

BRAIN DRAIN OF SCIENTISTS FROM SLOVENIA AFTER ITS ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we analyze the actual (real) emigration of scientists in Slovenia for the period 2004-2009 (from 1.7.2004 to 30.9.2009). This analysis is conducted within the framework of the ongoing research project “Brain drain of researchers in Slovenia with special emphasis on graduates of the “program of young researchers” and the “program of young researchers for business enterprise sector” (2008-2011; M. Bevc, project leader). The project is financed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Slovene research agency, and Government office for development and European affairs. Data was collected by surveying all of those organisations that employ researchers registered at the Slovene research agency (in September 2009 - 770); this includes the entire higher education sector, companies, institutions such as hospitals, etc. The survey was conducted from October 19 to December 20, 2009. Two different questionnaires were used – for two people in each organisation: one for directors and deans, and the second (census of all emigrants) for cadre managers. A total of 1540 persons were surveyed. For purposes of the study, emigrants are those researchers who were employed full-time and left both the organization and the country. The questionnaires employed were the same as those used in the previous study on real emigration of scientists (Bevc, Koman, Murovec, 2006), which enable the analysis of trends of the phenomenon.

The aim of the paper is to analyze the size and scope of emigration of Slovene scientists in the period following Slovenia’s accession to the EU in 2004, together with the characteristics of emigrants and their motivation for leaving the country. All of these dimensions will be analyzed and compared to trends in the real emigration of scientists before EU accession (Bevc, Koman, Murovec, 2006); and in comparison with potential emigration of scientists in 2005 (Bevc, Uršič, 2006). Special attention will be given to emigration of “young researchers”, who obtained master’s or doctor’s degrees by the special publicly funded program; it is generally held that the emigration rate of these researchers is high. The analysis will be put into the broader framework of trends in emigration of scientists from EU countries in general.

2. BROADER CONTEXT

2.1. Literature on emigration of scientists

2.2. Situation in Slovene science sector

3. METHODOLOGY, POPULATION, RESPONDENTS

3.1. Methodology

3.2. The study population and respondents

3.2. Characteristics of respondents – organisations which responded to the questionnaire

4. RESULTS - EMIGRATION OF RESEARCHERS IN THE PERIOD 2004-2009

4.1. Size of brain drain and its connection with the respective characteristics of different organisations

4.2. Characteristics of emigrants and their motives for emigration

Characteristics: The following characteristics are observed: type of organisation (size – number of researchers, research field), age, gender, education (level, country where last degree attained), year of emigration, years of work experience.

Reasons for emigration (information collected by colleagues of emigrants where they were last employed before leaving the country)

4.3. Comparison to real emigration of scientists in the period 1995-2004 (size, characteristics, reasons/motives)

4.4. Comparison to the potential emigration of scientists in 2005 (size, characteristics, reasons/motives)

5. CONCLUSIONS

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