

The National
Career Counselling Awards

2014

Czech Republic
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 the Czech Republic 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 2014.

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



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National Career Counselling Awards in the **Czech Republic**



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.

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.

The Award is traditionally organized under the umbrella of the *National Guidance Forum* and in cooperation with *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 **Euroguidance 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. The short videos were also made with the winners of the National Career Counselling Award in 2014.

National Career Counselling Award 2014

Prize for exemplary service to students for GYMNÁZIUM JIHLAVA

1

NATIONAL CAREER COUNSELLING AWARDS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The sixth year of the National Career Counselling Award was organized (as well as in 2012) in close cooperation with Euroguidance Slovakia. Common history of the 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 2014, the Czech Republic (together with other countries) has reminded tenth anniversary of the accessing to the European Union in 2004. To celebrate this event we have announced the *Prize for promoting European cooperation within the guidance services*.

This year, we have received 14 applications for the contest. The group of external experts cooperating with Euroguidance since the beginning of the contest decided to award seven applications, and 3 special awards above that.

A topic of the contest has not been specified to attract a wide range of practitioners. However, as result of the contest we identified the *cooperation in guidance* as the main issue of the Award.

Career counselling in Gymnázium Jihlava

The Gymnázium Jihlava school counselling centre has been in operation since 2009 and comprises a school psychologist, an educational counsellor and a prevention methodologist, under the current project name RAMPS-VIP III *Development and methodological support for counselling services*. The centre provides career counselling to pupils from all levels of the school for the duration of their studies. This service takes place in the form of group and individual counselling and diagnostics. The aim is to encourage pupils to make responsible decisions about their own career path and their future direction. This includes not only the need to deal with large quantities of information on the university and work market, but also to strengthen the pupils' personal development to respond to their specific focus, interests and value systems. This objective is met both by the school counselling centre in coordination with those teaching key subjects, and by the pupils themselves through the Gymnázium Jihlava School Parliament, which organises meetings with former students who are now studying at universities. The school counselling centre supports both the development of pupils' career paths and also their initiatives in extracurricular activities and their personal growth.

Webpage: www.gymnaziumjihlava.cz

Prize for innovative achievement for CAREER CENTRE OF THE MASARYK UNIVERSITY

Human Resources behind the scenes

Human Resources behind the scenes is a project launched by the Masaryk University Career Centre, which was carried out in the autumn of 2013 and was sub-titled *"Career start: an overview"*. This entailed two days of lectures, workshops and experiences in the area of careers and human resources. It was a pilot project, the first of its type organised by the MU CC, and was expanded by another project, entitled *"Impress your boss"* (January 2014) which developed the same topics. The main aim of the project was to provide students with a comprehensive idea of what they might encounter when looking for work, how best to prepare themselves for meeting their future employer and areas to watch out for.

The issue was addressed in a truly comprehensive manner. Lectures focused on providing an understanding of the basic types of selection processes, the procedure of the selection process and the issue of work relations. One of the topics of the workshops was preparation for Assessment Centres, where the students could try out part of the AC. Another topic was etiquette where participants learnt how to dress correctly for interviews and how to behave in terms of etiquette. The issue of etiquette during the job interview was also addressed, dealing with what is acceptable and what not in terms of etiquette during the selection

process. A sample of assessment methods used in the selection procedures was another topic of the focused workshop – participants could try out certain methods on themselves and learn which methods they might encounter when applying for jobs. An important aspect for students was the experience aspect; they were given a mock interview and received feedback on how they behaved during the interview, as well as individual advice on their CVs, where participants were given specific counselling on how to improve their CVs for a better chance of success – with a group workshop also held on this particular topic.

Webpage: www.kariera.muni.cz/en



Prize for an open offer of career advice to the general public for CENTRE OF EDUCATION FOR ALL

Centre of Education for All services

The Centre of Education for all (CVV) was established as the result of many years of efforts by the South Moravian Region (JMK) and its Council for Human Resources Development to improve the awareness of the local population and access to further education and to help the people of the region to find jobs. The CVV has a database of courses available in South Moravia and also offers career advisory services, where it emphasises the provision of information and motivating people to take up further education. The goal is to address the problem of the region's high unemployment rate compared to the average in the Czech Republic. The Centre has been established at the Building Trade Secondary School in Brno – Bosonohy and it has been providing services free of charge to people living in the South Moravian Region since March 2013. The Centre of Education for All does not only provide career guidance for adults, but also focuses on students.

Webpage: www.vzdelavanivsem.cz



Prize for complexity and the interconnection of work with employers and employees in balancing work and personal life for PARDUBICE REGIONAL CHARITY

MATAPE – career guidance

The MUM, DAD, TAKE CARE, WORK (MATAPE) project has been implemented since September 2012 by the Pardubice Regional Charity at the site of one of its centres – The Holoubek family and educational centre in Holice. The project focuses on two types of activities. The first of these is training in personal development, computer skills and English, particularly for women on maternity leave, but also for employees in the Pardubice and Hradec Kralove regions. The training is also unique in terms of its combination of teaching methods: experience-based presentation courses, webinars, e-learning with follow-up communication with participants using Google Apps applications and support for students own initiatives in the form of coaching. It also offers work with employers, aiming to increase awareness of flexible forms of work and the benefits they offer. Through the mini-audits that MATAPE organises in companies in the region in cooperation with employers, it contributes to connecting the needs of employees and employers and supports finding a common path to reconciling the personal, family and working needs of both target groups.

Webpage: www.matape.cz



Prize for the successful implementation of career guidance methods at a national level for CENTRE OF COMPETENCES

Transferring the principles of mapping of competencies and the CH-Q brand to the CR

This concerns the transfer of the self-management of competencies and the CH-Q system from Switzerland to the Czech Republic. CH-Q is a system that recognises self-management of competencies skills (competency mapping) as well as a method focusing on planning individual career development. It evaluates the results of previous training (including non-formal and informal education). The system is based on the self-evaluation of skills, knowledge and attitudes acquired in various spheres of life (including family, civic activities, volunteering, etc.).

The CH-Q consists of four levels. Level 1 is the basis level of self-management of competencies, which means that the person who completes it is aware of his/her own skills and is able to use them, actively and responsibly in his/her own life, and is also able to plan further steps to develop a career based on these competencies. Level 2 certification confirms that the participant has demonstrated sufficient evidence of his/her teaching skills and is qualified to train clients using the CH-Q method. At the third level, applicants must demonstrate their ability to create an overall concept for CH-Q training methods and show that, in addition to creating the actual content of the training, they can also assess its impact on individual target groups. This level of certification entitles the holder to become an independent provider of CH-Q method training. The final, fourth level, is purely for experts and aims to identify those who have the potential to develop the overall CH-Q system.

Around 80 people in the Czech Republic have acquired level 1 certification to date, two training courses have been held under Dutch trainers and 5 have been run by Czech trainers. These Czech trainers, Silvie Pýchová and Dorota Madziová, have level 2 and 3 CH-Q certification. Both are the main actors involved in transferring these methods to the CR, and also established the Centre of Competences, whose main mission is to transfer and develop competency mapping methods in the CR. It should however be pointed out that the Euroguidance Centre has provided considerable organisational support for the long-term provision of CH-Q training. CH-Q is also a brand the Centre of Competences has managed to obtain for the CR. It will now be possible for certified competency mapping courses to be provided under this brand, following on from the Swiss tradition and quality of service.

Webpage: www.centrumkompetenci.cz



Prize for supporting creativity in career counselling for MAGDA SHYMON

The use and benefits of MOŘE EMOCÍ (Emotion cards) and KARET S PŘÍBĚHY (Storytelling cards) in career counselling – the transfer of good practice from abroad

MOŘE EMOCÍ (Emotion cards) and KARTY S PŘÍBĚHY (Storytelling cards) are designed for career counsellors, psychologists, teachers and all teaching and guidance assistants who wish to include a more intuitive and creative aspect in their work, as well as encouraging this in their clients. The cards are accompanied by brochures with examples of their use, which draw on the practical experience and knowledge of the authors, experts from the CR and abroad. Finally, this tool also helps to transfer good practice from abroad, whether in the form of the creation of the cards themselves (it was not previously possible to purchase them in the CR in this complex form) or in the form of the examples presented in the brochures, for example from the Warsaw Cross Border seminar, or Navigating in Search of a Profession courses in resource-oriented career counselling by Thomas Diener.

The cards are helpful in career counselling through establishing cooperation with clients, their self-knowledge, decision making, goal setting and evaluating cooperation. An assessment of the impact of creating these cards has shown that they have found their place in the work of career counsellors and are used as a tool in their work with individuals and groups and with clients of varying age categories.

Webpage: www.b-creative.cz



Prize for promoting European cooperation for CHANNEL CROSSINGS, S. R. O.

FIT FOR FLEXI or the flexible reconciliation of family and work

FIT FOR FLEXI (www.fitforflexi.cz) is an international cooperation project which aims to use the transfer of foreign know-how and its adaptation to the Czech environment to promote the adoption of flexible working models to help people caring for dependent family members find work. Under this project, which is being implemented from 1 July 2012 to 28 February 2015 by the language and training agency, Channel Crossings, s. r. o., in cooperation with the welfare department of a municipal authority in Sweden dealing with work rehabilitation, a research institute for innovative forms of work and prevention from Germany and a training and advisory services provider from Poland, a comprehensive training and coaching/counselling programme has been created. This helps clients to return to work after maternity or parental leave, unemployed women to improve their chances of finding work, and supports working clients in decisions on and preparations for career changes. The common denominator for all those participating is the need to reconcile the needs of their families and their work.

"Every coin has two faces and under this project we therefore work not only with job seekers and employees, but also with those who are offering the work. This means employers, but also with representatives of government agencies and politicians. We use regional workshops to involve them in discussions on the possibility of a systemic introduction of flexible forms of work and the options of adapting foreign innovations to the Czech environment. We provide employers with advice on how to address labour law issues relating to alternative forms of employment (personal consultations and on-line counselling) and we teach them to apply and to introduce modern technologies for remote work. Finally, we give visibility to the activities of responsible companies and non-profit and public organisations in the Czech Republic and our vision is the creation of a League of flexible employers."

Webpage: www.chc.cz



The EUROPEAN CONTACT GROUP for an exceptional publishing achievement in career counselling

A book as a counselling course: Navigating the world of work. How to find the right job?

The publication *Navigating the world of work* is designed for all those who are looking for work, are considering changing their job or seeking a balance between their working and personal lives. However it can also be used for work with clients in counselling or in group courses. The individual chapters follow freely on from each other and the book can either be used as a whole, or selected chapters or exercises can be extracted. The publication is free of charge and can be downloaded from the www.ekscr.cz website, and is available in a total of 5 languages (Czech, English, Russian, Vietnamese, and Spanish).

MASARYK UNIVERSITY, MENDEL UNIVERSITY IN BRNO AND THE BRNO TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE for promoting collaboration among the various actors in career counselling

JobChallenge, a job fair for students and graduates of Brno universities and colleges

In 2013 the seventh annual job fair for university students and graduates, JobChallenge, was held in the Wannieck Gallery in Brno. The aim of the fair was to present the situation on the labour market and to facilitate the successful entry into the workforce for the students and graduates of those universities participating. This is a year-long project, which culminated in meetings between students and their potential employers.

ASISTENCE, O. P. S., for the long-term provision of high-quality career counselling services

Transit Programme – Your path to your dreams

The Asistence, o. p. s. Transit Programme was established in 1995 at the Jedlička Institute and Schools. Students of this special-care secondary school were some of the first clients of this programme, which helped them to better integrated into society, whether by gaining practical experience outside the school environment, or through other activities supporting their interests, an active approach to life and confidence in themselves and their abilities. Since its inception, the Transit Programme has been continually developing, but the basic ideas underlying it remain the same.

National Career Counselling Awards in **Slovakia**



Euroguidance centre Slovakia, Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation, has started to organise the **National Career Counselling Award** (NCCA) in 2009 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 which could inspire others.

In **2009** 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 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.

In **2013** and **2014** the contest had no specific topic, again various *career guidance and counselling services* providers participated.

Since 2009 more than 60 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.

From each contest Compendia of best practices were published (available in Slovak language on the website www.saaic.sk/euroguidance). Since 2012 joint compendia have been published with best practices and annotations of all contributions from both countries – Czech Republic and Slovakia. Since 2012 also a booklet in English language with annotations of awarded practices has been published (countries involved – in 2012: Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Slovakia; in 2013: Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia).

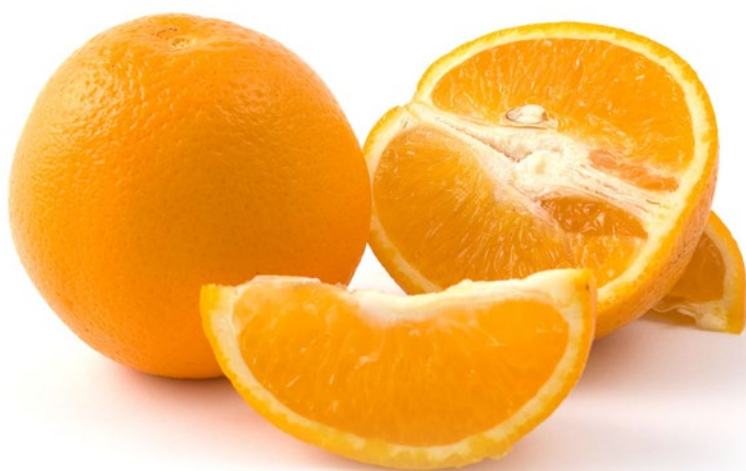
National Career Counselling Award 2014

In 2014 the National Career Counselling Award 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) and 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 and counselling.

This year the sixth year of the contest was organised and Slovakia (together with the Czech Republic and other countries) has celebrated the tenth anniversary of the EU accession in 2004. Therefore we decided (together with Euroguidance centre in

the Czech Republic) to announce the *Award – Honourable Mention for promoting European cooperation in guidance and counselling services provision*.

NCCA was announced in April 2014 and we received 14 application forms from organizations and individuals (the same number as in the Czech Republic). Evaluation of application forms were realised separately in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. All applications were evaluated during the summer by an expert jury consisting of representatives of Euroguidance centre Slovakia and external experts from the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, centres of pedagogical and psychological counselling and prevention, the Association of Educational Counsellors and private sector.



The jury decided to grant *Awards*:

- In the category “career guidance and counselling services” to: **Mgr. Katarína Markovičová, PhD., from the Catholic University in Ružomberok** for her contribution „*My portfolio – programme for developing a profile of university student before entering labour market*”.
- In the category “achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling” to: **Grafton Recruitment Slovakia, s. r. o.**, for their contribution „*Grafton Street Journal*”.
- In the category “individual person” to: **doc. PhDr. Štefan Vendel, CSc., from the University of Prešov in Prešov** for lifetime activities, publications, research and support of European cooperation in the field of career guidance and counselling.
- In the category “individual person” to: **PhDr. Ľubomíra Dunčáková** for long-term activities, development and dissemination of methodologies in the field of career guidance and counselling for youth.

and *Honourable Mention* to:

- Non-formal group **Dielňa Vekker** (in Slovak language)/**Vekker Műhely** (in Hungarian language) for the implementation of innovative activity in the field of career guidance and counselling for youth for their contribution „*What to do next? – theatre in education helping with career choice*”.
- **Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nitra** for support of European dimension in career guidance and counselling for their contribution „*European day for graduates*”.

Awarding ceremony of the Slovak competition and presentation of awarded contributions took place during the conference “National Career Counselling Award 2014” (October 16, 2014, in Bratislava). The *Audience Award* at the conference in Bratislava gained non-formal group **Dielňa Vekker/Vekker Műhely**. A special award – “*Letter of Thanks*” – was given by the *Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia* to **Mr. Štefan Vendel** for his active participation and support of European cooperation in the field of career guidance and counselling. The winning contributions from each of the two countries have been presented mutually at conferences in the Czech Republic (September 18, 2014, in Prague) 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.

Award in the category “career guidance and counselling services”

Name of the institution or person involved:

Mgr. Katarína Markovičová, PhD., from the Catholic University in Ružomberok

Title of the contribution:

My portfolio – programme for developing a profile of university student before entering the labour market.

Annotation:

Mgr. Katarína Markovičová, PhD., from the Catholic University in Ružomberok is the author of a programme *My portfolio* which she signed up for the competition. The programme has been developed since 2012 in response to the prevailing condition: high youth unemployment rate in Slovakia and the EU, difficulties graduates (especially from humanities and social sciences) experience in job search, etc. The pilot programme has been tested in the academic year 2012/2013. The programme aims to encourage students to reflect on how to find a place on the labour market (already during their studies) at a time when it is still possible to take the necessary steps to develop their potential. The programme consists of 10 steps which gradually and systematically support development of student's self-knowledge and in-depth professional orientation, focusing on individual needs. This service is not only providing information about the labour market, but students also analyze what they have learned in the course of their life, what competences they have acquired and they also work with their concerns and possible obstacles (together with counsellors), etc.

Programme *My portfolio* is designed not only for students in their last years of studies, but often also students in their first years engage in the programme. In cooperation with career counsellors and psychologist they focus on thorough preparation to enter the labour market. The programme is designed to develop the profile of university students before entering the labour market. It is very well designed and systematic programme. There are many other follow-up career services (assistance with job search, resume and cover letter correction, preparing for interview, etc.) and also psychological counselling. This service (programme) and its quality is above today's standard not only in higher education in Slovakia, but it is also very necessary and useful. This is an example of good practice that should be promoted to other universities in Slovakia.



Award in the category “achievement in the area of career guidance and counselling”

Name of the institution or person involved:

Grafton Recruitment Slovakia, s. r. o.

Title of the contribution:

Grafton Street Journal.

Annotation:

Grafton Recruitment is a recruitment agency with over 30 years of experience. Workers in all branches are every day faced with job seekers, to whom they often explain the basic principles of how to apply for a job, e. g. how to improve resume. Since it is not possible to give such advice to all candidates, the company decided to publish a newspaper titled *Grafton Street Journal*. More than 10 000 copies were distributed in spring 2014 to schools, job seekers and other target groups, which is higher number than all of the workers in all company branches can interview. The Journal has success not only among jobseekers, but also among those who want to keep on track with new trends.

Grafton Recruitment Slovakia responded to the needs of job seekers and issued a printed newspaper, which provides interesting information on how to find a (better) place on the labour market. Journal provides information on how to be oriented on the labour market, how to write a resume and a cover letter, how to prepare for an interview, how to present oneself online, but also shows the work of job recruiters from the other side. Valuable information is presented in detail and comprehensively, from the perspective of real experience of those who carry out the selection of candidates. *Grafton Street Journal* responds to the real needs of clients and summarizes at one place the information that is otherwise scattered. Grafton Recruitment Slovakia is doing something more and in a creative way than is usual and it is appreciated by job seekers. This Journal would certainly be helpful for counsellors from the education sector, which often lack such a coherent source of information for future graduates.



Award in the category “individual person”

doc. PhDr. Štefan Vendel, CSc.
from the University of Prešov in Prešov
for his lifetime activities, publications, re-
search and support of European cooperation
in the field of career guidance and counselling.

Annotation:

Doc. PhDr. Štefan Vendel, CSc., is an important figure in the field of theory and practice in career guidance and counselling, recognized at home and also abroad. He has devoted his professional life to issues of professional orientation, career and educational guidance and counselling, first as a counselling psychologist, later as researcher and university lecturer. He is well known for his extensive publication activities, he is also a co-organizer and scientific referee of professional events at regional, national and international levels. Doc. Vendel enrolled in the competition as an individual – he responded to the special priority dedicated to the promotion of the European dimension in career guidance and counselling (connected with the 10th anniversary of entering the Slovak Republic to the European Union). In 2013 doc. Vendel actively participated in two

projects aimed at career guidance and counselling. Dominant was his participation in the project of the European university cooperation Erasmus “Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe” (NICE, 2009-2015) in which a consortium of 40 European universities have formed a network that aims to innovate career guidance and counselling in line with European priorities in lifelong learning and lifelong guidance. The target group are career counsellors in the EU and project outputs are continuously published. Doc. Vendel contributed to the *Nice Handbook for the Academic Training of Career Guidance and Counselling Professionals* with chapter entitled “Fostering the European Character”. He has been also actively involved as a foreign expert in the project “Thematic Network – Professional counselling for long-term unemployed people” (2012–2015), which is coordinated by the organization REINTEGRA from the Czech Republic. Project aims to transfer and innovate methods and procedures in the field of career guidance and counselling for the unemployed from the participating partners (from different countries) to the conditions in the Czech Republic.



Award in the category “individual person”

PhDr. Ľubomíra Dunčáková

for her long-term activities, development and dissemination of methodologies in the field of career guidance and counselling for youth.

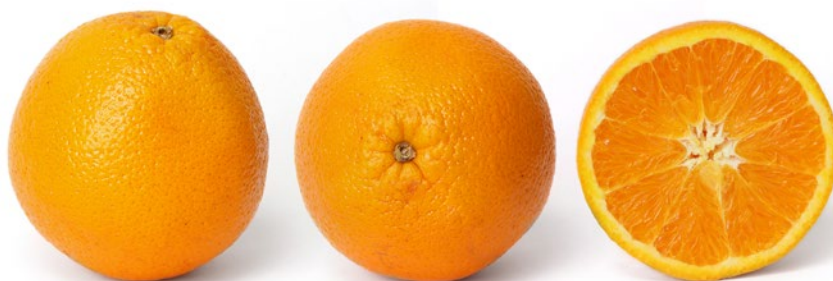
Annotation:

PhDr. Ľubomíra Dunčáková applied to the contest with two contributions.

The first one is the publication *“The career counselling programme for primary school students. Proven experience of professional practice.”* This publication describes experience in providing career guidance and counselling in the district of Snina with programme for pupils in primary schools in their last three years of compulsory education. This systematic programme is verified in practice (with about 2500 pupils) and modified according to experience. The aim was to structure the programme and accommodate it to the work of teachers, which are also working as educational counsellors, for maximum ease of use in practice.

The second one is the *“Career counselling programme for secondary school students.”* PhDr. Dunčáková developed it during many years of working for the Centre of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and Prevention. It is a comprehensive programme, which includes group and individual work with clients. It offers also the possibility of psychological diagnosis for the purpose of self-discovery and verification of the skills, qualities, interests and so on. This service is an example of good practice, it is highly needed and also variable according to the needs and expectations of clients.

Both programs take into account the conditions and status of the career guidance and counselling providers and enable them to do it effectively and systematically also in those schools, where such programmes have not yet been implemented in such extent. Both methodologies were published as project outputs by the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre. They are widely useful, and it would be appropriate to disseminate them throughout the whole system of educational counselling.



Honourable Mention for the implementation of innovative activity in the field of career guidance and counselling and Audience Award

Name of the institution or person involved:

non-formal group Dielňa Vekker (in Slovak language)/ Vekker Műhely (in Hungarian language)

Title of the contribution:

What to do next? – theatre in education helping with career choice.

Annotation:

Julianna Gaál from the non-formal group Dielňa Vekker/Vekker Műhely subscribed to competition their activity defined as an interactive performance – method called Theatre In Education (TIE) entitled “What to do Next?” This performance is intended for students in the second and third year of secondary schools who are in the process of career decision making (further education and vocational training, or entering directly on the labour market). It’s an event which does not help to make an immediate decision or choice, but the aim of this activity is particularly to deepen social perception, ability to have realistic interaction and strengthen cooperation of young people. This performance engages pupils and supports tolerant receiving of new information, but in particular their insight into their own motives and incentives in the decision-making process. This form of experiential work with clients supports personal development and creative potential, as well as the possibility of inducing changes in behaviour. Group activities are carried out mainly by teachers who have passed through training in drama

education and career guidance and counselling. In the school year 2013/2014 more than 400 pupils from secondary schools participated in this activity in schools where Hungarian language is used as a teaching language. Authors intend to provide this activity also in the Slovak language. This activity is innovative and universally transferable, having an interesting form which activates young people. It could be usable for example at the beginning of the career guidance and counselling process.



Honourable Mention for support of European dimension in career guidance and counselling

Name of the institution or person involved:

**Office of Labour, Social Affairs
and Family in Nitra**

Title of the contribution:

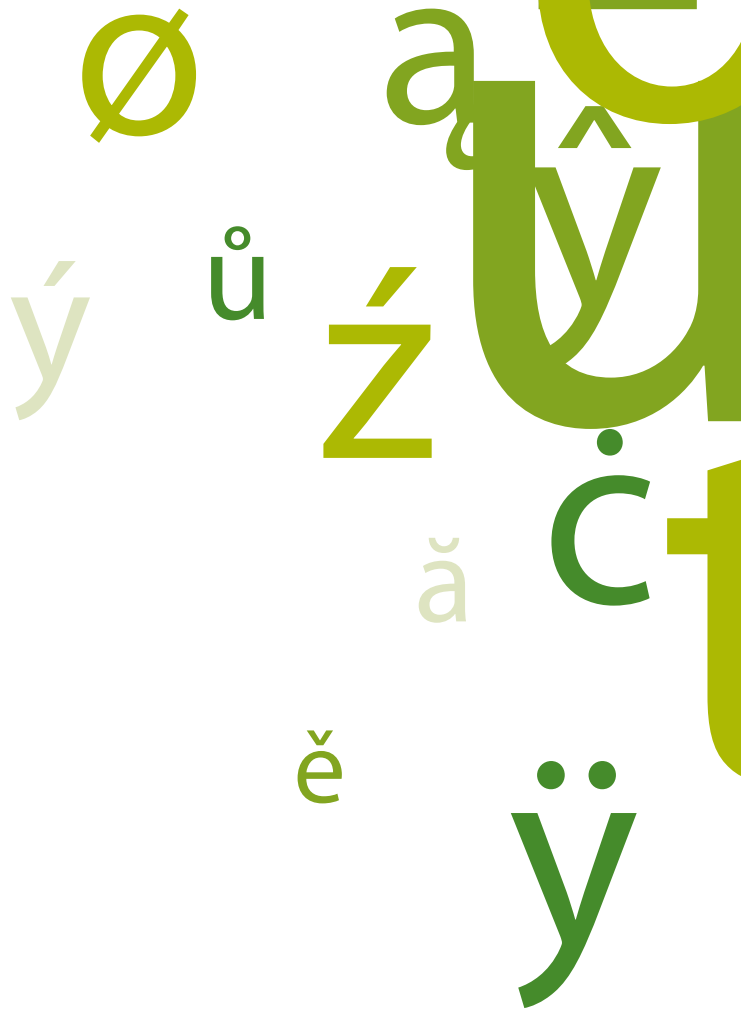
European day for graduates

Annotation:

Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Nitra has submitted activity *European day for graduates* organized annually and jointly with the European Information Centre EUROPE DIRECT Nitra since 2009. The development and organization of this event is based on the finding that young people lack knowledge about the laws in force in the EU, which makes it difficult for them to be employed abroad. The main purpose of this activity is therefore to raise legal awareness of graduates from secondary schools, which are in the register of job seekers and are interested to look for work beyond the borders of the Slovak Republic. The event aims to provide a comprehensive package of information about the European Union and the rights of EU citizens, information about laws, working and

living conditions in the EU, about services of EURES - European Employment Services on the European labour market, services of IC EUROPE DIRECT Nitra and also about Slovak legislation directly related to working and living abroad. The programme also includes information on job vacancies in the European Union provided by EURES adviser who shows the way how to search for jobs, but also highlights the pitfalls of working with agencies providing employment mediation services. Representatives of health and social insurance company offer practical information on procedures for handling the necessary documents on departure from Slovakia and returning back, the conditions of claiming for unemployment benefits, rights and obligations related to different types of insurance, etc. Presented activity is especially remarkable for its complexity of the information provided to the target group, as well as the number of partner institutions involved in its implementation.





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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