

**Conference “Transitions, career learning and career management skills. Multi-disciplinary and critical perspectives”, October 19-20, 2017, Stockholm University**

- **Type of contribution Paper or Poster or both (Paper and Poster):** Paper
- **Title of proposal:** International mobility within Europe as Life transition: Analysis of training competences of mobility Counselors
- **Information on how the contribution is related to the conference theme**

Geographical mobility provides a number of crucial life-course transitions (from study to work, from unemployment to employment, etc.) This research tries to identify and analyze training competences which guidance practitioners involved in education and labor mobility sectors have in order to deal with a very heterogeneous international scenario of people with a high number of life transitions.

- **Authors(s) of proposal including affiliations and email addresses**

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- **3 – 5 keywords**

International Mobility, Life transitions, Training competencies, Mobility counselors, EURES Network

- **General description on research questions, objectives and theoretical framework**

To this situation described, our study starts with some **research questions:**

- How to define the professional profile of a guidance practitioner (EURES advisers , Euroguidance counselors...) working with a transnational context?
- Why is it so important to analyze training competences of guidance professionals in order to support transnational mobility?
- What are the specific competences they should have in order to work within other national and cultural situations?
- What strategies of action should be taken to improve the training of these mobility guidance professionals?
- How could we help guidance practitioners to advise their customers wishing to go abroad for working and/or studying reasons?

In order to answer these questions, we have developed the following **objectives:**

1. To promote the role and tasks of the European Guidance Practitioner as a new „emerging“ professional profile in order to develop a professional profile of guidance practitioner working in mobility issues.
2. To identify and to analyze the information and training needs of guidance practitioners and to encourage new competences from them (intercultural awareness, recognition of European Vocational Qualifications and Studies, the European Labor Market, Career guidance on labor market, educational aspects on EU mobility, legal aspects and other stay formalities concerning mobility at European scenario...).
3. To improve the training of mobility Guidance Practitioners (i.e. EURES Network) through actions such as dissemination strategy of methodologies, tools and materials, training modules and information resources.
4. To encourage the exchange of knowledge on European issues for guidance among guidance professionals; creating networking opportunities among experts, favouring innovation processes of information tools and services at a local level (networking at a European level).
5. To create a transnational network able to collect, summarise and develop the main knowledge and meaningful European best practices in the guidance field with the aim to support the dissemination of worthwhile methodologies and the professional up-dating of guidance practitioners.

National societies have changed, people move to other countries looking for a job, for study reasons or even for a better quality of life. Meaning that movements among countries have been increasing. A consequence of this challenge is that guidance practitioners should be prepared to network, with other organisations in Europe and to communicate within culturally different contexts. For that, quality standards of guidance services and the professional profile of guidance practitioners should be framed according to European standards.

- **Methods/methodology**

Taking into consideration that EURES Network is the result of a networking and fruitful collaboration of a group of experts in mobility fields and of guidance practitioners, the main goal of our study is the design and implementation of an information and methodological training tool for mobility and guidance actions in a European dimension which would be used as a training material for the up-dating of guidance practitioners competences.

Therefore, our intention is to develop a training framework/model for guidance practitioners and EURES Counsellors which together deal with mobility issues in their daily professional practice.

The main focus of the study is the implementation among guidance practitioners which work in education and employment services (in a transnational dimension), giving advice to their clients wishing to go abroad for study or job reasons.

Therefore, we conclude that Guidance practitioners need to improve their competencies in order to adequately face the issues concerning mobility. Counsellors are however not the only ones facing and working with mobility issues (i.e. EURES advisers, Euroguidance, guidance practitioners working within university international departments) but also those practitioners working with the national employment centers who face increasingly with this new situation (i.e. immigrants, people wishing to study and/or work abroad).

In addition, it is important to raise awareness of stakeholders in order to encourage them taking the right measures when planning public policies in labour, education and guidance fields, both when designing training courses for guidance practitioners and when implementing already developed mobility tools and methodological models within the public services they manage.

▪ **Expected outcomes/results**

Given this panorama described, we expected that guidance practitioners, after specific training and competences acquired, are able to facilitate a proper guidance mobility in Europe:

- Offering a good quality and updated information concerning educational, training and employment trends and labor market in Europe.
- Accessing to current job offers in European countries.
- Having helpful information about working and living conditions in other European countries (social circumstances).
- Helping customers to develop the right strategy for searching and applying for job opportunities.
- Assisting clients in their decision-making process.
- Having good information about CV standards in other European countries (i.e. Europass).
- Facilitating information onto possible financial support (economic aids...)
- Delivering information regarding logistical support, cultural issues, legal aspects, etc.

In summary, Europe should become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world (European Strategy, 2020). The reference context for Guidance Services and Guidance practitioners (EURES advisers, Euroguidance counsellors...) should be Europe with offering quality information and counselling on training and working opportunities at international level in order to answer customers mobility guidance needs.

- **Intent of publication:** Yes

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