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Occupational chances of tertiary graduates in Italy and Russia in comparison

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Abstract

Several studies demonstrated that in last decades many changes occurred in the global economical system, leading to crucial shifts in labor market organization, rising employment flexibility and social inequalities in labor market entry and early careers (Castells 2000; Mill and Blossfeld 2005). However, it has been shown that the impact of globalization and related changes toward a more volatile labour market are influenced by some institutional filter (like, for example, the educational system) that can produce different outcomes across countries.

Given these background assumptions, it appears to be particularly relevant to study the paths of transition to labour market for high qualified people with a comparative approach that takes into account the institutional settings.

Transition of graduates of different educational institutions to the labour market is explained referring to similarities and differences in educational systems, modes of labour market and how both result in occupational prospects of graduates of different educational institutions (Blossfeld&Shavit 1993; Müller&Shavit 1998; Kogan&Unt 2008, etc.). Thus, Italy belongs to the cluster with high educational standardization and mixed type of qualificational and organizational space (Müller&Shavit 1998). Russia has never been taken into analysis so far, but according to the existing sociological logic, should be clustered together with other post socialist countries (Mills&Blossfeld 2005).

Do different welfare regimes but similar modes of educational systems and labour markets provide similar outcomes for graduates of institutions of tertiary level? If so, how can this phenomenon be explained?

Based on the theoretical considerations of educational system composition, types of labour market and competencies approach, this paper addresses the occupational chances of graduates of tertiary level institutions. Time period from graduation till first employment, the status of the graduates as well as the length of transition are analyzed. Not at last we investigate, what competencies are welcome in Italian and Russian labour markets. The study utilizes the REFLEX data 2005. Among other things the authors express some thoughts concerning the precarisation of educated youth in Russia and Italy.

Key words: globalization and precariousness, transition to work, university graduates, Italy and Russia, competencies.

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