



Session 7

European graduate tracking initiative

Plans and perspective of the European Commission

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*“Labour Market Information in Transformation” webinar
10 December 2020*

Starting point: Council recommendation 2017

Purpose

- strengthening career guidance
- supporting the design and updating of curricula to improve the acquisition of relevant skills and employability;
- improving skills matching to support competitiveness and innovation at the local, regional and national level, and to resolve skills shortages;
- planning for and forecasting evolving employment, educational and social needs;
- contributing to policy development at both the national and EU level.

Data

- socio-biographical and socio-economic information;
- information on education and training;
- information on employment or further education and training;
- relevance of education and training to employment or life-long learning;
- career progress.

Source: [Council Recommendation of 20 November 2017 on tracking graduates \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#)
[OJ C 423, 9.12.2017](#)

Results of the mapping of graduate tracking



- In 24 of the Erasmus countries' education systems, graduate tracking is either a legal obligation, or a well-developed practice despite not being a legal obligation.
- The most common indicators used are linked to employment status, salary, further education, satisfaction with study and job.
- Most higher education institutions undertake some form of graduate tracking, mostly surveying own graduates 1 year after graduation, for quality assurance purposes.

Assessment against Council Recommendation

Country	Average across benchmark areas
Austria	Green
Belgium (Flanders)	Yellow
Belgium (French-speaking)	Orange
Bulgaria	Orange
Croatia	Orange
Cyprus	Red
Czech Republic	Yellow
Denmark	Green
Estonia	Yellow
Finland	Green
France	Yellow
Germany	Green
Greece	Red
Hungary	Yellow
Iceland	Red
Ireland	Green

Country	Average across benchmark areas
Italy	Yellow
Latvia	Orange
Liechtenstein	Orange
Lithuania	Yellow
Luxembourg	Orange
Malta	Orange
Netherlands	Yellow
Norway	Yellow
Poland	Yellow
Portugal	Yellow
Romania	Orange
Slovakia	Orange
Slovenia	Orange
Spain	Yellow
Sweden	Green
United Kingdom	Green

3 years later - Where do we stand?

Completed/Final stage

- Pilot Eurograduate Survey (8 countries)
- Mapping study – assessment against the Council Recommendation
- Expert group end of mandate– final report and recommendations upcoming



Kicking-off

- Capacity Building: stock-taking and strategic national roadmaps
- Follow-up on the recommendations of the Expert Group => new governance
- Full roll-out of European graduate survey (target of min. 16 countries)

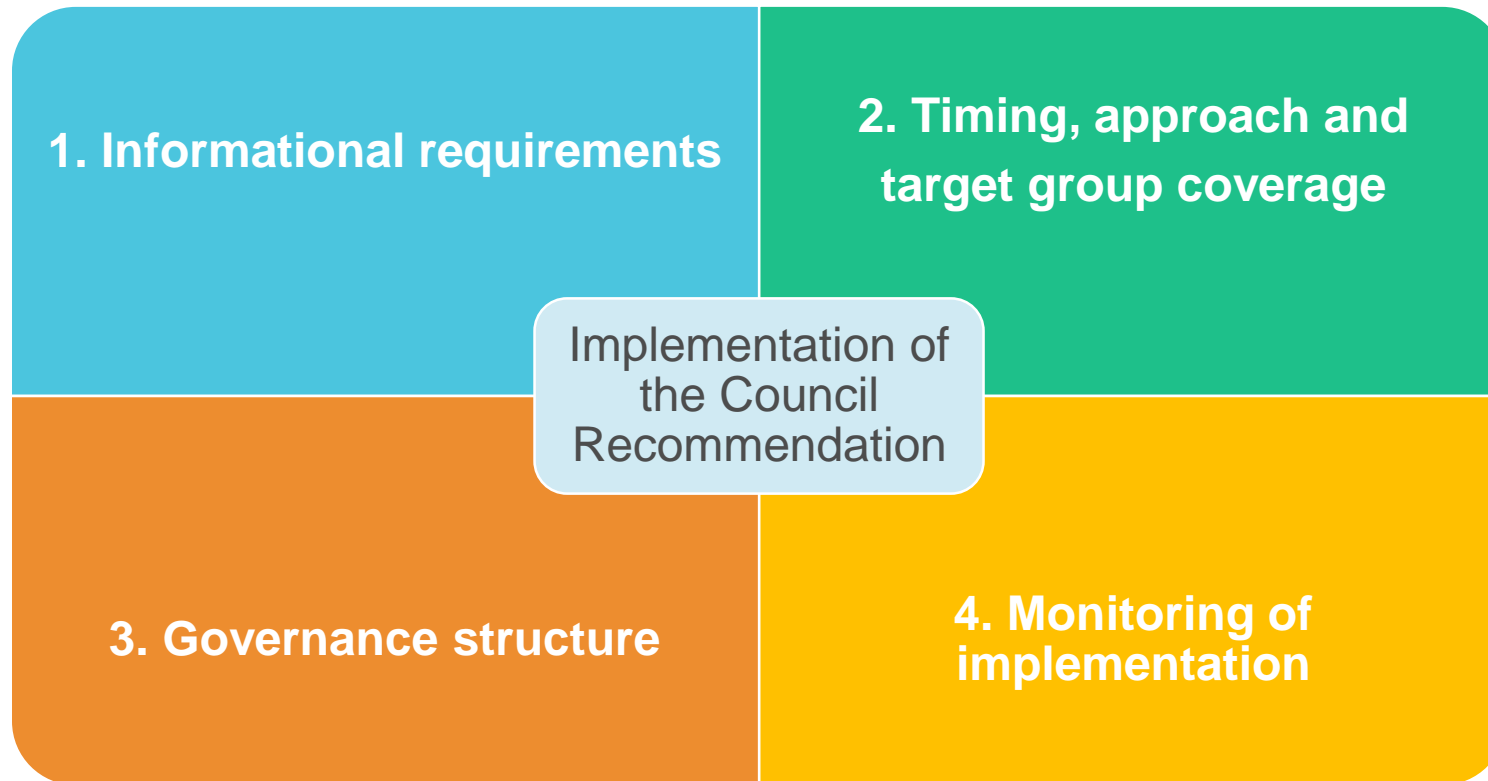
Resources

- **Results of the pilot European graduate survey:** [Comparative report](#); [8 national reports](#) for Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Malta and Norway; and a [Technical assessment](#) with recommendations for similar future surveys.
- **Mapping the state of graduate tracking policies in the EU and EEA countries:** [Executive summary](#) and [Full report](#), mapping system-level and institutional approaches in HE & VET. The report also provides a benchmarking of Member States along five dimensions of the Council Recommendation on graduate tracking, visually represented with a “traffic light” system.
- **A [guide on how to do graduate tracking well](#)**, aiming to support country officials to develop or strengthen their measures for tracking their graduates (through surveys or administrative data). This may be all the more useful since effective graduate tracking mechanisms have now become an enabling condition under European Structural and Investment funds.

Task forces and their main output

- Task force 1 - options on comparable European graduate data → • Identification of policy questions and assessment of options along scientific and operational criteria
- Task force 2 – information on mobile graduate learners and employees → • Need for cross-border (or European) graduate ID to track graduates across borders.
- Task force 3 - information on administrative data items → • Scanning of admin data and technical conditions for sharing data
- Task force 4 - principles and standards for VET → • 5 principles and 10 standards for development of VET GT

Final recommendations of the Expert Group



1. Informational requirements

Essential information

Factual background information on the person:

Gender, residence, education and employment history, location, working conditions, parental education, career progression and study and labour mobility

In the medium run, this data should come from national administrative sources.

Recommended information

- More detailed information and perception questions:
- Education and employment details, skills levels self-assessment, reasons for mismatch, job satisfaction, drivers of mobility, household composition etc)
- This data should come from a survey. In the medium run, this would be the only data to come from a survey -> shorter questionnaire.

2.a. Gradual approach to the roll out



- ✓ **Short term:** 50% countries in the European Graduate Survey for higher education by 2022 and 100% by 2025



- ✓ **Medium term:** Linking harmonised administrative data combined with shorter survey (EQF 4 to 8)



- ✓ **Long term:** Coordinated European information system; 80% Council Recommendation implementation by 2025 and 100% implementation by 2030

Towards a coordinated European information system

- ! **Compliance with national data protection laws and the GDPR**

- Anonymization vs. pseudonymisation?

- ! **Value to the largest number of stakeholders including policy makers and researchers**

- Indicators or microdata?

- ! **Data aligned with policy requirements and fully adapted to the user groups**

- Governance structure and decision making? How to engage user groups?

- ! **Sustainability > Minimum administrative burden and cost**

- Big data?

2.b. Modular approach

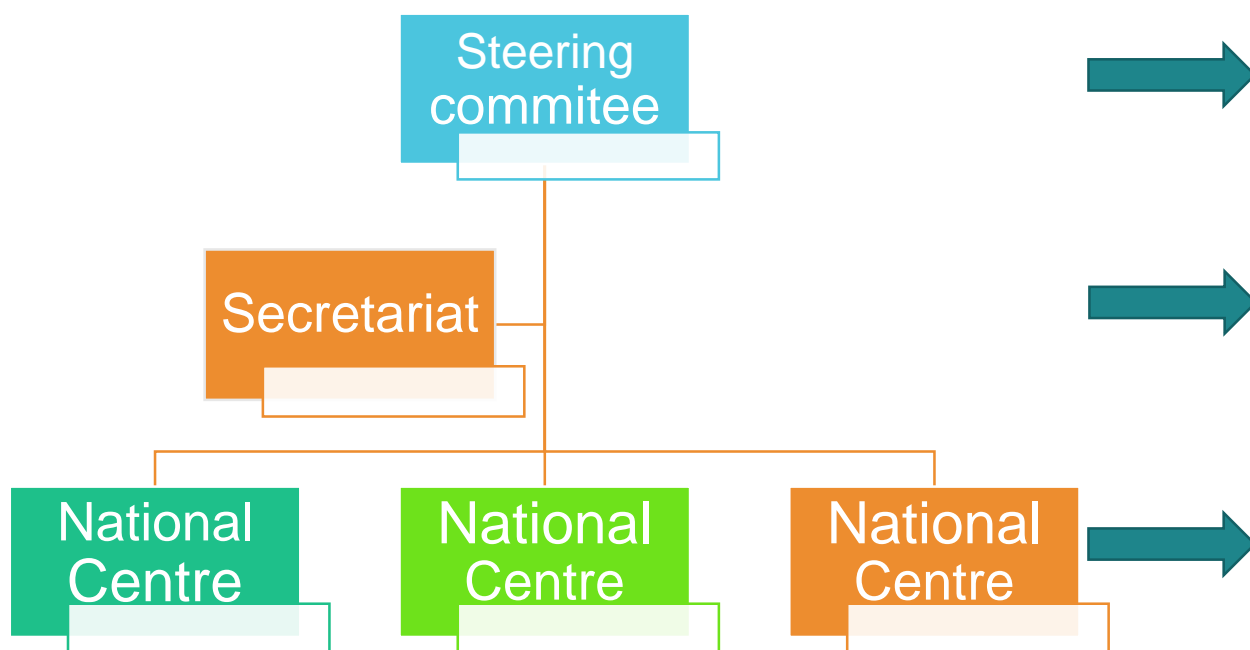
Three options to integrate national graduate tracking with the European survey:

- a) Replace the national graduate survey with the European Graduate Survey in the year that it is carried out **or** run the two surveys in parallel.
- b) Add a national module to the European Graduate Survey, with questions that are of national interest.
- c) Satisfy the data requirements with data gathered through the national survey or administrative data, while guaranteeing comparability and high quality of data.

2.c. Target groups

- **Ultimate goal:** inclusion of EQF levels 4 to 8
- Higher education is likely to move faster towards the goals
- Roadmap for potential inclusion of VET graduates will be fine-tuned in the framework of the future governance structure and discussed within EQAVET
- Countries where the conditions are in place already in the short run-> option to include VET and PhD graduates in the European graduate survey
- Useful resources for VET: common set of **principles and standards** to inform the development and strengthening of system-wide tracking measures

3. Governance structure



Role: strategically guide the implementation

Membership: elected representatives of the network, the Secretariat/European Commission, Eurostat, European agencies, European level social partners

Role: facilitate cooperation and mutual learning, develop and promote guidance material, support the network logistically

Membership: contracted out by the European Commission

Role: implement national data collection, form European Network of experts

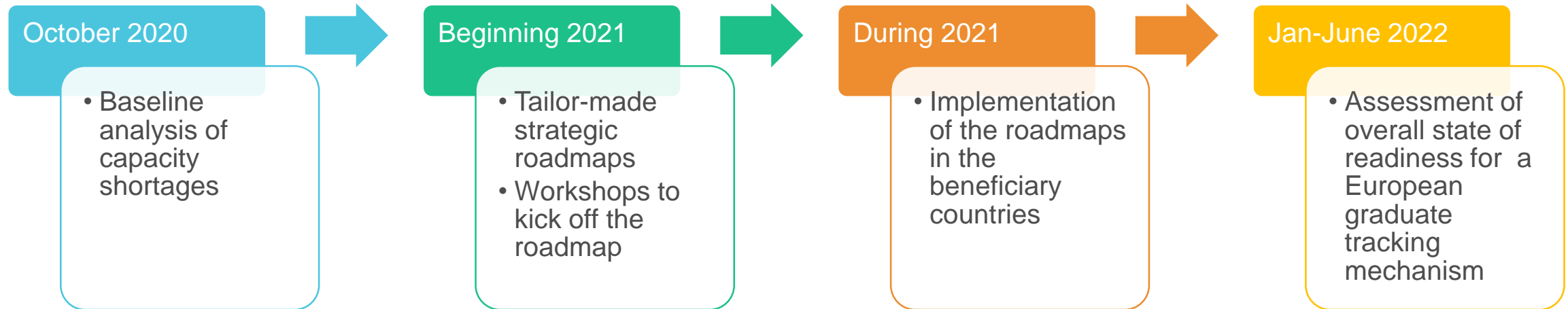
Membership: representatives of educational stakeholders from HE and VET, National Statistical Institutes, social partners and other relevant organisations

4. Monitoring of implementation

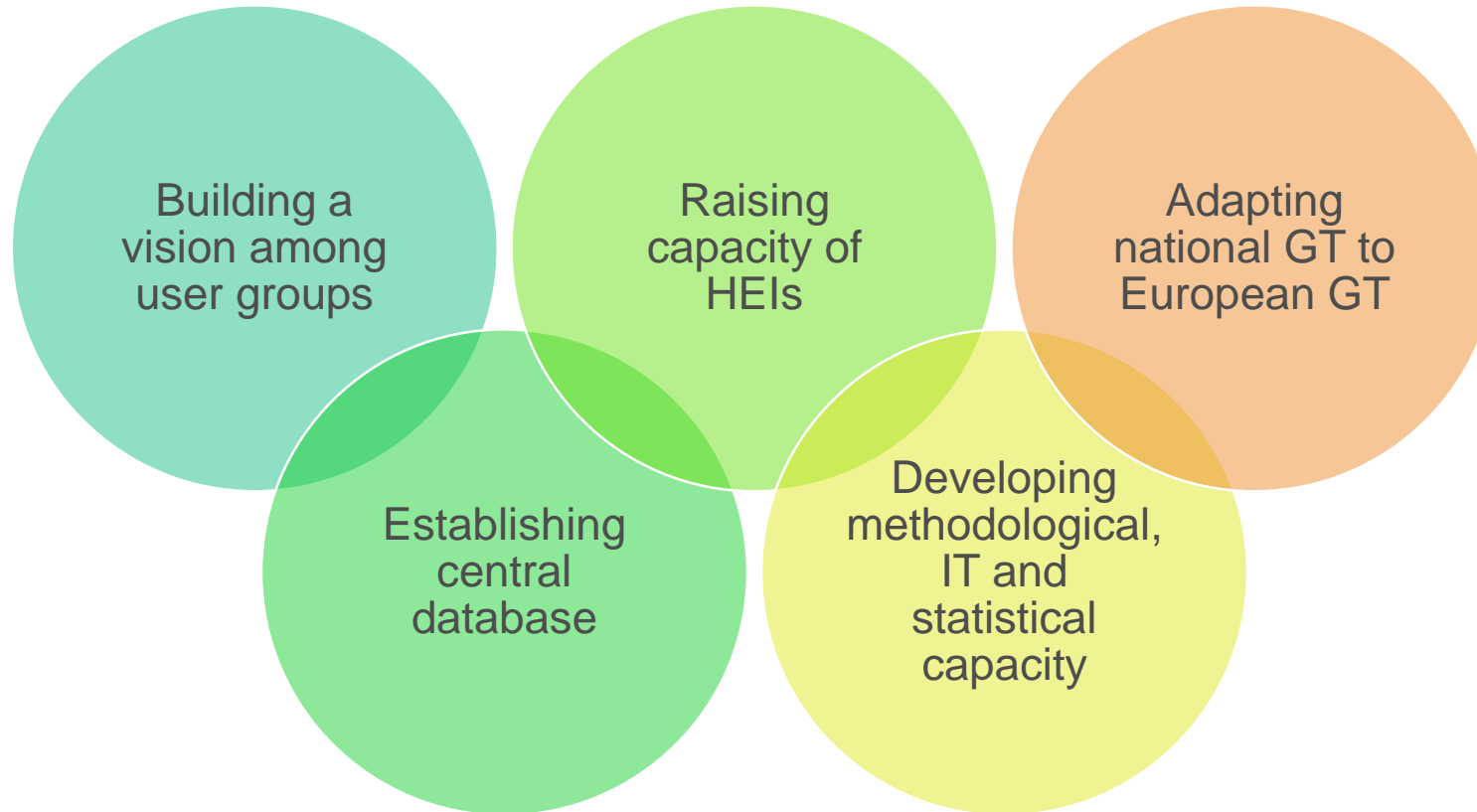
- Member states reporting to the Commission biannually
- Commission reports after 5 years to the Council
- Traffic light system monitoring along different dimensions
- Process integrated in the new governance structure



Capacity building project



Capacity building types



Next steps

- Publication of the Final report of the Expert group on graduate tracking – before end 2020
- Publication of the Scientific use file from Eurograduate - beginning 2021
- Launch of the actions linked to the implementation – Q1 2021:
 - Set up of the network of national coordination centres
 - Set up of the Steering committee of the graduate tracking initiative
 - Call to express interest in taking part in the first wave of European graduate survey

Thank you.