

## **VIA University College launches a new engineering degree**

From August 2015 VIA University College will provide a new 3.5-year engineering degree programme aimed at water supply, heat supply and waste water management. The education has been developed in close cooperation with the Danish utility companies, Danish industry associations, consulting engineering companies and other businesses working with water or heat supply or waste water management.

The education is the first higher education programme in Denmark within these areas, and the Danish companies have shown great interest in this new degree. Jobs will be available for all who complete the program successfully, and graduates will also have good opportunities for employment in countries outside Denmark.

The supply of water and heat and waste water management are all major focus areas in Denmark and Danish companies are among global leaders in these areas. There is a growing demand for qualified employees to maintain and expand this position, and industry leaders have for several years been asking for an engineering degree tailored to their industry.

The students will acquire the fundamentals of water, heat and waste water knowledge before they specialize in one of the three areas. The specialization may be associated with an internship of 20 weeks in an industry-specific company. Likewise the final project of the education can be prepared in cooperation with a company. Several companies have already guaranteed available internships, and there is also great interest in working with students on the final projects of the program.

-This degree has been created in close collaboration with the companies working with the supply of water and heat or waste water management. It is very important that this education reflects the actual needs for knowledge in the companies, thus giving the graduates the relevant knowledge and skills, explains Lotte Thøgersen, Head of Center of Applied Research and Development – Building, Energy and Environment at VIA University College.

She points out that the new degree has a focus on some of the major global challenges.

- It's a large and growing challenge to provide clean drinking water for the population of the planet now and in the future. At the same time, due to climate change, we will need to do more to protect our cities and countries from the effects of torrential rains and storms, floods and rising sea water levels, Lotte Thøgersen says, and continues:

-In addition, more and more people move to the cities. This calls for a better water supply, and better sewage systems and waste water management. And the use of renewable energy for heating and cooling our homes requires increased knowledge about heat supply.

-Therefore, we hope to see a lot of new students at VIA University College when the first classes in this new degree programme start in August 2015. And we extend a special welcome to all international students who can see a future in taking on some of the world's great challenges.

For further information, please contact:

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