

This thesis deals with an interest in educational and occupational career in natural sciences, technology or engineering. With reference to knowledge economy concept, I suppose that high-professionals in natural sciences, technology and engineering significantly contribute to development in science and innovations of a country. Therefore two groups with the highest potential to become high-professionals are of my focus – university students and 15-year old with university aspirations.

I did not find any significant effect of family background on interest in future study and/or career connected with natural sciences. Effect of attended secondary school, in particular effect of information on science careers students get at school, was found very strong. However, at the tertiary level, natural sciences, technology and engineering students, compared to students in other fields, recruit from rather lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

The findings presented within this thesis are in agreement with declared provisions and current activities done in the Czech Republic to support interest in natural sciences, technology and engineering. My suggestions stress two issues – career guidance and study programme lyceum.