

PROCEED-2-WORK

Why

There is a need for highly qualified engineers and more of them – and the global cooperation challenges both Danish engineers working abroad and foreign engineers in Denmark. Internationally, there are three main issues dominating the ongoing discussion of how to improve the engineering studies: (1) What are the future needs for competencies?; (2) How can we solve transition problems between education and work?; and (3) How do we guarantee admission to the technical and science studies?

What

PROCEED-2-WORK will contribute with knowledge of all three issues by gathering data among newly qualified engineers and managers at selected engineering companies. The project is an extension of a completed research committee project named PROCEED where one of the subprojects has followed student engineers who started their studies in 2010. A questionnaire was sent out to the students in 2010, 2011 and 2015 to identify their expectations to the future labour market (only to graduate engineers). PROCEED-2-WORK will gather data from the same group in 2016. This will offer a unique opportunity to combine experience obtained during studies with experience gained on the labour market.

How

PROCEED-2-WORK applies both quantitative and qualitative methods. A questionnaire will be sent out in spring 2016 with the overall focus to analyse the transition from certified engineer / BSc in Engineering and graduate engineer / MSc in Engineering to employment in Denmark.

Who

The UNESCO Centre at Aalborg University is responsible for the implementation of the project initiated by a group of advisers composed of the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences (ATV), the Manufacturing Academy of Denmark (MADE), the Danish Society of Engineers (IDA), Engineering the future, Akademikernes A-kasse (IAK) and engineering institutions.

Next step

In Denmark, PROCEED-2-WORK will contribute to improving knowledge of:

- special competences in different engineering activities
- the transition from qualified engineer to the labour market where there is a particular focus on innovation and entrepreneurship
- younger engineers' attitude to their work
- the way in which studies are organised and how important this is for the employment, including practical collaboration with the business community in various ways
- initiatives by companies to integrate newly hired engineers.

The project will also contribute to improving the quality of the engineering studies in order to ease the transition from studies to work as well as to contribute to increasing awareness of these educational programmes and attracting more young people to them.

International perspective

Also internationally, PROCEED-2-WORK is expected to contribute with knowledge and research results – both through the existing international research relations to the USA and via its contacts to a number of countries where the UNESCO Centre has already established a network with a view to developing engineering institutions.

When

Data will be gathered in March / April and a preliminary report will be available before the summer of 2016.

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