

Reflections on the Future of Education

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Nobel Prize recipient and World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) Fellow Paul Crutzen reminds us that nowadays

“human activities are the main variable impacting on all planet’s life forms”

There are a mounting number of challenges to be faced; we need to foster new and solid bases for a sustainable global society, re-examining the dynamics of global economic, political, human, social and cultural **constructs and narratives.**





Education plays a crucial role in the social construction of reality and it is more and more evident that **we need a paradigm change in education** in order to **enable people to deal effectively** with the **mounting challenges facing humanity.**



This retooling needs to start **with our frames of reference.**

We need to **create a new paradigm of education** in order to **enable education** to **serve people's needs**

and to have relevance in public service, social responsibility and sustainable governance and development.



We need to **effectively protect and promote human & environmental capital**

We need to **think globally and act locally in effective ways** and to do so we need to offer people **the knowledge, skills and competencies** to operate at intersectorial and interdisciplinary levels

- Socio cultural
- Environmental
- Economic
- Psychological
- Spiritual
- *How can professionals contribute to this?.....*



- Our social construction of professional competence is largely obsolete since various professions are still construed by using the outmoded mechanistic reductionist divisions of the traditional fields of expertise
- This situation reflects the limited knowledge of the world we had when the modern professional and scientific disciplines first emerged and continue to be stifled by the lines of jurisdiction in these traditional divisions of expert labor.
- This has little to do with offering the best services to society and much to do with the power struggles among the competing professional corporations or guilds

(Andrew Abbott, 1988)



- Student numbers have been rising in many countries since the 1800s.
- UNESCO estimates there were 0.5 million students in universities worldwide in 1900.
- A century later, around 100 million students.
- Are we sure that universities offer an effective education preparing people to really meet the present challenges?
- If we certify people as competent in their fields but in reality those professionals are still ineffectively trained with obsolete and mechanistic knowledge,
- **we risk to increase just the quantity**
- **but not the quality, the needed level of competence**



Education to become more effective needs to shift:

- from subject centered to human-centered learning
- from passive to active learning
- from memorization or understanding to critical thinking and original thinking
- from information or mental understanding to development of the whole person
- from academic theoretical to life-centered knowledge
- from fragmented knowledge to integrated knowledge
- from creating standardized products to fostering the development of resilience, individuality and creativity



In the age of globalization and growing complexity to meet the challenges of our present and future new and effective ways to promote the capacity of integration of our ways of knowing are required:

- **System Theories**
- **Bio-psycho-social paradigm**
- **People-Centered and Person Centered-Approaches**





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We need to bring together not only top universities, but all the stakeholders for the creation of a process that will generate effective understanding and offer effective solutions to the problems society must face.



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There are some positive signs in this direction: one of those is the recently founded **World University Consortium (WUC)** which aims to promote a process of knowledge creation and sharing through an interactive international network of all the stakeholders, to benefit global society, to enhance diversity, to share ideas and expertise, and to learn international best practices from each other.



WUC will create a safe space where universities and all the stakeholders can cross-fertilize and together respond more effectively to the urgent needs of society at the local and global levels.

Everybody will be empowered to effectively cooperate and create new knowledge and new opportunities to protect and promote human capital.



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NEW COURSES

The World Academy of Art & Science and the World University Consortium are organizing two graduate level courses at Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik in Fall 2014. [Read More](#)

BREAKING NEWS

OTHER NEWS

BLOG UPDATES

FEATURED ARTICLES

The World University Consortium's main objectives

- **Global Forum:** where all stakeholders can interact and create networks and partnerships
- **Person-centered:** emphasize self-guided learning, critical and original thinking, learning to learn, trans-disciplinary perspectives, learning by teaching and sharing, and experiential learning.
- **Best-practices:** develop effective global models and strategies to improve accessibility, affordability, quality, innovation and relevance in higher education
- **Hybrid Systems:** new models designed to facilitate learning through teacher-student and student-student interaction.
- **Value-based:** transcultural and culture-specific methods and content reflecting universal values
- **Open Learning Systems:** innovative systems and models to extend the reach of quality higher education to people of all age groups globally.
- **New Metrics:** R&D on advanced instruments for evaluation of educational processes.



WUC will strive to create new models of cooperation in education, teaching, research, research application, project management and responsible leadership.

WUC will promote the **largest project of action research and active learning ever carried out** to promote effectiveness, scientific advancement, civil and social responsibility, **empowering all the stakeholders to create and share new knowledge** to improve human and environmental living conditions , **building bridges across boundaries** of diverse cultures, academic disciplines, promoting awareness of the frontiers of human understanding, creating new knowledge through collaboration in research and innovation.



WUC will promote:

- Synergy among all the stakeholders
- Capacity Building
- Protecting differences
- Person centered approaches
- Student centered approaches
- Community centered approaches
- People centered approaches
- Protect and promote human rights
- Intercultural emphatic understanding and respect
- Socially and environmental sustainable interventions
- Collaboration with the UN and its agencies, Academies of Science and other organizations with similar values and aims



The WUC initiative is therefore timely, necessary, and a critical step in the next phase of education development....

You are welcomed to join....



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In the **Anthropocene Era**

promoting processes that facilitate the creation of new paradigm, effective forms of education, to protect and foster the development of fully functioning persons, families, groups, organizations and communities is not only of vital importance for human survival and welfare but also for the welfare of the entire **planet.**



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СпасибіСпасибі
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Grazie!
Thank you!



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