The examination of the ways how starters are provided with the opportunity of filling in a post tailored to their skills, abilities and qualification in the least complicated and smoothest way has already been a subject of several labour market studies in Europe. It is a generally accepted fact that people with a higher education degree can more easily find a job and receive higher salary. In Hungary finding a job has apparently become more difficult for the graduates since about 2000. This fact has been stressed as it was actually in contrast with the expectations of the 1990’s.

There are a number of processes behind the statistics attempting to describe the chances of degree holders to find employment. Naturally, there are professional fields in which it is easier to find a job – in this case payment is usually lower. In other areas the opposite tendency holds true. Data provided by the graduate career tracking system present a good opportunity to examine to what extent degree holders graduating from the Hungarian higher education system, which has been developing rapidly since the political transformation, meet labour market expectations.

Economic catching up was related to the expansion of higher education and it was supposed that it was easier for the graduates to find a job, which could reduce unemployment. The respondents’ evaluation of the work carried out in the higher education institution is considered together with how they could make use of their knowledge, to what extent their qualification correlates with their present job and also how fast they could find a job after taking their final exams.