

Unemployment Trends Among Slovenian Higher Education Graduates: A Quantitative Analysis of Institutional and Program-Level Differences

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Abstract

This paper presents a quantitative analysis of unemployment trends among graduates of Slovenian higher education institutions. The study is based on administrative data from the National Employment Service and focuses on graduates who registered as unemployed after graduation. The analysis examines unemployment rates across different institutions and study programs and provides a detailed insight into the labor market outcomes of Slovenian graduates.

The results show significant differences in the employability of graduates depending on their field of study. Graduates of social sciences, economics and law programs have significantly higher unemployment rates than graduates of technical, scientific and health-related programs.

The study also reveals significant differences in employment outcomes between higher education institutions. While some universities have relatively low unemployment rates among their graduates, others have greater difficulty integrating graduates into the labor market. These institutional differences illustrate the varying quality and market adaptation of study programs in the Slovenian higher education landscape.

A comparative analysis with broader European trends shows that Slovenia has some similarities with other countries that struggle to match higher education outcomes with labor market needs. The findings suggest that the progressive massification of higher education has contributed to a mismatch between skills supply and demand.

Although the study does not suggest specific policy interventions, its findings underline the need for improved coordination between higher education institutions and labor market actors. The findings provide insights for policy makers, higher education leaders and employers seeking to better align educational outcomes with workforce needs

Keywords: Graduate unemployment, higher education institutions, labor market integration, skills mismatches, Slovenia