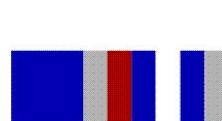


Relevance of higher education: economic and social development, and employability of graduates

Bologna 2020: Unlocking Europe 's potential – Contributing to a better world

Martina Vukasovic
Centre for Education Policy, Serbia

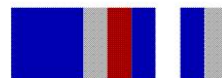


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Relevance of higher education

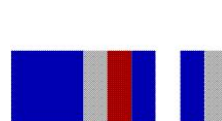
“ How to %measure+relevance?

- . Political goals
- . Wider social and economic cont ext
- . Extent of
 - “ Differentiation
 - “ Diversification
- . Frame of reference (time and space)



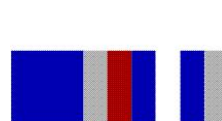
HE and economic development

- “ Increase of productivity
- “ Increase of human capital
- “ Knowledge and technology transfer
- “ Decrease of costs in other public sectors



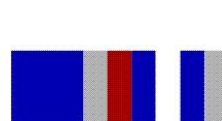
HE and social development

- “ Building of the national identity
 - . BUT what about globalization or Europeanisation?
- “ Promotion of attitudes and values, critical thinking, democratisation of the society
- “ Improving quality of life
- “ Social mobility or social reproduction?
- “ Benefits for the individual



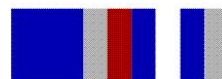
Employability – a concept

- “ Employability k employment
- “ *Employability = a set of achievements, understanding and personal attributes that make individuals more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations (Knight and Yorke, 2004:25)*
- “ Personal characteristic
- “ Possibility, not certainty or status



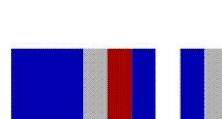
Employment of graduates - research

- “ graduates spend more time searching for a job after graduation than they used to do
- “ graduates feel that their first job is often not suitable for them . that they are under-employed
- “ more and more graduates start with several part-time or short-term jobs
- “ persons with higher education qualifications tend to change jobs more often than before . both in terms of changing employer as well as field of work
- “ unemployment statistics show an increase in the number of unemployed persons with higher education qualifications.



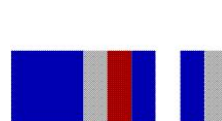
Higher education and employability

- “ caution when making conclusions w.r.t. to higher education on the basis of (un)employment statistics
 - . over-education and under-employment?
 - “ effects of massification
 - . influence of non-formal and informal learning
 - . difficult to establish simple causal relationships
 - . time and space of reference



How to increase employability?

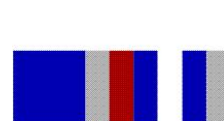
- “ Real focus on learning outcomes
- “ Diversity of offer (mirroring the diversity of roles of higher education)
- “ Flexibility of learning paths
- “ Transparency
 - . Recognition of learning
 - . Readability (employers!)
- “ Adequate inclusion of relevant stakeholders



Thank you for your attention!

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