

News from around Europe

News from Austria



by *Monika Petermandl*

Revision of curricula based on NICE competences

Danube University Krems has undertaken a revision of its post-graduate study programs in career guidance and counselling. The updated curricula are based on the NICE competence standards and are related to the development of career counselling, career education, career assessment & information competences, as well as management competences and generic professional competences.

The study courses are offered as part-time studies on 3 levels, in each case the lower level being an integrated part of the higher level.

Level 1 "Certified program" (CP, 30 ECTS, 2 semesters)

Level 2 "Academic expert" (AE, 60 ECTS, plus 1 semester and a Project Thesis in addition to the CP)

Level 3 "Master of Arts" (MA, 90 ECTS, plus 2 semesters and a Master-Thesis in addition to the AE)

Doing the revision of the curricula, we experienced the Nice competence standards as a very helpful reference tool which gave us an orientation for our development work.

The courses start in March 2016. The language is German. The enrolment is open to graduates from relevant studies and/or to persons with professional experience in career guidance and counselling.

Program director: Dr. Ulrike Kastler, responsible for the academic program: Prof. Dr. Monika Petermandl

www.donau-uni.ac.at/wbbm

News from Finland



by *Seija Koskela*

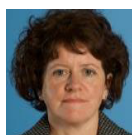
Applying The NICE competence standards

At JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Jyväskylä, Finland we have made plans how to apply the new NICE standards to our continuing and further education. Since we have built our career guidance and counselling education curriculum around the NICE competences it was not too difficult a task to separate certain modules and build a course of 25 credits. It is offered for persons working on different kind of positions offering career guidance and counselling but not as professionals but rather as advisors or supporters.

In future, if a person applies for our career guidance and counselling education program he/she can get these advisor-level studies acknowledged and accredited and thus lessen the load during the studies.

We will offer these studies for the first time this spring so we don't have yet any experience concerning them but we are quite pleased with our plan and are looking forward to seeing how it will work out.

News from Ireland



by *Lucy Hearne*

National Career Guidance Seminar hosted by University of Limerick, 10th October, 2014.

Seminar Title: *Challenging Times - Professional resilience for career guidance practitioners working in Ireland's Public Employment Services (PES)*

The University of Limerick co-hosted a national seminar on professional practice in PES on 10th October in collaboration with Geraldine Lambert, Co-Ordinator of the Limerick Local Employment Service Paul Partnership. The seminar was funded by the Irish Research Council (IRC). The focus of the Symposium was to examine the implications of the economic downturn on the current work practice of career practitioners' in the Irish Public Employment Service (PES) through the lens of policy, research and practice.

The Symposium was officially opened by Kevin Humphreys TD, Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection with Responsibility for Activation. The Keynote Speaker was Professor Jenny Bimrose, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick. Further presentations on recent research on practitioner's experiences were given by Dr. Lucy Hearne, UL, and Siobhan Keogh, Limerick Local Employment Service. Geraldine Lambert also provided input on the realities of practice on the ground for approximately 300 career guidance practitioners and support staff working in the Local Employments Services Network (LESN).

A range of different stakeholders were in attendance such as career guidance practitioners, employment support workers, case officers and managers from the Irish PES, course directors of guidance counselling programmes; academic researchers and post-graduate students and representative of professional bodies and organisations. The Symposium was very timely and provided an opportunity for stakeholders from different sectors who are involved in working with and advocating on behalf of unemployed clients to network and engage in constructive discussions on the very real issues in current practice.

The event proceedings, photos and presentations are available at: <http://www.ul.ie/eps/node/621>