

PRODIGE

PROMOTING HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

ÁNGELES SÁNCHEZ-ELVIRA PANIAGUA

Understanding and promoting Inclusion in HE through DE



Understanding Inclusion in Higher Education and the contribution of digital education under a life-long-learning perspective

No one left behind (UNESCO motto)



Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development

The United Nations System Shared Framework for Action



**LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND**



Searching for global solutions





The world faces **many complex threats** at the same time,

There are
17 global problems to solve.
We need a roadmap to guide governments, business and civil societies towards the common purpose of achieving these goals.



Global Agenda | Sustainable Development

In an era of global uncertainty, the SDGs can be our guide



While they have their critics, the SDGs may be our best bet at surviving the 21st century.

Image: REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji

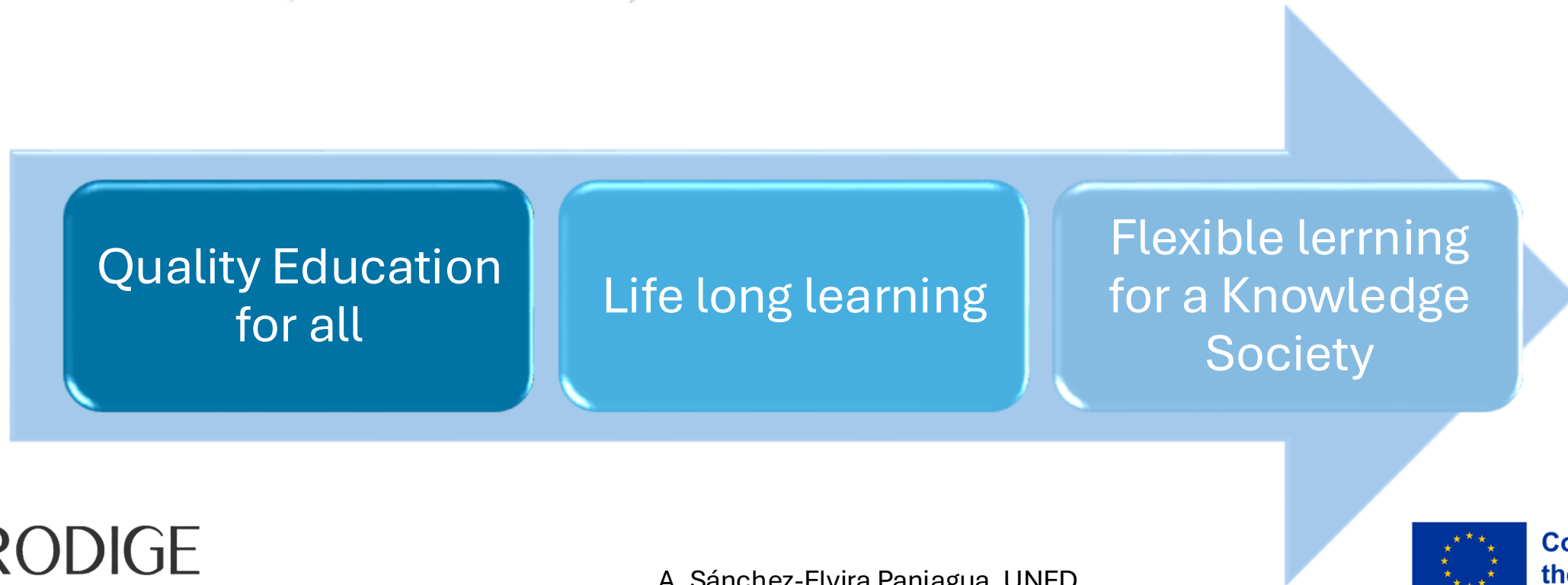
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2015
10 years
before...



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all





Education has the transformational potential as a route for sustainable collective futures...

A **new social contract**

must be grounded in human rights and based on principles of non-discrimination, social justice, respect for life, human dignity and cultural diversity.

It must encompass an ethic of care, reciprocity, and solidarity.

International Commission for the Futures of Education

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf000037938>

“By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and **tertiary education, including university**”



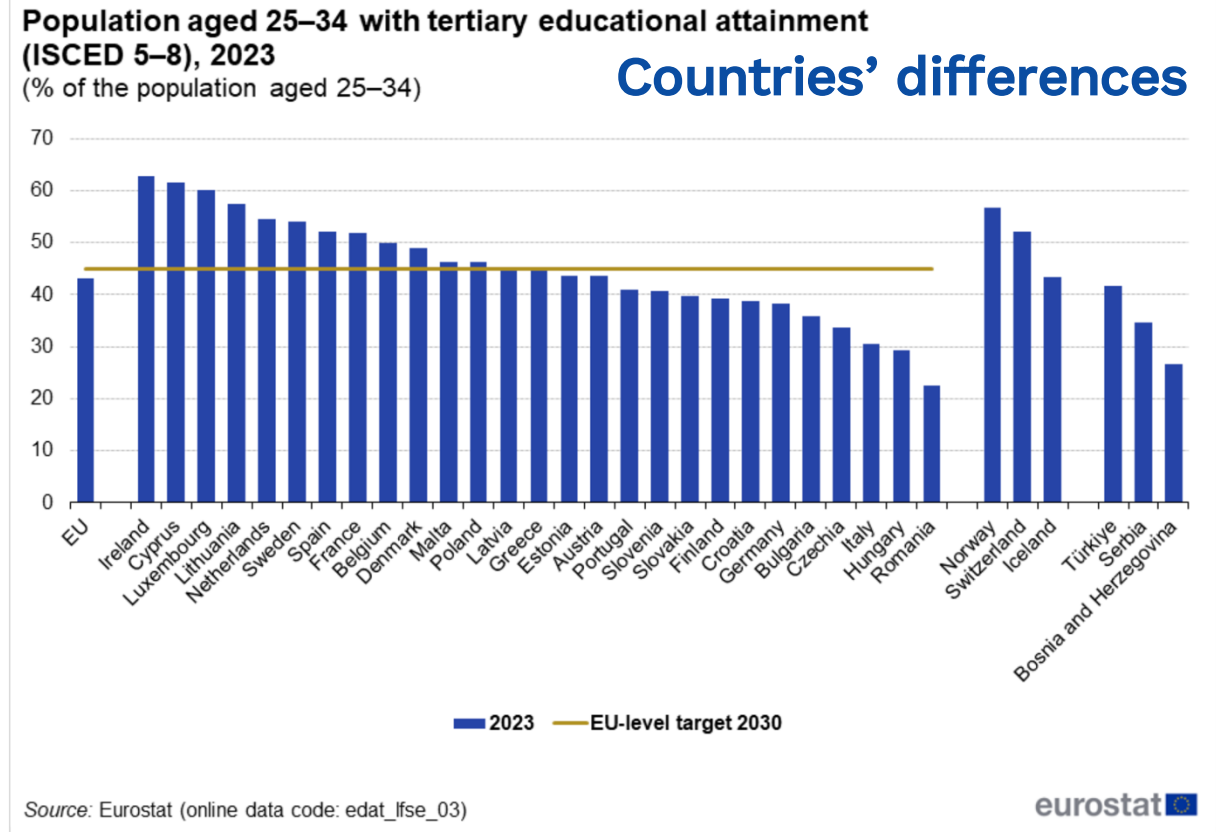
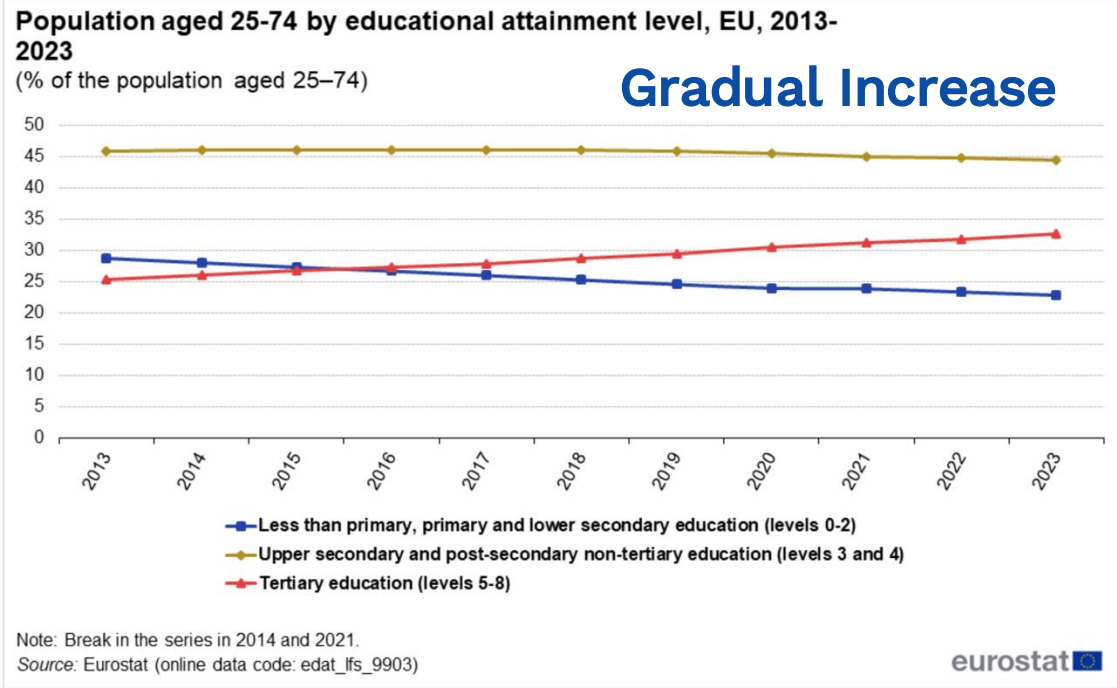
262 millions of higher education students by 2025



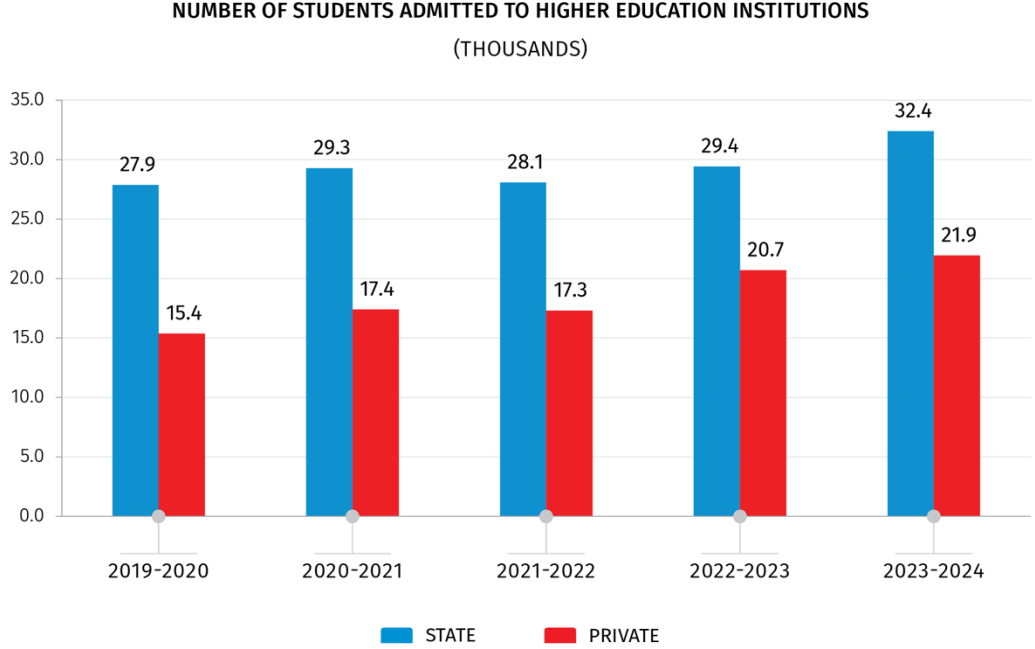
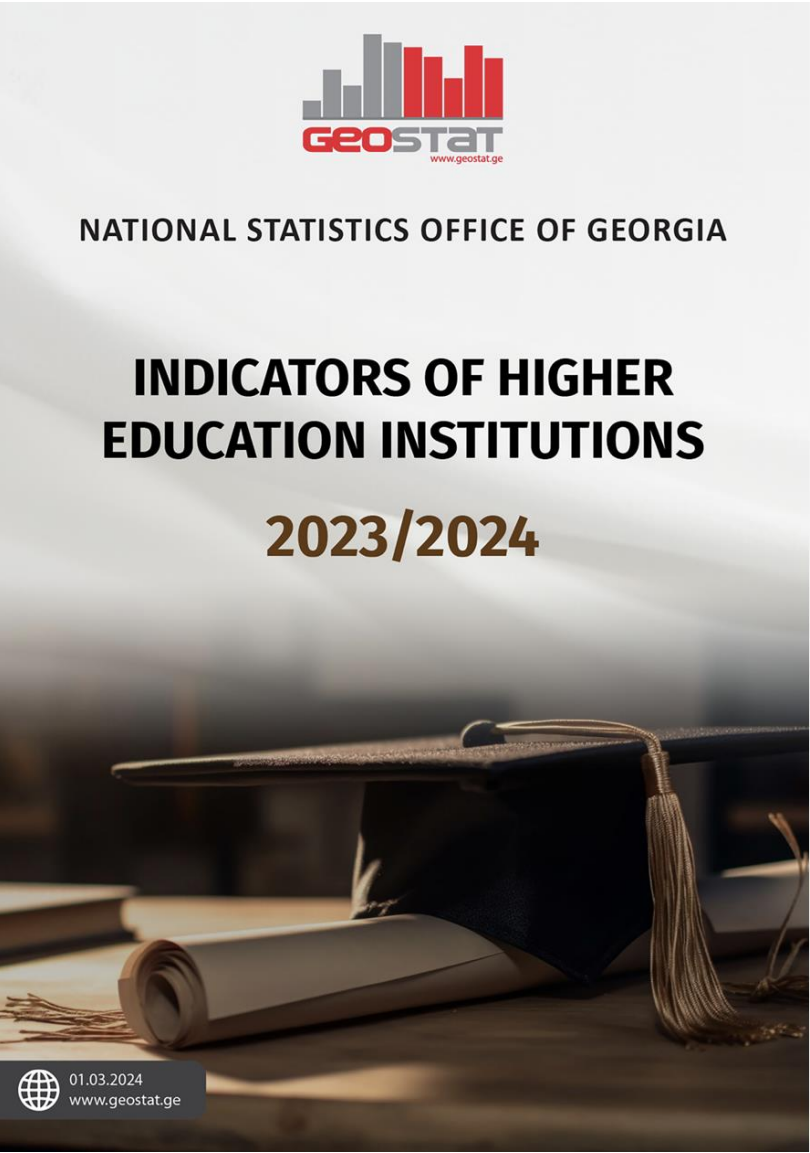
380 millions of
HE students in
the world

... by 2030

In 2023, more than 40 % of persons aged 25-34 years in the EU had completed tertiary education.



Data on population aged 25-34 years



Georgia 2024
Student admissions increased by 8.4% compared to the same period of the previous year

The EHEA average enrolment rate in tertiary education, based on available data for 43 countries for both reference years, raised from 17.3% (2016) to 19.9% (2021).

Georgia's Education Sector Positioned for Growth Based on Increased Domestic, Foreign Demand

✍️ Sally White

Georgia is quickly becoming a hub for higher education in the region and beyond.

- Total Enrollment (2024/2025): 187,800 students, with 57.7% in state institutions and 42.3% in private institutions.
- Female students make up 52.8% of the total.
- Graduates (2024): 29,600 students, with women accounting for 60.2% of the total graduates.

Georgia boasts a high participation rate in tertiary education, with 53% of 19-20-year-olds enrolled, surpassing many OECD countries



4.2 FOSTER DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVENESS AND GENDER EQUALITY

“Diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality in the higher education sector have become more important than ever.”

“Despite increasing access to tertiary education, higher education systems remain highly stratified”

Barriers to Higher Education Access in Europe

1 Socio-economic factors

Low income and parents' educational background create disadvantages.

2 Identity factors

Gender, immigrant status and disability remain significant barriers.

3 Mature students

Often targeted in inclusion policies and lifelong learning strategies.





Can we increase
the percentage of
Access to HE
breaking current
barriers?



Digital Education for inclusion: Opening doors

An overview of
opportunities and
benefits



5.2 DEVELOP SKILLS AND COMPETENCES AND PROMOTE INNOVATION FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

“The digital transition gives universities a fundamental role in equipping students and researchers with the digital skills and competences needed in the new reality and in the promotion of innovation and new technologies”.

“The future should be based on hybrid solutions representing a good balance between physical presence and digital tools”.

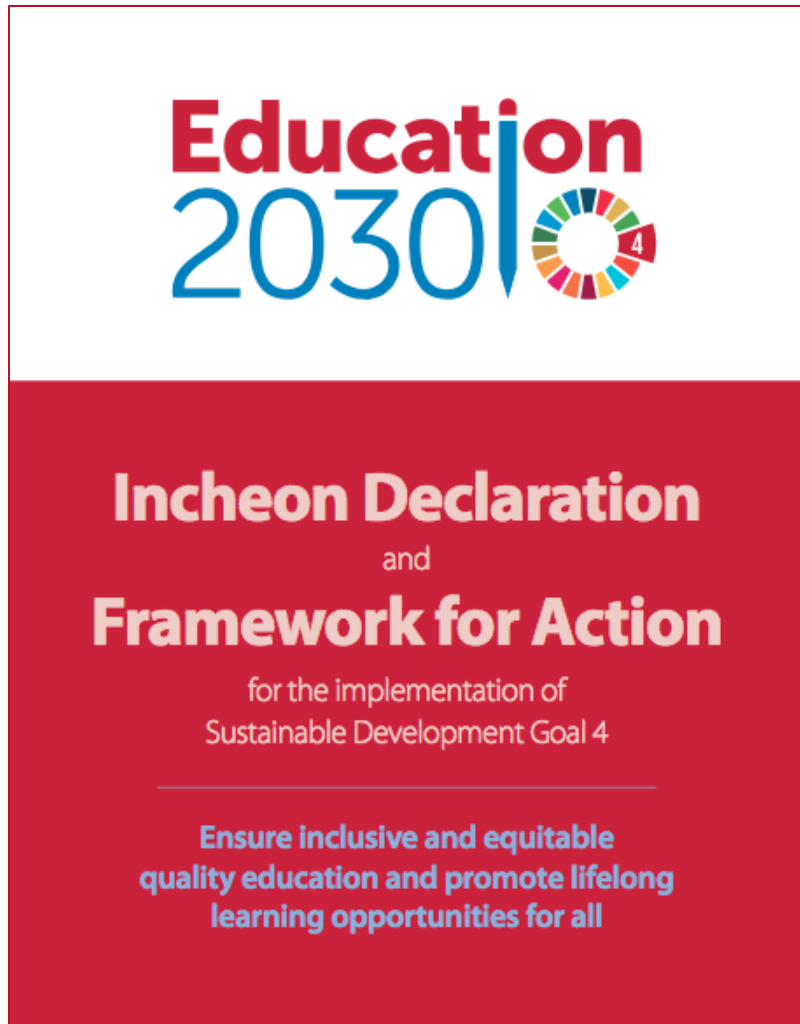
What does UNESCO says about digital and distance education for Inclusion?

UNESCO Declaration for the implementation of SDG4

“Well-established, properly regulated tertiary education supported by technology and Open Educational Resources (REA).

Distance education modalities can increase access, equity, quality and relevance of higher education and reduce the gap between what is taught in tertiary education institutions and what societies demand”.

(UNESCO, 2015, Target 3, point 43, p.41)





**Long before the
2030 agenda...**

**Diversity and
inclusion** have been
the essence of
distance education,
and **continuous
innovation** the way to
achieving them.

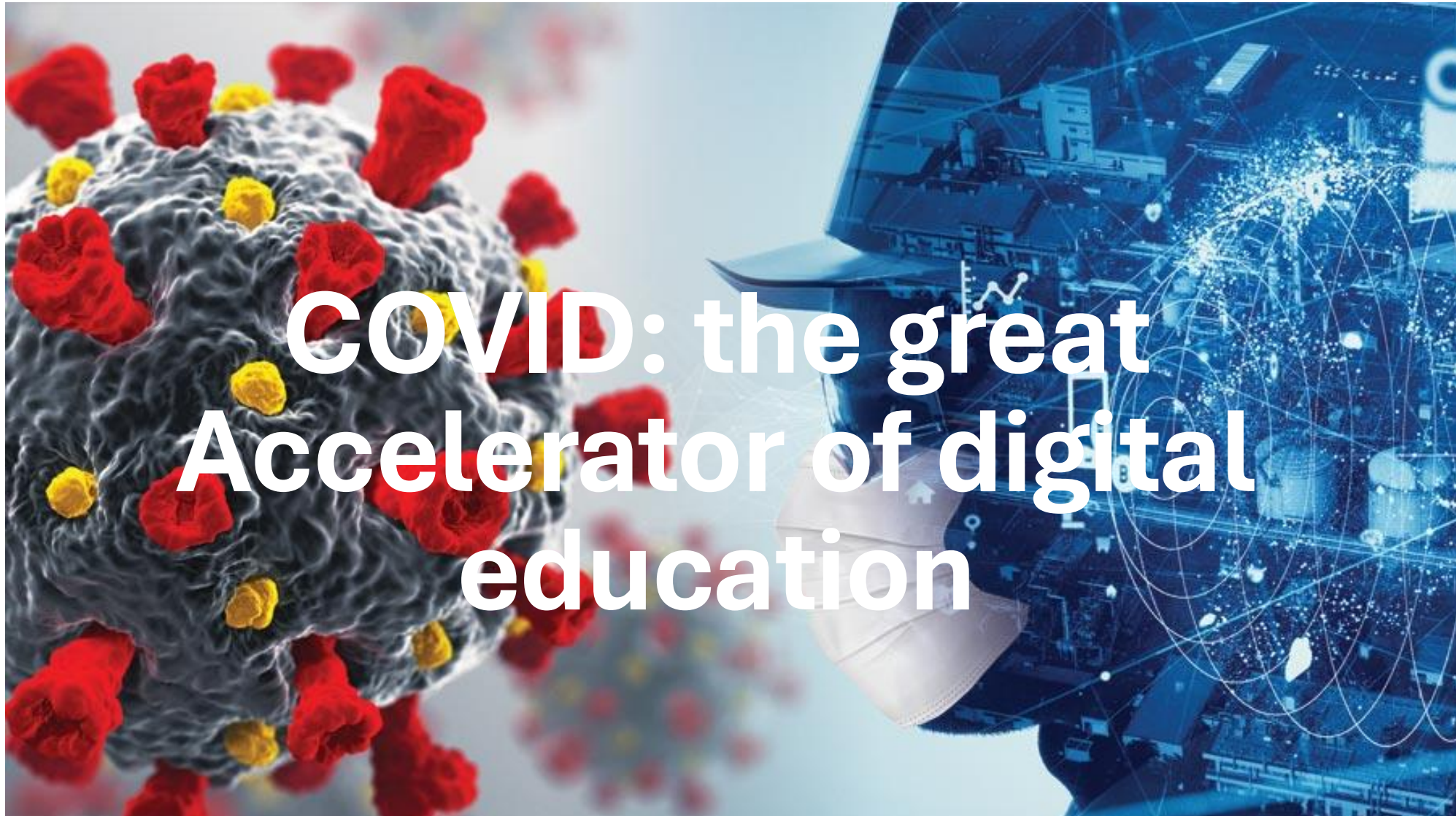
Distance Education

- Deep social vocation.
- Removes barriers and frontiers.
- Opens pathways and opportunities at any time of life.
- Promotes inclusiveness in access to higher education
- Democratises education.
- Supports economic growth and life-long learning





Distance education:
Always a disruptive
modality

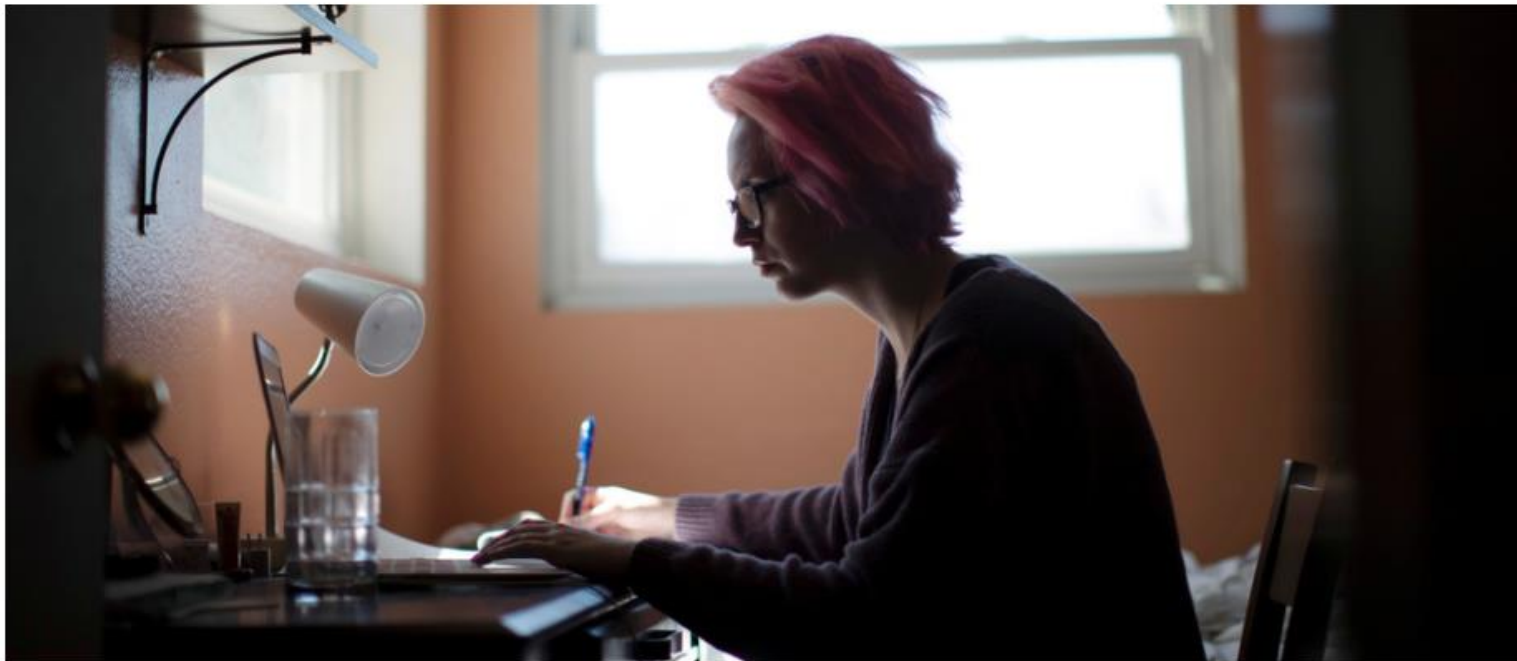


COVID: the great Accelerator of digital education



COVID-19 Response

How COVID-19 is driving a long-overdue revolution in education



While traditional institutions once viewed online education as a threat, it has come to their rescue Image: REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the biggest disruption in education ever seen"

slido



What was your previous experience with online learning before the pandemic?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



**Online education at the very heart of
the education system**



slido

Please download and install the Slido app on all computers you use



How did you continue with your classes during lock-down?

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

Expanding digital, open and online learning scenarios ...

Distance Education:
Something quite
different to
*emergency remote
teaching*





Digital technologies in education

- Enrich learning environments
- Create new ways and means for teaching and learning
- Promote the development of new competences and skills for the 21st century

A banner for the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference, featuring a background of colorful, overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, red, and brown. The text is overlaid on this background. A small black circle with a white right-pointing arrow is located in the top right corner of the banner.

**UNESCO World Higher
Education Conference,
18-20 May 2022**

**Major transformations since the
last conference in 2009**



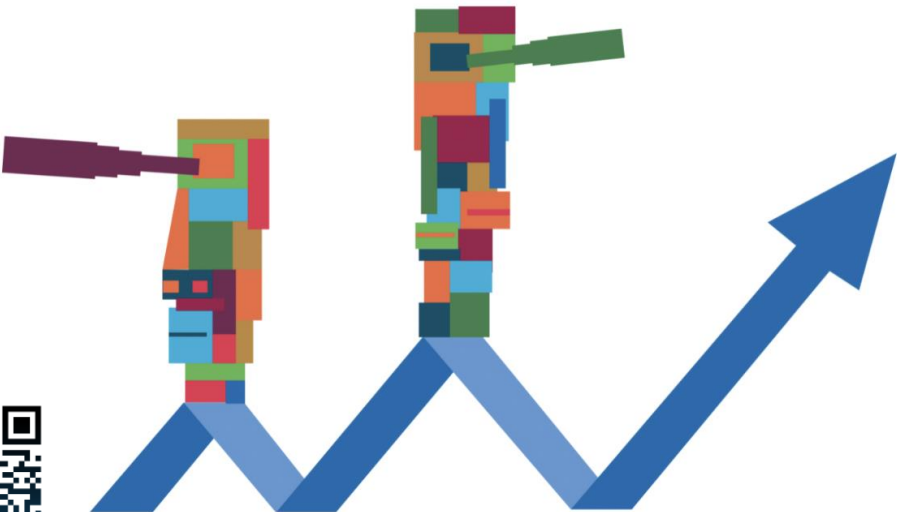
unesco

United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization



HE Roadmap

HED 2030 Roadmap



UNESCO Higher Education Roadmap

1 Lifelong learning systems

With multiple and flexible pathways: opportunities for **upskilling, re-skilling, formal and informal formats** (MOOC/NOOC), Micro-credentials, Micro-degrees. Unbundling and re-bundling of education with agile designs, adapted to individual needs.

2 Seamless education

Continuous learning experiences integrated in diverse environments.

3 Open Education and Science

Open Educational Resources (OER), promoted by UNESCO since 2002, Universal Declaration in 2012 and new recommendations in 2019.

4 International mobility

Recognition of studies and qualifications.

5 Inter-and transdisciplinarity for a holistic education

To cope with the complexity of the world and the corresponding work requirements.

6 Increased presence of distance modalities and technology

To effectively support teaching, learning and research.



A renewed European Union (EU) policy initiative that establishes a common vision of high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education in Europe, and aims to support the adaptation of Member States' education and training systems to the digital age.

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan>

How Open, Distance and Digital Education foster Inclusion and Life-Long-Learning



An inclusive education without barriers,
limits and borders

Flexibility



Distance Education

1

Barrier-free education to support **non-traditional learners**

**Adults at any age,
Workers, Women
Seniors**



**Traditional on-site Universities:
88.2% below 26 years-old**

**UNED
88.1% over 26 years-old**



More than 70%
distance education
students are working

Around 30% of them
have previous
university degrees in
UNED



Distance education for..

Rural and remote areas for the recovery and development of depopulated areas



People with cultural and linguistic diversity

- Indigenous communities
- Displaced populations
- Migrants

2

Without limits



**Distance Education
for a personalised
life-long learning**



Ongoing learning
opportunities for upskilling
and reskilling

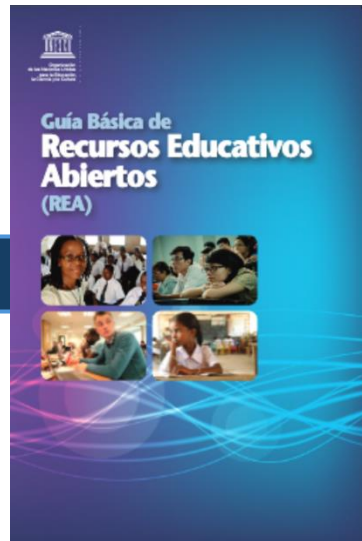
“Agile designs”

Microlearning

“just in time” learning

Open Science and Education: promoted by UNESCO since 2022

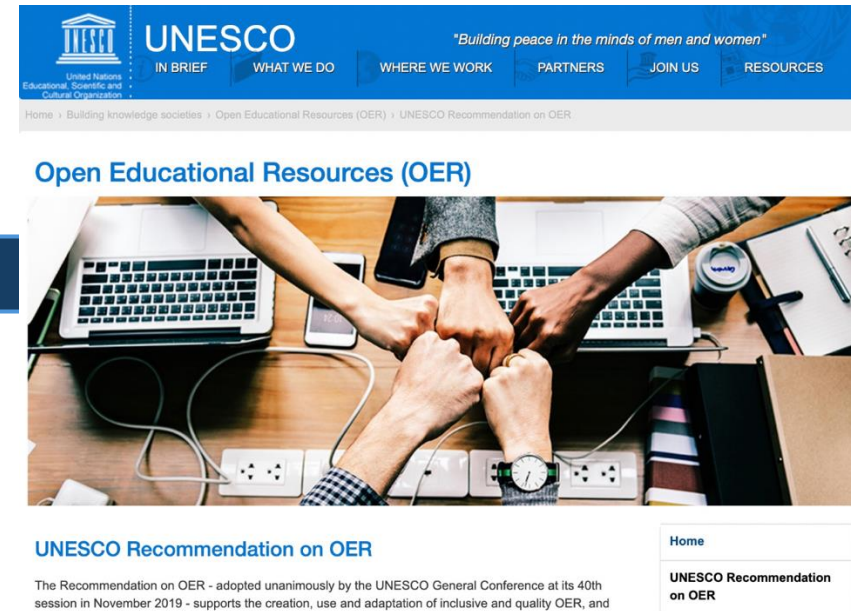
2002



2012



2019



The MOOC Movement

miriada

OpenupEd

FUN The Freedom to Study

STEP 1. Search a course

UDACITY

coursera

Future Learn

edX

KHAN ACADEMY

OPEN 2 STUDY

EPFL
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

Opening up education through new technologies

CENTER FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION MOOCS FACTORY

European Commission

MOOCs

Big platforms and a huge offer around the world

Unbundling higher education...

and the future of universities services and resources

New LLL pathways



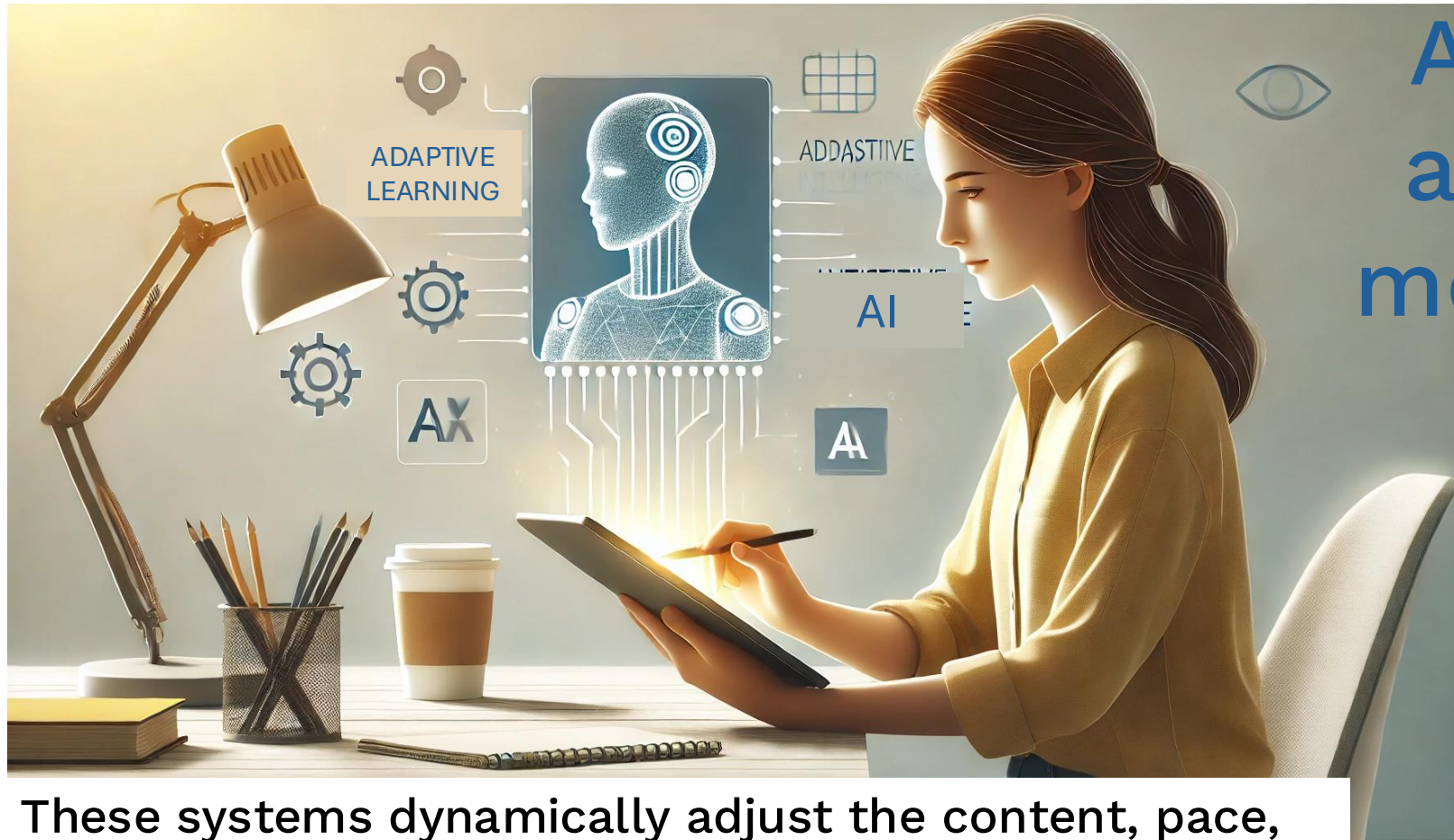


Looking to the
future:
A personalized
rebundling of
life-long learning

Micro-credentials:

New LLL programs for upskilling and reskilling





Adaptive learning and AI for more a more personalised education

Educational technologies leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms to personalize the learning experience for each individual

These systems dynamically adjust the content, pace, and difficulty of instructional materials based on the learner's performance, preferences, and needs.



Exploring solutions to overcome obstacles in digital education transformation



Supporting students and teachers in their development of competences for teaching and learning in open, distance and digital environments

jeshoots

Supporting students with functional diversity



Advancing resilient and flexible education systems with a focus on universal design



Supporting distance learners

Addressing high drop-out rates in distance education, especially in the first year

3 No borders

Internationalisation of Higher Education





Student perspective

Students follow a learning activity, a course or part of a curriculum in another university in the framework of a bilateral or a network/consortium agreement between universities. Individual study plans summarise successive mobility periods within the curriculum or course.

Rich international academic experience



Teacher perspective

Staff is organising a learning activity or a course in the framework of a bilateral or a network/consortium agreement between universities. By doing so, new educational and mobility formats are created, based on international course and curriculum design.

Develop courses and curricula in an international setting

Combine collaboration in education, research and innovation with peers



University perspective

Mobility takes place when two or more universities organise and recognise the study periods followed by their students in an exchange programme or in a networked/joint programme or institutional policies and strategies entail such collaborations and mobility. Collaboration and mobility agreements create the organisational framework.

Enhance international profile and attractiveness

Build alliances to strengthen your curricula

Virtual Mobility
New modalities of international mobility that can be promoted by digital education, enhancing the inclusive internationalisation of higher education



Institutional policies
are required for
making higher
education truly
inclusive



Understanding and promoting HE Inclusion and Life -Long-Learning through DE

Here we go...

THANK YOU !

FOR PROMOTING HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL EDUCATION IN GEORGIA

Á N G E L E S S Á N C H E Z - E L V I R A P A N I A G U A

