



Call for Papers

Career Guidance in Changing Times: How Can Schools Contribute to Sustainable Careers?

3rd Career Lead Network Conference on 01st - 02nd June 2026, online

Pupils and students face various challenges when transitioning from school to work and further education and training. They need support in that process, as well as to align individual, social, economic, and many other demands to start a sustainable career. Some find it challenging to identify a clear, immediate post-school pathway. Many will pursue careers characterised by frequent changes, interruptions, and unexpected developments. In an increasingly dynamic labour market and rapidly changing society, such non-linear career paths are becoming the norm rather than the exception. This raises an important question: how can we prepare young people for these paths, and what is the role of the school in cooperation with parents, educational administration, the social community or the world of work?

We invite submissions that investigate innovative, theoretically and empirically solid approaches to prepare young people for this transitional phase as well as support them during this process within school settings. Submissions can address guidance and support systems, curricula and school activities, or individual learning and development within a social context. We are particularly interested in contributions that enhance career learning for students, prepare teachers to coach and guide their pupils, design and assess school-based interventions, and critically examine the role of career guidance services in collaboration with schools.

Career guidance, as we see it, seeks to motivate and assist young individuals in developing the skills and mindsets needed to make meaningful, mature career decisions. It also serves as a social process promoting social justice and sustainability. Career guidance is a collaborative effort involving teachers, career counsellors, parents and many more people from communities and labour market institutions.

The success of transitions from school to the world of work or to post-school educational options depends on various factors. On the one hand, individuals must show initiative and develop their careers, with research suggesting that career readiness and competencies are essential in actively managing one's career. On the other hand, promoting these specific competencies is an educational task and a social responsibility.

For schools, this shift is accompanied by new requirements that extend beyond advising students to find suitable further education, training, or employment. How can we prepare students to handle the challenges they might face? How, for instance, do we accommodate carers among men and women while considering social and cultural expectations they might

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hold? Or how do we support young people in their career development given the limited value of formal certificates considering a large informal labour market, or the challenges posed by new technologies such as artificial intelligence and robots?

It is also about making sense of one's career and building confidence in positive growth through active participation, not solely focusing on one's own career but also on the social environment and taking responsibility for one's family and society. At the social level, how can communities support both individual careers and social/collective sustainable development?

The conference will address the following questions:

- What requirements will tomorrow's workers face in order to ensure their employability and pursue a sustainable career path?
- How can the enhancement of career learning, education, and guidance in schools be theoretically substantiated?
- Are new theories needed, and what is the significance of the "traditional" career theories?
- How can methodological challenges in research on the transition and transformation process from school to work be addressed? What research designs and methods are relevant?
- Which competencies constitute contemporary career competencies, and how can they be conceptualised?
- Which pedagogical or organisational research-based measures are effective in promoting career competencies among learners, teachers, and schools?
- How can career competencies be validly and reliably assessed?
- How can contextualized practices be designed that take into account the needs and characteristics of everyone involved in career guidance in schools?
- How can sustainability issues be incorporated into career guidance practices?
- What can we recommend to schools, authorities, or governments to implement effective frameworks for career guidance?
- In what ways can educational policy and administration provide adequate support for schools in strengthening career guidance?
- How can teachers, career counsellors, and other relevant stakeholders be adequately prepared and trained for these evolving demands?

We also welcome submissions that refer to our webinar series, "Charting the Future of Career Development," available at this [link](#).



Career Lead Network

The conference is organised by the Career Lead Research Network on Career Guidance in schools. The network promotes exchange and research on career learning, education and guidance in schools at the European and international level. The network was founded in 2024 as part of an Erasmus+/Movetia project.

The 1st conference in 2024 focused on defining the position of research on Career Guidance. The 2nd conference in 2025 was dedicated to exploring how research and practice can work together.

Find the programme of the 1st conference [here](#), and of the 2nd conference [here](#).

The publications of the 1st conference are available on <https://career-lead.eu/publications/>. The publications of the 2nd conference will be available soon.

Target Groups

Contributions from all over the world are welcome:

- Researchers who work in the context of career learning, education and guidance in school contexts.
- Teachers, social pedagogues, head teachers, counsellors or advisors involved in implementing research-based measures in schools.
- Stakeholders from policy, the world of work or education.
- Anyone interested in questions on how to best support young people in their career pathways.

Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)

We warmly welcome contributions from young researchers. In these sessions, we foster more exchange and mutual support in presenting and discussing the submission. There are also plans to bring young-career scientists into contact with experienced scientists. The ‘Meet the Prof/Meet the Peer’ format is intended as an opportunity to establish contacts within the scientific community.

Submissions

- **Individual paper presentation**, 20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion
- **Symposium**, 90 minutes.
Three to four papers from at least three different countries are required. Each paper must be submitted individually. The organiser of the symposium must also submit an umbrella paper that introduces the symposium topic and names the chair.
- **Research workshop**, 90 minutes
Submit a single paper outlining the workshop's goal and planned activities. The



activities must suit an online conference setting and be feasible within a single Zoom room; no additional breakout sessions are permitted.

- **Digital Poster**

Submit a poster with a two-minute integrated elevator speech (e.g. PowerPoint). The speech introduces your paper. During the session, focus on discussing the poster. Use the provided template.

- **Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)**, 15 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion

When submitting a proposal, keep in mind that any accepted submission may be published in the 3rd edition of our *Advances in Career Learning, Career Education, and Guidance* after the conference.

Deadlines

Submission of abstracts for the conference	February 20, 2026
• Use the template provided to submit your abstract.	
• The length of the abstract is 400 words, not counting title, authors affiliation, references.	

Notification of acceptance	March 22, 2026
Costs	<p>There are no participation fees/costs for this event.</p> <p>We would greatly appreciate it if you would agree to be available as a reviewer for the conference proceedings when you register.</p>

After the conference

Submission of your paper	July 31, 2026
• Submit through https://cleg.oapublishing.ch .	
• Use the template provided.	



- All papers go through a double-blind review process and through an editorial review process.
- All authors are welcome to review another paper (critical friend feedback).

Results of the review process	September 28, 2026
Submission of final, corrected paper	October 16, 2026
Availability	The papers will be published open access on https://cleg.oapublishing.ch

Contact

- Email: careerlead@amu.edu.pl
- Website: <https://career-lead.eu>
- Application form: [Application form for 3rd Career Lead Scientific Conference 1st to 2nd June 2026 - Wypełnij formularz](https://cleg.oapublishing.ch)

CAREER LEAD

European Scientific Network for Career Learning and Education



Conference committee and editors of the 3rd edition of the *Advances in Career Learning, Career Education, and Guidance*
(alphabetical order)

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