

STATE AND UNIVERSITY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION OUTCOMES - IS THERE A NEED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE?

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Paper structure:

- Introduction
- Theoretical background
- Formulation of learning and education outcomes
- Comparative analysis of educational strategies of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Research background and interview process
- Guidelines for improvement on higher education systems and conclusion

Theoretical background

...on learning and education outcomes (LEO)

- LEO express what a person with specific qualifications is able to know, understand and perform (Bergan 2007);
- Two aspects of LEO – a measure and an expectation (Aamodt et al, 2007);
- Active learning system – set of LEO and synergies among stakeholders (Hardy et al, 2014);
- Improvement of LEO through interdisciplinary approach (Denise et al, 2014)
- LEO based on e-learning systems, Learning Management System (Islam, 2013)

Theoretical background

- **Shift towards LEO** can be seen as (Cedefop, 2008; European Qualifications Framework Series, 2011):
 - an opportunity to tailor education and training to individual needs (to promote 'active learning'),
 - a way of reducing barriers to lifelong learning,
 - a way to increase the accountability of education and training institutions and systems,
 - a common language enabling a better dialogue between education and labour market stakeholders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES



Knowledge

Transferable and generic skills

Qualifications

Development of science

Life-long learning

Human capital

Learning techniques

Comparative analysis of educational strategies in the region



Strategija razvoja obrazovanja u Srbiji
do 2020. godine, "Sl. glasnik RS", br.
107/2012



Strategija razvoja i finansiranja visokog
obrazovanja u Crnoj Gori 2011-2020



Okvirni zakon o visokom obrazovanju u
Bosni i Hercegovini, Službeni glasnik
BiH, broj 59/07

Research background and interview process

- Exploratory approach, structured interview
 - Case site – 12 representatives of key stakeholders relevant to higher education system in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina:
 - University
 - Students
 - Government
 - Business sector
- 
- A word cloud graphic located at the bottom right of the slide. The most prominent word is "assessment" in a large, dark red font. Other visible words include "education", "links", "results", "general", "academic", "college", "faculty", "program", "include", "guidelines", "revised", "staff", "students", "learning", "process", "reporting", "PowerPoint", "Academic", "links", "Lea", "and", "office", "share", "university", "links", "general", "academic", "links", "Lea". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central word "assessment".



Simplified structure of the interview

1. Please explain the meaning of the term LEO. Indicate at least three outcomes you consider to be the most important.
2. Evaluate the significance of the following LEO from perspective of institution you represent.
3. Indicate the main roles and responsibilities of the following stakeholders in creating LEO.
4. Evaluate the level of cooperation between stakeholders in the field of joint realization of LEO.
5. Evaluate the compatibility of university study programs with labour market in your country.
6. Please propose activities that should be implemented to improve relations among stakeholders in order to efficiently deliver LEO.

Research background and interview process

- The interviews revealed high level of discordance in different stakeholders' responses regarding definitions and significance of learning and education outcomes.
- However, with exception of business sector, interviewed stakeholders agreed that knowledge is the most significant learning and education outcome, followed by qualifications and skills, while ranking of other outcomes strongly differs from one group of stakeholders to another.

Research background and interview process

- The role of government - guiding and controlling LEO in accordance with the National Framework of Qualifications and to facilitate the collaboration between universities and business sector;
- The role of universities - to define learning and education outcomes and to create study programs which enable students to gain necessary knowledge, skills and competencies in accordance with science and labour market needs;
- Students are expected to actively participate in learning process and to create feedback on adequacy and quality of defined outcomes and delivered knowledge, skills and competencies;

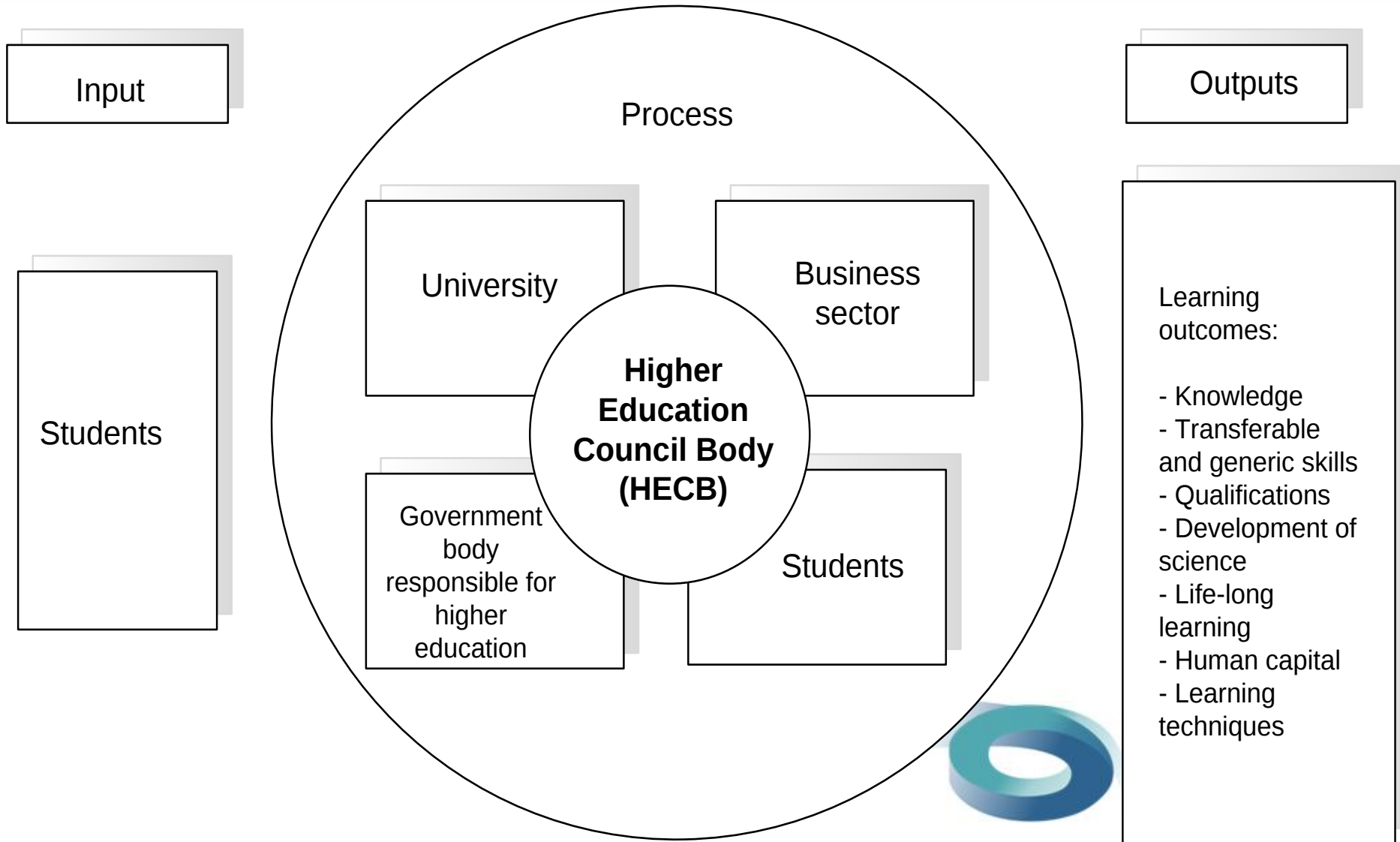
Research background and interview process

- Respondents emphasized the importance of stronger engagement of business sector in defining learning and education outcomes by giving valuable inputs for this process through internships, mentoring, university-business collaboration projects and frequent alignment between study programs and labour market needs.
- University study programs are not sufficiently aligned with labour market needs.
- Cooperation between stakeholders in the field of joint realization of learning and education outcomes is at low level.

Guidelines for improvement on higher education systems

- Only tight collaboration between educational stakeholders can create and add value to education process and improve learning and education outcomes
- Proposed model of entity that would portray the bridge between abovementioned educational stakeholders
- Regulation, implementation, promotion and monitoring of the process of education

Guidelines for improvement on higher education systems



Conclusion

- The attitudes of respondents in this study cannot be considered unique to these stakeholder groups
- Future research may examine the attitudes of significantly greater sample of respondents through other research techniques, such as questionnaires and surveys.
- Limitations of this study are attributable to the overall limits of the interviews as a research technique.

Conclusion

- Proposed model represents the connection between all relevant stakeholders in higher education.
- Action plans:
 - setting learning outcomes,
 - setting target measure for every learning outcome,
 - monitoring and control of target outcome measures
 - aligning tasks and activities to improve learning outcomes.
- Synergy between education stakeholders gives more value and competitive advantage to the whole process of creating highly skilled and employable workforce.

THANK YOU!

