

**Factors Influencing The Wage Expectations
Among Macedonian Students:
A Comparative Perspective With The EU Students**

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to assess the wage expectations of Macedonian students, and main factors that shape their expectations. Previous research elsewhere has shown that wage expectation is a major determinant that influences' schooling decision (Williams and Gordon, 1981; Betts, 1996; Wolter and Zbinden, 2001). Given that the main pathway to developing human capital of an individual is schooling, learning about the factors that affect individual's decision whether to acquire more education can contribute towards better educational policy in the country. We employ similar empirical approach as the one used by Brunello et al. (2001, 2004). We use available information to regress: i) expected future earnings right after graduation from university and ii) expected future earnings 10 after graduation from university, on a set of variables which includes: characteristics of the individual, socio-economic background, field of study, year of enrolment (junior or senior students), academic performance, sources of information for future earnings and country of future employment, perceived employability and costs of studies. Our findings show that expected university earnings are significantly correlated with father's education, year of study, sources of information on wages in the labour market, gender, ethnicity, regular job during studies, perceived employability, field of study and country of future employment. In other words, Macedonian students form their wage expectations in a similar vein as their European counterparts. The major contribution of this study is providing a pioneering work on wage expectations of Macedonian students, as well as providing a comparative analysis of the wage expectations of students in Macedonia and their peer colleagues from the EU Member States.