Analyzing the Motivation and Expectations of the Next Generation of Geodesy Students in German-Speaking Countries

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SUMMARY

With a view at the long-term development of student numbers, this study attempts to gain an insight into the motivation of German-speaking first-year students in geodesy and surveying. With the help of a first-semester survey, which is carried out annually by the conference of Geodesy Students of German-speaking Universities (KonGeoS) in cooperation with the majority of German-speaking universities, an insight was gained about the motivations for taking up the study program, previous experiences and also the plans of the students for the future, mainly regarding professional career prospects. The survey has been evaluated for the year of 2022 as well as previous years going back to 2013. This paper attempts to frame certain key points that seek to narrow down the requirements and expectations of those starting their professional career in the coming years, as they will play a vital role in the future development of institutions and commercial enterprises. A deepend focus is placed on ways to encourage high-school graduates to enroll to a geodesy program at German-speaking universities.

This paper first tries to shed light on the development and the current situation on the German-speaking labor market with a focus on the field of geodesy. In addition, the situation at the German-speaking universities is discussed. Up next is the presentation of the research methodology used for the following analysis, which introduces the used data of the first semester student numbers and the annual KonGeoS-survey, conducted at numerous universities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. These data were then used in the following section, in combination with previous work from the literature, to analyze development of the past decades, concerning both the labor market as well as the situation at the universities. Finally a conclusion is drawn considering the findings of the analysis.

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