

Editorial

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Our *Journal's* first issue of volume eleven again contains an array of contributions. This issue contains two theoretical or conceptual and two empirical contributions. One contribution presents a cross-national comparison; one presents the implementation of a lifelong guidance system; the last two contributions, both conducted in non-western cultural context, present a validation of a career development inventory and a analysis of the influence of parents' interests on children's interests. The authors of the contributions of this issue come from a variety of regions throughout the world: Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania. We hope that this geographical, methodological, and thematical diversity may reflect the intention of our *Journal* to be truly international.

In "Guidance for older workers in Denmark and Spain," Peter Plant and Maria José López Sánchez present the results of an analysis about the benefits of providing guidance to older workers. They compared the situation of guidance for older workers in two quite different European countries and concluded that in both countries more should be done in order to trying to keep as much as possible older worker active in the labour market. More guidance is needed as older workers are facing specific difficulties associated with ageism, as clearly stated in this contribution. However, guidance interventions have to be adapted to the needs of older workers, who are facing specific personal and social barriers. In Denmark, "older workers guidance has two objectives: retention and gradual retirement," whereas in Spain the emphasis is put on a "promotion of an active life." In the future more efforts will have certainly to be devoted to the issue of guidance for older workers.

In "The development of a lifelong guidance system in Hungary," A. G. Watts and Bors Tibor Borbély-Pecze present how such a system was implemented in Hungary analyzing in details all the political aspects and implications of such a

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program. An interesting aspect of this program is that it takes advantage of a diversity of professionals and type of intervention, such as using Internet to stimulate exploration. In fact, Internet will play a very important role by increasing coordination between professionals, providing resources to clients, and making the program more visible for the users. One very interesting issue raised by this contribution is the question of how to increase accessibility to guidance without having a negative impact on the quality of the services. As suggested by the authors, one option would be to adapt the level of service to the difficulties expressed by the users. Finally, the role of the e-portefolio in this lifelong guidance system and its relation with career development is an interesting topic that has certainly to be studied more in details.

In “Validation of the short form of the Career Development Inventory with an Iranian high school sample,” Ahmad Sadeghi, Iran Baghban, Fatameh Bahrami, Ahmad Ahmadi, and Peter Creed study the validity of the short form of the Australian version of the Career Development Inventory (CDI-A-SF) in the Iranian cultural context, and the relationship between career development, career decid-edness and career decision-making self-efficacy. This study illustrates that models and instruments developed in one cultural setting might be transposed to other cultures. However, this requires to be careful when translating the items and even to consider the possibility of adapting the inventory to some local specificities. Globally, the psychometric properties of the Farsi-version were very similar to those found for the original version. This result will certainly allow studying further career development in this cultural context.

Finally, in “An exploratory study on the relationship between parents’ career interests and the career interests of young adults,” Chi-Sum Wong, Ping-Man Wong, and Kelly Z. Peng study the familial influence on young adults’ interests. They observed several associations between parents’ and young adults’ interests after controlling for a large variety of individual variables, such as personality or emotional intelligence. This is an important topic, considering that modelling and feedback are important for the development of interests and career choices more generally. Interestingly, they observed that the influence of parents’ interests on young adults’ interests depends upon gender and the type of interest. The sample of this study, students enrolled in a management course, was very homogenous, and it might be interesting to reproduce this study with a more heterogeneous sample.

We hope you will find in this issue a number of new and interesting insights and that it will contribute to your own professional development. We wish you pleasant reading in the hope that this issue will stimulate your own thoughts and lead to other contributions to our *Journal*.