

SDG-Education 2030 Steering Committee

Higher Education for Sustainable Development working group

Steering Committee Meeting 11-12 November 2019

Policy paper 1



Working group: Higher Education for Sustainable Development working group

Co-chairs: Norway, OEI and ILO

Members: Belgium, Norway, Russian Federation, EAA, ILO, OEI

Tentative policy paper title: Strengthening Inclusion in Higher Education

SDG4 : SDG4.3 calls to “ensure equal access for all... to affordable tertiary education, including university ”

Indicative strategies of the Framework for Action relevant to SDG 4.3 : Calls to “Promote tertiary education for young people and adults of all socio-cultural background so as to enable them to continue to improve and adapt their skills, with particular attention to the elimination of barriers, and to vulnerable groups.”

Problem statement: The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) estimates show wide regional variations in gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education

Solution: Further refinement and expansion of corrective measures together with structural public policies, including building strong links between secondary and tertiary level, are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind

Issues to be examined in the policy paper

- Drivers of higher education trends
- Defining inclusion within multiple post-secondary paths and in the context of LLL
- Social mission of higher education

Issues to be examined in the policy paper

- Who is left behind: gender, migrants/refugees, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, higher education staff
- Why? Structural and cultural reasons

What can be done?

- Reaching wide array of stakeholders
- Strengthening measures that increase admissions
- Managing higher education financing
- Facilitating recognition and mobility
- Technology

What can be done?

- Addressing social and cultural barriers within institutions to ensure completion and success beyond: rethinking the “higher” in higher education
- Strengthen connection between secondary and higher education
- Decent work for higher education personnel
- Coordination with labour market