Fostering Competencies Development in Belarusian Higher Education (FOSTERC)

Kick-off Meeting
15-16 November, Valencia

Dr. Maica Bas
Prof. Dr. José-Ginés Mora

USSL in projects on graduate surveys

- CHEERS (Careers after Higher Education – An European Research Study), IV FP, EU, 2006
- REFLEX (The flexible Professional in the Knowledge Society), VI FP, EU, 2009
- PROFLEX (El profesional flexible en la sociedad del conocimiento), ALFA, UE, 2010
- FOLLOW-UP OF GRADUATES, Basque Country, 2010
- EMPLOYABILITY STUDY, Region of Valencia, 2013
## USSL work packages

**WP2:** Planning the empirical framework of the Project  
- **T2.1:** Sampling (USSL & Belarusian universities)  
- **T2.2:** Design of ‘master’ questionnaires (USSL)  
- **T2.3:** Developing guidelines (USSL)  

| START: 15/11/2016 | END: 01/05/2017 |

**WP3:** Conducting surveys  
- **T3.1:** Conducting graduates survey (USSL & Belarusian universities)  
- **T3.2:** Conducting teachers survey (USSL & Belarusian universities)  
- **T3.3:** Conducting employers surveys (USSL & Belarusian universities)  
- **T3.4:** Analysing and reporting (USSL)  
- **T3.5:** Organization of a seminar in Minsk (BSEU, NIHE, Ministry of Education)  

| START: 02/04/2017 | END: 01/03/2018 |

### WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

**Aim:** Design questionnaires to know the current situation of:

- Socio-biographic profile  
- The dominant ways of teaching and learning  
- The current outcomes of the learning process  
- The required competencies in the Belarusian labour market  
- And to what extent Belarusian universities are providing these competencies  
- Attitudes and values of the respondents
WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

Methodology: Questionnaires as a research tool...
- Inexpensive and quick data collection procedures
- It can be applied simultaneously to a high number of people
- It allows to obtain reliable and uniform measures from different groups of people about the same topic
- Anonymity and confidentiality should be guaranteed
- The comparison between results from different regions
- Conclusions obtained from a sample of graduates can be extrapolated to the population it has been extracted, by applying inference techniques

WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

Benefits obtained from Graduate Surveys:
- Graduate surveys are useful for obtaining global indicators about the social, economic and cultural impact of the university in the region where it is located.
- Results can be used to prove the effectiveness and the repercussion of the institution in the context of the region
- Graduate surveys provide information to study the connection between the academic performance of students and their contribution to the development of society by means of their job
- Results provide objective information to the potential or future students (and their families) about the jobs they will be able to access after their studies
WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

Writing the questionnaires:

- **Recommendations about the questions**
  - **Easy to answer:** clear and short questions
  - **Just real situations,** not hypothetical, asking about the information we will obtain
  - Everybody must understand the same idea when reading the question

- **Recommendations about the structure of the questionnaire**
  - From the most **general** questions to the most **related to the central topic**
  - **Personal data at the end** of the questionnaire

- **Recommendations of the codification of the responses**
  - **One number** for each response category
  - Codebook with the connection between numbers and response category

WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

- **Questions to discuss: Selection of the addresses population?**
  - Who is going to be interviewed?
    - All graduates?
    - Those who recently finished the studies?
    - Those who finished the studies some years ago? How many years ago?
    - All the teachers?
    - What about the employers? How many?
WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

USSL tasks:

- Graduate survey design
- Teacher survey design
- Employers interview/survey
- Circulation of the questionnaires to all partners for discussion and feedback
- Presentation of the ‘master’ questionnaires in the II Project meeting (Minsk, March 2017)
- Documentation of procedures for surveys and a set of guidelines for interviewing employers will be developed.
- Translation of the surveys

Partners’ tasks:

- Consensus in the selection of the addressed population
- Give feedback about the proposed questionnaires
- Collect contact details (teachers/graduates/employers)
- Sample design: Important to register the total population and sample for each field of study/gender/age... and also for the graduate/teacher sample as a whole. Stratified sampling will be used.

Example of weighting adjustment with one auxiliary variable:

Suppose on online survey has been carried out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% Students enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD students</td>
<td>956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master students</td>
<td>1191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>% Students interviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD students</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master students</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighting coefficients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ideally, a selected sample is a miniature of the population it came from. This should be reflected in the sample being representative with respect to all variables measured in the survey.
- Unfortunately, this is usually not the case.
WP3: Conducting surveys

**Aim:** Gather quantitative and qualitative data to reflect the trends and challenges of:

- Teaching approaches
- Learning Outcomes
- Labour market demands

**Partners’ tasks:**

- Each university **implement and manage the surveys** (confidentiality, language, budget)
- **ENSURE AND ACCURATE administration of the response rate**, including a check on the representativeness (Reminders by email/telephone/Letter of the Ministry Education/…)
- **Register the total population and sample** for each field of study/age/gender… and also for the graduate/teacher sample as a whole.
- **Prepare the responses in an Excel File** following the documentation of coding and data procedure prepared by USSL. Send it to USSL.

**USSL tasks:**

- **Control the survey processes**
- **Data cleaning**
- **Statistical analysis** of the database (Teachers/Graduates)
- **Report** containing the results of the graduates, teachers and employers surveys will be obtained
- **FOSTERC database and findings will be presented in a seminar in Minsk** (March 2018)
Thank you for your attention!