

Pomeranian region, Poland

Regional counsellors network

Keyword(s):

lifelong guidance,
counsellors, networking



Introduction

The project aims at creating a support system for career counsellors for the educational sector in the Pomeranian Voivodship, at increasing access to the educational, vocational and labor market information and at influencing the quality of career services in schools.

Main challenge

The coordinator of the initiative established networks of cooperation and self-study which gather career counsellors on the county/local level and on the regional level. 20 county career counselling consultants/coordinators were appointed, whose job is to support career counsellors in schools, create a network of people and organizations involved in career guidance, organize and coordinate meetings of the county network members regularly, collect relevant vocational information, facilitate contacts between schools and employers and disseminate information about vocational counselling. Networks are open and free of charge.

On the regional level there is a network of local, county career counselling consultants/coordinators who meet regularly every two months to discuss the challenges and learn from each other. The coordinator of the network is a regional career counselling consultant/coordinator established in Centrum Edukacji Nauczycieli (In-Service Teacher Training Centre) in Gdańsk, in the capital of the region.

Timing

Started in late 2016, ongoing

Objective

The main goal of the initiative is to create a support system for career counsellors from the educational sector in the Pomorskie region / Pomeranian Voivodeship. The activities also aim to increase access to educational, vocational and labour market information and influence the quality of career services in schools.

Target group

Professionals working in career guidance

Geographical range

Region of Pomerania

Stakeholders and partners

Schools (of different type and stage of education), psychological-pedagogical services, employment services, academic career offices, local employers, training organizations, independent experts etc.

Resources

Funding from ESF (European Social Fund)

Compliance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The project is in compliance with SDG 4.

Success parameters

During the year the number of members of all networks in the region increased from 234 in June 2017 to 412 in February 2018.

Impact

The project influenced the professional environment of career counsellors from schools and supported the development of relations and cooperation among career counsellors. Thanks to the network, they feel less alone when facing professional challenges, they can deal with their problems better, exchange their knowledge and career guidance know-how. Network meetings are opportunities to learn, try out new scenarios and topics, and get feedback from peers. Thanks to networks, career counsellors have an easier access to current information from the career guidance field. Career counsellors also share examples of best practice in cooperation with employers, which allows others to apply successful solutions in their schools.

Everyone in the network brings in their energy, talents, knowledge, emotions, motivations, life stories, needs etc.

Impediments

Financial barriers to develop new materials.

Replicability

The initiative can be replicated and adapted to different environments.

Website/Social Media profile(s) of the initiative

Website of the coordinator: <https://www.cen.gda.pl/>

@pomorskasiECDoradcow

To learn more, you can visit:

- <https://eaea.org/photographer/pomeranian-career-counsellors-network/> (interview with the coordinator published on the EAEA website)
- https://issuu.com/eaeapublications/docs/grundtvig_award_2018_full_version_w (Grundtvig Award 2018: Partnerships and cooperations, p. 28).

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