



ÁLLAMI
SZÁMVEVŐSZÉK

COORDINATED AUDIT FOR THE BETTER UTILISATION OF COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE –
REVEALING THE GOOD PRACTICES OF GRADUATE CAREER TRACKING SYSTEMS

Summary for the press on revealing the good practices of graduate career tracking systems (16154)

The State Audit Office of Hungary audited the development and operation of graduate career tracking in order to reveal good practices and the factors promoting the effectiveness of the system. The development and operation of the Graduate Career Tracking System (GCTS) was effective, the planning and coordination mechanisms at central level and at the level of higher education institutions helped the fulfilment of strategic objectives, the good practices applied contributed to sustainability. Overall, the GCTS helps those at the point of deciding on their future career with detailed information, moreover, the management of the institutions also use the reports prepared on the basis of the data when making strategic decisions. The SAO carried out its audit in parallel with the SAIs of Bulgaria and Romania.

In order to be able to compare EU member states' performance in the field of education, the European Union has set itself the objective of establishing a career tracking system that is fit for preparing consolidated statistics. For the development of career tracking and the related information systems, a considerable amount of funds was and is available. The Graduate Career Tracking System (GCTS) serves as a decision support tool for the decision-makers of education policy and provides feedback for the institutions of higher education about the quality of education, as well as the utilisation thereof. Moreover, it orientates young people making career decisions.

The audit assessed the operation of the graduate career management systems of the Ministry of Human Capacities, the Educational Authority, as the legal successor of Educatio Ltd., and further six selected institutions of higher education (Corvinus University of Budapest, Eötvös Loránd University, University of Pécs, Semmelweis University, Szent István University and King Sigismund University) in relation to the period between 1 January 2011 and 31 October 2015. In parallel to SAO, the SAIs of Bulgaria and Romania carried out their audits in similar topics, the joint experience gained will be published in an international study.

SAO found that the planning, coordination, development and monitoring mechanisms of the organisations participating in the establishment and operation of GCTS were effective and in harmony with the objectives set. Planning and coordination mechanisms increased the effectiveness of GCTS, central level planning procedures, especially the methodological guidelines elaborated in the framework of professional planning and the active cooperation between the central and institutional levels, significantly contributed to the fulfilment of graduate career tracking objectives.

Overall, the disclosure of processing and analysing data collected by GCTS satisfied the target groups' need for information. The system helped those at the point of deciding on their future career: by using the online application they could get familiar with career opportunities of the different academic majors of higher education, the pieces of information gained adequately supported them in decision-making.

The universities involved in the audit also used GCTS data being - on one side - feedback about the quality of courses and - on the other side - information substantiating development and strategic decision-making. The results of GCTS were utilised in the decision-making of the Ministry of Human Capacities, however, the results of using these information were not documented each year. The organisations operating GCTS met their commitments related to the sustainability of the system and made in the framework of EU projects, the good practices support and ensure sustainability - concluded the audit carried out by the State Audit Office of Hungary.

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