



Open Universiteit

Multidisciplinary research and the quest for resilience and sustainability

Learning and Innovation for Resilience and Sustainability

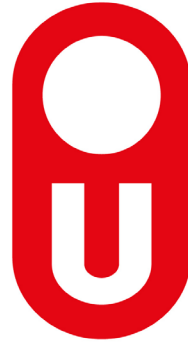
Summer School: 28-30 August 2026

Den Haag





Open Universiteit



Mission: Education that adapts to the learner, not the other way around

A university designed for lifelong learning

Open Universiteit is the Netherlands' public university for flexible, activating academic distance education - built for people who aim to combine study (BA, MA and PhD levels) with work and life

A distinctive approach to develop, innovate and provide open higher education

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY

FLEXIBLE & ONLINE

ACADEMIC QUALITY



WHAT DEFINES THE OPEN UNIVERSITEIT

Open by design. Academic by standard. Digital at its core.

01 Accessible

Flexible, part-time study with online education at the core designed to fit around work, family and other commitments

02 Academic

Accredited bachelor's and master's programmes, scientific research and education across five faculties

03 Innovative

A statutory role in advancing Dutch higher education, with expertise in technology-enhanced learning and educational innovation



OU is a strong educational platform for people who want to keep learning, changing and contributing to society

5 faculties

9 academic fields

NSE 2026

Highest rated university in terms of students' satisfaction in NL

Faculty of Humanities - *Cultuurwetenschappen*

Faculty of Behavioral and Health Sciences - *Gedrags- en gezondheidswetenschappen*

Faculty of Management - *Managementwetenschappen*

Faculty of Science - *Bètawetenschappen*

Faculty of Law - *Rechtswetenschappen*



LEARNING AND INNOVATION FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Premises:

Grand societal challenges are the focus of research funding and they will receive more attention in the future (Sustainable Development Goals of the UN & the Strategic Priorities of the EU) & societal impact becomes the main focus of research evaluation frameworks in EU & NL

Complex problems require insights from multiple disciplines – LIRS is the multidisciplinary research program of the Faculty of Management

LIRS Vision statement

Rigorous state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research to address modern societal developments & challenges

LIRS Mission statement

Provide support and facilitate researchers to embrace an open mind for engaging in a multidisciplinary research dialogue with societal stakeholders and generate transformative insights with significant academic and societal impact



TRANSFORMATIVE INSIGHTS FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

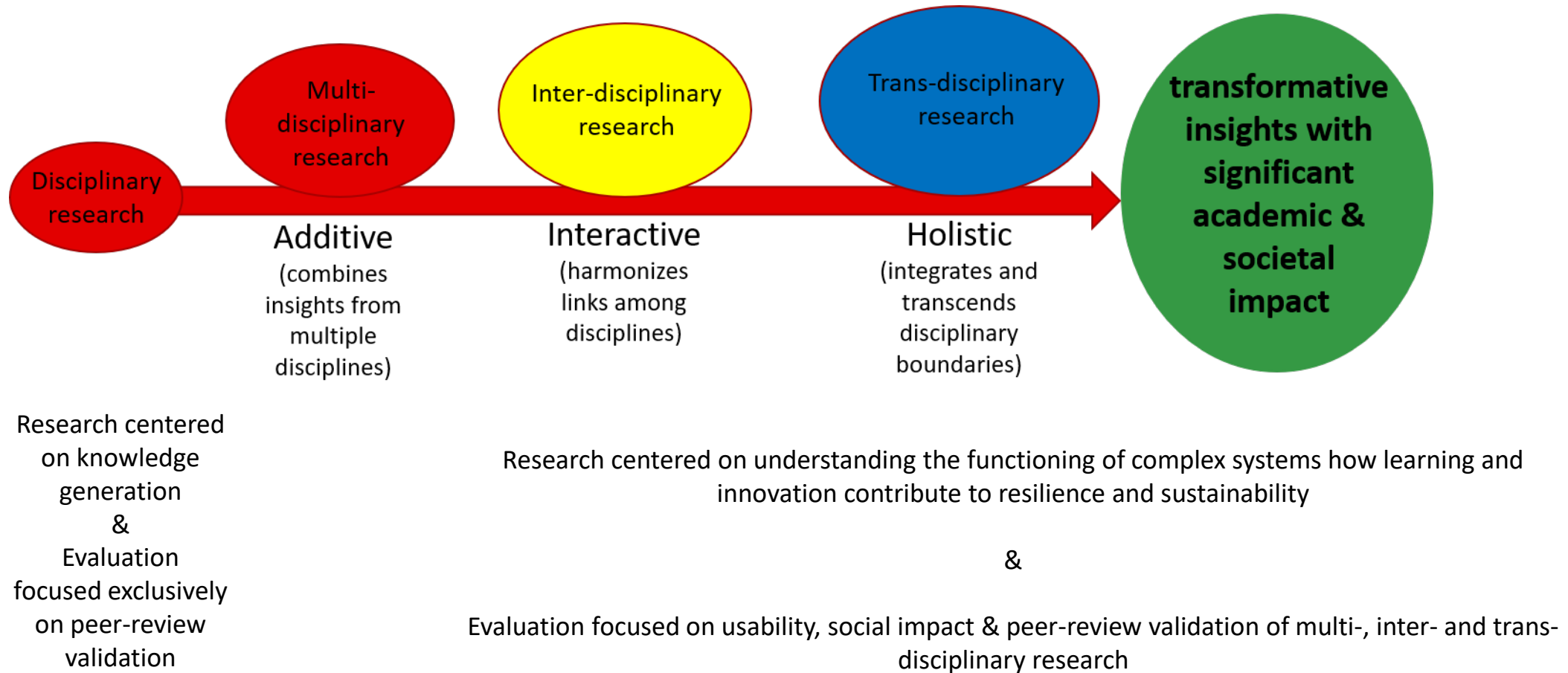
Resilience - reflects a systemic capacity of maintaining continued performance and stability under stress or disturbances = a reactive and change focus on dealing with unpredictable and high impact events to redress (normal) systemic functioning

Sustainability - reflects a dynamic equilibrium in the interaction of the social, economic, technological, and environmental systems such that the carrying capacity of these multilayered systems is not exceeded = a proactive and adaptation focus on addressing recurring, predictable and/or cyclical events

Resilience and sustainability are systemic states required to tackle grand societal challenges



FROM DISCIPLINARY TO TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH





COMPLEX CHALLENGES DEMAND CONNECTED THINKING

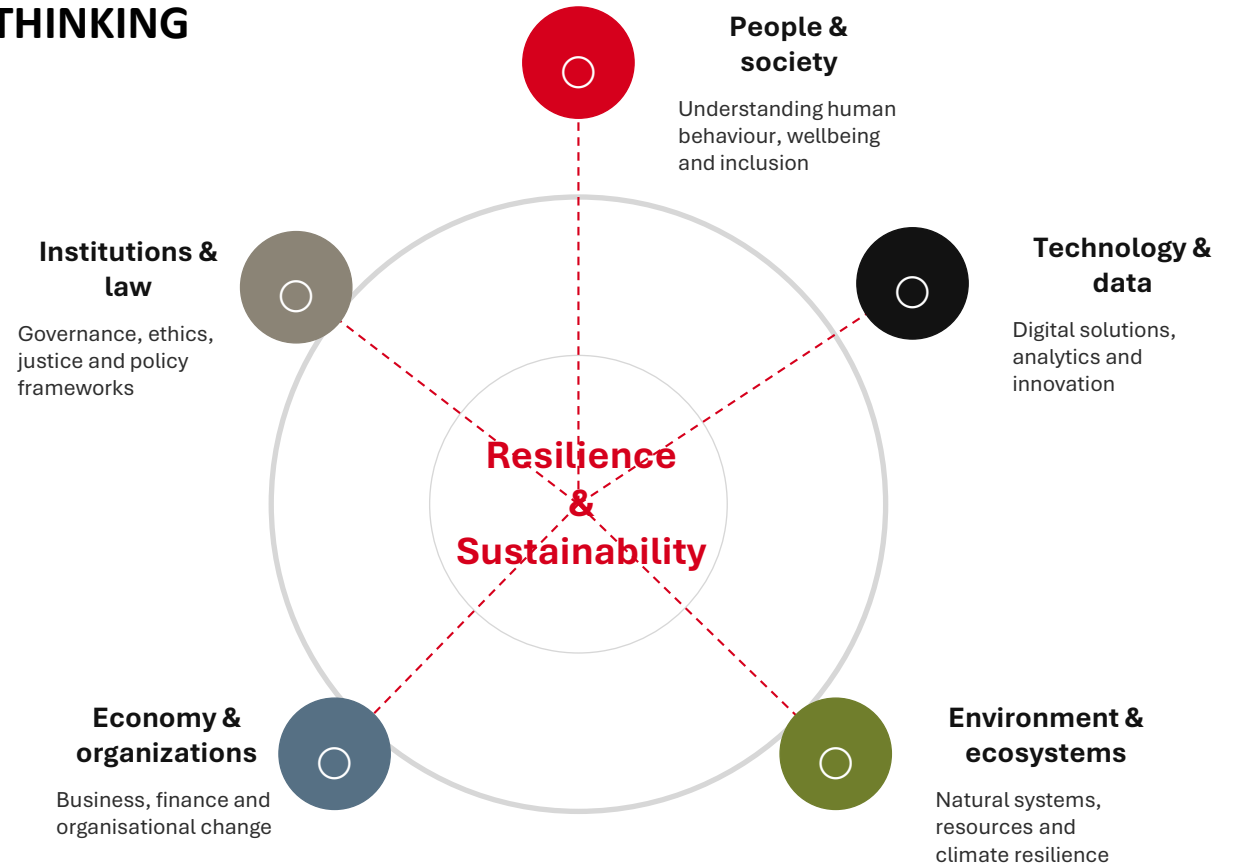
Real-world challenges are not confined to disciplinary boundaries



Multidisciplinary research brings different disciplinary perspectives to the same challenge



Transdisciplinary research goes one step further by integrating knowledge across disciplines and with society to co-create solutions that work in practice



Resilience emerges from **connections**. Sustainability depends on **integration**

OpenEU Consortium

14 Universities

- 10 Full + 4 Associated partners
- 9 Open + 5 Traditional

4 University Associations

- 1 Global + 2 European + 1 national (FR)

8 Non-academic partners

- 5 industrial associations
- 1 digital network
- 1 cities + 1 local rural groups EU associations
- 1 EU association of mentorship

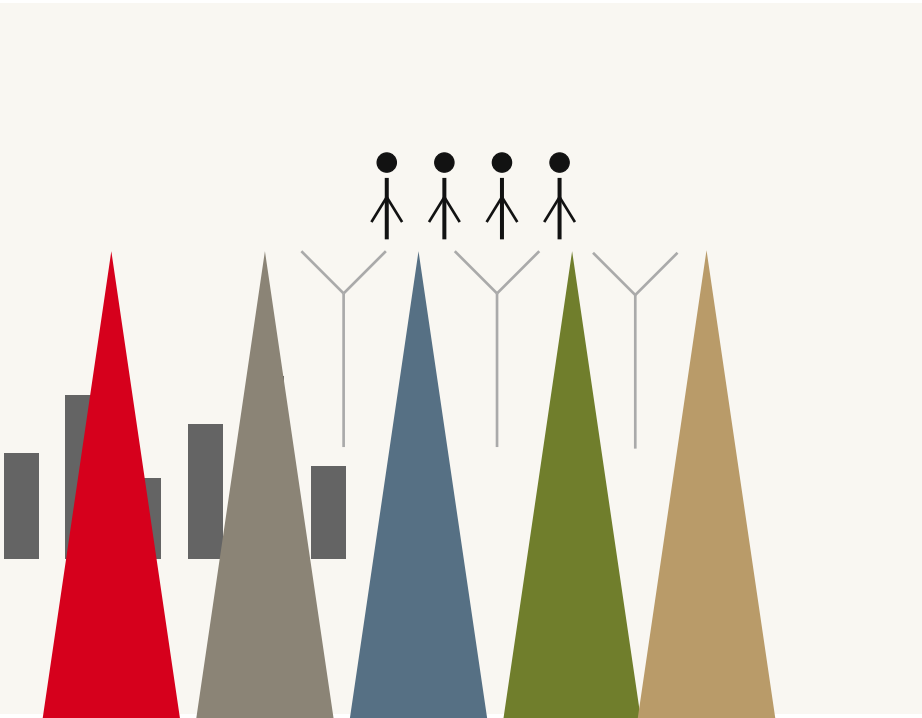
Vision: to become the pan-European Open University that harnesses digital education for and with lifelong learners and communities to make a better world



WP 4 - **Joint research and innovation in digital education** with the aim to cultivate and grow an Inclusive and Collaborative Living Lab that brings together both expertise and needs from researchers, and societal and industrial stakeholders to generate digitally-enabled and AI-powered educational innovations



YOUR PHD CAN BE A BRIDGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPEN EU MISSION



Go beyond
the
boundaries
of your
discipline



Connect

seek perspectives that challenge your own



Collaborate

work across disciplines, sectors and communities



Co-create

involve those who experience
the problems you study



Translate

turn knowledge into solutions,
practices and impact

“

The challenges of tomorrow will not be solved by one discipline.
They will be solved by researchers willing to cross boundaries

Be one of them!