

The Istanbul Conference

by the Editorial Team

The fourth NICE conference took place in Istanbul from May 23-25, 2013 at the Suleyman Demirel Cultural Center of the Istanbul Technical University. We had the chance to attend a really interesting conference that helped us plan our next steps. To kick off NICE 2, the conference began with a presentation from Christiane Schiersmann, who presented the overall goals of NICE 2. Steering Committee members Jean-Pierre Dauwalder, Bernd-Joachim Ertelt and Laura Nota followed with impulse speeches, to raise awareness for the challenges of our network. In particular, the need for (a) dialogue between practice and science, (b) the necessity of a strong and innovative infrastructure for our network, and the (c) relevance of hope and resilience for career guidance was highlighted.

groups), the development of Tuning Instruments and Peer-Learning.

In the evening we had a nice dinner in Istiklal Street. Istiklal is one of the most popular places of Istanbul in the heart of the city. There are many alternatives for going out, whether you are looking for entertainment, for good food or cultural activity. The restaurants offered delicious Turkish mezzes, fish and traditional raki.

The second day of the conference began with short presentations on the planned Online Database and Dissemination activities (Lea Ferrari), the Mobility Project (Jean-Jacques Ruppert) and Sustainable Network Structures (Monika Petermandl). The participants were then invited to work together at one of three workshops, focusing on these topics. In conjunction with the activities of the first day, a goal was for all network members to find out, what group they want to work in. The workshops offered enough time to clarify open points, plan next steps and think about their possible contribution for the NICE Conference in Canterbury (September 2014, see below). Afterwards, we shared our results in the plenary and talked about our network's goals and plans for the next years; and how we will coordinate our

efforts.

Based on these discussions, Peter Weber and Johannes Katsarov initiated an Open Space discussion on the NICE Memorandum (see above). Topics were collected, which we worked out and discussed throughout the rest of the day on a boat tour on the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus is a strait that forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. A



highlight of the tour was a wonderful Turkish dinner in the evening. The final morning of the conference was dedicated to future considerations, particularly regarding the Canterbury Conference (Hazel Reid) and the quality of our network's development (Quality Group).

We owe a big "Thank you" to Istanbul Technical University (ITU) for hosting this event, especially to Salim Atay and Banu Cirakoglu, who ensured great memories of Istanbul for all of us!



The afternoon of the conference's first day was full of hard work and joyful moments, all dealing with the NICE Tuning Project 2.0. The Wall of Fame, an organized graffiti exercise, gave all of us the chance to report on news and developments regarding career guidance in various countries. Afterwards we came together in five parallel Tuning workshops regarding criteria for defining BA, MA and PhD competence levels and curricula (three

INTERESTING INFO

- ✓ With a population of 13.9 million, Istanbul is the second-largest city in the world by population within city limits.
- ✓ Constantinople, the city now known as Istanbul, served as the capital of Byzantine Empire for more than 1000 years until the Ottoman Turks conquered the city in 1453.
- ✓ Approximately 11.6 million foreign visitors arrived in Istanbul in 2012.
- ✓ Etymologically, the name *Istanbul* derives from the Greek phrase "εἰς τὴν Πόλιν" (pronounced [is tim 'bolin]), which means "to the city", reflecting its status as the more important city.
- ✓ Istanbul is bounded on the north and the south by two seas, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, respectively. The western half of the city lies in Europe while the eastern half is situated in Asia.
- ✓ Istanbul generates 46% of the national exports and 40% of Turkey's total imports.