

Association of Former UNESCO Staff Members (AFUS)

Memory & Future Club

Monitoring the 4th Sustainable Development Goal on Education (SDG 4)

A talk with **Manos Antoninis**, Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report

Paris, 31 March 2021

We are talking to Manos Antoninis at what is a watershed time for development. We just passed the first decade of the two-decade ambitious Sustainable Development Goals. The past year's COVID pandemic has seen schools shuttered or partially closed on a scale never seen since schooling began. The SDGs are at the same time acutely and urgently pertinent, and also in danger of being somewhat sidelined by day-to-day emergencies.

Furthermore, in recent years worries and doubts have emerged concerning the future of multilateralism, that the COVID pandemic has highlighted. Aid to education is stagnating, national budgets in the poorest countries have been cut back, and may decline, and the increasing diversity of actors and initiatives in education could lead to fragmentation of effort. The universalist foundations of global agendas encounter some skepticism. Heading the team of the Global Education Monitoring report has given Manos Antoninis an excellent perspective on this panorama, and he focuses for us on some of the initiatives that have potential to strengthen progress towards the sustainable development goals.

This interview is held for the Memory and Future Club of AFUS by **Alexandra Draxler**, former Director at UNESCO and NORRAG Senior Advisor, in collaboration with NORRAG - Network for international policies and cooperation in education and training

The banner features a blue and red gradient background. At the top, it displays the logos of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Association of Former UNESCO Staff Members (AFUS), along with the text 'Memory & Future Club'. The main title 'Monitoring the 4th Sustainable Development Goal on Education (SDG 4)' is centered in white text. Below the title, it lists the speakers: 'With Manos Antoninis, Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report and Alexandra Draxler, Senior Advisor for NORRAG'. At the bottom, it includes the NORRAG logo and the text 'In cooperation with NORRAG - Network for international policies and cooperation in education and training' and its French equivalent 'Réseau sur les politiques et la coopération internationales en éducation et en formation'.

Short Biographies



Manos Antoninis is currently the Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report. He joined the Report team in August 2011 from Oxford Policy Management, a development policy consultancy. He has worked as a monitoring and evaluation expert in education sector projects including: a public expenditure tracking and service delivery survey of secondary education provision in Bangladesh; the evaluation of a basic education project in the western provinces of China; the mid-term evaluation of the Education For All Fast Track Initiative; the annual reporting of progress in the implementation of the Second Primary Education Development Project in Bangladesh; a basic education capacity building programme in six states in Nigeria; the evaluation of an in-service, cluster-based teacher

training programme in Pakistan; and the country study of the Out of School Children Global Initiative in Indonesia. He holds a BA in International Economics from the Athens University of Economics and Business and an MSc in Development Economics from the University of Oxford. His DPhil was a study of technical education and the labour market in Egypt, completed at the Centre for the Study of African Economies of the University of Oxford.



Alexandra Draxler is an education specialist. She spent many years at UNESCO and was the Executive Secretary of UNESCO's International Commission for Education in the 21st Century chaired by Jacques Delors, whose report is titled *Learning: the treasure Within* (1996). She is Senior Advisor for NORRAG, the Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and training. She has written about technologies in education, public-private partnerships, and education policies and strategies for development. She is a member of several professional associations, including GIES, and is an Associate Editor of the International Journal of

Educational Development.

The Memory & Future Club of the Association of Former UNESCO staff strives to collect and transmit testimonies of former officials and confront them with current issues in international cooperation. Building on their shared memory, members of this group meet informally with colleagues in charge to exchange freely and find through past experience a better path for the future.