

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NICE FOUNDATION 2017

Summary of the First Assembly of Founders at the University of Padova – October 5, 2017

On October 5, 2017, the Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE) held an Opening Ceremony from 18:30-20:30, where the NICE Foundation was formally established. During the ceremony, the present founders developed project ideas for the next three years, and elected the first Elections & Ethics Committee, as well as the first Board of Directors. 24 individual founders and representatives of university and organisational founders participated in the ceremony (4 HEI, 2 ORG, and 18 IND). Including guests, about 40 people participated in the ceremony. Whereas all participants engaged in discussion on possible priorities of the NICE Foundation in the coming years, only registered founders could participate in the elections.

1. PRIORITIES UNTIL 2020

Eleven proposals were made for the priorities of the NICE Foundation until 2020.

- Develop a quality label for degree programmes for the academic training of career practitioners
- Inform providers of national job descriptions for career counsellors about the European Competence Standards and the three types of career practitioners described by NICE
- Organise projects with practitioners as co-researchers
- Develop a European certification scheme for career practitioners based on the European competence standards
- Organise European mobility projects for students of career guidance and counselling to engage in research-based learning
- Organise innovative conferences for the further education of career practitioners and training providers, offering training credit for participants
- Ensure the sustainability of NICE by acquiring funds
- Offer “freelance doctorates” for career practitioners that are offered without employment at a university
- Review existing offers of academic training to see whether they live up to the European competence standards
- Develop ‘standard modules’ for areas of general training need of practitioners
- Develop ‘special modules’ for working with special-needs groups, e.g., refugees and people with disabilities

These priorities were collected through a brainstorming of all present people (mostly founders). People spoke in groups and then presented their ideas in the plenary, where they were recorded. The eleven proposals are not to be considered binding decisions of the Assembly of Founders.



2. ELECTION OF THE ELECTIONS & ETHICS COMMITTEE (EEC)

Dr Rebeca García Murias (University of Applied Labour Studies in Mannheim) and Prof Monika Petermandl (Danube University Krems) were elected to form the Elections and Ethics Committee. In this role, they will organise elections and votes at Assemblies of Founders until 2020. Also, they will be the principal contact for ethical questions in the foundation and mediate intra-foundational conflicts, should they emerge.

Upon a suggestion of Prof Christiane Schiersmann (Heidelberg University) who moderated this first election, the two candidates were jointly approved by a vast majority of the present founders in an open vote. Conducting an open vote for both candidates at once was approved by all present founders. All four represented HEI founders (3 votes each) approved the election of the two candidates, as well as both organisational founders that were represented (1 vote each). 15 of 18 individual founders (1 vote each) supported their election.

3. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOARD)

Six colleagues were elected to form the foundation's Board of Directors (*Board*) until 2020: Dr Anne Chant (Canterbury Christ Church University), Prof Dr Lea Ferrari (University of Padova), Johannes Katsarov (University of Zurich), Prof Dr Monika Kil (Danube University Krems), Peter Tielenius Kruythoff (University of Maastricht), and Prof Dr Dr Czeslaw Noworol (Jagiellonian University Krakow). Johannes Katsarov will perform the role of the foundation's Coordinator.

The Board election was moderated by Prof Monika Petermandl and Dr Rebeca Garcia as their first act as the Elections & Ethics Committee. In lack of a sufficient number of applications before the assembly, spontaneous applications and proposals were accepted. This decision had been communicated to all founders before the assembly by the NICE Sustainability Group. The six aforementioned founders offered to become Board members and introduced themselves and their plans to the Assembly.

Upon a suggestion of Prof Laura Nota (University of Padova), all six candidates were jointly approved by a vast majority of the present founders in an open vote. Conducting an open vote for all six candidates at once was approved by all present founders, since there was no competition between the candidates. All four represented HEI founders (6 votes each) approved the election of the two candidates, as well as both organisational founders that were represented (2 votes each). 17 of 18 individual founders (2 votes each) supported their election.

4. OTHER POINTS

4.1. OUTLOOK ON KRAKÓW CONFERENCE 2018

The date of the NICE Conference in Kraków has been scheduled for September 6-8, 2018 in the meantime. The Board was charged with determining this date as quickly as possible. It will be the first of the annual networking conferences, which NICE is planning to establish, and shall place a strong focus on workshops and collaborative activities for the professional development of career advisors, career professionals and career specialists. The Board will be charged with setting priorities in the preparation of the conference and engaging interested founders in relevant activities.

At the Kraków Conference, NICE will also establish working groups to begin working on future projects. An Assembly of Founders will be held to determine these working groups and the foundation's working priorities for the next years.

4.2. BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

In Padova, the electorate of present founders represented more than half of the 42 registered founders of the first generation. All in all, the registered founders of the first generation come from 18 European countries and represent 32 different organisations.

We have been approached by several other people over the past months and weeks, who are interested in also becoming founders. When you speak with relevant colleagues, please inform them about the NICE Foundation and invite them to become founders, as well. One of the best arguments for joining the NICE Foundation is that we can achieve a lot through the mere fact that we are a community with a legal body and common standards. The more institutions and people are part of the NICE Foundation, the larger its representational power will be.



Johannes Katsarov, Network Coordinator

Signed at Konstanz on October 20, 2017

