

## **Higher Education as a Generator of Strategic Competences (HEGESCO)**

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### **RELEVANCE OF THE HEGESCO PROJECT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS<sup>1</sup>: CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT - INTRODUCTION (document 1)**

During the project's implementation, the Hegesco team carefully considered various elements related to graduates' career success. The methodology and analysis of the large-scale survey among graduates and the surveys among the largest employers and HE institutions are designed in such a way that they reveal key elements for the continuous monitoring and development of HE management systems.

Even though the key elements of the Hegesco reports are in most cases designed in a country comparative fashion, most of the concepts in these reports are also applicable for particular HE stakeholders (HE institutes, employers, policy development and the scientific community and graduates) as a key elements for tool development related to the organisation of teaching practices, cooperation with enterprises (including students' apprenticeships) and the integration of research activities into curricula, as well as critical elements for the development of instruments for HE quality assurance and monitoring, universities' career centres and the organisation of HE practicum and competence development in general. To a large extent these have been exposed during the DECOWE conference<sup>2</sup> and national dissemination activities.

Following this line we have summarised the Hegesco project reports' findings which are most related to the above issues for:

- HE management units and systems (document 2)
- Employers (document 3)
- Policy Makers and the scientific community<sup>3</sup> (document 4)
- HE graduates (document 5)

Even though there is some overlapping in terms which concept from the Hegesco report is relevant for the particular HE stakeholder group, the constellation of partial documents available at our project domain follow the logic of the key potential benefits for particular users – making the results more widely beneficial at the macro level.

Lastly, I would like to cordially thank to the HEGESCO team and in particular to Prof. Rolf van der Velden and Jim Allen who piloted these ideas in the HEGESCO reports.

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Ljubljana, December 2009

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<sup>1</sup> This document is based on the large scale graduate survey of the HEGESCO project – *Competencies and Early Labour Market Careers of Higher Education Graduates*, HEGESCO PROJECT 2009, (eds. Allen & Velden) and *Report on the Qualitative Analysis of Higher Education Institutions and Employers, Development of Competencies in the World of Work and Education*, HEGESCO PROJECT 2009, (ed. Pavlin). For details and other related project outcomes please read the full Hegesco report: see <http://www.hegesco.org>.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.decowe.com>.

<sup>3</sup> For these two stakeholders we have also provided the Hegesco Statistical Outlook and request form for the Hegesco countries data bases that is administered by ROA at Maastricht University: see relevant sections of the Hegesco and Decowe web pages.