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Structural Funds
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EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

Romanian Universities and Labor Market

Prof. Dr. Eng. Radu Mircea Damian
Project Manager, Romanian Tracer Study

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EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Investing in
PEOPLE



**University Graduates
and Labor Market**

Romanian Tracer Study



Strategic projects
for Romanian Higher Education

Project co-financed through European Social Fund by Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013



Thematic Overview

Romanian Universities and Labor Market

Higher education effectiveness parameters:

correlation between the higher educational output and competences the labor market needs

The step ahead:

a first comprehensive study at national level that monitors HE graduates' insertion on the labor market

- **a detailed “radiography”** of HE system's insertions on labor market
- ➔ • **durable tools:** methods, instruments for HE institutions
- **experts network:** training, experience and networking



Current needs

- **information** about the graduates' insertion and their evolution on labor market
- **increasing institutional capacity** to perform national monitoring studies on a permanent basis
- **support** for the implementation of the national employment policy
- **increasing responsibility** of the social partners in relation with the educational issues
- **making investment** in human resources **more efficient**



Romanian Tracer Study Project: University Graduates and Labor Market

Implemented by

National Higher Education Funding Council (CNFIS)

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development
and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

The Main Project Beneficiaries

Romanian Public and Private Universities

Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports – MECTS

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ARACIS

STUDENTS – SOCIETY

EMPLOYERS - STAKEHOLDERS

Project Partner

**Kassel University, Germany – International Higher Education
Research Center (INCHER)**



Project purpose and objectives

Main purpose

Development of tools, at national level, for “tracer studies” - to follow-up the professional career of university graduates in relation with the labor market

General objective

Consolidate the role and capacity of universities in evaluating how the acquired knowledge, competences and abilities enable HE graduates to enter into the labor market or to continue their studies



Project research topics

- Whereabouts after graduation
- Employment search
- Employment conditions
- Professional success
- Job activities and competencies
- Retrospective assessment of studies
- Individual study requirements



Project target group

Graduates of Romanian higher education system *(public and private HE institutions)*

- **one year after graduation** (the 2008-2009 cohort)
young graduates in transition between study and professional activity
- **five years after graduation** (the 2004-2005 cohort)
employee with a relevant professional experience



The target group contribution

- **an objective perspective**
(examples: questions about the academic studies, correlated with questions regarding the employment, level of income and professional activity domain etc.)
- **a subjective perspective**
(examples: questions about self-evaluation of the competencies developed during the academic years and how these competencies were used for obtaining a job and professional succes etc.)



Graduates from participating universities

- **221 635 graduates** of bachelor programs
 - 148 165 graduates from the 2008-2009 cohort*
 - 73 470 graduates from the 2004-2005 cohort*
- **55 universities**
 - 41 public institutions*
 - 14 private institutions*
 - Covering all the categories of HE institutions:*
 - state and private*
 - country wide*
 - small and large*
 - specialized and comprehensive*



Project Research Activities (1)

Development of the questionnaire

(at national and institutional level)

- Core set of questions (*baseline questionnaire*)
- Some specific items/ questions for the graduates from psychology and law fields (*extended questionnaire*)

With the contribution of national and institutional experts in strong cooperation with INCHER Kassel team



Project Research Activities (2)

Consolidate and validate the graduates database
(before and during the field phase)

Pretest phase testing both the questionnaire and the process
*(through a declared and undeclared pretest,
on voluntary basis)*

Field phase *(applying the questionnaire at institutional level)*

Analyzing the results and writing the final report



Project Research Activities (3)

Field phase research procedures

- an online questionnaire and, only at request, a paper version of the questionnaire
- four stages of invitation (first contact and three reminders)
- invitation letters sent by regular mail, with e-mails as back-up
- permanent monitoring and reporting of activities through an e-mail group and online report
- daily information concerning the university's graduate participation



Preliminary result (1)

Invitations/Contacts (based on the universities reports):

- **155 165 graduates** were invited to participate
 - 113 628 graduates from 2008 - 2009 cohort*
 - 41 537 graduates from 2004 - 2005 cohort*
- **3093 graduates** didn't want to participate
- **31 048 graduates** with undeliverable addresses

Responses

- **39 293 graduates responses**
 - 28 766 graduates from 2008 - 2009 cohort*
 - 10 527 graduates from 2004 - 2005 cohort*



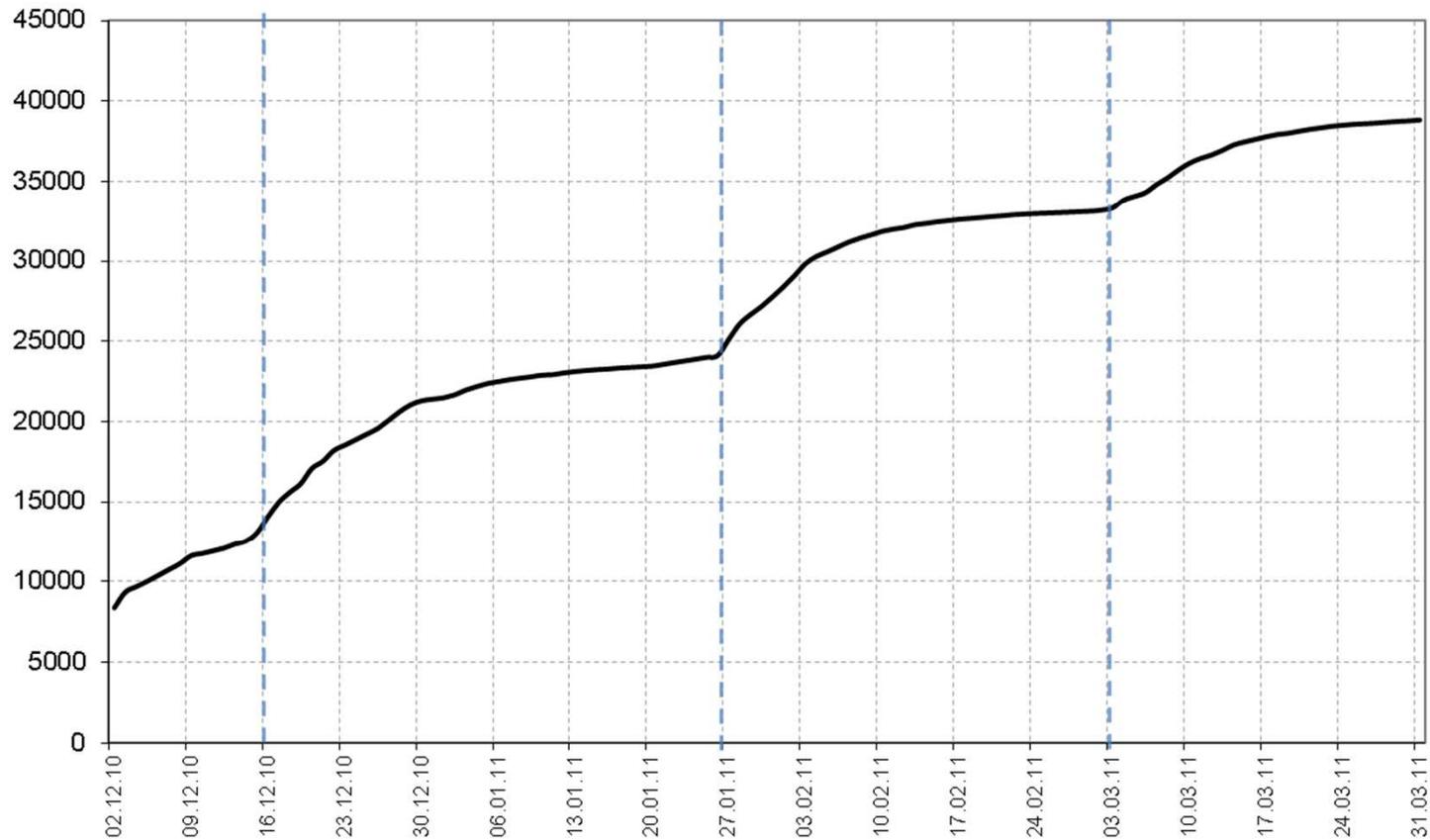
Approximate
response rates

20,88% gross response rate
29,33 % net response rate



Preliminary result (2)

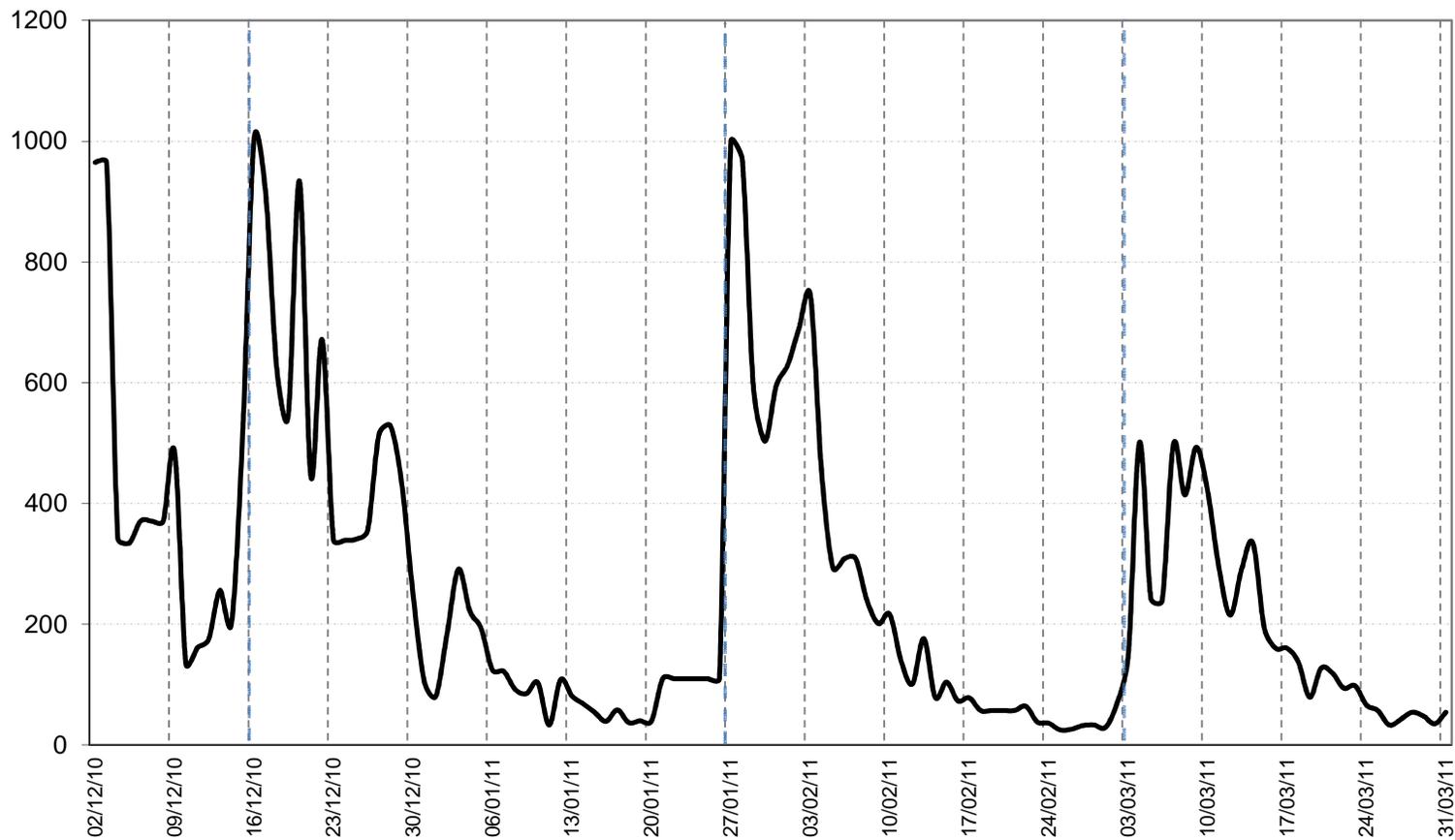
Fig.1: Cumulative responses at national level
(values)





Preliminary result (3)

Fig. 2 Daily accesses at national level
(values)





Confidence in a successful project based upon

Representativeness at the national level of the study results

Methodological unity

Scientific approach – experience of INCHER Kassel as a valuable asset

Collaborative framework for all participants

Sustainability of the study results

Thank you for your attention!