

New challenges in Hungarian engineering education: mobility and working conditions of recently graduated engineers

Klara Kövesi

ENSTA Bretagne, Brest, France

E-mail: klara.kovesi@ensta-bretagne.fr

Zsuzsanna Veroszta

Educatio Non-profit LLC, Budapest, Hungary

E-mail: veroszta.zsuzsanna@educatio.hu

Péter Csizmadia

Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

E-mail: csizmadia.peter@tk.mta.hu

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Different actors of Higher Education (HE) systems have witnessed several structural changes in the recent decades. Both external and internal factors, like globalisation, competitive pressure of the emerging economies, changing labour market needs, institutional reforms and financial difficulties are shaping the position of the HE institutions all over the world. The labour market globalisation accompanied by turbulent technological changes and innovation is one of the most important contextual factors influencing Higher Education. These tendencies especially affect science and engineering education as a main source of skilled labour supply in the technology-intensive fields.

In the last three decades Hungarian HE system and especially engineering education had to face both generic and country-specific problems. The paper to be presented will investigate the different aspects of the Hungarian engineering education with respect to the challenges mentioned before. The Innov'Ing 2020 research project identified two main issues that are strongly interrelated.

Statistical data suggest that the mobility of Hungarian students is relatively low in international comparison [1] which indicates low ability to participate in the globalised labour market. Therefore the first issue investigated is students' and young graduates' mobility. Mobility cannot be treated separately from engineers' working and employment conditions and career perspectives. The linked analysis of the two issues provides a better opportunity to understand the current situation.

Methods: In order to find proper answers to the research questions the secondary analysis of different data sources will be applied. The employment position of young graduates is regularly tracked within the framework of Hungarian Graduate Career Tracking System which is an online survey conducted annually by higher education institutions since 2010. The analysis of this dataset will be amended by the use of nation-wide administrative databases. As for the working conditions of engineers the multivariable analysis of data from the European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS) will provide an opportunity to carry out an in-depth analysis.

Expected outcomes: The paper will deliver detailed information about the tendencies of students' and graduates' mobility and the working conditions and well-being of engineering professionals.

References

[1] Kiss, L. –Veroszta, Zs. (2011): Bachelor graduates in Hungary in the transitional period of higher education system. In: Schomburg, H.–Teichler, U. (eds.): Employability and mobility of bachelor graduates in Europe. Key results of the Bologna Process. Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, pp. 129–142