

In January 2020, the Erasmus+ Key Action 3 project, Career Skills Project was launched with the aim of organically growing into a unique Europe one-stop-shop that will help individuals understand, assess and develop their career management skills through a series of innovative tools. The Career Skills Project will produce 5 key products which will help the consortium to achieve its goal of becoming the go-to place where jobseekers can manage their career skills and support themselves towards gaining employment; and where career guidance experts, practitioners and centres can provide bespoke, up to date information about the ever-changing European career landscape.

Between September and November 2020, the project consortium carried out field research and gathered input and feedback from 110 career guidance experts, experienced practitioners and specialist career guidance centres from across Europe. Each of the project partners contacted 20 career guidance experts and practitioners from their own country, and as the UK partner, Aspire-igen is a member of the Euroguidance network, they also gathered data from an additional 10 external respondents from outside the project consortium countries.

The broad selection of respondents included experts from Euroguidance Bulgaria, NAVET and a CEDEFOP expert group, as well as career guidance professors, trainers and practitioners with more than 20 years of practical experience in the field from a range of diverse areas. In Finland, national and regional level policy makers, coordinators of career services administrations and heads of career services in universities and VET centres were contacted. The respondents in France included training managers, counsellors, research staff and the head of the Local Economic Development Office in a public authority. In Germany, we engaged with career and education counsellors and management staff of adult education centres.

Across the field research, the feedback was generally very positive, regarding all aspects of the Career Skills platform and project outputs. The overall consensus from the participants was that the Career Skills project provides a comprehensive set of tools which complement each other well and address a growing need within the European career guidance sector.

The feedback received from the experts and career guidance practitioners was both approving and constructive, with many of the comments expanding on how the project consortium could improve some areas of the tools to the benefit of career guidance industry experts, practitioners and end users.

Some of the feedback which is most pertinent and useful for the consortium is summarised below:

- *“Given that there is no unified communication network for career counsellors at the national level, I believe that this network can meet the needs of practitioners in the field.”*
- *“It is very valuable for sharing experiences and good practices.”*
- *“I find the map extremely necessary, practical and applicable from the point of view of the ever-increasing mobility of employment and training in Europe.”*
- *“It will facilitate communication between professionals and create a living and working network of career skills.”*
- *“Videos will facilitate the appropriation of MOOC for those who are furthest from employment. A tutorial on how to use MOOC will also facilitate its use.”*
- *“Generally, I find the catalogue useful for self-reflection and raising awareness of own competences.”*
- *“It is very interesting. It will serve the public very well and will immediately show the results that interest them”*
- *“There will be an exchange of practices, which is very interesting, as one will be able to learn from the other and evolve”*

The next steps of the Career Skills project will be the development of the 75-hour MOOC module content, which the consortium expects to be finished by May 2021.

## Career Skills Platform

<http://app.career-skills.eu/>



**The Career Skills Project** is a European initiative, which helps individuals of all ages understand, assess and develop their career management competencies through a free [Career Management Platform](#) available in 6 languages.

The 3-year KA3 initiative is coordinated by the [Business Foundation for Education](#) in Bulgaria and involves recognized career guidance experts and training professionals from the University of Jyväskylä - Finland, Réseau International des Cités des métiers - France, VHS Cham - Germany, Institute of Entrepreneurship Development - Greece, and Aspire-international in the United Kingdom.

The team has developed a comprehensive [Career Skills Catalogue](#) of 12 most essential competencies, identified as crucial and most demanded in the following decade across Europe and beyond. The Catalogue explains each skill and demonstrates the different levels of proficiency in a simple framework, similar to the one of the European languages. Users can identify their career skills level and needs for improvement, using the career skills assessment tool.



Further, a free [Career Skills MOOC](#) (massive open online course) will help them upgrade their career skills in the 12 areas. The online course will be demonstrated in seminars at the end of 2021. It will include video lessons and articles, practical cases and expert tips, as well as tasks and exercises which will help users upgrade their career management skills.

The free online [Career Service Map](#) links providers and individual who look for information, guidance and support. It enables career counselors to register in the career services map and thus be more easily found by potential clients. Visitors can search for the most suitable services by different criteria - location, type of service and target group. Moreover, the platform allows practitioners to demonstrate their capacity and share useful resources addressing career management skills, such as news, events, initiatives, good practices, online tools and training materials to users.



Thus, the project aims at becoming a one-stop-shop for professionals and citizens in Europe regarding career management skills.

For more information, follow the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Career.Skills.Project>.

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