

European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling

First Summer School

Phd Students Voice

We, young researchers, often think about our future in a changing world, where the linearity of professional trajectories can no longer be considered a convenient way to plan the future. According to several studies, there are various tough challenges, which scientists, researchers and career counsellors will face in the future, including urbanization, the overall aging of the population, migratory phenomena, and technological development. In addition, the amount of change in our economies and societies seems to have attained such a high level that the traditional methods used to adapt educational institutions to their environments (focused on teaching and research contents, and inspired by developments in the disciplines) are no longer trusted to result in curricula that fit with current demands of society and labor market.

If Europe wishes to find solutions to the challenges society will face in the future and stimulate growth and competitiveness at the same time, the development of an international network of excellent researchers is essential.



To promote the development of an academic discipline around career guidance and counseling in Europe means filling this discipline with life: We need a vibrant community of individuals and organizations involved in research and scientifically based training related to career guidance and counseling – a community of career experts. To this end, our community needs to act as an

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organized movement for excellence, innovation and quality in research and training related to career guidance and counseling. Whatever professional roles career experts specialize in, they'll have to demonstrate substantial authority, scholarly and professional integrity, autonomy and innovation. This will be the case, whether they act as managers of large career services, whether they supervise or train career guidance counselors and career advisors or work in research and development.

The First Summer School on Career Guidance and Counselling (CGC) hosted by the University of Padova (Italy) from September 15th to 20th 2014, represents the first effort developed by European scholars in career counselling to shape a profile of a "European researcher" who is an expert in this specific field. Moreover, it is expected to facilitate the design of a European Doctoral Program in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC).

ECADOC 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). The scientific committee that organizes ECADOC is constituted by a group of international scholars and experts: V. Cohen-Scali, J. Katsarov, R. Mulvey, L. Nota, J. Rossier, R. Thomsen, and P. C. Weber. Another international group of experts and professors constitutes the advisory board of the program, i.e. J.P. Dauwalder, M. E. Duarte, J. Guichard, A. Kargulowa, C. Schiersmann, S. Soresi., R. van Esbroeck, and A. E. M. Van Vianen.

The primary aim of ECADOC is to promote career guidance and Counselling as a unique academic discipline and to support doctoral candidates to become top-notch academics and leaders in this field.

27 PhD candidates from 18 European countries participated in the first summer school:

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.



Innovative workshops on qualitative research and meta-analysis and a keynote on the crucial role of cooperative enterprises in contemporary society were coordinated by Professors Jenny Bimrose, Wolfgang Viechtbauer and Vera Zamagni.

On Tuesday, September 16th, Jenny Bimrose, Professor at the University of Warwick, conducted a one-day workshop on qualitative research methodology (QRM) and its role in CGC which was introduced by R. Thomsen. Participants performed an exercise for designing a project about the nature of effective CGC using longitudinal QRM. Group discussions and presentations highlighted quality and ethical criteria that QRM must address in order to increase its competitiveness for funding and its coherence with a post-positivist scientific paradigm (e.g. new roles for researchers and participants, including cooperation).

On Friday the 17th, Prof. Laura Nota introduced “The Role of Research for Innovation and Development”, followed by a keynote from Prof. Vera Zamagni, which focused on the question: What is its appeal in the present conditions of crisis of the world economy?

Prof. Vera Zamagni presented the theory of the cooperative form of enterprise from an historic perspective, whilst assessing its appeal for the current economic environment. She showed that cooperatives are enterprises acting in harmony with the market economy, and explored “how” cooperatives achieve solidarity in integrating elements normally considered to be in conflict and “why” the cooperative enterprise is not as widely known as the capitalist enterprise. There are infact very many cooperative enterprises, but that they aren't perceived as relevant publicly, at least not in comparison to other types of enterprises.



On Thursday, September 18th, Prof. Lea Ferrari, Dr Maria Cristina Ginevra, Prof. Laura Nota, and Prof. Teresa Maria Sgaramella, introduced the relevance of meta-analysis for studies in the field of career guidance and counselling. Over the rest of the day, Prof. Wolfgang Viechtbauer focused on methodological aspects in systematic reviews and the statistical methods used for meta-analyses.

Participants were invited to practice the theory through computer exercises using the statistical package R.

In addition to the mentioned workshops, several lectures were offered during the Summer School: Prof. Rachel Mulvey, presented the importance of reflection for professional development; Prof. Jean-Pierre Dauwalder offered invaluable advice on how to prepare for post-doctoral programs; Prof. Raoul van Esbroeck offered a theoretical framework to develop a European research agenda; and Prof. Jérôme Rossier presented an editor's perspective on publishing in an academic journal.

On Friday, Dr. Peter Weber introduced the European Research Agenda for Career Guidance and Counselling to the participants. The goal of this sub-project of ECADOC is to describe the *status quo* of research in our field, to highlight important research questions for the future, and to encourage international research collaboration. Consequently, the doctoral researchers were invited by Prof. Valérie Cohen-Scali and Johannes Katsarov to share their thoughts on important research questions and to build small research teams to test the possibility of collaborative research for themselves.

The ECADOC's first summer school also offered the opportunity to the participants to come together and share their common interest in advancing research and practice in career guidance and counselling.

The emphasis on multicultural aspects underlying the Summer School enabled students and the organizing committee to acknowledge several things: different European academic pathways to pursue a doctorate in the Career field; current European strengths and challenges for research and practice in our field; the importance of considering each country's cultural expectations and requirements when planning and implementing multicultural studies.



Both formal and informal opportunities were created to sustain the participants' intercultural

exchanges. These opportunities were of high importance to promote the development of students' multicultural awareness and reasoning, the accomplishments of which will be highly valuable in pursuing collaborative career projects and to stimulating the researchers' adaptability while working in and with current globalized educational and work environments.

Still, the Summer School was much more than a learning opportunity; it gave birth to a community of European career researchers and practitioners. The importance of international cooperation within our field of Career Guidance and Counselling cannot be underestimated. Working together internationally, sharing ideas and knowledge and collaboratively investigating actual themes within CGC are needed to improve career research, theory, and practice in the future. Another advantage of international cooperation entails the possibility of discussing both policies and practices in different countries. It gives the opportunity to learn from each other.

Although the different countries have different points of view regarding CGC, the huge needs for experts on career guidance and counselling and continuous innovation in the field are common across all European countries (and perhaps even worldwide) – especially given the continuously changing society we are living in today.



Our afternoon cultural activities were absolutely in line with ECADOC's values and goals. For instance, it was striking when we visited the University's old building, Palazzo del Bo', how the goal of *International Cooperation* had characterized this university from the early beginning as demonstrated by the names of students, afterwards famous scholars, who came to Padova from various European countries providing a

basis for a European culture. *Active participation and freedom of thought* had brought them together to set up a free body of scholars in which students, besides other rights and duties, also shared research, study and leisure time while pursuing *innovation in research topics and methods*. Additionally, a distinguishing feature became defending freedom of thought in study and teaching,

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as well as freedom from prejudices, as testified by the statue to one of the most famous students who graduated here, the first graduate woman in the world, Elena Corner Piscopia.

During the week, the cultural visit to the Scrovegni Chapel immersed us in the colors, poetry, and sense of nature and history of Giotto's paintings and more specifically in thinking about values such as hope and justice, which are just reemerging in our scientific awareness as virtues and values, which future professionals and researchers will need in order to face the challenges of our times.

The cultural context and the history of the University of Padova committed more participants to the goal of building a community of future European researchers,



making the ECADOC “a workshop of ideas and the home of figures“ who may change “the cultural and scientific history of humanity”, as some participants expressed their feelings.

In summary, the Summer School in Padova was cherished as a great opportunity to start building international relationships and thinking about future research together. Endless opportunities arose and great enthusiasm of the participants was displayed regarding these international collaboration.



A second summer school will be organized in Paris in June/July 2015. The summer schools and consequently the international collaboration resulting from them, can be regarded as a step towards a much needed European Doctoral Programme in CGC, that can bring the strengths of the different countries together. It will help making our field known as an important academic discipline and will have wide practical implications.



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ECADOC First Summer School September 15th-20th



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Rebecca Garcia, Silke Grossen, Andronikos Kaliris, Iris Oliveira,

Sara Santilli, Laurie Simpson, Maria Soares