

## Preferences and Entrepreneurial Paths of Slovak Students

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**Abstract:** The job preferences of young people reflect their attitudes toward labour market conditions and signal the risks associated with the potential departure of skilled individuals from Slovakia. Therefore, their decisions are significant not only from the perspective of individual career outcomes but also in terms of economic sustainability and human capital retention in the country.

The data for this research was collected through a survey of 262 students from Slovak universities with an economic focus. Analysis focused on preferences for working domestically or abroad, attitudes toward entrepreneurship, and expectations and perceived barriers when entering the labour market. Binary logistic regression was used to identify the determinants of working abroad and preferences for entrepreneurship.

The results show that 40% of respondents prefer working abroad, with the primary influence being the lack of career opportunities in Slovakia. Respondents who do not believe they will find work in their field of study are 240% more likely to choose working abroad. On the other hand, low wages were not found to be a significant factor.

Entrepreneurship preference is mainly influenced by family background, children of entrepreneurs are 160% more likely to start a business, and students at the Technical University of Košice are 212% more likely compared to students from other universities. The main obstacles to entrepreneurship reported by respondents were financial risk, income uncertainty, bureaucracy, and legislation.

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