



**Socrates Programme  
Comenius 3 (Comenius Networks)  
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**“CareerGUIDE for Schools”**

**Evaluation Results**

**2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference Kaunas, Lithuania  
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## 1) Introduction

This document presents the evaluation results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> international CareerGUIDE conference in Kaunas/ Lithuania, held in October 2007 (<http://www.ea.gr/ep/careerguide/conference2007>). Based on these results, the concluding chapter provides recommendations for the improvement of further CareerGUIDE events.

About 130 people – mainly from Lithuania, with diverse professional backgrounds (e.g. teachers, psychologists, counsellors, social pedagogues) – participated in the conference.

After the conference a link to an online evaluation questionnaire was available on the CareerGUIDE website (<http://www.career-guide.eu>). The questionnaire was available in the eight languages of the partner countries (English, German, French, Romanian, Bulgarian, Greek, Lithuanian, Estonian). Conference Participants were invited by e-Mail to fill in the questionnaire

## 2) Results

### Personal Data

Nineteen people (2 male, 17 female) from four different countries (see figure 1) filled in the online questionnaire. The majority of the participants chose Lithuania as their place of origin. The age of these people ranged from 24 to 55 years with a relatively coherent distribution between these values.

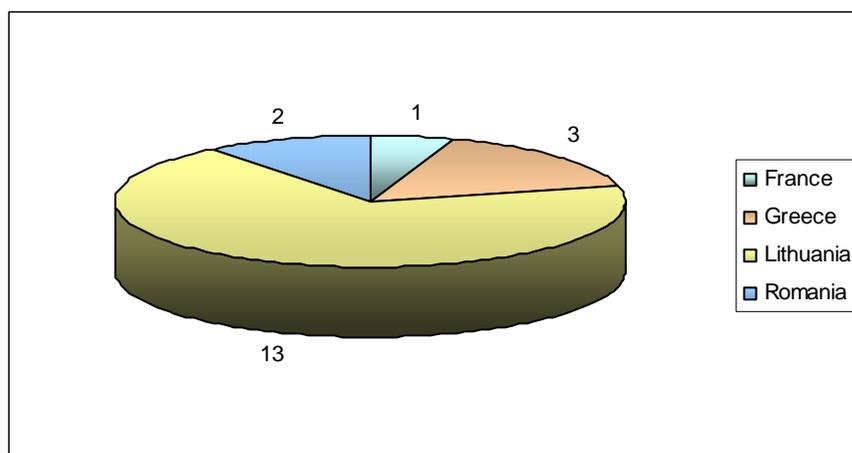


Figure 1. Place of origin of participants

Professional experience ranged from 0 to 10 years. The majority of the respondents (16) have worked in their profession between 0 and 5 years. Two respondents had work experience for 6 and 10 years, respectively. An overview about the professional background of the respondents is presented in figure 2. In the category “Other” the following professions were named: psychologist (3), social pedagogue (2), engineer (2), counsellor for vocational guidance (1), specialist of education department (1).

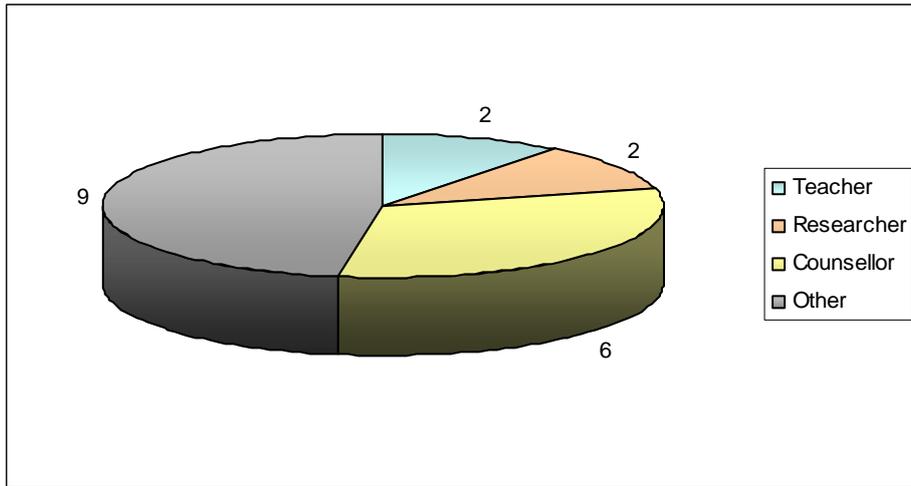


Figure 2. Profession of respondents

**Data on the CareerGUIDE event – closed questions**

Question 1: Where did you find information on the event?

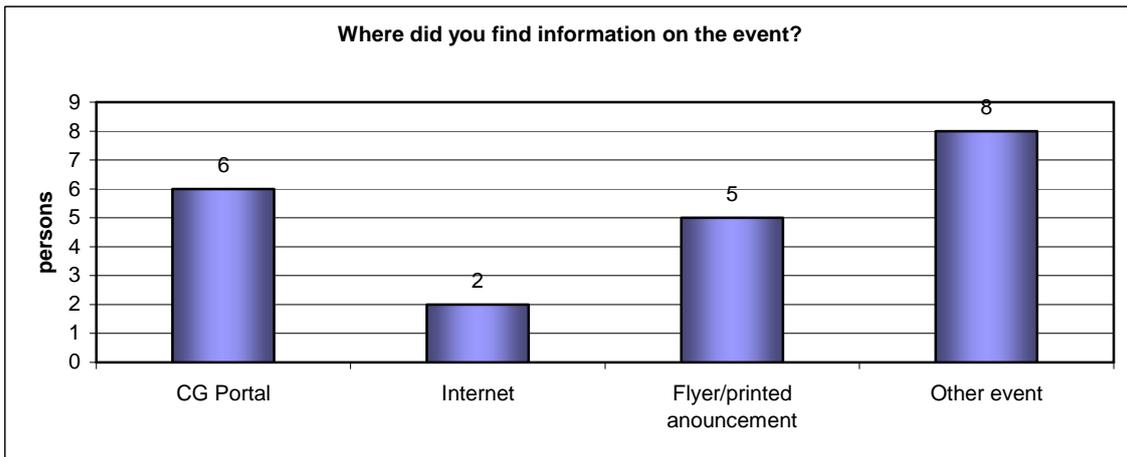


Figure 3: Distribution of answers to question 1

The participants retrieved information on the event from three main sources. The internet was a source for eight respondents. They found the required information either on the CareerGUIDE portal or received it via e-Mail. Information disseminated on other events (e.g. project meeting in Strasbourg, in school/gymnasium) was important for eight people and printed information was relevant for five respondents.

For the following blocks of questions the degree of agreement was questioned. The items were to be rated on a five point scale:

1 – very low, 2 – low, 3 – medium, 4 – high, 5 – very high

**a) Preparation Activities (Average: 3,53)**

Question 2: If there were any costs: The costs were appropriate.

Question 3: The information on the event was distributed early enough.

Question 4: The information sent out in advance of the event was sufficient.

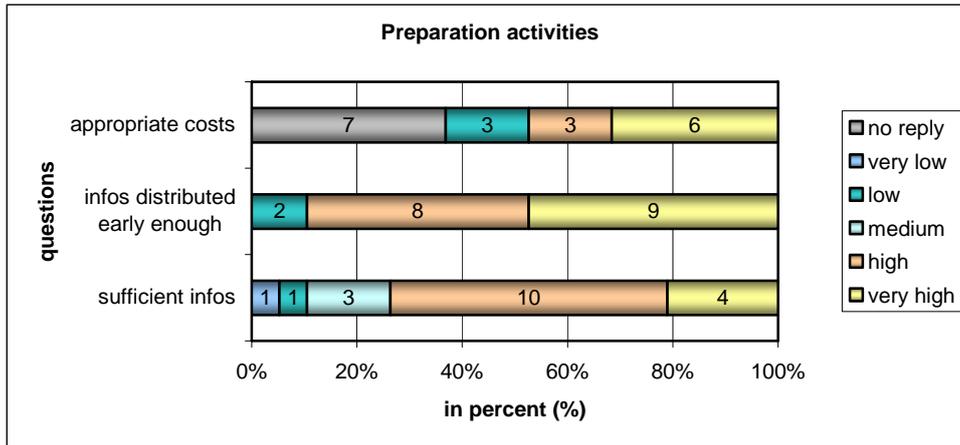


Figure 4. Answers to questions 3-4

**b) Organisational Issues (Average: 3,60)**

Question 5: The venue was appropriate for the event (size, accessibility, etc.).

Question 6: The application of presentation media was appropriate.

Question 7: If you needed translation: The translation provided was good.

Question 8: The structure of the event was clear.

Question 9: The event should have lasted longer.

Question 10: There was enough time to cover all the items of the agenda.

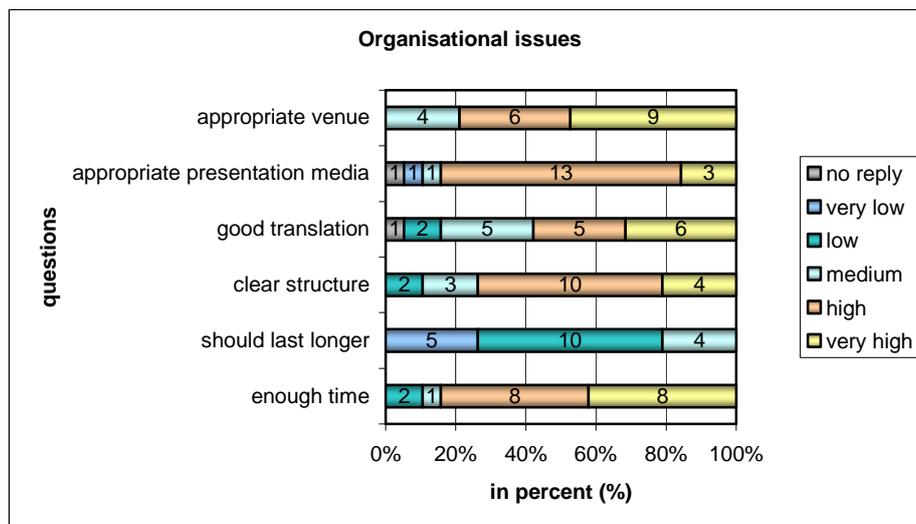


Figure 5. Answers to questions 5-10

**c) Content/Results (Average: 3,74)**

- Question 11: Enough material for further information (handouts, hyperlinks, etc.) was provided.
- Question 12: The speakers were well prepared.
- Question 13: The objectives of the event were clear to you.
- Question 14: The presented information was too theoretical.
- Question 15: The presented information was of relevance for your work.
- Question 16: The presented information should have been more detailed.
- Question 17: The presented information came up to your expectations.

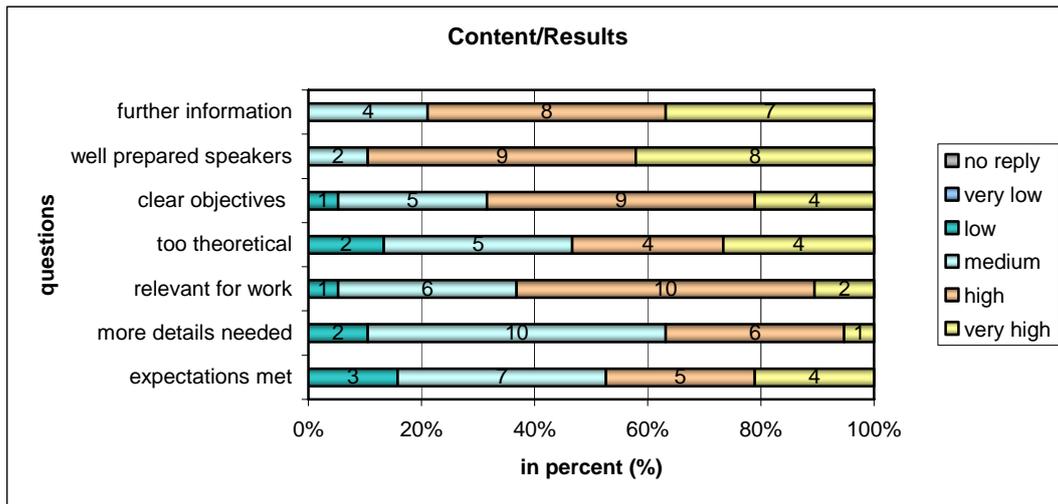


Figure 6. Answers to questions 11-17

**d) Interactivity (Average: 4,08)**

- Question 18: The coordinators/ lecturers integrated the participants.
- Question 19: Questions of the participants were answered during the event.
- Question 20: There was enough time for discussion.

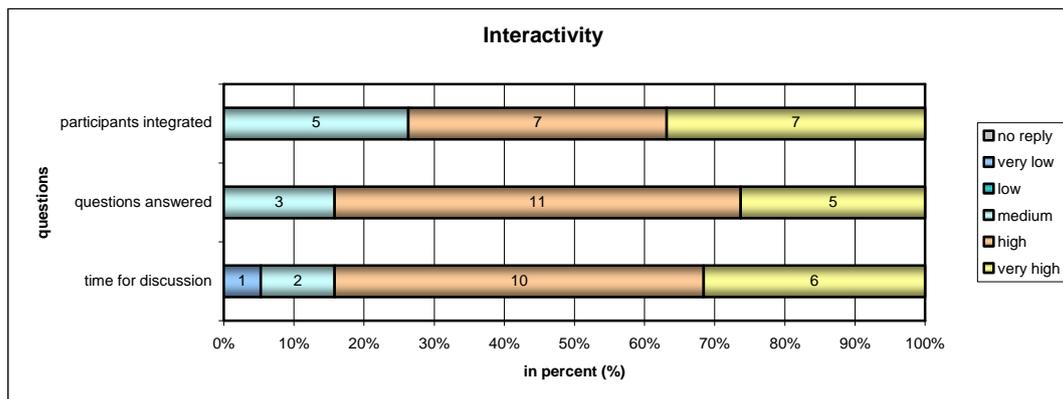


Figure 7. Answers to questions 18-20

## Data on the CareerGUIDE event – open questions

In addition to the closed questions the participants were asked an open question about their reasons for participating in the conference. They also had the possibility to state any further comments at the end of the questionnaire.

### 1) *What was your reason for participating in the event?*

Most respondents (8) participated because of a general interest in career guidance, e.g. because it was relevant for their work. This includes an interest in information about career guidance practice in other European countries. Additionally, two respondents pointed out a personal knowledge gap in the field of career guidance and one respondent needs the information because of being new at work in this field. Five of the respondents participated in the conference as speaker/ presenter or project partner.

### 2) *Further comments: Please note anything that you regard as important and that was not covered by the items above (e.g. what was good, what should be improved).*

Several different responses were given to this question, showing the different perception and opinions of the respondents.

With regard to the conference venue, it was welcomed by one respondent that lunch was provided at the place, whereas the hall itself was considered inconvenient by another respondent.

The synchronous translation was appreciated by one respondent. However, another respondent pointed out that the technical issue of translation needed improvement.

Three respondents agreed on a lack of practical issues during the conference. There was too much presentation of theory. Practical tasks and advices (e.g. by involving working counsellors) would have been appreciated.

## Observation by IFS

All participants received a folder with information about the agenda and presentations (e.g. abstract). There were different versions for Lithuanian and English speaking people and the English version did not contain translations of the Lithuanian abstracts. The agenda was clearly structured and due to flexibility with the duration of breaks compensation for too long speaking times was easily possible. The conference room was appropriate for the number of participants.

Speakers and moderators asked for questions at the end of their presentation. However, there was no special encouragement for discussions and the audience was rather passive. The morning session ended before the scheduled time.

Nearly all participants were female (only one or two male participants, apart from project partners). The Lithuanian partners explained that this is typical in their country for professions related to career guidance. Nearly all participants were Lithuanian (except for the project partners).

The CareerGUIDE portal was presented during the conference. However, an invitation to become a member of the portal and participate in Comenius networking activities should have been expressed explicitly. The number of Lithuanian network members in the CareerGUIDE portal did not increase after the conference (status: December 2007).

### 3) Summary

Most participants were from Lithuania. In accordance with the Lithuanian ratio of men and women working in the field of career guidance the majority of participants was female.

*Preparation activities:* The costs of the event were assessed appropriate; the information was distributed well in advance of the event and satisfied the requirements of most respondents.

*Organisational issues:* The venue and presentation media were adequate. There was enough time to cover the items of the agenda and the majority of respondents did not wish for a longer event. The structure of the event was perceived as clear by most respondents; however some of them would have appreciated more clarity. Translation was good.

*Content/ Results:* The speakers were well prepared and further information related to the presentations was provided in sufficient quantity. However, some of the participants would have preferred less theoretical information and more details and practical advices. In general, the presented information was relevant for the work of most of the respondents and met their expectations.

*Interactivity:* Although the observation revealed rather few activity from the audience, the respondents perceived the situation as highly interactive. The integration of participants by the speakers was perceived as good, questions were answered and there was enough time for discussion.

#### Recommendations for the improvement of future CareerGUIDE events

- More participants from other countries should be invited (including a speaker from the Comenius Programme) in order to have an international conference targeted to the Comenius Network objectives.
- The event should be structured carefully in order to provide clarity for the participants.
- Translations (abstracts) of non-English presentations should be available for the international audience.
- Too much presentation of theoretical information should be avoided and practical advice should be included (e.g. involve career counsellors).
- The moderator should encourage discussions more actively (e.g. ask participants for their questions, experiences and opinions).
- A clear invitation and possibility to register for the CareerGUIDE portal at the venue could directly attract new members to the network (e.g. provision of a computer working place where a consortium partner supports interested participants with the registration process and presents the main content of the website)