

BREAK-OUT SESSION No 3. degree structures and qualifications frameworks

Chair: Stephen Adam (HE consultant) – Rapporteur: Gerard Madill (EUA)

The revision of degrees in Europe has fuelled the discussion on employability in Europe, a growing issue in the European discussion on degree reforms. Higher education degrees should be employable not only in the academic world, but also outside. Labour markets exert increasing pressure to continue education, to update and retrain. While discussion on degrees and learning has to take this on board, there is also a growing demand for transparency tools such as qualifications frameworks.

- ☐ *Volker Gehmlich, Fachhochschule Osnabrück, Germany*
The history and evolution of European and National Qualification Frameworks
- ☐ *Sharifah Hapsah, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia*
Case study: The Malaysian Qualification Framework

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION (5 minutes):

- *Qualifications frameworks describe and relate at national level all qualifications and learning achievements*
- *They vary in nature and purpose*
- *They achieve some things and contribute to the achievement of others (cannot solve all problems!)*
- *Qualifications frameworks link to quality assurance, recognition, transparency, mobility and employability*

PLEASE NOTE:

In our session we need to identify main issues, points of agreement/disagreement, best practice recommendations for institutions, national/regional governments and the way forward. In particular:

- Why establish qualifications frameworks – what is the value added?
- What are the challenges in realising them?
- The scope for Europe-Asia cooperation in the further development of national and regional qualifications frameworks.

FURTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS (if time)

- How has the HE landscape changed in the past 1-2 decades?
- What are the societal/economic drivers and pressures that make change necessary?
- How is change being implemented?
- What are the roles of governments, HE institutions, HE organisations and students in the change/reform process, and how do they relate to each other?
- How do internationalisation and regionalisation provide added value to the process?
- What are the policies and instruments that have been established at different levels for carrying out reform?
- What has been successful, what has not (yet) been successful – and why?
- Who does the work, who funds such change processes?