



CORNERSTONE EU PRESENTS

## Newsletter on European education



Hi all, greetings from cold and dark Finland. **Updates: now we have snow and today the darkness falls upon us 3:37 pm.** Regardless, we stay updated on what's hot in education right now.

Personally, in addition to being super excited about the technological advancements we've made as a society, I am worried about AI and social media affect education and cognitive abilities of children and adults, including myself.

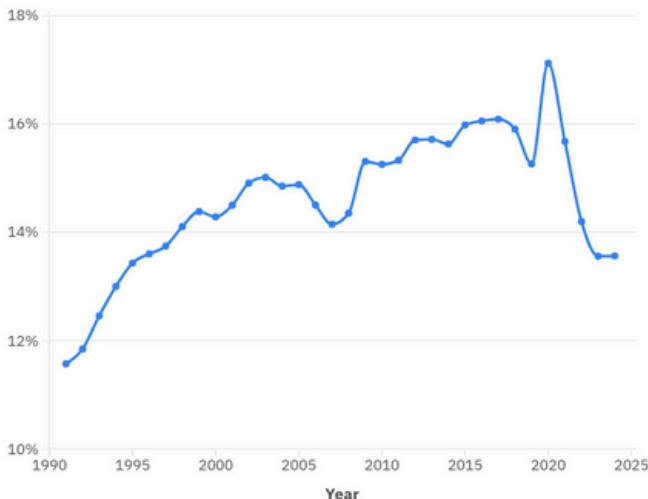
This is exactly the reason I'm having a little social media break for the rest of the year, focusing on slowing down and consuming media mindfully. In the beginning it was hard to start reading books and watching movies again after a long time of consuming fast-paced media, but now it's actually enjoyable.

**Highly recommending all of you to join my one woman anti-brainrot movement** to protect our peace and boost our creativity, wind down and reflect.



## Global youth unemployment

(total % of total labour force ages 15-24)



Source: [World Bank](#)

## OECD – “Global education ‘not aligned with real needs’”

READ NOW: THE OECD REPORT  
**EDUCATION AT A GLANCE**  
2025

## New Study out: Training for Obsolescence? The AI-Driven Education Trap

ANDREW J. PETERSON’S  
ARTICLE AND CALCULATIONS  
ON THE SKILLS-EDUCATION  
MISMATCH (STUDY STILL  
UNDER REVIEW)

*Artificial intelligence simultaneously transforms human capital production in schools and its demand in labor markets.*

**BTW. 6-7 IS THE WORD OF THE YEAR.  
MORE ON BRAINROT IN NEXT WEEK’S  
LETTER, STAY TUNED ;)**



**LINKS TO ALL CITED SOURCES CAN BE FOUND ON A DOCUMENT LINKED BELOW**

## How Social Media and AI contribute to brainrot

NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED A DEEP DIVE ON HOW SOCIAL MEDIA AND AI CONTRIBUTE TO BRAINROTTING

*A medical publication located in San Francisco published a study, where a children’s doctor Jason Nagata co. examined social media usage and found that even an hour a day leads to children performing notably worse in tests related to numbers and literacy and worsen overall cognitive abilities.*

**Excessive use of AI has a direct link to cognitive degeneration and decreased learning abilities.** Students were told to write an essay using AI tools, and afterwards couldn’t cite a single sentence from the text (compared to the control group who could cite many parts of their essay). Also APA confirms brainrot to be a scientific term in addition to the meme value, saying TikTok scrolling can be a significant cause.

## **OECD – “Global education ‘not aligned with real needs’”**

*“Students struggling to find good jobs while employers say they cannot address skills shortages”*

It's been widely discussed how countries are globally facing a growing **mismatch between what educational system provides and what the world really needs**. Students globally and in Europe are struggling to find work, while employers simultaneously struggle to find skilled workers.

The OECD report Education at a Glance 2025 (a good read btw). The report shows a concerning statistic: among adults, many lack basic literacy or numeracy skills, regardless of educational level. For example: *“among adults without upper secondary education, 61% scored at or below Level 1”* (which is not a good level, actually it's the worst) in literacy, among those with tertiary attainment, 13% still scored at or below this level. Only 42% reach level 3. **Are you one of them?**

Press release of the report warns that *“persistent skills mismatches impose real costs on wages and productivity and affect individual well-being”*. Also the recent European Education and Skills Summit highlighted Europe's skills crisis, underlining that traditional education systems struggle to keep pace with rapidly changing labour-market demands (digital transformation, green transition, AI).

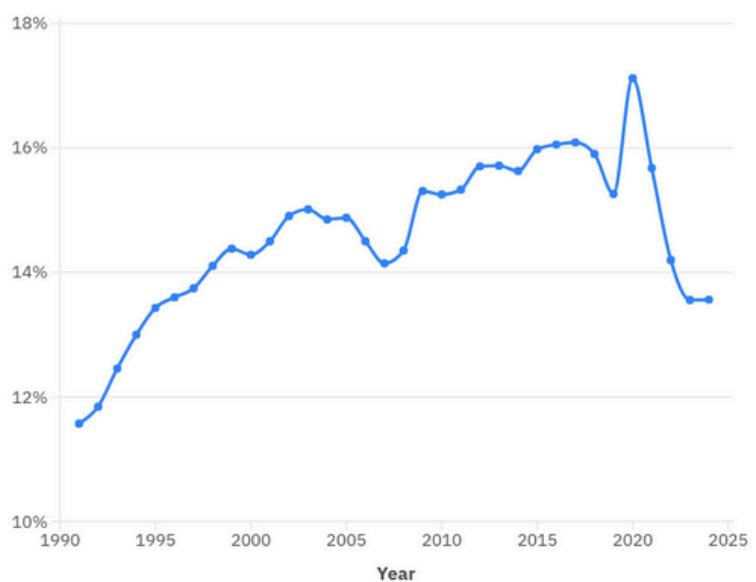
**What could be the skills employers are looking for?** AI literacy and literacy skills in general, critical thinking skills, adaptability and communication skills to start with. I know, just copy paste it on your CV, good luck for the job search friends!

***TLDR; We need new skills, but no one seems to know what those skills are and how to train teachers, students and current employees to match the job market which leads to stagnation and insecurity. Gen Z seems to be screwed, although it's not only AI but just reduced cognitive abilities in general.***

## RELEVANT SUMMARY: EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2025 | OECD

### Global youth unemployment

(total % of total labour force ages 15-24)



Source: World Bank

- Educational attainment is at a record high: a large portion of young adults in OECD countries now complete tertiary education.
- Nevertheless, **high educational attainment does not reliably translate into high proficiency in basic skills.**
- For tertiary-educated adults, employability depends heavily on field of study + numeracy proficiency. In other words: both what you studied and your actual skill level matter. (Wow, kind of makes sense...)
- The report warns that expanding access to education (more degrees) is not sufficient alone, but educational systems must also ensure skill development



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