

The Network Approach – the Case of Germany

Plenary “Approaches of Tracer Studies”

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The Tracer Study Revolution in Germany

- High growth of tracer studies in Germany in recent years
- Growth of studies on institutional level
- Until 2007: national sample for purposes of national policy makers, only a few institutions of HE conducted regular tracer studies
- Since 2008/2009 almost all relevant institutions of HE are partners in different regional or national systems of regular tracer studies
- Coverage: about 80% of all graduates in Germany
- In the *KOAB network* about 50 % of all graduates from HE institutions in Germany are included

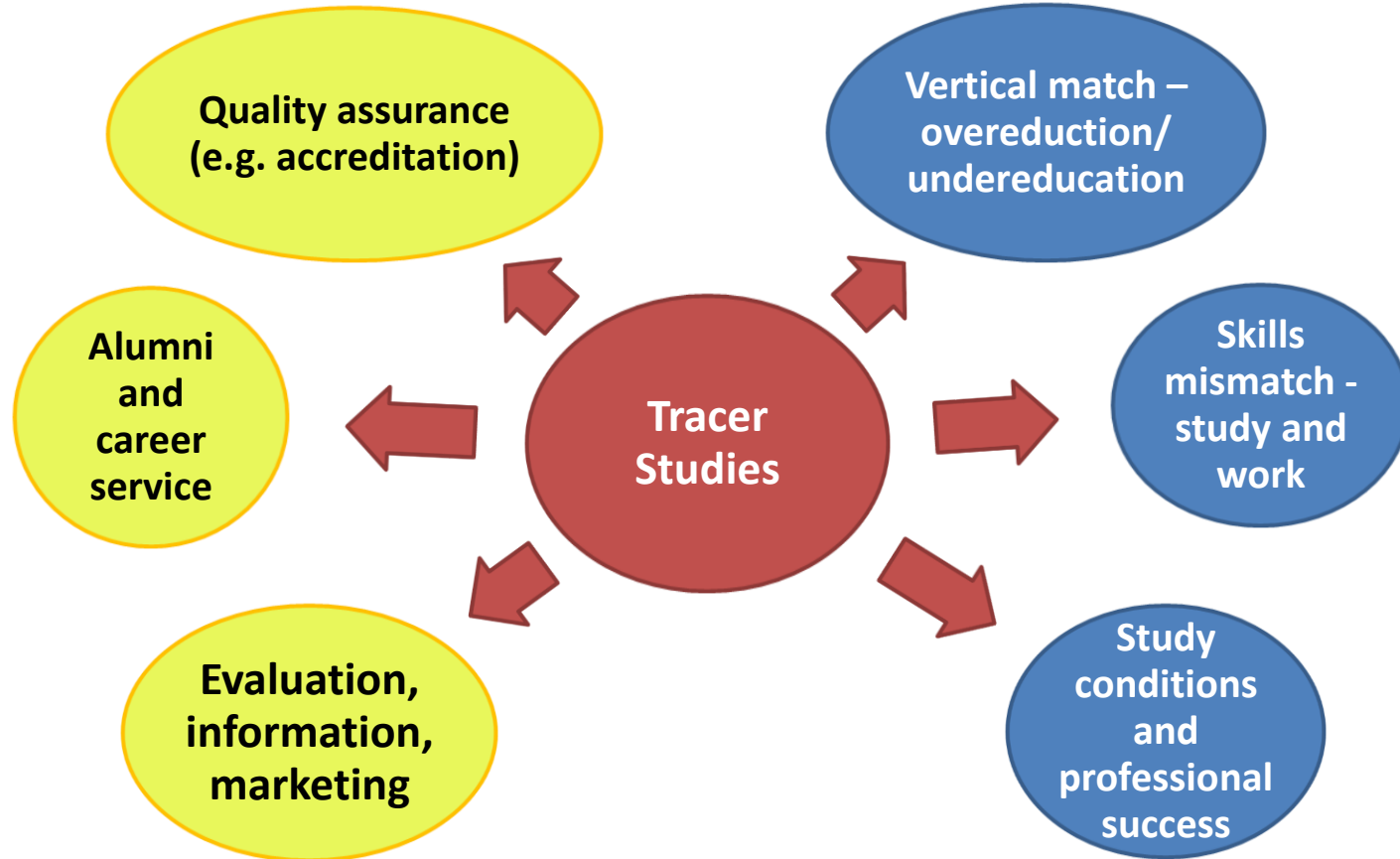
The Bridge Concept – Institutional Development and Research

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Choni Flöther: The Network Approach – the Case of Germany

Institutional Development

Research



The Network Approach as New Type of Graduate Surveys

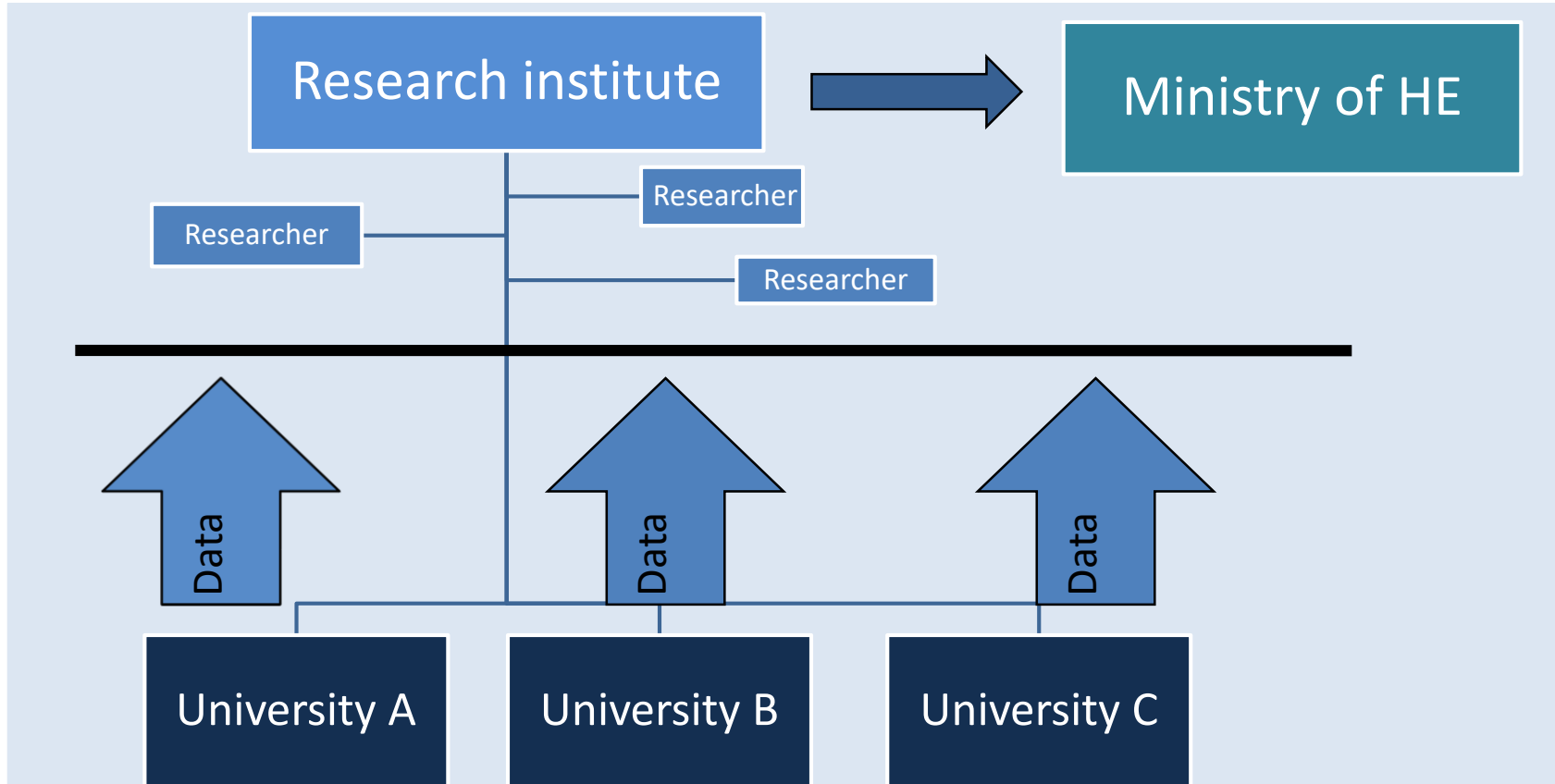
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New type – institutional graduate surveys in a network approach

- All graduates from one HE institution
- Combination of a national monitor and a feedback instrument for HE institutions (e.g. for accreditation procedures)
- Relevant for individual institutions (reports for individual institutions, program level breakdown of results)

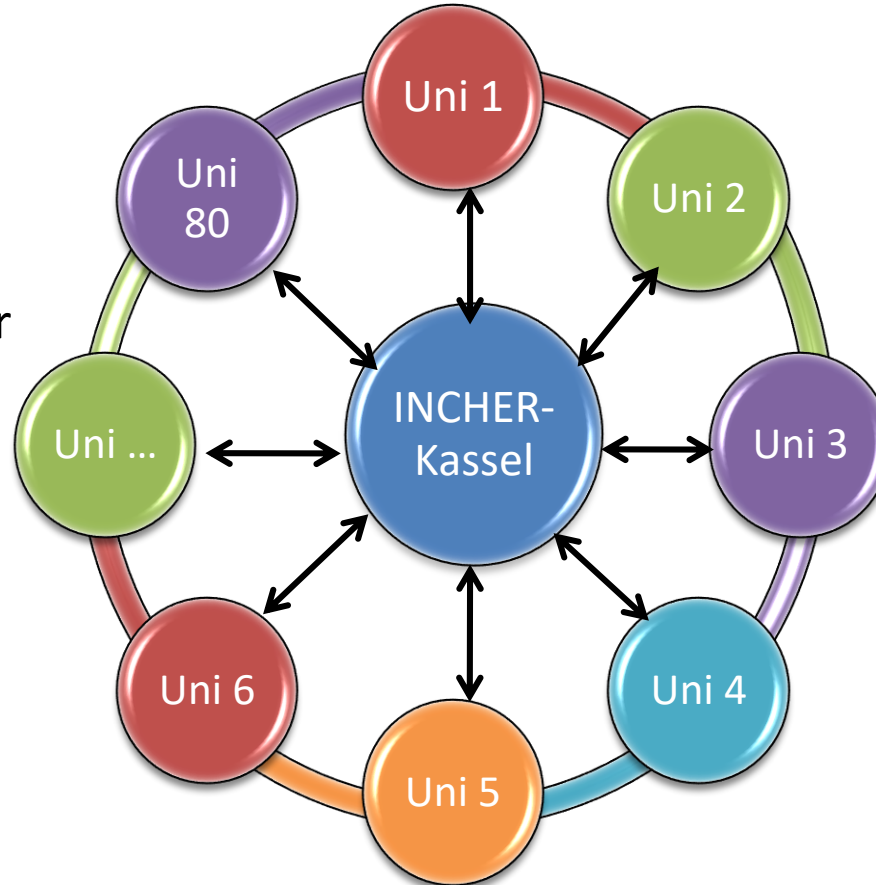
The Old Type of National Tracer Studies: the University Delivers Data (e.g. Addresses)

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The New Type of Graduate Surveys: the Network Approach (KOAB)

2012: About 80 institutions of HE in Germany are cooperating in conducting regular tracer studies



KOAB: Universities are Partners in a Joint Research Project

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■ Joint research

- Universities and INCHER-Kassel are developing the core questionnaire and the methodology together
- Every university has an own questionnaire
- Every university is publishing the results of the own tracer study

■ Service

- Central data processing by INCHER – joint data base
- Every university gets customized tables reports (about 500 pages)
- Benchmarking according the needs of the universities – no ranking

■ Workshops

- INCHER provides training for university staff
- 4 workshops per year
- 1 conference per year

The KOAB-Approach: 10 Key Methodological Aspects

1. Network approach, cooperation
2. Training for network members
3. Team of about 100 researchers in Germany
4. Multipurpose surveys (broad scope; about 500 variables)
5. Regularity: Every year one cohort
6. Panel: 1.5 year after graduation + 4.5 years after graduation
7. Generation survey: all kind of degrees (BA + MA + PhD)
8. Census: all graduates, no sampling
9. Standardized online + paper questionnaire
10. Every university has an own questionnaire

Three Types of Questions:

■ Core questions

- No changes by single HEI possible

■ Optional questions

- Ready made modules (e.g. self-employment, international mobility)

■ Special/individual questions

- Institutional level
- Faculty level
- Study program level
- Sector level

Utilisation of the Results of Tracer Studies

- Benchmark without ranking
- Cooperation and competition
- International comparison
- Professionalisation of tracer study researchers

Members of the KOAB-Team

(Workshop in Kassel March 2011)

More Information about KOAB: <http://koab.uni-kassel.de/>



Thank you for your attention!