

## **Informed Consent for participation in the National Graduate Tracking and the EUROGRADUATE surveys**

The National Graduate Tracking Survey and the EUROGRADUATE survey aim to collect data on the experiences of Cypriot and European graduates during their studies in Higher Education and the impact of these experiences on their professional lives and their lives as European citizens. Graduates are asked to fill in **an online questionnaire** that is common for both surveys. The main topics that the graduates are asked about in the questionnaire are the characteristics of their study programme, skills acquired, learning pathways and modes of learning, international mobility and labour market outcomes. Personal characteristics of the graduates, such as their personal and social background and health status serve to better understand different graduate groups.

The National Graduate Tracking Survey is being conducted for the first time in Cyprus (and will be conducted every year from now on) in order to collect data for policy planning with the aim of improving the connection between the Educational System and the labor market at national level. It is noted that the National Graduate Tracking Survey is funded by the Cyprus Recovery and Resilience Plan. EUROGRADUATE 2022 is a transnational scientific survey project covering 17 European countries (including Cyprus) and is coordinated by a consortium of research centers and organizations with the main coordinator being the German Center for Higher Education and Science Research (DZHW). The two surveys in Cyprus will be carried out by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (Kimonos and Thoukydidou Corner, Akropoli, 1434 Nicosia, Cyprus), in cooperation with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Cyprus Limited (PwC Central, 43 Demostheni Severi Avenue, CY-1080 Nicosia, Cyprus).

You have been sent this invitation from the Higher Education Institution from which you graduated on our behalf, without us receiving your contact details. **This ensures that you can take part in the surveys anonymously, without us knowing your name and address.**

Your responses to the questionnaire will be analysed by PwC Cyprus for scientific and statistical purposes and published in such a way that any inference based on individual survey participants and their individual answers is no longer possible. Furthermore, we will provide the respective data in pseudonymised (without names) form to the institutions conducting EUROGRADUATE: German Centre for Higher Education and Science Research (DZHW, Lange Laube 12, 30159 Hannover, Germany) and Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS, Josefstädter Straße 39, AT-1080 Vienna, Austria). Data processor is the HIS Hochschul-Informations-System eG (Goseriede 9, 30159 Hannover, Germany). The data will be merged by IHS and DZHW into a cross-national dataset, ensuring that it is impossible to identify individuals. Key findings will be published in the same way across countries, together with the findings in the partner countries. In addition, all responses will be made available anonymously via the Research Data Centre of the DZHW to the participating institutions of the EUROGRADUATE countries and scientists and other users for teaching, scientific and statistical non-profit purposes.

All participating organisations (the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, PwC and the EUROGRADUATE consortium) take the necessary technical and organisational measures to protect your information from any unauthorised access. The surveys are conducted in line with the requirements of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Act of 10 May 2018 on the protection of personal data, and applicable national laws (i.e., Law

125(I)/2018 – “Law providing for the Protection of Natural Persons with regard to the Processing of Personal Data and for the Free Movement of such Data” of 2018).

### Consent

Your participation in the two surveys is voluntary. Not participating will not have any negative consequences for you. At one point in the questionnaire, one question is asked about your health. Unless you skip this section, answering the question constitutes explicit consent to the use of this data.

It goes without saying that the surveys comply with all legal provisions of data protection. We assure you:

- that we do not store your contact data together with the data provided in the questionnaire,
- that we treat your contact information as strictly confidential and do not disclose it to third parties,
- that all the data provided in the questionnaire are used solely for teaching, scientific and statistical purposes and that they are made available **anonymously** to the participating institutions of the EUROGRADUATE countries and scientists and other users for teaching, scientific and statistical non-profit purposes,
- that the data provided in the questionnaire, as well as the data on the way the questionnaire was processed will be kept for a maximum of 10 years after the project. This does not apply to anonymised data,
- that contact data will be deleted after the end of the last wave of EUROGRADUATE survey,
- that your contact details and the data provided in the questionnaire will be deleted immediately upon revocation of your consent,
- if the survey data can still be assigned to identifiable persons, you have the right to know what data are stored about you, to correct the data stored about you, to restrict the purposes for which the data are being used, the right of opposition to processing of your data, the right to withdraw your consent for the future, as well as the right to complain to the relevant supervisory authority, the Office of the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection (Iasonos 1, 1082 Nicosia, Cyprus).

The observance of all data protection measures is monitored by the data protection officer of the PwC project team.

In case of questions about general information on the research project or about data protection, the staff members of both the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and PwC Cyprus will be happy to support:

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