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***The Principles and Aims of Guidance and Counselling
for Sustainable Development in the Times
of Turbulence, The 5th International Conference
of the UNESCO Chair, Wrocław, October 19–20, 2022***

In October 2022, the autumn-enveloped Wrocław once again became the Polish capital of the international community of researchers and practitioners of counselling. The UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counselling (at the Institute of Pedagogy, University of Wrocław) together with the UNITWIN Network “Life designing interventions (counselling, guidance, education) for decent work and sustainable development” hosted several dozen speakers from almost all over the world as a unique group of participants in the 5th International Conference on *The Principles and Goals of Guidance for Sustainable Development in the Times of Turbulence*, which was held on 19–20 October 2022.

The event received the patronage of UNESCO, the Pedagogical Counselling Section of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Society for Counselling Studies. Over 50 papers were read, which added up to a mosaic of problems thematically framed by the main problem fields, such as counselling, climate change, the pandemic and other (not only social) turbulences. The issues were discussed from a variety of perspectives as the speakers hailed not only from the academic community, but also from educational institutions, foundations and associations. Importantly, the involvement of the UNITWIN members made the meeting salient and unique. The scientific committee of the conference was chaired by Professor Maria Eduarda Duarte (University of Lisbon, head of the UNESCO Chair, University of Wrocław) Professor Jean Guichard (INETOP-CNAM, Paris, honorary head of the UNESCO Chair), Professor Valérie Cohen-Scali (INETOP-CNAM, Paris) and Professor Sanna Vehviläinen (University of Eastern Finland), who are scientific coordinators of the UNITWIN Network. Over the several years of collaboration, the committee members and the speakers have established a community that works for the highest quality of the biennial

conference. The very scheduling and arrangement of plenary sessions and thematic sections promoted the sharing of reflections and experiences in a very friendly atmosphere, aided by the aura of the historic Oratorium Marianum, on the first day, and of the Institute of Pedagogy, on the second day.

The conference was opened by Professor Robert Olkiewicz, Rector of the University of Wrocław, and Professor Alicja Szerląg, Head of the University's Institute of Pedagogy. Subsequently, the participants were introduced to the issues of the conference by Violetta Drabik-Podgórna and Marek Podgórný, coordinators of both the UNESCO Chair and the UNITWIN Network for ten years now. Keynote addresses were delivered by Maria Eduarda Duarte (*Searching Rhetoric in Career Interventions: In Search of Lost Time*), Jean Guichard (*Career Interventions [Education and Counselling] at a Turning Point*) and Anna Paszkowska-Rogacz (*Courage versus Tolerance of Ambiguity in Young Adult Career Decision-Making Situations*). These inspiring talks invited the participants to discuss and seek answers to the question of how counselling interventions could contribute to building a better, harmonious life for individuals in the world of sustainable development.

The second part of the day was taken up by a symposium devoted to marginalized people and their needs in the field of career guidance. The symposium was convened by Annamaria DiFabio and Jacobus G. Maree, who had prepared materials and presentations, but in their absence the symposium was chaired by Maria Eduarda Duarte, Head of the UNESCO Chair. The other symposium presentations were delivered by researchers from Norway (Kirsten Marie Dalene), Israel (Rachel Gali Cinamon) and Finland (Sanna Vehviläinen). Afterwards, the participants divided into four thematic sections to explore the following questions: To what extent do the existing concepts and counselling practices meet the requirements of the contemporary turbulent reality? What new knowledge does contemporary counselling need to develop innovative and creative solutions for helping interventions? How can clients be supported in the process of adapting to turbulent reality? How should counselling dialogues be conducted to strengthen clients' potential and their sense of dignity and agency, despite the challenges they face?

Closing the first day of the meeting, the conference reception was an opportunity not only to continue the discussions, but also to celebrate Jean Guichard's jubilee amidst the extraordinary international community.

On the second day of the conference, the participants could take part in two excellent plenary sessions, filled with informative and thought-provoking talks. In the first session, the keynote addresses included Sanna Vehviläinen's *Guidance Interaction Practices between Agendas: Research Results and Practical Applications*, Magdalena Piorunek's *Education and the Labour Market: Future Scenarios and the Need for Counselling*, Jacobus G. Maree's *Optimising the Theory-Practice Synergy: Facilitating 'Best Practice' in Career Guidance and Counselling in 'Perilous' Times* and Maria Paula Paixão's *The Importance of Guidance and Counselling Using Multilevel Interventions and Life Projects in Times of Crisis*.

The keynote addresses were followed by a panel discussion focused on the essence of best practices in guidance and career counselling in a global perspective and shared realities, which was moderated by Valérie Cohen-Scali and featured contributions by Maria Paula Paixão, Vinicius Coscioni, and Fábio Gomes (*Coming of Age in Portugal and Brazil: Preparing Critical Career Transitions in Early Adulthood*), Valérie Cohen-Scali (*The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Career and Self-Construction of Vulnerable Emerging Adults and Perspectives for Renewing Youth Career Services*), Laura Nota, Maria Cristina Ginevra, Sara Santilli and Salvatore Soresi (*Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Societies: The Role of Career Designing*), Meenakshi Chhabra and Louise Michelle Vital (*Racial and Colonial Reckoning in Higher Education: A Global Social Justice*), Marcelo Afonso Ribeiro (*Using Discursive Validation as a Tool for Dealing with Legitimacy-Claiming in Career Counselling*) and Mary McMahon (*Systems Thinking: A Necessary Skill for Turbulent Times and Sustainable Development*). For the most part, the speakers from more than a dozen countries worldwide read their papers at the conference venue and in person. However, there was a group of scholars who could not make it to Wrocław for a variety of reasons, which did not prevent them from attending. Overcoming the geographical distance, they joined the other participants via the Internet and presented their papers in real time, proving their commitment to participation in the conference community.

The third and last part of the second day of the conference was truly special. It was staged as a poignant farewell to Maria Eduarda Duarte, who retired from her long-term position as the Head of the UNESCO Chair. Having been showered with thunderous applause, flowers and sincere thanks, Duarte then gave the floor to her successor, Cohen-Scali. The new president inaugurated the new term with a talk on the impact of ecological transition on the identity and skills of individuals in the workplace. The results of empirical research that she cited indicated that the eponymous ecological transition was indeed underway, marking a turning point, a change in the career paradigm. Specifically, the notions about the nature of work are expanding to include higher-order values related to the need to analyse the impact of work on the planet and climate. The opening and closing parts of the conference thus featured a joint reflection on the viable ways of promoting cooperation in and mobilising the community committed to career and life design interventions for sustainable development in the world of global crises.

The conference provoked inquiry into the complexity of the planetary crisis in the context of human work in the times of economic, social, political and personal turbulence. It opened new fields for discussion, encouraging people to look for innovative solutions supporting career stabilization, while respecting our planet, an attitude expressed in undertaking work consistent with the principles of sustainable development.