



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski

- UNESCO Chair on
- Lifelong Guidance and Counseling,
- University of Wrocław
- Institute of Pedagogy

The **UNESCO Chair of Lifelong Guidance and Counselling** was founded at the University of Wrocław, Poland, in 2013. The Chair is part of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Program and is dedicated to promoting an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the field of educational and vocational counselling. It seeks to facilitate networking and collaboration of scholars affiliated with the high-level, internationally recognised universities and other higher education institutions in Europe, Africa, Latin America and other regions of the world.

The areas of lifelong career counselling that the Chair particularly addresses include the fostering of equal opportunities, development of vital career-related competencies, occupational mobility and assessment of various counselling projects and programmes. Open to diverse practical models, research frameworks and methodological paradigms, the Chair organise conferences and symposia to provide opportunities of sharing theoretical reflection, practical findings and research results, to disseminate the knowledge on lifelong guidance and counselling and to enhance the applicability of the scholars' expertise.

The Chair's major objectives are:

- To create a widely accessible platform of career counselling methods, techniques and tools;
- To promote exchange of information on career counselling through the foundation of the Observatory, international conferences and open lectures;
- To design and develop vocational counselling curricula and support the professional development of career counselling specialists and practitioners;
- To coordinate research projects and programmes, supervise doctoral dissertations and organise Visiting Lecturers' exchange;

As an extension of the work the UNESCO Chair created in 2017 an UNITWIN cooperation program under the auspices of UNESCO ***The international network Life designing interventions (counseling, guidance, education) for decent work and sustainable development***. This network brings together the following higher education institutions: University of Wrocław (Poland), Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (Paris – France), University of Padua (Italy), University of Bordeaux (France), University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), University of Lausanne (Switzerland), Université Catholique de l'Ouest (Angers,

France), University of Iceland, University of Lisbon (Portugal), , University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), Université Laval (Québec), University Adam Mickiewicz (Poznan, Poland), Lesley University (Cambridge, USA), University of Florence (Italy), University of Pretoria (South Africa), University of Eastern Finland at Joensuu, University of Lower Silesia (Wroclaw, Poland).

The main aims of the UNITWIN NETWORK are:

- to enhance scholarly collaboration for the purpose of the synergy of skills and resources for designing support programmes and methods targeted first of all at disadvantaged, marginalised and/or excluded individuals;
- to promote lifelong learning opportunities and to contribute to improving the quality of counselling services for various recipient groups;
- to define and disseminate high quality standards of education for all and lifelong learning;
- to implement innovative training programmes for future counsellors, based on the standards shared by all the Network members, and to improve competences of counselling professionals and practitioners;
- to create an available exchange platform of good practices and to publish accounts and studies of these good practices;
- to do research and publish scholarly studies on innovative concepts and findings of the executed research projects;
- to organise conferences, theme-focused seminars and scholarly meetings on lifelong guidance and counselling for the Network's members, to share good practices, innovative ideas and research project findings;
- to contribute to the professional development of students and teachers/counsellors in the scope of guidance and counselling through organising local conferences, work group training sessions and student mobility schemes;
- to collaborate with other UNESCO chairs on related issues.