

Higher Education and Labour Market

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As UNESCO (1997) says, (inter)dependent operations and results of HE and the labour market are among one of the most important factors to highlight the issue of directing people into education and work. The field of directing people into education and work is the subject of different international legal instruments whose values are the base on which international and national education and employment policies are designed.

Until recently the labour market did not concern HEI as graduates were employable. Thus, they did not monitor/examine the inclusion of graduates into the labour market, or if objectives, curricula and the expected study programme graduate competences were correctly set.

A pressing issue is that of unemployment among tertiary education graduates, a degree is no longer as valuable as assurance for a safe entrance into the labour market. (EU Youth Report, 2009: 30). In 2011 in Slovenia, the rate of registered unemployed active residence with at least HE was 1.6%, 0.8 percentage points more than in 2005 (Marjetič & Lesjak, 2013).

HE policies and HEI are not suitably prepared for the unpredictable socio-economic and labour market conditions, especially because changing enrolment policies and the study programmes offered has an influence on the workload of their human resources. Therefore, it's about finding a balance between:

- what candidates want to study,
- assurance and appropriate use of teachers for delivering study programmes and
- the needs of society and labour market for appropriate (knowledge of) graduates.

The current and future conditions of the labour market are sadly factors which are not respected enough when designing the development and (annual) offers of study programmes and the number of enrolment places.

The authenticity of the results we achieve by fulfilling the goals and combined scientific areas, is solid and interdependent. We have not yet found HE research results which would connect the national or system level, and management of HE institutions with emphasis on ensuring their success from the viewpoint of providing graduates and theirs' employability on the labour market.

The study is based on both quantitative and qualitative research approaches, studying and synthesising theoretical and empirical analyses.

Due to this, the HE enrolment policy should be seriously considered, especially in study areas which the labour market sets. When designing enrolment policies, which should be within the context of co-operation between HEIs, employers and government as well as annual tenders for HE enrolment, which HEIs forward to government to confirm, in addition to data on the status and trends in HE and on the labour market, the strategic direction of the country as well as long-term development projections of Slovenia and the labour market should be included.

Keywords: higher education, labour market, enrolment, unemployment

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