Jubilee: IAEVG Newsletter # 50

Originally, the IAEVG Newsletter was produced in 3 languages (English, French and German), typewritten and mimeographed. It was essentially news, notes and jokes. Roni Hall, Northern Ireland, was editor of the Newsletter until 1976, when Stu Conger, Canada, took over. He added the Spanish version and included articles for practitioners and book reviews. This is the format to this day. The present editor is Dr. Peter Plant, Denmark. The printed version is on its last legs: most copies of the IAEVG Newsletter are now distributed electronically to the readership worldwide, 3 times a year in 4 languages.

IAEVG Annual Report of activities, 2003

2003 was another busy year for IAEVG, including new and firm links with major international organisations such as ILO, OECD, EU, UNESCO, CEDEFOP, ETF, the World Bank – and NBCC and NCDA

Good contacts have been maintained with our major international partners; UNESCO, UNEVOC, ILO, OECD, the European Union and the Council of Europe.

UNESCO
The jointly produced (IAEVG/IAC/UNESCO) Monograph, ‘Technical & Vocational Education and Training in the 21st Century – New roles and challenges for Guidance and Counselling’, was produced in 2003. Copies can be obtained free of charge from UNESCO, who are using the Monograph in their promotion of guidance and counselling around the world.

OECD
A close working relationship has developed in recent years with IAEVG members playing key roles in the review of ‘Policy Perspectives on Information Guidance & Counselling Services’. IAEVG was a joint sponsor of the OECD conference ‘Career Guidance & Public Policy’, Toronto, Canada, October 2003.

EUROPEAN UNION
IAEVG President Bernhard Jenschke and Vice President Dr Peter Plant and Board member Saša Niklanović became members of the European Lifelong Guidance Experts Group, which has a wide brief including quality criteria, qualification and delivery model issues. The group is helping to shape policy and process areas and a focus on lifelong learning is also a priority. The EU experts group prepared a Policy Handbook, several documents on the aims and quality of guidance, and the first EU Ministerial resolution on guidance was endorsed in May 2004.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
IAEVG continues to liaise with the Council of Europe and Graziana Boscato, from the Strasbourg Euro Guidance Centre, is the IAEVG liaison contact.
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)
The ILO has revised a previous recommendation on Human Resource Development and Training where careers guidance is also considered (see the article on p 3 in this Newsletter). IAEVG was invited to contribute to a draft document on this recommendation.

LIAISON WITH OTHER AGENCIES
NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (NCDA)
IAEVG and the NCDA help a joint Symposium in June 2004 in San Francisco prior to the NCDA annual conference. IAEVG Board member Prof. Raoul Van Esbroek led the organization of the Symposium with NCDA co-chair Prof. Ed Herr.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR COUNSELLOR CREDITATION (NBCC)
IAEVG have continued to work closely with the NBCC to consider how the IAEVG’s new International Competencies for Guidance Practitioners will align with NBCC Competencies. The initiative is long term and aims to develop a new and meaningful credential that will meet the needs of Guidance professionals in all countries.

IAEVG COMMUNICATIONS
International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IJEVG)
The academically refereed journal IJEVG continues to be the Association’s most popular international publication and our electronic monitoring system indicates that it is very well received by the readership. The editor Prof Raoul Van Esbroeck produced three volumes in 2003 (Vol 3, No. 1-3), which featured issues from across the world with particular focus on guidance in Australia, South Africa, the Nordic Countries, and on research and quality issues in guidance.

Newsletter
The IAEVG Newsletter is the organisation’s major tool for communicating with the membership. In 2003, three Newsletters were published # 45, 46 and 47 in English, French, German and Spanish. The editor, Prof. Peter Plant, included features on conferences, current news, individual and country initiatives, and book reviews. The Newsletter is available through www.iaevg.org. The direct electronic mailing of the Newsletter was very well received by members.

WEBSITE
The IAEVG website: www.iaevg.org continues to grow as a major communication link for IAEVG members. The Association webmaster, Michael Turcotte, has continued to develop and update the site and information is now available in French, German and Spanish.

COUNSELLOR RESOURCE CENTRE CRC
This is a joint initiative of IAEVG with Human Resource Development Canada and, under www.crccanada.org, it provides important support for counsellors in terms of their professional development and communication.

GLOSSARY
The IAEVG Glossary of terms continues to be available to members on CD from the Treasurer, Lyn Barham, at lynbarham@easynet.co.uk

THE ARCHIVE
The IAEVG Archives are located at the Federal Training Centre of the Bundesagentur für Arbeit in Manheim, Germany, and continue to be maintained by Professor Jürgen Schneider. All the 2002/03 conference and publication materials are now available for reference and IAEVG is very grateful to Dr Schneider for his on-going support of the organisation.
IAEVG CONFERENCES
One major conference took place in Bern, Switzerland, September 2003. Entitled ‘Quality Development in Vocational Counselling & Training’ it was attended by 768 participants from 56 nations. As well as some excellent keynote and standard conference sessions, the highlight of the three day event was professional visits across Switzerland.

IAEVG was a co-sponsor of the OECD/HRDC Conference ‘Guidance & Public Policies’, October, 2003, in Toronto, Canada. This conference was attended by 200 experts from 40 countries.

OTHER CONFERENCES
A number of other international conferences were attended by the President, or by Executive and Board members. Countries visited included Argentina, Belgium, France, Nigeria and Poland.

MEETINGS
A Board meeting was held in Switzerland in September 2003. The Executive Committee met in Paris in March 2003 and December 2003. The General Assembly also took place in September 2003, as did a National Correspondents meeting. Full notes of all meetings were prepared and circulated to Board & Executive members and brief reports were published in the Newsletter.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SWITZERLAND – SEPTEMBER 2003
The four yearly General Assembly provided an opportunity to consult the membership and to elect the Board of Directors who then elected the Executive Committee. The general report on the development of the association within the last four years focused on the three major areas:
• International Competencies for Guidance Practitioners
• The Paris Declaration of Guidance
• Work undertaken with UNESCO
A highlight of the event was the endorsement by the Assembly of the ‘International Competencies for Guidance Practitioners’ with recommendations for further action. From time to time the Association thanks active members by awarding Honorary Membership to individuals who have made a special contribution to IAEVG: Professor Dr Jose Ferreira Marques of the University of Lisbon, Portugal was awarded honorary membership.

ILO Recommendation on human resources development: Education, training, lifelong learning – and guidance
The International Labour Organization (ILO), on June 1st 2004 in Geneva, passed an important recommendation on education, training, and lifelong learning, which included a section on guidance. It updates and replaces ILO Recommendation No. 150 from 1975. This is high level international policy making which governments and the social partners must take seriously and implement

The recommendation recognises that education, training and lifelong learning contribute significantly to promoting the interests of individuals, enterprises, the economy and society as a whole, especially considering the critical challenge of attaining full employment, poverty eradication, social inclusion and sustained economic growth in the global economy. Education, training and lifelong learning contribute to personal development, access to culture and active citizenship.

The recommendation promotes the view that policies should

(a) facilitate lifelong learning and employability as part of a range of policy measures designed to create decent jobs, as well as to achieve sustainable economic and social development;
(b) give equal consideration to economic and social objectives, emphasize sustainable economic development in the context of the globalizing economy and the knowledge-and skills-based society, as well as the development of competencies, promotion of decent work, job retention, social development, social inclusion and poverty reduction;
(c) stress the importance of innovation, competitiveness, productivity and growth of the economy, the creation of decent jobs and the employability of people;
(d) address the challenge of transforming activities in the informal economy into decent work fully integrated into mainstream economic life; policies and programmes should be developed with the aim of creating decent jobs and opportunities for education and training, as well as validating prior learning and skills gained to assist workers and employers to move into the formal economy;

More specifically, guidance is mentioned repeatedly in the text, e.g.:
‘to promote equal opportunities for, and access to, career guidance and skill upgrading (…should be available to) all workers’.

A whole section highlights the pivotal nature of guidance in relation to lifelong learning:

Draft Meta-Criteria on Quality in Guidance

A CEDEFOP study introduces the idea of meta-criteria on quality in guidance

As part of the work programme of the European Commission’s Expert Group on Lifelong Guidance, CEDEFOP (the European Centre for the development of vocational training), commissioned an international group of experts from the Guidance Council (UK) and the National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling (NICEC) to undertake a preliminary study on ‘Quality Guidelines and Criteria in Guidance’ (2004). On the basis of earlier OECD reports, EU documents related to guidance and quality, and the responses to the career guidance policy reviews carried out by the OECD, Cedefop, the ETF and the World Bank, the report
* gives an overview of existing quality guidelines and criteria for guidance services and products; the principles and assumptions underlying the approaches, and the challenges of their implementation, within and across sectors
* captures good examples of policy and practice, particularly of citizen/user involvement
* identifies options for approaches at European level to assure quality guidance provision, with a particular view to identify how such criteria could be designed to be citizen-friendly and to take account of the diversity in guidance settings and systems among current and future Member States.

The idea behind the draft ‘meta-criteria’ is to ask the very basic question: ‘Do quality assurance systems in fact enhance the quality of guidance?’ This may seem an obvious question, but the answer is by no means a simple one. Thus, many guidance practitioners are sceptical towards ISO quality systems and the like, as they are mainly designed to ensure the quality of products. However, guidance is not perceived as a product.

Some of the main findings of the study are that there are in fact few full quality assurance systems that combine standards or targets, arrangements for monitoring compliance, sanctions or corrective procedures in the case of failure to meet standards, all leading to some form of quality branding. Where these do exist they are confined to a single or small range of sectors within a country. User-oriented features are found in statements of service or the collection of client feedback, but they are rarely at the core of a quality assurance strategy. Some countries are planning quality assurance systems, and in some sectors guidance is covered by systems applied to the host organisation, for example in schools. These make use of a number of different quality assurance models.
Inspired by the approach adopted by the European Commission Technical Working Group on Quality in VET, the study suggests a draft set of common core of criteria for quality development at European level. Member states could be invited to use these as a yardstick against which to measure the quality assurance systems they adopt, helping them to achieve systems at least comparable if not identical between countries and between sectors within a single country.

The study contains a number of good or interesting examples of practice. Further information:

Jennifer Wannan, email jwa@cedefop.eu.int
www.trainingvillage.gr/etv/Projects_Networks/Guidance/expertgroup/thematic_projects.asp

Ref:
CEDEFOP No: RP/B/JWA/QUALITY/003/03
Study on Quality Guidelines and Criteria in Guidance

Workplace Guidance: Internet-based training for guidance practitioners

Training workplace guidance practitioners via the Internet, Workplace Guidance is a European project under the Leonardo EU-programme on career development and guidance in the workplace

Low-paid workers often find it hard to access guidance due to lack of knowledge about such services and difficulty in accessing them, physically, mentally and sometimes even linguistically. An obviously useful starting place for proactive guidance is the workplace itself, with an essential role being played by employers and trade unions, in partnership with guidance practitioners. Currently, however, only a few examples of guidance for low-paid workers exist and they are not widely known. For this reason a European team, supported by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the EU, has gathered examples of good practice in this field, and developed methods and solutions that can be used by employers and trade unions. Thus, guidance in the factory for shift workers during breaks at night is a new concept for most guidance staff, as are Guidance Corners in the actual workplace, or peer guidance in the shape of Educational Ambassadors or Learning Advisors. A team of experts from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom have designed an online course (with readings, exercises, assignments, and further links) which provides an opportunity for workplace guidance practitioners to train on their own, in their own time, or in small study groups. National coordinators facilitate their training at www.gla.ac.uk/wg

Project Co-ordinator: Dr Pamela Clayton; email: P.Clayton@educ.gla.ac.uk

International Symposium 29-30 June, 2004 San Francisco, USA

For the first time ever, IAEVG and NCDA (National Career Development Association, USA) held a joint Symposium on ‘International Perspectives of Career Development’

A collaborative pre-conference symposium for the 2004 NCDA Conference in San Francisco was organised by IAEVG and NCDA on educational and vocational guidance and career development in an international perspective. The main speakers were Tony Watts, UK (on guidance polices in a global context), and Norman Amundson, Canada (on career theory/practice and global changes). The working groups included carefully selected topics, ranging from guidance methods to guidance policies.121 experts from 44 countries attended this highly successful and very well organised Symposium.
International Conference, September 14-16, 2005, Lisbon, Portugal
‘Careers in Context: New Challenges and Tasks for Guidance and Counselling’
Arranged by the Portuguese Institute for career Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Psychology and Education (University of Lisbon); Faculty of Psychology and Education (University of Coimbra), Education and Psychology Institute (University of Minho), University of Évora, Portuguese Career Guidance and Counselling Association, Institute for Employment and Professional Training (Ministry for Social Security and Labour) and Ministry for Education. Conference information, registration form etc is available from Prof. Helena Rebelo Pinto (Univ. Lisbon) rebelopinto@iop.ul.pt See: www.aiospconference2005.pt

International Conference, April 6-8, 2006, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico
"Guidance - Alternatives of Support for the Human Development"
In Cuernavaca, state of Morelos - South of Mexico City - this conference will analyse alternative aspects of career development and present alternative methods and ways of different guidance programmes. Conference languages: Spanish, English (and French if participation is sufficient).
Organiser: Autonomous University of the State Morelos UAEM, Cuernavaca. Contact: Daniel Pellycer. Email: pellycer@buzon.uaem.mx

International Conference, August 23-25, 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark
‘Cross-over: Guidance in Transition’
Cross-over exists in art (fusion music), in food (fusion kitchen), and in other cultural phenomena, such as language, ethnicity, and gender. In a global society, cultures mix. This also applies to career guidance which faces the challenges of becoming increasingly:
• cross-cultural: across cultural barriers
• cross-national: across national boundaries
• cross-medial: across different media, including various forms of ICT
• cross-methodological: across and beyond well-established guidance methods, including philosophy
This is what this conference is about: cross-over.
Pre PDI (Professional Development Institute) on Philosophical Counselling. Organiser: Nordic Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance, NFSY. Contact: www.nfsy.org

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