

PRESS RELEASE

New ICT competences for guidance: **the European project ICTSKILLS2**



The ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) are part of the daily practice of everyone and they surely represent a big chance to widen the possibilities to have access to knowledge, to improve the personal and professional relationships, to valorize the individual skills.

The ICT are quickly disseminating in the educational and vocational guidance fields as they offer many opportunities linked to the development and improvement of quality and the accessibility of the services.

In fact, guidance services are based both on the possibility to offer a wide access to information resources and on the capability of guidance practitioners to relate with citizens that have access to the service in order to offer customized guidance interviews, supporting tools that help in the decision process of users and in the planning of the educational and vocational choices.

As the ICT are very important in the modern guidance services it is strategic to enable all guidance practitioners to improve their specific competences in this field. They will be therefore in charge with using at the best the ICT potentialities in order to better the quality and the accessibility of guidance services.

The ICT SKILLS2 – ICT Tools and Training for E-Guidance Practitioners project started from these premises. It is promoted by ASTER Bologna e **funded by the European Commission – DG Education and Culture – through the Lifelong Learning programme.**

It is the second part of a research path that, starting from the ICT needs in guidance, carried out a methodological proposal and useful tools in order **to train guidance professionals to a qualified use of the best ICT tools for guidance within the lifelong learning systems.**

The model is based on the idea that the ICT can develop different roles in guidance: manage and give accessibility to information, favor communications and relationships, improve learning process and enable to experience useful experiences for guidance.

In order to valorise such important functions of the ICT specific competences are needed from guidance practitioners. They have been defined within the project through a map of guidance-related ICT competences that has become the theoretical basis of reference in order to carry out a training path in the ICT SKILLS field. That means those competences useful for project planning, developing and managing e-guidance services.

The model has been shared at a European level and, being it flexible, can be adopted at other national and sectoral levels.

The main project results can be summarised in the following outputs:

- ❖ A map of guidance-related ICT competences on-line;
- ❖ The identification of a European profile of the e-guidance practitioner;
- ❖ The testing in all partner countries of the training model on e-guidance competences through the delivery of training pilots;
- ❖ An open source platform where guidance practitioners will be able to identify and self-assess their own guidance-related ICT competences that they acquired in informal and non formal contexts. Such process will be able through the use of an on line tool for the competences' self-assessment, through the testing of certification and validation tools of those competences such as the e-portfolio, through the communication and exchange of experiences with other practitioners thanks to the use of specific on-line for a.

The project is directly addressed to **guidance practitioners** that carry out their professional activity within the lifelong learning systems (such as training bodies, secondary schools, universities and employment centres) and that use the ICT in order to deliver informationa and guidance activities to their clients.

The indirect target group of the project is composed by **stakeholders and decision makers** both at a national and transnational level who are potentially interested in the project results in order to **define/plan future politics and initiatives connected to the use of the ICT in guidance.**

A **final International conference**, promoted by Aster S. Cons. P. A., will present the obtained results during the project length and will face potentialities and critical issues connected to the use of the ICT in the guidance services.

The event will be held on **22nd October in the afternoon in Bologna** and the project partners will take part in it: Melius (Italy), Centro Studi Pluriversum (Italy), Cyborg (Italy), Forem (Spain), University of Santiago (Spain), ISE (Romania), CRAC (UK), University of East London (UK). They event will end with a round table coordinated by **Prof. Tony Watts** of NICEC (UK) during which experts in the field will share the project subjects. The programme of the event will be available shortly.

Booking form: http://www.aster.it/eventi/ict_skills2_final.php

For further information: www.ictskills2.org

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