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The transition from higher education to employment in Europe : the analysis of the time to obtain the first job

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**Abstract**

This paper investigates the determinants of the transition from higher education to work across Europe using various specifications of duration models and a one-time multi-country survey of university graduates from nine European countries. Results point to differences between the North and South of Europe in the difficulty of getting a first job. They confirm that individual characteristics such as the field/level of studies or the socioeconomic background, and individual job search bear a significant relationship to the probability of finding a job. Evidence of unobserved heterogeneity is also found. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Salas-Velasco, Manule, E-Mail: msalas@ugr.es