

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONS: THE NECESSITY TO INTRODUCE NEW JOBS IN CONSTANTZA COUNTY

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Abstract. The present work has been done in the direction to find out the needs of the local Job Market in the major area of Constantza regarding the environmental professions. The statistical study was elaborated on the questionnaire method and interviews with the managers and the heads of environmental protection departments of the investigated industrial companies of Constantza county (Mangalia, Navodari, Medgidia, Cernavoda) which are considering being the main polluters for the local environment. Also, we identified the companies which have environmental protection department or are in proceedings to establish it. The existing situation regarding the availability of similar professions in Constantza county has also been investigated in the frame of the presented work. The study has been focused on four major objectives: identification of the main companies from public and private sectors having departments of environmental protection; the training level of the employees working with the environmental protection; the present situation regarding the environmental professions; in order to have a complete picture of the subject it was decided to organise a round table with the participation of the interested companies and organisations from Constantza, the Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, Agency of Job Market, local authorities, etc. The necessity to establish a Liaison Office in order to link B.EN.A. Training Center with the local job market has been identified; the office now is in function in a daily base. The close collaboration between the representatives of Constantza Job Market Agency, Inspectorate of Environmental Protection and B.EN.A. Training Center gives promising results for the future, since continuously more companies of the major area of Constantza are interesting to participate to this activity.

Keywords: environmental professions, job market agency, questionnaire, public sector, private sector.

AIMS AND BACKGROUND

The present work has been done in the direction to find out the needs of the local job market of the major Constantza area regarding the environmental professions.

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The method questionnaires has been applied to the main economical companies of Constantza county (Mangalia, Navodari, Medgidia, Cernavoda) from the public and private sector having environmental protection department, but also with companies in the proceedings to establish environmental department. The existing situation regarding the availability of similar professions in the major area of Constantza has also been investigated in the frame of the present study.

Finally, the necessity to establish a liaison office in order to link the Training center with the local job market has been identified and as a result, this office now is in function in a daily base¹. The main scopes of this office are:

a) to make a link between the Training center and the local job market in order that both parts to be informed continuously for the availability of such professions and the special needs of the job market regarding the management of the environment and the protection of the public health;

b) to exchange ideas and special requests regarding the training of the students in the direction of the better environment and the life in Romania and in accordance with the European integration of the country.

So far, the result of this close collaboration of the Agency of job market with the training center gives very promising for the future results since continuously more and more companies of the major area of Constantza are interesting to participate in this activity.

The recognition of the diploma awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity and by the Ministry of Education and Research with combination with the acceptance of this diploma by the European Union gives to the Training center graduates concrete qualifications to find an appropriate job in the environmental field.

On the other hand, in order to have an objective evaluation of the Training center a special questionnaire has been given to the students to fill it up on anonymous base. The results among all series were in favour both to the teaching staff and to the curricula of the Training center.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study was dealing with the present situation in environmental protection field on the job market of Constantza county and contains the following:

1. Identification/selection of the main companies from public and private sectors having departments of environmental protection.

2. The training level of the employees working with the environmental protection.

3. Present situation of the environmental protection jobs.

4. In order to have a completed picture of the subject it was decided to organise a round table with the participation of the interested companies and organisations and the Inspectorate of environmental protection and Agency of job market of Constantza.

During 2002, we contacted different companies from public and private sector from Constantza, Mangalia, Navodari, Medgidia, and Cernavoda which are considering being the main polluters of the environment. Our study was focused on how they applied and complied with the environment protection standards.

Through the Inspectorate of environmental protection of Constantza we contacted the responsible of the environmental protection departments. The statistical study was elaborated on the questionnaire method and interviews with the managers or the responsables of environmental protection departments of the investigated industrial companies.

In the beginning of our investigation we observed a hesitation of the companies to collaborate with us. This hesitation we believe is based on the fact of the economical conditions of the companies which are not permitted them to invest the appropriate funds for the environmental protection and management. As a result of the economic situation the majority of the companies are more interested in survival than to make investments for environment protection.

Although, in our city there are private companies having done important investments in the environment protection field, reduction of pollution, industrial waste recycling and solid waste management.

S. C. Argus S. A. is one of them which have succeeded to manage their waste in a friendly to environment way using a filtration dust system for atmospheric pollution, treatment plant for waste water, installing a gravimetric separators system and recycling the solid waste. In addition, the companies La Farge-Cement Factory Medgidia, Oil Terminal, Dobrogea S.A., Petromar Constantza succeed to realise an environmental protection system for different pollutants.

Some companies like S.C.Carmeco Constantza because of the applying new administration are in the procedure to establish in the future their environmental protection department.

The companies Daewoo Shipyard-Mangalia, Balnear Sanatorium of Mangalia and Uranus S.A. Sanitation Services refused to answer our questionnaire because of different reasons.

ELABORATION OF THE STATISTICAL STUDY USING QUESTIONNAIRE METHOD

The questions used had been focused on three major objectives:

1. Identification of the main companies having environmental protection department.
2. Training level and the competence of the responsible personnel to implement the environmental protection standards.
3. Which is the role of B.EN.A. Training Center for Environmental Professions to contribute to the needs of the local job market?

Figure 1 represents the level of the environmental pollution of the investigated companies. It is obvious that the main pollution is the atmospheric pollu-

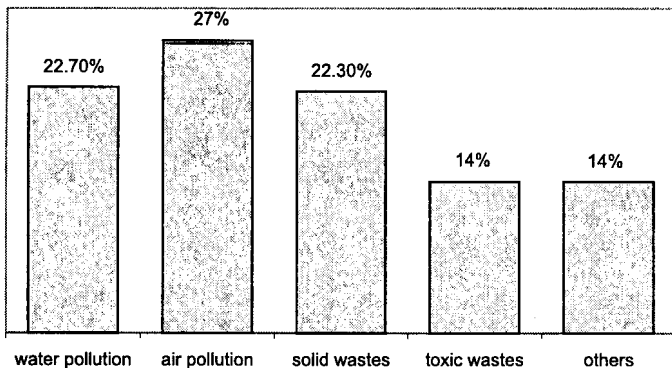


Fig. 1. What is the level of pollution per pollutant in uour company?

tion. In equal share we have the water pollution and the solid waste pollution. It is interesting that the toxic waste pollution, which is 14%, is rather big in comparison with the total pollution. Regarding this type of waste, which needs special treatment, we did not find any particular management as Fig. 2 shows for the rest of the facilities. The main investment regarding the environmental protection seems to be the waste water treatment (27%). In equal percentage we have seen facilities for atmospheric pollution and recycling. It is impressive that the answer of a high percentage (31.20%) was 'no' regarding the existence of any

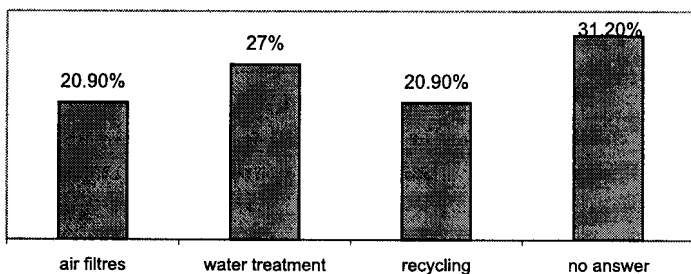


Fig. 2. Have you any facility regarding environmental protection?

facilities. Figure 3 shows that the majority (80%) of the investigated companies have the necessary environmental protection personnel according to their opinion. Figure 4 gives the picture of the background of the environmental protection personnel were the majority belongs to university graduates. Figure 5 gives a clear picture that 66.6% who have the environmental protection personnel are using them in principal for the environmental management, but the remaining 33.4% of the companies which are using them supplementary for the environment, are not an insignificant percentage. Figure 6 shows that the main qualifi-

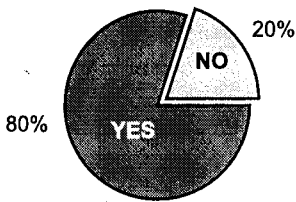


Fig. 3. Have you environmental protection personnel working in your company?

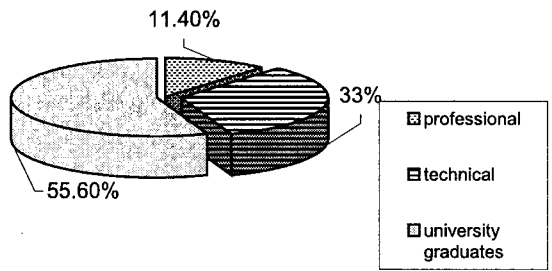


Fig. 4. What is the educational background of your environmental protection personnel?

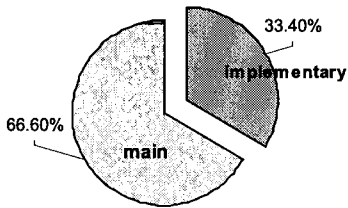


Fig. 5. Environmental job is the main occupation for the personnel of the environmental protection department or is doing this supplementary?

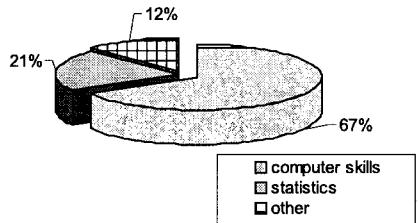


Fig. 6. What other qualifications/skills your environmental protection personnel has?

Environmental job is the main occupation for the personnel of the environmental protection department or is doing this supplementary? Figure 7 shows the future needs for environmental professionals concerning pollutants. Figure 7 shows the future needs for environmental professionals concerning pollutants. It is obvious that the main focus hire specialist will be on the atmospheric pollution (28.80%) and on water pollution (29.70%). Figure 8 shows that big majority (80%) of the investigated companies are appreciating the job of the B.EN.A. Training center and they are willing to collaborate with it. Figure 9 shows that the frame of the collaboration that the companies suggests is the training (40%).

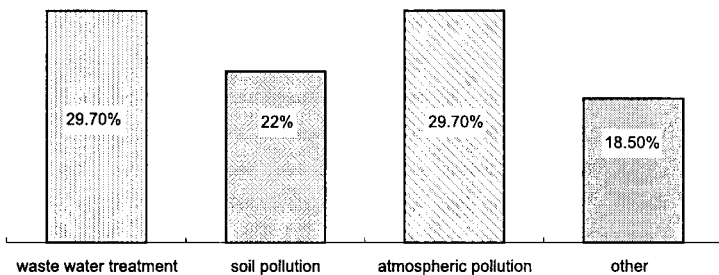


Fig. 7. Which are the necessary environmental professions specialisations in the near future?

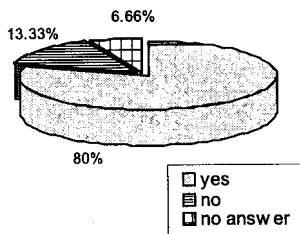


Fig. 8. Are you willing to collaborate with the B.EN.A. Training Center?

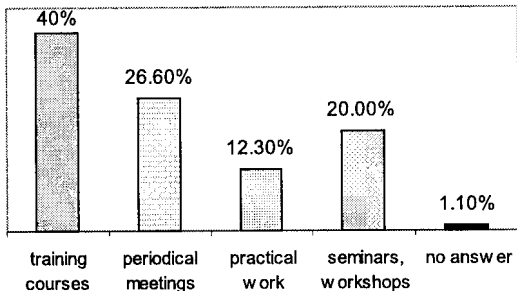


Fig. 9. What is the way of the best collaboration?

Therefore, the activity developed by the Training center for environmental professions of B.EN.A. (Ref. 1) had a great impact on the evaluated subjects. This initiative gave the opportunity to create in the Constantza county the institutional framework for a training program what responds to the individual, social and regional requests for training and environmental services in accordance with the EU standards.

PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONS

A great percentage of the university graduates (Faculty of Natural Sciences, Biology and Ecology) are employees in educational and medical units. It is well known that research institutions are confronted with a hard lack of funds. This is the reason for the small percentage of the graduates to be employees of the research institutions.

During 1996-2000 the graduates were hired by educational institutions (50%), medical units and other fields (15%). On the rest 35% of the graduates we have no informations. Also very few of them are hired as environmental specialists in industrial units. As a conclusion we may say that almost nobody from these graduates has been involved in actual environmental protection job!

For the forecasting of the profession evolution we consider that the biggest chances are relating to teaching sector. There are good opportunities for the secondary schools, especially in rural area. There is also a 20% availability coming from the new sectors like: environmental consultants for mass media, NGO's and with Inspectorate of environmental protection. Since the Ministry of Education took under its coordination some research institutes to be university research centers there is a possibility to create new job places.

CONCLUSIONS

1. According to the statistical results of our study it was concluded the necessity of the establishment of the liaison office that links the Training center with the

local Agency of job market, in order both parts to be informed continuously regarding the opportunities to find the appropriate jobs for our graduates.

2. We have achieved the recognition by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education and Research, regarding the awarded diploma of the Training center of Constantza, as very useful tool in order to be more attractive to the job market.

3. It was organised a round table concerning the new environmental professions, where participated: representatives of the investigated companies, representatives of the Environmental Protection Inspectorate, representatives of the Agency of job market, professors of 'Ovidius' University, representatives of local authorities, Board of Administration and the teaching staff of B.EN.A. Training center, students, etc.

From this round table we may conclude the following:

a. Managers responsible for the environmental protection are very interesting to train their employees in the environmental protection field.

b. Training level and competences of the employees responsible for the environmental protection.

c. Offers a second chance to unemployed scientists in the field of environmental management.

d. The graduates of the B.EN.A. Training center positively appreciated this kind of activity.

4. Also, it was emphasised the necessity for the continuation and implementing of the training program in other cities of Romania (e.g. Bucharest, etc.).

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