

Education Track



Challenge #1 - International Accreditation of Academic Programs

The variety of educational situations and degrees awarded worldwide makes transnational recognition of academic and professional qualifications rather difficult, weakening the position of some professionals in the global employment market.

Accreditation of educational programs as entry route to any profession has been proved to be a powerful tool to improve at the same time academic quality and relevance for the job market. However, few projects exist nowadays working towards the creation of a transparent system of easily readable and comparable degrees, but as far as accreditation and recognition with professional implications, no shared project or system exists at a global scale.

Challenge #2 - Education in remote areas

The need to better prepare the population from rural and remote areas is a pressing issue around the world. Rural and remote communities continue to have unequal health outcomes and lower proportions of medical practitioners, schools have difficulty in finding teachers and architects continue to be poorly prepared for the challenges they face in these communities. Residents would be the best candidates to take over professional roles but sometimes is difficult for them to access the necessary education.

Challenge #3 - Education for Special Needs Students

Some children have needs or disabilities that affect their ability to learn (behavioral, social, reading and writing, understanding things, concentrating,...). While sometimes is possible to redirect them to schools that can better address their needs, other times this is not possible due to costs or distance factors, and there are other times that if the disability is not too accentuated, the child might do better attending a regular school. In those cases, tutors are being faced with students who may be expressing difficulties the tutor has not previously encountered and many are concerned with how they can offer help.

Challenge #4 - Nutrition education at school

Health promotion from the early stages in life by fostering healthy eating practices and

regular physical activity has the potential for a major impact on health and well-being during childhood and later stages in life.

School-based nutrition education should consider needs and interests of students, teachers and schools. Educational strategies include efforts to increase health awareness, communication and skill building. However, in some countries 40% of the adults are overweight proving that educational strategies are not as effective as they should be.

Challenge #5 - Bridging the gap between research and markets

Dissemination is now acknowledged as an important component of the research process. Dissemination is about the communication of innovation, this being either a planned and systematic process or a passive, unplanned diffusion process. The utilization of research findings in policy or practice is in many instances a subtle and indirect process. Effective communication is an important aspect of dissemination. However, because the audience is heterogeneous, dissemination has to meet the various requirements of different users. There are many barriers to effective communication between researchers and users. These include: career structures, institutional barriers, ownership issues, barriers relating to the protracted process of publishing in academic journals, technical barriers and problems related to secrecy and lack of trust.

Challenge #6 - Telematics for education

Telematics applications to support educational delivery and participation in traditional universities are rapidly becoming part of the educational setting. Sometimes they are used specifically to increase distance flexibility in participation, but this is not their only value. Telematics applications are also associated with other forms of flexibility, as well as with heightened efficiency and enrichment of the learning process, both for those in full-time traditional attendance and those participating in increasingly variable ways. Issues demanding serious attention include staff and student engagement and support and technical decisions relating to the infrastructure and interface of the technology needed to make the new flexibilities possible. The difficulties in supporting this evolution in traditional universities with cost-effectiveness analysis.