

ENRICHING ENGINEERING GRADUATES' HARD AND SOFT SKILLS TO INCREASE THEIR EMPLOYABILITY IN AN UNSTABLE JOB MARKET

Yolanda-Mirela CATELLY
Polytechnic University of Bucharest

***Abstract.** In today's tough competition for jobs in the domain of engineering in a rather volatile type of economic and social context, young graduates should be equipped with better and more diversified hard and soft skills in order to get first employment in their field as soon as possible after graduation. It is then paramount that all educational factors of concern involved in training them should improve the quantity and quality of their students' professional and personal skills portfolio. Therefore, the paper advances a range of complementary tasks, starting from an authentic input source text about the launch of a new type of software item, making it the pretext for diversifying the task chain proposed to engineering students in tertiary education within the framework of an ESP practical course. The range of task requirements proposed is meant to involve the learners in a series of activities that will get them out of the classroom, in a flexible manner, based on collaborative work within a project, by asking them to cross the borderline towards the real world in order to solve tasks such online searches for information, creating product presentations, organizing a marketing and advertising campaign, designing instruments to carry out economic surveys and so on.*

***Keywords:** ESP course, authentic innovative tasks, hard skills, soft skills*