



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE  
FINLAND

# Virtual Morning Coffee: Vision Work for Higher Education and Research

Tuesday 25.09.2025

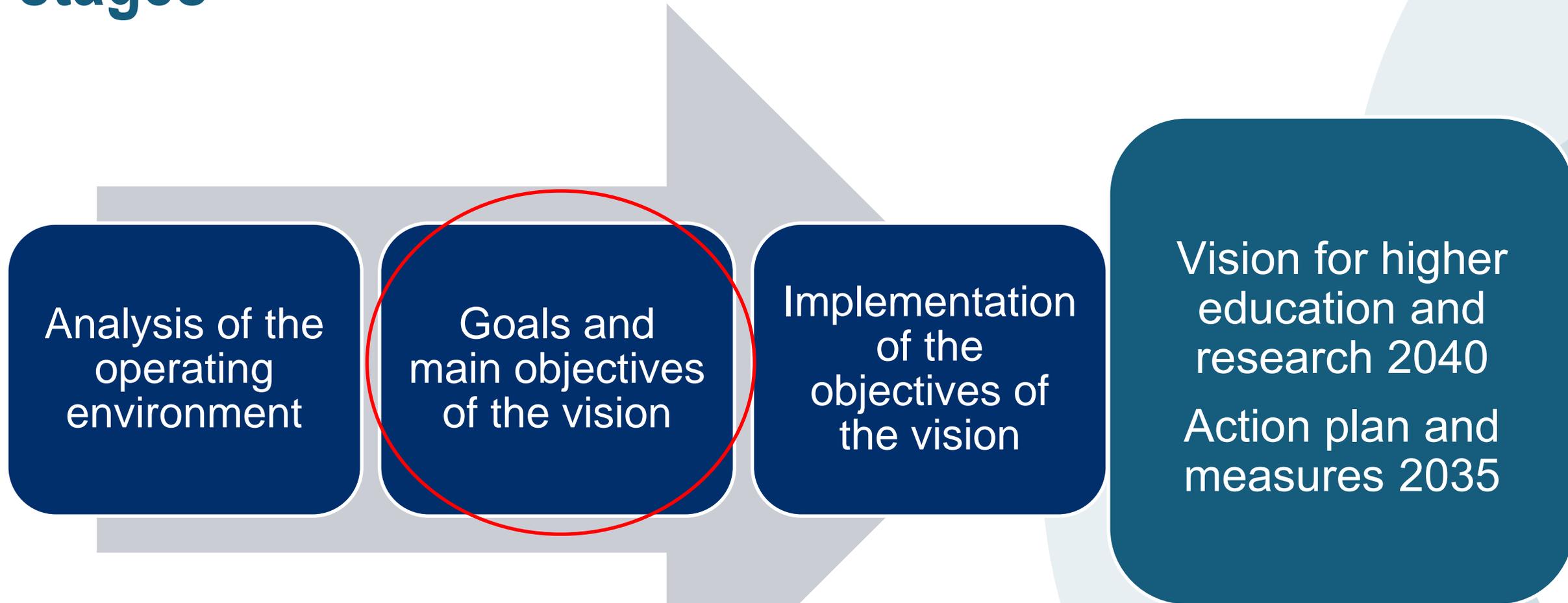


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# Overview of the progress of the vision preparation

Senior Ministerial Adviser Samuli Maxenius

# Working together with stakeholders in three stages



# Vision for higher education and research in 2030 (from 2017) – main objectives

**50 %**

**50 % of young adults from 25- to 34-year-olds have a tertiary degree**

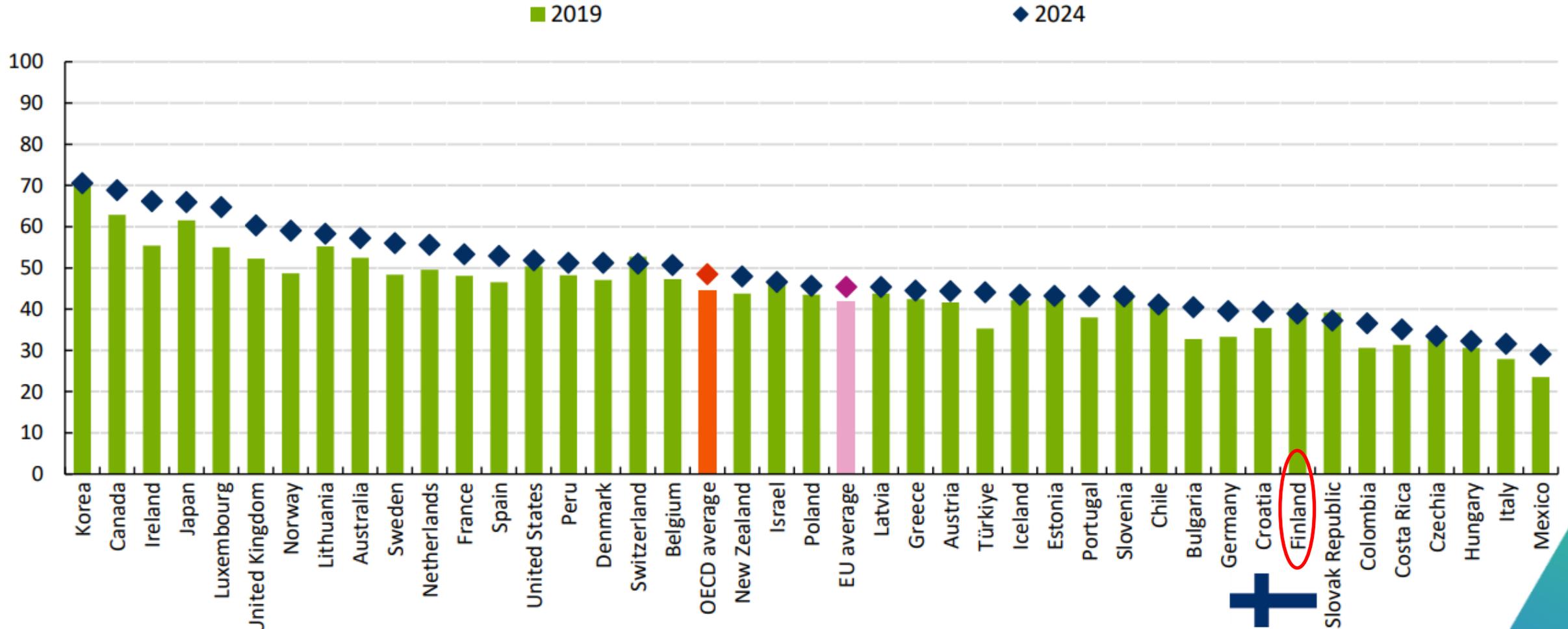
**4 %**

**4 % of GDP allocated to R&D.  
Public funding accounts for 1/3.**



# Finland is one of the few countries with declining tertiary attainment

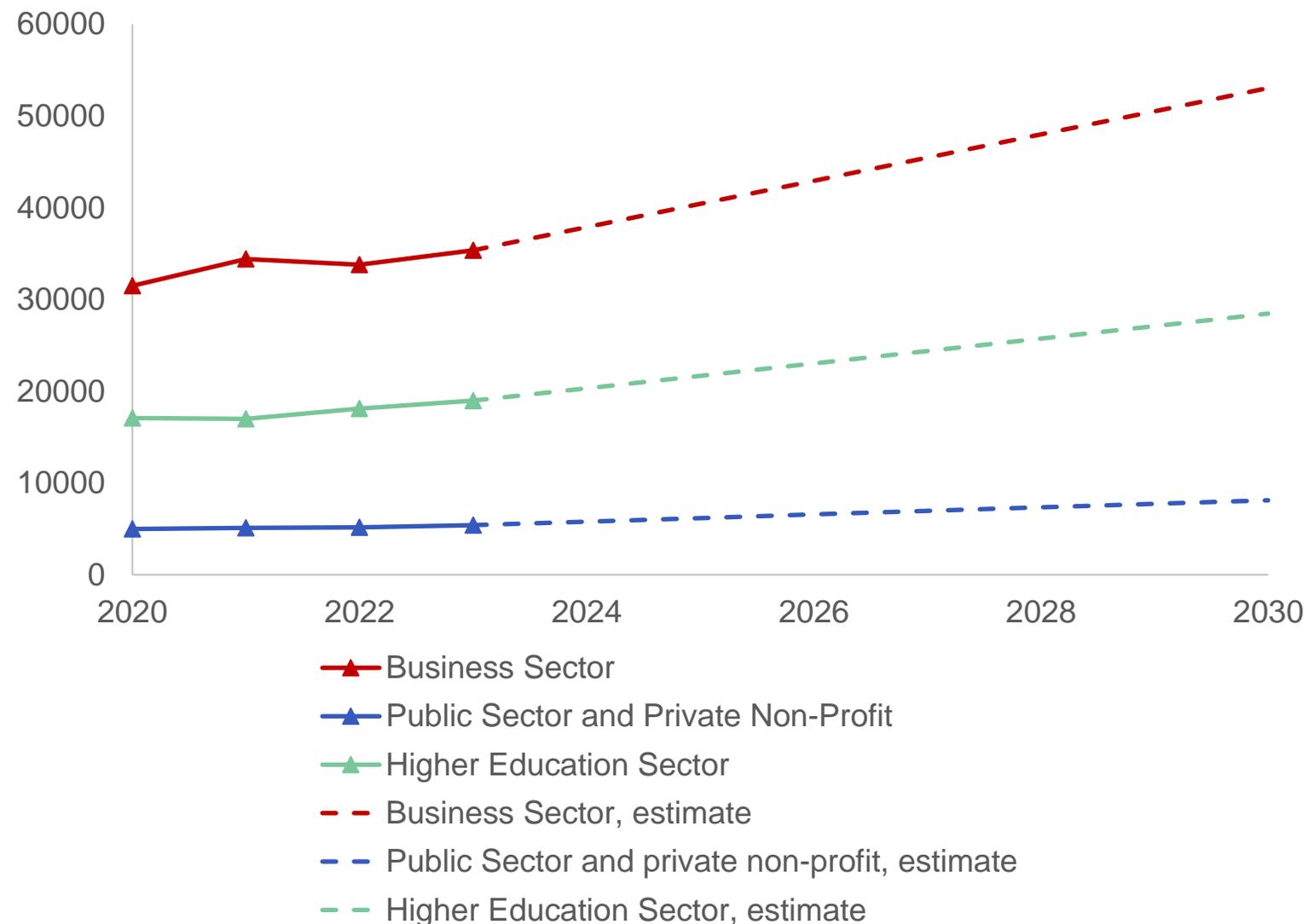
## Trends in the share of 25-34 year-olds with tertiary attainment (2019 and 2024)



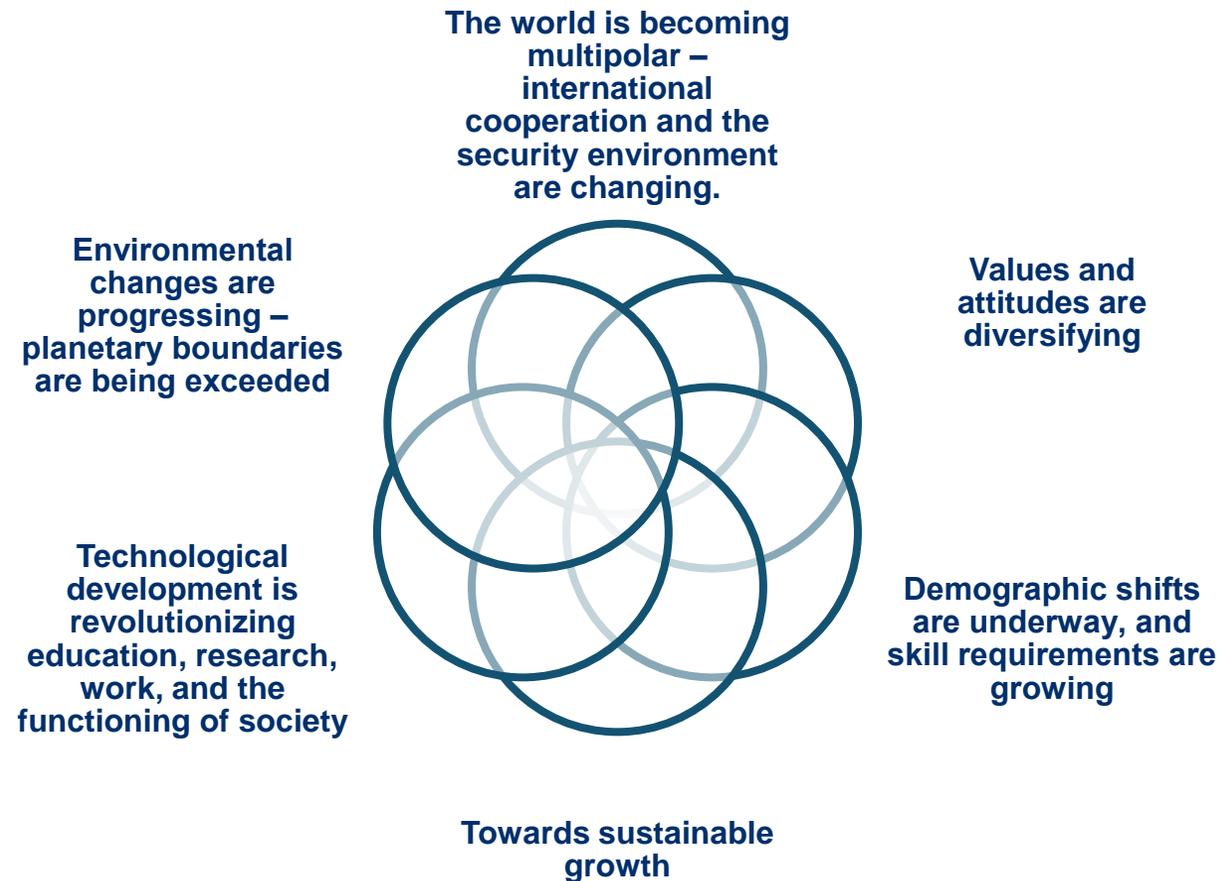
# A more R&D-intensive society: We need more and better trained R&D personnel

- The amount of R&D funding is growing the most and fastest in business-led R&D activities
- The need for R&D personnel is growing 90 000 >> 140 000 by the end of 2030.

Scenario 1: The cost structure and sector division of R&D activities correspond to the current situation.



# Factors driving changes in operating environment



# Challenges in higher education and science policy 1/2

-  **Demographic structure is changing** – youth age groups are shrinking in all regions, and the population is concentrating in large cities.
-  **Higher education funding is in transition** – public funding is not keeping up with targets, the funding base of higher education institutions has not been successfully broadened, and increases in public R&D funding have been directed mainly to the business sector.
-  **Raising the level of education and competence is critical**, especially for the R&D system – the 50% target is still far off.
-  **Competition for international talent is intensifying** – the ability of society and working life to integrate international experts will determine success.
-  **Responsible internationalization is important** – research and education cooperation, as well as talent recruitment, requires new kinds of expertise.

# Challenges in higher education and science policy 2/2

-  **Technological transformation is changing the playing field** – international education offerings challenge Finnish higher education institutions.
-  **Artificial intelligence** – creates opportunities, but also risks that demand new and responsible forms of research and pedagogy.
-  **Skills needs are evolving rapidly** – higher education must respond in an agile and high-quality manner.
-  **Changes in the labor market require increased continuous learning opportunities** – can higher education institutions meet the challenge with their current structure and resources.
-  **Expansion of higher education and research, but not at the expense of quality** – quantitative growth is important, but content and quality are decisive.

# Second phase of vision process

- The steering group responsible for guiding the preparation of the vision has met regularly since the beginning of the year.
  - The Minister of Science and Culture leads the steering group
- The parliamentary monitoring group began its work in September
  - The aim is to provide input for the preparation and commit the parties to the vision's goals.
- Public Vision Webinars Continue. We will continue the open-to-all vision webinars and engage in discussions about the vision at stakeholder-specific events.
- Vision Seminar for the Higher Education Community and Stakeholders – October 10 in Helsinki
- Seminar for the Leadership of Higher Education Institutions and Research Institutes – November 26–27, 2025 in Vaasa
  - Vision goals are being finalized before seminar
- We will begin defining actions to achieve the goals of the vision.



Goals and  
main objectives  
of the vision

# Discussion

1. What needs to be done to ensure that higher education and researched-based knowledge are the cornerstones of society in 2040?
  - a) What issues should be prioritized in the future vision?
  - b) How can the higher education and research system operate more efficiently than it does today?
2. In what ways should the quality and international attractiveness of Finnish higher education and research be enhanced?
  - a) What factors contribute to integration into the higher education community, Finnish society and working life?



# Thank you!