



How to connect VET & HE for Competitive and Sustainable Economy in EU?

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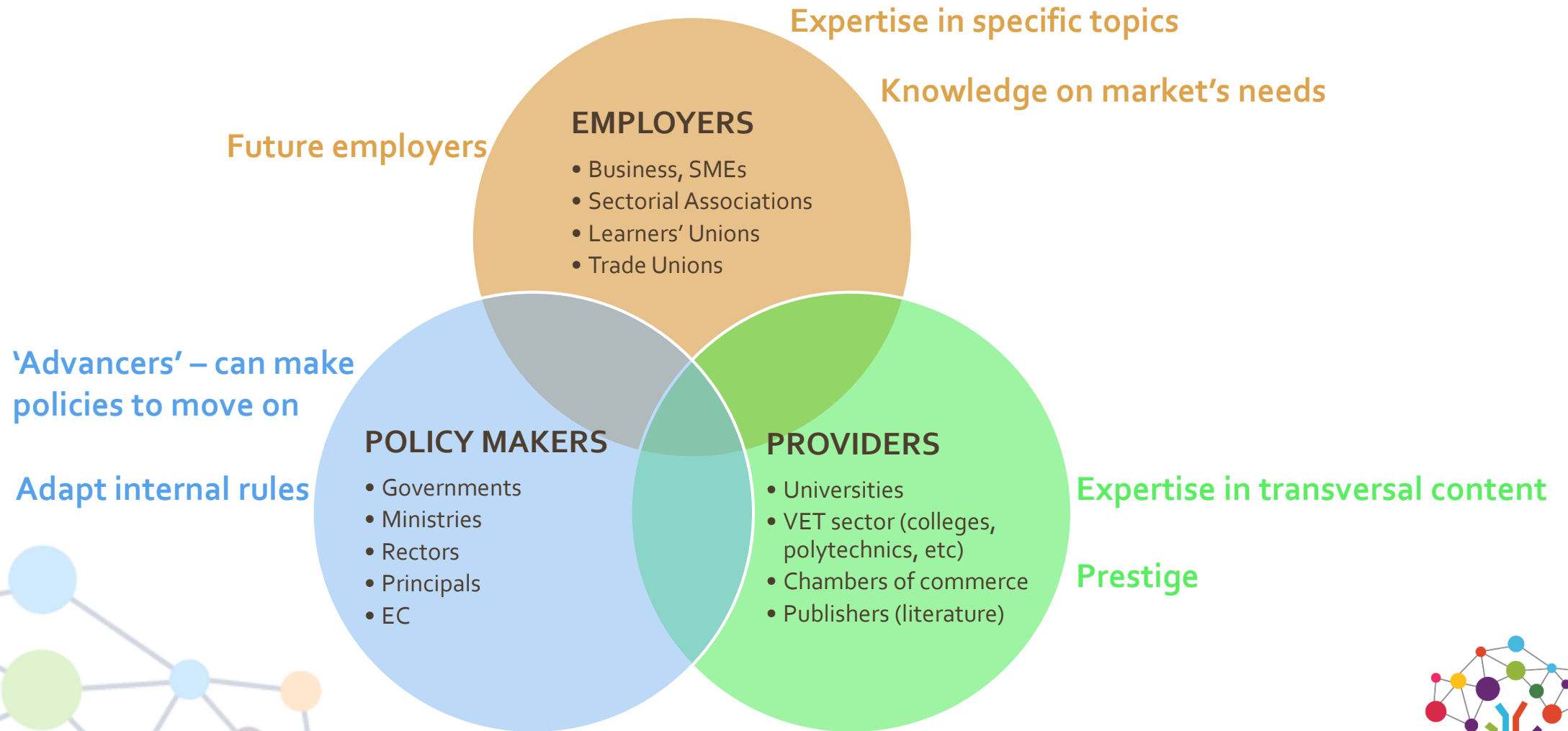
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Communication Triangle identified and strengths



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Gap between University and Employment

- **Mismatch** between the skills garnered through educational systems and providers and those actually required by the private sector.
- Enterprises regularly identify a **shortage of appropriate skills** as the greatest impediment to hiring employees.
- **New world:** digitalisation, Industry 4.0, machine to machine learning, artificial intelligence
- 90% of the fastest growing sectors need **qualified workforce**.
- 65% of children entering primary school today will end up in careers that **don't exist yet**.



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Why are educational systems failing to meet market needs?

- **Lack of partnership** between government, relevant industry and education providers.
- **Limited alignment** between national and international accreditation.
- **Information transparency and matchmaking** between employers and students is poor.
- **Quality assurance mechanisms** are absent, have limited capacity or lack credibility as they are not independent.
- **Teacher/trainer development programs** are neglected.



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University LLL

- Universities are **major players** in lifelong learning (LLL) which has been a policy line in the *Bologna Process* since Prague in 2001.
 - New lifelong learning -based approaches at universities offer a possibility for advancement in case the **culture of traditional forms** of education can be transformed.
 - There are various activities that **link higher education with VET** and whose situation clearly indicates the need of enhanced cooperation.
 - In this context, the universities may play a **significant role** in the fulfilment of the LLL priorities.
 - To **combat the skills crisis** with lifelong learning could be a good solution.
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University LLL

- **ULLL** plans and offers courses, seminars and training programs in the fields represented in the institution not only for university students, but public and private organizations and NGOs as well.
 - ULLL can reach **a level** that the expertise of its faculty can offer. The essence of research-based learning underlines the significance of both the general level of research, but also the pedagogic excellence of the academic staff and their ability to work in the external context.
 - In general, **some educational fields** have closer links to professional networks and practices than others.
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Conclusions

- Due to the rapid globalization process, the world economy has become **increasingly dependent** on each other. Industry 4.0 and digital transformation are also causing major change in labour market.
- The quality and cost effectiveness have become more critical; therefore, the **well educated and skilled workforce** is among the prior competitive factors.
- In order to reach a competitive and sustainable economy and create an inclusive society towards the 2020 goals of EU, connecting VET and HE through more **flexible learning pathways** gains importance.



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Conclusions

The **efficient collaboration** between different actors may

- harmonise **the current needs and anticipation of future** skills and competences,
- increase the employability by **bridging the VET and HE programs** with a **better transitions** to labour market and
- promote better opportunities for **disadvantaged groups**.



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TANDEM Statement

- If non-formal certificates are obligatory for some jobs ie. based on national regulations, those modules have to be integrated also in formal study programs at the corresponding level(s) in VET and HE.
- This means that the concerned people can work directly in companies without obtaining again those non-formal certificates.



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TANDEM Statement

- LLL Universities can take the lead in the (international) discussion about the role of level 5 qualifications (the European Level 5 Area) in up-skilling workers with a VET background and in opening possibilities to get a formal degree at level 6.





Thanks for your attention 😊

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