

Making Lifelong Learning a Reality, Cologne, 8 – 9 March 2004

Workshop No 3: “Quality in Education”

Reorienting Education in a Global Context: Considerations from the Perspective of UNESCO and Beyond

The commitment of UNESCO, the United Nations specialized agency on education, science, culture and communication, to the quality of learning and education is on the one hand closely linked to the overall issue of equity, and on the other hand situated against the background of a globalizing world.

This presentation aims to portray the guidelines suggested by UNESCO for developing good quality education that responds to the processes and impact of globalization. To ensure basic conditions such as sufficient resources, relevant teaching materials, well-trained teachers, adequate equipment etc is just one pillar in enabling quality education. At the same time it is too shortsighted to concentrate on the successful transfer of specific knowledge and the achievement of predetermined and comparable targets, currently figuring as the most important quality indicators in national and international debates on education.

In order to enable individuals and communities to build up lifelong learning biographies and construct their lives in a context of growing diversity, complexity and uncertainty, good quality education needs to facilitate the development of understanding, competences and skills conducive to facing up to the accelerating pace of structural transformations and the increasing demands for initiative and participation.

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