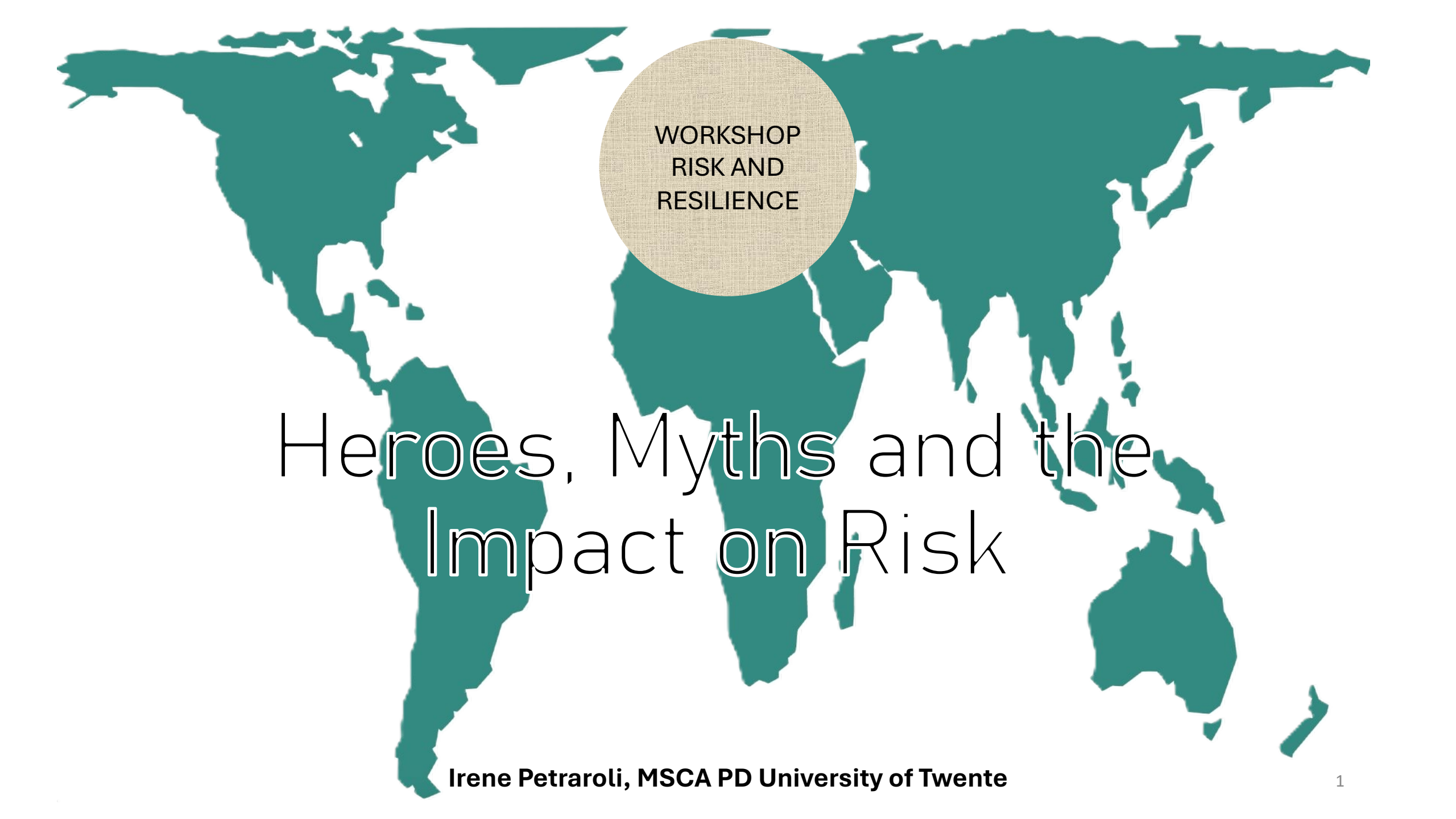




WORKSHOP
RISK AND
RESILIENCE

Heroes, Myths and the Impact on Risk

Irene Petraroli, MSCA PD University of Twente

Introducing the researcher

Disaster culture • Risk perception • Inclusive preparedness

PRESENTER

Irene Petraroli

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Postdoctoral Fellow

ITC-PLAN

University of Twente

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RESEARCH FOCUS

- **Disaster risk perception**
How people understand hazards
- **Social vulnerability**
Gender, older adults, disability, foreign residents
- **Disaster communication**
Making risk information accessible
- **Cultures of resilience**
Narratives, trust and preparedness

CURRENT PROJECT

MEDiME

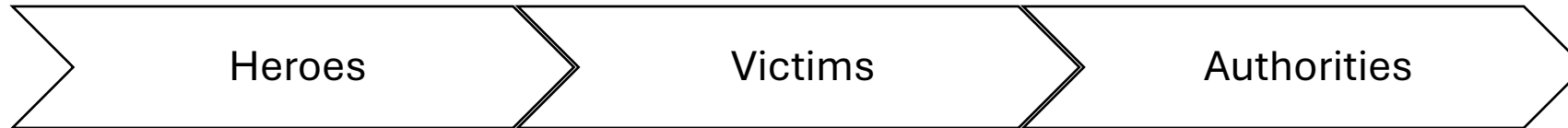
Motivation and Engagement
in Disaster Mapping in
Europe

ITC-PLAN | University of
Twente

projects.utwente.nl/medime

Heroes and Myths

The actors



Archetypes



The innocent victims
@The Way of the Earthquake.
Depiction of victims and survivors of 1908 earthquake and tsunamis in Christ's Passion. Published for the 100 years memorial.



The memory of the heroes
@Nanzoin Temple. Statue and inscription on sacred ground to celebrate and remember the heroic work of fire fighters in the aftermath of 11.03.2011 (Ono et al, 2021)



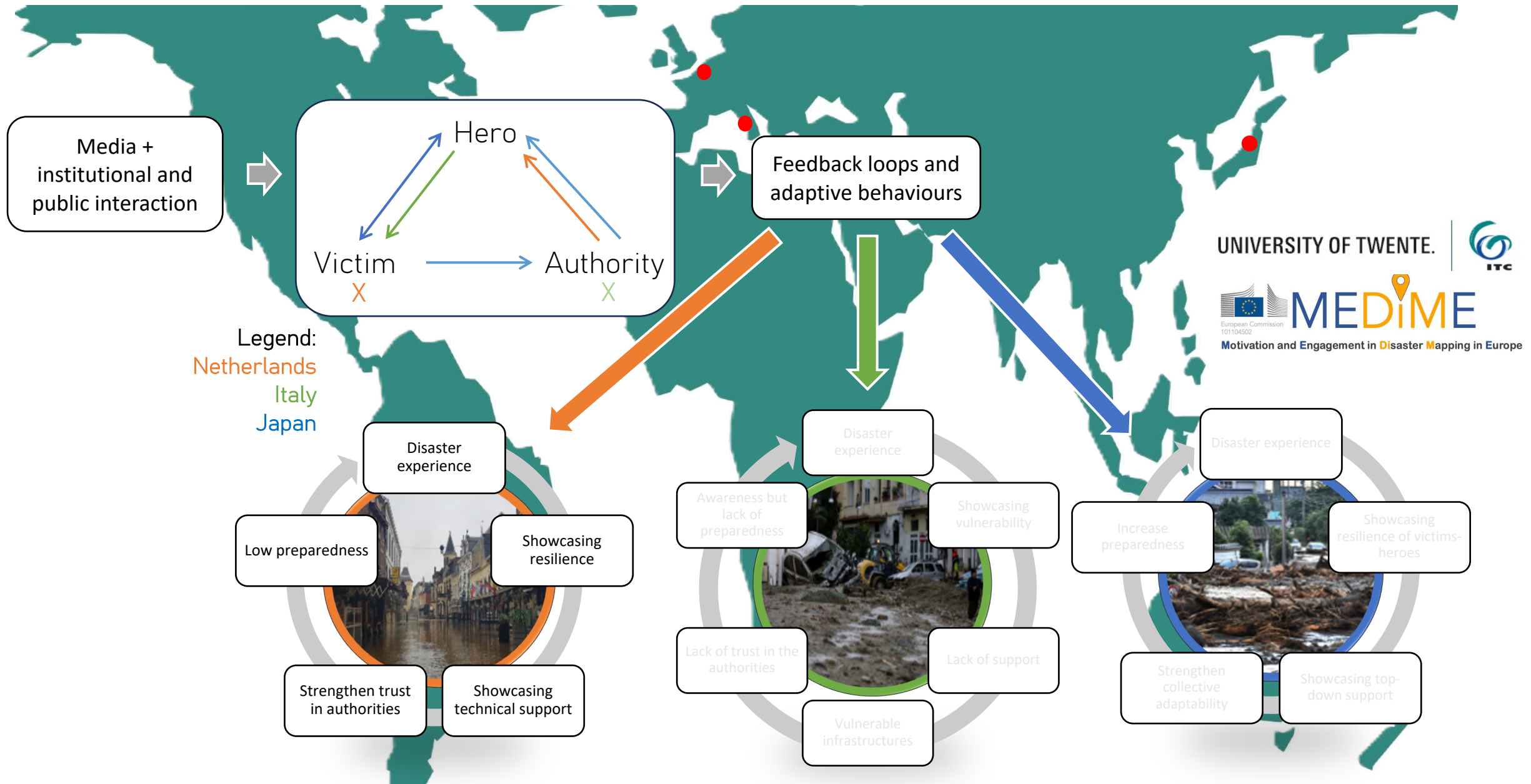
The local myths and legends

Strong tradition of myths and legends personifying and humanizing hazard risks and disaster events.
@Myth of Colapesce: fisherman who sacrificed his life to support one of the three pillars supporting the Sicilian island (description of quake-prone zone) (Cavarra, 1998).

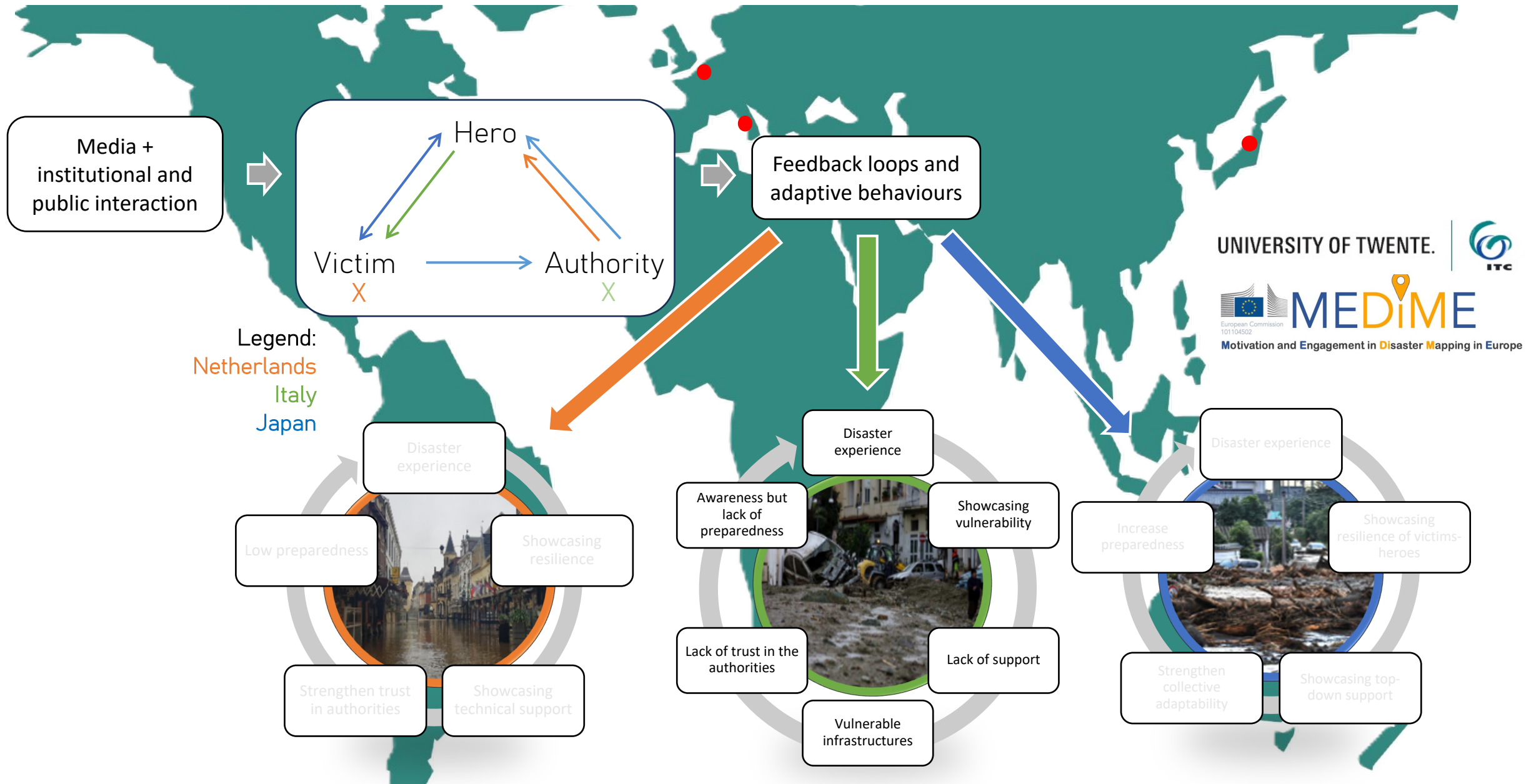


The authority figures
@Dutch Royal family in Valkenburg, 2021
The image of national authorities as part of the Nation, sharing burden and sorrow.

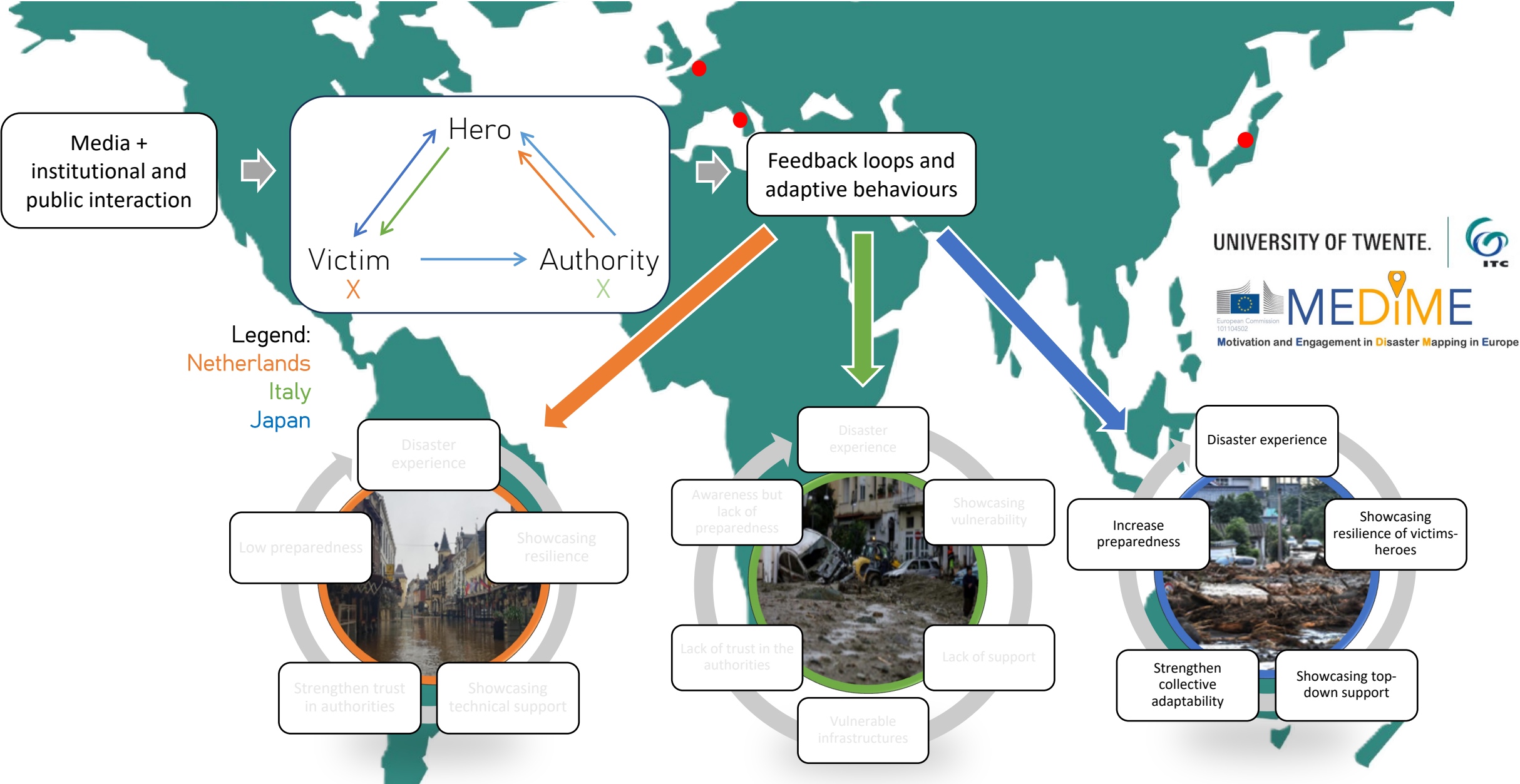
Heroes and Myths and the impact on Risk



Heroes and Myths and the impact on Risk



Heroes and Myths and the impact on Risk



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Narratives are not neutral:
they influence trust, agency,
and preparedness

Their effects differ across
social and cultural contexts.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- When does **storytelling** minimize, conceal, or reinforce vulnerability?
- How can **institutions** avoid reinforcing fatalism or over-reliance?

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Compare narratives across
Japan, Italy and the
Netherlands

Connect cultural analysis with
participatory tools and policy-
oriented discussions.