CONTINUING EDUCATION: A THREE-TIERED TEACHING CHALLENGE

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ABSTRACT

This article offers an overview of continuing education and examines the elements included in short courses, diploma-track courses, post-degree courses, and other professional programs, including graduate and postdoctoral study programs. The analysis identifies the different roles played by continuing education, i.e. instrumental, societal and advanced training. It is based on a series of approaches used to characterize the different participants and their requirements, relating them to national needs linked to socioeconomic development and institutional capacity. The paper emphasizes the teaching and institutional challenges involved in the societal and training roles of continuing education. The conclusion is that advanced training provides a major opportunity to bring together the capacity of universities, government policies and national needs, so as to improve the integration of knowledge to national development.