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FROM FLEXIBILITY TO TRUST

QUALITY ASSURING LIFELONG LEARNING PATHWAYS IN SWISS HIGHER EDUCATION



SUB-TOPIC
Lifelong learning and upskilling pathways

RAPID CHANGE

FLEXIBLE FORMATS

QUALITY ASSURANCE BUILDS TRUST

WHY SWITZERLAND?

- Institutional diversity
- Strong links to practice
- Established continuing education

SWISS LIFELONG LEARNING LANDSCAPE

NEW

MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Emerging formats
Short learning units

ESTABLISHED CONTINUING EDUCATION

CAS
CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
≥ 10 ECTS

DAS
DIPLOMA OF ADVANCED STUDIES
≥ 30 ECTS

MAS
MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES
≥ 60 ECTS

SOME MAS/EMBA PROGRAMMES MAY BE VOLUNTARILY ACCREDITED

RECOGNITION • PERMEABILITY • POSSIBLE STACKABILITY • TRUST

WHY IT MATTERS

Technological change, demographic shifts and new ways of working increase the need for upskilling and reskilling across the lifespan. Higher education has a key role to play.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AS A TRUST ARCHITECTURE



KEY TENSIONS

1. FLEXIBILITY ↔ COMPARABILITY
2. INNOVATION ↔ ROBUSTNESS
3. LABOUR-MARKET RELEVANCE ↔ ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
4. INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY ↔ SYSTEM TRANSPARENCY

TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

QUALITY ASSURANCE SHOULD NOT TURN FLEXIBLE LEARNING INTO BUREAUCRACY.

IT SHOULD MAKE FLEXIBILITY TRUSTWORTHY.

LESSONS FROM SWITZERLAND

TRANSFERABILITY

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How can QA support flexible learning pathways?
2. How can we recognise new credentials while maintaining trust?
3. How can QA support stackability and permeability?
4. How can we balance labour-market needs and academic responsibility?

Learn more about AAQ

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