

**Press release,
Bucharest,
November 21st 2010**

**100,000 graduates will be invited to participate in the first national study which traces
the connection between university studies and professional career**

More than 100,000 higher education graduates of 2005 and 2009 from 55 public and private universities in Romania will be asked to participate in the first national study carried out in Romania after 1989, which traces the connection between the university studies and the professional career after graduation. The study addresses all graduates from the participating universities in order to achieve relevant results at the level of university, faculty and even study program. The diversity of the universities involved is broad: there are public and private, from all geographic areas, both large and small, and covering a wide range of study fields.

The invitation to participate will be sent on Tuesday, the 23rd of November, using instruments and methods correlated with the European ones and developed in cooperation with a well known centre in Germany having experience in this type of surveys - The International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER) from Kassel University.

The survey is carried out by the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) and the National Council for Higher Education Funding (CNFIS), together with the participating universities that have done their best to implement the study. The entire process is sustained within the *University Graduates and Labor Market Tracer Study*, a project co-financed by the European Social Fund, through the Sectoral Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (POS DRU 2007-2013).

A high participation rate is essential for building a solid bridge between the universities and the economic and social areas. A periodical monitoring of the socio-professional insertion of graduates will support the increase of the relevance of the educational offer for the labor market, the increase in the quality of the didactical process and a better correlation of the

higher education development strategy with the prospective dynamics of the labor market, with all its uncertainties.

“The project provides the universities with a methodology validated at European level, which will remain at their disposal for further use and for contacting other graduation classes”, said professor Radu Mircea Damian, president of CNFIS and project manager.

The 100,000 graduates are being asked to fill in a complex but accessible questionnaire. The questions are diverse and refer to their studies, occupation, salary, activity field, own evaluation of competences acquired during their studies, the way in which these helped them in obtaining a job and in solving work issues.

Using the facilities offered by the electronic support, the time required to fill in the questionnaire is about 30 minutes. In order to cover a wide range of contexts, there is also a printed version available, to be sent on request to those confirming that they have not access to the Internet.

Support information

- the complete list of the 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>
- The mission of UEFISCDI is to manage all necessary funds in order to support the development of higher education and scientific research. For his purpose, this institution focuses on getting new funding sources and on ensuring a quality management of higher education and research funding through all its activities.
- The International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER) Kassel is an interdisciplinary research institute within Kassel University (Germany) with a 30-year experience in the field. INCHER-Kassel has coordinated the first comparative study on employed graduates and labor market, applied for more than 40,000 graduates from 11 European countries and Japan.

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