



## **CALL FOR PAPERS – JULY 2010**

International Conference

### ***Life after graduation: The Role of Graduate Employment and Tracking Systems for Continuous Curricula Development and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education***

Sibiu, Romania – May 19-21, 2011

*A joint initiative of*

**The UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES)**

and

**“Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu**

**The Chair in Quality Management of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning,  
The Quality Research Centre**

#### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE INITIATIVE**

The advent of mass higher education during the past decade has opened up opportunities for more people than ever before to benefit from post-secondary learning in order to contribute meaningfully to knowledge societies around the world. With this increasing demand for higher education has come an increase in supply, with traditional higher education institutions enrolling new students, establishing new and diverse study programmes, courses and modules, as well as the creation of new learning pathways and study modes.

There is now increasingly a need to look beyond the internal quality environments in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and to take seriously not only student and learning quality, but the quality of graduates, their ability to make a qualitative contribution to society, and to their personal professional fulfillment. Following the careers and choices of graduates provides HEIs with vitally important feedback and input to the continuous development of curricula across all disciplines, feedback which is equally as essential for any institutional quality assurance process as student and internal stakeholder tracking. It is just as important for HEIs as part of their whole institutional QA processes to maintain contact with and get feedback from their graduates of history, medicine, engineering, education, drama, languages, etc., the experiences of whom, in whatever career paths they eventually follow, provides an institution with an important (yet often overlooked) second or external dimension of data on which to steer its institutional short, medium and long term strategies.

## **THE CONFERENCE**

The international conference to be held in Sibiu, Romania in May 2011 “*Life after graduation: The Role of Graduate Employment and Tracking Systems for Continuous Curricula Development and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education*” aims to look at a cross-section of successful systems from various regions of the world and at different types of institutions, and to share with HEIs in South East Europe how they are used at institutional level to contribute to short and medium term quality enhancement strategies. The conference is also inviting worldwide experts on graduate employability and representatives of “good practice” institutions with well-established tracking systems. In addition, student services departments, career counselors, quality assurance and curricula development office staff, as well as graduate and employer representatives from HEIs in the Central and South East European region, are welcome to participate. The key questions, all to be expanded and addressed during the conference, are vital to informing and ensuring that HEIs programmes/courses continue to keep pace with the ever-changing demands for skills and competencies in the workplace of a knowledge society.

## **PAPERS ARE INVITED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- a. Graduate Employability in the Arts/Social Sciences/Natural Sciences, etc.
- b. Diverse Models of Schooling for Employment in developed and transitioning economies (including the gate-keeping role of academic credentials in achieving “gainful employment” and their (inter)national transferability).
- c. Knowledge, Skills and Competencies for the new national and international labour markets;
- d. Alumni Organizations – an untapped resource for tracking graduates?
- e. Careers Guidance and Counselors: a moral obligation for graduate success?
- f. Managing Graduate data for Quality assurance purposes;
- g. The vital link between graduate tracking and lifelong-learning;
- h. Using graduate-tracking data for curricula development;
- i. Institutional and employer partnerships for curricula development/internships/graduate recruitment/lifelong learning programs:
- j. Graduate voices: How was it for you, transitioning from school to career?
- k. HEIs are employers too: New skills and expectations for successful careers in academia
- l. Enhancing careers through postgraduate studies
- m. Continuing professional education or learning on the job?
- n. The impact of labour market trends and labour market success of graduates on college-entry admission and programs

*A provisional programme and agenda of the conference will be available in September 2010 on the official conference website*

## **Deadlines**

- **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2010:** *Submission of abstracts (250 words)*
- **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2011:** *Submission of draft papers*
- **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2011:** *Submission of conference presentations*
- **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011:** *Submission of final papers to the above journals Scientific Selection Committee*

## **Contact**

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**We look forward to welcoming you in Sibiu!**