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### **“Graduate Career Tracking System in Medical Universities in Poland”**

The subject of research undertaken in the present doctoral dissertation is the functioning of graduate career tracking system in medical universities in Poland. The primary objective of the study is the identification and characteristics of the organizational and methodological solutions used in the study of professional activities undertaken by the graduates of the aforementioned universities. Institutional environment in which the monitoring is realized has been assessed, and the development prospects of the research on graduates’ professional future have been indicated. The analysis included 9 medical universities and 2 Collegium Medicum Universities in Poland.

The issues of the analysis of graduate career tracking system in medical universities is still a relatively new research area, lacking the in-depth source literature at present. The study is intended to be a proposition of broadening the research in the field of labor pedagogy and make a practical contribution to the development of this sub-discipline.

The presented dissertation consists of five chapters. In the introductory part, the context of changes in the functioning of modern universities and the role of professional future monitoring in the higher education system has been presented, both in terms of assessing the effectiveness of the education process, and preparing the students to the requirements of the ever-changing labor market. The first chapter introduces the main concepts and key definitions as well as the thematic scope of the analyzes conducted as part of the monitoring. The solutions used in European countries and around the world have also been presented, comparing the main models of graduate research.

The institutional background in which monitoring appeared at Polish universities in the second decade of the 21st century has been presented in the second chapter. Analyzed have been both the legal situation related to the implementation of monitoring at universities, and the changes taking place in this area during recent years. Special attention has been paid to the role of the main research implementers - the Academic Career Office.

The third chapter is the presentation of the results of the research carried out at medical universities in Poland. The historical context of changes in the education of medical majors’ students and the functioning of the labor market for this group of professions has been outlined. In the practical part, the methods of organization and methodology of graduate research at individual universities has been analyzed. The research material includes a detailed overview of

existing materials, an analysis of the results of a survey research conducted among key university representatives, and 13 in-depth interviews with the main performers of the monitoring process.

Chapter four provides a comprehensive analysis of the functioning of the monitoring system at the Medical University of Warsaw over the period of last 10 years. The process of institutionalization of monitoring at this university has been analyzed, using the material from 7 rounds of studies, which covered 3,337 graduates studying at all levels and university majors. Additionally, the results of the proprietary study of 245 graduates from the year 2012 included in the *follow-up* type study have been presented.

In chapter five the conducted research has been summarized, in addition to the synthetic answers to research questions posed in the paper that have been presented. There have also been suggested some directions of theoretical pursuit that could broaden the reflection on the subject of graduate research and indicated practical recommendations for research conductors at universities. An integral part of the dissertation are appendices containing, inter alia, the description of the research tools used, as well as a bibliography, which is a list of the used source literature, and tables.

The main conclusions that can be drawn from the undertaken research and analyzes done at medical universities in Poland focus on such matters as:

- A need to extend the existing forms of monitoring with qualitative methods that are used to a relatively small extent in current research,
- Consistent inclusion of all groups of graduates in the analyzes, especially those completing doctoral studies and studying using non-traditional formulas (international student exchange programs, inter-faculty studies or extramural studies),
- Increasing the involvement of representatives of the employers' community in the process of designing the research and developing recommendations for universities,
- The need to develop standards regarding making the results of monitoring reports public both within the universities themselves and all major actors of the mentioned process,
- Increasing the usage of research results from the central monitoring system of the Economic / Professional Future of Graduates by universities,
- The need to conduct further research on monitoring at medical universities and to extend the analyses to other universities with a medical profile, as well as conducting international comparative study.

**Key words:** *career tracking, student graduation survey, graduates' professional future surveying, employability, labor pedagogy, career services, academic career office, medical universities*