News from Around Europe

Ongoing Efforts to Professionalise Career Guidance and Counselling in Latvia

Upon starting the new academic year, the Latvia University of Agriculture has updated its curriculum for the second cycle (Master’s) professional higher education programme “Career Counsellor”, gradually introducing the European Competence Standards for the Academic Training of Career Practitioners.

Starting with the academic year 2016/2017, the number of students of the Master’s study programme “Career Counsellor” has increased. 100 state-funded first-year Master’s students were accepted at five Latvian higher education institutions, as there was a demand for qualified Career Professionals in the Latvian labour market, and a necessity to carry out the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment” successfully. The Operational Programme envisages reducing and preventing early school-leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early-childhood, primary and secondary education, including formal, non-formal and informal learning pathways for reintegrating into education and training. To achieve this goal, it is planned to improve access to career support for students in general and vocational education institutions.

To prepare Career Advisors for the work in education institutions, there was a large teacher training held in the second half of 2015 and in 2016. More than 500 preschool, basic, academic and vocational secondary education teachers acquired the professional development programme Teacher Career Counsellor (160 study hours). During the programme, in spring 2016, the Head of programme Jānis Pāvulēns visited NICE collaboration partners at Jyvaskyla University and Euroguidance Centre of the project Guide My W@y! (http://guide-my-way.eu/). The outcomes of this project were presented by three members of the network NICE.

The conference organizers (Department of Educational Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University and the Euroguidance Centre CZ), would like to thank everyone who participated in the preparation and course of the conference. It created an opportunity for establishing cooperation among the representatives of providers of career guidance services, researchers, educators and policy makers.

Find the conference program at http://konferencekp.cz/en/konference/program/

Malmö University Involved in Project “Quality of jobs and Innovation-generated Employment outcomes”

QuInnE is a research project that investigates how innovation and job quality (e.g. career development, salaries, skills, education, working hours) mutually impact each other. The effects of the interaction are analysed in terms of employment outcomes and whether the interaction creates more and better jobs. The employment outcomes are then tracked in terms of their impact on social inclusion and inequality. The research project is financed by the European Commission (Horizon 2020) and involves 7 European countries and 8 branches. In Sweden, the industries of computer games, aerospace and health care are investigated. Further information on www.quinne.eu.

At this event, Stefan Vendel from Presov University, Slovakia delivered the lecture “Paths to professionalization of career counselling - contributions of 46 European universities”. The aim was to inform on the initiative of the NICE network in the development of professionalization of career guidance. This conference speech was also published in the monothematic issue of Lifelong Learning, Vol. 6, No. 3 (2016), a journal published by Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic.

The second day of the conference was dedicated exclusively to the training of career professionals, in particular the results of the project Guide My W@y! (http://guide-my-way.eu/). The outcomes of this project were presented by three members of the network NICE.

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