

# Minutes

May 2021

<b>Subject</b>	Advisory board meeting for BEng, BSc, and MSc in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	mskau@tek.sdu.dk T +4565501984
<b>Date and time</b>	May 6, 2021 at 1pm-3pm	
<b>Location</b>	Zoom	
<b>Invited</b>	Elisabeth Villumsen (Novozymes) Lars Brodersen Holm (NGF Nature Energy) Martin Skov Skjøth-Rasmussen (Haldor Topsøe A/S) Hanne Tolderlund Rasmussen (BioMar A/S) Sabine Meng Jensen (Eurofins A/S) Troels Felding (Novo Nordisk) Thit Marie Buch Güllich (DOEHLER Denmark A/S) Behnaz Razi Parjikolaei (Arla Foods Ingredients) Thomas Skamris Jensen (Rambøll) Massimiliano Errico (Associate Professor and Education coordinator at IGT, SDU) Knud Villy Christensen (Associate Professor and Education coordinator at IGT, SDU) Mathias Porsmose (Associate Professor, IGT, SDU), Morten Birkved (Professor MSO) Mette Smølz Skau (Programme Coordinator, SDU)	
<b>Cancellation from</b>	Thit Marie Buch Güllich, Martin Skov Skjøth-Rasmussen, and Lars Brodersen Holm	
<b>Moderator</b>	Massimiliano Errico	

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**Welcome**                      **Welcome and presentation of the panel members**

- Discussion points**
- 1. Unemployment rate (BEng)**

There is about 16.9 % of the graduates that are statistically unemployed. The graduates might not be willing to move to get employment. Even though the percentage is high, it is only 1.5-2.7 students. Are the companies targeting the BEng students or the Master students? Some of the members of the panel said that they mainly hired masters but Troels had noticed a tendency to hire more diverse. Hanne pointed out that the hiring depends more on personality. If they have the knowledge foundation, they will be trained at the job. It was highlighted that if the company advertise for a job requiring a master degree this could prevent the BEng student to apply. However, the companies are quite open to consider also these applicants. The initial requirement for the master is done as best possible option but should not be seen as limitation for other applicants. The companies need to think about how they advertise their available positions, and the students need to be encouraged to apply for positions for master.

The panel feels appropriate to include in the statistics also:  
The age of the unemployed  
The geography of the unemployed

2. *Strengthen the collaboration University-Companies*

During the programme, the students do practicum for half a year. Approximately 42% of them also do their final project with a company. It is important to expose the students to the companies before they graduate.

Troels pointed out that Novo Nordisk strategized to attract the right employees and Knud encouraged them to participate in P&P Day.

Sometimes companies will be invited to give lectures as part of the regular courses.

It is a good idea to increase the presence of the companies in the teaching.

The students need to write their final project with a company.

3. *In-company period, scope and implementation*

Massimiliano explained the In-company project to the panel. Approximately 20% (7 out of 35) of the master students apply for an In-company project. Thomas explained that he did an In-company project when he was a student and that he found it valuable.

There is an increasing interest from small companies are interested to work with our students on these projects and give very positive feedback afterwards.

It can create problems for the students if the company is far away, since they might have to commute, as they are still following regular courses. It could be helpful if the mandatory courses we gathered in 1-2 connecting days, which would make it easier to stay in the town of the company for 2-3 days in a row every week.

The programme needs to advertise this possibility better to the companies, since they are not aware of this opportunity. This could be done on LinkedIn. The companies do not necessarily see the SDU homepage. It should also be targeting people who works with students in the companies.

Novo Nordisk has a few people actively working on relation building, and these are the people, SDU needs to target.

4. *Increasing incentives for starting own businesses or relate to the needs of small and medium-sized companies.*

The panel was asked if the programme should have courses to teach and encourage students to start their own company?

This point has been raised since most relevant companies are small to medium sized, but the students are taught to do large need production. Elisabeth pointed out that new young and unemployed graduates are unlikely to start their own business and Hanne followed up by stating that it would be relevant for very few of the students so it might be an over reach to provide the resources for that 1-2 students.

Behnaz mentioned that one of the students she had worked with had started his own company. However, it takes a lot of skills within the fields of economy, processes, management, etc.

Troels pointed out that the innovation power is essential if somebody wants to start a new company. Novo Nordisk is hungry for people with an innovative mindset and bring in new technology. It might be an expediate way to start in an existing company before one starts one's own.

Sabine said that the students should be aware of what is required to work in a small company; if you are in a small company, you need a broad knowledge and be part of many different steps of the process, whereas employees in larger companies needs to be more specialized. The programme needs to teach broad and not only focus on educating for large companies. The students need all the tools although not in detail.

Elisabeth suggested that SDU helped the smaller companies at Funen to be advertised at the university. It could also be relevant to advertise for knowledge pilots (3 months' work after graduation to help the graduate get the foot in the door at a company).

Read more about the programmes here:

[BEng in Chemical Engineering](#); [BSc in Chemical Engineering](#); [MSc in Chemical Engineering](#)