

Specific Privacy Statement

Pilot European graduate survey

1. Objective

The objective of this survey is to collect the information from higher education graduates in European countries on their experience in higher education and their transition into the world of work. The survey is commissioned by the Higher Education unit (see point 7. Contact) of the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) under the responsibility of DG EAC's Director for Resources, acting as Controller.

As this online survey collects and further processes personal data, the legislation to apply is Regulation (EC) 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

2. What personal information do we collect and through which technical means?

Identification Data

The personal data collected and further processed are contextual data necessary for a meaningful analysis of the survey results, such as gender, date and place of birth, native languages, socio-economic background, education and professional history, current employment and family status, place of residence and past geographical mobility, and the views on the topics concerned such as relevance of skills acquired during tertiary studies.

Name and surname are not collected as identifying data. At the end of the survey, the respondent is asked if he or she is willing to participate in possible future longitudinal follow up studies¹. If the respondent (explicitly) indicates the willingness to participate in such follow up studies, the respondent is asked to enter an e-mail address that will be stored (separately from all other answers) for a period of up to 10 years (until 2028) for the sole purpose of re-contacting graduates for possible future longitudinal follow-up studies.

Technical information

Access to the questionnaires is provided by URL and login code, which is unique for every respondent and ensures that no third party can access the previously saved

¹ Longitudinal study (or panel study) is a research design that involves repeated observations over a longer period of time, which enables the researcher to gain deeper insights into the patterns and trends over time. For instance, on-off survey may show that graduates of some study fields have a difficult time finding a job, but a longitudinal survey may for instance reveal that once they started working, these graduates have better career progression and higher salaries than those who found jobs more quickly.

responses. In case respondents are invited by regular e-mail or any other digital way, the login will be hidden in the link provided to the respondent. In the rare event of an invitation having to be sent by normal (paper) mail, inviting graduates to type into the web browser the link to the questionnaire online, there is no other option but to mention URL and login in the letter to the respondent.

The web-tool used to collect responses to the survey is called Computer Assisted Interviewing-framework (CAI-framework) and is administered by an external company (a "processor"), DESAN Research Solutions, with experience in large-scale surveys (see section 3. and 4. for more on the company). The CAI-framework and application will be designed and implemented according to the latest standards and hosting will take place in a secure environment. DESAN is both ISO 20252 (quality of data collection) as well as ISO 27001 (data security) certified. All software solutions developed for the project are compliant with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR; in effect since 25 May 2018).

The CAI- framework logs respondent behaviour, in order to provide the data analysts with detailed but anonymous tracking information of the way respondents complete the questionnaire. This information can be used for further optimization of the questionnaire or to check for speeders and straight liners (respondents that complete the questionnaire in record time combined with answer patterns on grid questions that are suspicious), thus allowing for a higher quality of the final data set. Analyses of this information will form part of the Final Technical Report and will be completely anonymised.

Contact information used to invite respondents to the survey (e.g. postal addresses, e-mail addresses) is stored separately from actual data as delivered by the respondents in the survey answers.

After the end of the data collection phase, transfer of data from DESAN to other consortium partners as well as any other sensitive exchange of information will be done using Cryptshare for security reasons.

Upon project completion, the data will be anonymised and publicly available for research purposes as a Scientific Use File, making sure that all personal data that could lead to identification of one individual are removed.

The project deliverables including both responses to survey questions and the e-mail addresses provided by the respondent during the survey (see above) will be transferred to the European Commission upon project end. The European Commission may put the data at the disposal of a contractor for the purpose of longitudinal research².

² This means that email addresses will be used to invite previous respondents to fill in a follow-up questionnaire and once they have done that, their responses will be compared to the responses they gave during the first survey.

3. Who has access to your information and to whom is it disclosed?

The access to all personal data as well as all information collected in the context of this survey is only granted through UserId/Password to a defined population of users, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with Community legislation. These users typically are members of the Unit organising the survey inside DG EAC, and DG EAC's subcontractor – the Eurograduate consortium consisting of the:

- LIBER/Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (Maastricht, The Netherlands)
- German Centre for Higher Education Research and Science Studies (Hanover, Germany)
- IHS Institute for Advanced Studies (Vienna, Austria)
- DESAN Research Solutions (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- cApStAn (Brussels, Belgium)
- GESIS Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften (Cologne, Germany)
- University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law (Zagreb, Croatia)
- Centre for Higher Education Studies (Prague, Czech Republic)
- Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences (Athens, Greece)
- MOSTA (Vilnius, Lithuania)
- Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (Oslo, Norway)
- National Commission for Further and Higher Education (San Gwann, Malta)

No personal data is transmitted to parties which are outside the recipients and the legal framework mentioned.

The European Commission will not share your personal data with third parties for any purpose other than that stated in section 1.Objectives.

4. How do we protect and safeguard your information?

The collected personal data and all information related to the above mentioned survey is stored in the EU on a computer/server of the external contractor, acting as processor, who has to guarantee the data protection and confidentiality required by the Regulation (EC) 45/2001.

5. How can you verify, modify or delete your information?

In case you wish to verify which personal data are stored, have them modified, corrected or deleted, there are two different procedures in place depending on the type of data in question:

- a) For the survey answers (excluding the e-mail address), there are three phases:
 - a. Before the survey responses are submitted, the respondent is able to log in to the survey and change answers until the specific date set as the end of the fieldwork.

- b. Once the respondent has submitted the responses and until the specific date set as the end of the fieldwork, the respondent can send a request to the national research partner in charge to have his or her data deleted. The contact details of national research partners can be found on the project website at www.eurograduate.eu.
- c. After the fieldwork has been finalized, no further changes of survey responses are possible

b) For the e-mail address, please contact the entity identified in section “7. Contact Information” by explicitly specifying your request.

6. How long do we keep your data?

Your contact details will be kept for up to 10 years and used for the purpose of continuing the research and/or contacting you in the future. If you do not agree with this, please contact the Controller by using the Contact Information below and by explicitly specifying your request.

7. Contact Information

In case you have questions regarding the survey, or concerning any information processed in the context of the survey, or on your rights, feel free to contact the support team, operating under the responsibility of the Controller, using the following contact information:

Unit Higher Education
 Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)
 European Commission
 BE - 1049 BRUSSELS
EAC-UNITE-B1@ec.europa.eu

8. Recourse

Complaints can be addressed to (in this order)

1. Data protection at Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission:
EAC-DATA-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu
2. If no answer within 10 working days or answer not satisfactory, please contact the DPO of the European Commission:
DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu
3. If no satisfaction is obtained with the DPO of the European Commission you can file a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor
[\(http://edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/\)](http://edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/)