



Key takeaways

- Energy students lack support for launching start-ups and finding internships in industry.
- Young energy professionals lack support for launching start-ups and finding first job opportunities.
- Universities and student-led organizations are seen as key support providers during university, while the energy industry is seen as an essential partner both during and after university years.
- Energy students and young professionals have similar views of their support needs, but there exist strong regional differences.

Global results

The European Energy Students' Network (EESN) conducted an online survey among energy students and young professionals (ESYPs) from around the world to address the question: **What are the support needs of ESYPs?** Participants were also asked: **What are the key actors to provide support to ESYPs?** EESN collected and analyzed answers from energy students and young professionals from 13 countries.

Launching a start-up and finding internships in industry are the key aspects where energy students are lacking the most support during their years at university. Career development and finding volunteering opportunities are also seen as aspects lacking due support. Oppositely, students receive enough support in areas related to research, international exchanges and networking. This suggests students receive the most support with areas aligned with universities top priorities: research and internationalization, while not so with more professional or individual-specific areas such as entrepreneurship or volunteering.

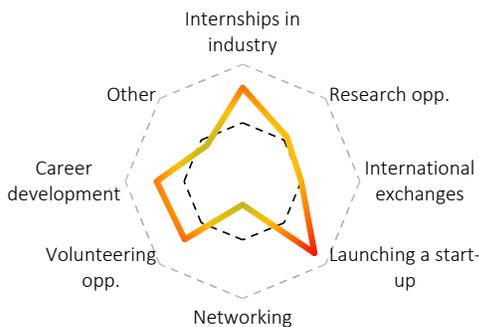


Figure 1. Energy students' support needs at university.

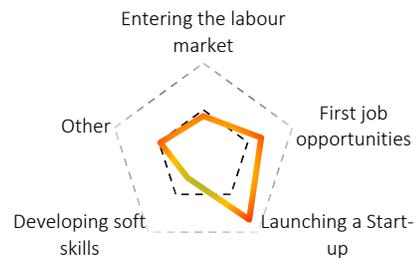


Figure 2. Young energy professionals' support needs.

Low support for launching start-ups is also suffered by young energy professionals, together with opportunities to find their first job. However, aspects related to the development of soft skills – such as languages or presentation skills – or preparation to enter the labour market – such as CV drafting – are better covered for young graduates. This suggests the difficulty lies in integrating young professionals or supporting their efforts for launching new companies rather than helping them becoming better job candidates.

Universities and industry players are perceived as the key providers of support, only followed by student-led organizations during particularly while still at university.

Results by occupation

Participants still at university perceive they receive more support for finding research opportunities than those already working, while the opposite is true when it comes to finding volunteering opportunities. However, both groups agree that after university they receive the most support with developing their skills and the least with launching new businesses. Both groups also agree on the key actors who can support them, but young professionals think energy entrepreneurs should play a more central, compared to the energy students' opinion.

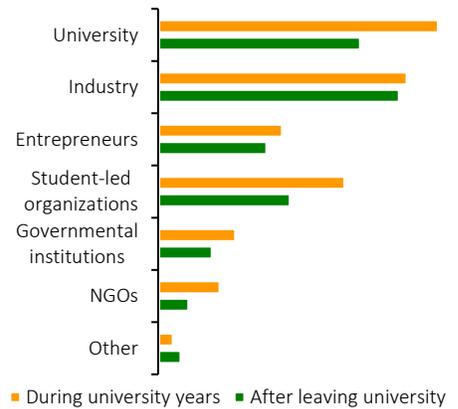


Figure 3. ESYPs' key supporting actors.

Results by region

ESYP support needs in Europe differ from other regions. Energy students in Europe seem to receive less support for research or exchange opportunities, but a little more for starting a company. **After university, differences are less notorious.** Young professionals in Europe receive more support for developing skills, but less for finding first job opportunities or starting a business. ESYPs agree on the key actors who can support them. However, students in out of Europe think entrepreneurs can play a larger role during university, while young professionals in Europe think industry and start-ups are more relevant after graduating.

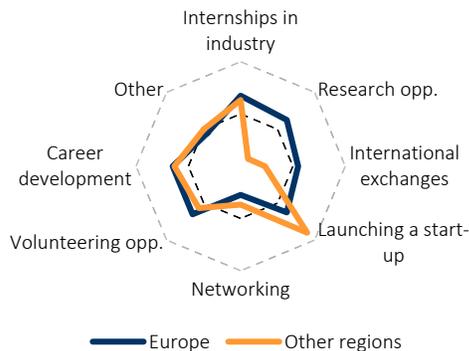


Figure 5. Energy students' support needs by region.

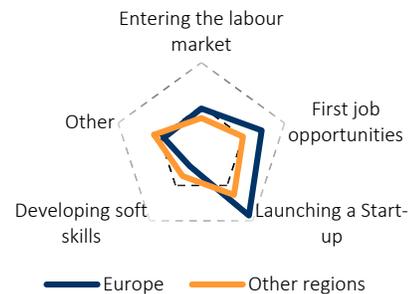


Figure 4. Young energy professionals' support needs by region.

Who participated in the survey?

The survey received 55 responses from 13 countries – Switzerland 13 participants, Germany 11, United States of America 8 – from energy students – master students 25, PhD students 10, bachelor students 2 – and young energy professionals – 16. More than 70% respondents currently live in Europe and around 70% are still at the university.

How to read the radial figures?

Graphs represent the balance between positive and negative responses for the different support areas considered. For a particular support aspect, the closer to the graph center, the more support respondents report for that aspect. Contrarily, the closer to the outer dotted line, the less support respondents report for that aspect.

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