



Young Czech students at a crossroads: forty percent prefer to work abroad, thirty per cent wants to work at home

Prague, October 5, 2015 - A slight majority of talented students who are current or former grantees of the Bakala Foundation Scholarship Foundation and The Kellner Family Foundation are dissatisfied with the quality of education in the Czech Republic. Almost twenty per cent of them plan to stay several years abroad after they complete their master's degree in order to get professional experience. On the other hand, some thirty percent of the students prefer to return to the Czech Republic.

According to the research of Datank company (which has been monitoring for the last three years the opinions of students on Czech higher education and education abroad) there is a mild dissatisfaction with the level of education in the Czech Republic with the ratio of 56 to 44%. The vast majority of respondents (94%) see the main benefits of a study abroad in the quality of teaching and top professors. Students also prefer universities abroad because they can develop high-quality international contacts for their future careers (76%) a have a chance to work in multicultural environments and subsequently acquire foreign language competences.

Some 78% of respondents in the respective research chose their field of study mainly for their interest in that area and have fun studying it. They much less emphasized (37%) whether their field is or is not promising as far as their future employment. Disregarding their own field of study, 92% considered technical and natural sciences to be the most promising, while only 12% considered the arts to be perspective.

"The survey shows that students consider the possibility of studying abroad not for its material benefits but as a way of fulfilling their values and dreams. I am very pleased that this year we have through our SCHOLARSHIP program supported thirteen talented Czech students, who otherwise could not afford to study at prestigious international universities," said Vaclav Pech, Director of the Bakala Foundation.

"We are very pleased that we can contribute to the education paths of academically gifted young people at world's recognized universities. We want our grantees to return back to the Czech Republic, to make use of their internationally acquired education and experience and to actively promote the development of our country. This academic year, we have granted 52 students with financial scholarships, so the total number of grantees now exceeds over a hundred," said Hana Halfarová, Director of the Open Gate and The Kellner Family Foundation University projects.

Great Britain or the Czech Republic?

Vast majority of students have a clear idea about their future careers. Almost two thirds (61%) of all students who are studying their undergraduate studies at universities abroad or are about to study abroad, want to stay abroad and continue their studies there.

In the case of MA students, their motivation to make use of their knowledge back at work in the Czech Republic is much higher. After completing their studies, 30% of respondents want to work in the Czech Republic, which is 7% less than the number of the students who want to pursue short-term or long-term professional engagement abroad. A dream destination for working abroad is the United Kingdom (49%), followed by the USA (19%), Germany and the Benelux countries (6%).



When choosing the future employer, students consider important to have the flexibility in working hours or locations. They also prefer socially responsible companies and companies that are regarded as innovative. On the other hand, students do not consider it important whether the company is new or old, or how high is the compensation offered by the future employer.

The survey was carried out by the Datank company in July-August 2015 using the e-interviewing method (CAWI) on a sample of 233 respondents from the pool of scholarship applicants and grantees of Bakala Foundation and The Kellner Family Foundation.

The Bakala Foundation SCHOLARSHIP Program

The SCHOLARSHIP Program of the Bakala Foundation offers financial support to talented Czech students to study at top universities abroad. The aim of this program is to support the candidates in their studies at universities that will contribute to their personal and academic growth according to their academic needs. There are some hundred of Bakala Scholars around the world who are currently studying or who have already graduated.

More information at: www.bakalafoundation.org

The Kellner Family Foundation

The Kellner Family Foundation is a family foundation of Ms. Renáta and Petr Kellner. It was established in 2009 to primarily promote long-term educational projects aimed at elementary school students and their teachers, secondary school and university students or graduates. The Foundation funds and supports academically gifted children and young people who have grown up in conditions which complicate or deny their access to quality education. The Foundation also provides grants to Czech scientists and scientific teams. Furthermore, it helps to restore the philanthropic traditions and cultural heritage of the Czech Republic.

More information at www.kellnerfoundation.cz.

The Datank company

Datank engages in analysis and information processing. It specializes in analysis of the business sector, public and state administration and banking and insurance sector. The team of the Datank Agency efficiently searches and addresses audiences in all economic sectors, positions and regions. Owing to years of experience in the acquisition and evaluation of information from public and private databases and resources, Datank succeeds in obtaining relevant and comprehensive information.

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