

# **Electrical Engineering Programme Based on Vocational School**

After a period of declining student enrolment, in 2002 Telemark University College (TUC) took advantage of vocational schools reforms to establish a three years bachelor programme in electrical engineering for two pilot classes. The radical change in this programme is the reduction from four to three year without reducing the theoretical level.

The students of these classes, all holding at least one relevant trade certificate, were presented a redesigned programme intended to produce an output engineer "at least as good as" the engineer graduating from an ordinary programme. In order to verify this hypothesis all exam results from the academic year 2002-2003 were carefully investigated. The sensational results of this investigation was that both the average grade and the percentage of passing the exams in the pilot classes were significantly better than student groups recruited the ordinary way.

Several explanations of the results will be discussed in this paper, such as improvement of the programme, new educational techniques, and higher motivated students from vocational school. These pilot bachelor students are supposed to be well accepted by the employers, since several of the main employers' federations is supporting and quality assuring this new programme.