Methodologies for Capacity Building of Career Practitioners and Continually Supporting their Work

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Professional association - overview

- the largest professional association of career practitioners in Slovakia
- established in 2014
- bottom-up initiative
- collaborative and cross-sectoral approach
- voluntary (open) membership
- nearly 150 members (individuals and organisations)
- reputation of a knowledge-broker and a reliable national as well as international partner
I. to facilitate networking of career guidance practitioners and guidance actors in Slovakia and exchange of good practices;

II. to improve competences of career guidance practitioners and professionals;

III. to spread awareness about career guidance services and improve their accessibility to all citizens;

IV. to be an advocate of career guidance at policy level.
Capacity building and CPD

• Organisation of regular training events and nation-wide initiatives
• Delivery of accredited courses on career guidance
• Involvement in international projects and networks (e.g. NICE, IAEVG, CareersNet)
• Provision of mobility opportunities for career counsellors
• Development of quality standards and mentoring programme

= creating a learning eco-system
Quality standards - background

• developed in 2019 in cooperation with partners from 7 EU countries through Erasmus+
• all outputs freely available at https://guidancequality.eu/
• development preceded by an extensive research
• professional development rather than a normative tool
• service-oriented standards structured along 5 thematic areas:

I. Ethical service with clear mission and goals
II. Service using multidisciplinary resources
III. Client-centred service
IV. Clear outcomes for clients and for society
V. Continuous improvement

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Quality standards – challenges and next steps

- **limited reach**
  - voluntary tool; not yet adopted by any public authority / service
  - low professionalisation of the sector – career guidance still seen as a function rather than a vocation
  - relevance varies across sectors – existence of parallel quality assurance mechanisms

but...

- quality standards and certification included in the Lifelong Learning and Guidance Strategy (currently in the pipeline)
- great **reference point** - basis for development of other programmes and tools (e.g. accredited training programme in career guidance, e-learning “Career Guidance for the 21st Century”)
Welcome to the course

Career Guidance for the 21st Century

The world around us is rapidly changing. And so is the world of work.

This course is here to inspire you and help you stay a great career guidance professional.

Enjoy it!

START COURSE

https://careerguidancecourse.eu/
Conclusion

• Professional association as a focal point within the lifelong guidance system
  i. Providing quality training and networking opportunities for counsellors
  ii. Shaping and cultivating discourse
  iii. Influencing decision-making (e.g. LLG Strategy, curriculum reform)

• Training -> Capacity building -> Professionalisation -> Access and quality
Thank you for your attention