



Berne, 1 December 2017

Going digital in research and education partnerships: opportunities, challenges and risks

Franco Gervasoni

Head of the swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC),
Rector of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

Welcome

to the 1st joint annual conference of the swissuniversities Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC) and the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE)

Digitization is high up on the agenda – in Switzerland...

- **digitalswitzerland** – a large-scale initiative
- **#DigitalDay2017**



... and around the globe

- UN Agenda 2030
- #ICT4SDG



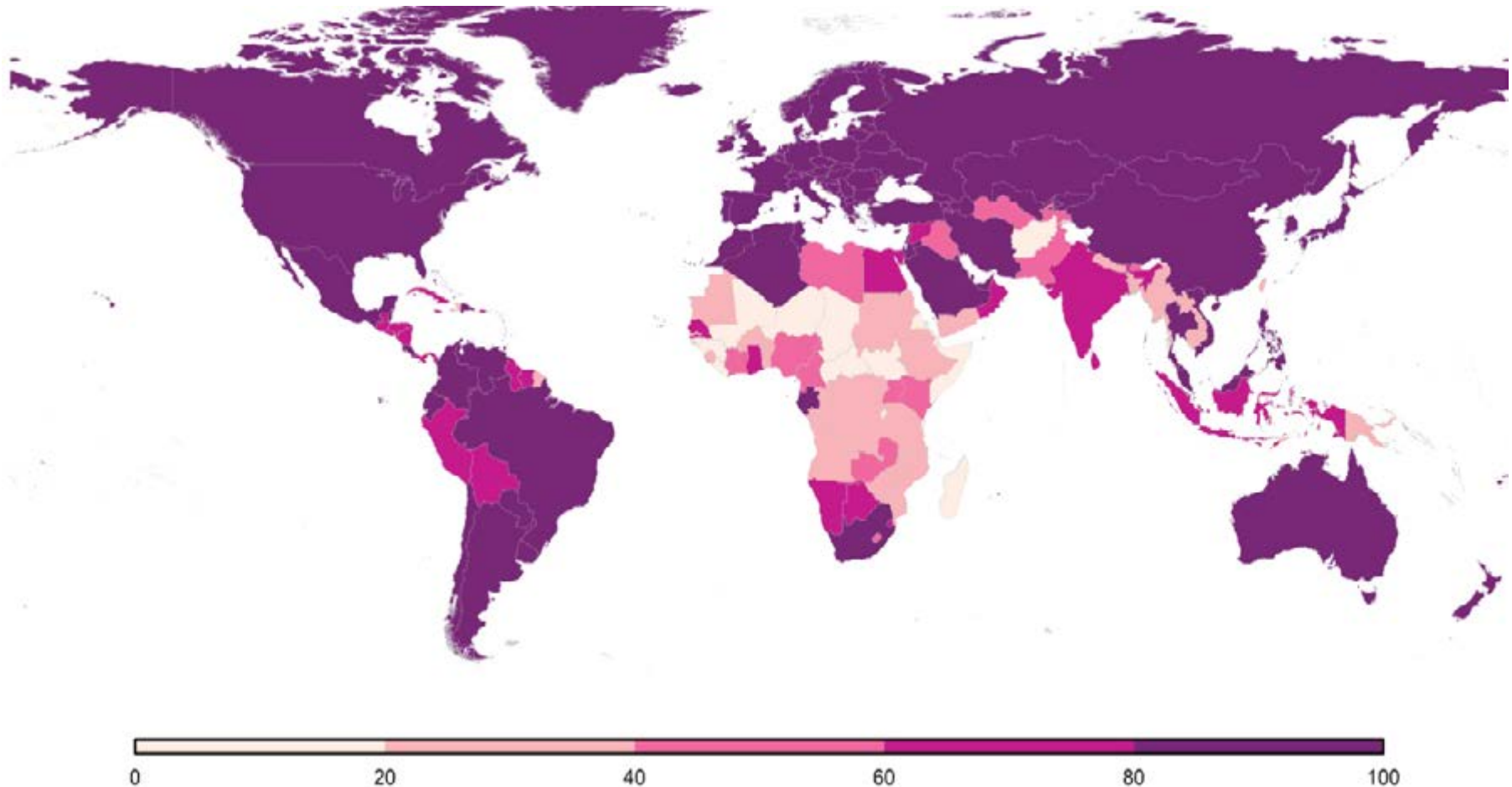
*"Access to information and communication technologies, particularly broadband, has the potential to serve as a **major accelerator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.***

Global interconnectedness is rapidly expanding, however more needs to be done to bridge the digital divide and bring the more than half of the global population not using the Internet into the digital economy,"

International Telecommunication Union ITU
Secretary-General Houlin Zhao in 2016

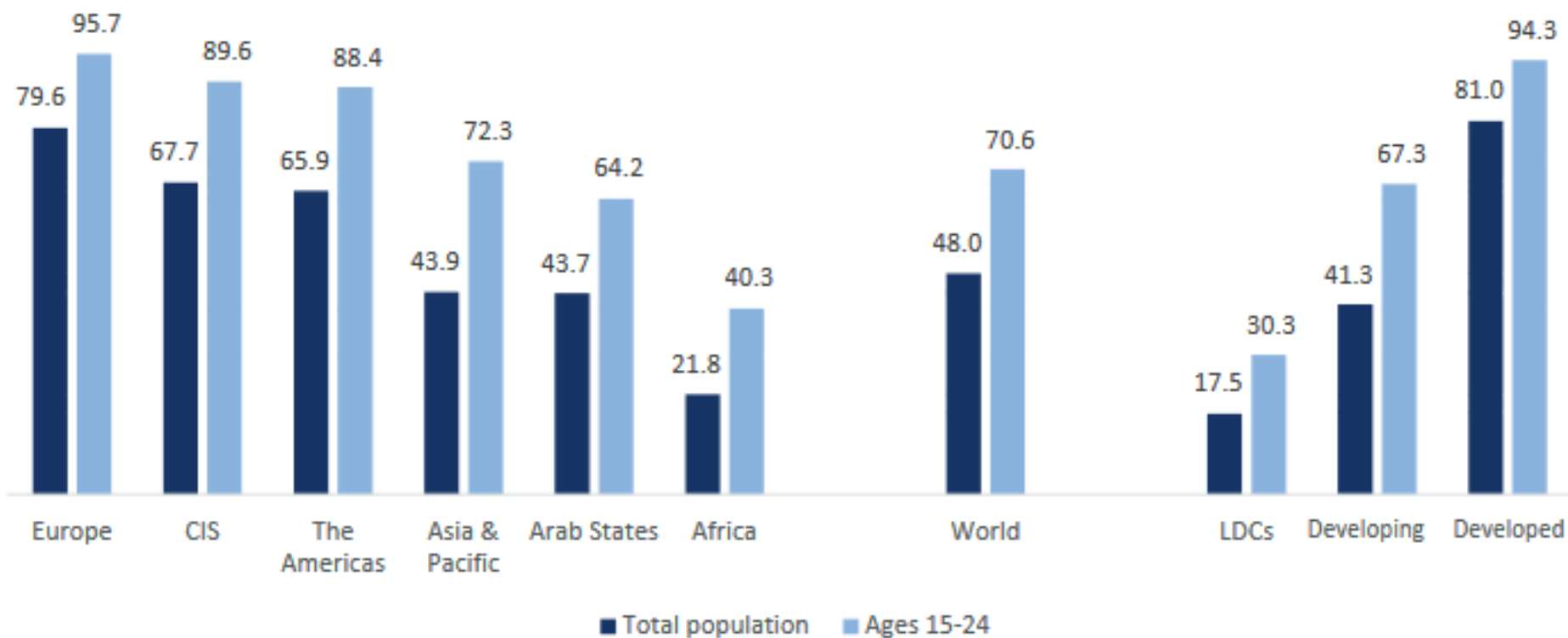
Young Internet users...

Proportion of youth (15-24) using the Internet, 2017 (estimated; ITU 2017)



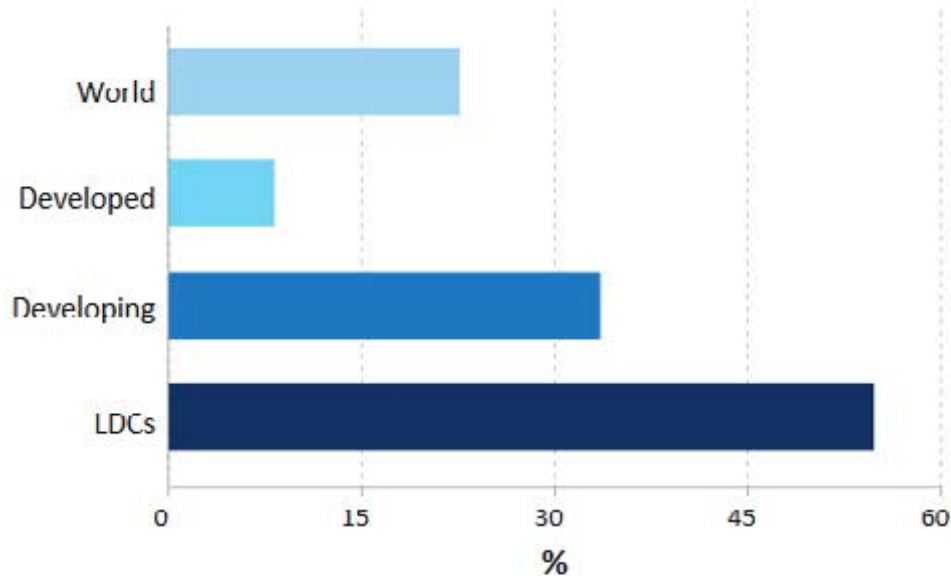
... compared to total population

Proportion of individuals using the Internet, by age in 2017

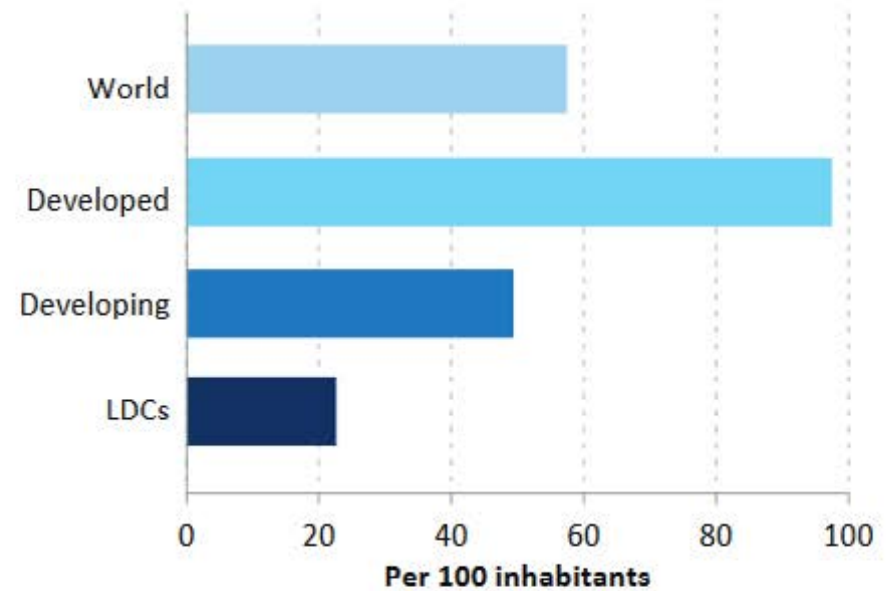


Growth of mobile-broadband subscriptions 2012-2017

Growth of mobile-broadband subscriptions, CAGR, 2012-2017*



Mobile-broadband subscriptions, 2017*



*Compound Annual Growth rate

What role do the Swiss HEI currently play in research and education partnerships?

swissuniversities Development and Co-operation Network (SUDAC)

Funding framework

- Federal project contributions
→ An instrument of the Confederation to support targeted programmes of Swiss-wide relevance in higher education policy.
- Political decision to define development and co-operation as a priority and a mission for Swiss higher education institutions.
- Launch of the SUDAC Programme for a 4-year period (2017-2020) with a total funding of 8 million CHF (50% financed by the Confederation).

Participating Institutions: the Assembly

- **Cantonal universities**

University of Basel

University of Berne

University of Fribourg

University of Zurich

- **Federal Institutes of Technology**

ETH Zürich

- **Universities of Applied Sciences**

Bern University of Applied Sciences BFH

University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland FHO

University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland HESSO

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland SUPSI

- **Universities of Teacher Education**

1 seat for 6 UTE (PH Zürich, PH Graubünden, PH Luzern, PH Schwyz, PH Thurgau, PH Zug)

Objectives

SUDAC has the following four core objectives:

- Improve the framework conditions for Swiss academic institutions active in the fields of education, research and innovation on global issues;
- Enhance cooperation between different types of Swiss academic institutions (Universities/ETH, UAS, UTE) working on global issues;
- Improve the efficiency of educational and research partnerships with academic institutions of the global South;
- Contribute to excellency and innovation in research and education on global issues.

First 4 Consortia for education and research (COFER) selected

COFER of the 1st call

COFER WASH: Consortium for Education and Research in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

(**SUPSI** + FHO-HSR + FHNW + UNINE + PHZG + Swiss-TPH + EAWAG + Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS), Côte d'Ivoire + Jimma University, Ethiopia)

COFER SAS4SD: Science Action in Schools for Sustainable Development

(**ETHZ** + PHLU + UZH + BFH + Ecole Normale Supérieure de l'Université de Yaoundé 1 (ENS), Cameroon + University of Cape Coast, Ghana + University of Education Winneba, Ghana + University of Ghana + Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi, Ghana)

COFER Creating a Framework for Developing Effective Nutrition and One Health Interventions

(**ETHZ** + Swiss-TPH + FHO-St.Gallen + Jigjiga University, Jigjia, Ethiopia + Cayetano University, Heredia, Peru + Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya)

COFER EFORD: Education for Development

(**UNIBAS** + UNIBE + SFIVET + HAFL + TCHE + Birzeit University, Palestine + University of Juba, Juba, South Sudan + Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, Abidjan, Ivory Coast)

What role do digitization and ICT play in this context?

Elements of the 4 COFER:

- Mobile surveillance and response systems
- Data collection and mining
- Mobile-based survey tools
- App development and software engineering
- Massive Open Online Courses
- Educational short films and e-tools

Contact

Head of SUDAC

Franco Gervasoni

Rector

University of Applied Sciences and
Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)

franco.gervasoni@supsi.ch

T +41 58 666 60 02

www.supsi.ch

www.swissuniversities.ch/de/organisation/projekte-und-programme/p-6-swissuniversities-development-and-cooperation-network-sudac

www.swissuniversities.ch

Thank you for your attention!