Hybrid Conference
Enhancing Career Readiness and Transition Competencies

Friday, June 10th 2022
8:30-13:45

Jean Monnet Amphitheatre
University of Nicosia

Organisers:
8:30-9:00  Welcome – registration

9:00-9:15  Opening speeches

9:15-9:45  Dr Maria Siopacha, Director, UNIC Career Success Centre
Freshmen students’ career readiness and the UNIC approach

9:45-10:30 Fotini Vlachaki, Careers & Social Inclusion Expert - Researcher
MSc, PhDc, Greece
Career-Ready? Career readiness competencies in the globalised labour market

10:30-11:15 Anthony Mann, Senior Policy Analyst (Education and Skills) –
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (France)
What works in career guidance? Insights from new international longitudinal evidence

11:15-11:30 Discussion

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-12:45 Dr Mika Launikari, Career Guidance and Knowledge Development Expert at
Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland
CREAR – Career, Resilience, Education, Agency and Readiness digital tool enabling career transitions

12:35-12:55 Cynthia Harrison, Cedefop CareersNet coordinator, lifelong guidance project expert and
Ernesto Villalba, Expert Department of VET and Skills, Cedefop
Systems and policies supporting adults’ career readiness

13:15-13:45 Panel Discussion – Q&As

13:45 End of the conference
Mr Mika Launikari
Ph.D. and M.Sc. Econ.
Career Guidance and Knowledge Development
Expert at Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland

Mika Launikari (PhD and MSc Econ.) has been working in the field of career guidance and competence development since 1995. Currently he is employed at the Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland. There his duties include research, innovation and development in the areas of lifelong guidance and digital skills. During his professional career he has been involved in international cooperation in the fields of education, training and employment (policy, research, practice, professional development) with European Union institutions (European Commission, Cedefop, European Training Foundation, etc.) and European networks (Euroguidance, European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, European Employment Services, Europass, etc.). For five years (2007-2012) he worked for the European Union agency Cedefop, where he was in charge of lifelong guidance and entrepreneurship learning, and in 2019 he worked in Brussels on the European Commission’s new Europass online platform on lifelong learning and career development. In 2019, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled ‘Homo interculturalis – Identity, interculturality and career learning within EU institutions’ at the University of Helsinki (Faculty of Educational Sciences). See also www.launikari.eu

Cynthia M. Harrison
Project manager, network coordinator, Cedefop

Cynthia is responsible for lifelong guidance project at Cedefop, part of a team of experts working in career guidance, validation of informal and non-formal learning, and financing VET and adult learning, within the VET support policy area, Department for VET and Skills at Cedefop – the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. She coordinates CareersNet, Cedefop’s network of independent experts in lifelong guidance and career development. Cynthia has also been engaged previously in research and project activities in social inclusion, civic competence, career aspirations and school leadership.

Ernesto Villalba
Expert Department of VET and Skills, Cedefop

Ernesto Villalba is an expert at the European Center for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) since 2011. He is working in the area of career guidance and on validation of non-formal and informal learning. Before joining Cedefop he worked as a scientific officer at the Center for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) at the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, contributing to the Education and Training Monitoring (former, progress report towards Lisbon objectives) and carrying research in the area of transversal skills and its measurement. Ernesto has served in different committees and working groups of the OECD, UNESCO and the European Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University. He is in the editorial board the European Journal of Education.