

## Short country survey on employability among BFUG members

### Answers provided by the Netherlands

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>Graduate unemployment is no problem. Certain jobs require graduation at a certain level in a certain field. These jobs are in medicine, legislation, teaching profession.</p> <p>There is career and guidance service for university students towards graduation.</p> <p>There are yearly surveys by the universities jointly and by the universities for professional education jointly, amongst graduates 1,5 year after graduation, to monitor the kind of job the graduate has taken up and if the knowledge and skills are adequate for that job.</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?
<p>Yes there are dialogues at national level. Between government and employers, on higher education policy.</p> <p>There are dialogues at regional level between universities and employers, or faculties and employers on knowledge, skills and attitudes required by employers. And on the kind of research and innovation in which one can co-operate.</p>
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>
<p>A. The monitoring of graduates 1,5 years after graduation. Responsible for this are the branch organisations of universities and universities of professional education. The research is executed by ROA Maastricht university.</p> <p>B. The regional collaborative agreements that have been set out in the last years between the state government, employers, local government, and educational institutions in order to stimulate LifeLongLearning. These agreements concern agreements on the number of employees that is executing work-based learning and/or the development of and participation to procedures for the Accreditation of Prior Learning.</p> <p>Attached is already the link to the work programme 2006 in English. The most recent version is only in Dutch yet for 2008-2011, the English translation is on its way.</p> <p><a href="http://www.leren-werken.nl/html/documenten/ReinforcingLearning&amp;Working.pdf">http://www.leren-werken.nl/html/documenten/ReinforcingLearning&amp;Working.pdf</a></p>

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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.