Values and Ethics – the Borderless Perspectives


Line Verbik, Deputy Director,
Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, London, UK
Overview...

• The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education
• Context and Issues
• Perspectives on Student Mobility and Transnational Education – Hosts and Sources
• Concluding comments
'Borderless' Higher Education

Distance Learning / Transnational Education

Internationalisation

New Technologies

Public / Private / Not-for / For-profit Providers

Traditional HE / CPD / Lifelong Learning

Time / Space / Geography / Level

© Observatory on Borderless Higher Education
Context and Issues

Globalisation and Internationalisation issues and indicators:
• Academic and programme mobility
• Education as a tradable commodity or a public good?
• Sub-standard provision and public protection/reputation/service
• Locus of responsibility
• Dichotomy of public versus private
The ‘Host’ perspective

Focus on *Study Abroad* and Transnational Education:

Benefits:

- *Contribution to the solving of local capacity and quality problems*
- Contribute to domestic capacity
- Mentor local institutions
- Stem study abroad
- Attract international students
- Stimulate local economy
- R&D tie-ins
The ‘Host’ perspective

Challenges:

• Outflow of financial and academic resources
• Brain drain
• Relevance of foreign qualifications
• Possible brain-drain upon graduation
• Relevance of degree to local context
• Narrow subject focus and possibly high costs
• Quality assurance issues and continuity
• Participation issues
• Dominated by North-South movement
Possible beneficial initiatives – Hosts

• Regulatory frameworks and incentives to ensure closer fit with wider developmental goals
• Regional co-operation in affected areas
• Increased domestic educational opportunities
• Domestic ‘return home’ initiatives, including scholarships
The ‘Source’ perspective

*Study Abroad* and Transnational Education:

Benefits:

- *Financial and academic short and long-term benefits*
- Reach new markets/students
- Revenue generation
- Diversify delivery
- Internationalise institution
- R&D tie-ins
- Niche provision
The ‘Source’ perspective

Challenges:

- Over-dependence on income from foreign students
- Increasing reliance on skilled immigration
- Unclear quality assurance responsibilities
- Uncertain operating environment
- Tension between sustainable initiatives and contribution to developmental activities
Possible beneficial initiatives – Sources

• Regulatory frameworks to outline source countries’ responsibilities
• National and International (binding) guidelines and perhaps quality assurance mechanisms
• Responsible recruiting
• Non-commercial international initiatives
• Long-term commitment and investments