

## News from the Netherlands



by Jan Woldendorp

Euroguidance in The Netherlands has delivered a research titled "ELGPN PRC5, First exploratory study for Evidence and Quality framework" by R. Punt.

The aim of the study was to investigate the Dutch situation when looking at the Quality-Assurance and Evidence-Based (QAE) Framework, designed by ELGPN. The document focuses on the professional development of career professionals. The status quo in The Netherlands in this field and especially in VET has been investigated and described using desk research and interviews.

In the conclusion the author summarizes: "Using the framework in the way we did in this study reveals some important policy questions that may help policymakers to take well-founded decisions and to conduct a national discussion. The framework also enables a comparison with other countries (...). It is not entirely clear whether this fits in well with the goals of the framework (...). The language used in the framework is ambiguous or multi-interpretable (...). This impairs the usability of the framework."

## News from Slovakia

The Department of International Relations of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava has won the "National Prize of Career Guidance 2013 – Honorary Award" for the project "Development and Implementation of Common Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programme and Postgraduate Educational Programme in the European Context – DICBDPEC" that has been carried out within the Erasmus Multilateral Projects programme of the European Union. The project aimed at building coherence in the European Higher Education Area in agreement with the Bologna process and recommendations of Berlin Declaration.

The prize is annually awarded by the Euroguidance Centre of the Slovak Republic,

which is a part of the European Euroguidance network.



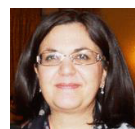
The prize was given to representatives of the international team of the DICBDPEC (and also active members of NICE) Laura Gressnerova and Ivan Prelovský at an international conference held on the occasion of 15th anniversary of founding Euroguidance in Slovakia.

The award was made for the initiative and coordination of the project, based on which Slovakia has also "launched the first common Bachelor and Magister study programme as well as the postgraduate educational programme in the field of career guidance in European context (having involved several European universities and the joint mutually recognized diploma)" and for its emphasis on a "European dimension in education aimed at improvement of qualification, adaptability and mobility".

On this occasion the coordinator of the DICBDPEC project, Laura Gressnerova, was also awarded by the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic for "especially successful and long-year activity in the field of development of educational programmes on career guidance".

For more details on the DICBDPEC you can visit: [www.ies.stuba.sk/erasmus](http://www.ies.stuba.sk/erasmus)

## News from Italy



by Lea Ferrari

The International Conference "Life Design and Career Counseling: Building Hope and Resilience" was held at the University of Padua from June 20-22 in 2013. The

conference, organized by *Larios Laboratory*, shows the participation of more than 600 delegates, among them many NICE members.

In the first plenary session three speakers took turns: Shane Lopez presented a lecture titled "Hope for tomorrow: Pays off today", Jean Guichard discussed "Forms of reflexivity and transformations of systems of subjective identity forms during life designing dialogues", and Salvatore Soresi invited participants to reflect on the importance of "Helping people build their future".

The second day of the conference was devoted to present different perspectives about the future. Annelies van Vianen discussed "Creating and conserving resources for career self-regulation", Stefano Zamagni won the audience with "What makes the young unemployable and why businesses continue to believe in Taylorism", Michael Wehmeyer presented "Beyond pathology: Positive psychology and disability" and Luciano L'Abate underscored "The future is now: Online interventions are here to stay and to grow".



In the morning, Christiane Schiersmann presented the results of the first three years of NICE and the goals of NICE 2, underlining the importance of a European effort in this field.

The plenary session of the last day was dedicated to career adaptability and Life Designing. Maria Eduarda Duarte coordinated the international Symposium in which Mary McMahon, Guðbjörg Vilhjálmsdóttir, Marcelo Ribeiro, Frederick Leong, Catherine Ott-Holland, and Laura Nota discussed the issue of "Adaptability and personal promotion". Finally, Mark Savickas led the participants to reflect on "Life Designing: Balancing work and love".

Both in plenary sessions and in the parallel and posters sessions, with more than 300 contributions, there was a great interest in the