EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

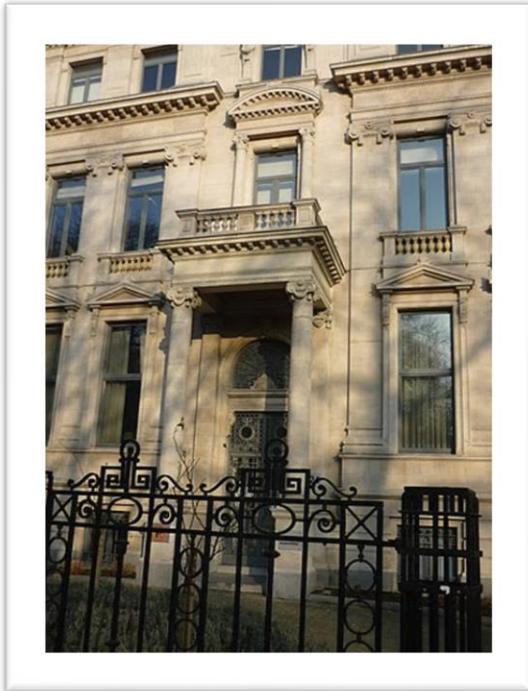**17. JAHRESTAGUNG DER GESELLSCHAFT FÜR HOCHSCHULFORSCHUNG**

Universities in Europe 2030- vision and pathways

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EUA

- **Established in 2001**
- **Non-governmental membership organisation**
- **More than 800 individual university members**
- **34 National Rectors' Conferences Members**
- **48 countries**
- **Independent voice of the university sector**
- **Forum for exchange, peer learning for members**

Universities without walls
A vision for 2030

A vision by the sector and for the sector about what Europe's universities should be like in 2030

Situations vary across Europe, but some overal challenges and goals can be identified.

Major challenges and trends: sustainability challenge; disruption through technology, democracy under pressure, social disparities, changing geopolitics, underfunding, pandemic as accelerator of change

Main goals:

- **Open, transformative and transnational universities**

- **Sustainable, diverse and engaged universities**

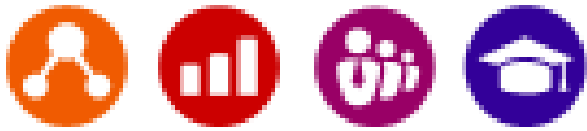- **Strong, autonomous and accountable universities**

Openness

- Universities are cooperative and networked.
- **A place for respite and testing new ideas**
- … but in a constant dialogue and co-creating with the rest of society
- International openness is a prerequisite for quality in all missions.
- The nature and structure of universities will be hybrid combining physical and virtual spaces, synchronous and asynchronous formats, making it ubiquitous.

Sustainability

- Sustainable development as main framework for societal engagement

- Diversity and social cohesion as important parts of the sustainability agenda

- Universities support pluralistic, democratic societies founded on evidence-based debate.

- Universities work for an inclusive, global research and higher education community, contributing to expanding the knowledge for all.

Autonomy

EUA University Autonomy Scorecard: https://www.university-autonomy.eu/

- Universities as autonomous institutions with the capacity to make strategic choices

- Accountable to society at large through university governance, QA and continues dialogue

- Academic freedom is upheld and actively used to participate in societal debates

Universities without walls
A vision for 2030

University missions in 2030

In service of society and grounded in academic core values...

Learning & Teaching

Research

Culture

Innovation

→ uniquely combined in universities

→ equally important

→ intertwinned and mutually enhancing

Turning the vision into practice

Universities without walls
A vision for 2030

Factors for success

- Enabling frameworks

- Adequate investments

- Strong leadership

(Selected) priorities for action

- Reform academic careers

- Promote interdisciplinarity

- Strengthen civic engagement

→ Not a blue print for public policies, but a basis for dialogue about **system transformation**!

The Pathways Project – putting the vision in a context

The Pathways Project took the vision further by asking:

What will change outside universities and how will it influence them?

- **Geopolitics**
- **Digitalisation**
- **Democracy**

Establishing different scenarios for each of these

Geopolitical scenarios

EU-US-China relations as the framework – three scenarios

A tri-partite world (EU-US-China)
- Lower global student mobility
- Difficult international cooperation

Renewed transatlantic partnership
- Universities instrumentalised in a global battle of values
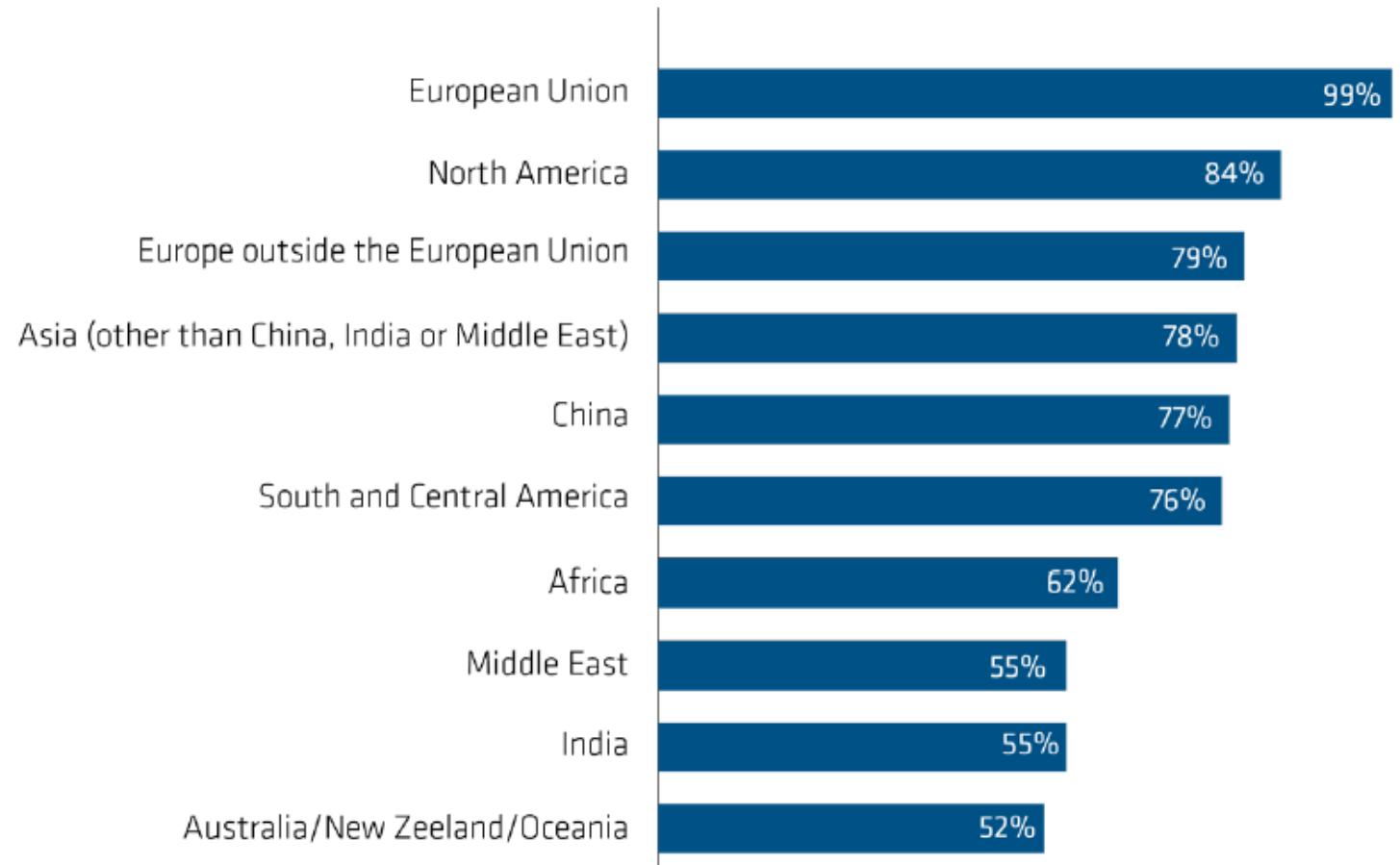- Difficult for universities to 'take sides'

Resurrection of multilateralism
- Truly global world for cooperation
- Need for capacity building and deeper global understanding

Geopolitics – some facts I

Universities are globally connected

International partners' location

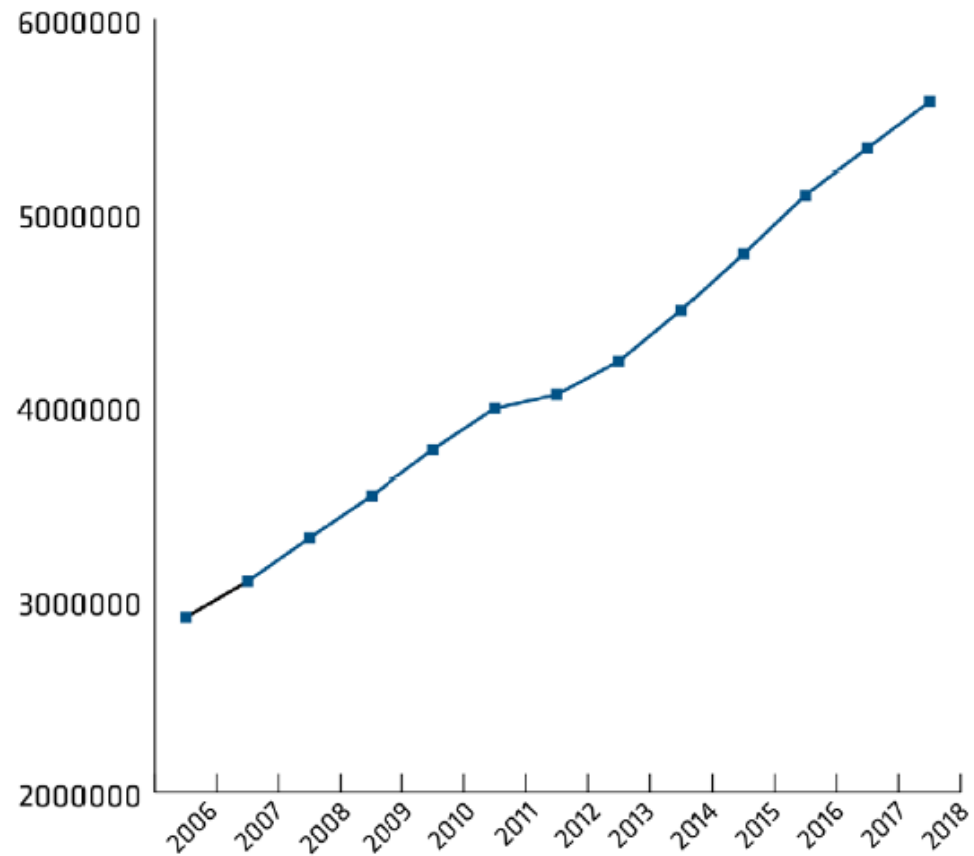| Location	Percentage
European Union	99%
North America	84%
Europe outside the European Union	79%
Asia (other than China, India or Middle East)	78%
China	77%
South and Central America	76%
Africa	62%
Middle East	55%
India	55%
Australia/New Zeeland/Oceania	52%

Source: EUA Survey on international strategic institutional partnerships

Geopolitics – some fact II

Student mobility growth is a long-term trend

Outbound mobile students, world (UNESCO)

Geopolitics – what we thought

Universities' reactions to rigid blocks

- **Arguing for an open world**
- **Under-the-radar science diplomacy**

Trade-off between openness and competition for international students and for research talent

What is happening?

War
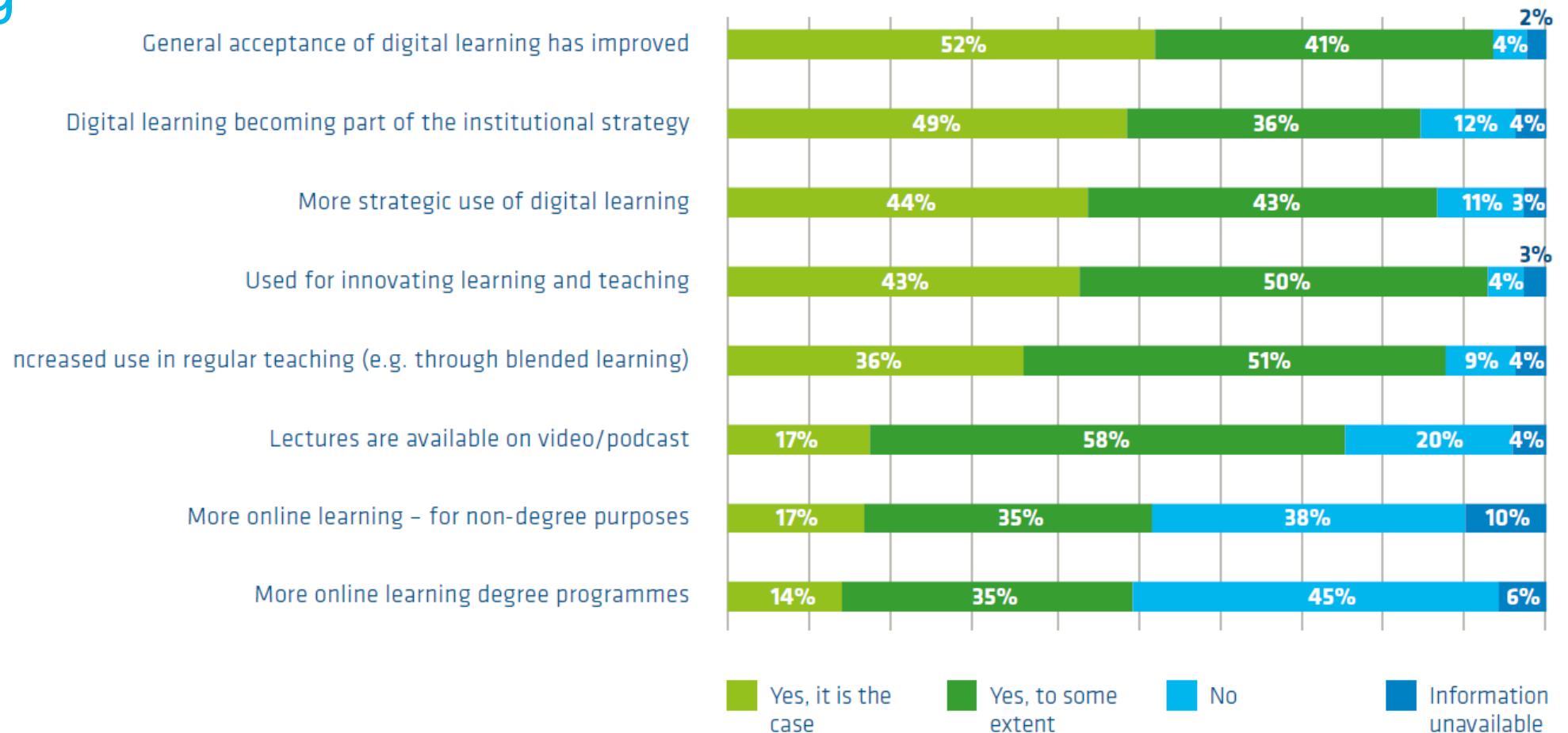- **Sustaining a transatlantic, value-based alliance**
- **Strong commitment from universities – also to cut ties to Russia**
- **Fast development in the EU from economic sanctions to closing Horizon Europe**
- **Official support for the war from Russian rectors (but opposition from students and academics)**

- **Difficult context for under-the-radar science diplomacy**
- **Value-openness trade-off**

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Digitalisation – a discourse in the making

The pandemic was a shift of gear in terms of online and blended learning
- **… but it was probably less of a revolution**

EUA: Trends 2018

	Yes, it is the case	Yes, to some extent	No	Information unavailable
General acceptance of digital learning has improved	52%	41%	4%	2%
Digital learning becoming part of the institutional strategy	49%	36%	12%	4%
More strategic use of digital learning	44%	43%	11%	3%
Used for innovating learning and teaching	43%	50%	4%	3%
Increased use in regular teaching (e.g. through blended learning)	36%	51%	9%	4%
Lectures are available on video/podcast	17%	58%	20%	4%
More online learning – for non-degree purposes	17%	35%	38%	10%
More online learning degree programmes	14%	35%	45%	6%

Scenarios for digitalisation

Scenario 1: AI takes over – jobs disappear
- **Universities smaller and more elitist**
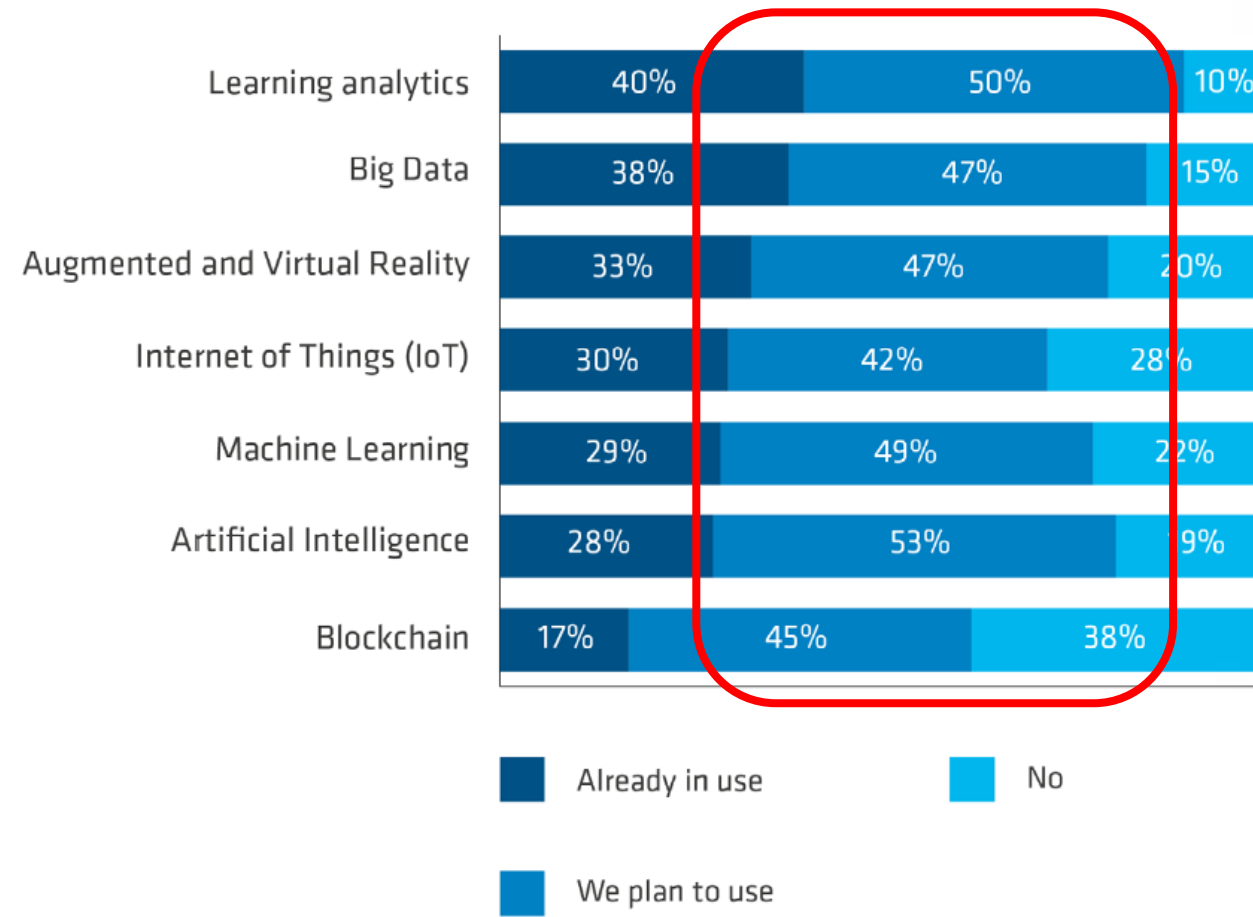
Scenario 2: Jobs change
- **Universities key to re-skilling and upskilling**

Scenario 3: Big tech takes over
- **Universities digitalise their management**
- **Student data becomes a commodity**
- **Big tech begins to take over educational roles**
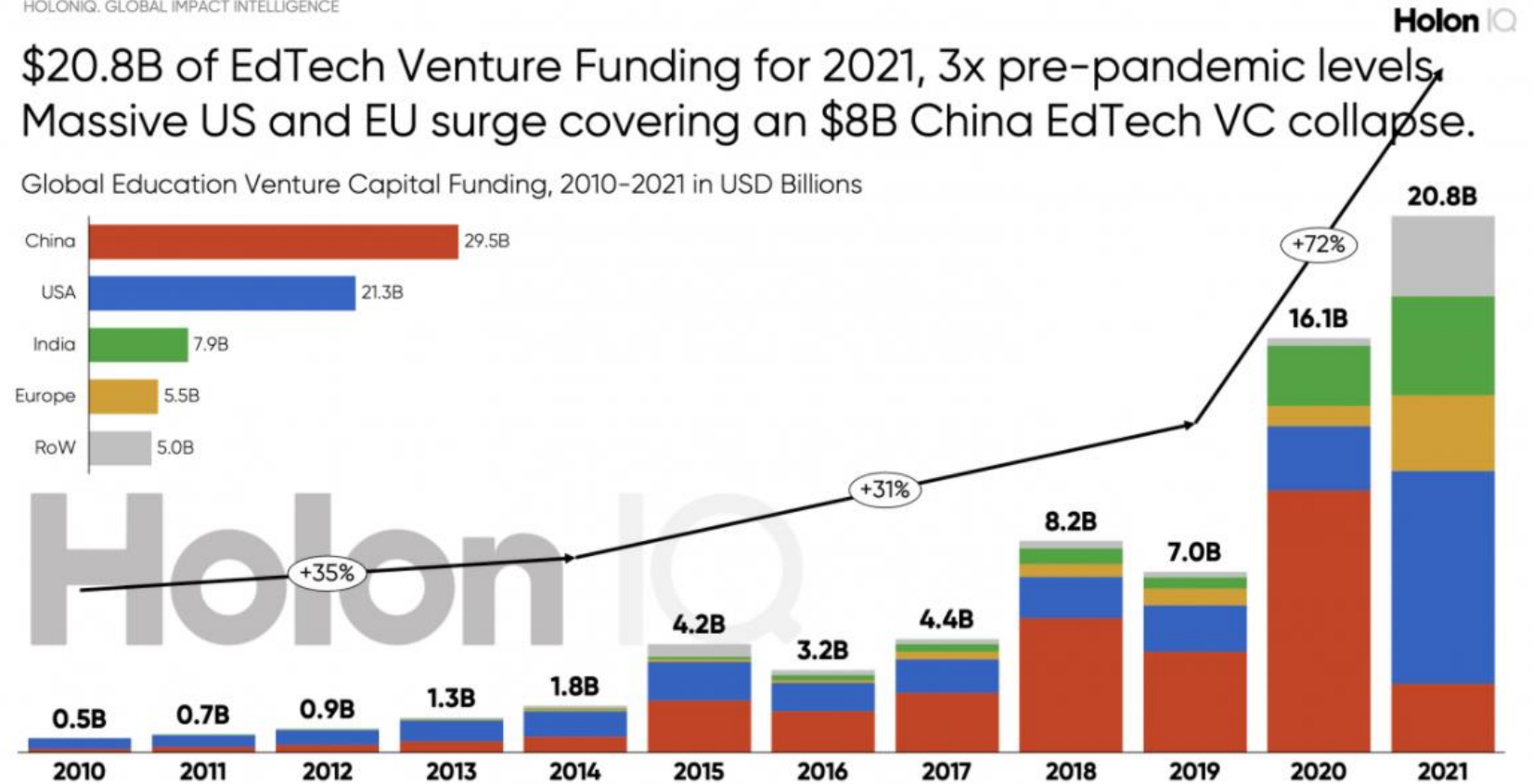
The digitalisation wave might just have begun

	Already in use	We plan to use	No
Learning analytics	40%	50%	10%
Big Data	38%	47%	15%
Augmented and Virtual Reality	33%	47%	20%
Internet of Things (IoT)	30%	42%	28%
Machine Learning	29%	49%	22%
Artificial Intelligence	28%	53%	19%
Blockchain	17%	45%	38%

DIGI-HE report

What is digital can be commodified

HOLONIQ. GLOBAL IMPACT INTELLIGENCE

Holon IQ

$20.8B of EdTech Venture Funding for 2021, 3x pre-pandemic levels. Massive US and EU surge covering an $8B China EdTech VC collapse.

Global Education Venture Capital Funding, 2010-2021 in USD Billions

China — 29.5B
USA — 21.3B
India — 7.9B
Europe — 5.5B
RoW — 5.0B

2010 0.5B
2011 0.7B
2012 0.9B
2013 1.3B
2014 1.8B
2015 4.2B
2016 3.2B
2017 4.4B
2018 8.2B
2019 7.0B
2020 16.1B
2021 20.8B

+35% +31% +72%

Source: HolonIQ, 3 January 2022. All numbers rounded and may not sum exactly due to rounding. All years calculated at historic FX.

www.holoniq.com

Digital academic autonomy

How can universities protect their values and independence in this – onfolding – scenario?

- **Parallels to the academic publishing business**
  - ✓ Universities waking up too late to the fact that professionalism and efficiency outsourced to commercial entities has a cost
- **Challenge to find the balance between using the flexibility and capacity of the market**
- **… while retaining control of university missions, data and values**

Universities and democracy
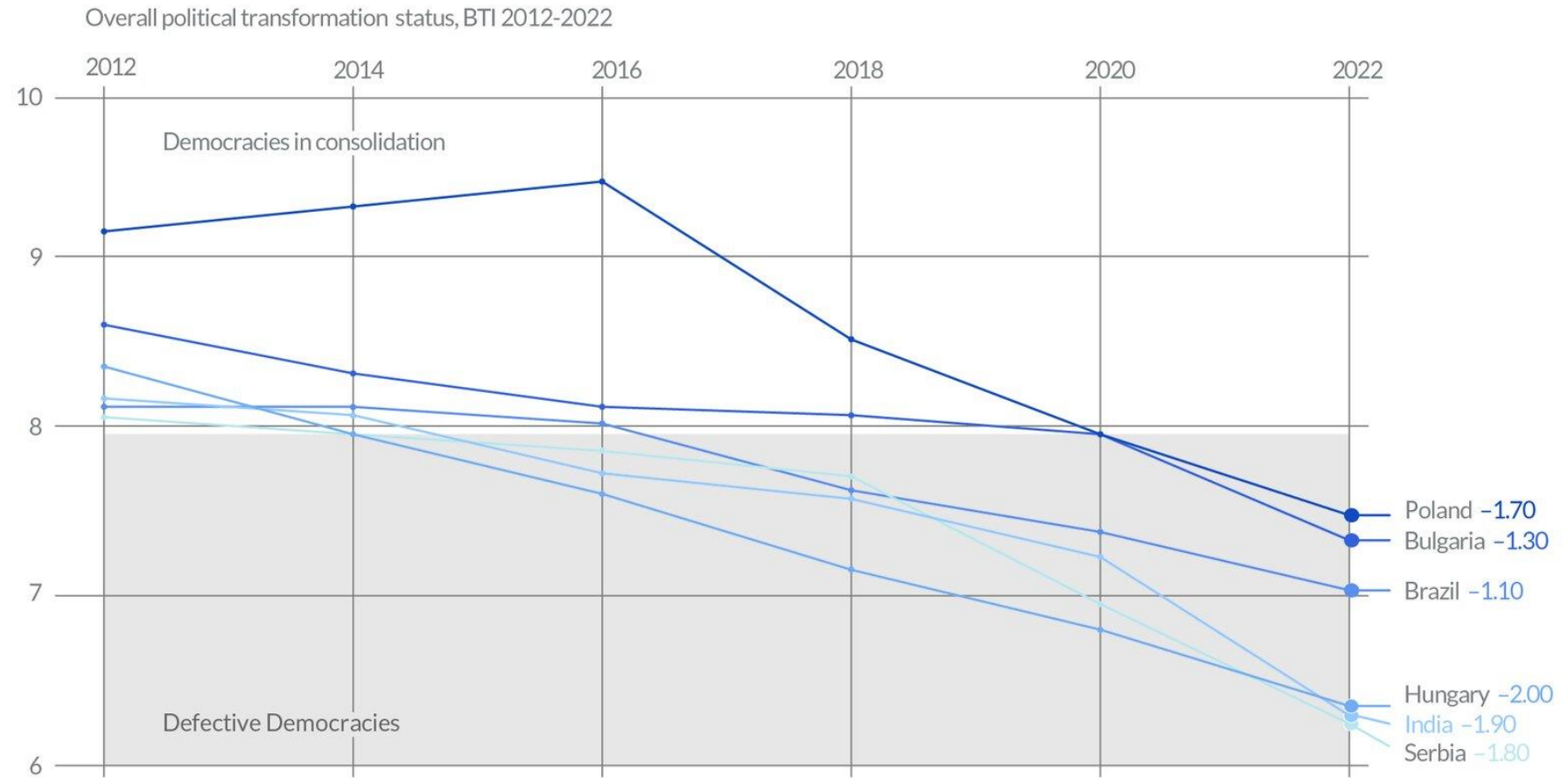
Universities are not democratic institutions

… but
- **Open, sustainable and autonomous universities need democratic structures**
- **Universities need diversity of opinions and free debate**
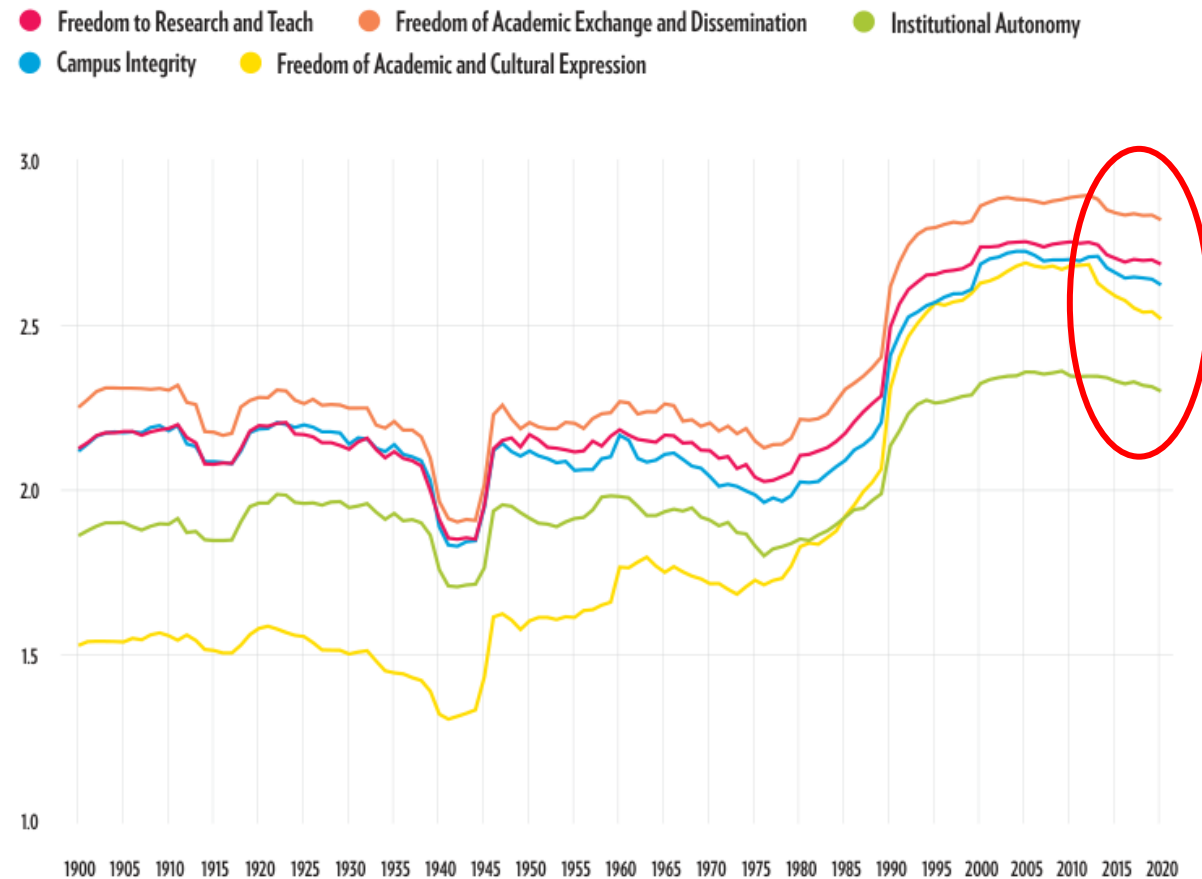- **Universities need creative and critical thinking**

Democracy in decline

Source: Hauke Hartmann and Peter Thiery (2022) Democracy Report

Overall political transformation status, BTI 2012-2022

Democracies in consolidation

Defective Democracies

Poland –1.70
Bulgaria –1.30
Brazil –1.10
Hungary –2.00
India –1.90
Serbia –1.80

Academic freedom follows democracy

Kinzelbach e.a. (2021), Free Universities – Putting the Academic Freedom Index into Action

Legend:
- Freedom to Research and Teach
- Freedom of Academic Exchange and Dissemination
- Institutional Autonomy
- Campus Integrity
- Freedom of Academic and Cultural Expression

Democracy scenarios

Scenario 1: Technocracy

- **Universities reduced to problem solvers**
- **Reproduction of elites**

Scenario 2: Authoritarianism

- **Knowledge production reduced to practical knowledge**
- **Regime reproduction**

Scenario 3: Participatory democracy

- **Challenge of openness and being places of respite**

What role for universities in democracy?

Experts promoting an open, evidence-based debate?

Working actively for civic engagement?

Taking a political stand?

Summary and outlook

We are living in a very fast-paced epoch
- **If you want to think ahead, think fast!**

Universities are dynamic - they have proved that in the pandemic

University voice must be heard outside 'our' areas - and that is a very imminent task

Further reading: Universities without walls

Pathways to the future

Thank you for your attention