



Media and
Communications



DiSTO
From digital skills
to tangible outcomes

Socio-digital inequalities: Lessons learned and the road ahead.

Prof Ellen J Helsper

Media and Communications Department

London School of Economics and Political Science

@ellenhel / e.j.helsper@lse.ac.uk

@DiS2O <https://www.lse.ac.uk/media-and-communications/research/research-projects/disto>

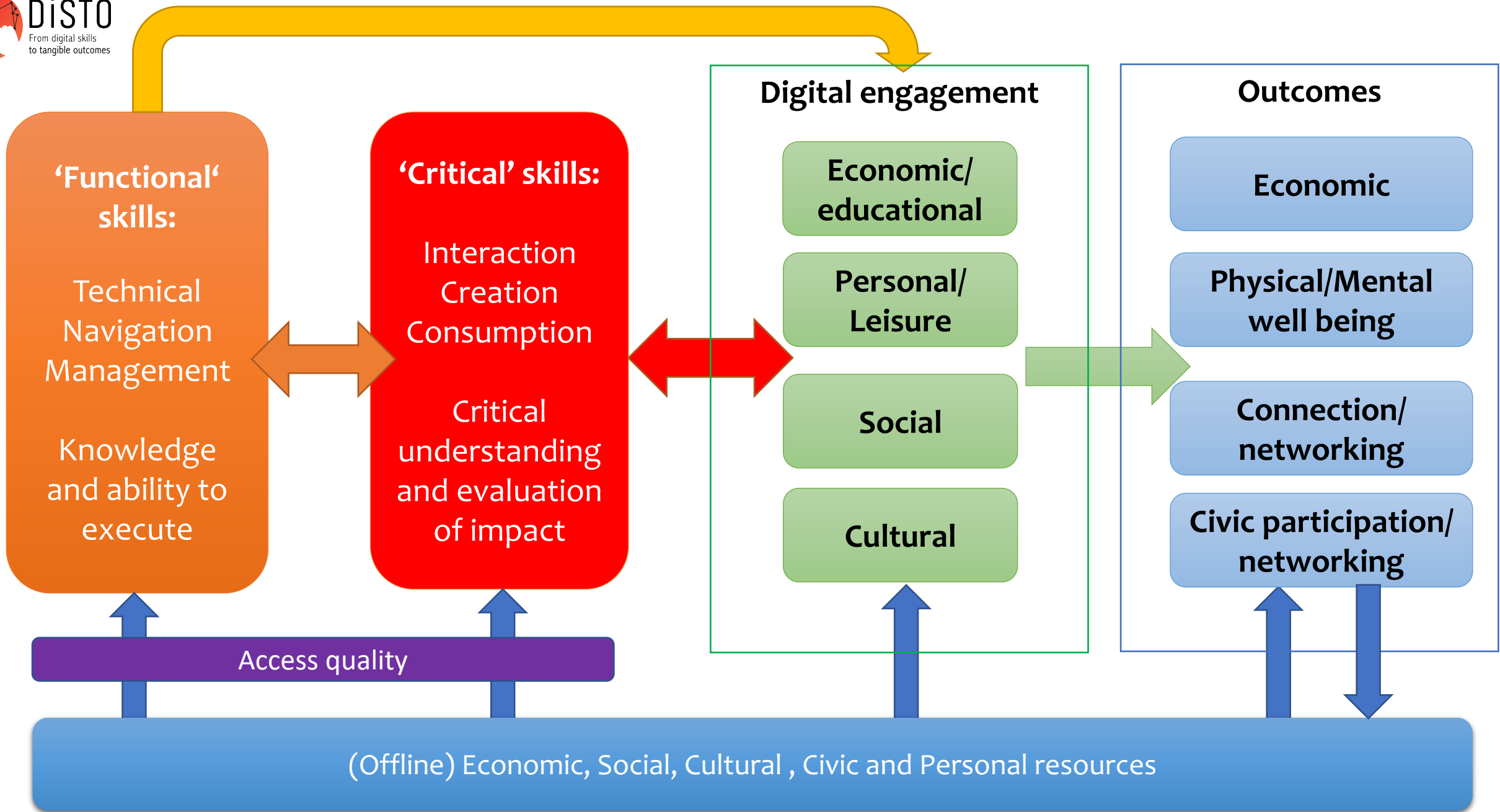
@Yskills_EU <https://yskills.eu/>



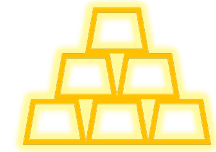
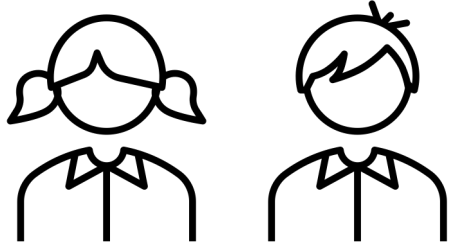
Digital Literacy

Systematic differences in
the **opportunity and ability** to use ICTs
(or decide **not** to use them)
in ways that allow individuals to obtain **beneficial outcomes**
across **all domains** of everyday life
and avoid **negative outcomes**
now and in the **future**.

(Helsper, 2018)



Social-digital inequality amongst youth: Digital self-confidence and skill levels



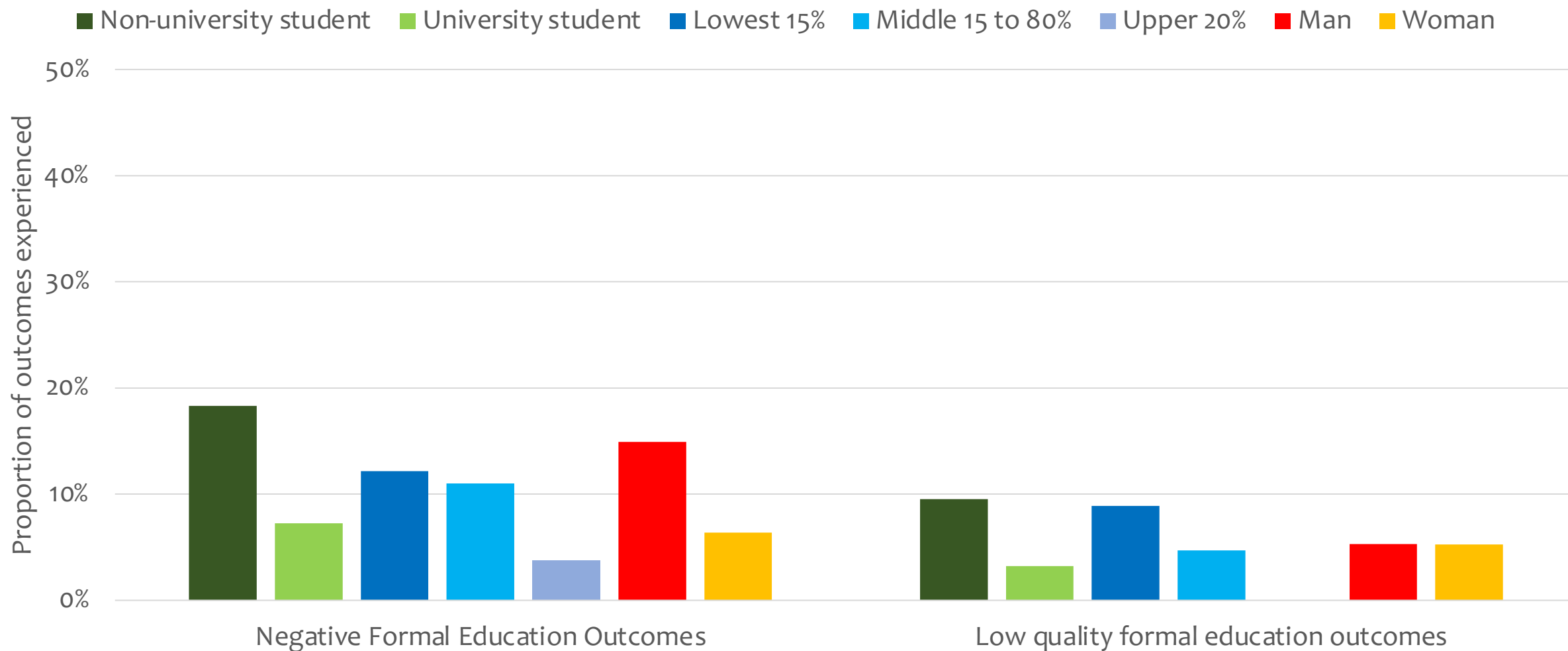
Self-confidence



Skills

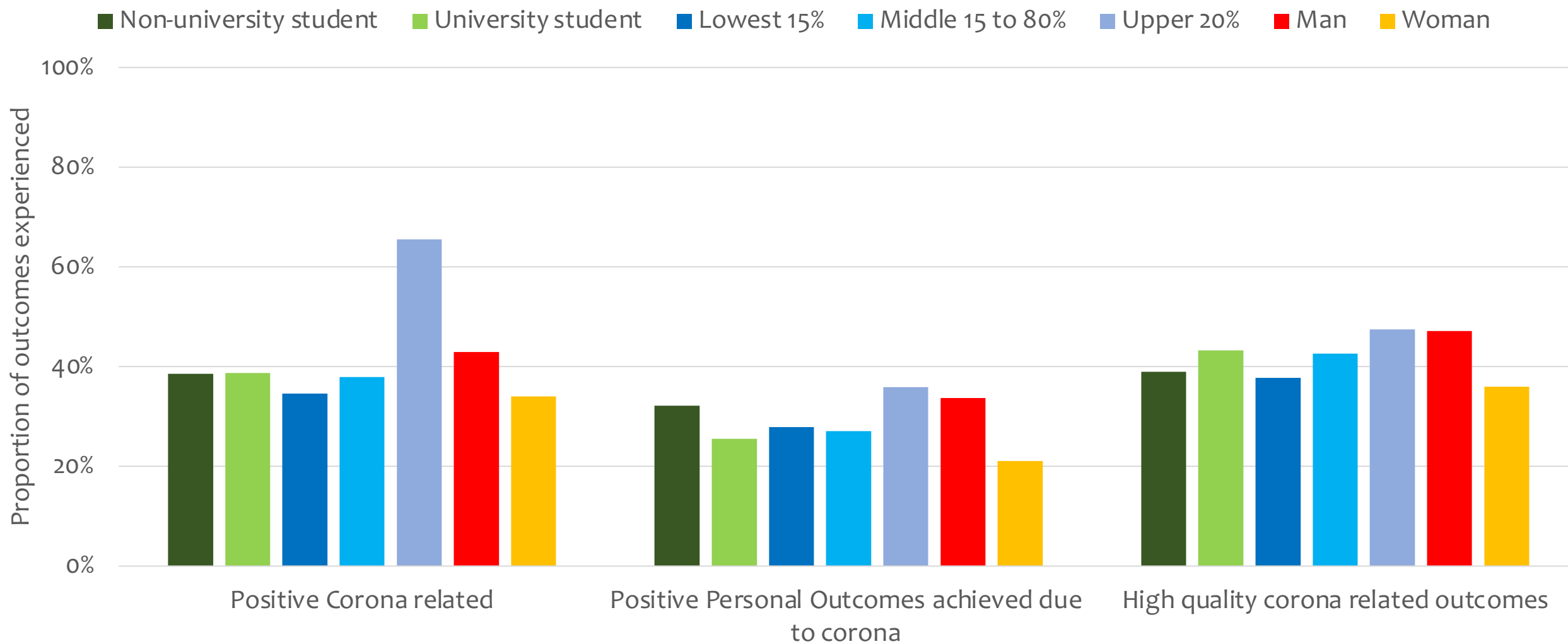


Inequalities in negative education outcomes



(DiSTO NL 2020. Base: Students)

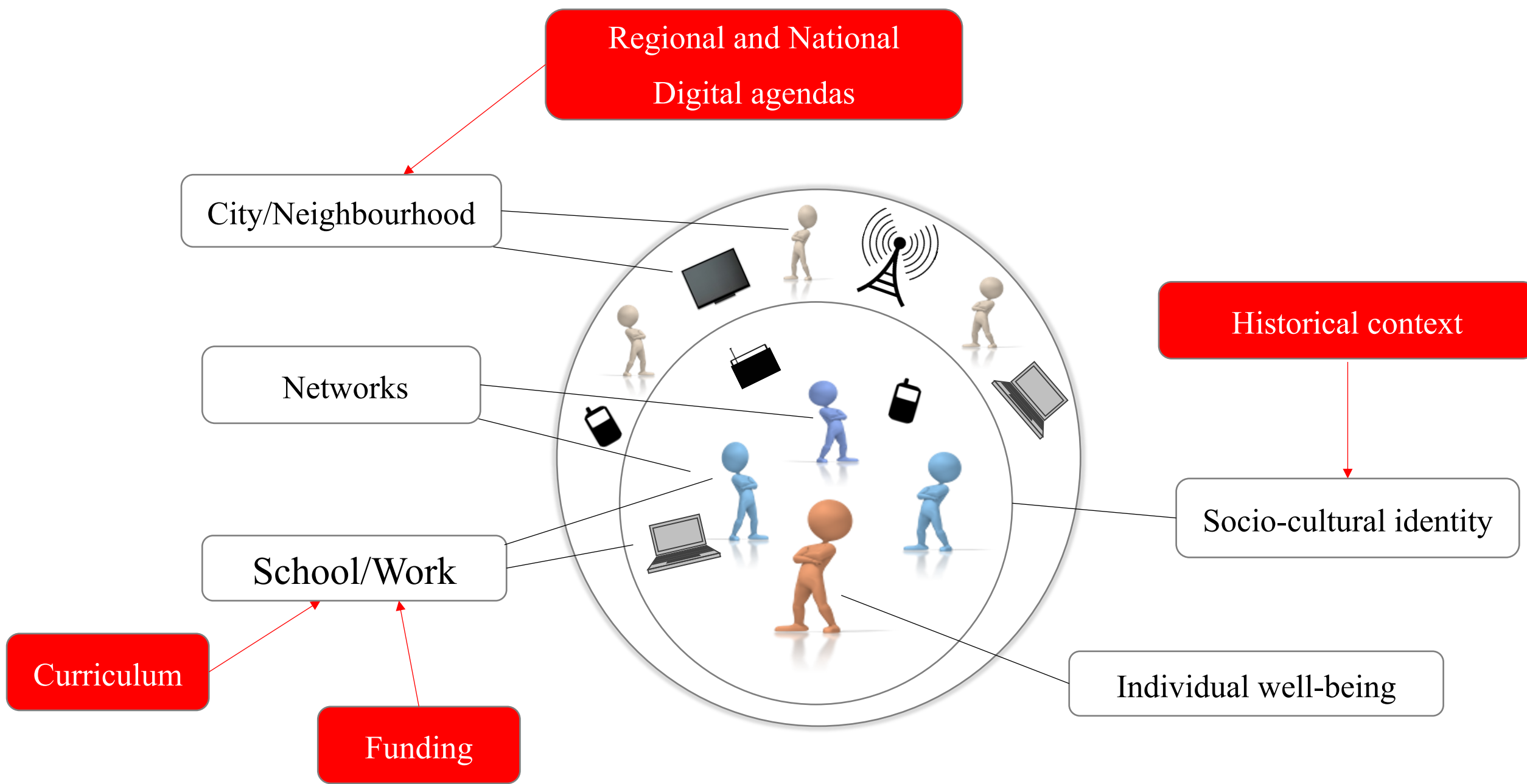
Inequalities in learning in times of corona



(DiSTO NL 2020. Base: Students)

Changing the way we think about
and tackle socio-digital inequalities

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of red, orange, and yellow, primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and clean.



(Helsper, 2021)

The future....

Knowledge

Awareness

Skills

And

Collective

Action

4 (for)

Beneficial

Outcomes



Concluding remarks

ICT use (and its consequences) is an expression of the **characteristics of the individual** and **their digital environment**...

... **influenced by the contexts** we grow up and live in, which - in an embedded digital future - we continuously and collectively shape.

Emphasis in research and interventions has to rebalance from narratives of **systematic exclusion** and **individualistic 'victim blaming'** towards **collective responsibility**.

Solutions require a **multi-stakeholder** approach involving national **policy** and targeted interventions supporting **employers, schools, non-profit** and **community organisations**.