



Centar za građansko obrazovanje
Centre for civic education

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SCHOOLING JUST FOR THE LABOUR BUREAU

Centre for Civic Education (CCE) expresses serious concern over the announced reduction in the percentage of participation in the financing of apprenticeship wages by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, from 80% to 60%. The consequences of this decision will have a negative impact on young educated people who should be the engine of further development of our society, and their own professional engagement.

CCE continuously warns that enrollment policies at the University of Montenegro (UCG) and private universities are in discrepancy with the labor market, that lead to overproduction of students, which existing market can't absorb. To remind, currently within the records of the Employment Agency of Montenegro there are more than 4.000 young people with graduate diplomas and work experience, but without promising prospects for employment opportunities, as well. At the UCG in the year 2010/11 a total of 17.756 students are studying, of which in the final year there are 5.156, while enrolled in the school year 2011/2012 are more than 6.000 new students. To these numbers, one should add also rather high number of students at the private universities. The state currently is still not identifying this as a problem or offering a solution for this situation.

Amended enrollment policy made it much easier to enroll at the faculties. The abolition of the entrance tests, as well as lowering of the criteria for admission to college lead to the fact that almost all high school pupils are entering faculties. Also, there is a tendency of very large number of pupils of secondary vocational schools, like medical schools, continuing their schooling at the social science faculties (such as law, economics and political sciences), while there is almost no demand for these professions at the labor market.

According to the Employment Agency, for the past 10 years the number of enrolled students increased by 2.5 times, ie. from 8.333 to 21.199, which without adequate enrollment policy and without compliance with the labor market represents alarming notice. At this point, graduates hardly can find jobs, and it is a devastating fact that they have no opportunity to do their apprentice. **Authorities' response to this situation is not stimulating for employers, since it reduces participation in the financing of apprentices' salaries which is inappropriate, irresponsible and frivolous.**

It is impossible to expect that the labor market will by itself regulate the supply and demand, due to this we call upon the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to address this matter seriously and promptly, thus preventing situations that young people are educated just to wait in the labor market.

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