

Position Paper

## **Study and career guidance in compulsory and upper secondary school**

Teknikföretagen (The Association of Swedish Engineering Industries) wants the education and mission of study and career guidance counsellors to have a clearer connection to business and to be based on the labour market's needs to an even greater extent.

### ***Teknikföretagen works to ensure:***

- **A clearer professional role.**  
Today, it is unclear what role the study and career guidance counsellors play. Today, education places too much weight on areas like behavioural sciences and psychology. We want study and career guidance counsellor training to comprise more components about the labour market, professional roles and career paths in engineering industries.
- **Continuous further education during the professional career.**  
The labour market, professional roles and educational programmes change rapidly – especially in engineering industries. We therefore want study and career guidance counsellors to have the possibility of further education to obtain the skills to interpret today's complex education system and labour market.
- **A stronger connection to regional business.**  
At the same time that companies have difficulty finding the right expertise, many are choosing programmes where they do not get jobs. Connecting study and career guidance more closely to business is therefore something that benefits everyone.

### ***What Teknikföretagen is doing:***

- Teknikföretagen conducts its own projects, such as Ingenjörsvägen (Engineer's Path) and Felix stör en ingenör (Felix disturbs an engineer) to inspire and inform both young people and study and career guidance counsellors of technically oriented programmes and professions in the engineering industry. We hold workshops and lectures throughout Sweden and prepare information materials, websites and films.
- Teknikföretagen works together with industrial employer organisations and unions within the Teknikcollege educational certification initiative to strengthen collaboration between companies, municipalities and schools and attracts more applicants to the industry.

## **Facts**

### **Both expertise shortages and youth unemployment**

Today, we have both a shortage of expertise and unemployment in Sweden. Companies have difficulty recruiting at the same time that many young people graduate to unemployment. Six out of ten companies say that they have difficulty recruiting employees and companies still fail with nearly one out of five recruitment attempts.<sup>1</sup>

### **Study and career guidance counsellors are important to the selection of studies**

According to the young people themselves, the study and career guidance counsellors are one of the most influential groups in their choice of studies besides parents, friends and teachers.<sup>2</sup>

### **Young people want to know more about the future**

Only one out of five high school students feel that the school has given them good information on what career opportunities there are.<sup>3</sup> Among Sweden's 15 year-olds there is a need to find out what kind of workers will be in demand in the future. They want to have a grasp of what professions and educational programmes will be needed more or less of in the future.

### **Broad mission and outdated education**

Study and career guidance counsellors have a broad mission – both guidance in how the student should plan his/her education in the part of school he/she is in now, and advice for the next level of study and the labour market. No major changes have been carried out in the study and career guidance programme since 1984 when the programme became a three-year degree. There is no clear definition of the professional role of the study and career guidance counsellor and only three out of ten have a job description.<sup>4</sup>

### **About Teknikföretagen**

Teknikföretagen is the employer organisation for the creative enterprises representing one-third of Sweden's exports. Throughout the country, we assist engineering companies in labour law and industry issues enabling them to focus on developing world class goods and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Confederation of Swedish Enterprise's recruitment survey, 2016

<sup>2</sup> SyvBarometern, 2016

<sup>3</sup> Youth barometer, 2011

<sup>4</sup> SyvBarometern, 2016