The UNITRACE Project

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What is UNITRACE? (I)

- Three-year capacity development project
- Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the DIES programme
- Coordinated by the International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER–Kassel), University of Kassel, Kassel (Germany)
What is UNITRACE? (II)

- Ten tracer study teams in Central America, East Africa and Southeast Asia
- All participants conduct a tracer study during the project phase
- Participants: Two persons per team:
  - A higher education/employment expert
  - A data expert
What is UNITRACE? (III)

- Three workshop phases
  - Survey preparation
  - Data analysis (2011 in Kassel)
  - Interpreting and dissemination of results (2012/13 in Bali, Nairobi and San José)
The Path of Tracer Studies

Idea & Planning
Field Phase
Data Cleaning
Reports
Dissemination
Consequences
Teichler: The UNITRACE Project

Conceptual Framework for Graduate Surveys

**Input**
- Study conditions and provisions
- Students' bio data, experiences, motives

**Process**
- Teaching and learning

**Output**
- Knowledge, skills, motivation, grades

**Outcomes**
- Transition, employment, work, professional success services to society

Context: Labour market – region – country; socio-economic development and personal development
Key Theoretical Problems of Graduate Surveys

1. Which indicators do we need?
2. How to measure the labour market signals?
3. Which factors are relevant to explain the success of the graduates besides higher education?
4. To what extent is the professional success/career caused by HE?
5. Which elements of HE (study conditions and provisions, etc) have an impact?
The Bridge Concept – Institutional Development and Research

- Quality assurance (accreditation)
- Vertical match – overeducation/undereducation
- Skills mismatch – study and work
- Study conditions and professional success
- Alumni and career service
- Evaluation, information, marketing

Institutional Tracer Study

Institutional Development