



# Employability from a student's perspective and its linkages to QA

*INQAAHE Talk 30.11.2023 Online*

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# Employability in the Student Movement Discourse

- Employability as a concept to pursue labour market oriented education reform
- Higher education systems that primarily cater to economic growth
- Commodification and consumerism
- Rising unemployment <--> standardized and narrow educational outlook

# Common Misconceptions of Employability

- Employable graduates are only the ones who have acquired the first meaningful employment in line with their degree
- Higher education qualifications, expressed in student learning outcomes, should match the labour market, thus enhance employability
- Higher education should focus only on equipping students with key skills and competences
- Higher education serves solely as a tool for economic growth
- Higher education should be considered a commodity and a good to trade with; eg. in the European single market but also within global trade agreements

# Employability – Student's Expectations

- No one size fits all approach to employability
- Employability is one out of many of the multiple purposes of higher education
- Academic community to combat utilitarian approaches to higher education
- Students at the center of education reforms, curriculum design, quality assurance and governance of higher education
- Students are not consumers but equal partners in the education and employability discourse
- Education as a tool for holistic social development, that includes economic and labor market considerations but is not dominated by them

# Policy Recommendations

- Emphasis on the difference between employability and actual employment.
- Employability as a concept need to take into account both inside and outside factors
- Safeguard and promote the multiple, concomitant purposes of higher education
- Recognise the diversity of educational programmes, disciplines and professions when discussing enhancement of employability of graduates
- Improve compatibility and coherence of different segments of education (i.e. primary, general secondary, vet, higher education, adult education) while exploring possibilities for permeability between vet and higher education.
- Need to strengthen the link between employability and the social dimension of HE

# Policy Recommendations

- Student representatives should be actively involved in QA processes, further implementation, self-certification and referencing of National Qualifications Frameworks.
- Learning outcomes should be fully implemented and students representatives involved in the design of programmes, intended learning outcomes as well as decision making on assessment methods and criteria
- Student-Centered Learning should be fully endorsed and implemented by all relevant stakeholders.
- Diploma Supplement should be issued to students automatically and free of charge
- The UNESCO Global recognition convention should be ratified by all countries and International recognition of academic, comparable degrees should be fully endorse
- Recognition of Prior Learning and Student Portfolio System

# Thank you!

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