

ATTRACT PROJECT

WP 5—The attractiveness of being an engineer



INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO

SISTEMAS DE GESTÃO DA QUALIDADE DO ENSINO SUPERIOR | 20 de Outubro de 2010, Instituto Português da Qualidade

GOALS

MAIN: to develop the attractiveness of the S&T studies, to formulate a set of best practices, in order to support the national policies in different partners.

TARGET: to compare the national perceptions on engineers and to identify different attitudes between partners

WP5: to make an in-depth analysis of the apparent lack of attractive-

METHODOLOGY

Main source: Online Survey Limesurvey - 13/20 October 2010; Non-Probability Sampling - 233 Answers

Other sources: www.portugal.gov.pt; www.expresso.pt; Job banking do IST, Percurso Sócio-Profissional dos Diplomados do IST

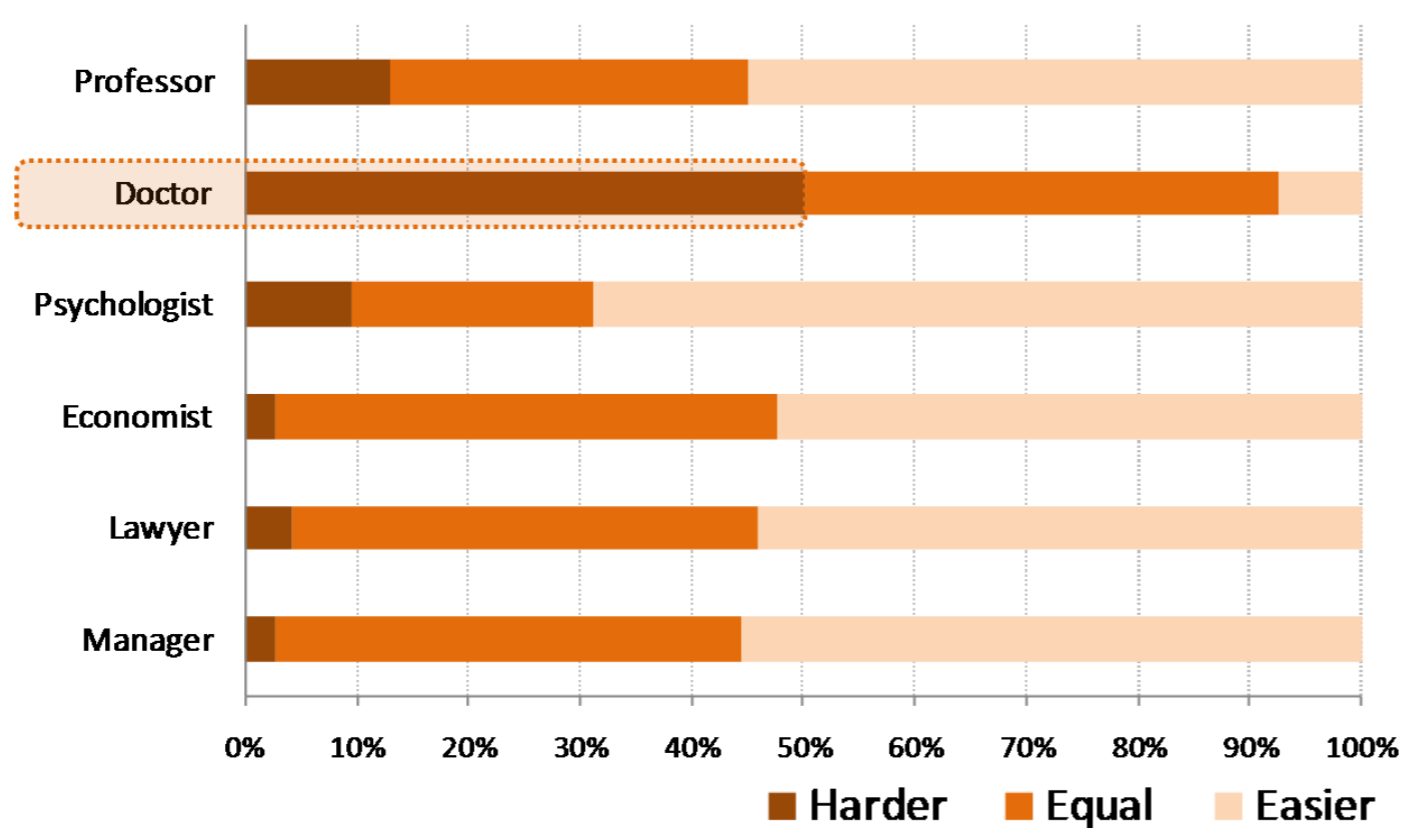
Recent Results:

HOW DO ENGINEERS LOOK AT THEMSELVES:

- 1st Dynamic
- 2nd Creative
- 3rd Affirmative
- 4th Entrepreneur
- 5th Assertive
- 6th Curious
- 7th Efficient
- 8th Uncomplicated



IS ENGINEERING HARDER THAN OTHER PROFESSIONS?



HOW OTHER PROFESSIONALS LOOK AT ENGINEERS:

- 1st Affirmative
- 2nd Dynamic
- 3rd Active
- 4th Arrogant
- 5th Confident

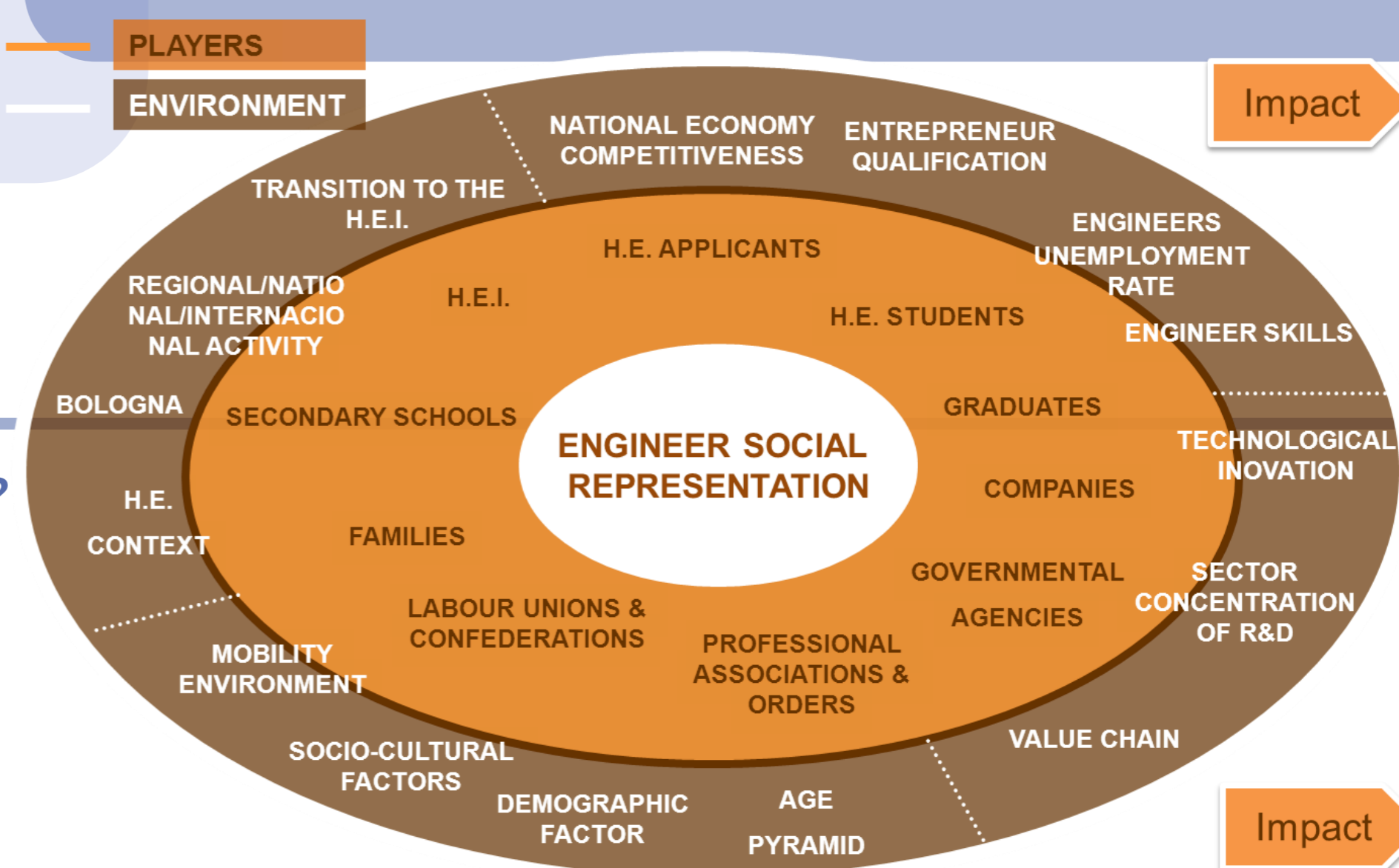


SKILLS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH ENGINEERS:

- 1° Versatility/Flexibility
- 2° Analytical capacity
- 3° Accuracy
- 4° Entrepreneurship
- 5° Project Management

THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS PROFESSIONS IN PORTUGAL:

- 1st Doctor
- 2nd Engineer
- 3rd Manager
- 4th Lawyer
- 5th Teacher



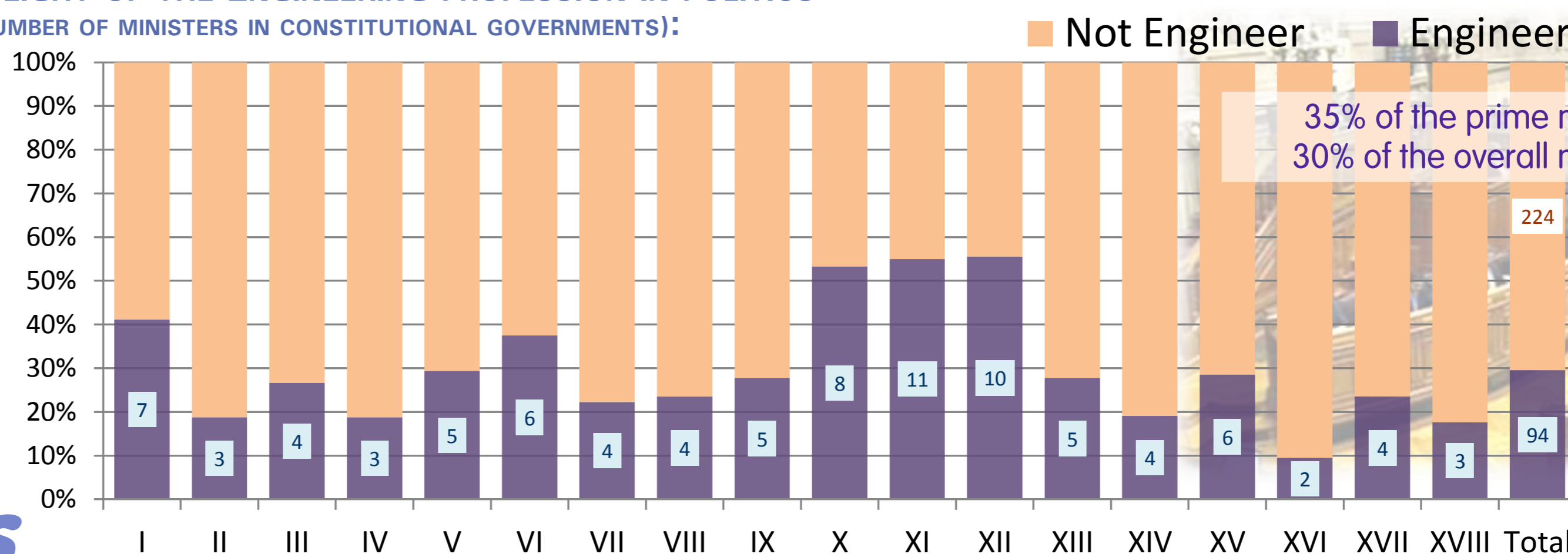
FACTORS THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF ENGINEERING IN A PORTUGUESE CONTEXT:

- + High media projection/coverage
- + Family background: parents graduates in S&T motivate children to pursue their studies and careers in the same area
- + HEI's and Government S&T initiatives (ex. Mathematics Routes – UTL)
- + Relative increase in graduates in S&T

- High rates of academic failure/drop-out in secondary and higher education
- Demographic trend: decrease in younger population
- Soft skills are not emphasized by Pre Bologna study cycles
- Mathematics and Physics: linked "negatively" with the prospective students (poor results in the PISA scores)

WEIGHT OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION IN POLITICS

(NUMBER OF MINISTERS IN CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENTS):



35% of the prime ministers were engineers
30% of the overall ministers were engineers

FOLLOWING STEPS

- ◆ Combination of data from all involved partners
- ◆ Building of a common analysis matrix
- ◆ Development of preliminary reports
- ◆ Dissemination and support actions (e.g. ATTRACT website)

- ◆ Articulation with the other Work Packages:
 - . WP6 - Formal Hinders
 - . WP7 - Attracting students to studies in S&T
 - . WP8 - Student Retention



Lifelong Learning Programme

