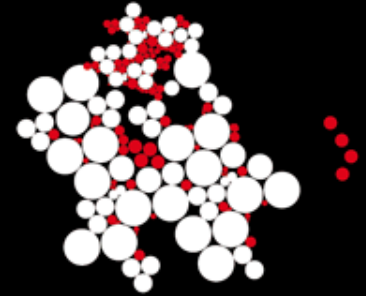


UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Access, Equity, Equality in Higher Education



*Thoughts from experiences in different
countries*



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The Access discourse differs depending on the needs of the country. But in all cases , ultimately, access is not a only a material issue but a fundamentally a moral one.

It is necessary for the advancement of society and the economy

As countries become more developed, access issues do not go away but rather change shape

Access to tertiary education depends to a great extent on the secondary school system; lapses in secondary education have repercussions on access to tertiary-level studies

Although access is typically identified as a national domain, the international domain must not be underestimated

Key Barriers to Access

- Socioeconomic status
- Rural vs. urban students
- Race, language and ethnicity
- Lack of proper prior tracking
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All these can lead to not being allowed in, or not succeeding

Examples of Initiatives to Increase Access

Ukraine

- *National testing*
- *More distance learning*
- *State-supported HEIs must have a majority of tuition-free openings (>60%)*

Vietnam

- *Upgrading of secondary to tertiary institutions*
- *Network of HEIs in different regions*
- *Special policies re admission scores for different candidates*

South Africa

- *More funding to institutions that admitted more students from disadvantaged groups*
- *Curricular reform*

United States

- *Aligning high school graduation requirements with college entry requirements*
- *State-funded merit scholarships*

Key Issues for Discussion (I)

❖ *Access and quality*

- Quality as «transformation» is a key to increase access
- An appropriate quality assurance framework can ensure that access initiatives are institutionalised. The development of internal access strategies will enable the issue to be effectively tackled and will enable the development of effective monitoring
 - Strategies employed by institutions could then be evaluated against national benchmarks by external national quality assurance agencies
 - Quality and access issues cannot be separated if we are committed to transformation

Key Issues for Discussion (II)

- ❖ The context in which policies are implemented
 - Unresolved issues such as corruption...
 - The number of disadvantaged in the system
 - Is the opposite also true?
- ❖ Access and the role of Higher Education
- ❖ Expectations and opportunities
- ❖ Lack of alternative routes, such as Recognition of Prior Learning
 - Sometimes mainly vocational
 - In some countries (e.g. in South East Asia) almost non-existent
- ❖ Access to what? Priorities for the government and for society

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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