

# Imagining the next 12 years

Doris Viljoen, Institute for Futures Research



**REPORT**  
ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR  
LEARNING AND TEACHING  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
IN SOUTH AFRICA

SCENARIOS FOR  
**2036**

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# Thinking about the future: three assumptions

There is a range of plausible futures

Seeds of the futures exist in the present

People have some influence over the future that eventually plays out

# Scenario definition



Scenarios are descriptions of journeys to possible futures.

They reflect different assumptions about how current trends could unfold, how critical uncertainties could play out and what new factors could come into play

# Can we know?



We do  
not try to  
predict  
the  
future

Being  
**prepared**  
is more valuable  
than being  
**right**

# Factors that influence the futures of learning and teaching

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# Pressure to increase access to and success of HE

Figure 79: Public universities enrolments by institutional type

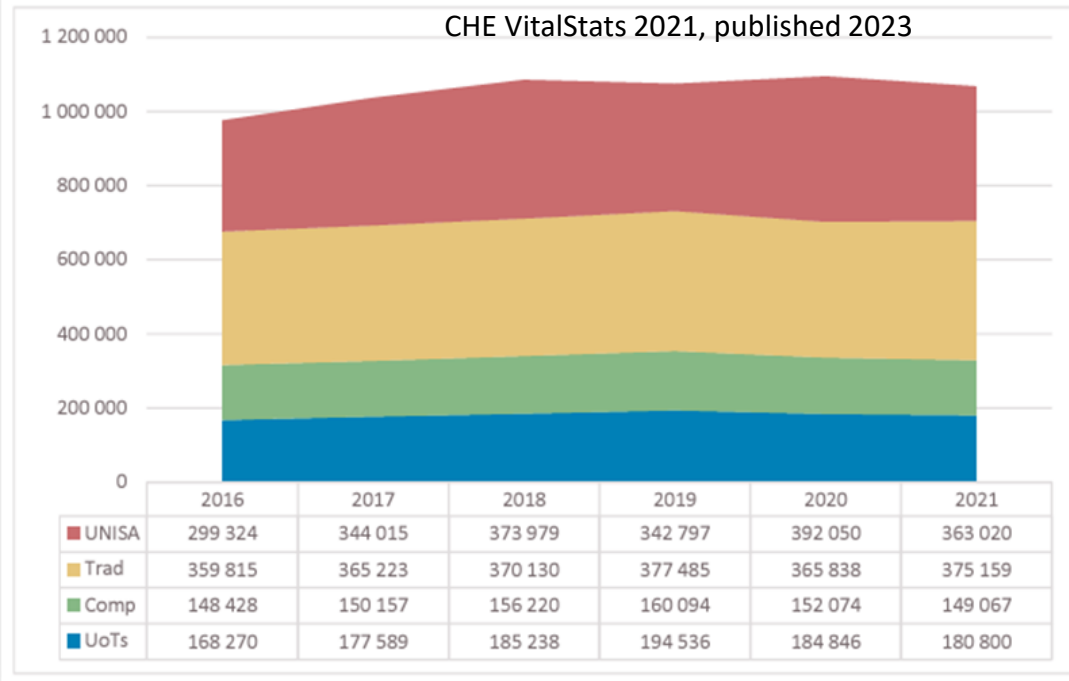
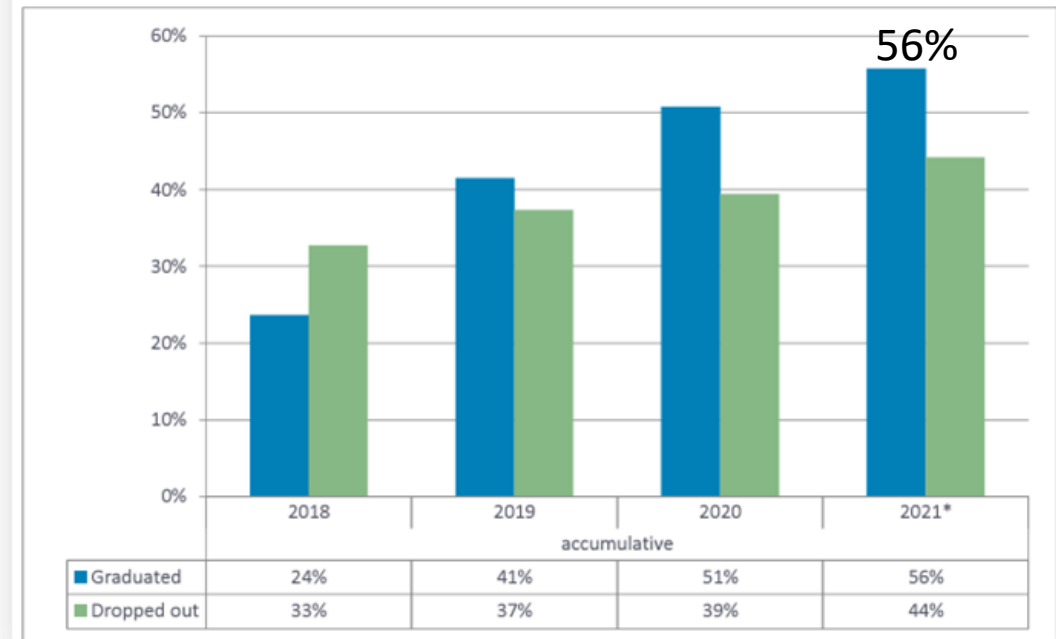


Figure 146: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2016 (excluding UNISA)



**NDP:** Increase the throughput rates for degree programmes to more than 75% by 2030. Aim for a combined total (private and public) of 425 000 graduates by 2030, and more than 5 000 doctoral graduates per year.

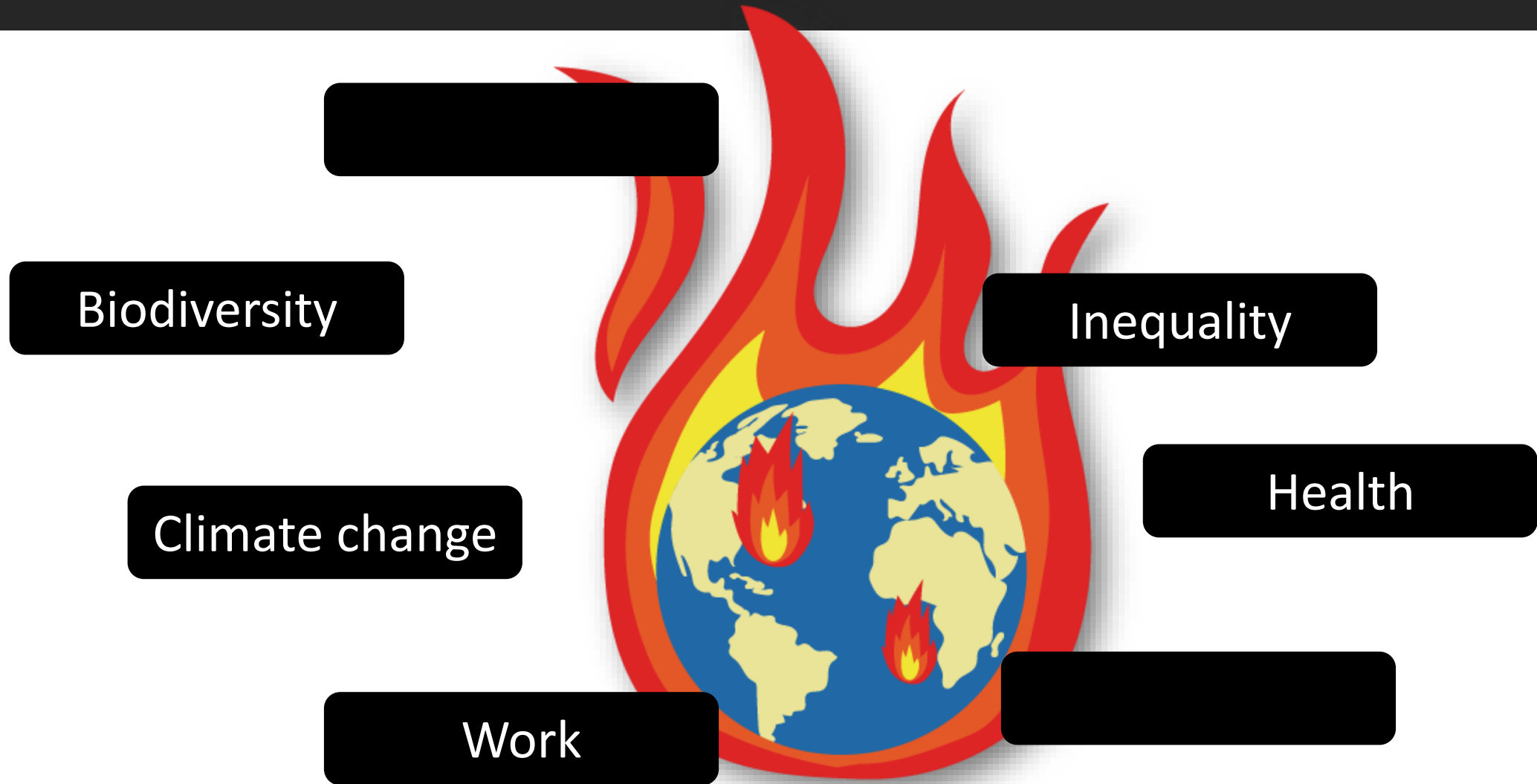
**NP-PSET:** Goal to increase enrolment and throughput in qualifications

# Perceived importance of research relative to L&T





# Response to global and regional challenges



# Suitability of and timeous investment in L&T technologies

The importance of **timeous investment** in and adoption of **appropriate technologies** and innovative L&T practices (fit for purpose and context)



The **pace of change** has increased exponentially due to the **speed of technological innovation**.



# Development and adoption of micro- credential offers

Results from a survey across 28 countries in Africa



# Prevalence and popularity of non-credit bearing L&T

MOOCs

LinkedIn Learning

YouTube

In-house organisational skills  
development

Industry bodies



COURSE

**Ethics in the Age of Generative AI**

By: Vilas Dhar

284,922 viewers · Released May 25, 2023



COURSE

**Project Management Foundations**

By: Bonnie Biafore

649,422 viewers · Released Oct 13, 2022

**LinkedIn**

## 1. Strategic Thinking

This course teaches managers and leaders how to use strategic thinking to guide the direction of their teams and come up with solutions to key business problems.

<https://linkedin.com/learning/strategic-thinking-22616141>



# Institutional and academic governance, leadership and management

Speed through governance and approval processes

Frequent cases of internal corruption at universities  
Cheating in assessments; faking qualifications



# Student preferences, imperatives and demands for L&T



**personalised** learning experience, so that the student journey from enrolment to graduation encourage access, personalisation, and engagement at each touchpoint.

**modes and models for learning and teaching.**





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# Four archetype scenarios

Continue Decline Transformation Disciplined Improvement





# The Continue scenario: Upholding the divides

- Stable system
- Slow, reactive
- Incremental





# The Transformation scenario:

## A tailored tomorrow

A new era of personalised  
learning from multiple providers



DECLINE:

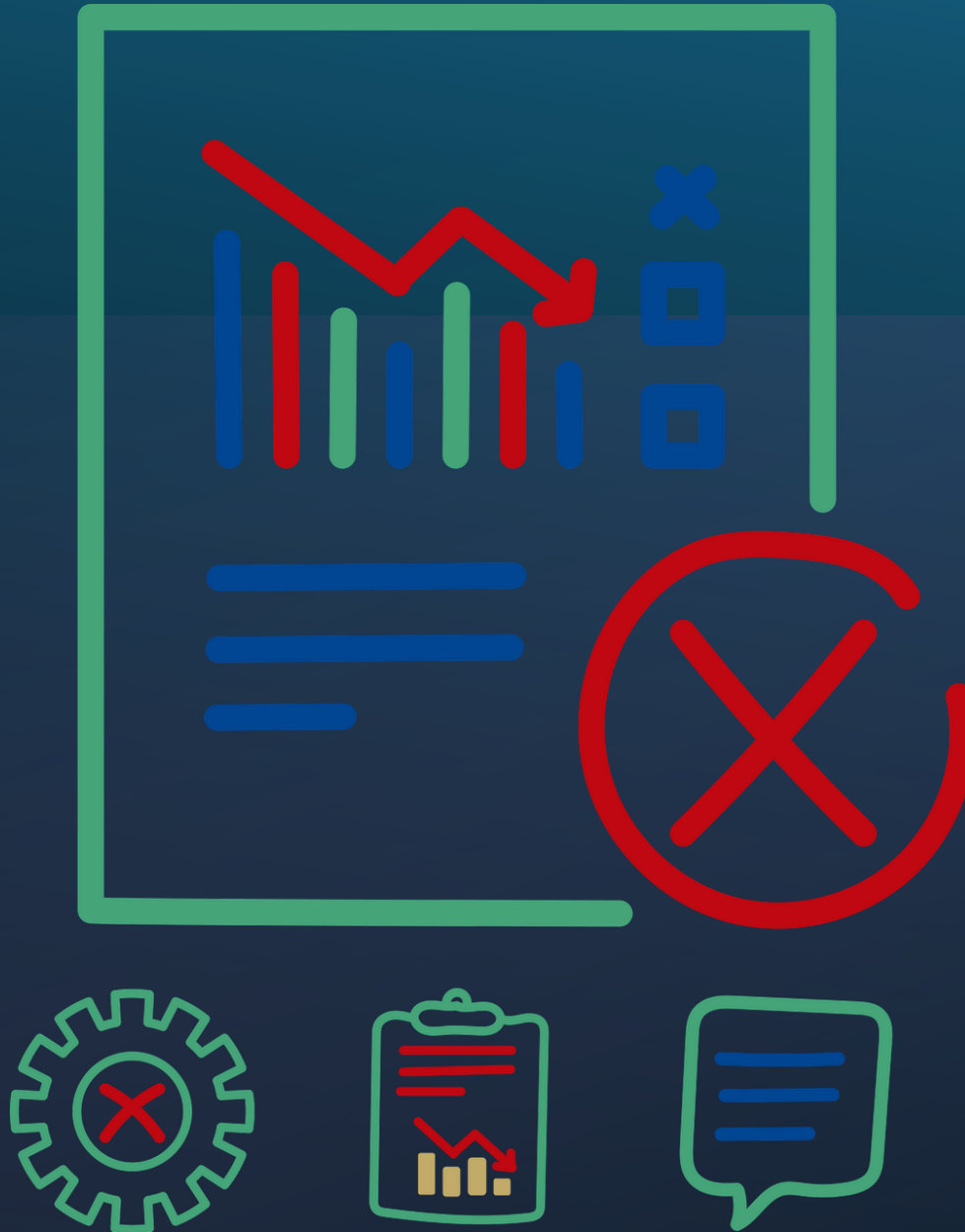
Reactive stance

Okay with  
mediocrity

A contentious and  
fragmented  
environment

A marked decline  
on all metrics

Outdated frameworks



# Disciplined improvement: orchestrating the future



A testament to the  
power of collaboration  
and foresight

Clear roles, systemic  
and tailored  
approaches

Innovative  
technologies, adopted  
in a timeous manner

Funding pools:  
public + private



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# Learning from the scenarios



Many factors interact; the same factors create the different scenarios

If the status quo persists, the system will likely deteriorate

Clear roles and goals are important

Poor decision-making and slow reaction times trigger a downward spiral



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# Thank you!

**Doris Viljoen**  
doris@ifr.sun.ac.za

