Employability in programme development (EPD): Establishing labour market to higher education feedback loop with local labour market intelligence

EPD workshops

July 2023

https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/epd/

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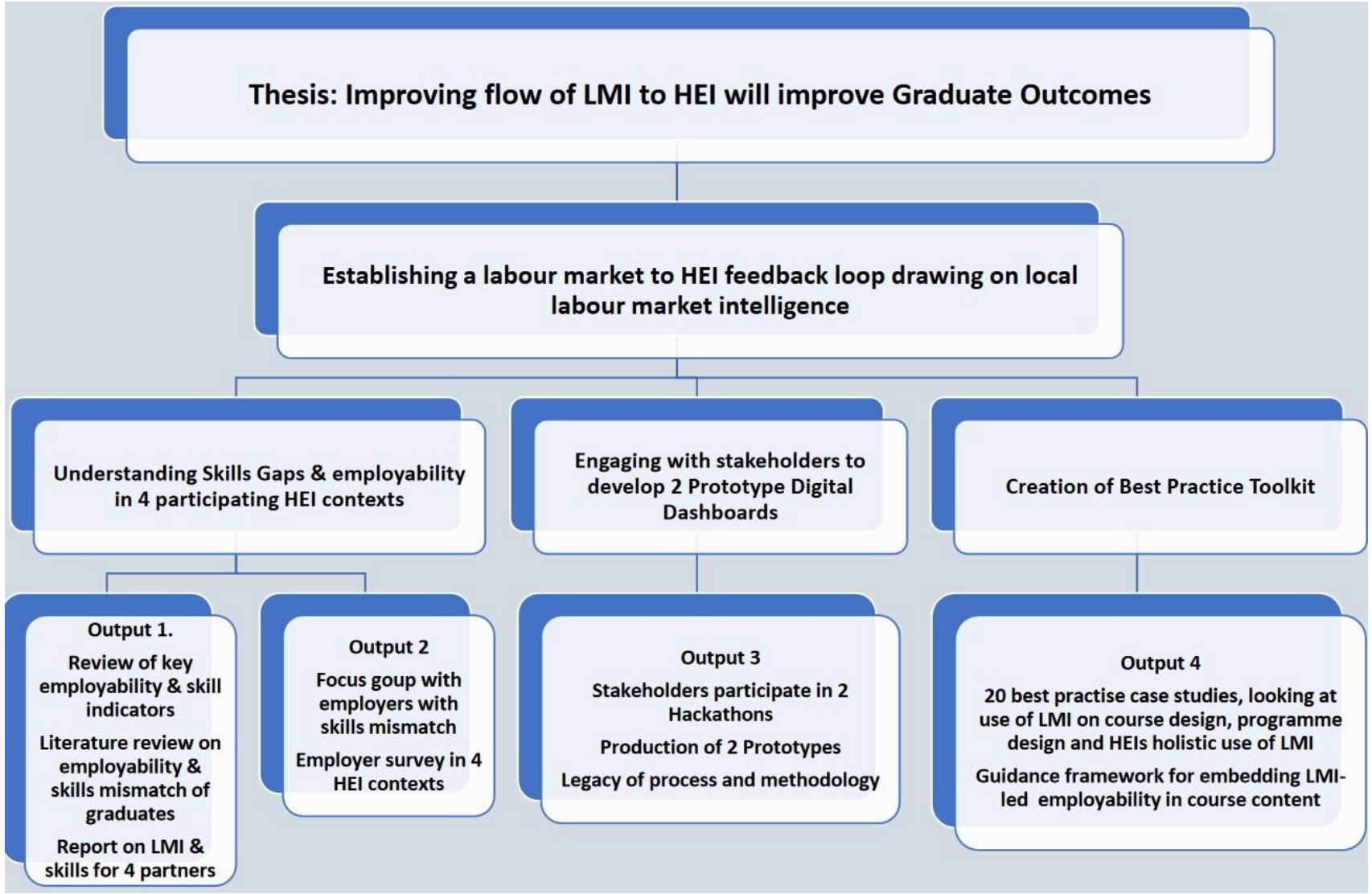

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Milestones

- November 2021: Hackathon in Barcelona with potential users of labour market intelligence
- June 2022: Webinar focussing on secondary results in Glasgow, Reading, Brussels, Barcelona
- June 2022: Hackathon in Glasgow on embedding employability in HE
- July 2023: Final conference Barcelona
- July: 2023 Innovations in employability webinars
- https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/epd/newsandevents/

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Outputs

- Collated on project website: https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/epd/
- Literature review on effectiveness of employability practice in HEIs under review with Studies in Higher Education
- Interim results from focus groups: https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_874330_smxx.pdf
- New employer survey piloted: https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_921085_smxx.pdf
- Employability dashboard – prototype
- Case studies: https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/epd/case%20studies/

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RQs (I)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

a) What are the key challenges for enhancing employability programmes and graduate outcomes?
b) What is the stated or implied theory of change underpinning employability practice in HE?
c) What methods are used to evaluate employability practice and how robust are they?

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Results

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- Emphasis on placements and internships – few studies of other forms of HE employability activities
- HEI activity and practice in this area is highly contextual and resource intensive
- Most of the studies do not assess empirically graduate market outcomes. No account of selection issues
- Evaluation evidence primarily based on stakeholder feedback. Anglophone bias
- No emerging theory of change underpinning graduate employability practice has appeared

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Avenues for future research

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

- Need to study a more comprehensive range of employability activities
- Strengthen the research design of empirical evaluations of employability activities to include outcomes
- The relative nature of employability is under theorised, and it is important to identify explicitly contextual specific features of employability
  - Job competition
  - Economic structure

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Thanks for your attention

- Links to the documents:
- a) Literature review
- b) Forthcoming publications