

Competencies of the Future: Employers' Perspectives on Economics Graduates' Skills

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Abstract

This article delves into the necessary skills that employers will seek in economics graduates in the future job market. The findings are based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods, including a CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interview) study of 155 employers and an IDI (Individual In-depth Interview) study of 16 employers in the Lublin region. Both studies were conducted in the first half of 2023. These results highlight the competencies currently in demand as well as those that will be sought after in the next five years, revealing any differences between them. According to the research results, the ranking of competencies expected from economics graduates will not change significantly in the next few years. However, according to the surveyed employers, basic IT skills and knowledge of the latest technologies may become more significant. In contrast, the importance of skills such as analysis and synthesis or the ability to communicate verbally and in writing in Polish will decrease. These changes may result from globalisation processes and the development of modern technologies, especially those related to artificial intelligence, which are expected to lead to fundamental changes in the labour market in the near future. The conclusions drawn from this research facilitate a comparison with other studies on this crucial topic. It should be noted that the primary constraint of the study is its regional focus and the fact that it solely targets employers who hire economics graduates.

Keywords: competencies of the future, future skills, education, job market, economics graduates