



Institute for the
Development of Education

Link between the social dimension and quality assurance in higher education

Ninoslav Scukanec Schmidt

IDE – Institute for the Development of Education
Zagreb, Croatia

AG1 SD, Brussels, 29.03.2019.

Link: Social dimension and other policy areas in higher education

- Linked with **widening access**
- Linked with **widening participation**: higher progression, preventing drop-out, secure completion
- Linked with **study program design** and **study program delivery**
- Linked with **academic assessment**: different modes of assessment and feedback are used continuously in order to provide students with more than one indicator of how they achieved the planned learning outcomes

Link: Social dimension and other policy areas in higher education

- Linked with **student involvement**: HE institutional policies, procedures, and practices enable and encourage continuous involvement of students in all key aspects of the institution's work
- Linked with **staff involvement**: there are institutional awards, recognition, and promotions in place to recognise staff contributions towards SD
- Linked with **study resources, space, and environment**: conducive to foster SD

Link: Social dimension and other policy areas in higher education



- ✓ Social dimension considerations ought to be **embedded in almost all** higher education **institution functions** and
- ✓ treated as a **continuous process of quality enhancement** (May and Bridger, 2010).

Link: Social dimension and quality assurance

Fostering SD could be improved if:

- 1.If there is a **national strategy or national programme** in place, aimed at enhancing SD
- 2.If fostering SD is **embedded in the national higher education quality assurance** model
- 3.If there are **HE-institutional policies** and mechanisms explicitly aimed at enhancing SD



Link: social dimension & quality assurance

✓ SD in a national strategy / national programme

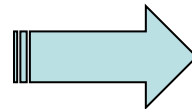
- This will encourage HEIs to include SD in their institutional strategies and policies
- Performance-based funding, with funding agreements focussed on SD, can be a further incentive for HEIs

✓ SD is embedded in the national higher education quality assurance

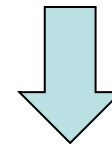
- If external evaluation procedures and QA standards and criteria include elements of SD, a **framework** is set up **towards continuously motivating HEIs to enhance SD**

Link: social dimension & quality assurance

- ✓ **HEIs policies and mechanisms aimed at enhancing SD**
 - Since a quality assurance model includes self-evaluation mechanisms for HEIs, external independent assessment, and subsequent monitoring and reporting.....
.....it can **ensure in the long run that HEIs do foster SD** through different institutional mechanisms and practices.



This would widen the scope of SD enhancement **from being focussed on providing specific measures targeted at particular vulnerable groups** to involving students, academic and administrative staff in **fostering SD in all institutional aspects** (May and Bridger, 2010).



SD enhancement becomes an **integral part of improving overall quality** of a HEI's operations



Thank you for your attention!

For more information please contact

Ninoslav Scukanec Schmidt

nscukanec@iro.hr