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# Developing a research network to explore education in the wake of Covid-19: a report on work in progress



**Dr Priyank Shukla (Ulster University) & Dr Elizabeth Hidson (University of Sunderland)**

**Representing the Comparative and Interdisciplinary Education Research Network (CIERN)**



**This presentation is given on behalf of the members of the Comparative and Interdisciplinary Education Research Network (CIERN), which brings international interdisciplinary and education researchers to work on topics relating to education broadly captured under United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4).**

**The network was created through a 2021-2022 Research Networking Grant awarded by BAICE.**

# Background

- Developing an international **collective** of experienced and early career researchers
- ISA – Institute of Advanced Studies, **Bologna** and link to SDG4
- **BAICE** application
  - CIERN Network – the process
  - Research – the outcomes



Establishing the network



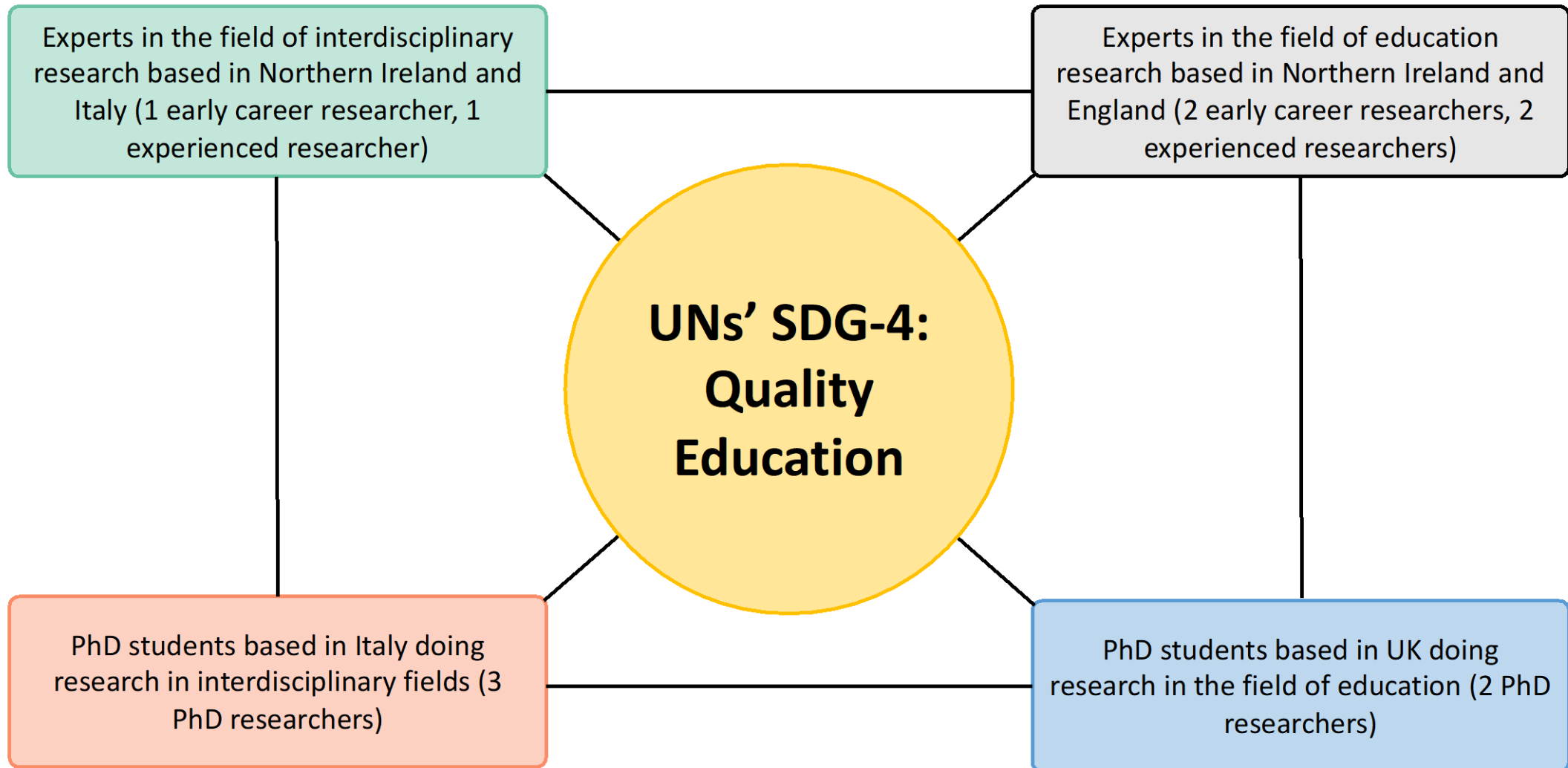
ISA Bologna



Network



Research





# Meet the team: academics



**Dr Priyank Shukla**  
Ulster University, Northern  
Ireland



**Dr Elizabeth Hidson**  
University of Sunderland,  
England



**Professor Stephen McClean**  
Ulster University, Northern  
Ireland



**Dr Sara Ganassin**  
Newcastle University, England



**Professor Patrizia Fattori**  
University of Bologna, Italy



**Dr Una O'Connor Bones**  
Ulster University, Northern  
Ireland

# Interdisciplinary PhD students

**Ms Sidra Asghar\***

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Ms Emma Jackson\***

*University of York, England*

**Ms Benoite Martin\***

*Ulster University, Northern  
Ireland*

**Ms Amirdhavarshini**

**Padmanabhan**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Mr Abdelmagid Sakr**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Ms Iuliia Selivanova**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Ms Olga Trunova\***

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Ms Dora Tot**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Mr Christos Tseronis**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

**Ms Masayo Watanabe**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

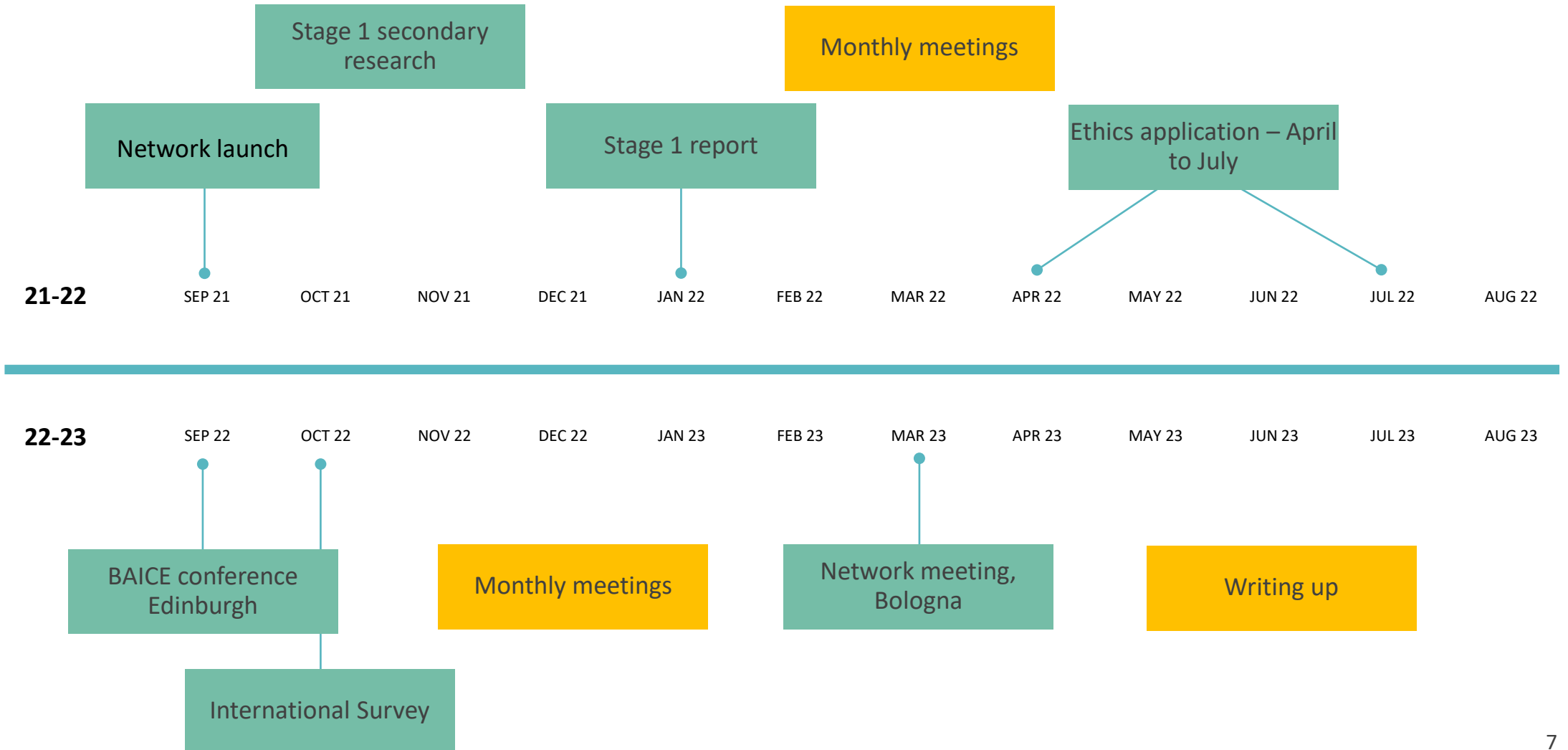
**Ms Xin Zhang**

*University of Bologna, Italy*

Linguistics, Biotechnology, Global Histories, Cultures and Politics, Future Earth, Climate Change and Societal Challenges, Graeco-Arabic studies, collaboration between private and public entities, governance of Smart Cities and sustainable development goals, SDG4, early detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma, behavioural and experimental economics, the introduction of new educational policies by Kurdish Authorities in North-East Syria, applied human rights ...



# Timeline



# Substantive research

- Giving **purpose** to the network
- **Educative** process
- Learning through and from the **process**
- Substantive research **outcomes**

## Stage 1

Published secondary data from the government and education bodies of different countries studied to identify key findings and trends in relation to the pandemic-related reversal and recovery.

## Stage 2

Follow-up qualitative interviews with representative stakeholders

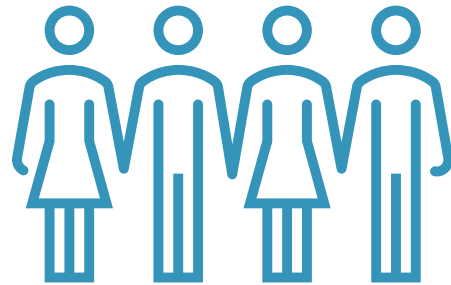
## Stage 3

Data analysis; mixed methods visual joint display analysis, where statistics and qualitative findings are merged for a side-by-side comparison

# Research model



Initial secondary  
data



Report, conference  
(& forum paper)



International survey



Collaborative  
journal article



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

**1** NO POVERTY

**2** ZERO HUNGER

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

**13** CLIMATE ACTION

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

**15** LIFE ON LAND

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



SCHOOL CLOSURES KEPT

**90% OF ALL STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL**

REVERSING YEARS OF PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

REMOTE LEARNING REMAINS  
**OUT OF REACH FOR**  
AT LEAST  
500 MILLION STUDENTS





4 QUALITY EDUCATION



## ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

HAS DEEPEINED A

**GLOBAL LEARNING CRISIS**

147 MILLION CHILDREN

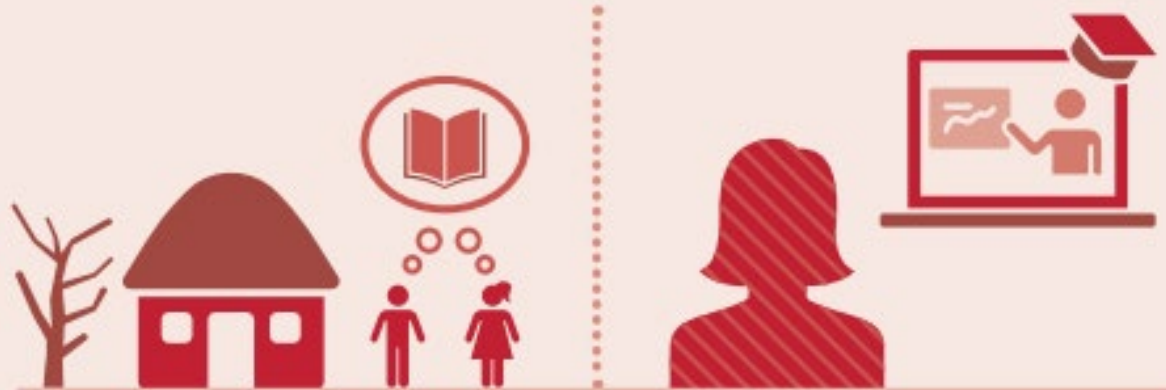
MISSED OVER HALF

OF IN-PERSON  
INSTRUCTION

IN 2020-2021



**ENTRENCHED INEQUITIES** IN EDUCATION HAVE  
**ONLY WORSENE**D DURING THE PANDEMIC



OECD.org    Data    Publications    More sites    News    Job vacancies

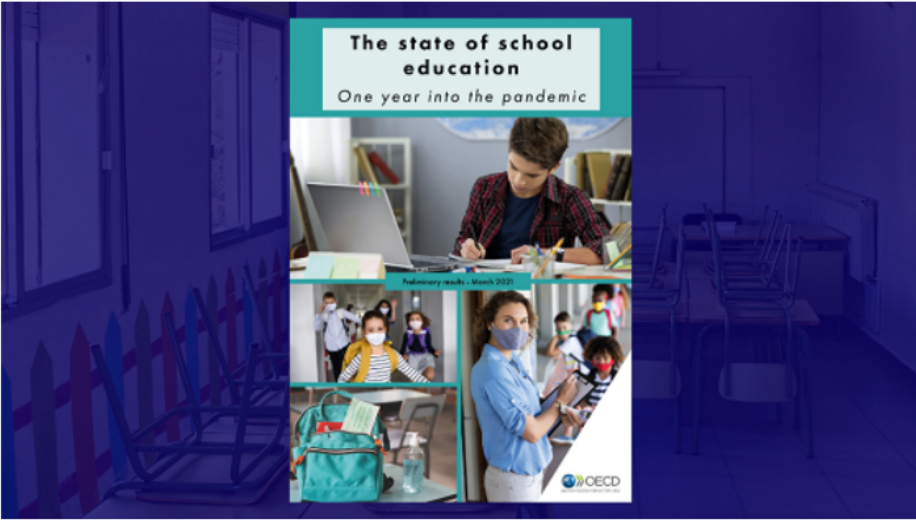
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[OECD Home](#) > [Education](#) > The state of education - one year into the COVID pandemic

## The state of education - one year into the COVID pandemic

**READ THE FULL REPORT**



**The state of school education**  
*One year into the pandemic*

In 2020, 1.5 billion students in 188 countries/economies were locked out of their schools. Students everywhere have been faced with schools that are open one day and closed the next, causing massive disruption to their learning.

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic still raging, many education systems are still struggling, and the situation is constantly evolving.

The OECD – in collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF and The World Bank – has been monitoring the situation across countries and collecting data on how each system is responding to the crisis, from school closures and remote learning, to teacher vaccination and gradual returns to in-class instruction.

This report presents the preliminary findings from this survey, providing a snapshot of the situation one year into the COVID crisis.

[Read the full report on the OECD iLibrary](#)

**Blogs**

- >> [Repeating the school year not the answer to COVID learning losses: Andreas Schleicher](#)
- >> [The state of education - one year into COVID](#)





Elizabeth Hidson + 9 • 7mo

### Post-Covid Education Project

An interactive Padlet map to show and share initial selection of countries for our project

Syria  
Syria

South Korea  
South Korea

Egypt  
Egypt

China  
Post Covid-19 Education in China

Croatia  
Croatia

Γαλλία  
France Γαλλία

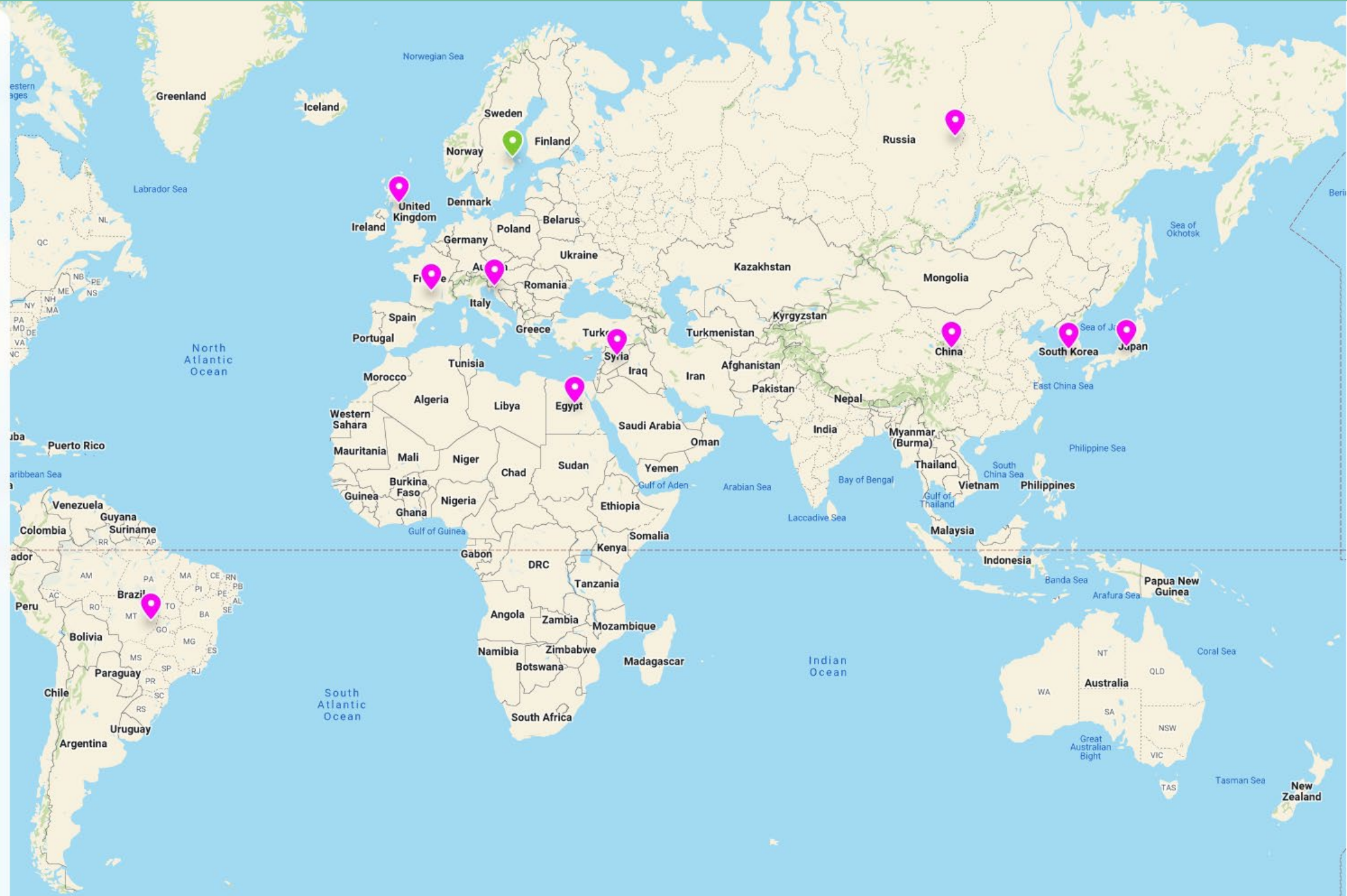
Brazil  
Brazil

日本  
Japan 日本

Россия  
Russia

Sweden  
Sweden

United Kingdom  
United Kingdom



# Personal and professional interest

- Baseline of the 2020-2021 school year, working from Jan 2020 as the beginning point of the **pandemic**
- Starting by **disaggregating** and exploring published secondary data
- **What is happening now** and what are the plans to address education post-Covid? Has Covid **UNDONE** any previous gains?
- Re-applying a **critical lens** to individual countries and exploring their contexts
- Preliminary report to identify **key themes**

# Interim findings

- Three major **themes** emerging from initial review
- Thematic **heat map**
- **Interview protocol** underpinning the second stage of the research to be carried out with teachers in each of the ten countries
- International **survey**



interrupted  
education



differential  
inequalities



digital poverty



# Next steps

- BAICE Compare Journal - **forum paper** – “an informed and critically reflective contribution to a topic drawing from different experiences, which may include researcher and practitioner.”
- International **survey**
- Follow-up semi-structured online **interviews**
- This will allow for a series of triangulated international **case studies** to illuminate high-level quantitative data using a mixed methods **joint display** analysis approach
- Face-to-face meeting in **Bologna** to review data and work on findings
- Collaborative **article**

# The work of the network continues

- **Opened** recruitment to new ISA students
- **Broadened** the scope to include more academics
- **Wider** range of invited guest speakers
- **Alignment** with other SDG work at University of Bologna
- **Expanding** the reach

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COMPARATIVE AND  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
EDUCATION RESEARCH  
NETWORK



<https://ciernetwork.wordpress.com/>

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