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ITA-AITES c/o EPFL
GC D 1 402 (Bât. GC)
Station 18
CH - 1015 Lausanne

Tel: + 41 21 693 23 10
Fax: + 41 21 693 41 53

[secretariat\(at\)ita-aites.org](mailto:secretariat(at)ita-aites.org)**University Education in Tunnels****Results of a questionnaire on tunnelling courses (up to 2000)**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN TUNNELLING

by Prof. Daniele Peila

Tunnelling and Underground Space Center

Politecnico di Torino - Italy

RESULTS

Introduction

Any analysis on tunnelling throughout world cannot be separated from the state of the university education situation in the tunnelling sector.

Any discussion on "Tunnelling" and "Subsurface Use Design" should also include a discussion on education since the attention of the tunnelling community should be directed to the designers of the future. Construction Companies should be informed on the education quality of engineers who arrive from universities since they cannot spend too much money on "re-forming" their personnel.

University professors should also reflect on the quality of the "products" they are developing to try and better fit market requirements.

The questionnaire has led to some interesting results even though it would appear to the writer that the research has not led to any final results.

General comments on the obtained results

17 out of 45 Member Nations answered. Of these 17 answers only 14 were in fact answered by Universities though it is not known if the answers cover the complete range of the national Universities.

The difference from one University Education Structure to another prevents one from making a direct comparison of the various university courses even through it is possible to observe that tunnelling courses are given for both 3 year and 5 year curricula.

If one wants to make a comment on the available answers one could observe that in many countries "Rock Mechanics" and "Construction of Roads and Transport Infrastructure" lectures give lessons on tunnelling (though only a few hours).

In the following, the results obtained from an analysis of only the tunnelling courses is given:

- few courses are devoted to subsurface use, with an overview of all the possible uses;
- no Architecture faculty answered the questionnaire therefore it is not possible to say whether the problem of underground architecture is given in any course throughout the world;
- tunnelling courses are mainly given to Civil Engineering students;
- the number of hours of the courses varies considerably, ranging from 15 to 120h (when referring to the 5 year curricula, the average value is about 55h);
- the tunnelling course is normally given towards the end of the study curricula;
- there are few post graduate university courses, specifically devoted to tunnelling or underground space;
- no course is specifically devoted to Mechanized Tunnelling while Mechanized Tunnelling Design is usually given as a limited part of existing courses (max 15-20hours);
- the topic of the courses is normally limited to the computational design of support structures.

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