## <u>Life after Covid-19 – Education</u>

Written by: Nele Krüning

The spread of the virus Covid-19 currently changes the life of millions of people around the world. But the changes won't stop after the pandemic. Health care, economy and job markets will most likely have to face drastic changes. But the most affecting changes for students will be in the education system. In the last few weeks school has slowly started in a more familiar manner. The first changes we noticed were the smaller classes. But this will only be a short-term effect. However, there will be many changes on the long-run concerning our education system.

Firstly, I think, the task of teachers is going to change. Passing on knowledge to the students was a big part of a teacher's tasks. However, with smartphones and tablets students are able to gain access to information with just a few clicks. Teacher's will have to, even more, focus on conveying skills such as time-management. This has been a growing task for the past few years, however this becomes even more important, when learning without a teacher present or working from home could become a permanent part of the education system.

Moreover, the usage of digital tools at home as well as in class will most likely increase. In times of lockdown and social distancing students received homework and material via various networks. In my opinion this is going to continue, due to the comfort of this option of providing students with material, specialised on the current topics. There would be no need for teachers and students to take everything to class anymore, when all material needed is saved on a file and one just needs a password to unlock it. Another benefit of an enhanced usage of digital material is that in case of sickness teachers as well as students could access the needed information.

Furthermore, the time we spend physically in school could decrease. Home-schooling via video conference might become part of our timetables. As we have seen in the last few weeks, giving lessons through video conferences, is a practical way of bypassing spatial differences, in case of sickness. Additionally, holding video classes can prepare students for a work life, where conferences or meetings cross-borders take place on a regular basis. However, physical appearance in class is going to stay the main part of our education system. Yet doing assignments at home and doing video classes could become a supporting part to our current system.

In conclusion, I think that we will face many changes in education as well as in other parts of our life. We have seen in the last few weeks various ways of teaching and although school is slowly going to go back to normal, I think we will adapt a system, where digital classes, home-schooling and regular classes go hand in hand with each other.