

TRACED – “Towards Regular Availability of Comparative European Data on graduates”

ERASMUS-EDU-2021-GRADUATE TRACKING-IBA

“Support for further implementation of the European Graduate Tracking Initiative - 2nd Phase of the Eurograduate Pilot Survey”,

Starting date: February 2022

Ending date: January 2024

Partner involved: AlmaLaurea (coordinator and monobeneficiary)

Other organization involved: Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT)

Project summary:

Tracking graduates represents a core component of quality assurance systems as it provides a mechanism for gathering intelligence on skills utilisation in the labour market, placement rates and the career paths of graduates. In this context, AlmaLaurea Interuniversity Consortium (AL) proposes the initiative “Towards Regular Availability of Comparative European Data on graduates” (TRACED) and its commitment in participating in the 2nd phase of the Eurograduate Pilot Survey.

AL exists since 1994, comprising 78 out of the 98 Italian universities, and carries out every year two surveys on graduate profile and graduate employment situation at 1, 3 and 5 years from graduation. AL dataset, as main research tool, results from the merge of different kinds of data acquired at different stages and processed for survey run: administrative data officially provided by the graduate's university, data provided by the student close to graduation in the framework of the annual profile survey carried out; data provided by the graduates following their academic career. High-quality data on the pathways of graduates after they finish their studies, including self employed and entrepreneurs, enable policy-makers and educational institutions to improve future teaching and learning outcomes, the employability of graduates, tackle skills gaps and mismatches. Such initiative at EU level will enable cross-country comparative analysis, which in turn allows benchmarking, the identification of policy areas in need of attention, better targeting and a higher efficiency of education investment.

TRACED project foresees the set-up of a national research team from Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and from the applicant team of experts. It aims at creating the baseline for potential cooperation possibilities for data sharing and use, in line with the EU legislation on privacy, open data and the re-use of public sector information.

Main objectives

The TRACED project aims at strengthening this collaboration and coordination within the national higher education system and at making the tracking system run by AlmaLaurea even more comprehensive. AlmaLaurea is committed to meet the Eurograduate survey requirements, taking its current national survey (usually carried out starting in February each year, as described in the concept and methodology section of the proposal) as baseline.

A tight collaboration with the Eurograduate survey coordinator 2022 and the European network on graduate tracking throughout the preparation and implementation phases of the project, will allow a EU-level comparative analyses of graduate outcomes.

In order to achieve an overall representativeness of the graduates' population in Italy, a tentative inclusion of graduates belonging to universities not members of the AlmaLaurea consortium, promoted

by MUR, will be assessed. Also a possible link of AlmaLaurea survey data with the National Archive on Students and Graduates (ANS) will be explored.

In line with the promotion of project sustainability, the present initiative foresees also a feasibility study to assess the prospects of integration of data of different sources. The goal is having more complete and sustainable graduates dataset in the medium-long term.

Expected results

Release of the report on Eurograduate survey 2022 in Italy

Conduction of a feasibility study on survey scope enlargement

Conduction of a feasibility study on data integration

Realization of data visualization tools for presenting main survey results (synthetic infographics and video)

Contact

For more information please contact us: international@almalaurea.it