

RATIONALE

Taking up on EURASHE's long-standing involvement in the field of **Employability**, EURASHE's working group on Employability and Lifelong Learning under the impulsion of its members will organise a **Roundtable on Employability** on **Thursday 7 February 2013** in **Brussels** (Belgium) gathering experts in the area.

Our policy paper '*Towards a Diversified, Responsive and Competitive European Higher Education*'¹ communicated to the Ministers of the EHEA at the occasion of the Ministerial Conference in April 2012 in Bucharest (Romania) highlights **our belief** in the **corner-stone importance of Employability** in current times:

EURASHE believes that the best long-term future for the citizens of Europe is one in which employability, rather than immediate employment, is fully focused, and that it is inextricably linked to the constant pursuit of self-development and professional fulfilment through lifelong learning.

To promote and develop this concept further, Employability was chosen to be one of **EURASHE's priorities** for its **2013 work programme**. Thereby EURASHE strives to **translate the general concept** into more concrete tools and approaches, as well as promoting Professional Higher Education (PHE) graduates' employability and entrepreneurship within curricula in order to reflect the 'New Skills for New Jobs' agenda and relevance of PHE.

This is brought about by and culminating into a **common position within PHE** on the concept of Employability by the end of the year. Previous discussions by the working group on Employability and Lifelong Learning have **established a wide framework** of what may be understood under this notion, which will be **further developed** by this Roundtable. Several other activities in 2013, such as a **Study** to be commissioned and a **Seminar on the Role of PHE in Regional Development** in Ireland in the first half of 2013 will bring about further insight into the refining of the Employability concept. This should lead to a more specific EURASHE policy on Employability and to the identification of a set of concrete actions in line with such policy.

The Roundtable is organised as a **1-day closed event** gathering specifically targeted experts in the field **highlighting 4 different areas** identified by the organisers which will **structure** our debate. Through **discussions** deepening the understanding of the notion of Employability, the 12 participants will **engage with other colleagues in the field to widen the community's overall participation in the further exploring of Employability**.

¹ Available on our website at: http://www.eurashe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EURASHE_overarching_policy_paper_April2012.pdf