

European Summit on the Career Workforce of the Future



by Hazel Reid and Anne Chant

On September 3rd & 4th 2014 the European academic network NICE will hold a summit at Canterbury Christ Church University in England. Key figures from all partner countries will discuss central issues around the education and training of people in the practice of career guidance and counselling.

At a time of economic and political change in Europe and beyond, enabling citizens to engage successfully with the world of work has never been more important for the economies of nation states and for individuals. The education and training of those who will guide individuals and who will advise the process of policy-making is therefore also crucial.

Keynote speakers Dr Gideon Arulmani and Professor AG Tony Watts will open the summit illustrating the challenges that lie ahead of us and pointing to some changes, which might be necessary in the future. Dr Arulmani, founder of the Promise Foundation

in Bangalore, India, will enable delegates to consider issues relating to the migration and mobility of workers across the globe.

Professor Watts, international policy consultant on career guidance and career development, will explore challenges to the roles and professional development of careers professionals. These speakers will thereby focus delegates on the challenges that careers professionals face in enabling their clients to engage in a complex and rapidly changing labour market, and how their education and training must evolve.

The goal of the summit will be to actively discuss concrete proposals on the future of education and training for the career workforce with key professionals, policy makers, researchers and educators from all of the NICE member states. Central questions will relate to the competences that different types of career professionals (and people from related professions) need, to the cooperation between practice, policy and academia, and to major research questions which we need to concentrate on in the future. A publication in which we will introduce the NICE memorandum, a draft for European Competence Standards and an overview of current research activities in Europe will be produced ahead of the summit. This digest will contain the main materials to be discussed at the summit, and be distributed online for other interested stakeholders to learn about the current activities of NICE.

The summit will be split in two parts; during the first two days delegates from inside and outside the network will work in mixed and

stakeholder groups to develop innovative solutions to the challenges ahead. They will explore the extensive work of NICE as illustrated in the NICE memorandum and agree how this can be taken forward by all nation states and stakeholder groups. The following two days (September 5-6) will be a time for NICE members to take forward the work of the summit. All working groups will have the space to present their work, engage with others, get feedback, and understand how everything fits together – for instance in the edition of the next NICE Handbook. Additionally, the future of NICE as a network will be an important topic. By the end of these two days, the members will establish a vision for the future of our network, and plan for the third phase of funding from the European Commission.

This is a significant event in the future of careers professions in Europe and it is important that there is a fair representation of different countries and stakeholder groups. Participants are therefore being personally invited by members of the network and will include key decision makers and representatives of professional bodies, practitioners, academic and research institutions, service users, policy makers and managers of services.

For more information, please contact:

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Photo 6: Canterbury's Old Town (Open Access Photography)