



Discover our first steps toward promoting **equal access** to **career counselling service**

We are proud to introduce Access Career

– a European project co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme that aims to modernize career guidance systems by enhancing the skills and tools of career counselors across Europe.

Access Career brings together a committed partnership of organizations from Spain, Belgium, Italy, Greece and Cyprus combining expertise in vocational education, inclusion, digital innovation, and labor market services. Our journey began with a successful kick-off meeting held in March 2025 in Valladolid, Spain. This pivotal event, attended by all project partners, set the stage for our collaborative efforts.



Analysis of needs and gaps in career guidance services

We're excited to share updates from our Analysis of Needs and Gaps in Career Guidance Services, a crucial phase of the Access Career project. Over the past months, our partners have been actively engaged in mapping the current state of career counseling across Europe. As a result, we developed the **Needs Assessment Report**: A comprehensive report summarizing findings from focus groups and surveys conducted with career counselors.

What we've discovered



Surveys have been conducted among career counselors, service providers and disadvantaged individuals to identify challenges, expectations, and training needs.



Focus Groups with career counsellors offered deeper insights into real-world gaps and barriers in guidance services.



Desk Research reviewed national and EU-level strategies, existing curricula, and labor market trends.

Key findings:

- ✓ **Barriers to Employment:** Jobseekers face financial hardship, lack of labour market information, and digital exclusion. Counsellors also note limited networks and emotional strain in their work.
- ✓ **Skills and Support Needs:** Both groups highlight the need for CV, interview, and job search support. Counsellors also need upskilling in digital tools and personalised guidance.
- ✓ **Digital Tools:** There's strong interest in accessible, mobile-friendly resources, but digital literacy and access remain uneven.
- ✓ **Human Connection Matters:** Empathy, motivation, and trust are essential to meaningful guidance.
- ✓ **Employer Engagement:** Bias and lack of awareness among employers hinder inclusion, therefore, stronger collaboration is needed.

These insights will shape the next phase of the project, including the co-design of training for counsellors, development of digital tools, and building more inclusive career support systems.

Stay Tuned!

The Access Career website will be live soon — your go-to place for tools, news, and training materials.

Next steps: Curriculum Development

We are now entering the next exciting phase: **Developing the Curriculum for Career Counselors.**

Our goal: to design a **modular, up-to-date, and user-friendly curriculum** that directly addresses the gaps identified through our research and engagement activities.

This curriculum will empower career counselors with:

- ✓ Cutting-edge labour market insights
- ✓ Tools for inclusive, person-centred counseling
- ✓ Skills for digital guidance and future-readiness
- ✓ Strategies for working with diverse and disadvantaged groups

As work evolves, career counselors need **up-to-date training and tools** to support people through change. Access Career aims to build a stronger, fairer, and **future-focused career guidance system** across Europe.



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