

STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT SATISFACTION

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Abstract:

Until recently the labour market did not concern Higher education institutions (HEIs) 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.

According to European Commission for the year 2016 in the EU, 4.2 million or 1 in 5 young people under the age of 25 are unemployed. Youth unemployment rate was 19 % in 2016 which is more than double the overall unemployment rate (Youth employment, 2018). From 2008 - 2013, unemployment in Slovenia increased from 6.7% to +13%. In 2010, in the age group of 15 to 24 the level had already increased to +25%.

A pressing issue is that of unemployment among higher education graduates, a degree is no longer as valuable as assurance for a safe entrance into the labour market. (EU Youth Report, 2009, p. 30). In Slovenia the registered unemployment rate among tertiary graduates is still increasing as it was in 2016 1.9% (compared to 1.6% in 2011 and 0.8% in 2006) (Marjetič, E. and D. Lesjak, 2013).

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 and they are not respected enough among candidates i.e. future students who wish to study. Their decisions what to study depend more on their personal preferences and opinions about the characteristics of desired or selected study programmes.

The focus of the paper is on:

- the needs of the society and HE labour market and theirs' analysis for the last 10 years will be presented threefold - unemployed and employability of graduates and available job positions and
- a case study of a four year research of master students' satisfaction with prior and current studies and job satisfaction of the employed ones.

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

Keywords: higher education, satisfaction, study, labour market, enrolment, unemployment

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