



GOOD GUIDANCE STORIES – Case Studies as an Innovative Cross-cultural Training Material for Guidance Practitioners – GUIDE

¹Jasmin Zouizi, ²Diana Peitel

¹MetropolisNet EEIG, ²gsub-Projektgesellschaft mbH
jasmin.zouizi@metropolisnet.eu, diana.peitel@gsub.de

Abstract

GUIDE is funded under the LLP – Leonardo da Vinci from 1st December 2012 to 30th November 2013. GUIDE is carried out in a consortium of 8 partners from 7 countries (Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain).

Educational and vocational guidance is becoming more and more an important element of lifelong learning. Individuals have to handle multiple transitions. In these situations guidance plays a decisive role. Adequately trained career guidance practitioners are a prerequisite for a high quality guidance service. The project aim is to enrich the debate on continuous professional development of guidance practitioners through the development of teaching and training material in form of case studies.

The guidance practitioner's perspective is in the center of the project. Guidance practitioners have ideas about and experiences with relevant work situations which trainees must first learn to master. Therefore, one important step was to ask practitioners to describe the most important needs and relevant competences for a successful guidance process.

The first step in the project was the development of a questionnaire (filled in by 144 guidance practitioners). The results built the basis for 6 identified fields of competences: (1) Ethical practice, (2) Recognise & respond to client's diverse needs, (3) Develop ones' own capabilities and understand any limitations, (4) Communication facilitation skills, (5) Enable access to information, (6) Update own skills and knowledge.

In a next step every partner wrote one first case study draft and a corresponding teaching note draft which focused on one field of competence. Aside from the questionnaire results, interviews and focus groups have been used in order to receive enough information for the case study development. We decided for the case studies as method because they can be used in different settings and are useable for a wide range of guidance practitioners. Professionals must not only know things – they must be also able to act effectively and within given rules in their field. This makes the case study so interesting for the diverse field of guidance. It is not important to use the case with a specific approach; it is important to find a way to solve the case and thereby develop and strengthen specific skills.

Currently we are in the preparations of the case study testing which will be finished until April 2013. The testing will show if the case studies will withstand a reality check. In order to check if the case study works outside of the original organization, the cases won't be tested from the case study author organization, but from another partner organization. The results will be evaluated and interpreted and will form the basis for the finalization of the case studies and teaching notes in June 2013. Furthermore, the testing results will lead to the discussion of intercultural differences between the participating countries in regard to the characteristics of the different competences and skills.