

WHY DO WE NEED INTEROPERABILITY?

A case study based on Ancient Gaul



What do we mean by interoperability

(and what does it have to do with Romans and Gauls?)

- A highly standardised infrastructure in administrative contact with a very different culture



Expanding cooperations

ANOTHER NATIONAL CONSORTIUM

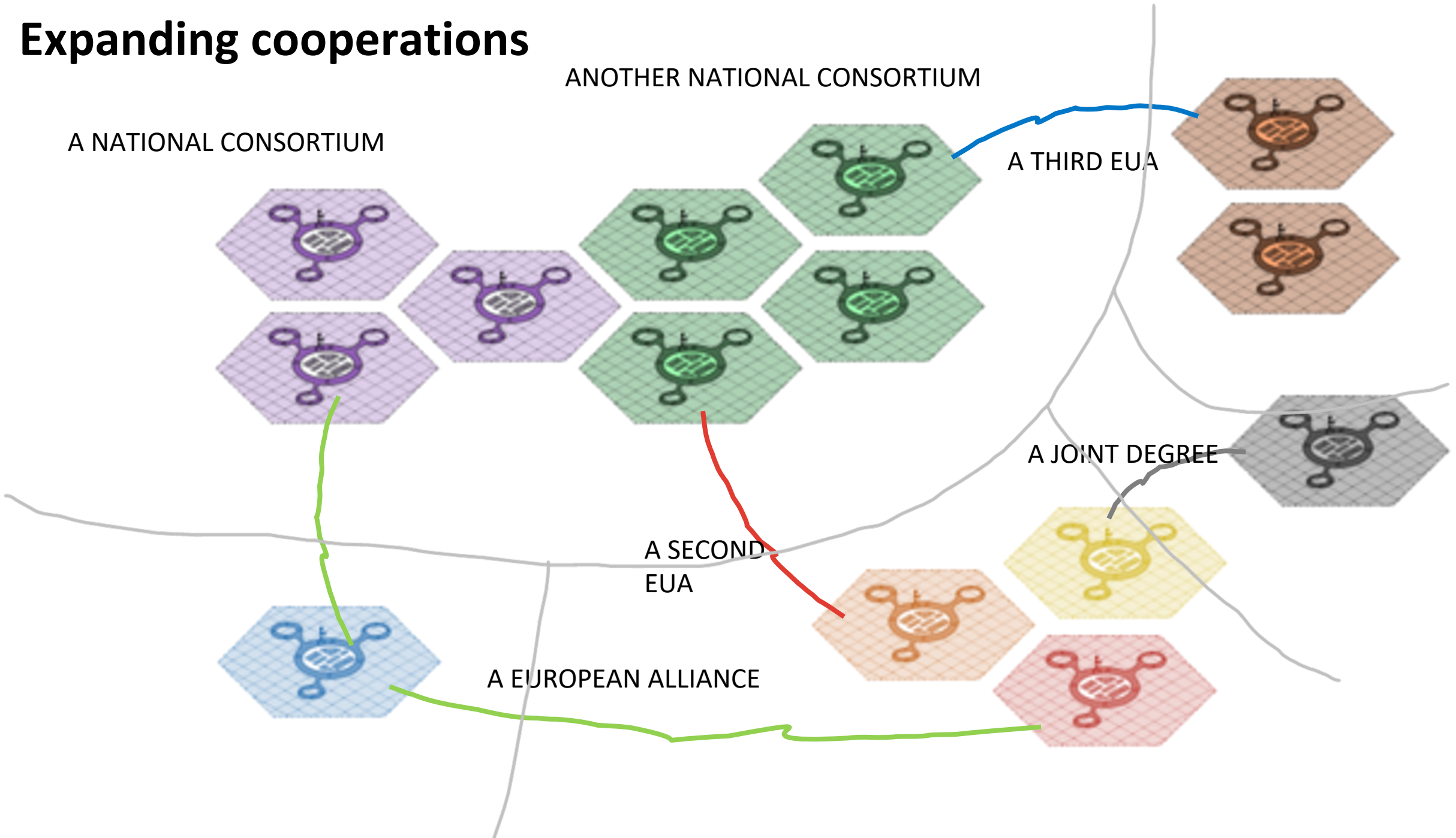
A NATIONAL CONSORTIUM

A THIRD EUA

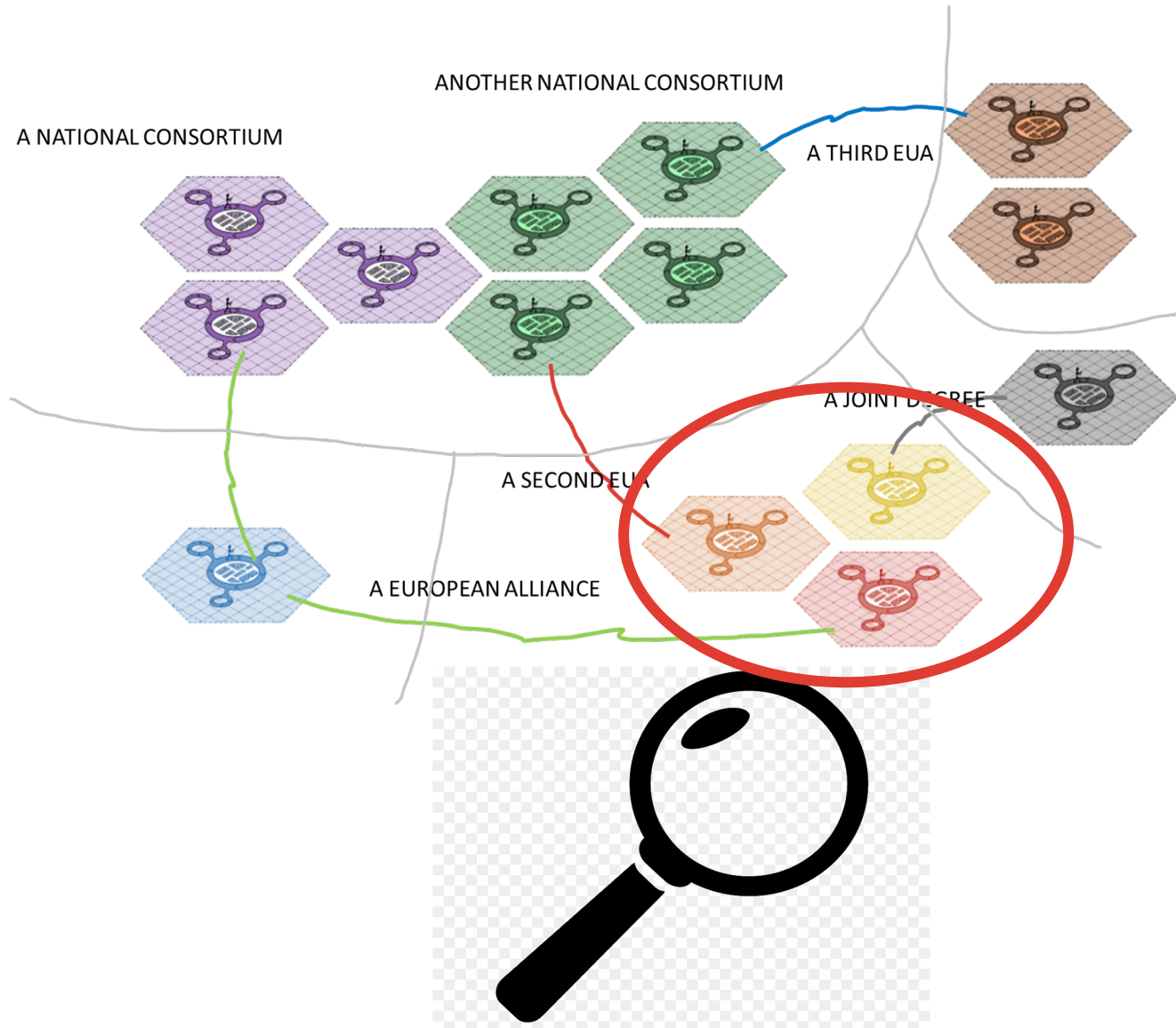
A JOINT DEGREE

A SECOND
EUA

A EUROPEAN ALLIANCE



What should *they* do?



- Where *could* they standardize?
- Where *should* they standardize?
- Would the standardization be legal, organizational, semantical, technical?
- Would the standard involve the interface, the language, the solution or the process?
- Who would do the standardization?
- Who would provide the solutions and components?

Group Activity

- What are the interoperability need of your universities?
- Add your examples on post-its
- Identify whether the integrations are:
 - within the university
 - in local/regional groupings
 - national
 - transnational

When in Rome, do as the Gauls do

- Accept that the world is not a homogeneous system
 - Education systems are heterogeneous by default (language, content, structure, grading systems, culture...)
 - Students do not go on mobility to have the same experience as they have at home
- Any interoperability starts with local availability of information in local information systems
- Breaking down functioning local infrastructures may have a large cost
 - E.g. if you already have infrastructures that support student information exchange and digital diplomas within your country
 - Quality is guaranteed locally



When leaving Gaul, do as the Romans do

- Standardized infrastructures connect different locals
 - Even the Gauls appreciated the Roman roads when ‘on mobility’
 - Latin served as a ‘lingua franca’ to connect different communities
- The more technical standards are, the less likely a local approach will be working
 - The basic set of interoperability standards for internet and security is there, implemented in standardized solutions, accepted widely and evolving slowly
 - There is a good track record of NRENs, Géant providing infrastructural solutions



Building bridges *and* a backbone!

- e.g. eduGain is a backbone and national/institutional proxies are the bridge
- e.g. the EU wallet infrastructure is a backbone and a standardized credential format is a bridge



Interoperability and edtech suppliers

- Open standards offer equal opportunities for all suppliers
- NRENS should play a role in awareness raising and requiring standards in public procurement
- Standards can be profiled to meet national needs



Why is it hard to achieve interoperability?

- Are the issues technical or cultural?
- Why don't we let the standards do some of the heavy lifting?



Let's share the magic potion

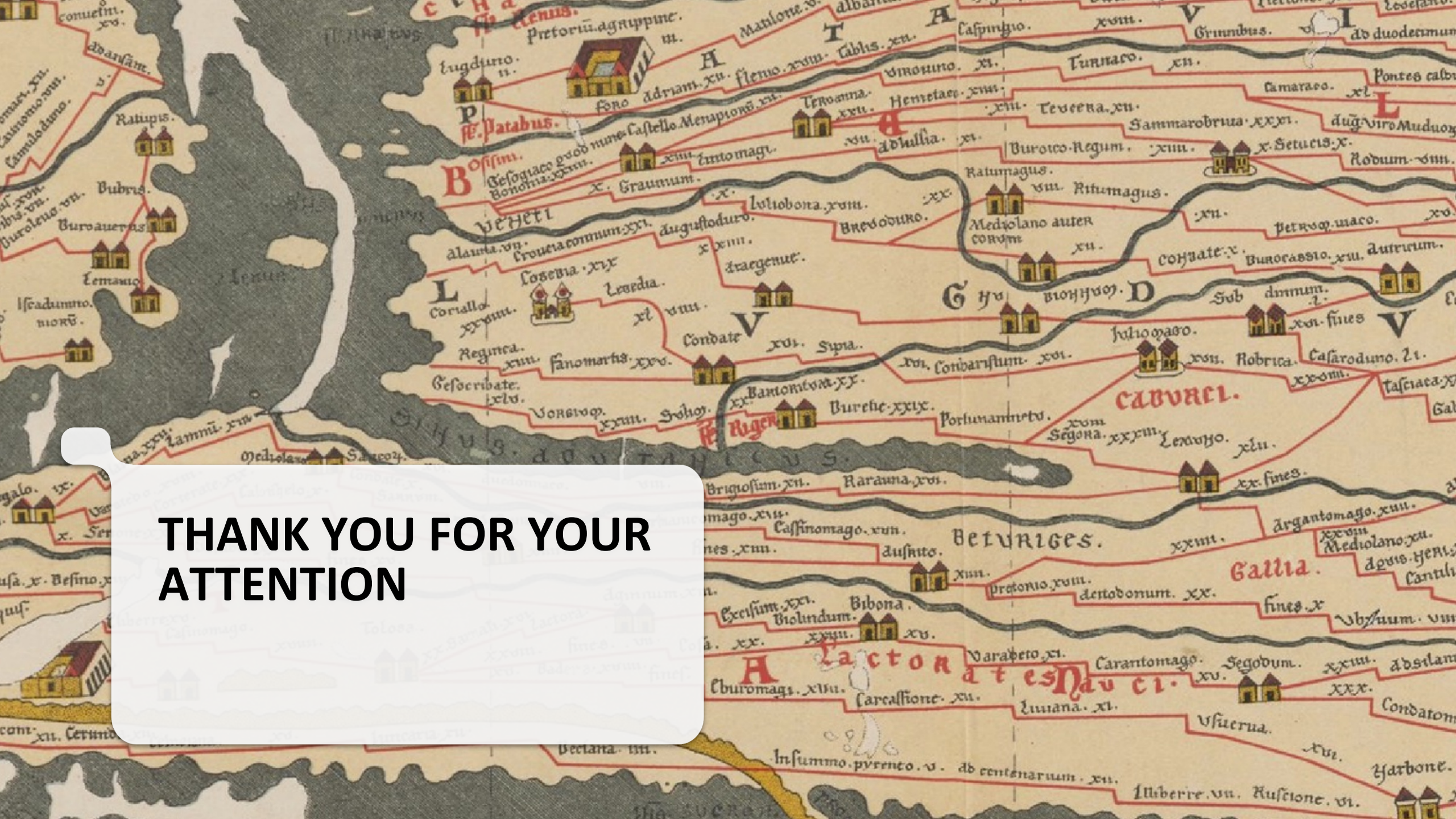


- It was a secret for the Gauls, but shouldn't be for our Education community
- Our 'druids' are allowed to speak about their secrets and share them

Find out more;

gferrell@1edtech.org

peter.leijnse@surf.nl



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**