

The Challenges for the 21st Century Universities

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The society underwent a period of remarkable change in the first two decades of the 21st Century with the widespread of globalization, communication and information platforms, development of life sciences and technologies and the impact of mankind in climate change. Higher education institutions have been making important efforts to adapt to the new challenges namely assuming in its mission novel strategic pillars: research with direct economical and societal impact and technology transfer, reskill and upskill programs. Still, despite increased access to information, the understanding of the role of higher education by society remains somehow limited. In my presentation I will overview, briefly, a number of key topics that, in my opinions are crucial for universities to address.