



Job Search Assistance and Self-Development Assistance

The Czech Republic records growing unemployment rate in new graduates, however, the values keep below the EU average. A slight improvement in the situation of graduates entering the labour market between 2010 and 2011 was followed by a dramatic deterioration in 2012. While the unemployment rate in new graduates recorded 10% in 2011, it was as high as 16% in 2012.¹ Surprisingly enough, the situation of graduates shall be rather favourable due to the combination of several factors, such as demographic ones – a decrease in the total number of graduates and enhanced access to tertiary education resulting in growing proportion of graduates continuing their education. The lack of working and practical experience and minimal work habits represent the biggest disadvantage for graduates in the labour market. Many of them are not able to find employment in the fields from which they graduated.

The project *Development and Implementation of the National Register of Qualifications (NSK 2)* offers assistance not only to the unemployed but also to those who want to have recognized their skills and competences, which they have acquired in practice and for which they have no official certificate. The project further develops what was achieved during the previous national project establishing the National Register of Qualifications (NSK 1, 2005-2008). The follow-up project has been running since 2009 and will be concluded by 2015. It is implemented by the National Institute for Education (NÚV) and is co-funded from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic and the ESF.

The National Register of Qualifications is gradually being applied as a national reference point of qualifications, which includes both qualification requirements of all currently recognized occupations as well as the criteria for verification of professional competences to carry out respective working tasks.

The National Register of Qualifications currently contains mainly craft qualifications and qualifications related to services (ISCED 3C). The main objective of the NSK 2 project is to add qualifications of further levels to the Qualifications Framework, such as Maturita level (ISCED 3A) and depending on the labour market demand also higher level qualifications. Within the project, a long-term monitoring of the situation on the labour market is being carried out and the skill needs in particular fields are being monitored in co-operation with the Sector Councils.

A web portal www.vzdelavaniaprace.cz (Vzdělávání a práce – Education and work), linking information on job opportunities, training courses and professional qualifications exams, has been set up. The portal provides the wide public with a possibility to find a better job and to get not only information about new job opportunities, but also to acquire new skills and improve their professional competences. Persons, interested in training and education, are provided with a comprehensive offer of training courses for adults, which are linked to examinations of professional qualification and job offers. More than 16,000 vacancies as well as qualification requirements for particular occupations can be found there.

If those interested in training (older than 18 years) want to acquire also a nationally valid and by the employers recognized certificate, they need to take an examination of professional qualification – i.e. to have their skills and knowledge verified by an authorised person. Examination requirements

¹ Sources: *Preliminary report on unemployment in new graduates as of the end of April 2013*. [Předběžná zpráva o nezaměstnanosti čerstvých absolventů škol ke konci dubna 2013.] J. Vojtěch, D. Chamoutová, NÚV, Praha June 2013; *Unemployment in graduates from secondary and higher vocational education* [Nezaměstnanost absolventů škol se středním a vyšším odborným vzděláním.] J. Festová, D. Chamoutová, NÚV, Praha 2012

together with the list of authorised persons and examination sites in particular regions are available on the web portal.

Thanks to the compatibility with the European Qualifications Framework, the examinations are valid also in other EU countries. Provided the examination forms a part of a retraining course, the Labour Office may repay its costs to the successful candidates.

Registered users of the portal get useful information on average salary level in chosen occupation; they may create various filters and store them among their favourites and subsequently follow the updates of required information. The updates are on regular basis sent to their mailbox. The portal allows candidates to find a suitable course in their region using the city or town filter while specifying maximum distance. Individual courses are also being evaluated in terms of quality.

Interesting articles and information from the world of work and education are simultaneously published on the facebook site, on the basis of this information it is possible to determine e.g. which occupations are currently on the rise. Further information available at:

www.vzdelavaniaprace.cz; <https://www.facebook.com/vzdelavaniaprace>