# UNIVERSITY SOLUT!ONS

# Fostering Competencies Development in Belarusian Higher Education (FOSTERC)

**Kick-off Meeting**

15-16 November, Valencia

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

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## 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

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## 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

**Writting 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

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## 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?



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## WP2: Planning the empirical framework of the project

### USSL tasks:

- **Graduate** survey design
- **Teacher** survey design
- **Employers** interview/survey
- **Circulation of the questionnnaires** 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 adressed **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.**

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- Example of weighting adjustment with one auxiliary variable:

Suppose on online survey has been carried out.

| Population | | % Students enrolled |
|---|---|---|
| **PhD students** | 956 | 45% |
| **Master students** | 1191 | 55% |
| **Total** | 2147 | |

| Sample | | % Students interviewed |
|---|---|---|
| **PhD students** | 418 | 42% |
| **Master students** | 581 | 58% |
| **Total** | 999 | |

| Weighting coefficients | |
|---|---|
| PhD students | 1.064 |
| Master students | 0.954 |
| Total | |

- 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

## WP3: Conducting surveys

### Partners' tasks:

-Each university **implement and manage the surveys** (confidentialy, 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!**