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European University Association

Employability in the context of the Bologna process

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I. Employability in the Bologna process

- Sorbonne- Bologna (1998- 1999): one of the three aims of the common frame of reference (with mobility and external recognition)
- Prague (2001): still there but with less emphasis
 - “lasting employability”; has to be combined with academic quality; can be improved through ECTS and “European” content of courses and curricula
- Berlin (2003) : Moving in the same direction
 - Degrees have to accommodate a diversity of individual, academic and labour market needs; stresses the role of study abroad and of DS to foster employability

II. Employability : What to Think?

- **Students and Universities are facing a more difficult labour market compared to the 70's**
- **Need to react but we have to keep a balance and a long term perspective**
- **Challenges remain in awareness/acceptance of changing degree structures and curricula reform related to Bologna**

III. EUA's position (Graz Convention)

- to define and promote employability in a broad sense
- Then to promote it at all levels (including doctoral programme)
- Ensuring that a meaningful Bachelor degree exists in all disciplines
- To promote multilingualism and multiculturalism as a key element
- Use of a European qualification framework and the DS will help



IV. How universities can help?

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- Through course curricula including more opportunity for mobility and language learning
 - Through easier recognition of non-formal learning
 - Through attitude of professors (having done geographical and professional mobility)
 - Through attitude of institutions (open to their environment and implementing dialogue with stakeholders)

Conclusion

- **The Glasgow convention (31 March- 2 April 2005)**
- **Will incorporate the results of this seminar**
- **And will debate again on employability by looking at a learning outcomes based approach and discussing the elaboration of an overarching European qualification framework .**