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## **European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC): Information on the First Summer School on Career Guidance and Counselling in Padua, 15-20 September, 2014**

On 15-20 September, 2014, 26 doctoral researchers from 15 European countries participated in the first-ever doctoral school dedicated to career guidance and counselling in Padua, Italy. Hosted by the University of Padua, this was the first of three summer schools which are part of the ECADOC project aiming to set up a European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling. The project received the European Commission's funding for 2013-2016.

On the first day, Laura Nota, who organised and hosted the first summer school as the project's scientific coordinator, welcomed all the participants together with Salvatore Soresi, a member of the project's advisory board, Alberta Contarello and Egidio Robusto, two key representatives of the University of Padua, and Jean-Pierre Dauwalder, another member of the advisory board, who addressed the participants on behalf of the ESVDC. Following this warm welcome of the doctoral researchers, the members of the project's scientific committee Valérie Cohen-Scali, Johannes Katsarov, Rachel Mulvey, Jérôme Rossier, Rie Thomsen and Peter Weber introduced the programme to the participants. In particular, the doctoral researchers were invited to make each other's acquaintance, present their own research themes and develop an understanding of how they are related to the general strands of research into career guidance and counselling.

The second day of the summer school was dedicated to qualitative research issues. Jenny Bimrose from the University of Warwick (UK) raised important questions concerning the role and practice of qualitative research in the field of career guidance and counselling and highlighted the richness and methodological challenges inherent in the relevant research approaches. Throughout the workshop, the doctoral researchers engaged in learning-by-doing. For instance, they worked in teams to devise qualitative frameworks for longitudinal research on the effectiveness of guidance. As a highlight of the workshop, Jenny Bimrose shared many of

her major insights into the management of large-scale research projects, challenging the traditional reservations about publicly funded research and arguing for an active role of researchers in our field to shape research agendas around career-related questions and policies.

Besides methodological training, which was offered on the second and fourth days of the summer school, another central objective was to support the participants in developing their own doctoral research projects. On Wednesday morning, each of the participants presented a selected aspect of their research to a small group of peers, which was followed by discussions on methodological questions chosen by the individual researchers.

The afternoon was devoted to the role that academics play in promoting innovation in society, for instance in the practice of career guidance and counselling – a mission strongly promoted by the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE), which supports the ECADOC project together with the ESVDC. Following inspiring messages from Laura Nota and keynote speaker Vera Zamagni from the University of Bologna (Italy), Rie Thomsen and Johannes Katsarov invited the doctoral researchers to reflect on their own practice and challenged them to think about how they were already being innovative as well as about the ways in which they would like to become even more innovative.

On the fourth day of the summer school, Maria Cristina Ginevra, Lea Ferrari and Teresa Maria Sgaramella from the Larios Laboratory, University of Padua, and members of the project's organisational committee highlighted the reasons for and the necessity of meta-analysis in our field. Then, Wolfgang Viechtbauer from the University of Maastricht introduced the participants to meta-analysis. Beginning with the questions on the relevance of research synthesis, he led the group to realise how many quantitative studies on similar questions could be summarised statistically so as to arrive at more generalisable and valid findings.

Friday began with “food for thought”: ESVDC board members Raoul van Esbroeck and Jean-Pierre Dauwalder encouraged the participants to reflect on their future careers and highlighted diverse options and requirements, for instance those connected with Post-Doc positions. As the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance*, Jérôme Rossier explained to the participants the thinking behind the choices made by editors and reviewers of scholarly journals.

Subsequently, Peter Weber talked about the European Research Agenda for Career Guidance and Counselling. The goal of this sub-project of the ECADOC is to describe the state of research in our field, to highlight important research questions for the future and to encourage international research collaboration. After the presentation, Valérie Cohen-Scali and Johannes Katsarov asked the doctoral researchers to share their views on important research questions and, also, to form small research teams to test out the possibilities of collaborative research for themselves.

As the summer school was drawing to its end, the doctoral researchers were invited to join the ESVDC, and the plans of the next summer school were outlined: it will be hosted by Valérie Cohen-Scali of the Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et des Métiers (Cnam) from 29 June to 4 July, 2015, in Paris.

From its commencement to the very end, the entire summer school's leitmotiv was reflective practice. At the opening of the summer school, all the participants received a reflective diary as a tool to deepen their learning. Following an introduction to reflective practice offered by Rachel Mulvey, they were invited to reflect upon a personally meaningful question every day. The final reflection took place on Saturday morning, just before the end of the summer school. In two groups, the participants shared their thoughts about the summer school, gathering and validating both highlights and ideas for the future.

All the participants agreed that they had found the learning experience very enriching and expressed their wish to participate in the future events as well as to build a European research community together. Over the week, they had enjoyed coming out of isolation and discussing their research with peers. One of beautiful outcomes was the creation of research groups involving some of the young European researchers.

For further information on the European Doctoral Programme on Career Guidance and Counselling, please visit the project website at <http://larios.psy.unipd.it/ecadoc/pages/index.php> or contact Laura Nota ([laura.nota@unipd.it](mailto:laura.nota@unipd.it)) or Johannes Katsarov ([johannes\\_katsarov@hotmail.de](mailto:johannes_katsarov@hotmail.de)). To foster a sense of community and stimulate growth in Europe, some of the summer school videos and materials are available in a reserved area of the project website. The interested students, researchers and practitioners will receive access upon request.