

Original title: "Vocational guidance and counselling in the context of active employment policies as a biographical work"

The subject of the research concerns the field of Vocational Guidance and Counseling and in particular the process of its professionalization. In recent years, the design of interventions made in the framework of the European Structural Funds and employment policies to tackle structural unemployment, youth unemployment, employees close to retirement limits, vulnerable population groups and policies for lifelong learning include vocational guidance and counselling services as their main pillar. On the other hand, changes in the labor market and the way work is organized are staggering, such as the abolition of linear careers, the transition from the period of "ideals" to the period of "skills" in the labor market, the abolition of some professions / specialties and the creation of new ones due to - among others - the effects of digital transformation, the green transition, automation and artificial intelligence. In this direction, the institution of vocational guidance and counseling is called upon to respond to modern challenges and to harmonize with developments affecting the field of education and labor by providing quality services to human resources. The quality of services is inextricably linked to the degree of professionalization of the field and the professionalism of its officers. Based on the above, the theoretical part presents the systemic and institutional interventions (meso / macro level) that have taken place and led to the transformation of a social activity into a profession, while the research part explores the way the vocational counselors understand themselves as a carrier of his profession, ie his professional identity and his biographical path as they are shaped in the modern work landscape. For the collection of the material to be analyzed, the method of biographical narrative interview of vocational counselors selected by the method of theoretical sampling is used. Thus, the overall course of the participants' lives through time is studied, since the narratives are time-arranged (past, present, future) and important transitions that took place during this journey are revealed.