

This subject deals with the question of the involvement of teachers in the "real" world, i.e. the economic world, where people have to face real life working conditions. This is an important question, since these teachers will have to train young people and prepare them to their future jobs. It is therefore critical that young people learn from adults who are aware of the current working conditions, the requirements of the jobs and the changes affecting them.

The idea of requiring from the teaching staff that they spend time outside the academic world is reasonable. Beside their teaching activities, being professionals working in companies or any other kind of professional organizations will help them to keep the contact with the current professional conditions, talk with colleagues, be part of teams, work on projects, etc. As a consequence, they will be able to transfer their knowledge and experience to their students, as soon as they are back to the college or university.

For example, journalists could not be valuable teachers if they do not currently practice journalism in the current media. Journalists who are more than 50 years old for example were grown with media consisting of newspapers/magazines and radio/TV companies. Now, with the increasing importance of online media, all journalistic practices changed, requiring from journalism teachers that they take part in the current media companies to be able to train future journalists to these new media structure.

But we have to admit that mixing professional and academic activities will not be easy. Teachers will have to maintain and develop two careers simultaneously. Although people are encouraged to develop their skills through various professional activities, companies and universities do not always recognize this double career. Universities could reproach to these teachers that they do not spend enough time on research activities, while companies may regret that their involvement in professional projects is not sufficient to prove their thorough knowledge and experience of the current challenges. Then, a support is needed; colleges and universities should include a support component to their policy, helping teachers to deal with the difficulties of the double career.