

Press release,
Bucharest,
December 14th, 2010

The second phase of sending to young graduates the invitations of participation in the *University Graduates and Labor Market Tracer Study* has started

Starting on December 14th, representatives from 59 universities all over the country are sending invitations of participation in the first national survey that traces the connection between university studies and professional career.

This is the second phase of a process that began at the end of November 2010. In just a week, the teams of experts from universities have sent during the first phase of the process invitations to more than 100,000 graduates of 2005 and 2009 classes. In less than three weeks, 12,143 graduates have answered the invitations, their number outrunning all prognoses made.

In this phase, a new set of invitations will be sent by mail and e-mail to higher education graduates. Using reminders has proved to be a method that had very good results, being frequently used in similar studies in many European countries.

The graduates will be asked to fill in the on-line questionnaire that traces back their career starting with college years and ending with their last job. The confidentiality of the questionnaire data is guaranteed by the fact that each graduate receives a personal access code.

“Even though the time required for filling in the questionnaire is 30 minutes, the “friendly” frame and the interesting content of the questions have convinced the young graduates to answer it and it is expected that this will continue”, said professor Radu Mircea Damian, project manager.

At the beginning of next year, two more phases are scheduled to contact the graduates and printed questionnaire will also be used especially for graduates from rural areas, who do not have access to the Internet.

The *University Graduates and Labor Market Tracer Study* is coordinated by the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) and the National Council for Higher Education Funding (CNFIS). The International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER) Kassel, Germany, an institution with a broad experience in the field of tracer studies, ensures constant technical advice. 59 universities, both public and private, are actively participating in the project. The study is co-financed by the European Social Fund, through the Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (POS DRU 2007-2013).

Support information

- information about the *University Graduates and Labor Market Tracer Study* can be found at: <http://www.absolventuniv.ro/>
- the complete list of universities that agreed to participate in the survey can be found at: <http://www.absolvent-univ.ro/485/section.aspx/395>
- the questionnaire page is <http://chestionar.absolvent-univ.ro>
- information about UEFISCDI and CNFIS, institutions under the authority of MECS, can be found at: <http://www.uefiscsu.ro/> and <http://www.cnfis.ro/>

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