The National Career Counselling Awards 2013

Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Lithuania
Slovakia

euro | guidance

Euroguidance centres throughout Europe organise various activities to support development of lifelong career guidance and counselling services in EU Member States and candidate countries.

Identifying examples of good practice belongs to those activities, which have the highest potential to inspire others. With this aim Euroguidance centres from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Slovakia decided to prepare a booklet presenting examples of good practice – winning contributions in National Career Counselling Awards contests organised in above mentioned countries in 2013.

The first issue of the compendium was prepared in 2012, collecting examples of good practice from three countries.

Lifelong Learning Programme

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1. The National Career Counselling Award Competition in Bulgaria 4
Handbook for teenagers "Everything you want to know about your career choice and the start of your work life" 6
University course „Career development" 7
Experience Careers 8

2. The National Career Counselling Award Competition in the Czech Republic 10
National Career Counselling Award 2013 12
Chance for Restart: Innovative Approaches in Career Counselling for Persons with Criminal History 13
I work, therefore, I am! 14
Career Coaching for Schools 14
New Platform of Career Counselling Activities for Masaryk University Students 15
Educational and Training Programme for Career Advisors 16
Education of Experts in Career Counselling 16
EtLabora.cz – Website for Counselling in Career Selection, Profession and Self-Fulfilment 17

3. Quality in guidance award in Lithuania 18
For showing that LLP is also dedicated to career practioners: for active and successful participation in Comenius, Grundtvig, Study Visits 20
For innovative ideas and courage to implement them 20
For creation of innovative career guidance system within the school 21

4. National Career Counselling Awards In Slovakia 22
Awarded Contributions In The NCCA 2013 25
Award in the category "career guidance and counselling services": Tandem, n. o. – *"Where to go after school? Thematic day with Live Library about career choices and planning the future"* 25
Award in the category "achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling": Doc. PhDr. Marian Groma, PhD. – *"Career Guidance and Possibilities of the Career Development Facilitation of the Deaf"* 26
Honourable Mention for successful activities in the area of career guidance and counselling and the Audience Award: Eduplex, o. z. – *"MY TOWN: What would you like to be – a town of occupations"* 26
Honourable Mention for the achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling: Department of International Mobility of Students, Slovak University of Technology – *„Project Erasmus – Multilateral Projects: Development and implementation of common bachelor's and master's degree programmes and postgraduate training programme in the European context"* 27

The National Career Counselling Award Competition in **Bulgaria**

1

The National Career Counselling Awards Competition in Bulgaria was carried out for second time in 2013 in cooperation between two organizations – The National Euroguidance Centre (www.euroguidance.hrdc.bg) and the Business Foundation for Education (www.fbo.bg). The main aim of the competition is to identify good practices in career counselling on 2 levels – school and university.

Information about awarded practices is published online and in a special bilingual book in English and Bulgarian. The awarded professionals are promoted during national and European events. The prize for each winner is a study visit to another country within the European Union for exchange of knowledge and experience on peer learning basis. This year the study visit was organized in cooperation with the Euroguidance team in Rome, Italy.

Possibility for participation is granted to individual participants (career specialists) and teams (organizations) who are providing specific services in different categories. The two main categories in which good practices were awarded are: career services for school education level and career services for universities. The established categories intend to cover all career counselling target groups in the area of education and training.

The assessment criteria applied consist of four main groups: applicability and impact, sustainability, possibility of dissemination of the results and innovation. At first place the applicability and impact criterion is assessed in order to justify if the practice meets the needs of the target group and has proven impact. The sustainability criterion requires that the practice must have been implemented for at least 6 months and its effects must have been tested with positive results. The possibility of dissemination of the results criterion points to the need that the practice itself must be useful and applicable to other career counsellors in the respective field. The last assessment criterion is referred to the introduction of innovative practices that have not been used to this point in the specified region, context or with the respective target group.

In 2013, two good practices have been awarded in career services for school education level category and one good practice has been awarded in career services for higher education level.

Name of the practice:

Handbook for teenagers "Everything you want to know about your career choice and the start of your work life"

Name of the organisation:

Most Bulgaria Foundation

Short Description:

The practice is a program for vocational guidance for teenagers and consists of different methods for individual or group career counselling. The program aims to help students in the process of choosing education field or a job and intends to improve their chances for a successful career by:

- Raising their understanding for the job reality;
- Promoting the development of career management skills;
- Controlling of their own professional development;
- Enhancing the interest for the career choice and their responsibility for the future;
- Stimulating their initiative;
- Helping to build a realistic and balanced view of the labour market;
- Giving information about training opportunities;
- Making steps in the complex process of choosing a profession;
- Processing the huge amount of dynamically changing information.

The handbook is useful for students because it helps them think out of the box and to see the bigger picture of their professional development.

Applicability:

The main target group are youngsters from 13 to 19 years old who are in the process of choosing their career or education.
The handbook is available online and can be used for self assessment by the students themselves as well as by counselors during individual or group career counseling.
The materials are simple and easily accessible online at http://most-learning.net/moodle/. The handbook can be used without additional training.

For more information:

Phone: (+359) 0887 300 949
E-mail: ***office@most-bg.org***
Website: ***http://most-learning.net/moodle/***

Name of the practice:

University course „Career development"

Name of the organisation:

Career Centre, University of Economics – Varna

Short Description:

The course was introduced for first time in the 2012/2013 academic year. The course aims to improve the career management skills of students in order to become more successful when applying for internship or work. The main idea of the course is to motivate students for development and to prepare them for their personal career choice.

The schedule of the course consistently follows the creation of a successful career plan and focuses on the development of the necessary skills in order to be competitive on the labour market. The students are invited to make their individual and realistic career plan through self observation and assessment of their own skills, qualities, values and interests.

The course helps students to be able to interpret job offers, to prepare their own job application, to know and be ready for the different types of interviews and how to cope with them, and to develop skills of negotiation and self presentation. The final part of the course covers issues related to the success and professional growth immediately after recruitment, adaptation, mentorship and conflict resolution.

The students who have finished the course are invited to have an internship in the university centre for career counselling, where they can apply and practice the acquired knowledge on an everyday basis.

Applicability:

The target group are first year university students. The aim of the course is to support them in the beginning of their career path. The course gives student comprehensive instruments concerning their future career choices through role games, tests for self-assessment and open discussions.

The main method used in the course is the group career counselling.

For more information:

Phone: (+359) 886 83 28 48
E-mail: ***mirela.matova@gmail.com***
Website: ***http://ue-career.org/***

Name of the practice:

Experience Careers

Name of the organisation:

Agricultural Vocational School "Kl. Timiryazev" – Sandanski

Short Description:

The practice consists out of three initiatives:

The first initiative called "Career fair" is an open door day for the high school and consists of practical demonstration of professions and practical skills of students in front of the public. High school students have the opportunity to observe and present professional skills and competencies acquired during their studies in high school. The initiative helps to connect the world of business and the education because it offers a terrain where employers communicate directly with students.

The second initiative is a role game called "The skill to present ourselves in front of the employer". During the game students split up into groups. Some of them are employers; others are applicants for different positions and career counsellors. The applicants prepare their CVs and motivation letters in advance and come ready to apply for the positions. The game proceeds with a job interview simulation and discussion with the counsellors. The role game allows students to cope with real life job interviews.

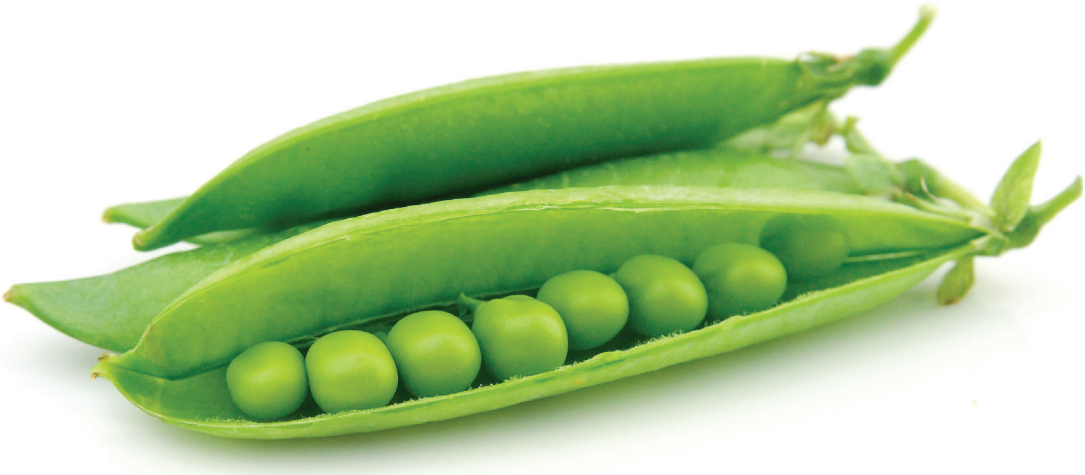
The third initiative is called "Student self-government" and is inspired by "Manager for a day" initiative of Junior Achievement, Bulgaria. The initiative is designed to provide the high school and students with the opportunity to experience the personal and academic demands of daily business and school operations by spending one day as a teacher, director of the school, teachers' assistants. The practice is a way to engage students with the daily problems of the school and make them more tolerant and respectful toward the teachers' profession.

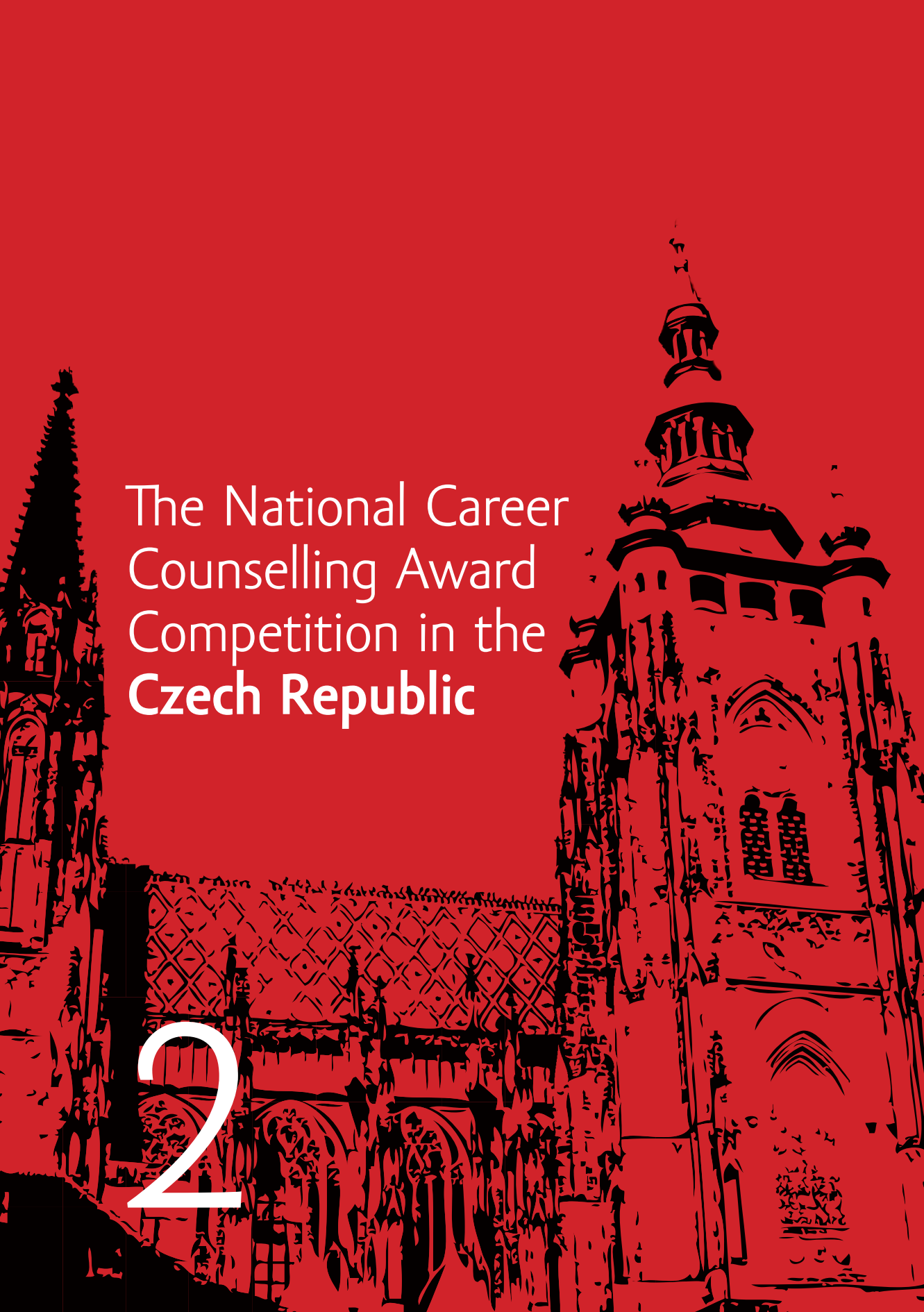
Applicability

The target groups of the initiatives are high school students, parents, teachers and heads of educational institutions in the region as well as employers. The practices are applicable in every high school willing to offer the students an interactive way of choosing their career or future education.

For more information:

Phone: (+359) 746 32448
E-mail: ***mail@zpg-sandanski.com***
Website: ***http://zpg-sandanski.com***





The National Career Counselling Award Competition in the **Czech Republic**

2

National Career Counselling Award Contest (NCCA) in the Czech Republic was launched in 2009. The main aim of the Contest is to chart and award examples of good practice in career counselling in the Czech Republic and connect providers of career counselling services across different sectors. Moreover, thanks to the Award we are opening wider discussion about career counselling and spreading awareness about it in the Czech context.

In 2009 was NCCA focused on the extension of services provided by career counsellors. Experts evaluated organisations offering services in the primary education, adults at the labour market, and for disadvantaged groups.

The contest in 2010 has more specific objectives. Evaluators awarded concrete aspects of the guidance process: lifelong guidance, prevention of social exclusion, and support of further professional education of counsellors. In this year, the special award for organisation provided career counselling at the workplace was granted for the first time.

In 2011, the award has been run under the motto: "Driving your career – driving your life." Reflect the topic of the contest, Career Management Skills (CMS).

In 2012, the cooperation with the Euroguidance Slovakia has begun and the first common compendium has been prepared.

The Award is traditionally organized under the umbrella of the National Guidance Forum and in cooperation of the Association of Adult Education Institutions in the Czech Republic and other organizations dealing with this topic.

The best examples of good practice are annually published in the **Compendium** available on our webpage www.euroguidance.cz and, since 2012, also in the English compendium with examples of good practice from other countries. Awarded counsellors can participate on the study visit to Swedish institutions and organizations active in career guidance and counselling area organized in cooperation with the **uroguidance Sweden** and **University of Stockholm**. In 2011 a DVD **National Career Counselling Award Contest** with presentations of tools and methods of awarded organisations was created. It shows wide range of career counselling activities in the Czech Republic: services for students, parents after paternity leave, disadvantaged groups, or employees. The DVD is also available on the webpage www.euroguidance.cz. We are considering making short videos for winners also next year.

National Career Counselling Award 2013

The fifth year of the National Career Counselling Award was organized (as well as in 2012) in close cooperation with Euroguidance Slovakia. Common history of Czech Republic and Slovakia, similar cultural and social background, and last but not least no language barrier enable us to share examples of good practice within these two countries.

In 2013, the award has undergone several changes. Firstly, an option of the nomination to the award has been announced; anyone could recommend organisation providing career counselling, achievement in the area of career counselling, or counsellors themselves to get the award. Secondly a new category has been opened – the category for an individual approach to the career counselling in the Czech Republic.

This year, we have received 24 applications for the contest. The group of external experts cooperating with Euroguidance since the beginning of the contest decided to award seven applications, including 4 special awards: *Special prize for the achievement in the area of career counselling, Special prize for the transfer of international knowledge in the area of career counselling, Special prize for the lecturer in the field of career counselling, and Special prize for the portal related to the career counselling.*

Application form examines following aspects:

1. Description of the service/ achievement,
2. Methodology of the service,
3. Supporting the development of career management skills,
4. Evaluation of services,
5. Qualification of providers,
6. Case study.

Winning examples of good practice were awarded in the special ceremony (19th September 2013) connected with the conference where the examples of good practice has been presented. Part of it was the round table relating to the topics related to career counselling in the Czech Republic; the common vision of the career counselling, actual tasks for counsellors and policy makers, etc.

Project Name:

Chance for Restart: Innovative Approaches in Career Counselling for Persons with Criminal History

First Place in the Competition National Award for Career Counselling

Name of the organisation:
RUBIKON Centrum, o. s.

Career counselling rendered by RUBIKON Centrum helps people with criminal record get sustainable jobs and become integrated in society – it helps prevent criminality and reduce high levels of criminal recidivism in the Czech Republic. The service had been launched in 1994 and elaborated in a complex way since – the core of the service consists in career counselling and preparation of clients for their successful entry to the labour market and finding jobs suitable for them that they can maintain. In addition to career counselling and job exchange the service also includes work with employers; furthermore, the programme offers training jobs in the organisation for people with criminal history, motivation courses and/or startup interest-free loans. Career consultants make people recognise their skills and abilities and strengthen their determination and will to find jobs corresponding to their actual skills and wishes, and develop the skills that are indispensable on the labour market. Clients are supported to become aware of their competencies achieved outside formal education – in the family, during their hobbies or in the prison. The counselling programme includes three stages: career counselling, job exchange, and support in adaptation to employment. The activities of the job-exchange agency RUBIKON Centrum are conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of consultants who establish close and long-term cooperation with their clients.

For more information:
http://rubikoncentrum.cz/index.php

Project Name:

I work, therefore, I am!

Second Place in the Competition National Award for Career Counselling

Name of the organisation:
Borůvka, o. s.

This enrolled training programme focuses on the re-integration of physically handicapped clients to the labour market. The ten-month programme includes employment in a café or shop, individual work with the labour therapist/coach – career coaching and counselling, activities focused on personality development and job-finding (development groups), training interviews in a job-exchange agency, excursions to workplaces, practice and employment with other employers. Clients' self-confidence and positive attitudes to themselves are strengthened; during group and individual work clients are guided from their values, dreams and visions to practically-oriented goals. Coaching approaches, careercounselling methods and techniques, mentoring, experience techniques, as well as neuro-linguistic programming activities are used to work with clients; supported employment methods are also used and the clients' families are involved, where necessary. In addition to specific "technical" skills, the clients' communication skills and team work, the ability to assume responsibility and independent decision-making, IT skills and labour-market-related skills are supported.

For more information:
http://www.osboruvka.cz/en/

Project Name:

Career Coaching for Schools

Third Place in the Competition National Award for Career Counselling

Name of the organisation:
Škola manažerského rozvoje, s. r. o.

The project was developed based on a research among secondary-school students, which had identified a deficit in the rendered career counselling services; for example, unclear career focus, dissatisfaction with one's study-branch selection, low self-confidence, etc. The service is designed for primary-school and secondary-school students and vocational advisers in the regions of Moravia-Silesia, Olomouc, Zlín and South Moravia. Students are offered professional diagnostics in the form of the Assessment Centre, individual career coaching and workshops developing competencies that are necessary for the labour market. Vocational advisers are offered the training course Career Counselling for Primary and Secondary Schools. Both target groups can use the Round Table, where participants can meet representatives of various professions. Creative and training methods, instruction films, career and personality diagnostics and self-knowing tests are also used. Every client determines his/her objective and prepares an action plan; the progress is assessed using a self-assessment scale. The project supports the students' responsibility for themselves and their decisions, their communication and presentation skills, ability to orientate on the labour market, learning and self-development, time-management, and the art to find satisfaction in their lives.

For more information:
http://www.smrov.cz/

Project Name:

New Platform of Career Counselling Activities for Masaryk University Students

Special Award for the Achievement in the area of Career Counselling

Name of the organisation:
Masaryk University

The Career Centre at the Masaryk University organised in 2013 an interactive conference entitled JobAcademy with the aim to supplement and extend specialised university education and students' competencies and skills that are necessary for Masaryk University graduates to be successful on the labour market. Students were actively involved in the entire conference agenda. JobAcademy vision is to show students that there are multiple opportunities and that ways to success on the labour market can be different. The conference JobAcademy with the theme "Work can be sought in many ways" included seven lectures, five different workshops and an additional section offering psychodiagnostic testing, professional makeup for job interviews and taking of portrait photos for CVs. The main lecture panel was divided into the motivation-inspiration section and practically oriented section. Students could hear personal success stories from practice, as well as theoretic lectures on, for example, networking, social networks, how to make a good first impression. The conference culminated with a networking party CelebJAtion at which students presented fictitious, team-proposed projects to a group of present entrepreneurs offering jobs in real projects. For the detailed information on lectures, workshops and speakers go to www.jobacademy.cz.

For more information:
http://www.kariera.muni.cz/en/

Project Name:

Educational and Training Programme for Career Advisors

Special Award for Transfer of Foreign Experience in Career Counselling

Name of the organisation:
Aspekt, o. s.

The educational and training programme for career advisors, which had been developed and implemented under the project Education of Career Advisors in Europe, was transferred to the Czech Republic as a well-established programme of the Akershus University College, which was at first analysed in the context of Czech conditions, then adapted, prepared, implemented as a pilot project and, finally, evaluated by Czech career advisors across sectors. The unique character of the project consists in its complexity and in the combination of the theoretical basis and practice. Simultaneously, the programme combines interactive teaching classes and independent task-doing. The programme was guaranteed by Tron Inglar, the lecturer who had created this original Norwegian programme and who was responsible for technical aspects of the programme transfer and adaptation to the Czech Republic and other involved countries. The programme also dealt with sociodynamic counselling according to Vance Peavy.

For more information:
http://www.aspektos.cz/

Project Name:

Education of Experts in Career Counselling

Special Award for Lecturing in Career Counselling

Name of the person involved:
Ms. Helena Košťálová (European Contact Group)

Ms. Helena Košťálová works as a lecturer and career advisor in the European Contact Group (ECG), a non-profit organisation rendering career-counselling services to marginalised target groups. In addition to the direct career counselling rendered to clients, Helena Košťálová, specialises in the exchange of experience and raising of awareness of career counselling through further education of specialists (career advisors, psychologists, methodologists, teachers and providers of adult-education) both within and outside the European Contact Group, active promotion of good-practice examples at specialised conferences, and publishing in specialised journals (HR Forum, Andragogika). In her courses she uses activating and discussion methods, group and cooperative teaching and self-experience techniques, reserving significant space for the training of practical situations. At present Helena Košťálová has been preparing, together with the ECG team, a publication focusing on methodical processes in group and individual career counselling.

For more information:
http://www.ekscr.cz/en

Project Name:

EtLabora.cz – Website for Counselling in Career Selection, Profession and Self-Fulfilment

Special Award for Career Counselling Web Portal

Name of the person involved:
Mr. Dalibor Špok

EtLabora.cz is a web-portal for counselling services for end clients in the fields of career orientation, looking for profession, self-fulfilment, interconnecting work and lifestyle, change, job-seeking, psychological testing in competitions, etc. The target group includes the adults who look for answers to general questions in career (re)orientation, own profession and purpose, or for specific information on psychological testing, preparation for competitions, etc. The website supports competencies, such as independence, responsibility for one's own development, courage, self-knowing, self-motivation, specific competencies for job-seeking, psychological competencies for change, and metacognitive skills to reveal one's own specific aspects and talents; the website also offers information on psychology of profession-selection, change in the understanding of the work contract and current labour market, and on the important role of the environment (not only) in career decision-making. The web portal has been in operation since 2012; the author Dalibor Špok is a psychologist – psychotherapist, focusing on career, self-fulfilment, career orientation and talents of adults – for more information go to www.daliborspok.cz.

For more information:
http://www.etlabora.cz/

Quality in guidance award in **Lithuania**

3

The tradition of **Lifelong Learning Programme** Quality Award in Lithuania has started in 2008. The annual Quality Award event is dedicated to selection and rewarding of the best LLP projects, individual mobility experiences as well as other initiatives under LLP umbrella.

Each year a special guidance related nomination is established on behalf of **Euroguidance** project. This nomination aims to encourage the exchange of best practices in guidance, acknowledge the most proactive, innovative and effective guidance initiatives and express gratitude for guidance community.

As 2013 is the last year of **Lifelong Learning Programme**, the Quality Award was dedicated to the most active and most successful initiatives and institutions throughout the whole period of 2007–2013. The **Euroguidance Centre** established 3 nominations:

For showing that LLP is also dedicated to career practioners: for active and successful participation in Comenius, Grundtvig, Study Visit

Winner	Ms Aurelija Naseckaitė
Description	Ms Aurelija Naseckaite is guidance practitioner whos experience demonstrates that the Lifelong Learning Programme is also dedicated to career specialists. She has very actively and succesfully participated in Comenius and Grundtvig in-service trainings and Study Visits Programme.
Institution	Kaunas Maironis University Gymnasium, Coordinating Centre of Vocational Guidance http://www.maironis.kaunas.lm.lt/PKKC/

For innovative ideas and courage to implement them

Winner	Ms Sigita Juzaitienė, Career coordinator of Plungės "Saulės" gymnasium
Description	Ms Sigita Juzaitienė has organized „Career day 2012 m." at the gymnasium that is located in a relatively small town. Nevertheless, the event managed to attract over 1000 participants both from school and local community. The main goals of the career day „The Train of Your Success" were to introduce pupils to various professions, ways leading to success, higher education study programmes, and to provide a possibility to test oneself in practical activity when creating a model for business idea. Pupils could meet the guests of the event, representatives from the enterprises, and the students. Presentations on various topics and meetings with the representatives of higher education institutions took place during the event. The higher education schools were glad to have a possibility to introduce their study programmes, famous businessmen of the district were willing to introduce themselves to the public and contributed to the development of entrepreneurship and career at school. Gymnasium is glad to have sustainable relationship with the world of work and business. Partnership of schools and business opens up a possibility for pupils to better and deeper know the professions, to try oneself in the job-related activities, and to develop abilities needed in life. 2013 m. jos iniciatyva buvo pateiktas ir finansuotas profesinio orientavimo projektas, kurio pagalba bus dar labiau išplėstos ugdymo karjerai veiklos mokykloje ir visame rajone.
Institution and links	Plungė „Saulės" gymnasium http://www.plungessaulesgim.eu/ugdymo-karjerai-centro-projektai.html www.plungessaulesgim.eu/pit-profesinio-informavimo-taskas.html

For creation of innovative career guidance system within the school

Winner	Kužiai Secondary School
Description	For creation of career guidance system at school and willingness to share good practise. Thanks to very active school career pratitioners, the school gives much attention to career guidance and implementation of innovative guidance methods. This school is an active participant of Euroguidance activities and also a winner of two Quality Contests in 2009 and 2010. The school carries out very versatile career activites, which involve the whole community. The practitioners of the school have a systematic approach towards career guidance and make every effort to integrate career guidance into school education curricula. The practitioners of the school also take an active role to improve career guidance services in the region by sharing experience and organising regional career event for school guidance practitioners.
Institution, contacts and links	Kužiai Secondary School http://www.kuziai.siauliai.lm.lt/ Ms Edita Brasienė, deputy Director, responsible for career guidance at school Ms Edita Lingaitė, school guidance counsellor

National Career Counselling Awards in **Slovakia**

4

Euroguidance centre Slovakia, Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation, has started to organise the **National Career Counselling Award** (NCCA) with the aim to support providers of career guidance and counselling services for various target groups through identification and awarding the best practices in this field, when examples of good practice could inspire others.

Since 2009 more than 50 institutions and individuals participated in the contest in Slovakia – examples of good practices from elementary, secondary schools, universities, guidance and counselling centres, PES, employers, private providers and others could thus be disseminated throughout the country.

History of the NCCA

History of the Slovak NCCA started in **2009** when the contest was focusing on how secondary schools support the transition of their graduates from school to work through guidance and counselling activities and in cooperation with public employment services.

In **2010** the contest had no specific topic, various career guidance and counselling services providers for school population and adults on the labour market (including un/employed people and the disadvantaged) participated.

The contest in **2011** was focused on how career guidance and counselling services are presented by their providers on the internet, what is the quality and attractiveness of information on these services for their users.

Services, activities, methods and tools supporting the development of career management skills were the focus of the NCCA in **2012**, organised for the first time in close cooperation with the Euroguidance centre of the Czech Republic, where the contest has five years tradition as well.

National Career Counselling Award 2013

In 2013 the contest was again open for organizations (primary and secondary schools, school institutions, universities and colleges, institutions of further and lifelong learning, labour offices, personnel, consulting and training agencies, corporations and businesses, NGOs and non-profit organizations, and others), but also for individuals (educational counsellors, counsellors in the state and non-state institutions and organizations, private counsellors, and others) who work in the field of career guidance.

This year the contest was widened with a possibility to nominate organizations or individuals for their activities. NCCA was announced in April and until the deadline we received 10 application forms from organizations and individuals (6 career counselling services and 4 achievements in the field of career guidance & counselling). All applications were evaluated during the summer by an expert jury consisting of representatives of Euroguidance centre Slovakia, Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VÚDPaP), centres of pedagogical and psychological counselling and prevention (CPPPaP) and the Association of Educational Counsellors (AVP).

The jury decided to grant awards:

- In the category "career guidance and counselling services" to: non-profit organisation **Tandem, n. o.,** for their contribution *„Where to go after school? Thematic day with Live library about career choices and planning for the future."*
- In the category "achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling" to: **Doc. PhDr. Marian Groma, PhD**., for his contribution *„Career Guidance and Possibilities of the Career Development Facilitation of the Deaf"*

and Honourable Mention to:

- **Civic association Eduplex, o. z.,** for their contribution *„MY TOWN: What would you like to be – a town of occupations"*;
- **Department of International Relations, Slovak University of Technology** for their contribution *„Project Erasmus – Multilateral Projects: Development and implementation of common bachelor's and master's degree programmes and postgraduate training programme in the European context"*.

Evaluation of application forms and announcement of the awarded contributions were realised separately in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Awarding ceremony of the Slovak competition and presentation of awarded contributions took place during the conference "National Career Counselling Award 2013" dedicated also to 15 years of existence of Euroguidance centre Slovakia (November 27, 2013 in Bratislava). What was new this year was the "Audience Award" at the conference, which was inspired by colleagues from the Czech Euroguidance centre (they first used at their conference, September 19, 2013 in Prague). The Audience Award at the conference in Bratislava gained civic association Eduplex, o. z., A special award – "Letter of Thanks" – was given by the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports to Mrs. Laura Gressnerová for her "long-term and successful work in the field of career guidance in Slovakia and for her contribution to the development of European cooperation of higher education institutions in the training of career counselors". The winning contributions from each of the two countries have been presented mutually at conferences in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia.

Partners of the NCCA in Slovakia were the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

Compendia from Contests

Compendia of best practices gathered in 2009-2012 were published from each contest (and are available in Slovak language on the website www.saaic.sk/euroguidanace). In 2012 a joint compendium has been published for the first time with best practices and annotations of all contributions from both countries – Czech Republic and Slovakia and also a booklet in English language with annotations of awarded practices from Slovakia, Czech Republic and Bulgaria. In 2013 we continue with these joint publications.

AWARDED CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE NCCA 2013 IN SLOVAKIA

Award in the category "career guidance and counselling services":

Title of the contribution:
Where to go after school? Thematic day with Live library about career choices and planning the future

Name of the institution or person involved:
TANDEM, n. o.

Annotation:
Non-profit organisation Tandem, n. o., signed up for the competition with their service for pupils from upper-secondary schools. "Where to go after school?" is a full-day thematic and interactive programme with Live Library and a set of activities aimed at different components of career guidance and counselling. These activities, designed especially for upper-secondary school students to develop the skills and competencies necessary for career choices and knowledge about trends on the labour market, support them within their important decisions and in this way facilitate their choice of future profession. Programme consists of informal methods aimed at planning and making of future career choices and reminds of a festival. The main pillars of the programme are: development of self-awareness, engagement, self-reliance and personal responsibility, knowledge about occupations and current trends on the labor market (Living Library with representatives of different occupations), using particular group and individual career counselling methods and also informal methods (psychodrama, video, games...). The programme has the ambition and potential to be implemented in upper-secondary schools across the ethnically mixed area of southern Slovakia and has been offered to upper-secondary schools since 2010.

Webpage:
www.tandemno.sk/en

Award in the category "achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling":

Title of the contribution:
Career Guidance and Possibilities of the Career Development Facilitation of the Deaf

Name of the institution or person involved:
Doc. PhDr. Marian Groma, PhD., Department of Psychology, Faculty of Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava

Annotation:
Doc. PhDr. Marian Groma, PhD., sent to the NCCA 2013 contest his monograph "Career Guidance and Possibilities of the Career Development Facilitation of the Deaf" (published in 2012 by the Comenius University Bratislava; 175 pp., 1st edition, ISBN 978-80-223-3297-2). Doc. Groma focused his attention to a very specific target group, which has been out of focus of any research activities in Slovakia for decades. The monograph, which covers the topic in the whole complexity, is dealing with the possible development of theory and practice of career guidance of the deaf. The book is divided into eight chapters, and offers a brief overview of current career theories and theories of career development and career guidance & counselling, a broader insight into how the society perceives an individual with disability is also provided. Author provides an overview of the specificities of psychology of the development of the deaf, as well as stimuli facilitating their individual development. The monograph might be very useful source of information and methodological support not only for career guidance practitioners, psychologists, teachers or mentors of the deaf, but also for students and others who work with and/or want to know more about this specific group. This achievement of the author fills a long term gap in the literature and allows broadening the knowledge for practitioners working in this area.

Contact: ***groma@fedu.uniba.sk***

Honourable Mention for successful activities in the area of career guidance and counselling:

Title of the contribution:
MY TOWN: What would you like to be – a town of occupations

Name of the institution or person involved:
Eduplex, o. z.

Annotation:
Eduplex, Civic Association from Bratislava participated in the NCCA 2013 competition with a very interesting contribution, the title of which was "My town: What would you like to be – a town of occupations". It is an exhibition which follows other activities of this association like organising children´s camps or workshops with occupations as a topic. The activity is open mainly for children of elementary schools and the aim is to introduce for them a world of occupations, vocational education and training paths, help them to understand the world of work and the world of adults, as well as allow children of all ages (up to 15) to "put their hands" on different objects, use instruments and equipment from various occupations, taste what presented occupations are about and through this experience acquire some knowledge about the world of work. Exhibition is accompanied with discussions and workshops led by those representing not only exhibited occupations, and various competitions and other interactive events organised by companies participating in the exhibition. The "town" is created by several rooms, bunks, interactive "town houses" presenting various occupations like electricians, hairdressers, nurses or doctors, tailors or programmers, construction workers or craftsmen, etc. In each room there are instructions how to behave in the depicted occupation, what is possible to do by their own hands there, what are the educational paths leading to the occupation, etc. Each room has also its own mentor or animator who leads small group of children and answers their questions.

Webpage: ***www.mojemesto.org***

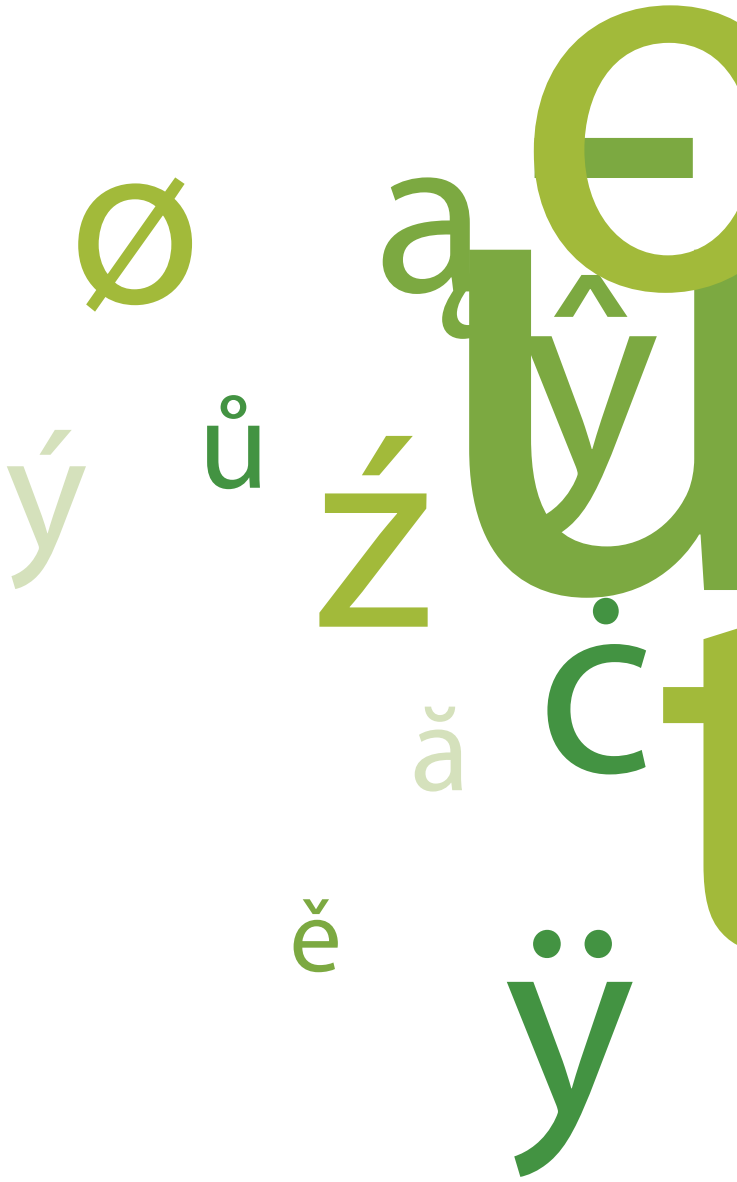
Honourable Mention for the achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling:

Title of the contribution:
Project Erasmus – Multilateral Projects: Development and implementation of common bachelor's and master's degree programmes and postgraduate training programme in the European context

Name of the institution or person involved:
Department of International Relations, Slovak University of Technology

Annotation:
Ing. Arch. Laura Gressnerová, PhD., from the Department of International Mobility of Students, Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava applied with their contribution ERASMUS Multilateral project. Project was focused on the development and implementation of joint bachelor's and master's degree programme and graduate training programme in the field of career guidance in the European context (involving several European universities and joint diplomas with mutual recognition). This project promotes the European dimension in education, development of skills and quallification, adaptability and mobility of future career counselors. It was initiated and also coordinated (October 2010 – September 2013) by Slovak University of Technology. The main objective of the project was the convergence of the European Higher Education Area in accordance with the Bologna process, the recommendations of the Berlin Declaration, through European cooperation and partnerships between institutions providing higher education. The project involved eight universities from eight countries: Slovak University of Technology (Slovakia), University of Nicosia (Cyprus), Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia), University of Applied Labour Studies in Mannheim (Germany), Jan Dlugosz University in Czestochowa (Poland), University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain), The University of Derby (UK) and The University of Split (Croatia).

Webpage: ***www.stuba.sk/english***



Euroguidance is a European network of national resource and information centres for lifelong guidance and counselling established in 1992.

All Euroguidance centres share two common goals:

- to promote the European dimension in guidance
- to provide quality information on lifelong guidance, and mobility for learning purposes.

The main target group of Euroguidance is guidance practitioners and policy makers from both the educational and employment sectors in all European countries.

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