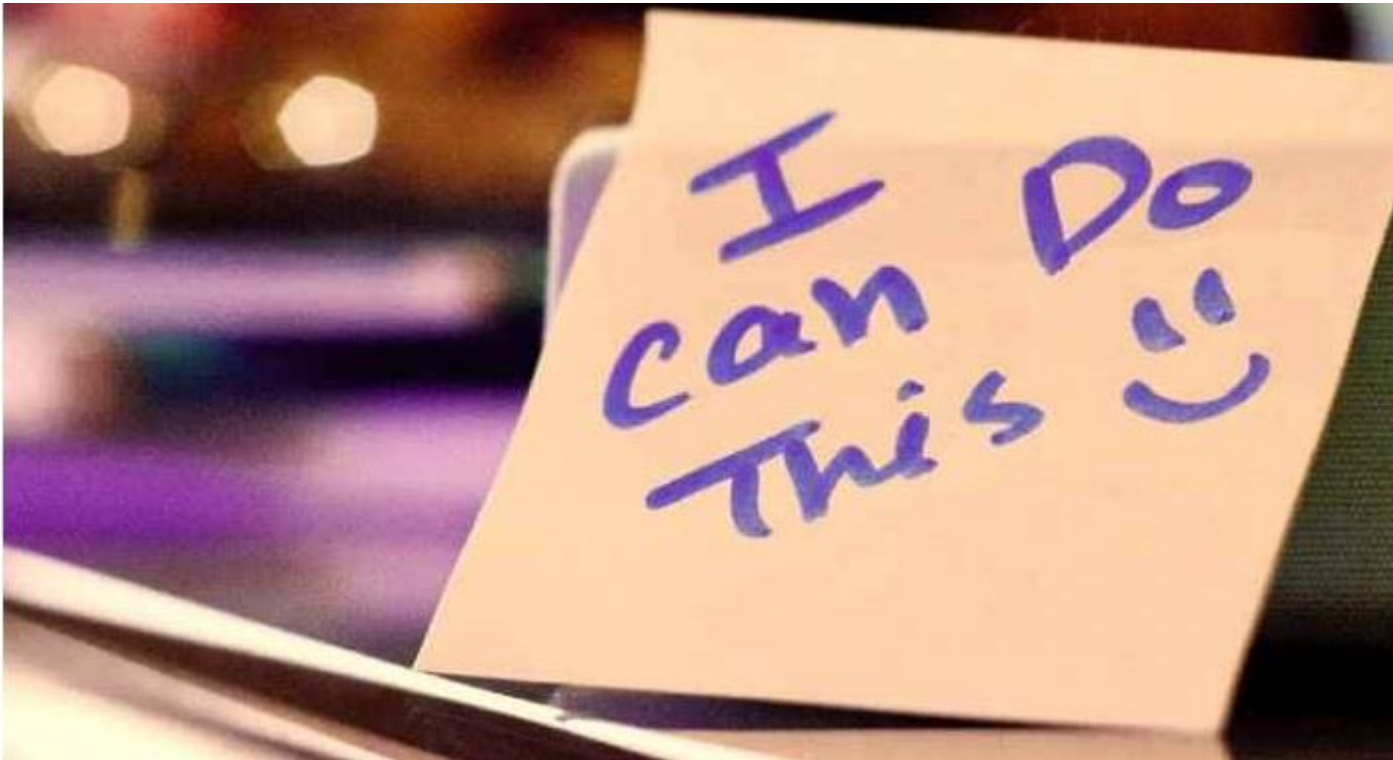
Trends 2018. Q28

From This…
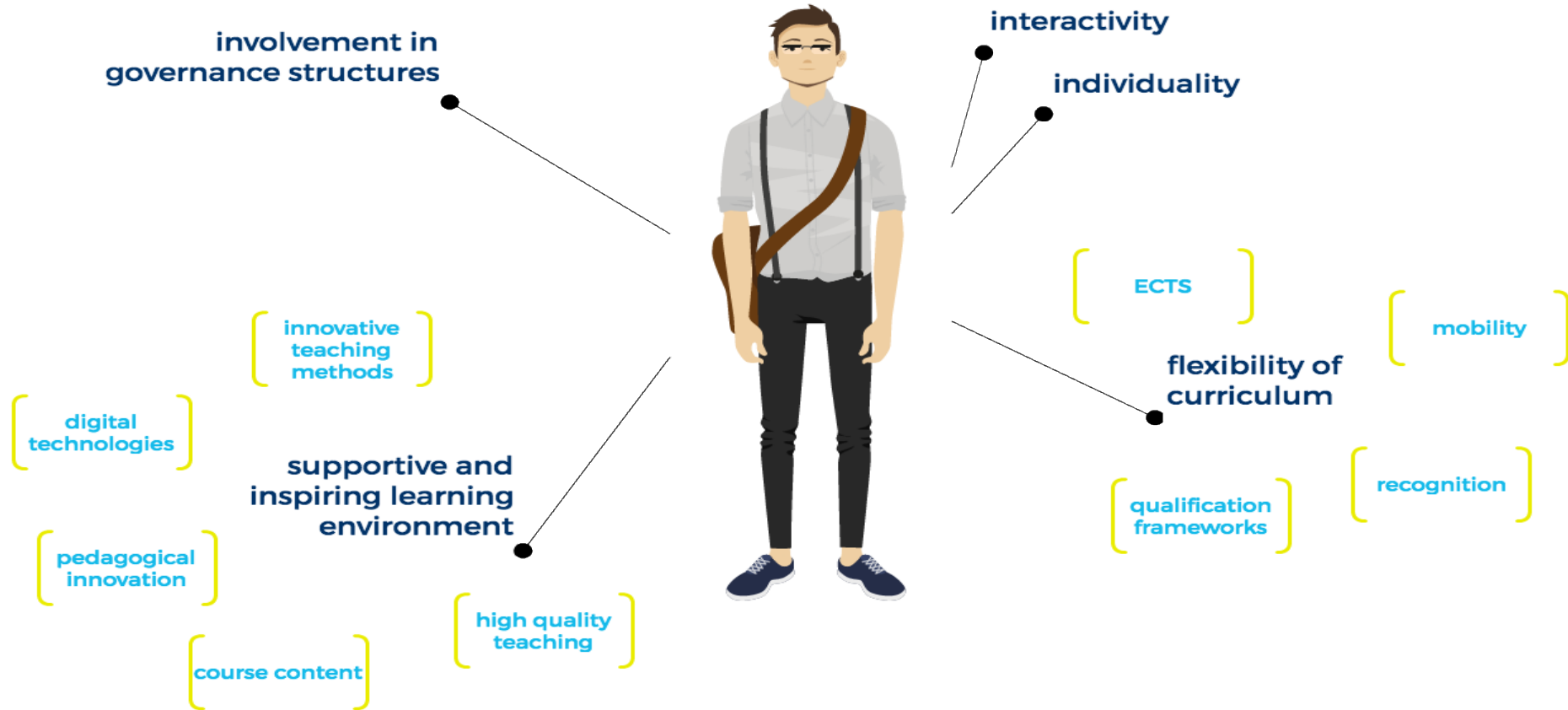
... To This...

... And From This...

... To This...

… and this: A student-centred community

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Define, together, what is a good university?

- Inclusive and diverse:
  - ✓ Diversity of students
  - ✓ Diversity of staff
  - ✓ Student support & staff development

- Prepares students for active and global citizenship
- Trains ethical and socially responsible graduates
- Environmentally sustainable university
- Socially engaged in its communities

$\Rightarrow$ Diverse and autonomous institutions

Implement the good university through a partnership

Students involved:

- In teaching and learning

- In research

- In community service

- In governance

- In external and internal quality assurance

- In fostering values of diversity, critical thinking and citizenship

Final words

- A student cohort that should be engaged and active as soon as it enters university

- A student cohort that is open to multicultural dialogue in order to increase European convergence and cohesion

Thank you