The Education –
Unemployment Relationship in the Slovak Republic: An Analysis with Special Regard to Economic Education

Abstract

The contribution is focused on the analysis between education and unemployment in the Slovak Republic. There is a reciprocal proportion between education and unemployment: the lower education, the higher unemployment. It is especially typical of long-term unemployment which is highest at the lowest level of basic education. In Slovakia, young people’s unemployment rate in the age range of 15–24 is three times higher in comparison with the OECD countries. The situation necessitates a quick solution. The education level of people and a constant rise of qualification belong to basic assumptions needed for a decrease of unemployment, an increase in labour market flexibility, and a development of national economy.

Key words: Unemployment, long-term unemployment, rate of unemployment, education, education level, qualification, labour market, economy transformation, mobility of workforce, higher education

1. The characteristics and the development of unemployment during the transformation period in the Slovak Republic

Unemployment is a serious problem worldwide. In Slovakia it has appeared as an accompanying phenomenon and a negative result of political and economic transformations after the year 1989. Since then it has been on the rise and has had a negative impact on the functioning of society as well as on the life of citizens. Before 1989 there was a so-called full employment as well as the duty to work was embodied in legislation. That is the reason why it has been a new and unexpected