



## VET AND THE LABOUR MARKET, GUIDANCE AND OTHER SPECIFIC GROUPS

### ***A Leonardo Conference, The Voice Of Users In Guidance Conclusions and key recommendations***

The conference ***The Voice of Users in Guidance*** was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May in Ljubljana, Slovenia. It formed a part of thematic monitoring activities, which is an initiative funded by the European Commission that aims to increase the visibility of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme by exchanging experience and supporting the mainstreaming of results and findings into national and European vocational education and training structures.

The Conference was organised by **Thematic Group 1, “VET and the labour market, guidance and other specific groups”** which is lead by the Icelandic Leonardo da Vinci National Agency and supported by 11 other national agencies from Austria, Belgium (FR), Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

**“The Seminar is a very historic one in the field of guidance and also perhaps right across the field of topics covered by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. It is the first time that such a seminar has focused on the voice of the users of education, training and employment services, and in this particular case, on the voice of users of guidance services which exist in education, training and employment settings”**

*Dr. John McCarthy, Director, International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy.*

#### **The conference’s main conclusions and recommendations:**

- the theme of user involvement in creating and implementing guidance services needs to be highlighted and made more explicit at EU, national, regional, local and institutional levels;
- there is a need to develop more concrete and specific recommendations and tools for involving users in that could be applied at national level and taken into consideration in national contexts.

#### **There was an agreement that the following questions need to be addressed in future guidance projects, service and research:**

- How can the voice of users be promoted through, for example, the dissemination of available good practice examples at EU and national levels?
- How can the content and pedagogy of the initial and continuing training of guidance practitioners be changed so that guidance practitioners and managers of guidance services learn how to include users and potential users in the design, implementation, and evaluation of guidance services?
- How can best practice examples of user involvement be collected and shared in a more systematic and structured way, for example, by clustering projects?
- How can EU funded lifelong guidance projects support the work of the new European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network?

#### **An analysis of 94 Leonardo guidance projects was carried out prior to the conference by a panel of three guidance experts. Five Leonardo da Vinci projects were selected as particularly good examples of practice:**

##### ICTEM, Integrated Counselling, Training and Employment Method (2002-SI/02/B/F/PP-143012)

The project arose from a need to increase employability of young unemployed people who had little or no education or vocational training. The ICTEM method is based on the integration of counselling, training and employment provision. It offers a flexible approach and consideration of the participants’ needs, attained by the combination of group work and individual treatment. At all stages, intensive individual counselling and support for all beneficiaries was assured.

The main outputs of the project are:

- ICTEM Method of training, counselling and employment;
- manual for trainers;
- ICTEM Leaflet, Brochure, Workbook, Bookmark in English, Italian and Slovenian.



Further information on the projects results can be found at [http://en.kadis.si/index.php?menu\\_item=item\\_10357](http://en.kadis.si/index.php?menu_item=item_10357)

### **Friskie eu – Developing a model and methods for tutoring social skills in vocational education through peer group activities** (2003 – FI/03/B/F/PP-160014)

The challenge of this project was to increase the possibilities for students who have low social skills in finding their appropriate vocational area or field in the preparatory courses for initial vocational education. The project outcome consists of:

- a workbook and mentor's manual in English, Finnish, Swedish, Dutch and Norwegian
- a web-based learning material for the young person and a professional worker (teacher, study advisor etc.).

The outputs are available on the project website, [www.friskie-eu.fi](http://www.friskie-eu.fi)

### **PPS - Personal Profile and Support** (2004 - IS/04/B/F/PP-164004)

The aim of the project is to develop, try and test a, systematic tools to identify potential dropouts, analyse their individual needs and implement support. The method was developed in three steps and the project outputs are:

- the Risk Detector, an interactive tool designed for counsellors to identify students at-risk of dropping out. It includes interactive questionnaire designed for students entering the school;
- the Personal Profile, an interview scheme designed for counsellors. It is a systematic approach to assist at-risk students to examine their strengths, weaknesses and their learning environment and assist them in setting goals for their future;
- the Flexible Prevention and Support System. A training handbook for educational and vocational counsellors and other professionals at all school levels in English, Icelandic, Spanish and Norwegian and a support framework for professionals working with young learners to provide suitable support. An active cooperation and coordination between relevant bodies is established. The Flexible Prevention and Support System is currently being tested in Iceland, Norway, Spain and Slovakia.

All these materials are available on the project's website at [www.p-p-s.org](http://www.p-p-s.org)

### **VOGS - Vocational Guidance Standard Model for Deaf People in Europe** (2003 - A/03/B/F/PP-158019)

The project started from the situation of deaf people who face immense discrimination and disadvantages e.g. in receiving education in their own languages. The overall objective was to meet their needs for an open vocational training and labour market. The project's goals emphasise their active involvement and assisted them in becoming more competent in managing their transition. The outcomes are targeted towards VET teachers and trainers (workplace trainers and tutors) as well as disabled people and people receiving disability benefits. They are e.g.:

- a written criteria catalogue in English;
- guidance methods for the deaf (VOGS tandem method);
- model description with all of the tools (handbook and video in sign language etc.);
- curriculum for the VOGS educational and vocational counsellors training;
- a method script;
- VOGS Model Cases.

Further information on the project's results can be found at [www.vogs.at](http://www.vogs.at)

### **Workplace guidance for lower-paid workers** (2003 - ISL/03/B/F/PP-164001)

In many countries it has proven difficult, if not impossible, to reach lower-paid (and lower-skilled) workers in order to advise them on how they can possibly advance through learning new skills. The main objective of the project was to provide guidance for lower-paid workers at the workplace and increase their learning opportunities. The project delivered:

- an 100 hour online course on workplace guidance to vocational guidance counsellors, human resource workers and trade union activists in 8 languages: Czech, English, Finnish, Icelandic, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish;
- a database of articles and materials and a good practice guide on counselling for lower-paid and lower-skilled workers on the project's website.

The course material is available on the project's website, [www.workplaceguidance.eu](http://www.workplaceguidance.eu)

**Further information about the outcomes of the conference, Leonardo guidance projects as well as information about Thematic Group 1 activities can be found on [www.lmvet.net](http://www.lmvet.net)**

