

Higher Education Compass – Special Issue: Call for Research Papers

Special Issue Theme:

"Innovative Education Strategies: A Pedagogical Reflection"

In a world characterised by a profound state of influx, our global economies navigate through heightened levels of risk and uncertainty. Unprecedented challenges emerge from socio-economic models, contributing to escalating domestic and international inequality levels. The pressing erosion of our environmental systems intensifies the urgency in the heated debate surrounding climate change, emphasising the imperative need to transition towards sustainable and environmentally friendly energy models. At the epicentre of this transformative shift lies Education—a catalyst for the change we so urgently require. The United Nations, with its visionary 2030 Agenda, emerges as our guiding compass in this intricate process, aiming to facilitate adaptation and provide solutions to both existing and emerging challenges. Among the Sustainable Development Goals, 4 and 8, focusing on Quality Education and Sustainable Development, respectively, stand out as being particularly vulnerable to external shocks, as highlighted by the 2020 Global Health Crisis. This crisis laid bare a stark reality: Our Education and economic systems were unprepared to manage and address the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.

Furthermore, the ongoing transition from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0 underscores the necessity of a *"knowledge-based economy"* and the inherent demands of rapidly evolving Technology and Innovation. To navigate this complex transition successfully, a critical reassessment and evaluation of our educational models and their role in supporting the United Nations' ambitious agenda are imperative. In this special issue, our focus is on Innovative Education Strategies and their intrinsic value in helping us rethink, redesign, and reconsider our approach to meeting the demands of the Sustainability Agenda. We extend an invitation to researchers, educators, doctoral students, and practitioners to contribute to the dialogue by offering pedagogical reflections on innovating and preparing our students/learners for the dynamic challenges of our ever-changing society and interconnected systems.

The core themes underpinning our call take into account the global context and New Global Security Scenarios, drawing from research conducted by the European Union Satellite Centre in 2024 (refer to the attached image in the Annex).

- Climate Change: Variations in climate patterns pose significant risks in various regions.
- Environmental Issues: Extreme weather events or illicit activities can impact the safety of citizens.
- Disasters: Uncontrolled human activities or natural events translate into societal risks.
- Health: Threats or unforeseen health emergencies necessitate measures affecting citizens' daily lives.
- Resource Scarcity: Access to water or scarcity of food resources can lead to conflicts.
- Uncontrolled Migrations: Unregulated migrations put the lives of affected people at risk.
- Energy Sustainability: Problems in energy management can adversely affect the population's well-being.

Guest Editors:

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Call Basic Details:

1. Theme: "Innovative Education Strategies: A Pedagogical Reflection"
2. **Deadline: 1st June 2024**
3. Paper Word Count: 7,000 to 8,000 words – see attached pdf file for detailed Style Guide
4. Streams to be considered as part of the special issue: Climate Change, Environmental Issues, Disasters, Health, Resource Scarcity, Uncontrolled Migration and Energy Sustainability
5. Editorial Board:
Lead Editor: Dr Jon-Hans Coetzter
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Annex:

