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HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

“Employability and Mobility of Bachelor Graduates in Europe”

International Conference cum Workshop

September 30 – October 1, 2010

Location: Berlin (Mitte), Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus, Luisenstrasse 58/59

http://www.langenbeck-virchow-haus.de/index_en.html

Email: info@embac2010.de; Phone: ++49 (0) 221 170 934 21; Fax: ++49 (0) 221 170 934 10

Web: <http://www.embac2010.de>

Increasing student mobility and improving employability of graduates are among the key objectives of the Bologna process. However, it is discussed very controversially whether these objectives are achieved. A prevalent concern is that the Europe-wide introduction of undergraduate and graduate study programmes have reduced student mobility over the last years. Furthermore, the perception of bachelor graduates as adequate employees is discussed.

Up to now, there are only few reliable empirical findings on the capability of bachelor graduates to gain an adequate employment as well as on their international mobility. An increased work load and inflexible study structures are assumed to keep students from going abroad, but there is only little data to support this assumption.

With the implementation of periodic graduate surveys in many European countries, it has become possible to develop a comparative study on the basis of existing data from recent graduate surveys. Researchers from "Bologna countries" have therefore been asked by INCHER-Kassel to contribute to the Conference with country reports based on most recent bachelor graduate surveys. The country reports will be released in a book publication which will be presented on the Conference. The reports will serve as input to discuss empirical research outcomes about employability and mobility of bachelor graduates in an international comparative framework for the first time.

The conference will be sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

Participants:

The conference is directed to international and German stakeholders and agents in higher education and higher education policy:

- members of higher education institutions,
- researchers in the field of higher education,
- national and international associations of higher education institutions,
- associations of employees and employers,
- members of higher education ministries,
- organisations for student mobility
- further interested persons from higher education and higher education research

Conference on September 30, 2010

The conference is open to all interested persons and stakeholders.

Workshops on Oct. 1, 2010

The workshops are limited to a small number of participants to allow for intensive discussions. We cordially invite interested persons and stakeholders to participate in these intensive workshops. Interested persons are asked to tick this option upon registration and will be informed as soon as possible if places are still available.

Conference Programme, September 30, 2010

Location: Berlin (Mitte), Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus, Luisenstrasse 58/59
How to find it → http://www.langenbeck-virchow-haus.de/index_en.html

Presentation of Empirical Findings on Employability and Mobility of Bachelor Graduates in Europe

Moderator: Dr. Waltraud Kreutz-Gers, Ministerialdirigentin, Ministerium für Innovation, Wissenschaft und Forschung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

- 10:00-11:00 Welcome Address by Dr. Helge Braun, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Welcome Address by Prof. Dr. Wilfried Mueller, German Rectors' Conference, Rector of the University of Bremen, Vice-President of the German Rectors' Conference for Teaching, Studies and Admission
Welcome Address by Harald Schomburg, project director, International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel)
Key Note Address by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ulrich Teichler, International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel), "*Bologna – motor or stumbling block for mobility and employability of graduates?*"
- 11:00 *tea and coffee*
- 11:30-12:15 Synopsis of the book publication by Harald Schomburg, International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel), "*Employability and Mobility of Bachelor Graduates in Europe – key results of empirical research*"
- 13:30-17:00 Presentation and discussion of country reports on employability and mobility of bachelor graduates in four parallel groups

Group A: France and Italy

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jose Gines Mora, Spain and United Kingdom

Presenters:

- Jean-François Giret, IREDU, Dijon
- Christine Guegnard, IREDU, Dijon
- Prof. Andrea Cammelli, AlmaLaurea, Italy
- Prof. Gilberto Antonelli, AlmaLaurea, Italy
- Prof. Giancarlo Gasperoni, AlmaLaurea, Italy
- Dr. Angelo di Francia, AlmaLaurea, Italy
- Dr. Matteo Sgarzi, AlmaLaurea, Italy

Group B: Norway, United Kingdom and Poland

Chair: Dr. Dominic Orr, HIS, Germany

Presenters:

- Dr. Liv Anne Støren, NIFU STEP, Oslo
- Dr. Jannecke Wiers-Jenssen, NIFU STEP, Oslo
- Brenda Little, CHERI, Open University, London
- Dr. Lore Arthur, CHERI, Open University, London
- Dr. Gabriela Grotkowska, University of Warsaw, Poland

Group C: Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary

Chair: Kilian Kirchgeßner

Presenters:

- Jan Koucky, Carolina University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Mag. Helga Posset, BMWF, Austria
- Mag. Martin Unger, IHS, Austria
- Dr. Helmut Guggenberger, Universität Klagenfurt, Austria
- Tamás Horvath, Educatio, Hungary

Group D: Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland

Chair: Dr. Peter Zervakis, HRK

Presenters:

- Dr. Christoph Meng, ROA, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- Harald Schomburg, INCHER-Kassel, Germany
- Petra Koller, Bundesamt für Statistik, Switzerland

15:00 *tea and coffee*

15:30-17:00 Presentation and discussion of country reports on employability and mobility of bachelor graduates in four parallel groups continued

17:00-18:00 Results of working groups and outlook

19:00 *Conference dinner with evening speech*

Workshop Programme, October 1, 2010

Langenbeck-Virchow-Haus /Charité, Luisenstr. 58/59, 10117 Berlin (Mitte), Germany, http://www.langenbeck-virchow-haus.de/index_en.html

Employability and mobility of bachelor graduates in Europe

- Discussion of implications for higher education policy,
- identification of further research needs,
- establishing a graduate survey network at international level.

Participants of the second day will be the authors of the presented publication, further invited experts and stakeholders and interested participants of the first conference day. To allow for intensive discussions, the workshops are limited to a small number of participants.

Plenary

9:00-9:30 Introduction to Workshops by Harald Schomburg (INCHER-Kassel) and Peter Greisler, BMBF

Workshop A

“Research”: State of the art of graduate surveys in Europe and future research co-operation

Moderator: Harald Schomburg, INCHER-Kassel; Rapporteur: NN

9:30-11:00 Reports on strategy and methods of current graduate surveys (short country presentations à 5-10 min)
- European Commission - DG Education and Culture (Julie Fionda)
- World Bank (Lars Sondergaard)
- EUA (Lesley Wilson)
- Romania
- Hungary
- Finland
and other countries

11:00 *tea and coffee*

11:30-13:00

1. Further needs of detailed analysis of research results
2. Developing of core questions and comparable survey strategies
3. Establishing a task force to initiate a graduate survey network at international level

Workshop B

“Policy”: Implications of research results for higher education policy

Moderator: Ministerialdirigent Peter Greisler, BMBF; Rapporteur: NN

9:30-11:00 Discussion: Implications of research results on mobility of bachelor graduates
Input: Bernd Wächter, ACA

11:00 *tea and coffee*

11:30-13:00 Discussion: Implications of research results on employability and transition to work
Input: Lesley Wilson (EAU) and Ulrich Teichler (INCHER-Kassel)

Plenary

Moderator: Peter Greisler, BMBF and Harald Schomburg, INCHER

13:00-13:30 Reports of workshops, winding up and closing

13:00 *lunch*

14:30-16:00 First meeting of the task force “Graduate Survey Network”