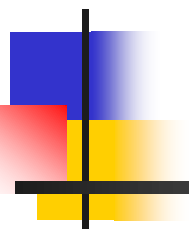


# **White Paper, OECD, CRC and CHE Positions: The View of an Academic Economist and Policy-maker**



Discussion by Jan Svejnar  
White paper and Beyond Conference,  
Prague  
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# Overall Assessment

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- Many good ideas
  - Competition => quality
  - Student needs (compete worldwide) => schools must deliver quality education and recognition
  - Need to assure academic freedom while restructuring
  - Need to increase financing (block grants, deferred tuition) and cost effectiveness
- Divergence of opinions on implementation
  - Appetite for finding “beneficial” restructuring



# Fundamental Issues

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- Competition and quality
  - Student needs (compete worldwide) => schools must deliver quality education and recognition
  - Student choice of schools
  - Merit (academic) grants



# Fundamental Issues (2)

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- Academic freedom while restructuring
  - What is academic freedom
  - Insider-outsider problem (rigidity)
  - Role of university/faculty senates, departments/"catedras" and ad hoc "blue ribbon" committees, external representatives
  - What kind of restructuring is needed
  - Appointment and managerial power of deans, rectors and boards
  - Accountability



# Fundamental Issues (3)

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- Need to increase financing
  - Block grants (public) – to schools v. students
  - (Not) linking level of funding to quality evaluation?
  - Deferred tuition and loans (immediate payment to schools)
  - Private sector
  - Alumni (successful graduates?)
  - Example of best public schools in the US
  - Link teaching to research at research universities



# Fundamental Issues (4)

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- Diversity of institutions of tertiary education
  - Specialization can raise quality



# Overall Assessment

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- Much work has been done (White Paper, Responses, analyses of other countries)
- Much agreement on principles
- Significant agreement on how and why things (do not) work in various countries
- Worries about specific implementation in a “transition environment”
- Leading external academics on boards could be a key