

News from Around Europe

Ongoing Efforts to Professionalise Career Guidance and Counselling in Latvia



**Inita Soiķe &
Jānis Pāvulēns,
Latvia University
of Agriculture**

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 been 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 pre-school, 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 Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences, gaining valuable experience as to improving the programme.

In the beginning of 2017, a collective monograph "Supervision: Theory. Research. Practice" (420 pages) will be published in Latvian where a small chapter (written by Jānis Pāvulēns) is devoted to the supervision of career practitioners. It is the first attempt to raise awareness to the necessity to supervise career practitioners

working in the area of employment and education in Latvia. There is a reference in the chapter to NICE Handbook for the Academic Training of Career Guidance and Counselling Professionals (2012) and the European Competence Standards for the Academic Training of Career Practitioners.

Development of a National Qualification Standard for Career and Talent Management in Turkey



**Salim Atay,
Istanbul Technical University,
Turkey**

Istanbul Technical University (ITU) has signed a protocol with the Turkish Vocational Qualifications Authority to develop a vocational qualification standard for Career and Talent Management Experts. Knowledge and skill requirements for career and talent management experts who will perform this job have been defined. On behalf of ITU Career Centre, Associate Professor Salim Atay has been managing this process in coordination with legal authorities.

The NICE Core Competences and Curriculum Framework were used to define core competences and training needs. After approval through the Turkish National Qualifications Authority, the qualification standard will be promulgated in the Turkish Official Gazette and become a nationwide reference document for certification of all career and talent management experts around Turkey.

Conference "Paths to Professionalising Career Guidance" in Brno



**Lenka Hloušková,
Masaryk University, Brno,
Czech Republic**

From May 26-27, 2016, the Masaryk University's Faculty of Arts welcomed 132 conference participants from six European countries (most of the participants were from the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic). The idea to organize a conference related to this topic had been maturing for several years and was preceded by a series of sub-activities linked directly to the NICE project.

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.

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"



**Frida Wikstrand,
University of Malmö,
Sweden**

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.