



Source: Strategic intelligence  
World Economic Forum



# EDUCATION IN THE WORLD

Dynamic report of  
strategic intelligence

A look over the main educational news and  
tendencies of the international landscape

With the purpose of contributing to the strengthening of post-secondary education in the City, Sapiencia carries out a tracking of the initiatives and the processes related to education in different international scenarios, through the Strategic Intelligence (SI) tool of the World Economic Forum. This brings the possibility to learn and identify projection opportunities for the educational processes of the city.

Some findings of the examination are shown below.

## 1 CORE SOFT SKILLS

Soft skills are related to the implementation of a combination of social and communication skills, aptitudes and the ability to approach others, such as: creativity, flexibility, problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork. These skills begin to develop from basic education and are strengthened and refined in secondary and post-secondary education, as well as in adult life in the workplace. They are important not only to achieve greater adaptability in future jobs, but also to improve people's quality of life.

*Taking into account the importance of strengthening soft skills, Sapiencia has included, within its offer of the Arroba Medellín digital citadel, different courses focused on contributing to the well-being of individuals inside and outside work scenarios, also has included tools to improve the different skills of people, as well as fundamentals for entrepreneurship.*

*Below are shown some of the developing international news about soft skills*



### Six skills for success

*How the National Guard Youth ChalleNGE Program can support participants in developing portable skills employers value*

RAND Corporation  
29th of July 2022

The authors of this research identify a set of skills that outstanding among accessible occupations, growth-oriented and high-paying that do not require a bachelor's degree for possible incorporation into the Special Apprenticeship National Guard Youth Challenge Program (ChalleNGe) which is focused on training young people who did not progress through traditional high school. The researchers found six cross-cutting skills, skills that employers value and that young people can apply in many jobs, which are: 1) spoken and written communication, 2) teamwork and communication, 3) logic and reasoning, 4) information expertise, 5) decision making, and 6) familiarity with technology.



### Attitude, organizational culture and best practices: the keys to digitization of the university

The Conversation  
3rd of June 2022

The author describes a series of steps that are crucial for the adaptation of the university to digitalization adaptation of the university, among them find: a positive attitude towards change on the part of students and teachers, identifying and understanding the potential and identify and understand the value of using certain digital resources, developing processes that are compatible with the tasks that are done well, but that create greater value, generate the motivation for people to understand why it is worth doing new things. Once this change of attitude has been made, students and teachers need to develop digital skills through good practices that are accessible, replicable and measurable, and allow the institutionalization of the changes.



### Digital Literacy During COVID-19 Distance Education; Evaluation of Communication-Based Problems in Line With Student Opinions

Frontiers  
15th of June 2022

The authors collected information through an online structured interview form from 23 students of the Faculty of Communication, Radio, Television of Near East University (Cyprus). The results concluded that, in agreement with other studies, the level of digital literacy is considered inadequate to understand the whole educational system. It is also observed from the results obtained that the absence of students at the regional level, economic difficulties and convenience play a significant and negative role in the distance education model. Among the findings of the study, the phenomenon of lack of communication in the learning process of individuals and feelings of isolation and inadequacy. Teachers have experienced communication problems in trying to adapt to this new educational environment; however, the students emphasize the possibility of reproducing class videos regardless of time or place, according to the opinions given by the students.

## 2 QUALITY BASIC EDUCATION

Basic education is the educational level that lays the foundations for the learning process of girls and boys, however, although progress has been made in accessibility, new challenges have arisen with the appearance of the pandemic, which has made difficult, as stated in objective number four of the SDGs (Objectives of the Sustainable Development) to guarantee an inclusive, equitable and quality education, that promotes learning opportunities throughout life for everybody.

*Due to its nature, Sapiencia does not focus directly on projects related to improving*

*the quality of basic education, however, within its forgivable loan programs it offers a program aimed at partially financing master's and doctorate studies of teachers and teaching directors of preschool, basic and secondary education in the district of Medellín to study in Higher Education Institutions of the nation.*

*Below are shown some of the current international news related to quality basic education.*



### The GSMA Innovation Fund Knowledge Platform

Mobile for Development  
11th of July 2022

In Pakistan, quality education is only affordable for the middle and upper classes and, as a result, millions of students are out of school. The COVID-19 pandemic has further disrupted education and has created more short-medium term problems. Knowledge Platform has developed and is continuously improving a highly innovative solution to address Pakistan's educational crisis, through Learn Smart Pakistan, a gamified platform for students from 5 to 15 years old which is being used by 125,000 students. The strategy seeks to implement mobile educational devices through microfinance and, together with partners, provide subsidized internet service, with the service, with the ultimate goal of introducing one educational device per family.



### Recovering learning

UNICEF  
12th of June 2022

The notice state that we are in a learning crisis. To give young people the best chance to succeed, we need to support them holistically. The first step is to identify where children and youth are in building the range of skills they need, monitor progress in their development and ensure no child or young person is left behind.

The Recovering Learning report published jointly by UNICEF and the Education Commission, and supported by Generation Unlimited, contributes to these efforts by providing a comprehensive view of skills attainment among children and youth. The report highlights the need to improve tracking progress in skills development, especially in light of the global priority to recover education in response to COVID-related disruptions.



**Recovering Learning Losses: Teaching at the Right Level in School Pilot in Nepal**

Banco Mundial  
20th of July 2022

The "Teaching at the Right Level" pilot project has contributed to the learning losses caused by COVID-19 school closures. This approach accelerates the recovery of student learning in Nepal's public schools.

The Teaching to the Right Level, an approach promoted by the Indian NGO Pratham and applied in many Asian and African countries, targets the root causes of low levels of learning, transforming the way instruction is structured. It works by dividing boys and girls into groups based on their learning needs rather than their age or grade level; spending time on basic skills instead of focusing solely on the curriculum; and by periodically assessing students' performance on a regular basis, rather than relying solely on end-of-school.



**School bullying targets students with high abilities**

The Conversation (Spanish)  
21 de July de 2022

School bullying is defined as a form of peer-to-peer violence in which one or more persons assault another peer (or peers) repeatedly over time with malicious intent, where there is an imbalance of power between the parties involved. At the origin of school bullying is the rejection of what is different. 50% of students with high abilities are victims of school violence, because their differences are neither understood nor respected, therefore, the authors propose two key challenges to eradicate this behavior: 1) that schools should be safe environments for all students and 2) to include and respect differences in the school context.

**3 CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Due to the constant changes that the productive sector is going through, it is necessary to provide training that allows the updating of knowledge, skills, attitudes, rules and concepts for people of all ages, which implies continuing education inside and outside traditional schools.

*Sapiencia runs a disruptive continuing education program, through the launch of two university citadels, one physical and one virtual, the first of which is the Citadel of the Fourth Revolution and*

*the Transformation of Learning (C4TA), where training is given to the population of the city in different programs and levels as specialists in various technological processes. The focus of the second citadel @Medellin is virtual education, where online programs of Post-secondary Education, Education for work and Specialized Talent are also offered.*

*Below there are some international news related to continuous training programs:*



**Meet the four Global Shapers working to provide digital skills for one million Africans**

Foro Económico Mundial  
15th of July 2022

This article highlights four young Africans from the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, who joined forces to give one million Africans access to digital skills, tech

education with partners such as Twitter, IBM, Nvidia, Vodafone, Standard Bank, Oracle, and Apple, among others, through the Hacklab Foundation, which is a non-profit organization focused on preparing young people for the future jobs. This is achieved through digital skills training, bootcamps, hackathons, internships, job shadowing and job placements. The Foundation has successfully matched over 1.300 individuals into jobs since 2016 and has grown a community of more than 14,000 members in 12 African countries.

**4 PERTINENT POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

The need to modify the curricula has been expressed by some representatives of the business sector and the graduates, since there is a gap between the knowledge acquired in the educational processes and the skills required in the business world, as a result of the different technological changes that occur in the world. For this reason, it becomes necessary to have joint effort between the actors of the educational society to reduce this gap and the risks that derive from it.

*way, the public policy for post-secondary education (PPEP for the Spanish acronym) is being built, which consists establishing a system that integrates Secondary Education, Higher Education, Training for Work, and Specialized Continuing Education, through a modular and sequential training model associated. The politic search that people can achieve a degree of training according to the needs, interests and potentialities of the students, the productive sector and society in general.*

*In 2020, Sapiencia modified its mission purpose through Decree 019, which has made possible to lead the formulation and the implementation of programs, plans and projects for the consolidation of Post-Secondary Education. In this*

*Some international news regarding pertinent post-secondary education are shown below*



**Former prison students celebrate college degrees**

Universidad de Cornell  
13th of July 2022

The Cornell Prison Education Program (CPEP) graduated a number of inmates at different levels of Liberal Arts (certificate or Associate's degree). The program benefits four upstate prisons in partnership with area universities. Run without public resources, its leaders claim the program saves taxpayer dollars by reducing recidivism and allowing graduates to be released up to six months early. Jamilia Michener, an associate professor of government in the College of Arts and Sciences

and dean of public engagement in the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, says that after her twelve-year-old son's question as to why a person deprived of liberty would want to go to school, she responds that knowledge is part of being human, a profound indicator of our basic human dignity.



**1000 Digital Villages Initiative**

Southern Voice  
20th of July 2022

The diversification of rural economies and their linkage to dynamic markets are key factors in the dynamic markets are key factors in meeting SDG #1 (End Poverty), SDG #2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG #10 (Reducing Inequalities), this need was accentuated by the health crisis caused by the pandemic, in the aftermath of which the need to rebuild and transform the agrifood system's chains.

Along the same lines, the FAO launched the "1000 Digital Villages Initiative", which promotes the digitalization of services in rural areas. In Latin America and the Caribbean, this initiative was launched on the basis of ongoing rural tourism experiences, taking advantage of connectivity, resources and digital solutions to foster the promotion and sale of services, encourage rural transformation, and increase household income and employment opportunities. Currently, the 1000 Digital Villages initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean is currently training rural tourism entrepreneurs in the production of videos that will allow them to improve the promotion and sale of services through social networks.

**5 STEM EDUCATION**

STEM education consisting of those areas of knowledge related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, currently is presenting a high demand in the world of work, leading to plan how can students be equipped to acquire these skills that are necessary and transversal to all areas of knowledge. This digital fluency builds on basic digital literacy, adding the ability to apply critical thinking and ethical considerations when using or developing digital technologies and/or data processing.

*these areas, which allows the acquisition of skills for the so-called industry 4.0, which includes software development, programming languages, automation and intelligent manufacturing, among others, that allow a greater articulation with the technology industry. Likewise, a dissemination and awareness strategy is carried out to promote women's access to post-secondary education programs related to the software valley.*

*Sapiencia through the Talento Especializado program offers a series of free and modular courses focused on*

*An international news article about the actual landscape of STEM education are listed below:*





**Coding for Inclusion** ✦  
CODINC  
13th of July 2022

The CODINC Project (Coding for inclusion), aims to teach programming to young people in an accessible and fun way to ensure they not only use digital tools, but that they actively create. The CODINC methodology teaches high school students how to use computational thinking to learn to code using online and offline exercises. Once they are skilled, they teach their younger peers what they have learned, creating a STEM learning community among themselves. In addition, the project launched a competition aimed at teachers and trainers.



**SonRisas Lab: how a digital inclusion project for children and adolescents in Esteban Echeverría works** ✦  
Infobae  
14th of July 2022

With programming and robotics courses for boys and girls between 8 and 16 years of age, the proposal developed by the civil organization SonRisas and the Civil Association Chicos.net, with private funding, seeks to close the digital gaps. That is, it not only provides access to connectivity, but also to the creation, production and active use of technology. SonRisas is an organization that offers a space for training, recreation, containment and expression where children and adolescents in vulnerable situations can find a suitable framework for their development, carrying out activities in three neighborhoods of Esteban Echeverría in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## 6 EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

Educational processes have been undergoing changes, which were accelerated after the pandemic and the mandatory use of virtual education, making it necessary to think about education in the short, medium and long term. Educational technologies are emerging around the world, and this represents great opportunities to improve access to education, but also poses challenges in terms of its application and evaluation. In this way, research in pedagogy is relevant, which can demonstrate the performance of the different technologies: their applicability and monitoring for all students, even those with specific needs.

*From the Observatorio de Sapiencia, information search strategies are carried out that allow identifying the main technological initiatives that are carried out at an international level, in order to communicate and transfer knowledge that is useful to experts and/or decision makers, such is the case of the dynamic reports and the issues notes.*

*Below there's a summary of some international news about educational innovation*



**The GSMA innovation fund-Scholar X** ✦  
Mobile for Development  
12 de July de 2022

A lack of digital skills is a key barrier to mobile internet adoption in Africa. The youth of Africa who are unable to use mobile internet are missing out on important opportunities, including being able to access online educational resources. ScholarX is an EdTech start-up that focuses on democratizing access to education for African youth, by connecting them with funding sources that enable them to get a quality education. ScholarX aims to develop and launch a new digital skills learning app called LearnAM, which will provide basic digital skills.



**Book Review: Creative Universities: Reimagining Education for Global Challenges and Alternative Futures** ✦  
by Anke Schwittay  
London School of Economics  
15th of July 2022

The author of this review states that this book proposes strategies for radical change in higher education in order to resist the instrumentalization and commodification of knowledge, teaching, learning and research. This text is a most welcome and timely contribution to the existing critical pedagogical literature and scholarship. It not only provides an interdisciplinary critique of the existing institutional and epistemic limits of the contemporary neoliberalized university and its entrepreneurial and its managerialist-entrepreneurialist conception of creativity, it also offers imaginative strategies for counter-hegemonic resistance and radical change in education and society.

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