

Sustainable Development Goals, Higher Education and Quality Assurance. How can Higher Education Institutions address global challenges?

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Abstract

Higher Education serves multiple purposes, both for the individual as well as for the society at large. Therefore, Higher Education Institutions hold an immense responsibility towards the individual citizen who gets educated under their roof and towards the societies they serve. This responsibility comes along with the necessity for accountability, regardless where their financial resources comes from, but especially when they are publicly funded. Here quality assurance comes into the picture. Within their societal role, Higher Education Institutions need to assess to which extend their are contributing to overcome the challenges of today' societies and how they could do so even better. Agendas such the UN Sustainable Development Goals or the Agenda 2063 reflect on the current challenges that higher education institutions need to address in different ways. This contribution aims to analyse what is the role to play of quality assurance systems, both internal and external, in better supporting Higher Education Institutions in contributing to overcome societal challenges through their different missions.

Keywords

Higher Education, Quality Assurance, SDGs, Higher Education Institution, Global Challenges