



**TEMPUS PROJECT CD JEP 18046-2003**  
**Management and (e)Business Education in**  
**Computer Studies**

**Workshop:**  
**IT Industry and Education Requirements**

**Skopje, December 2004**

## **IT Industry and Education Requirements Workshop**

In parallel with the activities about the global IT perspectives and the global industry needs, the consortium members were active in the local market, were contacts were made with MASIT (Macedonian Association for Information Technology) and the USAID Cluster for Information technology. Both contacts were used to analyse the needs of the local market, and at the same time to analyse the current situation with the ICT professionals.

As a result from contacts with MASIT, preliminary research on the IT market was done in order to define IT industry needs and definition of appropriate education profiles for IT industry. This research was realized by MASIT, which consists of more than 50 local IT companies for the purpose of their future activities. In the scope of this project this research was also analysed and beneficiary partners actively participated in the workshop for analysis of education profiles.

As a preceding to the IT Workforce Demand Survey, preliminary research made by Committee for education and development of ICT experts at MASIT.

The results of this analysis and workshop conclusion gave us a good direction toward the current situation on the market. They showed that:

- 88% of those who filled the questionnaire find that the profile of the experts the universities are creating does not fit the industry needs.
- In average 3-6 months are required for a graduate to become productive in a company
- 88% thinks that the graduated expert needs additional training after the graduation in order to become effective in companies.
- Most of the companies are looking over practical skills rather than theoretical when they are employing.
- 65% thinks that the quality of the graduated students at the universities are with poor quality
- Most of the companies (73%) gives more value to the practical skills and certificates than to the university diploma

Additionally, concerning the cooperation between the ICT companies and the Universities, the companies think that they do not have enough cooperation with Universities, that they would like to establish some kind of cooperation, but they are not willing to pay to have students as partisans in their companies.

As a result from this preliminary research, some recommendations were given. Those recommendations were concerning introducing new curricula at Universities which will correspond to industry needs, modernization of the existing ones, increasing the number of ICT students, and increasing the ways to improve student practical skills.

Later on, MASIT required detailed research by developing IT Workforce Demand Survey, which was supposed to give in depth detailed view of the size, structures and requirements of the country IT workforce.