

## Short country survey on employability among BFUG members

### Holy See response

The employability working group agreed to conduct a short country survey and that each member of the group would cover their own and two allocated countries. The members of the working group agreed to contact the members of the BFUG for the allocated countries with the following questions:

1) What are the main challenges for your country in terms of employability? (eg Is graduate unemployment a problem? Are there restrictions on access to certain jobs? Is there a careers and guidance service?) What would help you most as an output from this working group?
<p>On one hand there are not great problems concerning "employability" in our study system as most of our study programmes are specially designed to full fill the needs of particular professions in the Church and in most cases those who begin will have their respective job (given that they finish successfully).</p> <p>On the other hand there is a great variety of situations due to the fact that most HEIs of the Holy See are in "foreign countries" of which some would recognise the qualifications earned in our institutions as usefull qualifications also in civil service. In these cases the professions are very likely to be state-regulated and therefore there are no problems with employability.</p> <p>In recent times there are some projects to create more flexible and professionally orientated studies – but we do not yet have experience with them regarding employability ...</p>
2) Is there a dialogue in your country between higher education institutions and employers? If so, at what level does this take place – national, regional, institutional etc? What sort of issues does it cover?
There is a lot of dialogue in that sense on all levels and about all relevant themes as in most cases the employers would also sustain or even provide the HEIs.
3) Can you provide two examples of good practice in your country in relation to any of the themes to be covered by the report? <sup>1</sup>
In this generally very well functioning system, it is not easy to provide some single examples.

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<sup>1</sup> Suggested themes to be covered in the report are:

- awareness-raising amongst employers of the value of a bachelors qualification and associated learning outcomes;
- involving employers in devising curricula;
- the provision of careers and guidance services;
- employment and career structures within the public service that are fully compatible with the new degree system;
- self-employability;
- curriculum innovation based on learning outcomes;
- the recognition of degrees in the labour market across Europe;
- the role of higher education in lifelong learning and continuing professional development.

