

Imagining the next 12 years

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COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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

SCENARIOS FOR
2036

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	5
2. Futures thinking and using scenarios to develop foresight	5
3. Crafting a set of scenarios	6
3.1. Framing	7
3.2. Scanning	7
3.3. Key factor refinement and analysis	7
3.4. Cross-impact analysis	16
3.5. Developing scenario narratives	18
4. Learning from the scenarios	29
5. Concluding thoughts	29

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

8/28

Pressure to increase access to and success of HE

Figure 79: Public universities enrolments by institutional type

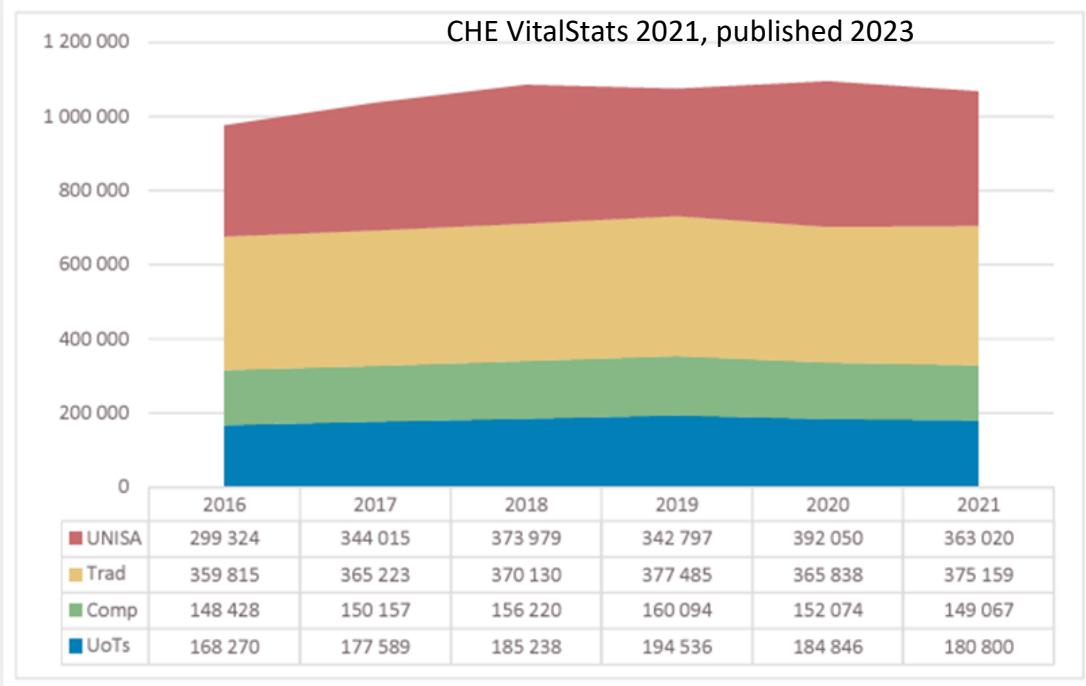
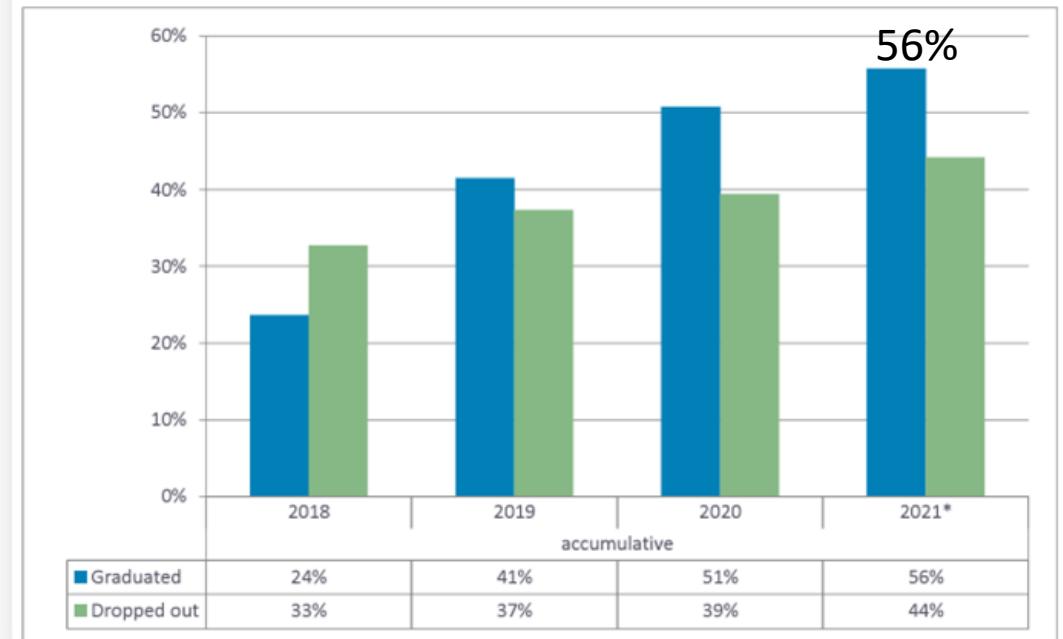


Figure 146: Throughput rates for 360-credit diplomas with first year of enrolment in 2016 (excluding UNISA)



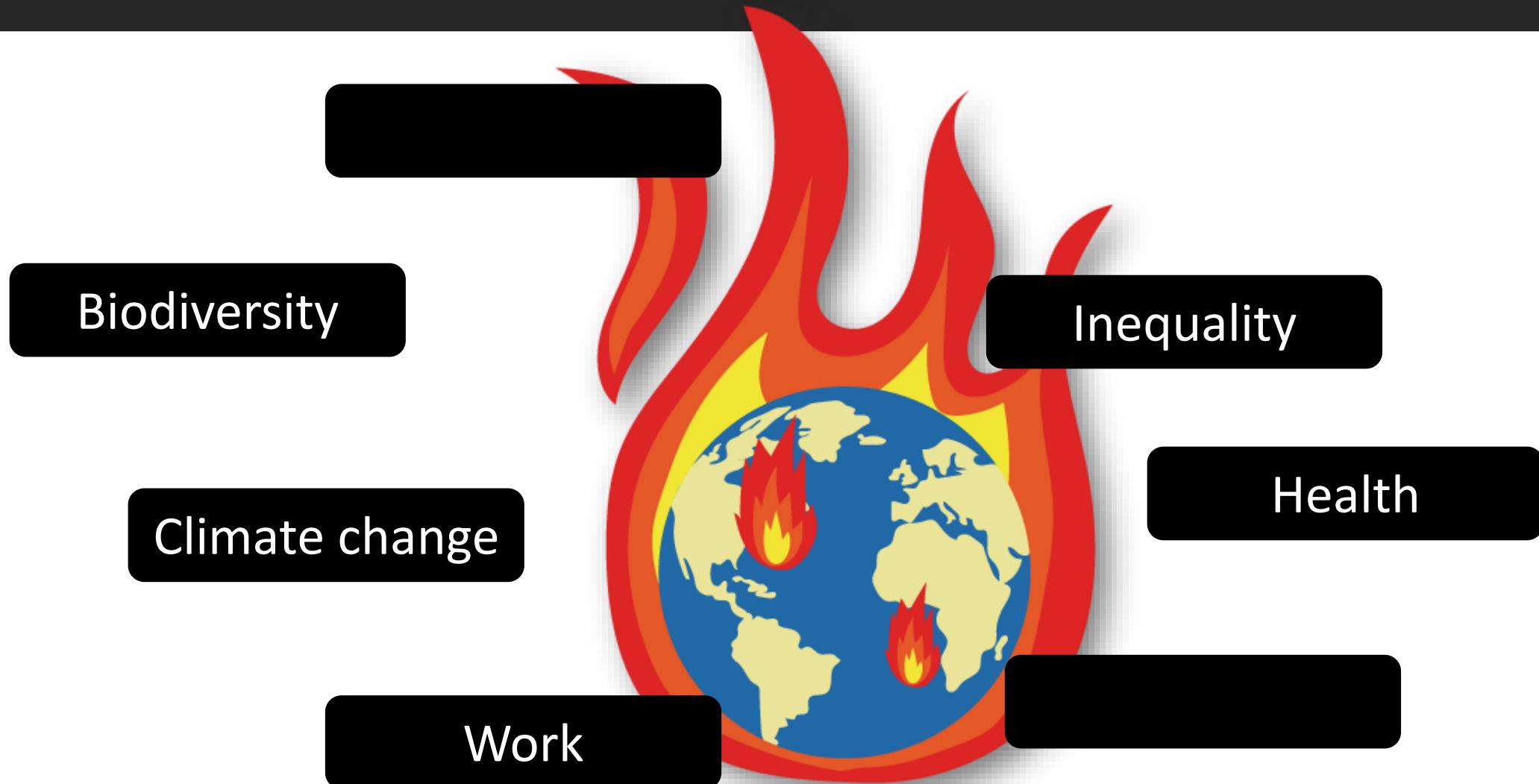
NDP: Increase the throughput rates for degree programmes to more than 75% by 2030. Aim for a combined total (private and public) of 425 000 graduates by 2030, and more than 5 000 doctoral graduates per year.

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



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



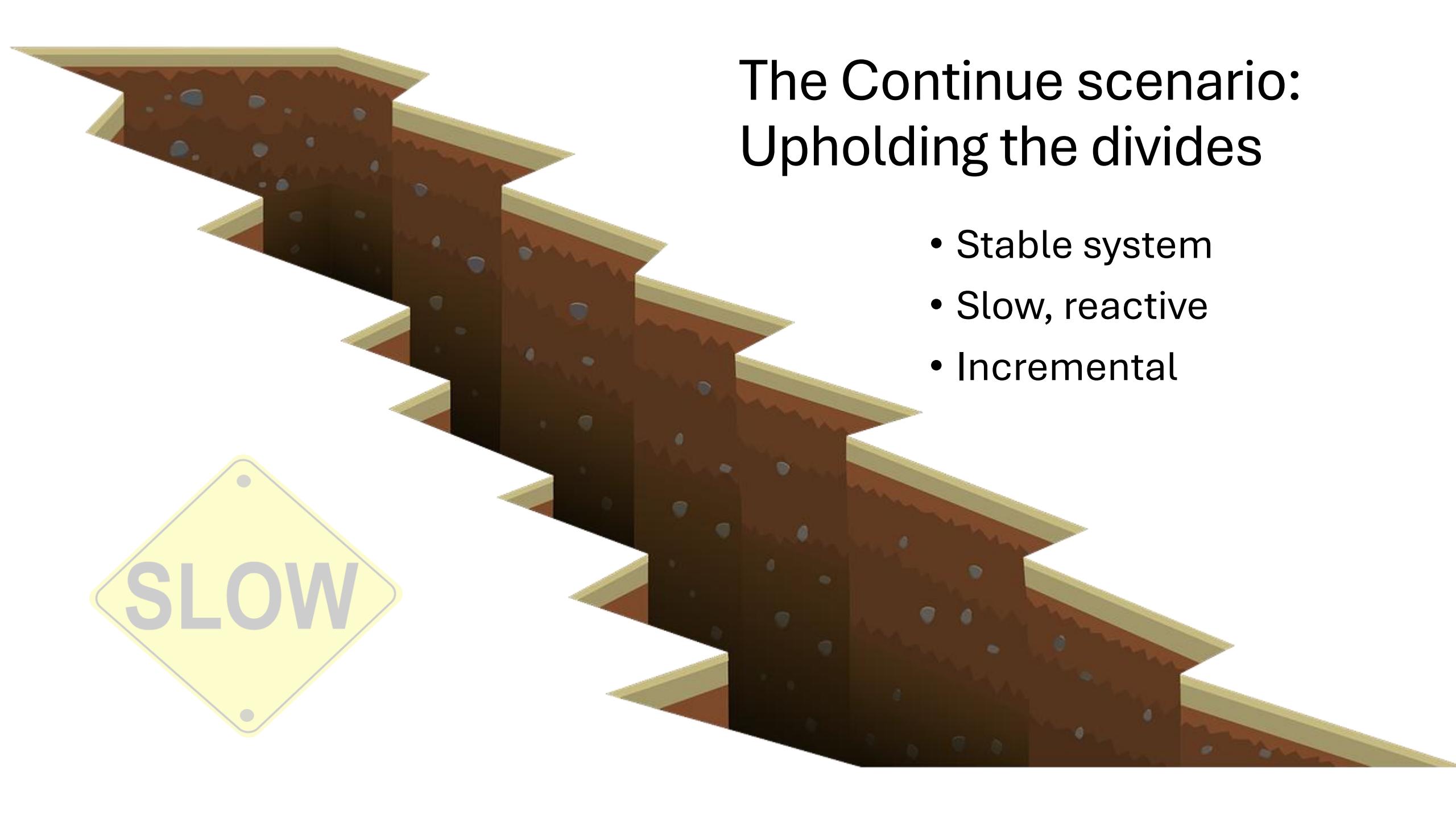
personalised learning experience, so that the student journey from enrolment to graduation encourage access, personalisation, and engagement at each touchpoint.

modes and models for learning and teaching.



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

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

Thank you!

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