

Working Group on Employability: recommendations (1)

Raising awareness of the Bologna Process:

Governments to give a strategic lead and, together with higher education institutions and the representative organisations, should:

- continue to promote the benefits of the Bologna Process reforms as a whole, including the benefits of a first cycle/Bachelor degree, to students, potential students, employers and professions;
- make further progress in establishing their national qualifications frameworks in line with the Framework of Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area; and that
- Governments, as appropriate, lead by example ensuring that their own public sector employment practices cater to graduates with first cycle/Bachelor degrees.

Promoting dialogue between higher education and employers:

- Governments should take the lead in ensuring the conditions which will promote and incentivise dialogue; and
- that higher education institutions and their representative bodies should develop/strengthen links with employers/employer bodies to share good practice on making higher education provision more responsive to labour market demands and to advise employers of the range of skills that graduates have.

Working Group on Employability: recommendations (2)

Developing employability skills:

- increase focus on providing work placements as part of courses;
- encourage students to take jobs related to their course of study where appropriate and which are compatible with their study work-load;
- strengthen entrepreneurial skills in the curriculum;
- developing more programmes of part-time study to cater for those people already in the workplace who wish to update their skills as part of the lifelong learning agenda; and
- consideration should be given by Governments, social partners and HEIs, to the interchange, through short work placements and secondments, between staff in business and staff in higher education institutions to overcome any barriers.

Improving careers information, advice and guidance:

- Responsibility for the provision of advice and guidance should be strengthened within higher education institutions.
- All HEIs, together with governments/government agencies and employers, should improve the provision, accessibility and quality of their careers and employment-related services to students and alumni.