

Careers Guidance Exchange

Naples, 18-22 April 2005

Actions to Combat Truancy and Social Exclusion



**Anna Murphy, Personal Adviser (Guidance),
Careers Management Futures**

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Careers Guidance Exchange Programme

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Actions to Combat Truancy and Social Exclusion

Introduction

This report is a summary of a one week placement in Naples, Italy for guidance professionals from across Europe to exchange experience and practice regarding strategies to combat social exclusion.

In the UK, Careers Europe is the organiser of this placement. It's the UK National Resource Centre for International Careers Information, and it provides resources to Careers services, Connexions services and to other information and advisory services throughout the UK. Careers Europe also is involved in developmental and research projects including the annual Careers Exchange programme. This programme is an opportunity for guidance practitioners to discover how guidance works in other European countries. Placements are usually for 1 week and many European countries take part. They are funded by the European Union's Leonardo da Vinci programme, which was set up to develop vocational training across Europe.

This placement was hosted by a guidance centre in Naples called Fondazione IDIS, and I was part of a group of 7 European participants with guidance backgrounds. They were:

- 2 educational psychologists from Spain, who are co-ordinators of student support services in schools,
- 2 Job Centre advisers from the Czech Republic,
- a French guidance worker who works with young people in schools and in a guidance centre,
- another colleague from the UK, also a PA (Guidance)

The Italian hosts were responsible for putting the week's programme together, and we took part in presentations, discussions and visits to various organisations and projects on the theme of social exclusion.

For this report, I've included a copy of the week's programme of activities, a report on each day's activities, a summary of the main points I learnt during the week, and a list of useful internet references for further information. I've also written a brief description of some of the social and economic features of the Naples area, as I believe this helps contextualise the theme of the placement and the activities we took part in.

Naples – a Social and Economic Perspective

Italy is a divided nation, socially, economically, geographically and culturally. There is a big north-south divide: the north of Italy is much more industrial, more prosperous and therefore has a more developed infrastructure. The majority of the big Italian industries are in the north and there are many more job opportunities compared to the south.

The south continues to be more agrarian, with its main industries being farming, food production and tourism. For many years, numerous southern Italians have migrated to the north or abroad to look for work, and continue to do so. Lack of development in the south of Italy has resulted in numerous social issues, e.g. high unemployment, poverty and crime. Naples in particular has suffered from extreme poverty and lack of basic amenities for the huge population living in the city's slums. Much organised crime is controlled in Naples by the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia.

Recent Italian government legislation has led to increased decentralisation, giving more control and autonomy to each of the 20 Italian regions, allowing them to decide and manage their own affairs and public services. Many Italians feel that this will exacerbate the social and economic problems of the south.

It is against this backdrop that many of the organisations and projects that we visited on this exchange programme were created at a local and regional level to try and address the issues of high unemployment, lack of opportunities and ensuing social problems.



Academia exchange/Programme - Venue: Naples, Italy April 18-22 2005

When	What	Where	Who
18.04.05	Meeting point	Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza Via Coroglio 57/d - Napoli	Ms Daniela Varone, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
9.30 - 10.00	Welcome to Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza Participants' introduction Visit to the Training and Employment Department	Training and Employment Department Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza Via Coroglio, 57/d - 80124 Napoli - Italia - tel. +39 081 7352493 Room A	All participants
10.00 – 10.30	Presentation of Città della Scienza		Ms Anne Marie Bruyas Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
10.30 – 11.00	Presentation of the Business Innovation Centre	Business Innovation Centre Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza	Ms Carolina Cortese, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
11.00 – 11.30	Visit to the Business Innovation Centre		
11.30-12.30	Visit to the Science Centre	Science Centre Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza	Mr Gino Cerri, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break		
14.00 – 15.00	Presentation of the Italian Education and Training System and Labour Market Situation What about the school truancy situation in Italy?	Training and Employment Department Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza Room A	Ms Daniela Varone, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
15.00 – 16.30	Workshop: participants' presentation of Education and Training System and Labour Market Situation in their countries (one presentation per country) What about the school truancy situation in France, UK, Spain, Czech Republic?		All participants



Academia exchange/Programme - Venue: Naples, Italy April 18-22 2005

19.04.05	9.30 - 10.45	Presentation of ICTEM Project	Training and Employment Department Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza Via Coroglio, 57 - Napoli Room A	Ms Daniela Varone Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
	10.45 – 11.00	Presentation of “Orientamento, Formazione & Occupazione” Project		
	11.00 – 11.15.	Presentation of “ICT Skills for guidance counsellors” Project		
	11.15– 11.30	Presentation of “Basic Skills for Work” Project		
	11.30 – 11.45	Presentation of Learn.Empowerment - Self-directed Learning for Low-skilled Unemployed People” Project		
	11.45 – 11.55	Presentation of “GenderNet” Project		
	12.00 – 12.30	Visit to the Resource Centre Ipazia “Women in RST(Research, Science, Technology)	Module 19 Incubatore	Ms Ilaria Trotta Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
	12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break		
	14.00 – 15.00	Presentation of “OVEST – I giovani partecipano allo sviluppo di Bagnoli”Project	Training and Employment Department Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza Via Coroglio, 57 - Napoli Room A	Mr Luca Simeone, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza
15.00 – 16.30	Workshop: participants presentation of projects, actions, guidance and training methodologies and tools to prevent phenomena of young people’s school truancy and social exclusion.		Ms Daniela Varone, Fondazione IDIS – Città della Scienza All participants	



Academia exchange/Programme - Venue: Naples, Italy April 18-22 2005

When		What	Where	Who
20.04.05	10.30 - 11.30	Visit to the Infomagiovani Opportunities and enterprises promoted by private and public bodies for young people	Informagiovani Comune di Pozzuoli	Mr Macrì Nicodemo Via Virgilio 10 c/o Stadio comunale D. Conte Pozzuoli (NA)
	11.30-12.30	Visit to the Employment Centre of Pozzuoli Presentation of services and projects carried out by the Employment Centre of Pozzuoli	Employment Centre of Pozzuoli	Mr Bruno Acconcia Mr Ciro Fevola Employment Centre of Pozzuoli
	12.30 -13.00	Coffee break		Via Virgilio Pozzuoli (NA)
	13.00 - 14.30	Integrated actions: Schools and Employment Centre of Pozzuoli together to combat school truancy and favour the culture of services for the employability		
		FREE TIME		

When		What	Where	Who
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Academia exchange/Programme - Venue: Naples, Italy April 18-22 2005

21.04.05	9.30 – 11.20	Visit to the school laboratories LabTeD (Laboratory of Didactics Technologies) New learning processes through the multimediality	ITIS Galileo Ferraris	Mr Nicola Cotugno ITIS Galileo Ferraris Via Labriola, lotto 2/G - Scampia - Napoli
	11.30-12.15 12.15-13.10	Music performance – Laboratory permanent orchestra Visit to the active school laboratories Presentation of S.C.A.M.P.I.A. Project (Science, Culture, Art and Multimediality for the Innovation of Learning Processes)	SMS Levi	Ms Maria Grazia Silverii SMS Levi . Via Bakù, Rione Scampia 29. Napoli
	13.15-14.15	Lunch offered by students' mothers		
	14.30 – 15.30	Visit to the Employment Centre of Scampia Presentation of services and projects carried out by the Employment Centre of Scampia	Employment Centre Scampia	Mr Giannandrea Trombino Employment Centre Viale della Resistenza Scampia - Napoli
	16.00-16.30	Visit to the Piazza Telematica (Telematic Square) ICT and Territorial Organization	Piazza Telematica	Ms Alessandra Bocchino/ Ms Giovanna Stompanato Piazza Telematica Via Labriola Scampia -Napoli



Academia exchange/Programme - Venue: Naples, Italy April 18-22 2005

When		What	Where	Who
22.04.05	10.00 –13.00	<p>Presentation of Studio Staff</p> <p>Presentation of LDV Project "Against Abandon "(Against students - Against students' abandon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project - Context Analysis: presentation of results - Drop-out's communication styles <p>Presentation of Estia Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project: action for the employability of women in the "flegrea" area - ESTIA services: answer specific needs - ESTIA a year later: results and perspectives <p>Presentation of tools used into two areas: Organisation and Selection</p>	Studio Staff Napoli S.r.l.	Ms Matilde Marandola Ms Adele Salvatore Studio Staff Napoli S.r.l. - Via R. Bracco n° 15/a Napoli
	13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break		
	15.00 – 16.00	<p>CEICC - European Centre for Information, Culture e Citizenship of Naples Europe and Information European Citizenship</p> <p>Final evaluation, discussion and questions</p>		

Details of Careers Guidance Programme – Daily Activities

Monday 18 April

Introductions and presentations – Fondazione IDIS, Citta della Scienza

We met our Italian hosts at the Training and Employment Department's office of Fondazione IDIS at Citta della Scienza (Science City) in the west of Naples. The morning was taken up with participant introductions where we each spoke briefly about our job roles and we were introduced to the activities of the Citta della Scienza.

Fondazione IDIS - Citta della Scienza was founded in the late 1980's to encourage local enterprise and promote the use of science and technology in an underdeveloped region of Italy. It's housed on the site of a former steel factory which used to employ 20,000 local people. Fondazione IDIS is a private, non-profit making organisation whose main aims are to contribute to regional regeneration and job creation through reskilling and supporting new businesses and to become a centre of excellence for science and technology by supporting research and innovation. The centre and its activities are funded by the region, the Department of Education and Research and the European Union. The Citta della Scienza site includes:

- the science museum & exhibition centre
- a conference centre
- a centre for vocational guidance and training
- a business innovation centre (support for new businesses)

The Training and Employment Department offers guidance and training to individuals and local organisations such as schools, job centres and local government, SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and community organisations. As well as offering careers guidance they run a range of training courses from basic IT skills to management training and have just opened a resource centre for women involved in scientific and technological research. More information about the work of Fondazione IDIS – Citta della Scienza can be found on www.cittadellascienza.it.

During this introduction we discovered that, in Italy, the profession of 'careers adviser' such as we know it in the UK, does not exist. There is no statutory entitlement for young people to gain access to careers guidance and information at school, and there is no national training and accreditation for guidance professionals, nor a national body to represent guidance professionals. Careers advice and guidance provision is not organised at a national level and, where available, guidance is offered at a regional level by a variety of public and private organisations, often in an ad-hoc way. Fondazione IDIS is working in partnership with other local professionals who work with young people, e.g. teachers in schools, the local Employment centres, to offer careers advice and training to local young people and unemployed adults.

In the afternoon each country participating on the programme presented information on the education and training systems and labour market information for their country. The Careers Europe website has details of this, www.careerseurope.co.uk, but for this report I'd like to highlight some issues from recent education reforms in Italy:

- Italian education reforms in 2003 have raised the compulsory school leaving age from 14 to give each young person the ‘right’ to education or training up to the age of 18 or until a qualification is obtained.
- A credit system will be introduced between the ‘Licei’ (academic high schools) and vocational secondary schools to allow students to swap between the two systems.
- Links between schools and training providers to introduce periods of extended work experience.

In Britain we have the advantage of nationally recognised training qualifications such as the NVQ. In Italy there is not such a system, and these education reforms allow for greater decentralisation and autonomy for each of the regions, with the risk that each region will develop its own form of training qualification which may not be recognised outside of that region.

The presentation on the Italian labour market highlighted the following:

- The unemployment rate is currently 8.4% (UK figures 4.9%), but with large regional variations; the south of Italy has a higher unemployment rate than the north or central areas.
- An increase in the number of women in employment.
- A continuing decrease in jobs in agriculture.

Recent Italian labour market reforms have given employment centres a new role to work with other professionals to provide guidance and support for job seekers (similar to the role of Job Centre New Deal Advisers in the UK), and there are now national databases for job search and job matching.

The new reforms also recognise the importance of vocational training and the recording of skills and achievements in a portfolio, a ‘citizen’s training record book’, but as I mentioned earlier, as each region is becoming increasingly responsible for all its activities, no national system of training qualification is being proposed.

Tuesday 19 April

Presentations on projects – Fondazione IDIS

This morning we learned about a variety of projects undertaken by the Training and Employment Department of Fondazione IDIS in collaboration with other regional and international agencies.

ICTEM project – Integrated counselling, training and employment method

The first of these was the ICTEM project – Integrated Counselling, Training and Employment Method. The project was developed and piloted from partnerships in 4 European countries, Italy, Slovenia, Ireland and the UK (Jobcentre Plus). The project was aimed at helping the young unemployed (16-25 years old) with little or no qualifications. ICTEM offered the pilot group in each country up to 9 months support, involving individual interviews and group work consisting of a programme of vocational guidance, personal and social development, confidence building, job search skills and the opportunity to develop basic skills.

The Italian pilot group found the project very helpful, as out of an original group of 23 young people, 17 completed the programme and by the end of the programme 6 had progressed on to education or training. A trainer's manual was also written so the exercises and activities can be used by other organisations working with this client group. This manual has been translated into a variety of languages, so organisations across Europe can have access to it.

As listed on the programme for the week, our Italian hosts then presented several other projects which work with young unemployed people encouraging the development of basic skills, confidence and personal development which I believe are similar to e2e courses in the UK and the types of New Deal for Adults courses run by the Jobcentre.

Details of these projects can be accessed through the website www.cittadellascienza.it

Ovest project – Citta della Scienza

In the afternoon we met the organiser of a project called 'Ovest', aimed at getting local young people involved in debates and activities regarding the regeneration of the local area of Bagnoli, an area which suffers from economic underdevelopment and high unemployment. Many young people expressed a desire to develop more green and open spaces for leisure and cultural activities, which would improve the quality of life for local people but also potentially create jobs.

Participants' presentations – projects aimed at preventing social exclusion

Later, each of the other participating countries presented a project from their country aimed at preventing social exclusion. Certain similarities between countries were noted:

- Social exclusion and truancy are more prevalent in areas of deprivation and high unemployment
- Young people start to truant from school if they do not feel engaged in the curriculum, feel that their progression opportunities are limited, have learning difficulties or their learning style is not catered for.
- There is a lack of training opportunities for young people that lead on to real jobs.

- Young people have unrealistic expectations about the world of work, starting salaries, or are not interested in the range of employment opportunities on offer.

Our colleagues from across Europe seemed impressed by the role of Connexions and the PA, and systems of recording issues and monitoring progress such as the APIR. They seemed to think the UK was much more advanced in its system of young people's guidance and support, despite the imperfections in our system that I and the other UK PA raised.

Wednesday 20 April

Informagiovani Project Pozzuoli

Today we were based in a suburb of Naples called Pozzuoli to look at a couple of projects that have been set up by private and public bodies to support young people. The first was the Informagiovani Project, an information centre aimed at 18-30 year olds which provides information and advice on education, work, health issues and free-time activities. Unfortunately we were unable to visit the centre that morning as it was being used by the Employment Centre for staff interviews, but we met its co-ordinator, who told us that, in the whole of Italy, only the Campania region (which Naples is part of) has legislated to set up this sort of information centre to support young people.

Employment Centre Pozzuoli

We then met 2 representatives from the Employment Centre of Pozzuoli who told us about a couple of new projects they have been involved in to help prevent young people's social exclusion. With the introduction of current legislation and the setting up of local initiatives, they felt their role had changed and expanded. They are now trying to be much more customer-focussed and to shed their faceless bureaucrat image. They said there is a general distrust of government offices in the area and they want to change this reputation and encourage local people to use their services.

Their job is no longer about registering people as unemployed and checking and advertising vacancies, they are now offering a more 'personal' service, akin to the New Deal Personal Adviser service offered by the UK Job Centres. They offer individual help with job searching and job matching, and have been involved with Fondazione IDIS in running the ICTEM project which targeted young unemployed needing extra support to get back in to education, work or training (ICTEM project is detailed under the entry for Tuesday 19 April).

They have also networked with local schools, so they now go in to schools to provide advice and information on work and training opportunities for young people.

We learned some interesting facts about unemployment in the Campania region and how it affects young people:

- The official unemployment rate for young people in the region is 25%, but there is a thriving 'unofficial' economy.
- In Italy, an unemployed person is entitled to benefits only after they have worked for 2 years.
- As there are far greater job opportunities in the north of Italy, in 2004 200,000 people migrated from the south of Italy to the north in search of work.
- As a way of encouraging aspirations, skills development and job opportunities, there is a project called 'South-North-South' which funds young people to move to the north of Italy if they find an internship or work experience there, to then return to the south of Italy with their new found skills or experience to develop businesses or look for employment.

Thursday 21 April

This, for me, was the most interesting day as we got to meet the client group we had been discussing, young people at risk of social exclusion. For this day, we were based in a suburb to the north of Naples called Scampia, a neighbourhood that had been hastily developed in the 1980s after an earthquake which destroyed many homes in Naples and the surrounding regions. In Scampia, tower blocks were built quickly and of poor quality and materials. Families whose homes had been destroyed were rehoused in this new neighbourhood away from their friends, relatives and social structures. Little thought was given to the infrastructure, so there are few public and civic amenities. Given the local high unemployment rate, the area quickly degenerated into one synonymous with crime and depravation and associated social problems, and Scampia has become a breeding ground for mafia controlled gangs. Earlier this year, Scampia hit the national headlines when several rival gangs were involved in shoot-outs resulting in a number of fatalities.

The region and local organisations such as schools and the local Employment Centre are trying to improve the lives of local people and hence reduce social exclusion, and we looked at several projects aimed at this.

Galileo Ferraris Technical High School, Scampia

Our first stop in Scampia was at the Galileo Ferraris Technical High School, where several staff members across various disciplines have worked extremely hard to raise student motivation and aspirations through integrating IT and multi-media technology into all other school subjects. The students we met at this school were 14 and 15 year olds who very proudly presented CD roms or video games they had developed, using school topics they had studied as the theme. An example of this is where a small group of students had worked together on developing a video game about Alexander the Great's conquest of the Mediterranean. The video game integrates their study of history, geography, graphics, Italian and English (the game is available in both languages). Staff believed that this student-centred approach was extremely successful in stopping students from truanting and helping them achieve, and helping students to feel that school had something to offer them. In fact, the day of our visit

was a school holiday, but the 2 classes who had been involved in this multimedia project all turned up to present their work to us and were very keen to talk to us and answer our questions.

Carlo Levi Middle School, Scampia

We then went on to visit a middle school, Carlo Levi. This school specialises in art and the performing arts as a means of motivating their students. The building was extremely run down and in poor condition, which was rather shocking, but the students we met were lively and engaged, and again we received a really warm and enthusiastic welcome from them. Much of the school's cohort comes from families affected by the social problems of the area, and the school also has a high percentage of pupils from traveller families, who traditionally do not attend school. A number of the pupils have language and literacy problems. Teachers at the school feel that the emphasis on art, music and drama has encouraged attendance and engagement. This has worked so well that the school has achieved a national reputation for their school orchestra, and the orchestra is due to perform at the nationally renowned San Remo Music Festival later this year. We were privileged to attend a performance of the school orchestra, made up of young people aged between 11-14, and then be treated to a delicious lunch of Neapolitan specialities prepared by the pupils mothers and served by some of the pupils. It was a really heart-warming experience.

Employment Centre - Scampia

In the afternoon we visited the Scampia Employment Centre and met with its director. In contrast with the Carlo Levi Middle School's building and many of the infamous tower blocks in the neighbourhood, the Employment Centre was a new and pleasant building, designed to encourage local people to use its facilities. Employment Centres in the area have a potentially large client group; in the province of Naples, out of a population of four and a half million, there are 700,000 people registered as unemployed, but about 50% of this number will be working unofficially.

Here we learnt more about the work of an Italian Employment Centre and how it's responsible for some of the work traditionally carried out by Connexions/careers service and IAG networks in the UK.

- It is the Employment Centre's role to provide information and advice on education, training and employment.
- The Employment Centre keeps a register of school-leavers and does NEET follow-ups. Schools are legally obliged to pass on data on school leavers to the Employment Centre, and the Employment Centres are linked to training providers that they can refer young people on to.
- There is little networking between different agencies, so information does not always get passed on.
- The Scampia Employment Centre has linked with the Carlo Levi Middle School to develop a project called 'La Strada' (The Road). This project aims to improve the young people's and their parents' basic skills and, by also working with the parents, to combat truancy.

- The Scampia Employment Centre has employed social workers as guidance workers. As there is no nationally recognised guidance profession, they believe that social workers will have the right skills to work with their client group.

Piazza Telematica

The afternoon ended with a visit to Piazza Telematica, a new community centre offering ICT facilities and training for local people. It's also an information centre set up to answer queries or deal with issues regarding local and council services. It is another attempt to bring services to the local community and encourage participation.

Friday 22 April

Presentations of projects at Studio Staff – Management and HR Consultants

For the last day of the exchange we were based in the centre of Naples, and in the morning we visited Studio Staff, who are management and HR consultants. They work with both the public and private sectors advising on recruitment and selection procedures, including the design and delivery of psychometric and other selection tests, staff training and elearning. The company has worked with the national airports authority, local public transport companies, the National Central Library and local and central government. We heard about 2 of their recent public service projects.

Creo Estia

Creo Estia is a guidance and resource centre for women in the west part of Naples. The centre offers:

- personal counselling
- careers advice
- courses in IT, English, business start-up and job search skills
- work experience placements
- an opportunity for women to network.

The location of the west of Naples was selected for this project for 2 reasons; firstly, there are large numbers of immigrant women living there, many unemployed but highly qualified in their own countries, and, secondly, it's believed that this area has not developed its potential as a tourist attraction and there are opportunities for setting up businesses in the tourist industry.

Again-St Abandon

This project involved 4 countries – Italy, UK, Latvia and Spain, and its aim was to research the causes of truancy within a specific location in each of these countries and to look at successful ways of working with school refusers. One of the outcomes was to disseminate good practice and to produce a handbook with recommended activities and methods for guidance practitioners to use with this client group.

For this study, the client group was aged 14-16. The causes of truancy and non attendance at school across the 4 participating countries were similar and can be summarised as:

- Not conforming to rules so leading to exclusion
- Poor relationship with school staff
- Decreasing interest in learning
- Learning difficulties
- Health problems
- Early involvement in substance abuse or crime
- Socio-cultural background and expectations, e.g. family or peers do not value education

Some examples of good practice for guidance practitioners were given as:

- Building a good relationship with the young person
- Re-acustoming the young person to observe rules
- The availability of training paths to motivate the young people
- Involving the young person in drawing up an action plan for change – e.g. the APIR.

Further information about this project can be found on the website:
www.againstabandon.net

CEICC – European Centre for Information, Culture and Citizenship of Naples

Our last visit was to the European Centre for Information, Culture and Citizenship (CEICC). Funded by the European Commission, the centre aims to build links and support European integration by providing information and activities to increase awareness of the different countries within the European Union. This well-resourced centre was based in one of the University of Naples buildings and hence tends to be used mainly by university students for research.

Thus ended a very busy, informative and enjoyable week.

Summary

This week provided an excellent opportunity to look at guidance practice across several European countries and examine examples of good practice, particularly those aimed at supporting young people at risk of exclusion. Below I have summarised some of the main points from this week's exchange.

- Much work is being carried out across Europe to offer support and guidance to young people at risk of social exclusion. We looked at some of these special projects, and the themes and content were similar across countries. The building up of a relationship with a significant professional (e.g. teacher, guidance professional, mentor) is seen as vital in supporting a young person, as is motivating these young people and offering them progression routes.
- As we shared information during the week, we found that the client group we were focussing on shared many similarities despite their country of origin. We also agreed on some ways to prevent social exclusion and truancy, namely, that there is a need to reform the education system and curriculum to make school more accessible to some of these young people and that there is a great shortage of structured training programmes that can involve, motivate and offer prospects.
- Countries such as the UK are fortunate in having nationally recognised and integrated systems such as Personal Advisers to offer guidance to young people. In Italy, guidance is offered by a range of organisations, without any nationally set standards or training for guidance workers to follow, and young people's entitlement or access to guidance and support is decided upon at a regional level and not necessarily built in to the school system.
- Some EU countries such as Italy do not have nationally recognised vocational qualifications such as the NVQ, hence vocational training gained in one region may not be recognised in another.
- I gained an increased awareness of education, training and employment opportunities in other European countries.
- This was a professionally enriching experience to feel part of a community of guidance professionals, to share and exchange good practice, and compare similarities and difference in how we work. It was also a good opportunity to network and make links for possible shared areas of work.

References

1. www.careerseurope.co.uk
2. www.leonardo.org.uk – UK Leonardo website
3. www.cittadellascienza.it
4. www.ovestgiovani.it – Young people’s participation programme in the development of the Bagnoli district, Naples
5. www.studiostaffnapoli.it – Management and HR consultants, Naples
6. www.againstabandon.net - European partners project looking at causes of truancy in 4 European countries and a handbook for guidance practitioners recommending successful ways of working with these young people.
7. www.ceicc-napoli.it – European centre for information, culture and citizenship in Naples