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Academic Profession in Knowledge Based Society – case study Slovenia

The research project titled “Academic Profession in a Knowledge-Based Society” (APIKS) is a large-scale survey of academic staff at Slovene Higher educational institutions. This project is part of an international project APIKS and will enable to compare Slovene’s higher education environment with numerous countries worldwide. The Slovene part of the project will comply with the standardized methodology employed by APIKS. APIKS has been designed as a longitudinal study that has taken place in the leading countries three times in a 10-year interval. In Slovenia, the results are partially comparable with an academic staff survey conducted in 2013 (Klemenčič idr. 2013).

APIKS (Academic Profession in Knowledge Based Society) international research project is the second major effort in the history of higher education research to undertake a major comparative survey of the academic profession. The survey will produce a unique data base for comparative studies from 31 country teams. At the Pel conference we will present data collected for Slovenia in comparison with the Slovene data from the previous Academic Profession survey in Slovenia (EUROAC in 2013).

APIKS Core population target sample size was at least 1,000 respondents in each of the participating countries. Targeted population included all academics regularly employed in higher education institutions for more than one day per week in teaching or research roles. For Slovenia invitations were sent to 7859 academics (addresses canvassed from publically accessible webpages) to invite them to participate in the study. The final sample of academics is of size 1035 respondents, including 49 of those with between 20% and less than 25% part-time employment at a higher education institution. We have balanced representation of respondents according to gender and rank. Representation of respondents according to academic field reflects the largest fields (social and behavioural sciences and engineering) albeit arts and humanities tend to be overrepresented in the sample.

APIKS Slovenia involves both a scientific and an applied dimension. Reliable and comparable data about Slovene academic context are essential to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the academic environment and for developing higher education and research policy responses. Since the survey touches upon societal contribution, innovation, and international cooperation of Slovene academics, the study offers important background information on how the sector reacts to the changing work environment and on the nature of the academic profession. We will present data collected for Slovenia in comparison with the Slovene data from the previous Academic Profession survey in Slovenia (EUROAC in 2013).

Keywords:

Academic profession, teaching, research, outreach, internationalisation

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