

## Short country survey on employability among BFUG members

### Response by Andorra

- 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?

To increase the numbers of students who reach the university level is one of the priorities of the Ministry of Higher Education. Andorra has to look for Spaniards and French specialists (Trilateral Agreement) in some fields of study because there are not many Andorrans. To get this a reality a new law of scholarships is in place covering undergraduates, graduates and PhD. However, taking into account that this is a long process and that there is a high population in Andorra from Portugal, in the coming months Portugal will also join this agreement.

Unemployment does not exist in Andorra in any field of study or job, even more, as I said, Andorra needs qualified experts from abroad. Nevertheless, because of the decrease of the economy worldwide, Andorra has recently set some immigrant quotas to non specialised jobs because there are enough workers.

The Government of Andorra inaugurated the office on innovation to create new markets and new sectors of economy based on the new technologies.

- 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?

The University Council is represented, among others, by two members of the private sector. They meet twice a year and decide any kind of training which can benefit the labour market.

The Ministry of Labour also is in contact with employers to fix immigrant quotas, to foster some fields of study, etc.

Taking into account geographical dimension of Andorra, dialogue reaches national level with no problem.

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>

The Ministry of Higher Education has a data base with all the students at Higher Education level. This data base is used to inform them about cultural and academic news and job opportunities.

The University of Andorra and the Chamber of Commerce offer a great Life Long Learning program updated by the private sector every year. These courses update the population of Andorra in different ways. Almost all courses are sponsored by Andorran banks and this makes the access easier.

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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.