



Innovative Lifelong Education: Advancing Open Learning and Building Learning Societies in the Digital Era

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In the rapidly evolving educational landscape, the transition from traditional lecture-based and rote models to humanistic-centred, technology-enhanced paradigms signifies the emergence of Education 5.0. This new era emphasises deeply human-centric, socially responsive, and ethically grounded learning ecosystems, underpinned by the transformative potential of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and Web3.

This talk critically examines the paradigm shift from Education 4.0 to Education 5.0, focusing on the implications of AI-powered innovations for the future of lifelong learning. It investigates structural barriers to the promotion of lifelong learning and introduces innovative, technology-enabled solutions. In particular, Web3—the integration of AI and blockchain technologies—is explored as a foundation for decentralised lifelong learning systems. These systems offer novel approaches to credentialing, leveraging tokenised incentives and tamper-proof, blockchain-based platforms to promote skills recognition, ownership, and transferability. The proposed decentralised model introduces learner-owned, incentivised educational pathways that facilitate continuous upskilling and reskilling, adapting to rapidly changing labour markets and technological advancements. By redefining how knowledge and competencies are traded, transferred**, ** and owned through non-fungible tokens, such models hold transformative potential for expanding access and equity in education.

Furthermore, this talk explores the critical success factors and enabling conditions for building AI-augmented learning societies. It emphasises the importance of fostering lifelong learning across formal, non-formal, and informal contexts. A strategic policy review of National AI Strategies (NAIS) is presented, highlighting the pivotal role of higher education institutions in talent development, interdisciplinary research, and the formulation of ethical and regulatory frameworks for responsible AI deployment. Ultimately, the talk offers a forward-looking vision for aligning education systems with technological and societal transformations, positioning lifelong learning as a central pillar of inclusive and sustainable development.

