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European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC): A report from the Third European Summer School, Lausanne, 5-10 September, 2016

The Third Summer School, organised as part of the European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC), was held on 5-10 September, 2016. As in previous years, the project aimed to support young researchers in developing their scholarly careers and to foster their competencies needed to conduct research on career counselling and guidance. This year's Summer School was hosted by the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) and attended by 28 young researchers from Europe, Africa, Asia and the US.

During the opening ceremony, Professors Laura Nota (Scientific Coordinator of ECADOC, University of Padua,), Jerome Rossier (University of Lausanne), Jean-Pierre Dauwalder (University of Lausanne, European Society for Vocational Designing and Career Counselling) and Dario Spini (University of Lausanne, NCCR-LIVES) welcomed the participants and presented the programme of the 3rd Summer School. All the participants were then invited to a short but very interesting integration session – a Bingo game, in which they had a chance to talk to and get to know each other and to make first acquaintances. A lecture by Professor Daniel Oesch (University of Lausanne), scheduled as the next point on the agenda, discussed the highs and lows of vocational education and training and explored the impact of VET on young people's prospects to enter the labour market and on their salaries across their professional careers.

The afternoon poster session was held in a less formal, but equally friendly atmosphere. Young researchers had an opportunity to introduce their research projects, receive some feedback from more experienced researchers and find out about the research themes proposed by other participants. The posters remained on display until the end of our stay and inspired many interesting scholarly discussions.

The second day of the Summer School was entirely dedicated to a workshop on "Supervision in vocational guidance: Challenges, strategies and models" led by Professor Susan Whiston (Indiana University Bloomington, US). The exercise

was designed to raise the participants' awareness of the importance of supervision, which, in Europe, is still associated mostly with clinical practice. The workshop aimed also to show how to apply it in career counselling. Additionally, the standards of the counsellor-supervisor relationship were discussed. Finally, the participants were encouraged to work in groups, sharing their personal experiences and analysing cases they knew from practice.

After two days of intense classes, the doctoral students were given a task that required some active work involving their own research projects. On Wednesday morning, they got divided into small groups, each of them supervised by an experienced scholar. During the forenoon session, all participants had time to present briefly their respective research projects and its stage of development. The researchers could also ask questions on any methodological concerns or difficulties they had encountered in implementing their research plans. Having discussed the project, other members of the group provided comments and suggestions on solving the identified problems and on further research options. The clearly structured session gave the participants, whose PhD projects were at different stages of advancement, an opportunity to confront their research ideas with other scholars' opinions, to learn from each other and to find inspiration for future work.

The second part of the day was devoted to a workshop on qualitative methods. The doctoral students could choose between options such as "Consensual qualitative research in vocational psychology" (Professor Jonas Masdonati, University of Lausanne), "What is interpretive and biographical research and how do we assure quality?" (Professor Hazel Reid, Canterbury Christ Church University), "How can we use sociological theories for qualitative research?" (Professor Alicja Kargulowa, Dr Anna Bilon, Dr Michał Mielczarek and Dr Joanna Minta, University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw) and "Participatory approaches to research: Research circles and practice portrait methodologies" (Dr Rie Thomsen, University of Southern Denmark). Views on the workshops were shared in the lobby. The participants suggested possible changes in the organisation and assessed the relevance of the proposed activities.

On the fourth day of the Summer School, Professor Laura Nota, starting from a general definition of counselling, discussed career counselling and career coaching. She sought to clarify the scope of these concepts and stressed their relatedness, pointing out their common areas of research and similar aspects of practice. She also highlighted the need to develop specialised educational paths and to establish common standards of university education and training for career counselling professionals.

During the following workshop, titled "Assessment of career counselling change: An idiographic approach" and conducted by Professor Paulo Cardoso (University of Evora), the participants could learn two methods for identifying and evaluating the client change. There was also an opportunity to practice the methods on real examples and to see a video-recorded counselling session in which the methods were

applied. The workshop vividly showed how tools adapted from therapeutic practice could be used in career counselling.

Friday brought the young researchers an opportunity to participate in a few more workshops. This time, they focused on various aspects of applying quantitative methods. Three parallel groups guided by experienced researchers worked on issues such as “Ensuring quality in survey research” (Professor Caroline Roberts, University of Lausanne), “Challenges to causal inference in longitudinal survey” (Dr Gregoire Bollmann, University of Lausanne) and “Cross-cultural assessment in career guidance and counselling” (Professor Sif Einarsdottir, University of Iceland).

The rest of the day was dedicated to addressing a range of general aspects of research and practice in the field of career guidance and counselling. Dr Pedro Moreno de Fonseca (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Thessaloniki) discussed the role of scientific research in shaping European policies. He addressed the constraints and challenges faced by researchers. Subsequently, Dr Nikos Drosos (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) attended to selected practical aspects of career counselling. He presented an impressive example of a holistic model of career counselling successfully applied in the financial crisis-stricken Greece.

The session was concluded by Professor Maria Eduarda Duarte (University of Lisbon), whose moving talk stressed the role of ethics in research and practice of career counselling. She underscored the special importance of ethical issues in the economic, political and social conjuncture we currently experience.

On the last day of the Summer School, there was time to recapitulate, reflect and draw conclusions for the future. The participants could also see for themselves that the Summer School might spark very fruitful research cooperation. Two research teams established during the previous editions of the project spoke of their achievements. Chiara Annovazzi (University of Milano-Bicocca) presented a paper titled “Life design and career development: The role of positive psychological constructs.” In the project, a group of researchers (Chiara Annovazzi, Dr Maria Cristina Ginevra of the University of Milano-Bicocca, Dr Andronikos Kaliris of the University of Athens, Dr Ernesto Lodi of the University of Sassari and Dr Laurent Sovet of the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris) studied the role of personal resources in solving career decision-making problems. They compared results obtained by Italian, French and Greek students. Marc Abessolo (University of Lausanne) presented the findings of another international team (Dr Yuliya Lipshits-Braziler of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Marc Abessolo, Sara Santilli and Ilaria Di Maggio of the University of Padua) investigating “The meaning of work, work engagement, and work satisfaction among Israeli, Swiss, and Italian workers.”

After the project presentations of young researchers, we could listen to Professor Annelies Van Vianen (University of Amsterdam), who reflected on the perspectives for future research on careers, citing findings about the person-job and person-organization fit as an example.

During the final evaluation session, the participants, divided in two groups, shared their thoughts about the five days of activities. They stressed that they found the project an enriching experience and declared that they would like to participate in similar events in the future. The sessions in which they had presented their own research projects were assessed as very helpful by many people. The participants also highlighted how important it was for them to establish contacts with other researchers in the field of career guidance and counselling. Subsequently, the young researchers were encouraged to maintain those relationships and contribute to the international research community by Laura Nota and Johannes Katsarov, who talked about extending the ECADOC network and outlined the perspectives for its development. They also invited the researchers to participate in other ECADOC events. The first of them will be a webinar on “Strategies to fund your PhD” led by Dr Laurent Sovet (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris).

The excellent organisation of the Summer School, its friendly atmosphere, the favourable weather, the picturesque location of the UNIVLO campus and its funny details, such as sheep used as “eco lawnmowers,” were additional factors that made the young researchers leave Lausanne smiling, inspired to do research and willing to join the international research community.