



University Graduates and Labor Market  
Romanian Tracer Study

# *Tracer Study: University Graduates and Labor Market*

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EUROPEAN UNION



MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY AND  
SOCIAL PROTECTION  
MASOPHRD



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND  
SOP HRD  
2007 - 2013



STRUCTURAL FUNDS  
2007 - 2013



NCTVETD  
IOSOPHRD



EXECUTIVE AGENCY  
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH FUNDING



## National context : self- critical presentation

- **missing information** regarding graduate insertion on labor market
- **no long term monitoring** of graduates' social and professional insertion
- **low institutional capacity** to perform national monitoring on a permanent basis
- **insufficient assistance** for the implementation of the national employment policy
- **insufficient implication** of employers on education issues
- **low investment** in human resources (graduates)



**Current needs**



## Scope, starting from current needs

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

➔ **Project objectives and purpose**



## Project objectives and purpose

### **Main purpose**

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

### **General objective**

Consolidate the role 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 target group

*graduates of public and private HE institutions in Romania*

## Beneficiaries

Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports – MECTS

National Higher Education Funding Council – CNFIS

The Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding - UEFISCSU

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS

UNIVERSITIES - STUDENTS – SOCIETY

EMPLOYERS - STAKEHOLDERS

## Project Partner

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



## Project Activities

**Project Management**

- Establish the collaborative framework with the universities
- Develop the questionnaires at national and institutional level
- Consolidate and validate the graduates database
- Implement the questionnaires at institutional level
- Centralize database at national level
- Analyse the results and elaborate the final report

**Project Communication**



## Project outcome (1)

- **Information required to improve correlation between university development strategy and a dynamic labor market**
- **institutional capacity to perform national monitoring studies on a permanent basis**



## Project outcome (2)

- Enhancement of the **higher education relevance** for the labor market and the knowledge-based society
- Reshaping the **educational offer** taking into account the labor market evolution
- Identifying **transversal key competences** enhancing employability
- Orienting the education towards the development of necessary **competences, abilities and skills**
- Increasing the **responsibility and interest** of the social partners/employers for higher education
- Development of **tools for effective application of quality indicators** aiming to evaluate the output/outcome performance level of HE
- Contributing to the improvement **higher education graduates' insertion** level on the labor market





## Discussion subjects (advisory board's feedback)

1. The general needs to develop and implement the monitoring policies at national level through studies on graduates' career
2. Ways to increase the level of graduates' participation to national monitoring studies
3. Coverage of a national monitoring study: role of media to increase the response rate of the graduates
4. Other critical elements in applying a national survey: lessons learned – examples
5. Ways to ensure cost efficiently the national survey permanence  
- increase institution interest and capacity: best practices - examples