



# Quality, Qualifications and Employability

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# ETUCE: Teachers' and Researchers' Voice in Europe

- ETUCE = European Trade Union Committee for Education
- European umbrella organisation of education and research trade unions
- Represents 135 trade unions, 12.8 million teachers and researchers in Europe;
- European Region of the world-wide organisation Education International (EI)
- European level social partner in education and research and **professional organisation** of teachers and researchers



# Many factors of employability

- Critical thinking,
- Communication (both oral and written and in different languages),
- Developed intellectual capacity,
- Social and democratic behaviour and intercultural understanding,
- and of course relevant, updated and useful skills in the subject the graduate has studied.
- But also the presence of a relevant and open labour market which is ready to employ the new graduates





# Relevance and scope

Higher education is not training a narrow set of skills which will risk to be outdated fast after graduation.

Higher education must not be reduced to training such a set of concrete skills and when they are outdated, a LLL context can provide a new set of skills which will then be outdated in a few years etc., etc.

Higher education must build on the latest research and most recent knowledge and understanding to be relevant and of high quality

Higher education graduates must be able to develop themselves in their job





# Role and purpose of Higher Education

- Educate at the highest level in the most recent knowledge,
- Prepare students/graduates to work with subjects and problems which we don't know yet,
- Strengthen the intellectual capacity and critical thinking of future generations,
- Autonomy and academic freedom is necessary to reach the goals and fulfil the mission.



# Ausbildung und Bildung

- All subjects and levels of education must build on a balance between learning skills and capacities and the formation of the human being as an active citizen in a modern, globalised world
- the latter also providing the employee with the ability to meet new and unknown situations and problems at work, and develop solutions for them.



# Labour market involvement

The labour market (the employers) will – for obvious and fair reasons – focus on the immediately useful skills and will not necessarily see the long term perspective.

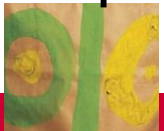
Risky business for the long term quality and relevance to involve the short term interests too close in curriculum development etc.

External groups can give valuable input, but the decisions should be among the professionals in education at the HEIs, engaging staff and students.



# Quality in education

- Created in the interaction between qualified teachers and engaged students in the education process
- Can't be measured before it is created
- Relevant indicators:
  - continuous focus on a quality culture
  - connection to research
  - recognition of the need for time to prepare, evaluate and improve – both pedagogy and content
  - continuous professional development
  - student/staff ratio
  - ratio full time/part time/fixed term
- Quality of online provision?





# Quality of Higher Education Institutions



Institution B

Institution A





Thank you  
for your attention!

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