



NETWORK FOR INNOVATION IN  
CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING IN EUROPE

JANUARY 2014 – NEWSLETTER #1/2014

IN THIS ISSUE

## Editorial

The creation of a newsletter has been under discussion for a quite a while already in the NICE network. Since our network was founded in 2009, the interest in our efforts has continually grown among professionals, policy-makers and academics dealing with career guidance and counselling – in Europe and worldwide.

Thanks to our many engaged members, we have frequently reported about our network, our products and projects in various national and international journals. Yet, a regular update has been requested frequently – also from our own partners. As a community of about 85 experts on career guidance and counselling from 45 higher education institutions around Europe, working together on a variety of different projects, we need to co-ordinate our efforts and keep each other informed, too.

Now, with the NICE 2 work program aiming at setting up sustainable structures for our network, the time has come for us to establish a newsletter which appears regularly and channels the news of our diverse activities in Europe in a more systematic fashion, filling a gap in our network's communication strategy.

As the editors of the first NICE Newsletter, we hope this newsletter will be a useful tool for NICE members to co-ordinate their efforts and an opportunity for other career guidance professionals to know more about the NICE network. We are beginning with a simple structure, which we want to continuously

improve over the next years, and thank you in advance for your feedback.

The "Head Article" of our first newsletter comes from Christiane Schiersmann, our network's chief coordinator. It presents our network's strategic goals until 2015, and also introduces the new structure of our network. This section is followed by "Updates from the NICE Projects", where the speakers of all project groups share some news about what they are doing at the moment.

Under the permanent heading "Coming Up", you will find news about upcoming events that are organized by NICE members. Similarly, the section "Past Appointments" portrays activities organized by various members of the network to keep everybody up to date on what has been going on.

### Editorial Board



Lea Ferrari  
University of Padova



Nikos Drosos  
University of Athens



Monika Kukytė  
Heidelberg University



Johannes Katsarov  
Heidelberg University



### The Challenge of NICE 2

The members of NICE enjoyed a very fruitful conference in Istanbul in May 2013 where, inter alia, Christiane Schiersmann presented the goals and tasks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period of EU funding for NICE (page 2).



### NICE Working Groups

Five of our working groups explain their role, aim, functions and progress in a short presentation, allowing readers to get an overview of the network's progress (pages 4-6).



### Past events

Short presentations of various events that have taken place within the NICE network (page 7).

### And more...

There are also reports of developments/ news regarding career guidance and counselling in each country (pages 8-10) and an outlook on the next NICE Conference in Canterbury (page 11).

# The Challenge of NICE 2



by Christiane Schiersmann

Behind us lie 3 years of fruitful collaboration, intensive discussions and processes and the publication of a quite valuable NICE (Tuning) Handbook. Now we have the chance to work together another 3 years as the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe.

This chance poses a challenge and a question to us at the same time. The question is: What are our goals and tasks for this next period? With this article on the program of NICE 2 – which I also presented in Istanbul – I hope to give some answers to this question.

As I said, there is also a challenge. In my view, this challenge goes beyond the practical problems of working together. To a large extent it is in our hands to clarify the future role of academia in Career Guidance and Counselling in our modern world. No network or association is placed as well as we are to work out answers to this challenge.

When we think about our role as academics in today's world, we need to acknowledge that we – as representatives of universities and higher education institutions – are embedded in a multi-stakeholder world. We need to understand our identity, our mission and our role in society in a systemic way: Universities are embedded in society and influenced by many actors – at the same time we are also influencing the other parts of society. Our field of academia is not isolated from practise, politics or the citizens seeking career guidance and counselling.

Whatever we do – or don't do – will have consequences for the development of career guidance and counselling in Europe. This statement is all the more true when we act together, as a network of academics from all around Europe. Through our research efforts, through our decisions on what and how we teach our students, we shape the future of our field. Our responsibility is not small.

But what is our strength in this situation? Our strength can be – and the results from NICE 1 show this to some degree – that we have the means to understand and reflect the multi-dimensional world with our multi-perspective-approaches. As academics we are in the position to access and influence the theory, the practice-oriented research and the training of future practitioners and experts. All three of these approaches help us to inform other academics, policy, practitioners and clients to become more reflexive in their view on our field.

## What is needed to meet this challenge?

In NICE 2 we face the very important challenge of connecting with the outer world. With our work and results we contribute to bridging the gaps between theory and practice, policy and research, services and citizens. Our results should and can be meaningful to all of these actors. The positive way in which our work from the last 3 years – published in 4 languages in the NICE Handbook – has been received by policy makers, practitioners and academics outside of our network, indicates that we are on the right track.

So with this start into the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the NICE network, we need to continue making use of the broad and deep knowledge that is embedded in the network: We should build on our previous experience of working together and our deep knowledge to draw a comprehensive picture about Career Guidance and Counselling in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We need to feed this picture into the field – but we also need to be open for the perspectives of practitioners, policy-makers and end-users: We need to involve them in our discourse, and connect with them in a constructive way, if we want to bring real innovation in the field.

To do so, all partners, all our resources and strengths are needed and all our connections on international, national and local level will help us to be successful. Only together we



have the chance to pick up all the signals from inside and outside the academic world, to process these influences and to pass our reflexions back in form of meaningful results and powerful ideas.

## Where do we want to go?

Our vision for the future of NICE is to become a sustainable network which

- Promotes professionalism and excellence in the practice of career guidance and counselling,
- Supports higher education institutions all around Europe who offer or want to offer degree programmes related to our field of excellence,
- Represents our academic discipline in politics at national and European levels as a consortium of experts,
- Articulates what developments are needed in our field and how they can be reached through innovation, research and education, and
- Provides an environment for science-based sharing and learning among academics (teachers and researchers) in our field.

## What should we be doing now?

In order for us to realize this vision of NICE, we need to move our network away from only being a "project": NICE needs to become a sustainable organisation. In order

for NICE to become sustainable, our network needs to deliver an added value to all members and develop a regenerative and self-organizational capacity. Only through shared leadership will we be able to realize the vision of NICE.

For us to live up to this mission, we have developed a strategic program for NICE 2 which consists of a row of projects. Some of them focus more strongly on adding value for us and the wider field of career guidance and counselling, for example the "Memorandum Project" and the continuation of the "Tuning Project". Others focus more strongly on increasing how we grow together internally, for example the "Database Project" and the "Mobility Project". Since these projects will be presented shortly by their different coordinators in this newsletter, and you can find further information on our website soon, I won't go into more detail here, but leave this up to my friends and colleagues.

Instead, I want to discuss another part of our mission shortly: the need for building sustainable structures and continuous leadership capacity for our network. As a consequence of this need, we are currently reinventing the management structure of NICE.

A functioning and sustainable network is a community of people and organizations who collaborate on the basis of their free will, primarily for their own benefit, and with the option of leaving the community at just about any time. Therefore a network always remains a "fluid" organization with flexible

roles and responsibilities, a strong focus on projects and very low hierarchies.

In order to become sustainable, a network needs plenty of leaders that work together, share responsibility and support each other when necessary. At the same time a network needs a "culture of re-generation": new generations of leaders need to be raised all the time through mentoring and challenging projects. In short, networks need to be inclusive in their management structure. The leadership needs to be responsive to the needs and perspectives of the network members for this reason. It needs to involve them in the decision-making – at least in the most important decisions.

The new management structure which we have chosen for NICE 2 reflects these needs through a combination of 4 "institutions". They are a first try to establish structures of "shared responsibility" and a culture of "shared leadership".

One lesson that we have clearly learned from NICE-1 is that we need coordination. We are just too large, too many people, to be cooperative without a group of people who take over moderating and coordinative functions. Somebody needs to make sure that the different projects are aligned, that conferences are prepared on time etc. For NICE-2 we have offered to continue carrying this role as the "Heidelberg Team", including myself, Peter Weber, Johannes Katsarov, and Monika Kukyte.

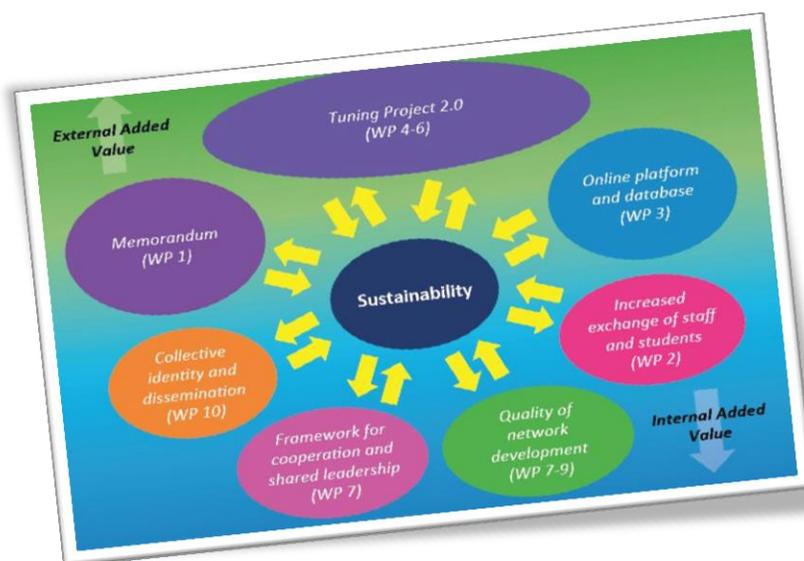
For strategically important decisions the "Network Coordination" needs guidance on

important decisions. We need a group of people who actively think ahead where our network is developing in the long term. To fulfill this purpose we have established a new "Steering Committee" which takes a visionary outside-view on the current projects. This way a strategic and controlling perspective on the activities is possible.

Very importantly, we want leadership and networking capacities to grow in NICE by having all project coordinated through "Self-Managed Teams". These teams manage their own work, autonomously organize workshops at the annual conferences and plan their activities in alignment with the Network Coordination. To support their development and overall coordination, each team has an official speaker, who keeps things going and represents the teams towards the rest of the network. Additionally, the teams are mentored by members of the steering committee, who give them feedback on their progress from a strategic perspective, and create connections with other network activities.

Finally, we've also established a "Quality Management Group": Its members work together closely with the different project teams of NICE to support them in managing the quality of their team work and producing high-quality results. Additionally, the quality management group will watch the work of the steering committee and the network coordination closely and provide regular feedback – also giving a united voice to the other members of the network.

We hope that through this setup of our network, we can ensure that cooperating in NICE is fun for everyone participating, that the outcomes of our work are really significant and innovative, and that we reach the goal of fostering shared leadership and setting up a network that will be more than "just a project".



INTERESTING INFO

- ✓ Check out our website:  
[www.nice-network.eu](http://www.nice-network.eu)
- ✓ Download the NICE Handbook for free!
- ✓ The NICE Handbook is a practical manual for the academic training of career guidance and counselling professionals. It is already available in English, French, German and Spanish!



## NICE Tuning Project 2.0



by Johannes Katsarov

The "Tuning Project" (as the largest project of our network from 2012 to 2015) continues some of the most central work of our network which we already began in 2009 and which took its first climax in the publication of the "NICE (Tuning) Handbook" in 2012. The ultimate goal is to promote quality in the academic training of CGC practitioners and also develop our own competence as managers, teachers and coordinators active in such degree programs.

The Tuning Project 2.0 is coordinated by the "Tuning Coordination Group" (TCG), which came together first in Berlin from April 18-19 in 2013 to develop a roadmap for NICE 2. The members of the TCG are Sif Einarsdóttir (IS), Johannes Katsarov (DE), Rachel Mulvey (UK), Kestutis Pukelis (LT), Christiane Schiersmann (DE) and Peter Weber (DE). They will coordinate the different sub-projects related to Tuning 2.0 in our network and edit the next edition of the NICE Handbook.

For the members of the TCG, the first thing we had to do was to work out why that's what the group is called! "Tuning up" is what musicians do before they play together. The link below captures this process very clearly <http://youtu.be/KfSH1ezvjM> and illustrates how many different players, producing sound in different ways, still use a common point of

reference to work out from and come back to.

Our central objective for NICE 2 is to develop our first achievements further while beginning to implement and use them at the same time, and promoting them throughout Europe. The Tuning Project 2.0 is made up of three closely connected sub-projects:

### 1. Common Points of Reference (String A):

The development of a more elaborated curricular framework for the development of new and existing degree programs in career guidance and counselling (CGC) and for increasing transferability between CGC degree programs.

**2. Tuning Instruments (String B):** The development of a meta-model for the assessment of competence development and other aspects of program quality, including the collection and systemization of suitable instruments and tools.

**3. Peer-Learning Community (String C):** Development and testing of a peer-learning model to promote the mutual support of network partners in developing the quality of degree programmes around Europe.

These three sub-projects are coordinated by different members of the TCG who will report independently in the coming newsletters.

How the different sub-projects fit together has been explained in detail in a roadmap prepared at the first meeting in Berlin (see above).

At the Istanbul Conference this roadmap was presented to the



other members of the network. Yet, the primary focus was on getting the network members involved in the project. In an "organized graffiti" session, various network members presented how they are already using the common points of reference from NICE 1. Next, all network members joined discussions on the different sub-projects in five working groups, and began working out ideas and plans for the next year.

Currently, the three working groups belonging to Tuning 2.0 are actively developing concepts to reach their different objectives. For the development of competence levels (String A) a so-called "Consistent Tuning Model" is currently being worked out, a theoretical and practical framework which all members of the network can use to describe detailed competences and learning outcomes for different qualification levels. The members of the responsible team met in Kaunas (LT) from November 21-22 to finalize this model and to prepare the involvement of all other network members in the following months. The Tuning Instruments Team (String B) came together in London (UK) from December 9-10. The Peer-Learning Team (String C) is currently conducting online-workshops to experiment with different peer-learning approaches and is collecting case studies on the use of the common points of reference from NICE 1. A workshop in Budapest is being planned for April 2014.



# Online Database and Dissemination



by Lea Ferrari

The members of the online database and communication group met for the first time at the NICE Conference in Istanbul. We agree that the evolution of the World Wide Web is creating subtle but profound changes in the ways human beings locate and access information, communicate with and learn from each other. This gives us a large number of possibilities to increase our knowledge and our working modalities as a network. Our goal is to make adequate use of these opportunities.

During the meeting, the structure and contents of NICE website were initially examined. A general consensus was achieved regarding the possibility to develop a more attractive website in the future. It shall better represent the NICE members and working groups and give the opportunity to download tools and materials (slides, videos, questionnaires, training programs etc.) useful for many aims. For example, existing results of



NICE are useful for the development of personal knowledge on trends in our field, for the development of academic training in career guidance and counselling, and the actual guidance practice.

Secondly, the group started discussing about the publication of a newsletter. We decided to put our priority on this newsletter, because we can actively disseminate it as a business card for all working groups and our network in general. The result is this first NICE Newsletter.

In our next step, we will tackle the development of a new, more interactive and attractive website for our network. Next to the people active as editors of the NICE Newsletter, we would be happy to involve more NICE members in this step.

# The NICE Memorandum



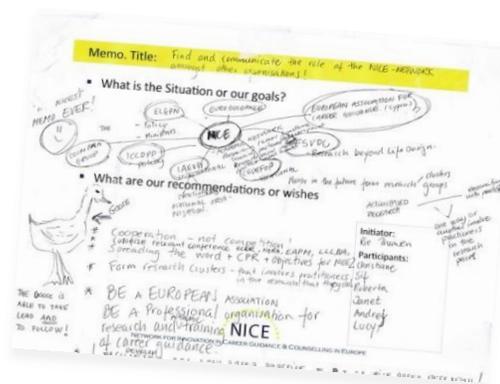
by Peter Weber

In order to be acknowledged as an important voice in the international and national discourses regarding CGC, the members of NICE are jointly formulating a vision of potentials and challenges for our field. We are developing a memorandum as a roadmap for training and research and how we as responsible actors for research and academic training in CGC can contribute to release the potentials of career guidance and counselling in Europe. The memorandum will be more than formulating a joint position regarding the current state. Rather, we will formulate development needs regarding research and training, define how they can be addressed and make suggestions for policy.

### How did we start? How far we get?

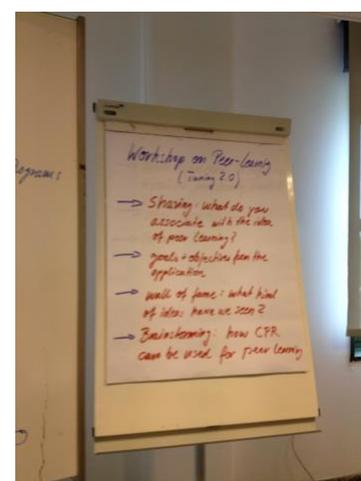
At the Istanbul Conference in May 2013 we had an Open Space session. All partners had the opportunity to introduce ideas and draft short memos on potentials and issues that need to be addressed. Since the conference a small work-group including Peter Weber (DE), Rie Thomsen (DK) and Johannes Katsarow (DE) has developed a compilation of the memos and discussed the first draft with the Steering Committee in the Montpellier meeting in September 2013. Since then, the members of the Steering Committee have

been working on the memorandum, with the next discussion taking place at the Steering Committee meeting in Mannheim in January 2014.



### What are the next steps? How can you participate?

The next step will be to present a second draft to all members of the network. All members will be invited to give their feedback and to volunteer to line out topics from the Memorandum in short papers. We aim to have the Memorandum with significant and clear statements as well as a longer description ready for the "European Summit on Developing the Career Workforce of the Future" in Canterbury, September 2014. At the Summit the NICE network will present the Memorandum to a wider community of stakeholders, who will be invited to contribute actively to this paper.



## The Istanbul Conference

by the Editorial Team

The fourth NICE conference took place in Istanbul from May 23-25, 2013 at the Suleyman Demirel Cultural Center of the Istanbul Technical University. We had the chance to attend a really interesting conference that helped us plan our next steps. To kick off NICE 2, the conference began with a presentation from Christiane Schiersmann, who presented the overall goals of NICE 2. Steering Committee members Jean-Pierre Dauwalder, Bernd-Joachim Ertelt and Laura Nota followed with impulse speeches, to raise awareness for the challenges of our network. In particular, the need for (a) dialogue between practice and science, (b) the necessity of a strong and innovative infrastructure for our network, and the (c) relevance of hope and resilience for career guidance was highlighted.

groups), the development of Tuning Instruments and Peer-Learning.

In the evening we had a nice dinner in Istiklal Street. Istiklal is one of the most popular places of Istanbul in the heart of the city. There are many alternatives for going out, whether you are looking for entertainment, for good food or cultural activity. The restaurants offered delicious Turkish mezzes, fish and traditional raki.

The second day of the conference began with short presentations on the planned Online Database and Dissemination activities (Lea Ferrari), the Mobility Project (Jean-Jacques Ruppert) and Sustainable Network Structures (Monika Petermandl). The participants were then invited to work together at one of three workshops, focusing on these topics. In conjunction with the activities of the first day, a goal was for all network members to find out, what group they want to work in. The workshops offered enough time to clarify open points, plan next steps and think about their possible contribution for the NICE Conference in Canterbury (September 2014, see below). Afterwards, we shared our results in the plenary and talked about our network's goals and plans for the next years; and how we will coordinate our

efforts.

Based on these discussions, Peter Weber and Johannes Katsarov initiated an Open Space discussion on the NICE Memorandum (see above). Topics were collected, which we worked out and discussed throughout the rest of the day on a boat tour on the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus is a strait that forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. A



highlight of the tour was a wonderful Turkish dinner in the evening. The final morning of the conference was dedicated to future considerations, particularly regarding the Canterbury Conference (Hazel Reid) and the quality of our network's development (Quality Group).

We owe a big "Thank you" to Istanbul Technical University (ITU) for hosting this event, especially to Salim Atay and Banu Cirakoglu, who ensured great memories of Istanbul for all of us!



The afternoon of the conference's first day was full of hard work and joyful moments, all dealing with the NICE Tuning Project 2.0. The Wall of Fame, an organized graffiti exercise, gave all of us the chance to report on news and developments regarding career guidance in various countries. Afterwards we came together in five parallel Tuning workshops regarding criteria for defining BA, MA and PhD competence levels and curricula (three

### INTERESTING INFO

- ✓ With a population of 13.9 million, Istanbul is the second-largest city in the world by population within city limits.
- ✓ Constantinopolis, the city now known as Istanbul, served as the capital of Byzantine Empire for more than 1000 years until the Ottoman Turks conquered the city in 1453.
- ✓ Approximately 11.6 million foreign visitors arrived in Istanbul in 2012.
- ✓ Etymologically, the name *Istanbul* derives from the Greek phrase "εἰς τὴν Πόλιν" (pronounced [is tim 'bolin]), which means "to the city", reflecting its status as the more important city.
- ✓ Istanbul is bounded on the north and the south by two seas, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, respectively. The western half of the city lies in Europe while the eastern half is situated in Asia.
- ✓ Istanbul generates 46% of the national exports and 40% of Turkey's total imports.

## News from around Europe

### News from Ireland



by Lucy Hearne

In Ireland, the provision of a professional guidance counselling service in the post-primary sector (ages 12-18 approximately) gained legislative legitimacy through Section 9 (C) of the 1998 Education Act. This Act specified that schools had to "ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices". Great inroads were made in the preceding ten years within the sector to provide quality guidance services to young people using the three dimensional approach to guidance counselling provision (personal/social, educational, vocational/ career).

However, in December, 2011 the Irish Government approved the removal of the ex-quota in guidance counselling allocation in its fiscal Budget for 2012. Since September, 2012, the new arrangements for provision of services in second level schools have resulted in professionally qualified guidance counsellors teaching curriculum subjects in conjunction with their guidance work. Furthermore, greater autonomy has been given to the managers of post-primary schools in the allocation of guidance resources resulting in the diminution of quality guidance services to students in the last academic year, 2012-2013. Prior to this new budgetary measure, the allocation of guidance hours was 1 post (22 hours) for a student population of 500-799. This decreased or increased in line with student numbers.

Despite the recommendations by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in 2012 that schools are required to follow the DES (2005) guidelines on the implementation of the Education Act Section 9 (C) current evidence suggests that the service is under significant threat and liable to become eroded unless there is a reversal of the current policy.

In the last twelve months a number of professional bodies have published findings highlighting the fractured nature of provision on the ground (ASTI Survey, 2013; IGC Audit, 2013 (ongoing); JMB Survey 2012; NCGE 2013). In particular, the IGC and NCGE surveys have indicated that there has been an overall 21.4% and 25% reduction in the service respectively, with wide variation in delivery across the different secondary school sectors. Similar policy developments have emerged in the last two years in England where the erosion of face-to-face services and a shift to remote online or telephone-based services is now proving extremely insufficient for supporting young people in their progression (Barnardos research by Evans & Rallings, 2013; Ofsted, 2013). For further information on the Irish surveys: <http://www.igc.ie> and <http://www.ncge.ie>

### News from Spain



by Luis Sobrado

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Models of Educational Research at the University of Alicante (Spain) from September 4-6 in 2013, a symposium on "Research Training and Intervention in University Guidance" took place. The resulting paper integrates results from the European projects NICE 1 and NICE 2, which were included through the professors Luis Sobrado, Elena Fernández and Cristina Ceinos from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). The title of the paper is "Competences and Plans of the Counsellor Training".

### News from Denmark



Associate Professor Rie Thomsen, member of the NICE network from Aarhus University, has won this year's DKK 25,000 Guidance Award.

Rie Thomsen's research field is "guidance in communities". Schultz's Guidance Award (DKK 25,000) is awarded every second year to a guidance practitioner who has made a

special effort for education and career guidance in Denmark. The aim of the award is to promote and encourage initiative and innovation for the benefit of Danish educational, business and career guidance. The award was presented by the Danish Association of Guidance Practitioners in connection with a conference held in Vejle for guidance practitioners at continuation schools in Denmark. The chair of the Guidance Award committee, Birgit Heie, explains the choice of Rie Thomsen as follows:

"Since completing her PhD dissertation, Rie Thomsen has actively and tirelessly worked to spread her ideas about getting guidance practitioners out of their offices and encouraging them to mingle with communities of people who are looking for guidance. She has inspired the guidance environment in her lectures and presentations at conferences in Denmark and abroad, in her research network, in her teaching, and in books and articles. It is difficult to overestimate her significance for guidance practice in Denmark."

Rie Thomsen has played a major role in the innovation of guidance for young people who are looking for courses of further education. Serious education and career guidance always used to involve one-to-one discussions behind closed doors. But in her PhD dissertation in 2009, entitled "Vejledning i fællesskaber", Rie Thomsen demonstrated why it was such a good idea for guidance practitioners to get out of their offices and mingle with people looking for guidance in their own environments.

This is how Rie Thomsen explains her own distinctive approach to guidance: "New perspectives and opportunities arise when you challenge traditional ways of thinking, and start conducting guidance sessions in communities. For instance, young people considering various courses of further education can learn from the experiences of current students, establishing ties and relationships that can help them to make up their minds. Guidance practitioners become facilitators, and communities can offer both opportunities and suggestions. Guidance also becomes less private, and the people looking for guidance say they feel less alone with their problems. This helps to ease the pressure. These days, young people often feel that they are always expected to do the right thing."

## 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 Vilhjálmisdóttir, 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

topics addressed and a lively desire to participate by all delegates. A central insight that emerged through the debates was that in times of high uncertainty, such as those we are experiencing, even the theoretical models and the professional practices of those involved in choice and life designing must radically change and deal with the promotion of well-being and quality of life of those more exposed to the deleterious effects that the crisis is causing in different parts of the world.

At the end of the conference Jean-Pierre Dauwalder, president of the European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling (ESVDC) awarded two young researchers who have distinguished themselves with their research projects, Aysenur Buyukgoze-Kavas from Turkey, and Maria Chiara Pizzorno from Italy.



Professor Dauwalder also awarded Salvatore Soresi for his scientific and human contribution in this area of investigation and activity on behalf of the ESVDC.

Through the Larios Website (<http://larios.psy.unipd.it/ze-index.php>) you can take a look at photos and videos of the conference and the cross-cultural research which the International Hope Research Team has triggered in several countries. Those of you who are interested in this research are welcome to join!

## News from Greece



by Despina Sidiropoulou-Dimakakou



& Nikos Drosos

More than 400 career counseling and guidance practitioners attended the training

seminars that were co-organized by the *National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications & Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP)* and the *Career Counseling Research & Assessment Center of the University of Athens (KEAES)*. The training seminars took place on November of 2013 in Athens and Thessaloniki and aimed at helping practitioners face new challenges, such as the socioeconomic changes and the major financial crisis, the sharp increase of unemployment, the large number of immigrants, the development of technology, etc. Professor Despina Sidiropoulou-Dimakakou, director of KEAES, was the scientific responsible of the training seminars.

Trainees had the opportunity to attend several workshops and get updated regarding new trends in career counseling.

The workshops focused on (a) current career counseling approaches, such as narrative counseling, planned happenstance, solution focused brief career counseling etc., (b) methods and techniques for the development of new characteristics and skills (e.g. openness to uncertainty, flexibility, entrepreneurship skills, decision making and problem solving skills), (c) multicultural career counseling, (d) implementation of a new Career Adaptability Program for adolescents and university students that was developed by KEAES, (e) new career patterns, e.g. protean careers, kaleidoscope careers, portfolio careers, etc., (f) work-life balance, and (h) career counseling for recently unemployed. The high professional and academic level of both trainers and trainees guaranteed the great success of the seminars.



## European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling



by Laura Nota

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 the European Commission is funding a project to set up a European doctoral school specializing on Career Guidance & Counselling with 400.000 Euros.

The project is a joint venture of the European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counseling (ESVDC) and the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE), which is funded by the Erasmus programme from 2009-2015. It is lead by Laura Nota from the University of Padua and Johannes Katsarov, Coordinator of NICE, together with 5 colleagues: Valérie Cohen-Scali from CNAM-INETOP in Paris, Rachel Mulvey from the University of East London, Jérôme Rossier from the University of Lausanne, Rie Thomsen from the Aarhus University in Copenhagen, and Peter Weber from the Heidelberg University. Altogether, more than 25 colleagues from the NICE network are involved in the project, which brings together higher education institutions from 15 European countries.

Until September 2016, the project consortium will conduct three summer schools to provide international doctoral training and networking opportunities to about 25 doctoral researchers from all around Europe. The first summer school will be hosted by the University of Padua in September 2014. Aspiring researchers will be able to discuss their research approaches and findings with peers and professors from different disciplinary backgrounds. Workshops will be offered to introduce the participants to state-of-the-art research methods and innovative theories, giving them the chance to expand their perspectives and their capacity for interdisciplinary research. Further training will support the doctoral researchers in developing their teaching and leadership skills.

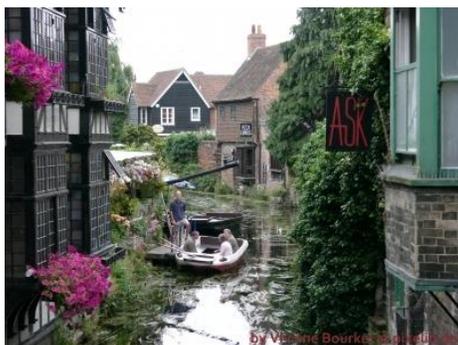
## European Summit on Developing the Career Workforce of the Future



by Hazel Reid

On September 3-4, 2014, Canterbury Christ Church University will be hosting the largest NICE event so far, the "European Summit on Developing the Career Workforce of the Future".

The conference group in consultation with the steering committee are working hard on making this an exciting 'not-to-be missed' event.



We have moved away from the "normal" conference concept and are designing the open part of the fifth NICE conference as a "summit". The goal of the summit is to bring stakeholders from all around Europe, including policy-makers, managers of career services, guidance practitioners, and client representatives to discuss important issues and develop potential solutions.



We will have three inspiring key note speakers who will be looking to the future, outlining the challenges ahead and motivating us into action. Following each key note, there will be facilitated activity groups where contributions will be "captured" and taken forward into the networks' agenda for the closed part of the conference (the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September).

We are also planning cultural events and of course a fabulous gala dinner. More details will follow shortly along with guidelines to enable network partners to contact potential ambassadors of NICE in their own countries.



### INTERESTING INFO

At the heart of the district the city of Canterbury boasts a wealth of visitor attractions. The Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church form the World Heritage Site, but there are also many other excellent attractions in the city too, including river tours, museums and walking tours to name just a few.

Herne Bay offers romantics and traditionalists in search of British seaside magic exactly what they are looking for. Brightly coloured beach huts line part of the water's edge and beyond. In the summer months jet skiing and other water sports are enjoyed here, as well as the Herne Bay Festival.

Whitstable has a wide range of attractions to suit everyone. Water sports, history, shopping, walking or just relaxing on the beach are some of the things you can enjoy. Charming cafes, pubs, great restaurants and independent, quaint shops all serve to provide an unspoilt charm.



# NICE - NETWORK FOR INNOVATION IN CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING IN EUROPE

Newsletter #1

Edited by:

Dr. Lea Ferrari, University of Padua  
Dr. Nikos Drosos, University of Athens  
Johannes Katsarov, Heidelberg University  
Monika Kukytė, Heidelberg University

Contact us – main email: [lea.ferrari@unipd.it](mailto:lea.ferrari@unipd.it)

© Network for Innovation in Career Guidance  
and Counselling in Europe (NICE), 2014

The Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE) involves 45 partners from 29 European countries. Most of them are higher education institutions that offer degree programmes in career guidance and counselling or engage in related research. Supported financially through the European Commission, the members of NICE 2 engage in several activities to enhance academic cooperation in our field from 2012 to 2015.

Important projects within the “NICE 2” programme are:

- the formulation of a joint memorandum on the role of higher education in career guidance and counselling,
- the development and testing of common points of reference for the academic training of career guidance and counselling professionals (e.g. the NICE Core Competences),
- activities to support the exchange of lecturers, researchers and students between the participating institutions, and
- the development of a sustainable infrastructure for future networking, including an online community and database.

For more information about NICE, please visit the homepage [www.nice-network.eu](http://www.nice-network.eu)



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

NICE is funded with support from the European Commission as a Multilateral Network. The NICE Newsletter reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

