

ERASMUS
Academic Network

NICE

Network for Innovation in Career
Guidance & Counselling in Europe

The NICE Network

... contributes to making lifelong counselling possible.

With the vision of making lifelong learning possible, supporting European integration and fostering social inclusion through high-quality training of career guidance & counselling professionals, 40 Higher Education Institutions have come together and set up an Academic Network. Through the NICE Network, we are collaborating by a fruitful exchange of ideas, concepts and knowledge, cooperating on dealing with issues of importance for Europe, and promoting the development of the science of career guidance & counselling.

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the NICE Network!

Political Background

Lifelong counselling is the key to lifelong learning.

In the current global context, lifelong learning is a prerequisite for citizens to succeed and to feel included in society. New skills are demanded for new jobs, the need for a highly educated workforce is rising, and employers demand ever stronger key competences. Also, the increasing discontinuity of work biographies leads to multiple transition phases that citizens will have to cope with throughout their lives: Periods of unemployment, job seeking and re-orientation have become the norm. At the same time, Europe is striving to become more integrated through social inclusion and rising mobility.

The availability, quality and professionalization of career counselling services has to be considered as key to: increasing participation in lifelong learning; developing the

individual's potentials (thereby maximising human resource); attracting more people to the labour market and thus contributing to social inclusion and European integration.

High-quality career counselling services:

- enhance the ability of people to shape their own learning and work biographies pro-actively,
- facilitate mobility for European citizens,
- prevent drop-out from school, vocational education, tertiary education and employment,
- promote individuals' and organizations' performance and adaptation to changing conditions,
- support peoples' integration into the labour market, particularly at points of transition or when at general risk of being excluded from society.

Central Objectives

We can achieve more ... together.

Through the NICE Network, we want to sustain and strengthen the cooperative efforts in guidance research and the education of counsellors that have developed over the past decade.

There are several good reasons to strive for stronger cooperation, networking and consultation within a network of universities in different countries, especially with regard to:

- Learning from each other, e.g. curricula, competence development, combination of theory and practice and related research
- Developing a common competence framework for Bachelor and Master Programmes in counselling/guidance in Europe
- Exchanging teaching and e-learning modules
- Encouraging higher European mobility among staff and students
- Promoting cooperation in future developments of curricula and new approaches to guidance and counselling and research
- Discussing international and European issues, e.g. mobility, brain drain, employability, integration, lifelong counselling and lifelong learning, demographic change
- Reaching common interests, e.g. European developments in terms of standards, quality and accreditation, or improving access of our alumni to the European employment market

EU Funding & Work Groups

Our ambitious vision of enhancing the quality of teaching and research, furthering innovation, exchanging good practices and giving a European dimension to the science of career guidance & counselling, was awarded funding by the EU Commission for the period 11/2009-10/2012. For the first step of setting up a solid framework for our cooperation, a number of important goals have been defined which will bring us closer to reaching our overall objectives.

First of all, three thematic work groups have been established: The first work group focuses on “Transparency, Quality and Comparability of Study Programs” and is working on a comparison of the different existing curricula and the strengthening of student and staff mobility. The second work group looks at “New Themes, New Challenges – Innovation in Career Counselling and Guidance” and is working on the sharing of state-of-the-art research, concepts and knowledge.

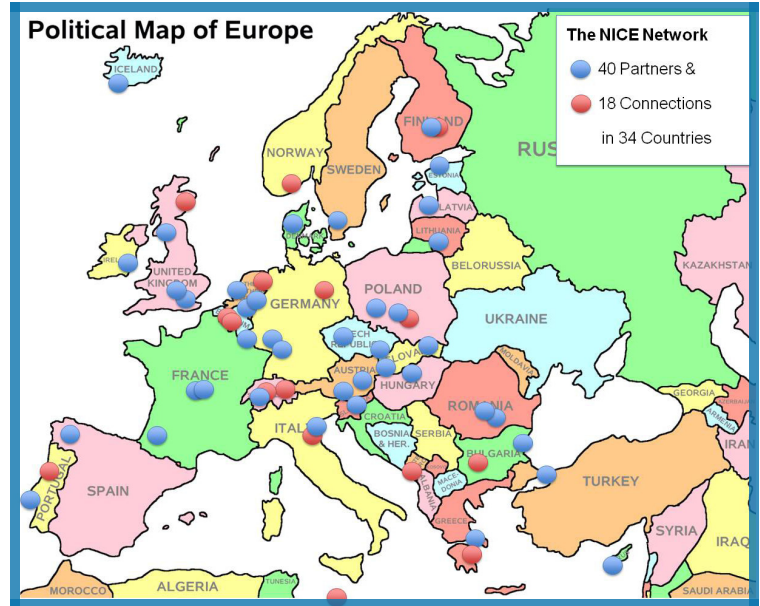
The third work group is engaged in dealing with “Tools of Impact for Teaching and Training in Academic Career Guidance & Counselling Degree Programs”. The goal here is to exchange effective practices for the professional education and continued development of practitioners of career guidance & counselling.

Secondly, three network conferences will take place during the funding period. Beyond the individual workshops of the different work groups, these conferences contribute to creating a community and defining the future of the NICE Network.

Last but not least, the NICE Network is currently working on the publication of a Tuning Handbook for Higher Education in Career Guidance & Counselling, which is a collection of knowledge and good practices with regards to the professional development of guidance practitioners.

Partners & Connections

The academic network comprises 40 universities and other higher educational institutions from 28 EU countries and related European countries. All partners provide either a Bachelor or Master program in vocational/career guidance and/or are involved in counselling-related research. The NICE Network is coordinated through a steering group which involves the leading partners of the three working groups as well as the coordinating partner (Heidelberg University). Through its many partners and its coordinating team, the NICE Network is also connected to important institutions and other relevant networks from European and international contexts.



Partners

- Heidelberg University (DE)
- University of Applied Labour Studies Mannheim (DE)
- University of Economics Varna (BG)
- Czech National Training Fund (CZ)
- Masaryk University (CZ)
- Aarhus University (DK)
- Foundation for Lifelong Learning Development INNOVE (EST)
- National and Kapodestrian University of Athens (GR)
- University of Santiago de Compostela (ES)
- National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts - Institute INETOP (FR)
- University of Lausanne (CH)
- National University of Ireland (IR)
- University of Padua (IT)
- University of Nicosia (CY)
- Latvia University of Agriculture (LV)
- Vytautas Magnus University (LT)
- Applied Vocational Psychology and Policy Research Unit Luxembourg (LU)
- Eötvös Loránd University ELTE (HU)
- University of Jyväskylä - Finnish Institute of Educational Research (FI)
- University of Amsterdam (NL)
- Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt (AT)
- Jan Długosz University Czestochowa (PL)
- University of Wrocław (PL)
- University of Lisbon (PT)
- Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti (RO)
- Career Consulting, Sasa Niklanovič (SI)
- Slovak University of Technology (SK)
- University of Presov (SK)
- University of Jyväskylä (FI)
- JAMK University of Applied Sciences (FI)
- Malmö University (SE)
- University of East London (GB)
- Canterbury Christ Church University (GB)
- University of West Scotland (GB)
- University of Iceland (IS)
- Saxion University of Applied Science (NL)
- Danube University Krems (AT)
- Fontys University of Applied Science (NL)
- Marmara University (TR)
- CREDIJ Paris (FR)

Connections

- European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network ELGPN
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training CEDEFOP
- European Commission - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance IAEVG
- International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy ICCDPP
- Italian Society for Vocational Guidance (IT)
- German National Guidance Forum in Education, Career and Employment *nfb* (DE)
- National Employment Agency Montenegro
- Agency for Vocational Education and Guidance Liechtenstein (LI)
- Business Foundation for Education (BG)
- Catholic University of Leuven - HIVA (NL)
- University of Aberdeen (GB)
- University of Malta - EMCER (MA)
- University of Zurich (CH)
- University of Minho (PT)
- Oslo and Akershus University (NO)

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