

# Enhancing Regional Employability through Quality Assurance

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**CEPUCA**

# Central American Confederation of University Professional Entities

## CEPUCA

- ▶ **Founded:** Guatemala, December 1, 1997
- ▶ **APCOP:** Guatemalan Assembly of Presidents of the Professional Colleges,
- ▶ **CAPE:** El Salvador Council of Professional Associations,
- ▶ **FECOPRUH:** Honduras Federation of University Professional Colleges,
- ▶ **CONAPRO:** Nicaragua National Confederation of Professionals,
- ▶ **FECOPROU:** Costa Rican Federation of University Professional Colleges,
- ▶ **FEDAP:** Panama Federation of Professional Associations
- ▶ **Dental and Medical Association of Belize**
  
- 😊 **Extension: 523,525 square kilometers**
  
- 😊 **Population: 36 million – Professional: 300,000 (1 %)**

## Labor Markets and Quality of Education:

- Education for improving life's conditions
- University registration increases
- Best monitor for employment is the yellow pages of newspapers
- Best qualified are getting the jobs
- Labor market will be more competitive in the next future
- Employers try to obtain the best qualified candidate
- University and Academic Prestige is important

# How should universities best prepare for regional labor markets?

- Preparing their staff of professors
- Visiting and exchanging professors
- Incorporating new education technology
- Internal evaluation: auto evaluation system
- External evaluation: certification system, special agencies (ACAP, SICEVAES, Etc.)
- Quality Assurance in higher education
- Regional acceptance of graduates

# Who should be involved in regional QA ?

- **Permission for professional practice by law**
  - National Universities
  - Ministry of Education
  - Professional colleges
  - CEPUCA (Regional – Central America)

**Trade Unions:** are not good seen

- Political corruption
- They lost the role

# What are the chances and opportunities of increased transnational QA?

- More people interested in this issue
- ACAP founded in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

## Obstacles and dangers:

- Financial (maintenance, administration)
- Time (lapse to start working)
- Absence of Information.

# What is the current situation in Central America?

- Professional Collegiate Mandatory Law (1945)
- Annual Continuing Education Credits (2001)
- Free Trade Commerce Agreement
- The Agreement from 1962 (CSUCA)

# QA and regional mobility of professionals in the near future

- QA is an important issue
- Mobility is increasing due to globalization and regional agreements.
- **Obstacle:** QA is not known by the majority of professionals
- Extra cost: proficiency is a result of QA.